

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2009

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We Have a Bank!

A branch of the Shamrock Bank of Florida is now open in Everglades City Hall, after a delay due to hassles with computers and communications. Regular hours will be announced shortly but the bank will probably be open several days a week.

President Don York (seen here with the Mayor on Thursday, March 19) told the *Rapper* that new customers are welcome. All you need is a photo-ID (driver's license), social security number, and street address. Account holders will have full online Internet services and are FDIC insured. For info, see www.shamrockbankfl.com.

There will be a Grand Opening on **Thursday, March 26**, at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to come along and meet the staff.

NATIONAL PARK PLANS

by Marya Repko

Our opinions were taken into account after the heated public meetings in the summer of 2007 when many locals voiced their opposition to some of the alternatives in the first draft of the General Management Plan for Everglades National Park. There were over 1000 written comments! And, Everglades City Council passed a resolution that Alternative A (which advocated “no change”) was the only one supportable.

The new document “Revised Preliminary Alternatives” deals only with Marine Waters (including the construction of a new Visitor Center in ECity and development in Flamingo).

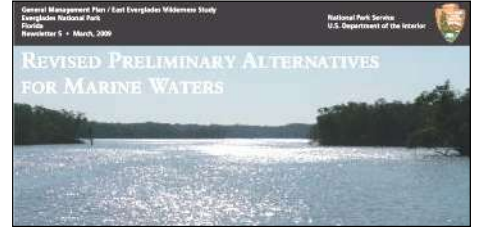
The 2007 Alternatives had a strong emphasis on prohibiting or restricting motor boats. The 2009 Alternatives are much more friendly.

There are new suggestions about education and extra Wilderness Waterways. There is also a proviso that motor boats should use “common courtesy and respect for other recreationists”.

ENP Newsletter #5 which details the four Alternatives is available online at www.nps.gov/ever or you can get a paper copy by visiting the Gulf Coast Ranger Station at the park or City Hall.

There will be a workshop at ECity School on **Tuesday, March 31**, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The deadline for written comments (which can also be sent by email) is **Friday, May 15**.

See the article on page 9 for background info.



PARKWAY CELEBRATES

Congratulations to Bill & Geri Shelburne on their fourth anniversary at Parkway Motel & Marina. They own and manage the motel and old bargehouse renovated into a quaint cottage overlooking the marina, all of which are available for rent at daily, weekly, or monthly rates.



Bill told the *Rapper* that he's been fishing in this area for years and prefers it to the Keys. The docks have been completely rebuilt since Hurricane Wilma and now offer a full-service marina. There has been a shift this season from fishing to eco-tourism & photography and some of the guides have become certified naturalists to accommodate these special interests. For more info, visit www.parkwaymotelandmarina.com and see the special offer on page 11.

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

MARCH/APRIL 2009

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
15	16 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	17 <u>St Patricks' Day</u> Reach Out City Hall, 8:30 am Kids' Clinic 5-8 pm	18 Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am	19 Deep Lake Walk Copeland Civic 7 pm	<u>RAPPER 20</u> Chicken Dinner Comm Church see p.3	21 Panther Day see p.11
22	23 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm	24 BigC ORV see p.3	25 Ladies Coffee Havana Cafe 8 am	new moon ○ 26 Bank Opening City Hall, 10 am see p.1 Port Opening 12 noon, see p.11 SAC School, 3 pm Meet the Sheriff Comm Church 6-8 pm, see p.3	27 ESHP Social 5:30 pm, see p.9 Naples Orchid Show, see p.11	28 Mobile Pet Vet see p.3 Kids' Clinic see p.3 Pancake Fly-In Airport, see p.3,7 Turner River Trips, see p.8 Naples Orchid Show, see p.11
29 Mobile Pet Vet see p.3 Turner River Trips, see p.8 Naples Orchid Show, see p.11	30 Hour of Prayer Everglades First Baptist Church 7 pm	31 Kids' Clinic see p.3 Park Meeting School, 5:30 pm see p. 1, 9	APRIL 1 Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am FME mtg Museum, 9 am	2 Great Gators School, 9:30 am	<u>RAPPER 3</u> Amazing Adventures Rookery Bay see p.11	4 NPC Bike Ride see p. 11 Museum Reception 1-3 pm
5 Fak Dinner see p.11	6 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm School - Spring Recess starts	7 ESHP Talk/mtg City Hall, 9 am City Council City Hall, 5:30 pm	8 Ladies Coffee Havana Cafe 8 am	9	10	11 SCV Depot, 6 pm
12 <u>Easter</u>	13 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm OFCD Bd Fire Sta, 6 pm	full moon ● 14	15 Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am	16 Copeland Civic 7 pm	<u>RAPPER 17</u>	18

