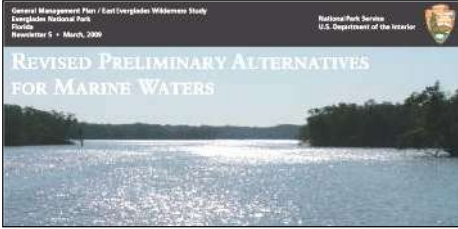


The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009

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NATIONAL PARK PLANS

Everglades National Park will soon hold seven hearings in various park locations to present four alternatives for a general management plan (GMP) of the marine areas of the park. Everglades City School will host the second hearing 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. **Tuesday, March 31.**

A plan presented in 2007 has been revised to incorporate residents' opinions and suggestions. Details of the four alternative plans are available online at www.nps.gov/ever. This takes you to a page with a "General Management Plan" article and links to studies done for the plan.

To request a copy of Newsletter #5 by phone, call (305) 242-7700 and then press 2, followed by 5, and leave your address.

The next issue of *Rapper* will include a detailed article about the GMP alternatives.

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"Saving Old Buildings"

Over 30 people gathered at the Seafood Depot on March 3 to hear landscape architect Chris Busk talk about how he has moved and restored three old buildings that were threatened by demolition. The most notable was the Haldeman House near the pier in Naples which dates from the late 1800s. It had to be cut into three sections before it was trucked up the road to a site in Bonita Springs.

The event was hosted by the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation which held a brief Annual Members' Meeting before the lecture to announce the election of new directors: Mike Danosky, Patricia Huff, Jane Rackley, Marya Repko, Patricia Rinkevich, Jean Schultz, and Terry Smallwood.

President Patty Huff (above in photo) outlined some of the Society's achievements in the past year including the construction of the McLeod monument on the circle and the ongoing Historical Library where old books and documents are preserved. She also said that the bricks have been ordered and should be here within two months.

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

by Marya Repko

Mayor Sammy Hamilton announced at the meeting on March 3 that we will have a good reason to celebrate St. Patrick's Day (March 17) because that is when Shamrock Bank plans to open its branch in City Hall.

There was more good news when he announced that Collier County Parks & Recreation Department has earmarked \$60,000 for McLeod Park and our Community Center.

The Mayor explained that ten or twelve trailers on Dupont had been condemned by the County Health Department and would have to be removed.

In response to a question from Jane Rackley, he said that the dumpster in McLeod Park would be removed and that he would look into relocating the cardboard recycling dumpster closer to the businesses that use it.

Lt. Mark Milligan reported on behalf of the Collier County Sheriff's Office that the attendance at Seafood Festival was estimated at 49,000. He invited everyone in the area to talk with Sheriff Kevin Rambosk on **Thursday, March 26**, about safety in our neighborhoods (*see Calendar*).

A proclamation supporting the Economic Development Council was read and passed. A resolution to support the Everglades River of Grass Greenway (ROGG) was discussed. The Council welcomes reports on the progress of this long-term project (*see the Rapper, 2/20/09*).

RUMMAGE SALE

The VR Corp is holding a rummage, book, and bake sale on **Saturday, March 7**, in their Rec Hall at the end of Buckner Avenue from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. Come along early for bargains!

“DEACONESS” AT MUSEUM

The exhibit in March is entitled “Women of the Everglades” and there will be a talk about Deaconess Bedell by Marion Nicolay of Marco Island on **Saturday, March 7**, at 1:00 p.m.

This is followed by a guided WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS at 2:00 p.m.

For info, phone 695-0008.



The popular “Otter John” entertained a large audience at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Festival at the Museum on Thursday, February 26. Besides birds and reptiles that he has rescued, he showed the panther which he raised. With thanks to Martha Schramm for this photo.

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, March 14**, from 9:00 a.m. to noon and on **Tuesday, March 17**, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. There are no drugs at the clinic but Dr. Barnard can prescribe if necessary.

