

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

MAY 15 - 28, 2009

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Emergency workers were feted by the community at the annual Fish Fry on Saturday, May 9, in McLeod Park. Besides fresh grouper, there was potato salad, coleslaw, beans, and a magnificent cake.



Stone Crab Season Closes

May 15 is the last day our local delicacies can be caught until October.

Howie Grimm, with Grimm's Stone Crab on DuPont, said that they had good production this year and that the prices made stone crabs more affordable so the season turned out well. Although demand was a little soft due to the economy, there were new and returning customers. Grimm's will be open through the summer with fresh fish (grouper and pompano).

Richard Wahrenberger of City Seafood agreed that both stone crabs and customers were plentiful. They will also be selling fresh fish over the summer, as well as keeping the restaurant open during the day.



National Day of Prayer was celebrated on Thursday, May 7. After the colors were presented, County Commissioner Jim Coletta addressed the attendees and prayers were given by pastors associated with four of our local churches. Opening and closing music was performed by "Snooker" Joe Stern and Mitch Mitchell. The ceremony was followed by a finger-food luncheon in City Hall.



WILD FIRE CONTAINED

The fire in the Big Cypress has finally been declared "fully contained" and "controlled". There is a complete fire-line around the perimeter. There may still be active burning within hot areas. The Deep Lake Unit is open again for public recreational use but Bear Island, including the campground, remains closed.

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MAY/JUNE 2009

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
Mothers' Day 10	11 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm New PO Rates see p.3	12	13 Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am	14 High School Awards School, 7 pm	RAPPER 15 Nat'l Park Comments Due see p.3	16
17 Christian Motorbikes Copeland Baptist Church, see p.3	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 History Talk see p.9	21 Museum Reception 3-4:30 pm see p.9 Copeland Civic 7 pm	22	23
new moon ○ 24 National Hurricane Preparedness Week see p.8	25 Memorial Day Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	26 Sports Awards School, 6:30 pm	27 Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am	28	RAPPER 29 Graduation School, 7 pm	30
31	JUNE 1 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm	2 ESHP mtg City Hall, 9 am	3 Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am Girl Scouts Day, see p.9	4	5	6 Mobile Pet Vet see p.3
full moon ● 7 Mobile Pet Vet see p.3	8 Hour of Prayer Everglades First Baptist Church 7 pm Summer School / Camp Start	9	10 Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am	11	12 TV Goes Digital	13 SCV Depot, 6 pm

June 22-26: Copeland Baptist Vacation Bible School
Aug 4: City Council, CCSO National Night Out

July 5: Independence Day Celebration
Sept 5-7: Butcher Labor Day "Muck About"

July 21: BigC ORVs
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

**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.



BIKERS ON SUNDAY

Copeland Baptist Church will welcome a rally from a Christian Motorcycle group for worship on **Sunday, May 17**, at 11:00 a.m. There will be a cookout after the service. Everyone is welcome. For info, phone Pastor Gilmore at 695-2900.

BIG CYPRESS ORVs

There will be a meeting of the ORV Advisory Committee on **Tuesday, May 19**, from 3:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Everglades Community Center. The meeting is open to the public and time is allocated for comment. For info, phone 695-1103.

CITY COUNCIL

City Council is enjoying a summer break until **Tuesday, August 4**.

MORE Events on p.11



There was a good turnout at the "Spring Fling" brunch held by the Women's Ministry of the Chokoloskee Church of God on **Saturday, May 9**, in the Seafood Depot.

**NEW POSTAGE
RATES**

Stamps and other mailing services went up in price on **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.



MOBILE PET VET

Dr Baker will be here on **Saturday, June 6**, 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, June 7**, by appointment only. Phone her at 777-PETS (7387).



OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 04/29/09: Vehicle Accident, 72mm on I-75
- 04/29/09: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 04/29/09: Snake Bite, 70mm on I-75
- 04/30/09: Median Fire, 77mm on I-75
- 04/30/09: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee Island
- 04/30/09: Fuel Spill, Everglades City
- 05/01/09: Median Fire, 62mm on I-75
- 05/01/09: Unknown Medical Problem, Copeland
- 05/01/09: Drug Overdose, Everglades City
- 05/01/09: Vehicle Accident, 77mm on I-75
- 05/02/09: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 05/02/09: Vehicle Accident, 79mm on I-75
- 05/02/09: Vehicle Accident, 52mm on US 41
- 05/02/09: Public Assist, Everglades City
- 05/02/09: Vehicle Accident, 74mm on I-75
- 05/03/09: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee Island
- 05/03/09: Vehicle Accident, 62mm on I-75
- 05/04/09: Breathing Problem, Port of the Islands
- 05/04/09: Person Fell, Everglades City
- 05/05/09: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 05/05/09: Brush Fire, 64mm on I-75
- 05/05/09: Vehicle Accident, US-41 and Loop Rd
- 05/06/09: Vehicle Fire, 55mm on I-75
- 05/06/09: Medical, Everglades City
- 05/07/09: Medical, Copeland
- 05/08/09: Medical, Everglades City
- 05/08/09: Vehicle Accident, US-41 and SR-29
- 05/08/09: Medical, 55m on I-75
- 05/09/09: Median Fire, 76mm on I-75
- 05/09/09: Medical, Oasis Visitor Center
- 05/10/09: Medical, Everglades City
- 05/11/09: Vehicle Accident, 63mm on I-75
- 05/11/09: Vehicle Accident, US-41 2m West of Port of the Islands
- 05/11/09: Brush Fire, 80mm on I-75
- 05/11/09: Medical, Pavilion Key
- 05/12/09: Vehicle Accident, 76mm on US-41
- 05/12/09: Vehicle Fire, 66mm on I-75

Public Announcements are now on cable Channel 98.

TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

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


05/15/2009	Fri	02:43AM	0.1	L	08:38AM	2.1	H	02:09PM	0.9	L	07:00PM	2.4	H
05/16/2009	Sat	03:38AM	0.2	L	09:30AM	2.2	H	03:55PM	0.8	L	08:31PM	2.3	H
05/17/2009	Sun	04:34AM	0.3	L	10:18AM	2.3	H	05:15PM	0.7	L	09:54PM	2.2	H
05/18/2009	Mon	05:27AM	0.3	L	11:00AM	2.4	H	06:15PM	0.6	L	11:09PM	2.2	H
05/19/2009	Tue	06:15AM	0.4	L	11:38AM	2.5	H	07:05PM	0.4	L			
05/20/2009	Wed	12:17AM	2.2	H	07:00AM	0.5	L	12:11PM	2.6	H	07:51PM	0.1	L
05/21/2009	Thu	01:15AM	2.3	H	07:43AM	0.6	L	12:42PM	2.8	H	08:36PM	-0.1	L
05/22/2009	Fri	02:07AM	2.4	H	08:25AM	0.7	L	01:11PM	3.0	H	09:21PM	-0.3	L
05/23/2009	Sat	02:57AM	2.5	H	09:08AM	0.7	L	01:42PM	3.2	H	10:07PM	-0.4	L
05/24/2009	Sun	03:47AM	2.5	H	09:51AM	0.8	L	02:16PM	3.4	H	10:55PM	-0.5	L
05/25/2009	Mon	04:40AM	2.4	H	10:36AM	0.8	L	02:55PM	3.5	H	11:42PM	-0.6	L
05/26/2009	Tue	05:37AM	2.4	H	11:22AM	0.8	L	03:40PM	3.4	H			
05/27/2009	Wed	12:32AM	-0.5	L	06:33AM	2.3	H	12:12PM	0.8	L	04:33PM	3.3	H
05/28/2009	Thu	01:23AM	-0.4	L	07:27AM	2.3	H	01:09PM	0.8	L	05:40PM	3.0	H
05/29/2009	Fri	02:17AM	-0.3	L	08:18AM	2.3	H	02:18PM	0.7	L	07:04PM	2.7	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, May 14: High School Awards, 7:00 p.m.

