

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

MAY 1 - 14, 2009

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Diamonds' Tea

Almost 30 of our revered elderly ladies turned out at the Seafood Depot on a busy Saturday, April 25, for the annual "Diamonds of the Everglades" Tea which is hosted by Reach Out to honor those who have reached their 70th birthdays.

There were delectable goodies and tea served in real China antique cups & saucers (thanks to the collections of Helen Bryan and Margaret Mannon). To accompany the feast, Joe Stem & Terri Rementeria played and sang.

A nostalgia trip was provided by a presentation of historic photos shown on a big screen which brought back memories of times gone by in Everglades City and Chokoloskee.

The pleasant afternoon ended with the awarding of door prizes and certificates of appreciation.



It's that time of year again! We're starting to get ready for the Independence Day celebration on Sunday, July 5, and hope that people will donate to the Fireworks Fund. The City pledged \$2,500 at the Council Meeting on April 7 in response to Fran Tiff's plea. Send your check payable to "Everglades Community Fireworks Fund" to P.O.Box 110, Everglades City, FL, 34139 or drop it in at City Hall.



The Big Cypress fire stretched to SR-29 and charred trees but green sprouts are already showing in the burnt area across the canal next to the road. It must have been some blaze to span the water! See report on page 10.

WATER REPORT



The annual report about our water quality was mailed to householders with their invoices this week. After a problem in maintaining pressure from the water plant to the booster station in town and in the Color Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), the City recently installed a new water tank to maintain water pressure on the main line to town and has installed additional treatment to correct the Color MCL.

The report suggests that if you are worried about lead in your own plumbing (which, of course, is not the responsibility of the City), you can run the water for 30 seconds to 2 minutes to flush out the pipes after water has been sitting in them.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

We had a clarification from Lt. Mark Milligan of the Collier County Sheriff's Office:

At the last council meeting the people invited to receive certificates of appreciation from the Sheriff Rambosk were accepting those on behalf of their respective communities. The certificates were made out to the local areas: Chokoloskee, Lee Cypress & Copland, Plantation Island, and Everglades City.

Our apologies if the report in the last *Rapper* (4/17/09) was misleading. And, our congratulations, to the communities who have been so cooperative in keeping us safe.

If you want to help, contact your local community leader or call 695-2007.

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

MAY 2009

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
26	27 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm	28	29 Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am	30	MAY 1 <u>Snook Season</u> <u>Closed</u>	2 Mobile Pet Vet see p.3
3 Mobile Pet Vet see p.3	4 Hour of Prayer Everglades First Baptist Church 7 pm	5 ESHP mtg City Hall, 9 am see p.9 Coletta Visit 3-5 pm, see p.3	6 Ladies Coffee Patty Huff's Home 8 am FME mtg Museum, 9 am	7 Great Gators School, 9:30 am National Day of Prayer City Hall, noon see p.3	8	full moon ● 9 Spring Fling see p.3 Firefighters' BBQ see p.3 SCV Depot, 6 pm
<u>Mothers' Day</u> 10 see p.7	11 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm New PO Rates see p.11	12	13 Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am	14 High School Awards School, 7 pm	<u>RAPPER</u> 15 Nat'l Park Comments Due see p.11	16
17	18 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm OFCD Bd Fire Sta, 6 pm	19 Reach Out City Hall, 8:30 am BigC ORV mtg see p.3	20 Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am	21 Museum Reception 3-4:30 pm Copeland Civic 7 pm	22	23
new moon ○ 24	25 <u>Memorial Day</u> Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	26	27 Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am	28	<u>RAPPER</u> 29 Graduation School, 7 pm	30

June 6/7: Pet Vet

June 8: Summer Camp & Summer School begin

June 12: TV goes digital

July 5: Independence Day Celebration

July 21: BigC ORVs

Aug 4: City Council, CCSO National Night Out

Sept 5-7: Butcher Labor Day "Muck About"

Sept 15: BigC ORVs

THRIFT SHOP: Thurs, Fri, Sat; 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

SHAMROCK BANK: Tues, Thurs, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: See notice outside office.

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

LITTLE GATOR CLINIC: closed for the summer

NOTE: The OFCD Board meeting has been rescheduled this month to the third Monday.