MOBILE PET VET



Dr Baker will be here on **Saturday, March 28**, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in McLeod Park, Everglades City, and in Copeland from 2 to 4 p.m. She will also be here for surgery on **Sunday, March 29**, by previous appointment only. Phone her at 777-PETS (7387).

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 02/19/09: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 02/19/09: Vehicle Accident, Kirby Storter Park
- 02/22/09: Person Passed Out, Everglades City
- 02/22/09: Brush Fire, Ochopee
- 02/22/09: Sick Person, Port of the Islands
- 02/22/09: Dehydration, Chokoloskee Island
- 02/23/09: Vehicle Accident, 50mm I-75
- 02/23/09: Vehicle in Median, 61mm I-75
- 02/24/09: Vehicle Fire, SR-29 and Jerome
- 02/25/09: Vehicle Accident, 62mm on I-75
- 02/26/09: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 02/26/09: ATV Accident, 10 Miles North of Loop Rd
- 02/27/09: Call Box, 72mm on I-75
- 02/28/09: Cardiac Arrest, Ochopee
- 02/28/09: Vehicle Accident, Ochopee
- 02/28/09: Vehicle Accident, 52mm on I-75
- 02/28/09: Vehicle Fire, East Tamiami Trail & Loop Rd
- 02/28/09: Vehicle Accident, 70mm on I-75
- 03/01/09: Vehicle Accident, 2 Miles West of Port of the Islands
- 03/01/09: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 03/01/09: Emergency Medical, Everglades City Fire Station
- 03/01/09: Vehicle Accident, Wagon Wheel Rd & SR-29
- 03/01/09: Seizures, Chokoloskee Island
- 03/01/09: Grass Fire, Chokoloskee Island
- 03/01/09: Seizures, 78mm on I-75
- 03/01/09: Seizures, Plantation Island
- 03/01/09: Vehicle Accident, 66mm on I-75
- 03/01/09: Vehicle Accident, 61mm on I-75
- 03/02/09: Emergency Medical, Lee Cypress
- 03/02/09: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 03/02/09: Emergency Medical, Plantation Island
- 03/02/09: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 03/03/09: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 03/03/09: Vehicle Fire, 63mm on I-75

Public Announcements are now on cable Channel 98.

ART IN THE GLADES



Join us as a visitor or a vendor on **Saturday, March 14**, for a family fun day. Besides arts & crafts items for sale, we will have live music and delicious luncheon food available for purchase.

There will also be a silent auction at which you can bid for the picture painted by Alan Pape during Seafood Festival (see *Rapper* 2/20/09).

For more info, phone Marya at 695-2905.

TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

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

03/06/2009	Fri	05:48AM	-0.3	L	12:51PM	2.0	H	05:46PM	0.8	L	10:38PM	2.6	H
03/07/2009	Sat	06:46AM	-0.4	L	01:05PM	2.1	H	06:49PM	0.6	L	11:47PM	2.8	H
03/08/2009	Sun	08:37AM	-0.4	L	02:25PM	2.2	H	08:43PM	0.4	L			
03/09/2009	Mon	01:43AM	2.9	H	09:22AM	-0.3	L	02:47PM	2.4	H	09:31PM	0.2	L
03/10/2009	Tue	02:32AM	2.9	H	10:03AM	-0.2	L	03:10PM	2.5	H	10:17PM	0.0	L
03/11/2009	Wed	03:18AM	2.8	H	10:42AM	-0.1	L	03:35PM	2.6	H	11:01PM	-0.1	L
03/12/2009	Thu	04:03AM	2.6	H	11:18AM	0.1	L	04:01PM	2.7	H	11:43PM	-0.2	L
03/13/2009	Fri	04:48AM	2.5	H	11:51AM	0.3	L	04:28PM	2.7	H			
03/14/2009	Sat	12:27AM	-0.2	L	05:35AM	2.2	H	12:22PM	0.4	L	04:57PM	2.7	H
03/15/2009	Sun	01:12AM	-0.2	L	06:27AM	2.0	H	12:48PM	0.6	L	05:29PM	2.6	H
03/16/2009	Mon	02:02AM	-0.1	L	07:27AM	1.8	H	12:56PM	0.7	L	06:06PM	2.5	H
03/17/2009	Tue	03:01AM	0.0	L	08:39AM	1.6	H	12:21PM	0.8	L	06:58PM	2.4	H
03/18/2009	Wed	04:13AM	0.1	L	08:31PM	2.3	H						
03/19/2009	Thu	05:27AM	0.1	L	02:26PM	1.8	H	05:30PM	0.9	L	10:07PM	2.2	H
03/20/2009	Fri	06:30AM	0.1	L	02:15PM	1.9	H	06:44PM	0.8	L	11:23PM	2.3	H

