

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2008

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FREE KIDS' CLINIC
Dr G. B. Barnard and his wife Kathy are volunteering their medical expertise to operate a clinic for children under 18 (excluding pregnant girls). The service will be available on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the left side of the Thrift Shop. No drugs will be given out or kept on the premises but Dr Barnard can write prescriptions if necessary.

RECYCLING CENTER
Apologies for printing the wrong hours for the Carnestown Recycling Center. It is open Saturday afternoons as well as mornings. The hours are: 9:00 a.m. to noon and 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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FEATURE: Local Holiday Shopping page 11			



The tree in front of City Hall was topped off with a Santa hat on Saturday, December 6, after local kiddies decorated it. The lighting ceremony included cocoa and cookies for all and music by Parker Oglesby.

Santa wearing a similar hat will give out gifts from the steps of City Hall on Friday, December 19, at 3:00 p.m.

GIFTS FOR KIDS

Reach Out Everglades is collecting gifts for needy children in the area and welcomes donations of toys (unwrapped), money, and gift cards. Drop off your contributions at the Thrift Shop, Right Choice Supermarket, Everglades Island Properties, or Chokoloskee Post Office.



You can also send checks payable to Reach Out with a memo line "Kids Christmas" to P.O. Box 894, Chokoloskee, FL, 34138.

Distribution of the gifts will be on Saturday, December 20, at the Community Church from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For info, phone Carol Foss at 695-2277.

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

by Marya Repko

Mayor Sammy Hamilton held a brief meeting on Tuesday, December 2, where he reported that he is still working with FEMA. In general, the City had been neglected for so many years that it is taking all his time to catch up.


However, he somehow finds extra hours in the day to talk with the DEP about the City Docks and has asked that interested parties to convey their concern in letters to the City so that he can present our views about safety on the docks to the Department. The full address for letters is City of Everglades City, P.O. Box 110, Everglades City, FL, 34139.

Lt. Mark Milligan on behalf of CCSO reported that a warrant was being issued for the suspect in the Depot burglary. He also said that portable business signs had been removed and that there were several vehicle burglaries on the Trail at tourist locations. Finally, we were warned during the busy holiday season to secure our homes, vehicles, and boats; valuables left on boats can be particularly vulnerable. If we see anything suspicious, we should phone the Sheriff's Office at 695-2301.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The next issue of the *Rapper* will be on December 26 with a "Review of the Year".

DECEMBER 2008 / JANUARY 2009

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
7 Mobile Pet Vet	8 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm OFCD Bd Fire Sta, 6 pm Chamber 6:30 pm	9 ESHP mtg City Hall, 10 am	10 Ladies Coffee JT's Cafe 8 am	11	full moon ● 12 Chokoloskee Church of God Dinner Seafood Depot 7 pm	13 Kids' Clinic 9 am - noon see p.1 Sons of Confederate Veterans Seafood Depot 6 pm
14 Christmas Play Copeland Baptist Church, 6:30 pm see p. 3	15 Hour of Prayer Everglades First Baptist Church 7 pm FME Lunch see p.9 Christmas Program School, 7 pm	16 Reach Out Comm Church 8:30 am	17 Ladies Coffee Jan Brock's Home Ochopee 8 am	18 SAC School Media Center, 3 pm Chamber of Commerce Seafood Depot 6:30 pm, see p.9	19 Santa Visit City Hall Steps 3 pm, see p. 1	20 Kids' Clinic 9 am - noon see p.1 Reach Out Holiday Gifts Distribution 10 am - 1 pm see p.1
21 Christmas Play Chokoloskee Church of God 6:30 pm see p. 3	22 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm	23	24 Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am Christmas Eve Service Comm. Church 7 pm, see p.3	25 <u>Christmas</u> 	26 Miccosukee Art Festival see p. 3	new moon ○ 27 Pancake Fly-In Airport, see p.3
28	29 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm	30	31 Ladies Coffee Havana Cafe 8 am New Year's Eve Service Comm. Church 7 pm	JAN 1 <u>Happy New Year !</u>	2	3
4	5 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	6 Aide to Congressman City Hall, 3 pm Museum Talk 2 pm, see p.9 City Council City Hall, 5:30 pm	7 Ladies Coffee Pat Rinkevich's Home 8 am	8 Great Gators School, 9:30 am	9	10 Mobile Pet Vet see p.3

Jan 10/11: Pet Vet

Jan 17: Art-in-the-Glades

Jan 20: Big Cypress ORV Meeting

Feb 7/8: Seafood Festival

Feb 23-26: MSD Festival

THRIFT SHOP: daily except Sun, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