April 25: Museum Birthday

May 2/3: Mobile Pet Vet May 7: National Day of Prayer May 9: Firefighters BBQ

May 15: ENP comments due May 19: BigC ORV

THRIFT SHOP: Daily except Sunday, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

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

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

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: Fri, 3/20 (10-11 am) Mon, 3/23 (11am - noon) Wed, 3/25 (2-3 pm) Fri, 3/27 (10-11 am)

Tues, 3/31 (9-10:30 am)

See notice outside office for April dates & times

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

SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily, 10 am to 5 pm

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Wed, 5 pm, Community Church

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.

MEET THE SHERIFF

Collier County Sheriff Kevin Rambosk will be in Everglades City at the Community Church on **Thursday, March 26**, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. to talk with local residents about improving safety in the community. Everyone is invited to come along and chat with him. For info, phone the sub-station at 695-2301.

PANCAKE FLY-IN



A pancake breakfast hosted by Wings 10,000 Island Tours will take place at Everglades Airpark on **Saturday, March 28**, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Everyone is welcome. For info about tours, phone Chuck Grete at 695-3296.

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 from 2 to 4 p.m. in Copeland. She will also be here for surgery on **Sunday, March 29**, by previous appointment only. Phone her at 777-PETS (7387).



Elaine Middelsteadt was the lucky winner of the 50/50 raffle on Saturday, March 14, at Art-in-the-Glades.

But, she gave all the money back! The raffle and a bake sale were held to send ECity School girls to Volleyball Camp this summer. If you can help, drop off your donation at the school.

CHICKEN DINNER

The Everglades Community Church will have a Smoked Chicken Dinner on **Friday, March 20**, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The menu includes 2 side dishes, drink, and dessert. Tickets are \$10 (or \$5 for kids).

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 28**, from 9:00 a.m. to noon and on **Tuesday, March 31**, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. There are no drugs at the clinic but Dr. Barnard can prescribe if necessary.

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 03/04/09: Vehicle Fire, 75mm on I-75
- 03/04/09: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 03/04/09: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 03/04/09: Blown Transformer, Everglades City
- 03/05/09: Vehicle Accident, 68mm on I-75
- 03/05/09: Vehicle Accident, 70mm on I-75
- 03/06/09: Emergency Medical, Lee Cypress
- 03/07/09: Vehicle Accident, Monroe Station
- 03/07/09: Emergency Medical, Lee Cypress
- 03/07/09: Median Fire, Plantation Parkway
- 03/07/09: Vehicle Accident, US-41 at Mile Marker 72
- 03/07/09: Unknown Medical Problem, Everglades City
- 03/07/09: Vehicle Accident, 66mm on I-75
- 03/07/09: Emergency Medical, 56mm on I-75
- 03/09/09: Vehicle Accident, SR-29 and US-41
- 03/09/09: Headache, Lee Cypress
- 03/10/09: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 03/10/09: Smoke Investigation, Plantation Island
- 03/11/09: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 03/11/09: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 03/11/09: Emergency Medical, Dupont
- 03/11/09: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee
- 03/11/09: Vehicle Accident, US-41 near Ochopee
- 03/11/09: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 03/12/09: Vehicle Fire, 66mm on I-75
- 03/12/09: Vehicle Accident, 55mm on I-75
- 03/12/09: Vehicle Accident, 70mm on I-75 (cancelled)
- 03/12/09: Vehicle Accident, 54mm on I-75
- 03/12/09: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 03/13/09: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 03/13/09: Vehicle Accident, 64mm on I-75
- 03/13/09: Vehicle Accident, 57mm on I-75
- 03/14/09: Brush Fire, 77mm on I-75
- 03/15/09: Person Fell, Port of the Islands
- 03/17/09: Breathing Problem, Port of the Islands
- 03/17/09: Vehicle Accident, 55mm on I-75