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SCHOOL NEWS

Everglades City School

phone: 377-9800 or 695-2561

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

IMPORTANT DATES

Fri, Mar 6: Early Release
 Mon, Mar 9: Teacher Planning Day
 Mar 10-23: FCAT (Reading, Science, Math)
 Thurs, Mar 12: Baseball HOME, 5:00 p.m.
 Fri, Mar 13: Report Cards
 Tues, Mar 17: Baseball HOME, 4:30 p.m.
 Thurs, Mar 26: SAC, 3:00 p.m.
 Thurs, April 2: Great Gators, 9:30 a.m.
 April 6-13: Spring Recess



From Savannah's Eyes

Baseball season has started at our school. I went to the first home game (at our school). It was really a great game. My cousin Houston Brown and my friend Ana Roldan are playing this year on the team. All of the people on the bleachers cheered them on and so did I (see the Mullet Rapper for game times and dates).

Also the J.V. volleyball team at our school is doing a fundraiser (called "scratch and help") so we can go to this summer to camp. The camp is in Middle Florida and supposed to be a lot of fun. We are still taking donations so contact me or one of the other players if you want to donate. At volleyball camp, our coach said, we play volleyball all day long, and I love volleyball so much that I bet I won't even be tired! Then we go to a motel and spend the night. I can't wait for that day! Thank you for all the people who have already donated. You are very special people in my life.

With thanks and love, Savannah

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



Everglades Music Fest '09

by Jean Schultz

February 26 was a wonderful evening filled with music, as fifty local vocalists and musicians gathered to sing and play bluegrass, country, celtic, pop, praise songs and old-timey gospel to an audience of three hundred in the Everglades City School cafetorium. They kept the audience alert and happy, tapping their toes to the beat.

The concert was well supported by the school, Principal Bobby Jones, and staff. It was free, with admission being contributions of non-perishable food items to provide for the Community Food Pantry. Donations to the school Art and Music departments were given that night for a total of \$700.

A big thank-you to all who made this event a success: the entertainers, school, sound crews, stage manager, videographer, stage decorators, ticket takers, auditorium helpers, and ushers.

Next year at this time, we will present the Music Fest again and add some new talent with children, too. If you are interested in being part of this concert, call Jean at 695-0202 before April 3.

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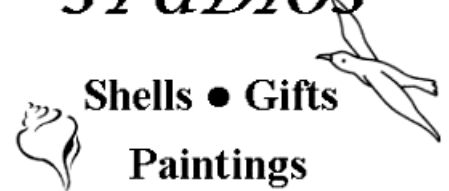
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PANCAKE FLY-IN

Thanks to Phill Lawry for these photos and the note about one of the many planes which flew in for breakfast on Saturday, February 28, at the airport.

The blue and yellow biplane is a Stearman PT-17. Primary flight trainer in use prior to start of WW2. That one has a more powerful engine than original. My flight instructor taught in those during the war. He said one of his students on his first solo flight came in to land, hit the ground and broke one of the bottom wings. He then went around to try again, hit hard and broke the other bottom wing. Not to be deterred with two broken wings he went around again and managed to land on the third try. My flight instructor said he passed him on the spot. He said the poor guy thought he was going to get thrown out of the Air Force.



The monthly breakfasts are hosted by Chuck Gretse of Wings 10,000 Island Tours and draw a crowd of spectators who enjoy watching the new and antique planes arrive and take off.