COLETTA VISIT

Collier County Commissioner Jim Coletta will be in Everglades City on **Tuesday, May 5**, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., to meet with constituents at City Hall For info, phone 252-8097.

PRAYING TOGETHER

Members of local churches will gather on **Thursday, May 7**, at noon in front of City Hall to celebrate National Day of Prayer. A buffet luncheon inside after the ceremony will be hosted by the City. Everyone is invited.

Spring Fling

Spring is time for a fresh start and the Women's Ministry of Chokoloskee Church of God is holding a "Spring Fling" brunch at the Seafood Depot on **Saturday, May 9**, at 11:00 a.m. at which the theme is "Extreme Makeover" with guest speaker, Shelia Zellers of Motivated-by-Love Ministries. All ladies are invited to join for some food, fun, and fellowship. Price is \$10. For info, phone Martha Dantin at 695-3735.

BIG CYPRESS ORVs

The regular meeting of the ORV Advisory Committee will be held on **Tuesday, May 19**, from 3:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Everglades Community Center. For info, phone 695-1103.



Thanks to Savannah Oglesby for this photo of our local Fire Department putting out a blaze that scorched the bamboo trees and Sabal palm next to the Rod & Gun Club on April 26. Witnesses said it sounded as if fireworks were going off as the flames shot up the bamboo shoots. Fortunately, our Fire Department was there within minutes and the fire was extinguished quickly. With high winds, it could have been more serious.

At their meeting on April 28, the Board of County Commissioners proclaimed May 2-9 as Collier County Firefighter Appreciation Week

Everyone is invited to pay tribute to our firefighters and EMS officers and Sheriff's deputies at a community BBQ on **Saturday, May 9**, at 5:00 p.m. in McLeod Park.

MOBILE PET VET



Dr Baker will be here on **Saturday, May 2**, 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, May 3**, by appointment only. Phone her at 777-PETS (7387).

MORE News & Events on p.11 ...

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 04/16/09: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 04/16/09: Vehicle Accident, Ochopee
- 04/17/09: Debris in the Road, 79mm on I-75
- 04/17/09: Vehicle Accident, 56mm on I-75
- 04/17/09: Emergency Medical, 50mm on I-75
- 04/17/09: Vehicle Accident, Plantation Parkway
- 04/17/09: Vehicle Accident, East of Big Cypress Bend
- 04/18/09: Vehicle Accident, 51mm on I-75
- 04/18/09: Vehicle Accident, 75mm on I-75
- 04/18/09: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 04/19/09: Vehicle Accident, 55mm on I-75
- 04/19/09: Emergency Medical, Port of the Islands
- 04/19/09: Vehicle Accident, 50mm on I-75
- 04/20/09: Emergency Medical, 51mm on I-75
- 04/21/09: Unknown Medical Problem, 74mm on I-75
- 04/22/09: Brush Fire, Monroe Station
- 04/22/09: Brush Fire, 80mm on I-75
- 04/23/09: Vehicle Accident, 80mm on I-75
- 04/23/09: Brush Fire, on I-75
- 04/23/09: Vehicle Accident, Oasis Ranger Station
- 04/23/09: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 04/24/09: Brush Fire, Staging at SR-29 & I-75
- 04/24/09: Vehicle Fire, SR-29 & US-41
- 04/25/09: Emergency Medical, Loop Road
- 04/25/09: Brush Fire, SR-29 and I-75
- 04/25/09: Brush Fire, 72mm on US-41
- 04/26/09: Brush Fire, Staging at SR-29 and I-75
- 04/26/09: Tree on Fire, Everglades City
- 04/27/09: Brush Fire, Staging at SR-29 and I-75
- 04/27/09: Vehicle Accident, SR-29 & US-41
- 04/27/09: Vehicle Accident, 72mm on US-41
- 04/27/09: Sick Person, 191 Lopez Lane
- 04/28/09: Brush Fire, SR-29 & I-75
- 04/28/09: Brush Fire, Pine Ridge Rd and Logan Blvd

OFCD have been helping with the fire in Big Cypress (see page 10) with their water tender and Attack 60 truck.



TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

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

05/01/2009	Fri	03:43AM	-0.2	L	09:59AM	2.1	H	03:50PM	0.8	L	08:32PM	2.5	H
05/02/2009	Sat	04:50AM	0.0	L	10:56AM	2.2	H	05:18PM	0.7	L	10:10PM	2.5	H
05/03/2009	Sun	05:51AM	0.1	L	11:40AM	2.4	H	06:28PM	0.5	L	11:35PM	2.5	H
05/04/2009	Mon	06:46AM	0.2	L	12:16PM	2.5	H	07:25PM	0.3	L			
05/05/2009	Tue	12:47AM	2.5	H	07:35AM	0.3	L	12:47PM	2.6	H	08:16PM	0.1	L
05/06/2009	Wed	01:46AM	2.5	H	08:20AM	0.5	L	01:16PM	2.8	H	09:02PM	-0.1	L
05/07/2009	Thu	02:34AM	2.4	H	09:02AM	0.6	L	01:45PM	2.9	H	09:45PM	-0.2	L
05/08/2009	Fri	03:16AM	2.4	H	09:41AM	0.6	L	02:13PM	3.0	H	10:26PM	-0.3	L
05/09/2009	Sat	03:54AM	2.3	H	10:18AM	0.7	L	02:42PM	3.0	H	11:05PM	-0.3	L
05/10/2009	Sun	04:32AM	2.3	H	10:52AM	0.7	L	03:11PM	3.0	H	11:45PM	-0.3	L
05/11/2009	Mon	05:13AM	2.2	H	11:24AM	0.8	L	03:42PM	3.0	H			
05/12/2009	Tue	12:25AM	-0.2	L	06:00AM	2.1	H	11:53AM	0.8	L	04:15PM	2.9	H
05/13/2009	Wed	01:07AM	-0.1	L	06:52AM	2.1	H	12:21PM	0.8	L	04:54PM	2.7	H
05/14/2009	Thu	01:53AM	0.0	L	07:45AM	2.1	H	12:58PM	0.9	L	05:45PM	2.5	H
05/15/2009	Fri	02:43AM	0.1	L	08:38AM	2.1	H	02:09PM	0.9	L	07:00PM	2.4	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, May 14: High School Awards, 7:00 p.m.
- Thurs, May 21: Museum Reception, 4:00 p.m.
- Mon, May 25: Memorial Day
- Fri, May 29: Graduation, 7:00 p.m.



From Savannah's Eyes

Did you know that a horseshoe crab's blood is blue? And, not red. Well, I didn't until I watched the Discovery Channel the other night and, wow, was I surprised because I thought that everything that is either human or animal had red blood. It shocked me because it looked so weird and different from bloods that I have seen. Also, the horseshoe crab helps feed a bird called the Red Knot. The crab leaves its eggs on the beach and when the baby crabs come out of the shell, the bird eats the shells. Horseshoe crabs have always been interesting to me because of their unique shape and size. My dad said that when he was little, he and his friends called them "army tanks" because of the way they are shaped to protect themselves from danger. When my family and I go out on the boat we always see horseshoe crabs and we take pictures of them. The last time I went on the boat, I saw two horseshoe crabs that were mating. I had never seen them do this and I took a picture because they really fascinate me. Anyway, the scientists use the blue blood for experimenting on things which, to me, is really cool! It was a very interesting show so keep watching because it might be on the channel all month and maybe you can see it and learn a lot more about them.

Love and peace, Savannah

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

FIRST ECITY FINALIST SINCE 2005

Congratulations to Karisa Brown who is one of ten finalists for the 20th Annual Winged-Foot Scholar/Athlete Awards for seniors graduating from Collier County high schools.

The finals will be announced in Naples on **Thursday, May 21** so let's all wish her luck!



The next SAC meeting will be in September.



Ms. Ryan's Kindergarten class celebrated Earth Day by walking around the school campus and picking up trash.