See MORE EVENTS on page 11

TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

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

03/20/2009	Fri	06:30AM	0.1	L	02:15PM	1.9	H	06:44PM	0.8	L	11:23PM	2.3	H
03/21/2009	Sat	07:22AM	0.0	L	01:33PM	2.0	H	07:35PM	0.7	L			
03/22/2009	Sun	12:22AM	2.4	H	08:05AM	0.0	L	01:43PM	2.1	H	08:16PM	0.5	L
03/23/2009	Mon	01:10AM	2.5	H	08:42AM	0.0	L	02:03PM	2.3	H	08:53PM	0.4	L
03/24/2009	Tue	01:52AM	2.6	H	09:16AM	0.0	L	02:26PM	2.5	H	09:29PM	0.2	L
03/25/2009	Wed	02:30AM	2.6	H	09:48AM	0.1	L	02:49PM	2.5	H	10:06PM	0.1	L
03/26/2009	Thu	03:09AM	2.6	H	10:20AM	0.2	L	03:09PM	2.7	H	10:44PM	-0.1	L
03/27/2009	Fri	03:48AM	2.5	H	10:51AM	0.3	L	03:28PM	2.8	H	11:24PM	-0.2	L
03/28/2009	Sat	04:32AM	2.5	H	11:21AM	0.4	L	03:48PM	2.9	H			
03/29/2009	Sun	12:06AM	-0.3	L	05:23AM	2.3	H	11:51AM	0.5	L	04:13PM	3.0	H
03/30/2009	Mon	12:53AM	-0.3	L	06:26AM	2.1	H	12:20PM	0.6	L	04:46PM	3.0	H
03/31/2009	Tue	01:48AM	-0.3	L	07:40AM	2.0	H	12:50PM	0.7	L	05:29PM	2.9	H
04/01/2009	Wed	02:52AM	-0.2	L	09:06AM	1.8	H	01:25PM	0.8	L	06:27PM	2.7	H
04/02/2009	Thu	04:06AM	-0.2	L	10:50AM	1.9	H	03:35PM	0.9	L	08:06PM	2.5	H
04/03/2009	Fri	05:19AM	-0.2	L	12:17PM	2.0	H	05:27PM	0.8	L	10:11PM	2.5	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

Thurs, Mar 26: SAC, 3:00 p.m.
 Thurs, April 2: Great Gators, 9:30 a.m.
 April 6-13: Spring Recess
 Mon, April 13: Baseball HOME, 4:00 p.m.
 Fri, April 17: Baseball HOME, 5:00 p.m.
 Wed, April 22: Early Release
 Thurs, April 23: SAC, 3:00 p.m.
 Tues, April 28: Baseball HOME, 5:00 p.m.



From Savannah's Eyes

This article is like no article that I have ever written because I got to work as a waitress at our friends Dulce and Carlos' restaurant. They are very good people. They both own a small restaurant called the "Havana Cafe" where everyone loves to eat; it is a family restaurant. I was at Dulce's house hanging out with her daughter Alicia Martinez. Then Dulce took us all to the restaurant to work. At the restaurant we were preparing for the people to flock in like birds. And, well, they did. I was waitressing with my friend Alicia, giving the people their drinks. bringing their food, asking how is the dinner. (I even got tips!) And, after everyone was almost gone, I played outside with my friends who were helping, like Alicia, Angelica, Addie and Antonio. That is why everyone comes down here for food, entertainment, people and, of course, the beautiful sunsets. I loved that night, and I will never forget it!

Waitress for a night, Savannah

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



Grade 5, 6: Savannah Humphreys, Sierra Dungan, Savannah Oglesby, not pictured: Megan Williams (moved)

Thanks to Trina Mitchell for photos & captions

GREAT GATORS, February 2009



Pre-K: Alycia Kibodeaux-Aranda, Ivan Kibodeaux-Aranda, Reyvan Cifuentes, Tyler Bruscini



Grade K: Gracie Emma Brown, Daniel Gibson, Jesse Goff, Alexis Rain



Grade 1: Brandy Bowen, Savannah Weeks (won twice), Caroline Teague



Grade 2: Seth Hooks, Dustin Young, Ashton Smallwood, Tyus Falls



Grade 3, 4: Rachel McMillin, Jasmine Lucas, Bryan Sanders, Tori Wells

On Short Approach

by Mike Klein

CCA meeting - March 9, 2009

Permits for wetlands mitigation have been approved for the extension of the taxiway. The next step is to apply for funding from the FAA.

