

# The MULLET RAPPER

## What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2009**

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### BIG CYPRESS SELECTS SUPER

Congratulations to Pedro Ramos who has been appointed Superintendent of Big Cypress National Preserve. He had been the Deputy since 2005 and is excited to continue working on the many projects underway within the Preserve (see "Along the Trail", p. 8).

Originally from Puerto Rico, Pedro Ramos graduated from the University of Massachusetts and has worked in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Vermont, specializing in rural development. He joined Big Cypress as Administrative Officer in 2001.

"This is the kind of place that everyone appreciates ... it provides a tremendous opportunity to get it right in our stewardship efforts".

### Seafood Festival

It's that time of year again!

Seafood Festival is on **February 7/8**, only two weeks away.

Headliners for the entertainment during our big weekend include country singers Chris Cagle, young star Katie Arminger (she's still in school!), Joe Diffie, and the popular Ronnie Morgan Band.

There is space for over 100 booths selling arts, crafts, and other goodies – and, of course, food.

Friday night, February 6, is Family Evening before the intense festivities start on Saturday morning, and continue on Sunday.

For info, phone 695-4100 or visit the Betterment office in City Hall.



### NEW RESORT OPEN

Guests are now arriving at the new luxury motor coach resort Everglades Isle, located on the Barron River just as you enter Everglades City. On Wednesday evening, January 14, visitors from around the country were treated to cocktails and dinner catered by Havana Café.

During the week these guests toured around the area, visiting museums, gift shops, and restaurants. Despite the cool weather, many were able to go fishing, kayaking, and boating. They enjoyed the hospitality of the new resort which includes a fully equipped exercise room, movie theater, spa facilities (massage and manicures), pool table and a bar/lounge offering soups and sandwiches. Guests have a sunset view of the Barron River as they sit on the deck overlooking the beautifully tiled pool and hot tub. For more information, contact Bob Wells at 695-2660.

Manager Don Terzieff told the *Rapper* that he looks forward to providing even more local jobs. He can be contacted at 695-2600 (see our "Jobs Vacant" on the back page).

### NEW PRESIDENT

On Inauguration Day, January 20, our neighborhood charity Reach Out Everglades & C.O.P.S Association selected new officers. Its president is now Carol Foss who has worked hard on Christmas gifts for kiddies and on the new Everglades Area Directory.

Helen Bryan stays on as Vice-President, as does Chelle Austin as Secretary and Elaine Middelsteadt as Treasurer. Other directors are Fran Tiffitt and LouAnn Tankersly. Permanent positions on the Board are Lt. Mark Milligan (the "C.O.P.S." part of the name stands for "Community-Oriented Policing Service"), City Clerk Dottie Joiner, and ECity School Principal Bobby Jones.

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**If you have news, photos, announcements, or articles ... email mulletrapper@gmail.com or phone 695-2397.**

# JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
18 <b>Birding Festival</b> see p.3	19 <b><u>Martin Luther King Day</u></b> <b>Hour of Prayer</b> Everglades First Baptist Church 7 pm	20 <b>Reach Out</b> Comm Church 8:30 am  <b>Big Cypress ORV Meeting</b>	21 <b>Ladies Coffee</b> Backcountry Cafe 8 am	22 <b>Butcher Gallery Talk</b> 1 pm,  <b>SAC</b> School Media Center, 3 pm	23 <b>Famous Flyer</b> Museum, Naples	24 <b>Pancake Fly-In</b> Airport, see p.3
25	new moon ○ 26 <b>Hour of Prayer</b> Everglades Community Church 7 pm	27	28 <b>Ladies Coffee</b> Havana Cafe 8 am	29	30 <b>Homecoming</b> School see p.5	31 <b>Kids' Clinic</b> 9 am - noon see p.3 <b>Wild Turkey Banquet</b> Depot, see p.11
FEB 1	2 <b>Hour of Prayer</b> Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm	3 <b>ESHP mtg</b> 10 am, see p.9 <b>Barton Visit</b> City Hall, 3 pm <b>Coletta Visit</b> City Hall, 3 pm <b>City Council</b> City Hall, 5:30 pm	4 <b>Ladies Coffee</b> Rena & Adela 15 Spoonbill 8 am  <b>School</b> Early Release	5 <b>Great Gators</b> School, 9:30 am	6 <b>Seafood Festival</b> see p.1  <b>Panther Talk</b> see p.11	7 <b>Seafood Festival</b> see p.1 <b>Pancake Breakfast</b> Comm. Church 7 - 11 am <b>Kids' Clinic</b> 9 am - noon
8 <b>Seafood Festival</b> see p.1	full moon ● 9 <b>Hour of Prayer</b> Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm <b>BigC Comments</b> see p.3 <b>OFCB Bd</b> Fire Sta, 6 pm	10	11 <b>Ladies Coffee</b> ORA Chokoloskee 8 am	12	13	14 <b><u>Valentine's Day</u></b> <b>Muck-About</b> see p.11 <b>Blue Grass</b> see p. 11 <b>SCV</b> Depot, 6 pm
15 <b>Muck-About</b> see p.11 <b>Blue Grass</b> see p. 11	16 <b><u>Presidents' Day</u></b> <b>Hour of Prayer</b> Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm <b>Muck-About</b> see p.11	17 <b>Reach Out</b> Comm Church 8:30 am  <b>Digital TV</b> see p.7	18 <b>Ladies Coffee</b> Sue Turner 605 Lake Placid 8 am	19 <b>Copeland Civic</b> 7 pm	20	21 <b>Mobile Pet Vet</b> see p.3

Feb 21/22: Mobile Pet Vet    Feb 23-26: MSD Festival    Feb 25: Ash Wednesday    Feb 28: ORA Bazaar  
 Mar 14: Art-in-the-Glades    Mar 24: BigC ORV    Mar 28/29: Pet Vet  
 April 12: Easter    April 25: Museum Birthday    May 2/3: Mobile Pet Vet    May 19: BigC ORV

THRIFT SHOP: Daily except Sunday, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm    SKATING RINK: Fri & Sat, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. (closed Feb 6/7)  
 MUSEUM: Tues-Fri, 9 am to 5 pm; Sat, 9 am to 4 pm    SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily, 10 am to 5 pm  
 FOOD PANTRY: Sat, 8:30 to 10:30 am, Community Church    ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Wed, 5 pm, Community Church  
 SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: Fri, 1/23 (9-10 am) Mon, 1/26 (10-11 am) Wed, 1/28 (noon-1 pm) see February hours on the door

**PANCAKE FLY-IN**



A pancake breakfast hosted by Wings 10,000 Island Tours will take place at Everglades Airpark on **Saturday, January 24**, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Everyone is welcome.

Chuck Gretske of Wings offers aerial tours around the area for a cost that is comparable to an air-boat ride. Come fly with him ... call 695-3296.



**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
to **Nicolas & Victoria Potter** on the birth of twins **Ava Rossalyn (on left)** and **Norra Rue (on right)** who weighed in on **December 29, 2008**, at **6lbs 7oz** and **6lbs 12oz**, both measuring **19"**. Proud grandparents are **Crystal & Billy**, great-grandparents **Joy Mae & Hubert**.

The history of Immokalee is the latest episode in the "Untold Stories" series on WGCU public television on **Friday, January 23**, at 8:30 p.m. For info, see [www.wgcu.org](http://www.wgcu.org).

**Little Gator Clinic**



The free walk-in clinic for youngsters 18 and under is located next to the Thrift Shop (behind the fire station). It will be open on **Saturday, January 31**, from 9:00 a.m. to noon and on **Saturday, February 7**, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. There are no drugs at the clinic but Dr. Barnard can prescribe if necessary.

**Skating Rink Closed**

The Skating Rink will be closed on Friday & Saturday, **February 6 & 7**, for Seafood Festival.

**OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT**

- 01/07/09: Vehicle Accident, 69mm I-75
- 01/08/09: Alarm Malfunction, Port of the Islands
- 01/09/09: Emergency Medical, Port of the Islands
- 01/09/09: Vehicle Accident, SR-29 and Chokoloskee Bridge
- 01/09/09: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 01/10/09: Emergency Medical, 15m North of US-41 on Turner River Rd
- 01/11/09: Vehicle Accident, US-41 & SR 29
- 01/11/09: Possible Aircraft Down, 12.4-Miles
- 01/17/09: Emergency Medical, Port of the Islands
- 01/13/09: Emergency Medical, Plantation Island
- 01/13/09: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 01/14/09: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 01/15/09: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 01/17/09: Vehicle Fire, SR-29 and I-75
- 01/19/09: Chest Pains, Copeland
- 01/20/09: Vehicle Fire, 80mm I-75
- 01/21/09: Emergency Medical, Midway Campground

**MOBILE PET VET**



Dr Baker will be here on **Saturday, February 21**, 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, February 22** by previous appointment only. Phone her at 777-PETS (7387).

**Big Cypress Comments**

The date for written public comments about the Preserve's proposed Commercial Services Plan has been extended to **Monday, February 9**. For info, phone 695-1153 or see [www.parkplanning.nps.gov](http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov).

**TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER**

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


01/23/2009	Fri	08:09AM	-0.3	L	02:32PM	1.9	H	08:02PM	0.7	L
01/24/2009	Sat	12:41AM	2.6	H	08:47AM	-0.3	L	02:34PM	2.0	H
01/25/2009	Sun	01:19AM	2.7	H	09:22AM	-0.3	L	02:53PM	2.1	H
01/26/2009	Mon	01:53AM	2.7	H	09:54AM	-0.3	L	03:19PM	2.2	H
01/27/2009	Tue	02:26AM	2.7	H	10:26AM	-0.3	L	03:47PM	2.3	H
01/28/2009	Wed	02:58AM	2.6	H	10:55AM	-0.2	L	04:15PM	2.4	H
01/29/2009	Thu	03:34AM	2.5	H	11:24AM	-0.1	L	04:41PM	2.4	H
01/30/2009	Fri	04:16AM	2.3	H	11:52AM	0.1	L	05:04PM	2.5	H
01/31/2009	Sat	12:28AM	0.2	L	05:08AM	2.1	H	12:19PM	0.2	L
02/01/2009	Sun	01:24AM	0.1	L	06:19AM	1.8	H	12:45PM	0.4	L
02/02/2009	Mon	02:33AM	0.0	L	07:52AM	1.6	H	01:10PM	0.6	L
02/03/2009	Tue	03:49AM	-0.1	L	09:47AM	1.5	H	01:35PM	0.7	L
02/04/2009	Wed	05:01AM	-0.2	L	12:34PM	1.7	H	04:16PM	0.8	L
02/05/2009	Thu	06:06AM	-0.4	L	01:13PM	1.9	H	05:47PM	0.8	L
02/06/2009	Fri	07:04AM	-0.5	L	01:38PM	2.0	H	06:54PM	0.7	L

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# SCHOOL NEWS

Everglades City School

phone: 377-9800 or 695-2561

website: [www.collier.k12.fl.us/evg](http://www.collier.k12.fl.us/evg)

## IMPORTANT DATES

Thurs, Jan 22: SAC, Media Center, 3:00 p.m.  
 Mon, Jan 26: Basketball, HOME, 4:30 p.m.  
 Tues, Jan 27: Basketball, HOME, 4:00 p.m.  
 Fri, Jan 30: Homecoming, 7:00 p.m. (details TBA)  
 Wed, Feb 4: Early Release Day  
 Thurs, Feb 5: Great Gators, 9:30 a.m.



### From Savannah's Eyes

It was so nice outside this past weekend. We took a drive down "Janes Scenic Drive" in Copeland. We drove all the way to Naples on the Drive. It ended at a camp site that my brother stays at all the time.

We are also going to stay there, too, one weekend. But on the way there we saw a lot of animals. We saw Alligators, Snakes, Turtles, Birds, and a Deer. Also, the cypress trees and wild flowers were so beautiful. We took pictures alot. And we had a picnic. My friend Cheyanee ("Shy") and I had a perfect view of the animals and scenery from the back seat of my Dad's truck. We all had a great time, especially and my best friend Cheyanee.