SKATING RINK: Fri & Sat, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

MUSEUM: Tues-Fri, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sat, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

SMALLWOOD STORE: daily; 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

FOOD PANTRY: Sat, 8:30 to 10:30 am, Community Church

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Wed, 5:00 pm, Community Church

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: Fri, 12/12 (9-10 am) Mon, 12/15 (10-11 am) Fri, 12/19 (9-10 am)

Mon, 12/22 (10-11 am) Tues, 12/23 (9-10 am)

Christmas Play

Copeland Baptist Church will present a play entitled "Prime Time News" on **Sunday, December 14**, at 6:30 p.m.

Childrens' Nativity Play

Chokoloskee Church of God will have their Christmas play on **Sunday, December 21**, at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service

Everglades Community Church will hold a special service on **Wednesday, December 24**, at 7:00 p.m.

CITY HALL HOURS

City Hall will be closed for Christmas on **Thursday and Friday, December 25 and 26**.

PANCAKE FLY-IN



The first pancake breakfast hosted by Wings 10,000 Island Tours for the winter season will take place at Everglades Airpark on **Saturday, December 27**, from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Everyone is welcome to come along to share the pancakes and watch visiting planes arrive & take-off. For info, contact Chuck at 695-3296.



Terri Rementeria and Joe Stem were among the musicians who enlivened Art-in-the-Glades in McLeod Park on Saturday, December 6.



MICCOSUKEE
TRIBE OF INDIANS OF FLORIDA

INDIAN ARTS FESTIVAL

The Miccosukee Tribe hold their 34th Annual Festival from **Friday, December 26**, though **Monday, January 4**, every day from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Indian Village on Tamiami Trail (about 40 miles east of SR-29).

Activities include dance performances, fashion shows, arts & crafts demonstrations and sales, gator wrestling, and food vendors. The entrance fee is \$10 per adult, \$7 for children.

For info, phone (305) 480-1924 or see www.miccosukee.com.

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 11/26/08: Unknown Medical Problem, Chokoloskee Island
- 11/27/08: Vehicle Accident, 72m I-75
- 11/27/08: Chest Pains, 60m I-75
- 11/29/08: Medical Problem, Copeland
- 11/29/08: Brush Fire, SR-29 and I-75
- 11/30/08: Power Line Down, 56m I-75
- 12/01/08: Vehicle Accident, 61m I-75
- 12/03/08: Fire Alarm, Everglades City
- 12/04/08: Nose Bleed, Everglades City
- 12/04/08: Boating Accident, Everglades City
- 12/05/08: Sick Person, Everglades City
- 12/05/08: Unknown Medical Problem, Everglades City
- 12/06/08: Vehicle Accident, 80m I-75
- 12/06/08: Vehicle Accident, 72m I-75
- 12/07/08: Median Fire, 54m I-75
- 12/08/08: Vehicle Accident, 8 to 12 Miles East of SR-29 on I-75
- 12/09/08: Possible Over Dose, Chokoloskee Island
- 12/09/08: Unknown Medical Problem, 52m I-75

MOBILE PET VET



Dr Baker will be here on **Saturday, January 10**, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in McLeod Park, Everglades City, and from 2 to 4 p.m. in Copeland. She will also be here for surgery on **Sunday, January 11**, by previous appointment only. Phone her at 777-PETS (7387).

POST OFFICE DEADLINES FOR CHRISTMAS MAIL:

- 12/4 Central/South America
- 12/11 Europe/International
- 12/16 Parcel Post to USA
- 12/20 First Class to USA

TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

INFORMATION FROM <http://TIDESANDCURRENTS.NOAA.GOV>

12/12/2008	Fri	12:35AM	3.4	H	09:12AM	-0.6	L	03:08PM	2.5	H	08:59PM	0.8	L
12/13/2008	Sat	01:20AM	3.5	H	10:01AM	-0.7	L	03:57PM	2.5	H	09:49PM	0.8	L
12/14/2008	Sun	02:08AM	3.5	H	10:50AM	-0.6	L	04:46PM	2.4	H	10:39PM	0.7	L
12/15/2008	Mon	03:02AM	3.3	H	11:38AM	-0.5	L	05:33PM	2.4	H	11:32PM	0.7	L
12/16/2008	Tue	04:04AM	3.1	H	12:27PM	-0.3	L	06:17PM	2.4	H			
12/17/2008	Wed	12:32AM	0.6	L	05:17AM	2.7	H	01:17PM	-0.1	L	07:00PM	2.4	H
12/18/2008	Thu	01:40AM	0.5	L	06:37AM	2.5	H	02:09PM	0.2	L	07:42PM	2.5	H
12/19/2008	Fri	02:56AM	0.4	L	07:58AM	2.2	H	03:06PM	0.4	L	08:24PM	2.5	H
12/20/2008	Sat	04:11AM	0.3	L	09:28AM	2.0	H	04:05PM	0.6	L	09:09PM	2.5	H
12/21/2008	Sun	05:16AM	0.2	L	11:23AM	1.9	H	05:03PM	0.7	L	09:55PM	2.5	H
12/22/2008	Mon	06:12AM	0.0	L	01:09PM	2.0	H	05:59PM	0.8	L	10:42PM	2.6	H
12/23/2008	Tue	07:01AM	-0.1	L	02:06PM	2.1	H	06:51PM	0.8	L	11:26PM	2.7	H
12/24/2008	Wed	07:46AM	-0.2	L	02:38PM	2.1	H	07:38PM	0.9	L			
12/25/2008	Thu	12:07AM	2.7	H	08:27AM	-0.3	L	02:47PM	2.1	H	08:20PM	0.8	L
12/26/2008	Fri	12:45AM	2.8	H	09:06AM	-0.3	L	03:01PM	2.1	H	08:58PM	0.8	L

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SCHOOL NEWS

Everglades City School

phone: 377-9800 or 695-2561

website: www.collier.k12.fl.us/evg

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon, Dec 15: Christmas Program, 7:00 p.m.

Thurs, Dec 18: SAC, Media Center, 3:00 p.m.

Mon, Dec 22 - Tues, Jan 6: Winter Recess



From Savannah's Eyes

Wow, I had an awesome weekend. There were a lot of things going on. Like, first I took my kitten over to the Mobile Pet Vet. We are so lucky to have the people come down here. (By the way, Patches is my new kitten that my family and I reserved a month ago but that's another story.) Second, I went to "Art in the Park." It was so much fun there! I looked at all the shops with my friends and they were just wonderful! I also helped out a friend that was working in a booth. It was a lot of fun! Then, I went home to help my Mom bake cookies and other things for the "Lighting of the Christmas Tree." At the lighting of the Christmas tree, I saw some of my friends and other people too. We sang Christmas carols while my Dad played the guitar, and we ate a lot of sweets, and we hung ornaments and decorations on the Christmas tree. It was really fun. Third, my cousin Houston Brown and I went to eat at the restaurant in Everglades City called "Backcountry Café" for our dinner. The food was delicious and the service was magnificent! Houston and I just loved it. Our compliments to the Chef. Then we went to the "skating rink." We saw a lot of friends there. We skated out on the floor and played. It was fun. We all had a great time! Then we went home to have a good night's sleep. Also, at the school on December 15 we will have our Christmas play at 7:00 p.m. So we would appreciate it if you would come and see it at Everglades City School. Look for me. I'll be Julie in the play!

Love, Savannah O.

Savannah Oglesby is in the 6th grade at Everglades City School and is a regular contributor to this paper.



Grade 5/6: Ana Roldan, Lindsay Thomas, Tawny Wood

Great Gators, November 2008



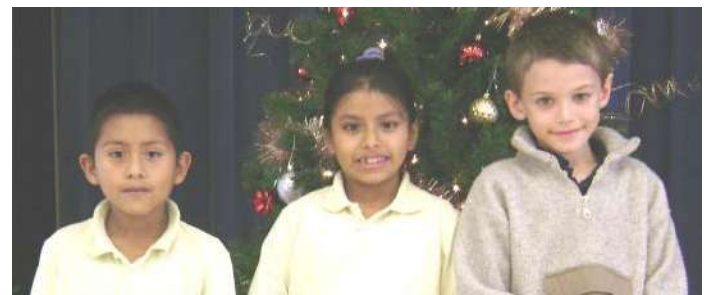
Pre-K: Brady Bowen, Charlie Rain, Taylor Richards



K: Solomon Thatcher, Jesse Goff, Daniel Gibson



Grade 1: Savannah Weeks & Destany VanLeeuwen (Destany won twice)