On April 21, Mrs. Ihle's 6th grade science class exploded their volcanoes for the elementary classes. There were three volcanoes with the following partners: Ana Roldan & Savannah Oglesby, Trevyr Daniels & Houston Brown, and Andrew Bruscini & Dylan Lucas. Each student pair spent weeks researching volcanoes and experimenting with different combinations of ingredients (eg, mentos & soda, baking soda & vinegar).

On Arbor Day, Shauna Cotrell, a park ranger from Everglades National Park, gave a presentation to Pre-K through 6th grades discussing mangrove trees, estuaries, and surrounding wildlife.



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AIRPORT NEWS

The last pancake fly-in was held on a breezy Saturday, April 25, thanks to Chuck Gretske of Wings 10,000 Islands Tours. One airborne visitor was on his way in a Microlight (*with thanks to Phill Lawry for this photo.*) to Key West. For many in the crowd, it was a farewell gathering. Chuck himself is setting out in his plane for Alaska within a few days and many other seasonal residents are hitting the road soon.

The good news is that the Board of County Commissioners considered funding for a new hangar at our airport during their meeting on April 28.

HOUSEHOLD TIP

Now that thunder storms have begun, don't forget to unplug the telephone cable that goes into the DSL modem that provides high-speed Internet to your computer. When lightning strikes the telephone wires outside, huge surges can fry the equipment inside.

Swine Flu

Although the disease has not appeared near us, the message is: if you feel sick, don't go to work! Stay at home or call your doctor if you don't get better quickly.

We were advised last year to stock up with soups and other "comfort foods" so that we don't burden our neighbors (and possibly infect them).

Another good tip is not to mix with people you don't know – stay away from crowds and especially the airport where travelers may be arriving from infected areas.

Recipe for Good Eating

Karen's Everglades Chili

by Karen Cabral



- 2 lbs of lean ground beef
- 1 medium onion diced
- 1 medium yellow, orange and green pepper diced
- 2 jars of Paul Newman Sockarooni sauce
- 1 package each of McCormick's taco seasoning and traditional chili seasoning
- 1 can of Delmonte diced tomatoes
- 2 small cans of mild diced green chili's
- 2 small cans of sliced black olives
- 2 cans red kidney beans, drained
- 1 package of shredded cheddar cheese

Sauté meat until browned; add onions and peppers and sauté; add seasoning and mix well. Add tomato sauce, diced tomato, chili's, olives, and beans. Stir in package of cheese and add hot chili powder to taste, depending on how hot you like it. Let simmer, stirring occasionally for about a half hour, turn off the heat, cover, and let sit for a while (it's even better if left overnight). Warm up before eating. Will serve 8 to 10 people as a main course.



Off the Shelf – Book Review

“The Journey of the Highwaymen”

by Catherine M. Enns

Reviewed by Patricia Huff

Recently a friend of ours from Ft. Pierce (home of the A.E. “Bean” Backus Gallery), brought us a gift: a beautifully illustrated coffee table book about the “Highwaymen,” the African-American painters from the east coast of Florida who would travel up and down U.S. 1 selling their paintings along the way. There have been other art books published about these now prominent painters, but this is the most complete story of their lives, their “journey.” For those unfamiliar with the tropical scenes these artists portrayed, this would be the perfect book to purchase to learn and appreciate their contributions to Florida art. To learn more about the Highwaymen online, check out the “Highwaymen Gallery” at the Backus Gallery and Museum website www.backusmuseum.com. And, if you're on the east coast some time between Wednesday through Sunday, stop by the Gallery in Ft. Pierce.

HONORING MOTHERS IN MAY

We celebrate our mothers every May, but do we know who started Mother's Day in the United States? Anna Reeves Jarvis from West Virginia was considered the first woman to celebrate mothers when she started a Mothers' Work Day in 1858 to bring attention to local sanitation issues. Then, during the Civil War, she sought to improve conditions in both the North and the South. In 1872, Julia Ward Howe (author of “The Battle Hymn of the Republic”) held a “Mothers' Day for Peace” on June 2. This was celebrated annually in the Boston area for 10 years. Anna Reeves Jarvis' daughter, Anna Jarvis, finally fulfilled her mother's dreams of creating a national day to honor all mothers. In 1912 West Virginia adopted an official Mothers' Day and in 1914 the United States Congress passed a resolution. Ever since then Mothers' Day has been celebrated on the second Sunday of the month of May. This year on May 10 remember to honor all mothers who give unselfishly of their time and love.