Bids for the construction of the new hangars have been received. The County budget office will take at least two months to process before the final selection is made due to notice posting and public hearings. Design bids have gone out for replacement of the law enforcement residential structure. Application will be made to FEMA for cost reimbursement after construction.

The Board of County Commissioners Airport Budget Workshop is scheduled for Friday, March 27, at 9AM at the BCC offices in Naples.



Exotic Visitors

Everglades airport continues to be a popular destination for many fliers at any time, not only during the monthly pancake breakfasts. For example, spotted last week were two Chinese CJ-6 airplanes arriving from Tampa.

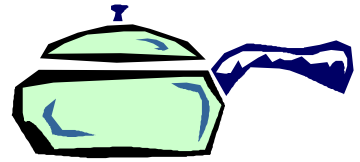
The CJ-6 (Chuji Jiaolian-6 or ChuJiao-6) is the basic trainer aircraft designed and built by the Nanchang Aircraft Factory. The wings of the CJ-6 were revised to have prominent dihedral, but, like the Soviet Yak-18A redesign, the CJ-6 retained the 145hp M-11ER radial engine. In 1961, an improved CJ-6A gained approval and was produced from 1962 until 1965, using a 285hp Quzhou Huosai-6A (Chinese copy of the AI-14R) piston engine.

More than 2,000 examples are believed to have been produced, with tens of thousands of Peoples Liberation Army student pilots trained on the aircraft. CJ-6As were exported to nations such as Albania, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Tanzania and Zambia under the designation PT-6. An armed version, the CJ-6B, was produced between 1964 and 1966, possibly equipped with a 300hp HS-6D engine.

Recipe for Good Eating

Chicken Spinach Pilaf

by Phill Lawry



1½ Cups Uncooked White Rice
2 Cans Chicken Broth
3 Chicken Bouillon Cubes

1 Stick Butter
1 Medium Onion Chopped
1 Pkg Frozen Chopped Spinach

Defrost Frozen Spinach, and pat out excess moisture with paper towels.

Meanwhile, back at the stove ...

Melt Butter in saucepan (DON'T BURN IT!)

Brown the White Rice in the Butter (DON'T BURN IT!)

Put in the Chopped Onion if you put the onion in first it will release too much moisture, and the rice won't brown). Add in the Chicken Broth. Crumble up the Bouillon Cubes and stir in. Plop in the thawed out Spinach.

Stir, cover, and simmer on low heat until rice is soft and fluffy, about 25 minutes (DON'T BURN IT!). When it looks like the rice is done to suit you, fluff with fork and serve.

Don't worry that it will come out too chickeny-flavored with the broth and bouillon cubes. It will be just right. Feel free to use home-made chicken stock and fresh-chopped spinach if you are a fanatic.

HOUSEHOLD TIP

Just as our winter visitors are leaving, Laura Dudley is offering a new service. She will look after your plants and check your home while you're away. Laura was born here in the Everglades and is a full-time resident so she knows what your plants need. She is fully licensed, bonded and insured.

Laura also offers pet-sitting if you are going on a vacation or dog-walking if you are out all day. She can help with grocery and prescription pick-up, and assistance to doctor's visits; great news for those who don't like to drive. And, she will also give in-home assistance for light cleaning tasks.

For more info, see the Pet & Plant Sitting ad on page 11 or visit her website www.petandplantsitting.com. You can phone her for a free introductory interview at 695-2730 or on her cell (239) 821-4064



Off the Shelf - Book Review

“An Everglades Providence” by Jack E. Davis

reviewed by Marya Repko

We know about the life of Marjory Stoneman Douglas from her autobiography *Voice of the River* but author Jack Davis of the University of Florida has produced an academic study of not only her amazing career but the parallel environmental awareness that has taken place during Marjory's long life (she was born in 1890 and lived in Florida from 1915 until 1998). Subtitled “Marjory Stoneman Douglas and the American Environmental Century”, he traces her life as well as the changes she saw (and significantly influenced) in southern Florida.

The author spoke at the MSD Festival hosted by the Museum during February and signed copies are available there for sale. It's a large tome, filled with a wealth of information ...the book is a keeper for dipping into and going back to for reference.

MEMORIES

"A Ghost in the Glades?" by Barbara Hoffman Daniels

I lived for just one summer out in Ochopee at a location known as "the Old Turner River Place" while waiting for my small houseboat to be re-located to a place in Copeland.