Grade 2: Edin Lopez, Stephanie Pablo-Ramirez, Tyler Richards



Grade 3/4: Brandon Bruscini, Davonte Detweiler, Emily Brown

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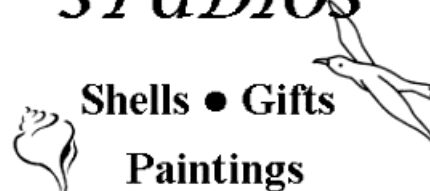
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RESTAURANT NEWS

**Backcountry Cafe:**

6:00 am - 3:00 pm.; Mon - Thurs
6:00 am - 9:00 pm.; Fri, Sat, Sun

Camellia Street Grill:

Noon - 8:00 pm; Mon - Thurs
Noon - 10:00 pm; Fri, Sat
Noon - 6:00 pm; Sunday

City Seafood:

11:00 am - 6:00 pm; daily

Everglades Scoop:

11:00 am - 5:00 pm; Mon- Sat

Glades Haven Deli:

6:00 am - 6:00 pm; Sun - Thurs
6:00 am - 9:00 pm; Fri - Sat

Grimm's Stone Crab (takeout):

8 am - 6 pm; Mon - Sat

Havana Cafe:

8:00 am - 3:00 pm; daily

Ivey House:

7:00 - 9:30 am; daily

Joanie's Blue Crab Cafe, Ochopee:

10:00 am - 5:00 pm; Wed - Mon
Live Music on weekends

JT's Cafe & Gallery, Chokoloskee:

9 am - 3 pm; Sun, Mon, Wed, Thurs
9 am - 5 pm; Fri, Sat

Leebo's Rock-Bottom Bar:

4:00 pm; Mon - Sat
noon; Sunday

Oyster House Restaurant:

11:00 am - 9:00 pm; Sun - Thurs
11:00 am - 10:00 pm; Fri, Sat

Right Choice Pizzeria (takeout):

5:00 - 9:00 pm; Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun

Rod & Gun:

7:00 - 10 am Breakfast; daily
11:30 am - 9:00 pm; daily

Seafood Depot:

Breakfast: 5:30 - 10:30 am; Fri - Sun
11:00 am - 9:00 pm; daily
Cabana Bash: 4 - 7 pm, Sat

Subway:

10:00 am - 8:00 pm; daily

Susie's Station:

11:00 am - 5:00 pm; daily

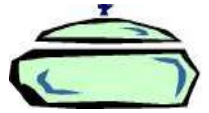
Triad Seafood:

10:30 am - 3:00 pm; Mon - Thurs
10:30 am - 6:00 pm; Fri, Sat, Sun

JT's Cafe in Chokoloskee is now serving salads and sandwiches as well as deserts and drinks.

*Recipe for Good Eating***Christmas Brunch – Bacon and Egg Casserole**

by Pat Rinkevich



2 c. soft bread crumbs (without crust), divided	½ lb. sliced Swiss cheese
1 ¾ c. milk	4 T. butter
8 eggs, slightly beaten	½ c. dry bread crumbs
Salt and pepper	8 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled
	½ tsp. Lawry's seasoning salt

Soak soft bread crumbs in milk. Drain. Combine leftover milk with eggs. Add salt and pepper. Melt butter in skillet. Add egg mixture. Cook until soft (runny scrambled). Add bread crumbs to egg mixture. Pour into 9" greased pan. Sprinkle with Lawry's seasoning salt. Add sliced cheese over top. Combine butter and dry bread crumbs with crumbled bacon crumbs. Sprinkle over cheese. Bake at 450° for 15 minutes. This dish can be made the day before and heated up for serving.

This recipe is from Pat Rinkevich when she hosted the Wednesday Ladies Coffee at her beautifully restored historic home in Everglades City. Nice breakfast or brunch dish for Christmas. Happy Holidays!!

Household Tips**FAULTY STREET LIGHTS**

LCEC has announced the procedure for reporting an Inoperative or Malfunction Street Light. Phone 1-800-599-2356 and provide:

1. description of the problem,
2. the number on the pole (eg, S9999XX) and location of the pole,
3. your contact info.

You can also report the fault online at www.lcec.net.

“WHITE” TRASH

If you have refrigerators or other appliances to throw away, phone the County on Tuesday for a Thursday collection. The number is 403-2380 but it is only for residential collection. Businesses should phone Waste Management at 649-2212 who will charge. Alternatively, take your items to Carnestown (*see page 1*).

SHOPPING WITH A “PAL”

The Police Activities League (PAL), a volunteer organization comprised of members of the Collier County Sheriff's Office, sponsored a holiday shopping trip on Saturday, December 6, for about 20 youngsters (and their parents or guardians). The day kicked off with breakfast at McDonalds and then moved to KMart where staff were dressed up in traditional red and ready to help. The kids bought presents for their families and gifts they wanted. Santa was on hand to greet them in less-traditional garb.