Fires In The Outback

by Frank Partridge

One Everglades City resident had an amazing opportunity to assist with a recovery process from a natural disaster: Frank Partridge was sent to Australia as part of a special team that investigated the aftermath of devastating wildfires in the State of Victoria. Three Burned Area Emergency Recovery (BAER) teams were requested from the U.S Secretary of State by the Australian Prime Minister. These teams, which totaled about 60 people, looked at the post-fire effects and proposed stabilization and recovery techniques.

Frank is a licensed professional geologist and he works for the Big Cypress National Preserve. His job task for two weeks was to evaluate the geo-hazards from severe burning of the topsoil and vegetation, which can lead to landslides and stream-channel blocking. Other specialists looked at soils science, hydrologic conditions, cultural disturbances, and biologic hazards.

Victoria is experiencing a 7-year drought and on February 8, 2009 they had 60-mile an hour winds. Two wildfires coalesced into a massive firestorm that raced over two small towns, Marysville and Kinglake, which were both utterly destroyed. That day is now known in Australia as "Black Saturday." Of over 2,000 structures in Marysville, only 4 remained afterwards. More than 210 people lost their lives, many of whom died while trying to defend their homes. Others perished in their cars while trying to escape in the pitch blackness. Hundreds were injured and lost their homes. Incredibly, the Marysville fire is believed to have been caused by an arsonist.

In the end, more than 1.1 million acres were burned. The major forest type burned was of the Eucalyptus genus, which are the largest trees on earth ... even larger than the coast redwoods and the Douglas Firs of our American West. Partridge says, "It was inconceivable to think of how the fire raced through those dense forests at such great speed. There was no time to anticipate its movement in the smoke and darkness." In places, the fire burned so hot that the top layer of mineral soil was nearly fused to glass.

If there are lessons for us, it's a matter of preparing. Pay attention to and obey burning bans and evacuation orders. Keep a defensible space of cleared vegetation around your house. Be careful with open fires. Don't think you can play a fire specialist by burning your yard trash and trying to clear some brush you are not qualified to do.



VIP Report

by Shirley Leonard



Uncle Sam's plan to improve the manatee protection zone in Chokoloskee Bay is moving toward completion but don't expect markers delineating the new zone anytime soon.

"It's one of our priorities," Bonnie Foist, head law enforcement ranger of Everglades National Park said recently. "We're making progress (but) maybe not at a rapid pace."

In 2000 Save the Manatee Club and 19 other environmental groups sued the U.S. Fishery and Wildlife Service alleging that many existing manatee protection zones in Florida were inadequate. The project is known as the AIP, Area of Inadequate Protection. In 2001 the different sides of the suit came to an agreement to improve protection zones in seven areas of the state. Only Chokoloskee Bay which includes a portion of Everglades National Park has not yet come into compliance with the agreement.

U. S. Fish and Wildlife (USFW) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) must review the proposed plan under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The ESA requires that they must study possible negative and beneficial effects the revised manatee protection zone could have on federally-listed threatened and endangered species. The National Park Service (NPS) must also review the plan under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to ensure the plan considers environmental values. Foist expects the NEPA report to be completed soon. USFW must then approve the plan for it to be implemented.

A committee of eight area residents worked with federal officials to draft one of three alternative plans. Residents had raised strong objections to two previous alternatives proposed by USFW and NPS.

At a public hearing last March about 100 residents voiced approval of the compromise plan. Many had objected strongly to the first two proposals at earlier hearings. During the public comment period following the March hearing residents' comments "were overwhelmingly favorable," Foist said. About 90 percent of 54 written, e-mailed, and mailed comments were receptive, Foist added.

Slowing matters down has been a high turnover in government employees directly involved with the project. Gulf Coast Ranger Kevin Donnell who worked hard with residents on the plan relocated to Maine after the March meeting. His replacement, Raymond Little, arrived only three months ago.