The "Turner River Place" has an interesting history of having been a place where the Caloosa Indians many years ago had used it as a camping place as they traveled through the river southward to the bays in the Ten Thousand Islands where they found a plentiful supply of clams and oysters as well as fish which were the main source of their foods. On these excursions they also traded their wares at the Old Smallwood Store on Chokoloskee Island. In later years the Indians of the Miccosukee and Seminole Tribes also used the place for the same purposes. There were the remnants of huge shell mounds from where they had opened their oysters and clams scattered about the area.

There were still a lot of the citrus, guava, grapefruit and two varieties of avocado trees at the time that I was there. Fish such as brim and bass were plentiful out back in the creek.

I believe that you could find out more information about the area at our Museum of the Everglades should you wish.

During the short time that I was there I got to know most of the members of a family of Seminole Indians. They were all very friendly except for one male member who was very quiet and elusive. I knew his name at the time but it now eludes me.

One day I was told that that particular Indian man had died and that he had been buried already and when I asked to learn more I was told that when an Indian dies that all of their earthly belongings were buried with them. And that is what makes this story so interesting because a few weeks later while watching my two young daughters play out in the front of the house, I looked up suddenly and there

coming down the quarter mile driveway, I saw this particular old Indian with his gig and "croaker"* sack that he always carried to put his fish in. He was very tall and thin in stature and his trousers were always too short. He wore an old fringed jacket over his Indian shirt and a wide flop brimmed hat. Just about every day he would come down that long path to pass the side of the house going to the creek in the back through the guava trees to catch his fish. I looked away for a second not thinking much about it until I remembered that he had died. Upon looking up again he was not there. This spooked me enough that I hurried the girls back onto the screen porch where I stood and pondered the situation. I even went down the path in back of the house so that I could tell whether or not he was down there. He was not. I watched for the rest of the day to see if he would come back by, but I never saw him again.

What?? Did he have a twin? Did someone steal his clothes? Or did I see a ghost? There was only one road into and out of there.

I later mentioned this phenomenon to one of the women in the tribe and she said to me very seriously that he must have left something that belonged to him down at the creek. I have thought about this many times since and wondered: are there ghosts among us?

Barbara Hoffman Daniels grew up in Everglades City. She lived for over thirty years in the Big Cypress where she had the experience of seeing what our animals are really like. She is a regular contributor to the Rapper.

*A "croaker" is a type of fish that makes a croaking sound from its swim bladder as it is pulled out onto dry land. Thus the name for the burlap bags that the Indians used.

TURNER RIVER TRIPS

The National Park Service is celebrating Florida Archeology Month with special boat trips to the Turner River on **Saturday & Sunday, March 28/29**.

The Turner River Complex is a prehistoric shell works site covering 30 acres. Smithsonian Anthropologist Ales Hrdlička, who visited the site in 1922, considered the Turner River Mounds to be "the most noteworthy group of shell heaps and mounds in the entire region" In 1955, William H. Sears, of the Florida State Museum, secured permission from the owners (Ted Smallwood's family) to conduct excavations at the site.

Motorized boat tours will leave at 1:00, 1:30, 3:00 & 3:30 pm and will make a thirty minute stop at the site. Visitors should arrive at least 15 minutes before departure.

The tours cost \$35 per adult (regular boat tour price). Space is limited to six persons per trip.

In addition to the motorized tours, there will also be a ranger-led canoe trip to the mounds. People can either bring their own canoe/kayak or rent one. Canoe rental is \$26.50 (includes tax). Canoes can hold 2 or 3 people. Singles can pay for 1/2 of a canoe.

On Sunday, March 29, there will be a special boat tour that includes a stop and short walk on Sandfly Island, another important prehistoric mound site. This will be the 2:30 boat tour. This trip will accommodate 46 people. The tour costs \$26.50 (regular boat tour price).

For info, phone the Park at 695-3311.



LOCAL HISTORY

Do you remember Ms Neal? Mildred Cooke? Come along to the Museum to read about them and other local women in the new exhibit "Women of the Everglades" in the Pauline Reeves Gallery.

The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday. There is no charge but donations are welcome. For info, phone 695-0008.

ESHP SOCIAL EVENING

The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation will hold a Social Evening on **Friday, March 27**, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Camellia Street Grill. This will probably be the last get-together this spring before seasonal residents leave. However, the work of the Society will continue through the summer and members will be updated by email on the progress of our many projects.