The next Pancake Fly-in is on **Saturday, March 28**, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Everyone is welcome, whether by air or road or sea.

For more information about Wings and its affordable tours over the area, phone 695-3296.

Recipe for Good Eating

Inexpensive Pork Dishes

by Marya Repko



Here are two ways I've experimented with of making tasty winter pork dishes that stretch to unexpected or delayed guests and to full tummies (leftovers taste even better the next day). They were standbys when I was entertaining but wanted to share some time with my visitors rather than being stuck in the kitchen, sort of like having a pot of stew simmering away for whenever we were ready to eat.

Both start with frying up some onions and garlic, maybe a bit a bacon for the smoky flavor, and some diced pork (what used to be called "belly pork", slightly fatty, but it would be probably be more correct now to use "country ribs").

Pork with sauerkraut: add a layer of sauerkraut and caraway seeds (to taste), simmer for about an hour on the top of the stove with the lid on, add a finely-diced or grated raw potato and remove the lid to thicken the mixture about 15 minutes before serving. Sprinkle with freshly-ground black pepper. You can vary this recipe by using chopped Kielbasa or smoked sausage instead of pork.

Pork with cheesy leeks: make a cheese sauce like you would for macaroni-cheese (melt butter, stir in flour, dilute slowly with milk stirring until smooth but not too thick, stir in grated cheese and a pinch of curry powder or mustard); blanch sliced up leeks in boiling water (after washing thoroughly to get out the grit), layer the leeks and cheese sauce into the saucepan containing the pork mixture, cover and cook until leeks are soft (at least 10 minutes, depending on their age). Serve with crusty bread.

I owe thanks to my late Ukrainian friend Basil for the first recipe and to my very active English friend Julia for the cheesy leeks.

Angel of the Swamp

by Patty Huff



We live in a small town but have many of the same services available in larger cities. Visitors find it amazing that our little library provides so much, mainly because we are a branch of the County Library System. We have magazines and books to read (any book may be ordered from the main library if not in inventory). We have a large selection of DVD movies (again, videos may be ordered from Naples). We have "Books on Tape" which may be rented for longer periods. We have computer services which is invaluable to many visitors and winter residents. We have county clerk services which means that we don't have to drive to Naples to apply for a fishing license, renewal of county tags, etc. All this is possible because of one county employee: Roberta Stone. Roberta has been working in this position for 11 years; she has become an expert in handling all administrative matters relating to county services for both the library and the clerk. She is indispensable and the few days she does take off are well deserved. No one seems to mind when she leaves a little note on the door that the library will be closed for a few hours or afternoon. We just appreciate her more when she returns. When you live in an small, isolated community such as Everglades City, you learn to take things as they come, with patience. We are just grateful for Roberta and all the work she does to provide big city services to our little town. Thank you, Roberta, for everything!!



Fishing Report

by Capt. Bill Lindsay

March, as a general rule, is a transitional month. When the wind is down, I like to fish this time of year. The water is

warmer and Tarpon may show up on the edge of the Gulf and outside coves. In the back country, when the water levels get right, small baitfish are driven out of runoffs; this can lead to great Snook fishing. Redfishing will improve and sight fishing for Snook in the outside coves gets better. As it warms up, Sheepshead fishing slows down a bit, but Trout fishing on the grass flats can be lots of fun. When it's overcast, they will come up and take a top-water plug. Capt. Don Cochran has had no trouble finding Trout, Snapper and Grouper on the shallow Gulf wrecks. Two captains made unusual catches that deserve recognition. Captain Herb Kehoe was out in the Gulf when he noticed a large copper-colored school of fish. His anglers caught two "breeder" Redfish in the 20 lb class. Captain Dave Prickett was fishing the north of the Huston River when a 45" Cobia took his bait.

Capt. Bill Lindsay lives in Chokoloskee and has been fishing in the Everglades National Park for 28 years. In 1992 he was Master Angler of the MET Tournament.