One potential "roadblock" could be financing, according to Foist. She estimates it will cost \$32,000 or more to install 16 new manatee zone markers. Uncle Sam has not set aside money for the work. Other public sources, Florida Fish and Wildlife and Collier County, also have no funds for it.

"We are looking at different sources of funding," Foist said. This *will* happen. I'm optimistic we'll find funding."

Once the NEPA study and report are done and financing procured, the process to bid the project and choose a company to do the work will add another 60-90 days. "With funding in place, hypothetically, in an ideal world with no hurricanes, it could be completed by the end of the year," Foist guesstimated.

Law enforcement rangers still issue citations to boats traveling too fast through the current manatee zone, something all boat operators should be aware of.



LOCAL HISTORY

What do you remember about these little cottages? Weaver Station on the Trail about 7 miles west of SR-29 is gone but when the trees blew down after Hurricane Wilma, these small structures were revealed. We were told that they were used as guest houses. If you know, contact Marya at 695-2905.

May is "National History Month" and the Board of Commissioners proclaimed May 8th as the official birthday of Collier County which was established 86 years ago. The City of Naples is also recognizing History Month and there will be events at both the Naples Backyard History mini-museum on 3rd Street South and at Palm Cottage on 12th Avenue South. See www.naplesbackyardhistory.org and www.napleshistoricalsociety.org.

Don't forget that the deadline for joining the Marco Island Historical Society Founders' Circle is **Friday, May 15**. For a contribution of \$1,000 over four years, your name will be on a wall in the new museum. You can download a donation form at their website www.theMIHS.org or phone Betsy on (239) 394-6917.

Our own Everglades Society for Historic Preservation (ESHPP) is holding a Board meeting on **Tuesday, May 5**, at 9:00 a.m. in their office at City Hall. The agenda will focus on plans for events next season including a Tour of Historic Homes, lectures, and social outings. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting.



MUSEUM NEWS



The Museum celebrated its 11th birthday on Saturday, April 25, with a grand party hosted by the Friends. After the arrival of the antique cars, Bob Wells led long-time residents Donny Barton, Chris Hancock, Barbara Daniels, and Jimmy Brewer in sharing their memories of the area. This was followed by delicious hotdogs with all the fixings: Karen's chili (*see recipe on page 7*), sauerkraut, cheese, onions, etc. washed down with key-limeade. Snooker Joe Stem and Terri Rementeria entertained during the feast and led in the singing of "Happy Birthday" as the cake was cut. After the announcement of the raffle prizes, there was a guided walking tour of historic buildings. Thanks to the Naples - Marco Island Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America and to all the volunteers who helped make the day such a pleasure.

The exhibit in the Pauline Reeves Gallery for the summer is art from Mr. Tribble's classes at ECity School and there will be a reception on **May 21** from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. The Museum is open Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There is no admission although donations are welcome. Come along to see how really talented our local kids are!



final years. Daisy and Fanny are not related but they are both from south Alabama. They love the outdoors and appreciated so much the beauty of the Everglades. It was only a boat ride around the islands but they experienced dolphins swimming along side the boat, osprey, bromeliads, and orchids. Just being on the water is always a special treat for me. So, during these wonderful Spring days (and before the hot summer and thunderstorms come), take a boat ride and experience a peaceful day in the Glades.

Glades Daze

by Patricia Huff

To go out on the water this time of year when the mornings are still crisp and clear is a special treat, even more so when you're sharing our glades country with people who have never experienced it before. Last weekend my husband invited two very special people over from Miami to visit, along with his sister and brother-in-law. The two ladies were the nurses who took care of his ailing Mom for five years before her death last year. They are living angels; always thinking of others and giving of themselves. He wanted to do something special for them since they had taken such wonderful care of his mother in her



Fishing Report

by Capt Bill Lindsay

Snook season comes to an end, and most winter residents head home. High winds and cold fronts should be behind us. Tarpon and big Snook are the main attractions this month. Early in the morning and late in the day, top water plugs can be very effective for Snook and even Redfish in shallow water. For Tarpon fishing, calm water is important. Get out on the water before the afternoon sea breezes and thunder storms move in. Take your time and look for rolling fish. Trout fishing is still good in May, and Redfish can keep you in fish dinners. Tripletail seem to move in with schools of Tarpon. They will hit a black Tarpon fly, so no need to grab a second rod. May is one of the top months to fish the Ten Thousand Islands.