To make reservations for the Social Evening, phone Pat at 695-4642 or Jean at 695-0202.

NEW OFFICERS

ESHP elected new officers at the Board Meeting on Thursday, March 5:

- President - Marya Repko
- Vice-President - Mike Danosky
- Secretary - Patty Huff
- Treasurer - Mike Klein

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 7**, at 9:00 a.m. in City Hall.

The history of Sanibel Island is the latest episode of the "Untold Stories" series on WGCU public television on **Friday, March 27**, at 8:30 p.m. with repeats on Saturday at 6:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 11:00 p.m.

NATIONAL PARK PLANS

**Next Phase in Planning for Everglades National Park
Revised Preliminary Alternatives for Marine Waters**
by Linda Friar, NPS Public Information Officer



During March and April Everglades National Park invites you to participate in one or all of seven public meetings to review and provide input on revised alternatives for managing the park's marine areas that include Florida Bay and its Gulf Coast waters including the Wilderness Waterway and Ten-thousand Islands. (Note that all of the information discussed here can be found at the park's web site, www.nps.gov/ever.)

The alternatives being presented are the next step in a comprehensive revision of the park General Management Plan (GMP). The GMP is a long-term plan that provides the park with guidance on how to manage the complex resources and visitor use in this 2500 square mile park. The new plan will replace the 1979 Master Plan. The current planning effort began in 2003 and is expected to be completed in 2011. Once completed the GMP becomes the basis of management decision making over the next 20 to 30 years,

All national parks are required by law to use have a GMP that has been developed with input from the public and is used to guide management decisions. In addition, the park planning process requires development and consideration of a range of alternatives including how these alternatives meet the mission of the park both in resource protection and visitor recreational opportunities. The planning process includes multiple opportunities for a broad range of visitors, stakeholders, and community leaders to provide input into this long range planning document. The GMP outlines the long term goals a park wants to achieve and articulates how it will accomplish those goals, based on the legislative authority that created the park.

The meetings in March and April will present management alternatives specifically for the marine areas of the park. These areas were initially presented as part of draft alternatives presented to the public in May 2007. In response to the high level of public interest in the marine resources of the park and concerns expressed on the management alternatives presented in May 2007, the park committed to conduct additional scientific analysis on prop scarring and boat use of the marine areas (completed in 2009 and available on the park website.) This new data along with the public comments gathered in 2007 public meetings has been incorporated into revised marine alternatives being presented now to allow for additional public input. Once the preferred marine alternative is selected it will be incorporated into a draft GMP, expected to be released for public review and comment in 2010 and finalized in 2011.

These four draft marine alternatives being presented now cover a range of management strategies that incorporate a set of common elements included in every alternative and a mix of management zones applied to specific marine areas to achieve a balance of protection and recreation in different areas of the park. A complete discussion on each of the alternatives and the differences in each is described in the GMP Newsletter #5 and the two scientific studies that can be found at the park's web site, www.nps.gov/ever. Follow the links to "Everglades National Park General Management Plan and "GMP Documents". Once the newsletter is accessed through the website, the public can provide comments online. To request a copy by post, phone (305) 242-7700.

The schedule and locations of all seven GMP meetings is also available in the Newsletter. Everglades City School will host the second meeting from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, March 31**. All meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. with informal discussions between the public and park staff. At 6 p.m. a formal park service presentation will be made followed by public comments.



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RESTAURANT NEWS



- Backcountry Cafe (695-2552):**
6:00 am - 9:00 pm.; Mon - Sat
6:00 am - 3:00 pm.; Sun
- Camellia Street Grill (695-2003):**
Noon - 8:00 pm; Mon - Thurs
Noon - 10:00 pm; Fri, Sat
Noon - 6:00 pm; Sunday
- City Seafood (695-4700):**
11:00 am - 6:00 pm; daily
5:00 - 9:00 pm; Thurs - Sun
- Everglades Scoop (695-0375):**
11:00 am - 5:00 pm; daily
- Gator Express (695-3937):**
7:00 am - 9:00 pm; Sun - Thurs
7:00 am - 10:00 pm; Fri, Sat
- Glades Haven Deli (695-2746):**
6:00 am - 9:00 pm; daily
- Grimm's Stone Crab (695-3222):**
8 am - 6 pm; Mon - Sat (takeout)
- Havana Cafe (695-2214):**
8:00 am - 3:00 pm; daily
6:00 pm dinner; Saturday
- Ivey House (695-3299):**
7:00 - 9:30 am; daily
- Joanie's Blue Crab Cafe (695-2682):**
10:00 am - 5:00 pm; Wed - Mon
Live Music on weekends
- JT's Cafe & Gallery (695-2630):**
9 am - 5 pm; daily
- Leebo's Rock-Bottom Bar:**
4:00 pm; Mon - Sat
noon; Sunday
- Oyster House Restaurant (695-2073):**
11:00 am - 9:00 pm; Sun - Thurs
11:00 am - 10:00 pm; Fri, Sat
- Right Choice Pizzeria (695-3663):**
5:00 - 9:00 pm; Thurs-Mon (takeout)
- Rod & Gun (695-2101):**
7:00 - 10 am Breakfast; daily
11:30 am - 9:00 pm; daily
- Seafood Depot (695-0075):**
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 (695-0722):**
10:30 am - 5:00 pm; Mon - Thurs
7:00 am - 5:00 pm; Fri, Sat, Sun