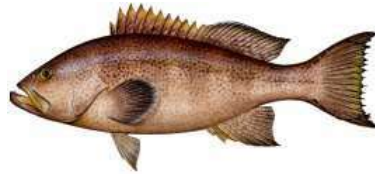
Thanks are due to Sue Gentry, CCSO Crime Prevention Officer, who pays special attention to our area and, besides finding the funding for this event, is down here often with goodies for the community.



We had this photo and email from Angie Chestnut whose work can be seen at www.pixartbyangie.com.

It's hard to describe how beautiful the winter cypress can be, especially against a dark sky when the sun shines. So, I tried to capture it with my camera.

NEW GROUPEL RULES



The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission approved rule amendments for gag grouper in Gulf of Mexico state waters that are consistent with interim regulations in Gulf federal waters. In addition, the FWC approved a rule amendment to allow Florida recreational anglers to harvest more red grouper in Gulf state waters.

The new rules establish a two-fish-per-person recreational daily bag limit for gag grouper within the five-grouper aggregate limit in Gulf state waters, and prohibit the recreational harvest of gag grouper from Gulf state waters from Feb. 1 through March 31.

Another new FWC rule increases the recreational daily bag limit for red grouper in Gulf state waters from one fish per person to two. The FWC is taking this action now because a recent stock assessment concluded that the Gulf red grouper stock has recovered enough to allow an increase in harvest levels, and it is expected that the recreational red grouper bag limit in Gulf federal waters will be increased to two fish sometime in 2009.

"The improvement in red grouper abundance in the Gulf gives us a chance to 'give back' some fish to anglers and helps reduce the overall impacts of the new gag grouper restrictions," said Rodney Barreto, chairman of the FWC.

These rules will take effect on January 1. For info, call (850) 487-0554 or see www.myfwc.com/marine where you can also download a "Catch & Release" brochure and read about the Gear Rules for Gulf reef fish which stipulate the use of rounded hooks.



Most Rare Findings Here In The Everglades: Racing Pigeon & Peregrine Falcon

by Helen Bryan

While visiting the Chokoloskee Post Office to pick up my mail on November 24, I noticed about five huge black crows attacking a small pigeon. Then a green leg band caught my eye, then I knew this was a rare bird on our Island. Calling for help to others close by to fend off the attacking black birds, Havana Cafe owner Carlos Valdes came to rescue the pigeon.



The band revealed that it was a racing pigeon from one of the AU NATIONAL YOUNG RACING BIRDS CLUB. Going online I tracked several Racing Pigeon Associations. Closest to us would be 2008 Convention Race hosted by the Greater Jacksonville Racing Pigeon Club only a couple days before the bird appeared. Emails and calls to about four location had no response. Carlos took the pigeon to his home, fed the exhausted young bird, and kept it overnight while we awaited word from our contacts.

Two days later, Carlos decided the perky pigeon should be on his way, so taking him outside free of overhead electric lines and clear of overhead trees per Internet instructions, Carlos carefully lifted the pigeon up skyward to set him free. As the pigeon took flight from his hands to the clear blue sky, suddenly, out of no where, to his horror a vicious attack and kill was done to this beautiful bird.

First thought to be an osprey, but on second reflection we now believe it to be the rare Peregrine Falcon, also known as the duck hawk. This hawk is known to feed on ducks and smaller birds, also a rare find here in the 10,000 Islands. The Peregrine dives at speeds exceeding 200 mph as it attacks prey in midair.



Clearly, this incident is one not soon to be forgotten by Carlos.

The *Naples Daily News* has a "Benefits" column on Thursday where charities can be listed. The deadline for submissions is 10 a.m. on Tuesday.

E-mail notices to snmesulam@naplesnews.com or fax to 403-6138 or mail to Sheila Mesulam, Naples Daily News, 1075 Central Ave., Naples, FL 34102.

All briefs are printed on a space-available basis.

LOCAL HISTORY

ESHP, the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation, met on Tuesday, December 9, and decided to seek new directors and committee leaders for next year.

Topics under consideration include the Bula Mission, the old Bank building, street lamps, and other structures. There will be at least one lecture and a social evening in the coming season. Planning for historic house tours is underway and space has been reserved for a booth at the Seafood Festival in February.