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.



FLORIDA FLORA

by Patricia Huff

Green Buttonwood (*Conocarpus erectus*)

In Chokoloskee there is a rare specimen of an old green buttonwood which has been noted by several botanists who are familiar with native Florida plants and trees. The normal height of these full grown trees is 40 to 50 feet and this one seems even higher even though the electric company keeps it trimmed away from the lines. The age, although unknown, is determined by the large girth of the trunk. There are many large older trees found in Chokoloskee that probably date back hundreds of years. We're fortunate to have these native Florida plants still on our islands.

BIG CYPRESS FIRE

It was visible on April 22, probably sparked off during the thunder & lightning storm early the previous morning. As we print the *Rapper* on April 30, it had consumed 28,000 acres and closed the Alley (I-75) for several days and most nights. State Road 29 was also impassible because of the flames and smoke that blew across from the east.



Fortunately, no one was hurt but the impact on animals and on the ecology is yet to be determined, although fire is a naturally-occurring phenomenon.

Thanks to the Big Cypress and the "Deep Fire" team for this map and for their daily morning and evening updates.

EVERGLADES PARK NEWS

The Coastal Prairie Hiking Trail near Flamingo has been opened again after extensive damage during Hurricane Wilma in 2005. The 7.5-mile trail ends on Florida Bay at Clubhouse Beach (originally a Flagler attraction for potential property purchasers). There are no facilities now so bring your own water and food. For info, call the Flamingo Visitor Center at 695-3990.

SEA TURTLES

The breeding season begins on **May 1** and those along the coast are asked to dim their lights so the babies can find their way into the water. For info, see www.seaturtle.org or call the Collier County hotline at (239) 890-6486 if you see a problem.



HANGING OSPREY

by Patty Huff

On Wednesday, April 23, on the way to Ladies Coffee at Havana Cafe in Chokoloskee, several people noticed that a poor osprey was dangling from his nest. It seemed that one of its talons was attached to a rope. No one knew if the osprey was even alive until, on my way home, I saw that the bird was frantically flapping its wings to pry loose.

A sheriff's deputy on patrol was in the process of calling Fish & Wildlife who referred him to the Conservancy. They contacted the electricity company to come to the rescue. I also talked to the Conservancy; they said they had received numerous calls from our area.

Within an hour when I went back to see the osprey, it was gone. I asked several concerned individuals but no one knows exactly what happened. We don't believe the electricity company had time to come; there was no sign of the osprey below the nest and no sign of the rope. Hopefully, he freed himself.

The next day I saw two osprey sitting on the nest, hoping that one was "the" one who was saved.

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 - 9:00 pm; Fri, Sat
Sunday closed
- City Seafood (695-4700):**
11:00 am - 6:00 pm; daily
upstairs closed
- 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 - 6:00 pm; Sun - Thurs
6:00 am - 9:00 pm; Fri, Sat
- Grimm's Stone Crab (695-3222):**
8:00 am - 6: pm; Mon - Sat (takeout)
closing at end of stone crab season
- Havana Cafe (695-2214):**
closing May 4 for summer
- Joanie's Blue Crab Cafe (695-2682):**
11:00 am - 5:00 pm; Wed - Mon
Closed Tuesday
- JT's Cafe & Gallery (695-2630):**
10:00 am - 4:00 pm; Wed - Mon
Closed Tuesday
- 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):**
closing May 4 for summer

NEW GROCERY HOURS
Right Choice Supermarket is now open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. On Sunday, the hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

PEPPER RANCH

There will be a "Sneak Peek" at the Pepper Ranch, off Lake Trafford Rd in Immokalee, on **Saturday, May 9**, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Guided hikes are also offered but reservations are required (phone 252-8767). The historic Pepper Ranch was recently purchased by Conservation Collier, a County Land Acquisition Program.

PARK COMMENTS

Public comments about the new General Management Plan for Everglades National Park are due on **Friday, May 15**. For info, see website www.nps.gov/ever or visit the Gulf Coast Ranger Station in ECity.