Thurs, May 21: Museum Reception, 3:00 p.m.

Mon, May 25: Memorial Day

Tues, May 26: Sports Awards, 6:30 p.m.

Fri, May 29: Graduation, 7:00 p.m.

Mon, June 8: Summer School, Summer Camp



From Savannah's Eyes

Hope every mother in the world had a great Mother's Day because my wonderful Mother did! My Dad, Mom, sister, niece, nephew and I went out on the boat to the beach! My Mom tanned while Kailey, m niece, built sand castles; and my sister, Dad, nephew and I went for a swim in the water. We had a blast!

There are a lot of things that I am thankful for. One of the things is to have such an awesome cousin like Kenny Brown. He donated twenty-four hardback copies of the book called "A Land Remembered." He read the book and love it because it was the history of Florida and talked about places that we know, like where we live. He donated them to our school and they were put in our teacher's, Mrs. Ihle, classroom. We just finished reading the book, and now in our classroom we are doing a feast from the book and inviting our family members. The whole class has to dress up like a character in the book. Then, we are going to cook the food at school by ourselves. The food will be like the food that they cooked in the olden days. We are having fun making projects of a scene out of the book. When they are finished, they will be displayed for our family to look at during the feast. We are excited about our parents seeing how much we learned from the book. My Dad read this book fifteen years ago and he loved it. And, we loved it, too. So we are looking forward to the day of the feast!

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

ARTWORKS

by ECity School Students
Museum of the Everglades

RECEPTION

Thursday, May 21

3:00 – 4:30 p.m

Refreshments

Everyone Welcome!



MORE School News on p.9

GREAT GATORS, April 2009



Pre-K: Taylor Richards, Ivan Kibodeaux, Paris Humphreys, Brady Bowen



Kindergarten: Jesse Goff, Solomon Thatcher, Alexis Rain, Billi Wells



First grade: Savannah Weeks (won twice) and Destany VanLeeuwen (Gage Shryock not pictured)



Second grade: McBeth Collins, Jay Shiver, Brandon Beaty, Samantha Bruscini



Grades 3,4: Enrique Roldan, Hailey Mitchell, Sindy Cifuentes, Kiley West



Grades 5,6: Dylan Lucas, Tawny Wood, Sierra Dungan (not pictured Kevin Maley)

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PRESCRIPTION SAVINGS

We had the following Press Release from Collier County:

Families seeking a reduction in the amount of money they are spending on prescription medication may want to take advantage of the Prescription Discount Card Program by Collier County Housing and Human Services Department and Coast2Coast RX.

In December, the Collier County Board of County Commissioners approved the distribution of a free prescription discount card that on average saves families up to 38 percent. In fact you do not even have to have a card in hand to receive the discounts. If you ask your pharmacist for the Collier County Prescription Card Discount, they can run it through for you to see how much you will save.

If people want a card they can carry with them, they may pick them up at pharmacies or at Housing and Human Services located at 3301 Tamiami Trail in Building H, second floor.

Collier County pharmacies participating in the program are CVS, Wal-Mart, Walgreens, Publix Pharmacies, Kmart, Target, Sunshine Pharmacy, Winn-Dixie, Sweetbay and Sam's Club. The discount card is accepted at these pharmacies nationwide.

The Collier County Prescription Discount Card Program does not replace insurance, but provides discounts for drugs not covered by insurance.

You may also download a Prescription Discount Card by visiting website www.coast2coastrx.com (click on "Print Free Card").

For information about this program, call (239) 252-CARE (2273).

HOUSEHOLD TIP

We had an email suggesting that Listerine chases away mosquitoes. Just put some in a spray bottle and squirt around where you're sitting. Let us know if it works ...