ARTIFICIAL REEFS

Collier County has a map of all the artificial reefs along our shoreline on the official website www.colliergov.net (click on Coastal Zone Management under Departments). Although most of them are clustered around Marco and Naples, there is one near Pavilion Key.

BIG CYPRESS ORVs

The ORV Advisory Committee will hold a meeting from 3:30 to 8:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, March 24**, at Preserve headquarters in Ochopee. For info, phone 695-1103.

VIP Report

A Day in a VIP's Life

by Shirley Leonard



The National Park Service treats its volunteers as very important people. VIP is the park's acronym for the **V**olunteers **I**n **P**arks program.

Residents and tourists frequently ask volunteers what it is they do. The answer – it depends. Depends on what? To name only a few:

A volunteer's skills, interests and talents.

How much time he/she wants to work.

What he/she wants to do.

What the park needs help to do.

Which park they are at.

Does that sound vague? It is and purposely so. In 2007 163,000 volunteers in national parks devoted 5.4 million hours of work valued at more than \$100 million to national parks. It is safe to say that no two of all those people did the same job. Why? Because park staff work with volunteers to make their experience enjoyable. That's accomplished by shaping jobs to fit every volunteer's interests and expertise.

Most of the rangers at Gulf Coast work on what Uncle Sam calls "interpretation". Interpretation is Fed-speak for education. They staff the visitor center desk, develop and present programs, exhibits, and walking, boating and bicycle tours to cover as many facets of the Everglades as possible. Volunteers pitch in wherever they can and want to help.

Many volunteers are retirees. Teachers, lawyers, mechanics, carpenters, electricians, photographers, engineers, plumbers, architects, artists, writers and on and on and on. Imagine all the possibilities!

In my case, I worked as a daily newspaper reporter and one of my hobbies was exploring the outdoors. After reading *The Mullet Rapper* I started contributing a column to give readers my impressions of the park.

As a child I collected animal and bird skulls. Following my natural bent, I started cleaning up bird skulls that were on exhibit in the center but weren't the pristine white they should be. Manatee, alligator, crocodile skulls, turtle shells and shark jaws followed. Currently I'm working on a crocodile, cottonmouth snake, loggerhead turtle, blue and stone crabs, a Florida box turtle and others. All have died of natural causes but on exhibit they have a purpose: interpretation. They did not die in vain!

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.

To find out about Park activities, phone 695-3311



LOCAL HISTORY

Golden Lion Motor Inn

When Jeff Whichello was only 10 years old his family (his parents and five of his aunts and uncles) gave up the motor inn they had opened and operated since Christmas Day 1970. Four years later in 1974, after the threat of a new international Miami airport in the Big Cypress area had seemed a possibility, 729,000 acres were set aside for the establishment of Big Cypress National Preserve. Most of the residents of this once thriving tomato farming area were bought out to help preserve the area. Although the Golden Lion Motor Inn was "grandfathered in" as were other older homes, the business was affected by the loss of population and workers. Big Cypress National Preserve now occupies the original building for its administrative services.

A novel, entitled "A Lion in the Swamp" based on the Whichello's story, is in the works. When published, you'll learn more about the young ambitious family: Daniel (Jeff's father), only 28 at the time, John and Edward (brothers who did the cooking), Nancy (the "little general"), Kathy (the creative sister), and Patty (the wanderer).

Read more about the history of the Golden Lion on Jeff's website www.goldenlionmotorinn.com.



DIGGIN' IN

by Denise Rousseau

Gardening. Vegetable gardening in particular. It seems that when the conversation comes up people tend to be intimidated by the thought of doing it. Questions arise: how do you get started? Do you need to start with seeds or seedlings and where do you get them? Is it expensive? What kind of tools do you need? Don't you need a big yard?



I am a green horn gardener, particularly here in southwest Florida. I have had a vegetable garden in Alaska for a few years, so learning to grow vegetables down here has been an interesting experience. Everything is different down here: soil, heat, water needs, types of vegetables that are appropriate for the time of year when I am here, bugs and diseases. It was intimidating to consider all of the factors associated with having a successful garden, particularly one that would produce food for 2 of us during a six-month stay. And so it seemed like a good idea to share what the toils have taught me, and to encourage everyone to grow at least a little something for themselves. With the increase in food and gas prices, and considering the time it takes to drive to a grocery store or market, the time is ripe. So, let's dig in.....