Tuesday, January 20, 2009, was a day to remember. That day, the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States (Barack Obama) was sworn in as the new president. My class and I watched the Inauguration on one of my teachers' TV. Mrs. Ihle (my teacher) told us that this would be a day in history and that we would tell our children and grandchildren about this very day because this was the first African-American to become President. And, we all hope he does very well for our country because we really need a miracle to happen.

By the way, we have 3 games of basketball at school next week and Friday is our Homecoming game. I hope everyone comes to cheer us on and watch the beautiful homecoming girls.

With hope on Inauguration day, Savannah.

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



Grade 5 & 6: Aleya Warden, Savannah Oglesby, Dalton Stokes

with thanks to Trina Mitchell for the photos

## GREAT GATORS, December 2008



Pre-K: Faith Brown, Candice Ayres, Morgan Herrin



Grade K: Gracie Emma Brown, Alexis Rain, Billi Wells



Grade 1: Kyle McMillin, Gage Shyrock, Evan Richards



Grade 2: Jerry Pablo-Ramirez, Ashton Smallwood, Jay Shiver



Grades 3 & 4: Braxton Kidder, Jesse Chirino, Kiley West (absent)

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**DRIVING OFFENCES WILL  
COST MORE IN FEBRUARY**



Did you know it can cost you at least \$100 if you are caught speeding? And, running a red light will set you back over \$200. The fees are posted on the Clerk of the Court's website [www.collierclerk.com](http://www.collierclerk.com) and are expected to increase on February 1.

According to a press release we received, "all moving and non-moving traffic fines will be increased by \$10 and any citation issued for "excessive" speeding will be charged an additional \$25. Also, the 18% fine reduction for someone who elects the driver school option has been eliminated. However, someone who elects the driver school option will still avoid points on their driver's license and adjudication will be withheld."

The new fees were passed by the State legislature and the increases will go to the State to fund the State Court system.

*Household Tip*

**Digital TV**

The nation goes digital on February 17. That is the day when broadcasters switch to the new standard and our public station WGCU is holding workshops on February 3 and February 7 at Gulf Coast University. Phone (239) 590-2345 or see [www.wgcu.org](http://www.wgcu.org) where you will also find details of new channels already live.

*Angels of the Swamp*

by Patty Huff



On Thursday mornings at 9:00 am you will see ladies walking along CR-29 just north of the Everglades City on the way to US-41. Several "girls" that are long time members of the Wednesday Ladies Coffee group took up the project to clean up our streets. Pat Rinkevich, Jean Schultz, Mardi Kjartansson, Linda Williams are among those kind ladies picking up trash that others have discarded. Many residents, especially our winter residents, who walk along the bike path between Chokoloskee and Everglades City also take time out to clear the area of papers, plastic and bottles. We would like to thank all these angels who care about our town and the beauty of our surroundings. It's amazing the things that are thrown out of windows as people drive along our highways. A canal passes alongside CR-29 and during high tide more trash washes ashore, which means more bottles, Styrofoam cups and plastic are there for others to pick up. With the Seafood Festival weekend around the corner, there will be thousands of visitors coming to town. The Mayor always arranges to have the city back to its well groomed look after the festival. However, along the county highways, it's up to a few individuals to keep our county beautiful. "Adopt-a-Highway" is a program whereby volunteers give of their time to clean up along a specific route. These are angels, picking up after others.

Have you heard of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.? It is a large pile of garbage floating between California and Hawaii and has been growing tenfold each decade since the 1950's (google to get more information on the internet). Some garbage is impossible to get rid of. It should be everyone's responsibility to be stewards of the one planet we have to live on.

If you would like to help the Wednesday Ladies Coffee group, join them any Thursday at 9:00 a.m. just north of the bridge. Thank all of you who pick up everyone else's trash.



## Along the Trail



Things are happening in the Big Cypress Preserve along the Tamiami Trail. As you leave Everglades City just 5 miles east, on Seagrape Drive, you may wonder what the bulldozer next to the large pile of dirt is doing. The cement has been poured for the new Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center which will be an orientation center for all public lands within the swamp. This includes the Big Cypress National Preserve, Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park, Everglades National Park, Collier-Seminole State Park, Picayune Strand State Forest, Ten Thousand Island Refuge, and Florida Panther Refuge.