ESHP wants to know how residents see the future of our area. Should we preserve, as did the Mayor with City Hall, or just tear down and redevelop? Why are you here? Did the historical atmosphere attract you?

We will be conducting interviews and a poll but welcome comments before that. Phone Marya at 695-2905.

CHAMBER HAS NEW DIRECTORS & WEBSITE

The new officers for the Everglades Area Chamber of Commerce were announced on Monday, December 8:

President – Gene Wooten
Vice-President – Bob Wells
Secretary – Todd Johnson
Treasurer – Myrna Baier

Other directors elected were:

Howie Grimm
Sammy Hamilton
Orlo Hilton
Billy Potter
Bill Shelbourne

A members' meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, December 18**, at which the new board will be sworn in.

The Chamber was founded in the 1950s and has operated the Welcome Center in Carnestown since the 1960s. A new website to advertise our area to tourists has just been completed. See www.evergladeschamber.com.

If you are interested in becoming a member, contact Winnie Thomas at 695-3172.



Off The Shelf - Book Review

Florida History from the Highways

by Douglas Waitley

reviewed by Patty Huff

There are many books about the history of Florida and many about traveling through the State. *Florida History from the Highways* takes you on a tour as you travel the interstates as well as a few of the back roads. It is divided into three sections to include the history and chronological events of Florida, a more detailed section of the major cities with the majority of the book highlighting the historical events along the major highways. The first section chronicles Florida starting 500 million years ago when Florida was an extension of Africa, through the Glacial Age 2 million years ago and then describes the three general geographic regions of the north, central and southern areas. The book is full of photographs, maps and illustrations and gives a quick reference to many places throughout the State. However, it does not present an in-depth history of many of the south Florida cities that we know so well; i.e., it is very brief on Naples and Everglades City and has nothing regarding Chokoloskee so if you're looking for a "history" book there is better reading elsewhere. Again, it is a good reference book that you may want to take with you as you travel along the interstates. I often find it keeps my husband awake if I read him interesting stories when we travel by car. A good book if you'll be driving to see relatives for the holidays. Enjoy!

Visually-Impaired Meeting

The new group Lighthouse of Collier is meeting on **Friday, December 19**, at 10:00 a.m. in Room I-104 at Edison State College. Their aim is to establish a support group for those with sight problems. For info, phone 997-7797



MUSEUM NEWS

Eloise Barrows was the guest of honor at the reception on Saturday, December 6, to Meet The Artist. Her watercolors are on display for the month of December in the Pauline Reeves Gallery at the front of the Museum.



The Friends of the Museum of the Everglades Annual Members' Luncheon on **Monday, December 15**, features a "Tribute to Carol". It will be held with a brief business meeting at which new directors will be announced for the next year. The event starts at 11:30 a.m. in the Museum. Luncheon will be a buffet supplied by the Seafood Depot. Reservations are required; phone Patty at 695-2397.

The Friends have also produced a *Program of Events* that lists the schedule for the new year. You can pick up copies at the Museum and at City Hall or download one at their website www.evergladesmuseum.org.

The special exhibit in January is "Plume Hunters" and there will be a lecture by David Southall of Collier County Museums entitled "Plume Hunting from 1880 to 1910" at 2:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, January 6**. The talk is followed by a guided Walking Tour of Historic Buildings at 3:00 p.m. To make reservations for either, phone the Museum at 695-0008.

Maritime Myths, Misconceptions, & Urban Legends

by: Barbara Kreitz Cook, Esq.

Florida Bar Board Certified in Admiralty and Maritime Law

Admiralty law or maritime law is a distinct body of law fashioned by the federal courts and U.S. congress specifically to create national uniformity in order to promote commerce and to protect seamen who were historically considered "generally poor and friendless and acquire habits of gross indulgence." These maritime myths, misconceptions, and urban legends highlight a few of the many differences between "land" law and the law of the sea.

Myth #1: A boat is a "thing" just like a car. A vessel has legal status as a female entity which can sue and be sued, but only in a federal admiralty court.

Myth #2: A lien on a boat is like a lien on a car. A vessel title can be clouded with unrecorded maritime liens which follow the boat through changes in ownership.

Myth #3: A boat loan is like a car loan. Only loans which are Preferred Ship Mortgages and which are filed in accordance with that federal law have priority over later-in-time liens.

Myth #4: The boat owner is liable for all property damage and personal injury caused by the boat. Federal law limits owner liability to the value of the boat for acts done without the owner's knowledge or involvement.