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*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.*

OBITUARIES

Zachery Aaron Wells, 30, passed away on March 6. He is survived by his parents Bob and Vicky Wells, daughters Tori and Billi, brother Robert J. Wells, and many other relatives. Services took place on March 11.

Roy Pomeroy, who had been sick for several months, passed away on March 10. He is survived by his wife Alice Hertzler.



Helen Bryan was at the Reach Out table during Art-in-the-Glades on Saturday, March 14, where she had cookbooks, the unique Evergladesopoly games, and the Everglades Area Directory for sale. Reach Out is our neighborhood charity which operates the popular Thrift Shop behind the fire station.

NAPLES ORCHID SHOW

Naples Orchid Society's 36th Annual Show and Sale will be on **Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, March 27-29**, in McSpadden Hall at the Naples United Church of Christ, 5200 Crayton Road, Naples, on the corner of Crayton Road and Seagate Drive, close to the Waterside Shops. The show will be open on Friday from 3:00 pm to 6:30 pm, on Saturday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and on Sunday from noon to 4:00 pm. For info, phone Kit at (239) 262-0987 or see website www.NaplesOrchidSociety.org.

PORT OPENING

The grand opening of the Port of the Islands Marina by Collier County Parks & Recreation will take place at 12:00 noon on **Thursday, March 26**. The County bought the property in December, 2008.

BIG CYPRESS CLOSURE

Zone 4 airboat access will be closed from Monday, March 23, due to low-water conditions. The area will be open again on May 22 depending on water levels. Other units within the Preserve will close on June 1 for the annual 60-day rest period.

PANTHER DAY

The Panther Refuge is holding an Open House with walks and talks on **Saturday, March 21**. The event is from 8:00 a.m. until noon. The Refuge is on SR-29 just northwest of I-75. For info, see www.floridapanther.org.

AMAZING ADVENTURES

Randy McCormick will give an illustrated talk about his experiences in Panama on **Friday, April 3**, at Rookery Bay at 6:30 p.m. For info, see www.rookerybay.org.

FAK IN THE NEWS

Fakahatchee hit the headlines recently when a rare orchid was seen in our local State Park. The Friends of Fakahatchee are hosting a dinner on **Sunday, April 5**, at which biologist Glen Stacell will speak on animal diversity in the park. However, Glen is also an accomplished botanist and was co-author of the booklet *A Guide to Common Wildflowers in Collier County*. For more info, phone Marya at 695-2905.

Free NPS Boating Video

A map and 12-minute DVD about boating in Florida Bay, from Cape Sable eastward, is available at www.nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/floridabay.htm or by requesting a copy at (305) 852-0324.

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

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



Thanks to Sue Turner who organized the day-trip to Miami on Friday, March 6, for the Wednesday Morning Ladies' Coffee group. They visited Vizcaya Museum & Gardens, had lunch at The Versailles Restaurant, and toured South Beach. Also, thanks to Linda Williams for the photo above.

SNOOK CLASSIFIED

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 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.

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

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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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www.evergladesmulletrapper.com

SNOOK RULES

Snook season started on March 1 and will close on May 1. A reminder of the rules:

1. Slot limit 28-33 inches
2. one fish per person per day
3. fishing license with Snook stamp

JOBS VACANT

We will not be taking any more applications for the back country trails emergency overhire position. Thank you for your outstanding response. Bill Wagner, National Park Ranger Station.

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