According to Bob DeGross, Chief of Interpretation, the buildings will be completed in May or June of this year and the exhibits in October or November. It will be early in 2010 when the Welcome Center will be open to the public. The NPS and the South Florida National Parks Trust continue to seek funding for the fabrication and installation of exhibits at the new Welcome Center. For those interested in supporting this effort contact Don Finefrock, Executive Director, South Florida National Parks Trust, 1390 South Dixie Highway #2203, Coral Gables, FL 33146 or at (305) 665-4769.

Monroe Station is one of the original Southwest Mounted Patrol stations built by Barron Collier to aid the travelers on the Tamiami Trail. The "Mounties" would ride their motorbikes five miles in either direction to patrol their areas as their wives stayed back to pump gas and serve food to the travelers. Bob DeGross has been trying for the past several years to preserve this historic building. Currently, he is working with the engineers for stabilizing the building and hopes to complete this phase of the project by the end of this year.

Continuing east, just beyond the Oasis Visitor Center on US-41, drivers will begin to see large numbers from 1 to 6 on both the north and south side of the Tamiami Trail. These numbers represent the six historic Seminole Indian home sites under construction. Seminole families have received permits from Big Cypress Preserve to build and move into homes under the enabled legislation.

## VIP Report

by Shirley Leonard



The number of visitors at the visitor center continues to surprise me. My last column reported an increase of the last two weeks of December 2008 over the same two weeks in 2007. I had expected a decrease – and I was wrong.

It was as hectic and busy as could be the last week of December. Since New Year's Day it's felt quiet everywhere in Everglades City. The visitor center, boat tours, restaurants, stores. Everywhere. Not as quiet as it gets during the summer, no doubt, but quiet.

So, curious, I started adding up our counts of people who passed through the Gulf Coast Visitor Center's door the first two weeks of this month and those same weeks the year before. I expected this year's to be fewer than last. And I was wrong. Again.

The increases were modest, just under 100 more each week, not a significant change.

This past December compared to December 2007 is another story. The numbers were up, 10,183 to 8,179 ... 2,004 more people! Now that *is* significant.

However, in view of the dreadful state of the economy, worldwide, how can that be? What is going on here?

There are at least three factors at work:

- 1) Much lower gasoline prices than a year ago,
- 2) National Parks are cheaper than many other activities;
- 3) The devaluation of the American dollar.

Due to the dramatic decrease in gas prices Americans are likely traveling more now than a year ago, but tight budgets limit where they go and what they do. They still vacation but seek inexpensive ways to do so.

National Parks "always seem to do well in tough economic times," Gulf Coast Park Ranger Gail Fox says. "People can't afford to fly or go to Disney, but they can afford us."

Entrance fees to national parks are usually about \$10 per carload. There is no entrance fee for the Gulf Coast Visitor Center.

Foreign currencies buy more in American goods than they did a year ago which likely stimulates interest in traveling here. The counter at the visitor center's door does not distinguish American from international visitors. In 2008 the University of Idaho conducted surveys of winter and spring park visitors using questionnaires. Its 126-page report summarized that "International visitors during the winter survey were from 19 countries and comprised 20% of winter visitation." What that will translate to in actual number of visitors for 2009 remains to be seen.

It appears that 2009 will be a good year for the park. Hopefully what's good for the park will prove to be good for many other businesses in the Everglades City area.

*Shirley Leonard is a member of the "Volunteer in Parks" program during the winter season. She was a journalist in Quincy, Massachusetts, on The Patriot Ledger for over 20 years and is a regular contributor to the Rapper.*

For information about park activities, phone 695-3311.





## LOCAL HISTORY

The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation (ESHP) is holding elections for its Board of Directors and is looking for candidates.

ESHP was founded in 2004 to "Save City Hall" and has been involved since then in other projects in the area. It operates the Historical Library on the second floor in City Hall and runs the "Brick-by-Brick" campaign to have engraved pavers in the pathway in front of City Hall.