Myth #5: The navigational "Rules of the Road" are just like those on land. There is no right-of-way on the water!

Myth #6: State laws apply to all state waters. State law applies only to the extent not inconsistent with established maritime law.

Myth #7: A vessel is "in navigation" only when it is moving from place to place. "In navigation" does not mean that the vessel must be underway. A vessel is "in navigation" from the day it is "born" (first launched) until it is a "dead ship" (withdrawn from navigation.)

Myth #8: Recreational boating is not a commercial activity. Tell that to recreational marinas, repair facilities, electronics outfitters, and West Marine!

Myth #9: "Navigable waters" does not include the dry Everglades during dry season. Once a body of water is identified as "navigable," it retains that designation even if it is later dry land!

Myth #10: A boat owner owes guests the highest degree of care pursuant to Florida's "dangerous instrumentality" statute. The admiralty rule is that a boat owner owes a guest only the duty to use reasonable care under the circumstances.

Myth #11: Federal maritime law always preempts state law. Federal maritime law trumps state law for maritime events where there is controlling federal maritime law.

Myth #12: The sky is clear and I'm aground but need help to get off, so its only a tow job not salvage, right? Three facts establish a salvage situation: marine danger, voluntary assistance, success ("no cure-no pay"). The danger need not be immediate.

Myth #13: OK OK so its salvage....and I know the seas were high and the hurricane was coming and you saved my life. But \$50,000 is a lot for 1 hour's work! Courts award a salvor a "bounty" in order to encourage rescue of life and property at sea, and to promote commerce.

Myth #14: I found it! Its mine! Finders - keepers. It is definitely urban legend that a derelict vessel found adrift becomes the property of the finder. The finder merely has a salvage claim.

So when you need maritime legal advice, be sure to consult a qualified "sea" attorney!

See Barbara's business card on the back page.



FLORIDA FLORA

by Patty Huff

One of the most majestic palm trees in this area is the Royal Palm (*Roystonea elata*) with its height up to 100 feet and its fronds 15 feet long and 6 feet across. We are privileged here in southwest Florida to have the last remaining Royal Palms growing in their native habitat. They can be viewed in large numbers in both the Fakahatchee Strand and Big Cypress Preserve. At one time they were quite prolific throughout South Florida but were harvested for landscape use. This old photograph of historic Everglades City in the 1930's shows how the Royal Palms lined both sides of Broadway leading to the Barron River; a truly spectacular sight. If you are close to the palms when their clusters of tiny white flowers are in bloom, you'll hear the humming of the bees as they swarm to pollinate.

The Royal Palms grow well in open, moist muck and would add a bit of grandeur (or "royalty") to anyone's garden. They do not tolerate saltwater very well so be sure to water after any flooding. As, in the case of all palm trees, any wound or trauma to its stem or trunk does permanent damage and will never heal. Damaging the skin of any palm trees' trunks allows insect invasion and potentially could kill a palm.



LOCAL SHOPPING FOR HOLIDAYS GIFTS



The **Ivey House** gift shop has books, prints & photos, and clothing, all with an emphasis on the outdoors.

WinCar offers such a wide choice there is always something for the people on your list, from fishing tackle to household knick-knacks. There is a huge selection of books of Florida interest plus lots of cards and wrapping paper.

BP Gator Express has tourist gifts and Santa might find some cute stuffed toys here.

The **Thrift Shop** has the Reach Out cookbook, holiday cards, and the unique Evergladesopoly board game. You might also find just what you want among the used books and other items, some of which are almost like new. There are some attractive Christmas decorations at good prices!

Stop in at **City Hall** to order commemorative bricks for your friends and family. You won't get a brick to wrap up (it will be laid in the sidewalk in front of the building) but will receive a greeting card that you can send.

Right Choice Supermarket has books, T-shirts, and hats as well as practical items like baby supplies and soaps.

The **Museum of the Everglades** offers a good selection of local books, prints, cards, and new hanging decorations.

For handmade and custom-made silver jewelry, visit **Jewel of the Glades** opposite the Rod & Gun at 207 West Broadway.

A fascinating gift shop is **Sea Gull Studios** operated by Ms Klotz. Besides the original paintings of her parents, she has a huge collection of shells, jewelry, wind chimes, and knick-knacks.

The **National Park Visitor Center** sells videos, puzzles, educational toys, and books about our natural surroundings.

Glades Haven has fishing tackle as well as bait. There is also a selection of wines and spirits, welcome gifts during the holiday season.