First lesson: keep it simple! Grow what you like to eat. Ask questions. You might be surprised to find out who you know that does grow their own food, and gardeners are always willing to share.

Second lesson: use what you have. This doesn't have to be expensive. In fact, you can get started with very little cost. You might have to buy some dirt, or some seeds or some seedlings, but you don't have to have a big yard with a designated garden area or fancy pots. Heck, if you don't mind getting your hands dirty you don't even need a shovel.

Third lesson: share. Return, reuse and recycle is the mantra of the day, but sharing is a value lesson we learn from an early age. You can use just about anything in your house as a container to get started, from yogurt containers, plastic soda bottles, egg cartons, and milk cartons (list is almost endless, see photo). That is the r-r-r part. The next step is asking that neighbor or friend for a cutting or shoot or extras. More than likely when you mention that you want to start a garden, someone will offer to help, either with advise (always take it), a pot or plant, or if you are really lucky, some elbow grease.

Fourth lesson: get the kids and/or elderly involved. If you are trying to get the kids to eat more veggies, this is a sure way to do it. And, the elderly will enjoy the process as well.

There aren't too many things more exciting, especially to children, than to plant something, watch it grow, and then get to eat it.

Tips: remember to thoroughly clean any container before using it for gardening, and poke a few holes in the bottom for drainage. Seedlings need to stay moist, but they don't like to sit in wet soil.

It's time to get started. There is still plenty of growing season left to produce something for the table.

Denise Rousseau lives in an original Collier house. Her horticultural skills are obvious in the surrounding shrubs and garden.



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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; daily

Gator Express:

7:00 am - 9:00 pm; Sun - Thurs
7:00 am - 10:00 pm; Fri, Sat

Glades Haven Deli:

6:00 am - 9:00 pm; daily

Grimm's Stone Crab (takeout):

8 am - 6 pm; Mon - Sat

Havana Cafe:

8:00 am - 3:00 pm; daily
6:00 pm dinner; Saturday

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:

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

Susie's Station:

11:00 am - 5:00 pm; daily

Triad Seafood:

10:30 am - 5:00 pm; Mon - Thurs
7:00 am - 5:00 pm; Fri, Sat, Sun

*For a list of CHURCH SERVICES, see
www.evergladesmulletrapper.com
or phone us for a copy.
A current list is also on the Notice
Board outside the Captain's Table.*

First Assembly Ministries

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website: www.evergladeschamber.com

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GATOR BREAKFAST

Gator Express have a new breakfast menu which includes omelette sandwiches, Belgian waffles, biscuits & gravy, and plain biscuits. They start serving at 7:00 a.m.

SATURDAY DINNER

Havana Cafe in Chokoloskee is serving dinner every Saturday evening starting at 6:00 p.m.

NEW HOURS

The Seafood Depot is no longer serving breakfast but it is open earlier each day, from 10:30 a.m. Closing time remains the same at 9:00 p.m. and the "Cabana Bash" takes place on Saturday from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

ROSARY

The rosary is said at 9:00 a.m. each Friday at Holy Family Church which will remain open until after Easter. Services during the summer will be held at St. Finbarr's in East Naples (on US-41 just before CR-951).

LOST & FOUND

Collier County Domestic Animal Services would like to encourage anyone with a lost or found pet to register or search for lost animals online at www.petharbor.com. Web users may also link to this site through www.collierpets.com.



Domestic Animal Services posts all lost, found, and adoptable animals to this website which can link pet finders with lost pet owners. The general public may also register lost and found pets through this free online service. Registrants are then reminded every 30 days they have posted information.

Anyone who reports a lost pet on this site will automatically receive an email from Pet Harbor if a found animal matching the lost animal's description is registered in the database.