Members are invited to attend the Board Meeting in City Hall on **Tuesday, February 3**, at 10:00 a.m. That day is also the deadline for nominations. For info, phone Marya at 695-2905.



## MUSEUM NEWS

More items from the Storter Collection are now on show at the Museum. The display case in the Carol Moseman Memorial Theater has carved fish panels and other 3-dimensional objects crafted by Rob Storter (1894-1987), son of the pioneering Everglades family. The Friends of the Museum were instrumental in acquiring the Storter Collection and are proud to see it exhibited locally.

The Museum is open Tuesday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For info, phone 695-0008.

## DEACONESS FEAST DAY CELEBRATED WITH NEW MURAL

On Thursday, January 8, St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Marco Island celebrated the feast day of the beloved Episcopal deaconess, Harriet Bedell, who served Seminole people from her mission in Everglades City for many years. She died 40 years ago this year on January 9 at age 93. Deaconess Bedell is expected to be named a saint in the Episcopal Church this coming June.



In celebration of this event, St. Mark's Church commissioned a 15' x 10' mural to be painted behind the altar in the St. Mark's side chapel, the Harriet Bedell Memorial Chapel. The artist Hannah Ineson, who is well-known in ECity and designed the ESHP logo (left column), shows and teaches in the Marco area and is a winter member of St. Mark's. She has created a life-sized Everglades scene, with birds and alligator among other flora and fauna, as a tribute to the life of Deaconess Bedell. The mural was dedicated at the celebration service.

*Thanks to Susan Darrow for this photo taken in front of the new mural with artist Hannah Ineson, The Right Reverend Dabney Smith, Episcopal Bishop of Southwest Florida, and Fr. Kyle Bennett, Rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Marco Island.*

## Volunteering

For our winter visitors (and year round residents), there are lots of volunteer opportunities around the area. If you enjoy the outdoors, volunteer at Everglades National Park (695-3311), Fakahatchee Strand (695-4593), or Big Cypress National Preserve (695-2000). For more details about local parks, see our website [www.evergladesmulletrapper.com](http://www.evergladesmulletrapper.com) and click on "Parks" – or just visit the park and talk with other volunteers.

The Museum of the Everglades is looking for volunteers to greet visitors at the front desk (phone Martha at 695-0008). Their slogan is "Meet People from Around the World and Around the Corner". Greeters do not have to be experts in history because one of the Museum staff is usually there to answer questions but they should, of course, enjoy talking to people.

The Reach Out Thrift Shop behind the fire station always welcomes new volunteers. Stop in there Monday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

If you enjoy children, check out the website [www.hereforthekids.org](http://www.hereforthekids.org) to learn more about becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister. At the bottom of the Home Page, click on "Volunteer Now" and there is lots of information about applying online. Collier County offers mentoring programs to meet your time schedule, i.e., a lunch buddy program where you go to the school during lunch and meet with a child just 20 minutes per week, or an after school program helping them with math and reading. They also have a kindergarten project teaching English as a second language and a 10 hours a week one-on-one with a child.

The Everglades City School also encourages volunteers. Stop by the school office and talk to Dana Snider or phone her at 695-2561. Whatever time you feel you can contribute will be a tremendous benefit to our children. However, the real benefit of volunteering comes back to you.



### *New Faces at First Baptist*

Welcome to Pastor Clifton and Robin Tomes to our area. Pastor Tomes is the new minister of the First Baptist Church located across from ECity school. He and Robin moved here from Bowling Green, Kentucky. They have been married for 34 years, have one son Jonathon who lives with his wife Ashley and their son Jagger Lee in Sanora, Kentucky (a second son is due to arrive next month). The ministry runs in the family with Pastor Tomes' grandfather, father, and two brothers all serving the Lord. Music also is part of this family – Pastor Tomes learned to play the piano at age 5. He and his two brothers and father formed the gospel group *The Tomes Four*, traveling and singing around the country and recording their music in Nashville.

When Pastor Clifton and Robin decided to move to our area, Robin retired after 29 years as a loan officer for National City Bank. She is enjoying the relaxed atmosphere of Everglades City and meeting new friends at the Wednesday morning Ladies Coffee. The church recently renovated the parsonage with the exception of a few cosmetic things paid for by private funds. The congregation at First Baptist also looks forward to making some improvements to the church.