On Chokoloskee, visit the **Smallwood Store** for books and Seminole clothing. The new **JT's** has books as well as many gifts, some of them reduced in price. Kenny Brown's **Outdoor Resorts Marina** has fishing tackle for your outdoor enthusiast. **Parkway** also sells fishing requisites.

Heading out of town, stop at the **Chamber of Commerce Welcome Center** for books, T-shirts, and tourist items.

The **Oasis Visitor Center** in Big Cypress Preserve sells books and videos. A few miles further east, **Clyde Butcher's Big Cypress Gallery** has his photos, cards, books, and 2009 calendar. **Shealy's** Skunk Ape videos could be an unusual gift.

All the **boat tour** companies have gift shops catering to tourists. Many have books of local interest, T-shirts, hats, and little unusual items.

Most **restaurants** will sell gift certificates that you can give as a special treat to the people on your list.

Don't forget our **stone crab** fish houses. What nicer gift than a bag of claws, straight from the source. But, you would be wise to order in advance. Sources are **City Seafood**, **Grimms**, and **Triad**.

Finally, give a subscription to the **Rapper**. We will send a greeting card with the first issue to say it is a gift from you.



BOOKS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME GIFTS.

Birds, Beas & Cypress Knees. A beautiful photography book by Tracy Stokes. Order from her website www.evergladeswildlife.net where you can also buy original photos or buy a copy at the Museum.

A Brief History of the Everglades City Area. Just what the title says and available around town or from the author at www.ecity-publishing.com. There is also a version for youngsters **The Story of Everglades City** and a translation into Spanish **Historia de Everglades City**.

Historic Building Around Everglades City. A guide to over 50 of our oldest buildings and homes, the basis for guided walking tours presented by the Friends of the Museum. Buy copies at the Museum or other outlets in town or by mail order at www.evergladesmuseum.org.

Words on the Wilderness. A history of place names in the 10,000 Islands and Big Cypress. A reference as well as an interesting book to dip into. For sale around town or from website www.wordsonthewilderness.com.

Totch; A Life in the Everglades. Some lively memoirs about his experiences growing up during the Depression and the struggle to exist in later years. Available at most shops around town.

Crackers in the Glade. Great sketches and stories by Rob Storter, one of the pioneers in this area and Naples. Available at most shops in town and by mail order at www.evergladesmuseum.org.

Constant Waterman. A collection of articles, some written with wry humor, about boating. Available around town or from www.constantwaterman.com where you can hear the author reading.

SNOOK CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE: House on 1.02 Acres. Sale price \$225,000 or for rent at \$900/mo. For info, call 321-439-7635

FOR SALE, Condo: 1 bed, 1 bath, large living room, wrap-around balcony, pool privileges, sheltered parking, rental potential at managed site. Only \$169,000. Phone 289-7477.

FOR SALE, 2005 Gheenoe, 15-ft 6-in, 25 hp Johnson 4-stroke. Like New, Low Hours, Includes Trailer, Trolling Motor, \$3995. Call 775-7206.

FOR RENT in E-City: 2 or 3 bed, 1 bath duplex \$1,000/month.. Dock available for extra fee. Contact 239-961-3986.

FOR RENT: Furnished Apartment, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, \$800/month, Call 719-0020.

FOR SALE: Ford 1966 Mustang, Needs Restoration, \$3,500, Call Mark, 239-273-2403.

Classified Ads cost \$15/month. Phone us at 695-2397 or email mulletrapper@gmail.com



The cold weather has made these pals snuggle up under the duvet. Less fortunate animals struggle outside, often without a regular source of food. You can help our feral felines by sending a holiday donation to Reach Out with a memo line "Stray Cats" to P.O. Box 894, Chokoloskee, FL 34138.

MISSING YEARBOOK

The Media Center at the School is missing a 2000 yearbook in its collection and would appreciate having one donated. If you can help phone Trina Mitchell at 695-2561.

REVISED SCHOOL WISH LIST

FOODS: pecans, walnuts, graham cracker crumbs, sugar, unsweetened cocoa, ground beef or turkey or sausage, shredded cheese (mozzarella, cheddar), parmesan cheese, eggs, butter or margarine.

KITCHENWARE (new or used): 1-quart jars.

SUPPLIES: dishwashing soap.

Thanks to everyone who has brought items to us already! For info phone Stacia Ferguson at 695-2561.

The **MULLET RAPPER**

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We strive to present the facts accurately without political bias or personal opinion.
The views expressed in signed articles are not necessarily those of the editors or publisher.

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