The annual ORA Bazaar in Chokoloskee on Saturday, February 28, was a great success and enjoyed by all. Seen above is Anne Gallagher, a volunteer at the ESHP table. Below, Eloise Bellows had her artwork on display.



CATS IN THE COLD

We had this email on March 4 with an update on the weather in frozen Connecticut by Matthew Goldman (aka "Constant Waterman" whose books and sketched postcards are available in outlets around town):

Zero degrees [none at all] this morning at daybreak. Pusslets put on their mittens, sock warmers, insulated parkas, scarves, earmuffs, whisker shields, and nose guards and made it as far as the door. When I opened it, the influx of frigid air froze them pusslets to the floor - they just couldn't move, nohow. Had to pry 'em loose with a can of tuna fish and wrap 'em in blankets and lay 'em on the sofa to defrost. Now up to 20 and may try the experiment again.

OLD APPLIANCES

The number to call if you want the County to collect old fridges, washing machines, and other large appliances is 403-2380. Select options 1 and then 2 to schedule a collection. Do not just leave them at the side of the road!

PANTHER WEEK

March 14-21 is Florida Panther Week and the Panther Preserve is holding a series of events including a special day at the Naples Zoo on **March 15**, a talk by Mike Owen at Clyde Butcher's Big Cypress Gallery on **March 19**, and Open House at the Panther Refuge on **March 21**. For more info, see their website www.floridapanther.org.

DEEP LAKE TOUR

There will be a guided tour of Deep Lake, the sink hole near Jerome, on **Thursday, March 19**, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. For reservations, phone Lisa Andrews at 695-1164.

FREE TALKS

Naples Preserve, just south of Coastland Mall, has lectures open to the public on Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. The schedule this month is:

March 10: "Raptors of Southwest Florida"

March 17: "Florida Panther Refuge"

March 24: "Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed"

March 31: "Charles Torey Simpson, Early Florida Naturalist"

There is a special talk on **March 19** at 3:00 p.m. entitled "Raising Butterflies and Butterfly Gardens".

The talks are free and followed by a light luncheon.

NPC BIKE RIDE

Register now to join the Everglades Scenic Ride which will be held in our area on **Saturday, April 4**. This annual event is sponsored by the Naples Pathways Coalition and part of the proceeds benefit ESHP this year.



Options range from a 16-mile trip to one of 100 miles, all starting from the Welcome Center at Carnestown. There will be rest stops along the way.

See website www.naplespathways.org or phone 695-2397. Application forms are also at City Hall.

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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The Gulf Coast Ranger Station is looking for a temporary maintenance worker to clear brush in the backcountry from a 16-ft Carolina skiff. Phone Bill Wagner at (239) 280-9192.

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

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. REDUCED \$225,000. Call (239) 340-4770.

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FOR SALE OR LEASE: Historic Bank of Everglades Building. Contact Patty Richards at (239) 289-6671.



Almost 100 people gathered for the annual picnic of the Friends of Fakahatchee on March 1. Music was provided by Joe Stem and Terri Rementeria while attendees enjoyed a buffet catered by the Seafood Depot.

The Friends volunteer to clear brush and to welcome visitors to the Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk on US-41. See www.friendsoffakahatchee.org.

FOR SALE: 2006 Gheenoe Classic with 2008 20 hp Yamaha 4-stroke and trailer. Equipped with Minn-kota electric motor, seats, tank and battery. \$4,200. Call Mike at (239) 248-0793.

FOR RENT: Seasonal or Vacation, house in Everglades City (very nice), fully furnished. Call (239) 695-1561.

FOR SALE: Excellent fishing boat, 1997 Crest Liner, welded aluminum, 2000 40hp Johnson salt water engine, hydraulic tilt, depth finder, electric anchor, bilge pump, live well. \$1975. Call Ray at 695-3520.

CAR WASH: We will come to your home or business to wash your vehicle. Reasonable prices. For info, phone Ariel at (813) 785-2334.

NEED A BABYSITTER?: Phone Elvita at 695-1073.

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