The First Baptist Church has Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship Services at 11:00 am and 6:00 pm, and Wednesday Prayer Service at 7:00 pm. They also have a Gospel Singing Jubilee every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday evening at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend all services. First Baptist is located at 416 School Drive. For more info, phone 695-3871 or see [www.1stbaptisteverglades.com](http://www.1stbaptisteverglades.com).

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*Historical Footnote:* First Baptist was originally a Methodist chapel in Jerome and served the logging community there. After operations closed in 1955, owner C.J. Jones donated the building to the Everglades Baptist congregation who moved it to Everglades City.

## MEMORIES

### Elephants in Everglades City?

by Barbara Hoffman Daniels

That's right! The year was 1932.

Barron G. Collier made sure that his little town had some of the same entertainment that larger towns had, although maybe not as often, and therefore had negotiated to have a small one-ring section of the famous Barnum & Bailey Circus come here and set up on what used to be a golf course at the southern-most end of the island.

My two brothers and I were unaware of the fact on the day they were to arrive and so as a surprise my parents made sure that the three of us were out on the front lawn facing Collier Avenue so as to witness the sight of things we had never seen before. My younger brother who was just walking had been placed foremost so that we could observe his reactions.

Well, suddenly we could hear coming in of the bridge the loud raucous music of the calliope. We were so excited! First came the huge lumbering elephants with their bright red satin blankets across their backs and pointed down their foreheads.

Upon seeing them get closer, my baby brother forgot he knew how to walk and began tearing up the grass as he crawled back toward Mom and Dad, screaming at the top of his lungs. We always teased him about that day.

Atop the elephants backs were shapely acrobatic women in their glittering tights and tall feather head pieces. Beside the elephants walked their trainer in his black vest, high-top shiny boots, and black high-top hat with his long whip. Behind the elephants came the clown and midgets cavorting and doing funny thinks and behind the clowns came the huffing, puffing, snorting calliope. Then came the white horses pulling the brightly decorated cages that held lions and tigers and leopards.

We sat and stared in awe. Then came more wagons pulled by white horses, decorated in bright colorful motifs; these, I presume, held the workers (roustabouts) and supplies.

What a sight it was for us. We were so anxious to be taken to see everything but, of course, it took the rest of that day to get set up and the next evening we went to see the show. We were put to bed that night with our bellies full of pop corn and peanuts and colas, our heads full of wonder.

From that day forward, we could expect a circus about every five years and maybe a carnival about every other year.

So, you see, it was really a very nice little town to grow up in.

*Barbara Hoffman Daniels grew up in Everglades City where her father was the electrician. She also lived for over thirty years in the Big Cypress and is a regular contributor to the Rapper.*

## RESTAURANT NEWS

**Backcountry Cafe:**

6:00 am - 9:00 pm.; Mon - Sat  
6:00 am - 3:00 pm.; 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  
4:00 - 9:00 pm; Thurs - Sun

**Everglades Scoop:**

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

**Gator Express:**

10:00 am - 8:00 pm; daily  
**WATCH FOR NEWS**

**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 - 5 pm; daily

**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 - Mon

**Rod & Gun:**

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

**Seafood Depot:**

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

**Subway, Carnestown:**

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

**OSPREY ON THE WIRES**

There is concern about the osprey who is building a nest on the cross bars of an electricity pole on the Chokoloskee causeway. Last year there was a nesting dish nearby but it got knocked down. Our electricity supplier, LCEC, put up a new dish but it is on the other side of the road and the birds obviously do not want to move. Perhaps they like the view into the canal. We have contacted FWC and look forward to advice about what can be done.

**WILD TURKEY BANQUET**

The "Hunting Heritage Banquet" will be held at the Seafood Depot on **Saturday, January 31**. This is the third annual dinner sponsored by our local chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the wild turkey and the hunting tradition. For info, see their website [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org).

The gala event will include a raffle, auction, and silent auction with some valuable prizes and should be a fun evening. For tickets, phone Keith at 695-1577.