Recipe for Good Eating

Corn Tortilla Chicken Lasagna

by Sunny Burke



18 (6") tortillas
 3 cups cubed chicken breast
 1 jar (16oz) salsa
 1 large green pepper, chopped
 1½ cup shredded Monterey Jack
 1 can kidney beans, rinsed and drained
 ½ cup sour cream
 1 can ripe olives, sliced
 1½ cup shredded Cheddar cheese

Arrange 6 tortillas in greased 13x9" pan. Top with 1 cup cubed chicken, ⅓ cup kidney beans, 1 cup salsa, ½ cup sour cream, ½ cup green pepper, ⅓ cup olives, ½ cup Monterey Jack, ½ cup Cheddar. Repeat layers twice. Cover and bake at 350° for 25 minutes. Uncover and bake 10 minutes longer. Serves 12.

Angel of the Swamp

by Patricia Huff



As a parent, you know that some day your children will grow up and leave home. They'll always be your children but they won't need your day-to-day care. However, as a teacher, you know that year after year you will continue to nurture the children until your retirement. To give and give, five days a week, year after year, is an amazing feat. Everglades City School is fortunate to have one particular instructor who has been driving back and forth from Naples for 30 years. In August of 1979 Becky Welch, just out of college, became the Health Teacher and Physical Education Instructor for grades K through 12. She has taught Girls' Basketball, Volleyball, and Boys' Baseball to two generations of students. She also taught Girls' Softball when it was available. One former student remarked how wonderful Ms. Welch was to everyone (even her "wall flowers"). In addition to her classes at school, every year Ms. Welch has been bringing her entire family to Everglades City for our Seafood Festival to sell T-shirts, giving 100% to the Booster Club. We would like to thank Becky Welch and her dedication for being the teacher who has stayed here the longest and given so much, year after year, to our children.

DVD Scene – "Peter Matthiessen: No Boundaries"

Reviewed by Patricia Huff

A few weeks ago I was fortunate enough to catch the PBS special on the life of noted author Peter Matthiessen. Everglades folks know him primarily for his trilogy: *The Killing of Mr. Watson*, *Lostman's River* and *Bone by Bone* and more recently his book *Shadow Country* which is based on these three previous novels. Mr. Matthiessen also wrote the Forward to Rob Storter's book *Crackers in the Glade*. He met Rob several times in his home in Naples in the early 1980's when he was researching Mr. Edgar Watson.

This familiar part of Mr. Matthiessen's life is what enticed me to watch the show, but there is so much more about him and his experiences through his travels that prompted me to purchase the DVD. It characterizes him as a naturalist, an explorer, and a Zen monk, in addition to twice winning the National Book Award (he has written 10 books of fiction and 22 non-fiction). Peter and his son Alex are both environmental activists, and I just happened to pick up this month's *Town & Country* magazine with a wonderful article about him and his son with pictures of his home on Long Island. I found this DVD to be fascinating because I found Peter Matthiessen to be fascinating. If you missed the PBS program, the DVD is for sale online at www.shoppbs.org or you can ask the library if for a copy.

“Keep On Keeping On”

By Sharon Downey

Over 70 non-profits and for-profit agencies, faith-based, and various local governmental agencies gathered together at the Edison State College Naples campus on May 5 for an all-day workshop on disaster preparedness both pre-and-post disaster. Representatives from Volunteer Florida, the Governors Commission on Volunteerism & Community Service in Tallahassee, were presenters along with Collier County Emergency Services. Together they led the attendees through imaginary disasters while instructing them on how *collaboratively* working *together* (operative word) without the duplication of efforts would accomplish so much more response with much less effort.

Those in attendance were taught about the importance of the Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP) for both public and private organizations. Should a disaster be declared in Collier County, all agencies and businesses would come to a complete standstill during the disaster, with the exception of shelters and hospitals. Area organizations would identify essential staff and determine what operational equipment would be needed to supply critical services. Attendees were reminded that *each* person is responsible for their own emergency supplies during those first critical *72-hours* following a disaster and these supplies include food, water and shelter.

And, just as important, were the reminders cautioning everyone that following a disaster they should remain sheltered until being told it was safe to move about. Downed power lines and standing water were touted as just two of the many hidden dangers following a disaster. Everyone was also reminded to be extremely cautious and to pay heed to the instructions given by emergency personnel.