NEW POSTAGE RATES

Stamps and other mailing services will cost more from **Monday, May 11**. The new rates include:
 1st class letter, 1 ounce - 44¢
 1st class letter, 2 ounces - 61¢
 postcard - 28¢
 Priority - starts at \$4.96
 See www.usps.gov for more.

Outdoor Artists



Marco painters are still gathering outdoors each week. The schedule for May is:
 5/4/09: Mission Plaza
 5/11/09: Caxambas Park
 5/18/09: Goodland Post Office
 5/25/09: Leigh Plummer Park
 For more info, phone Phyllis Pransky at (239) 642-7649.

CHURCH NEWS

Holy Family: Closed for summer. Sunday Mass is held at St Finbarr's (on the Trail just south of CR-951) at 10:00 a.m. and at San Marco on Marco Island at 10:30 a.m.

Everglades Community Church: No Sunday School. Sunday service at 11:00 a.m. only

May Is
"Bike Month"



by Patricia Huff

Not many people realize that May has been declared National Bike Month. The League of American Bicyclists is promoting "Bike-to-Work Week" from **May 12 through 16** as part of the month long celebration. In Everglades City you don't have to bike very far to bike to work so it would not be too painful. Rails-to-Trails, which supports transforming old railroad beds into paths for walking and biking, would like for more people to just make biking a part of their regular routine. After discovering long distance biking 9 years ago, I try to do this myself, especially since I live in a small, level town where biking is an easy form of transportation. Florida is listed as number 20 out of the 50 states based on their degree of bicycle friendliness.

If you would like to learn more about biking, here are some organizations that encourage the sport: League of American Bicyclists (www.bikeleague.org), Bike Florida (www.bikeflorida.org), Adventure Cycling Association (www.adventurecycling.org), and locally Naples Pathways Coalition (www.naplespathway.org), Everglades River of Grass Greenway (www.evergladesrogg.org).



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

FOR RENT: Everglades City. 2 or 3 bedroom, 1 bath. \$850/month includes water and cable. Studio apartment w/ private bath. \$450/month 1 person, \$550/month 2 people, includes utilities. Call 239-961-3986 for details.

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

FOR SALE BY OWNER: 3 lots in Chokoloskee, 2 on Calusa Dr, Lot M-4 \$105,000, Lot M-5 (filled) \$135,000, Lot by cemetery \$79,000. Phone owner at (419) 441-2068 or (740) 864-2179.

FOR SALE: Chokoloskee premium lot @ huge reduction!!! Private, select, elevated land laced with fruit trees. Secluded lot between Chokoloskee and Smallwood Drive approximately 800' from the gulf. Above flood plain. Call Paul Camposano, Broker/Salesman @ Horizons/GMAC Realty on Marco for add'l details-800-832-8643 or 239-860-1901. Offered at huge discount @ \$152,000!!!

FOR SALE: 2-bedroom 1-bath mobile home with a dock and boat ramp, Plantation Island. \$135,000. For info, call 239-825-4502.

NEEDED: New or used refrigerator, call 877-5358 or 695-2978.



Aren't they cute? They wouldn't look so healthy if it were not for the care given to them by our newest charity "Feral Felines" which was incorporated in April. Money collected in jars around town is much needed to feed strays in the area and to have them neutered or spayed so that we are not overrun with homeless kittens.

If you want to help, send a check to Feral Felines at P.O. Box 564. Chokoloskee, FL, 34138.

MUSEUM OF THE EVERGLADES

105 West Broadway, Everglades City, FL
OPEN: Tuesday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm
Saturdays, 9 am – 4 pm
 Donations Welcome
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
 Contact Martha at 695-0008

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The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

PUBLISHER

Patricia A. Huff, Snook Publications
 P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139
 (239) 695-2397, mulletrapper@gmail.com

EDITORS

Patty Huff & Marya Repko

CONTRIBUTORS

Helen Bryan, Barbara Daniels, Bill Lindsay
 Lisa Marteeny, Shirley Leonard, Savannah Oglesby
 Mike Klein, Phill Lawry, Trina Mitchell

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