**WARNING!**

Never give out the 3 numbers on the back of your credit/debit card if you are telephoned by someone who pretends to be the credit card security agent. We understand that there is a "scam" in which thieves who already have your credit card number need those 3 digits to charge up big items.

**OBITUARIES**

**Yvonne Hazel Brown Ballance**, 73, passed away January 8, 2008 at Naples Community Hospital. She was a lifelong resident of Everglades City and devoted member of Chokoloskee Church of God. She is survived by her husband Foy Sadler Ballance Sr, son Foy (wife, Beverly) Ballance Jr, daughter Katy (husband, Chris) Fleming, grandchildren Bo & Kaney Ballance, Cayden & Carlee Fleming, sister Laverne Stokes and brother Carl Brown.

**Ricardo (Loco) Concepcion**, passed away on Thursday, January 16, in Immokalee. Known as "the vegetable man", he sold produce out of his white truck at the weekends and had a popular following.

**PANTHER TALK**

"Panthers in the Amazon" is the title of an illustrated presentation by Marty Main on **Friday, February 6**, at Rookery Bay (just south of US-41 on CR-951). The talk at 6:30 p.m. is one of the "Amazing Adventures" series. For info, phone (239) 477-6310 or see [www.rookerybay.org](http://www.rookerybay.org).

**PRESIDENTS' WEEKEND**

The weekend of **February 14/15/16** may seem a long time from now but it if you have survived Seafood Festival, there are two large events nearby that you might be interested in.

Clyde & Niki Butcher are holding another "Muck About" behind the Big Cypress Gallery on US-41. There will be swamp walks and other adventures. For info, phone 695-2428 or see their website [www.clydebutcher.com](http://www.clydebutcher.com).

In the other direction on the Trail, Collier Seminole State Park is having its second annual "Jammin' in the Hammock" bluegrass festival. Headline performers include The Doerfels, Carolina Road, and The Fleas. There will be crafts vendors and food for sale at this family outing. For info, phone (239) 394-3397.

For a list of CHURCH SERVICES, see [www.evergladesmulletrapper.com](http://www.evergladesmulletrapper.com) or phone us for a copy. A list is also on the notice board at the Captain's Table Hotel.

# SNOOK CLASSIFIED

**FOR SALE:** House on 1.02 Acres. Sale price \$188,000 or for rent at \$900/mon. For info, call 321-439-7635

**RESIDENTIAL RENTAL in E-City:** Dock available for extra fee. Contact 961-3986 for details.

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

**FOR SALE:** Furniture (beds, tables, chairs), appliances (microwave, refrigerators, etc) and more at Bank of the Everglades Building. *Ongoing sale through February 8.* Contact Patty Richards at (239) 289-6671.

**FOR RENT:** Office/shop space available – units from \$300 to \$700. Call Glades Realty, (239) 695-4299

**FOR SALE:** Zoned commercial fishing 2,500 sq ft concrete building with high ceiling. Land 90' x 190' in Enterprise Zone on Dupont. \$295,000. Call (239) 340-4770.

**FOR RENT:** Mini-storage units starting at \$65 plus tax per month. Dupont Street. Call (239) 340-4770.

**HOUSE NEED CLEANING?** Cheryl's Cleaning Business is the helping hand you need. Call Cheryl at 239-745-6291.

**Classified Ads cost \$10/issue.**  
Phone us at 695-2397 or email mulletrapper@gmail.com



**Have you seen this woman? What is she doing? Read all about it on page 7.**

## JOBS VACANT

Everglades Isle Motor Coach Retreat is hiring restaurant, bar, maintenance, and housekeeping staff. Stop by at the lighthouse near the bridge for an application or phone 695-2600.

The Census Bureau is hiring for the 2010 census. There will be full & part-time jobs in an office or in the field. For info, see [www.2010censusjobs.gov](http://www.2010censusjobs.gov) where you can download an application or phone 1-866-861-2010.

**PUT YOUR JOB ADS IN THE RAPPER ... no charge!**  
Phone us at 695-2397 or email us.

### NEW ADVERTISING RATES

**EFFECTIVE January 1, 2009**  
See our website or phone 695-2397.

# The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

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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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