A Volunteer Resource Center is immediately set up following a disaster at a specified location to begin receiving, assigning and training those invaluable volunteers whose importance cannot be stressed enough. Remember that following a disaster there is much work to be done and volunteers are in high demand to assist in numerous capacities.

For information about training or volunteering at the Collier County Resource Center contact Sharon Downey, Executive Director of Volunteer Collier, at 239-250-5000 or online at sdowney@volunteercollier.org.

HURRICANE SEASON

It's that time of year again. Hurricane season officially begins on June 1. Congress has declared **May 24-30** as National Hurricane Preparedness Week. For the latest forecasts, keep an eye on the National Hurricane Center maps and reports at www.nhc.noaa.gov.

The Everglades

by Jack Barrett

If You Would Like To Take A Trip,
One That You Have Never Made.
Head Down Through The South Land,
Down Through The Everglades.

As You Travel Through The Everglades,
On Old Route Fourty One.
Just Stop In At The Golden Lion,
You Will Have A Lot Of Fun.

They Will Treat You Right Day or Night,
Give You No Chance For Sorrow.
You Can Eat Your Fill Pay Your Bill,
And You Will Stop By Again To Morrow.

The Eagles And The Osprey,
Are Birds Of A Different Shade.
You Will Find Them Alone,
Deep In The Everglades.

You Will Love To Fish For Snook,
They Are Hard to Catch I'll Say.
And If You Catch Your Limit,
You Have Had A Great Day.

You Will Love To Sit And Watch,
When You Have Nuthing Much To Do.
And Watch The Buzzards Flying,
Way Up In The Blue.

You Will See Air Plants By The Score,
Way Up In The Cypress Trees.
And How They Grow and Blossom,
Surely Amazes Me.

Our thanks to Jeff Winchello who sent this poem which was written for him when he was a young child by his family friend Jack Barrett, an elderly construction worker and fisherman (and poet).

FLORIDA FLORA

Satinleaf

(*Chrysophyllum oliviforme*)

When thinking of native trees in Florida, most people envision palm trees. However, there are several other trees that are sometimes overlooked. One of the most beautiful is the Satinleaf, especially when the wind blows and the underside of the leaf reveals a brown coppery color. The normal height is 25 to 30 feet but this old tree is much taller. It was damaged in Hurricane Wilma but recovered and flourished. Birds enjoy the purple fruit that ripens in the spring and the small yellow-white flowers that bloom in the autumn.





photo Florida State Archives

LOCAL HISTORY

There will be a slide show and informal talk featuring the Deaconess on **Wednesday, May 20**, at Venetian Village in Naples from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The presenter is Marya Repko who is currently working on a new book about Harriet Bedell.



MUSEUM NEWS

Our kids are really talented! Art from Mr. Tribble's classes at ECity School is on display this summer at the Museum and is causing "ooh's and aah's" from visitors.

There will be a reception on **Thursday, May 21**, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to drop in and enjoy refreshments provided by the Friends of the Museum and to meet some of the artists.

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 what tourists are raving about.

History on TV

The history of Captiva Island is the latest episode of the "Untold Stories" series on WGCU public television on **Friday, May 22**, at 8:30 p.m.

More SCHOOL NEWS



The Junior/Senior PROM was held on April 24 in the clubhouse at Royal Palm Golf Estates in Naples. King & Queen were Hunter Watson and Brittney Potter. Thanks to Michael J. Barnes Photography for this picture.

Congratulations to 5th-grader Tawny Wood whose poster on the theme of Paul Revere's "Midnight Ride" won the Naples Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) contest and then went forward to the State where it was placed third.



Mrs. Hazel Mitchell's fifth grade class participated in an essay contest from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Missing Endangered Persons. Students wrote an essay to promote safety awareness by describing ways to keep safe from people who could harm them. Madelyn Mitchell (Media Specialist Trina Mitchell's daughter) won the Region 6 (Ft. Myers area) competition. She will receive a certificate and a \$100 check as a regional winner and her essay will go to state level competition. You can read the Essay on page 10.

Special Day for Young Animal Lovers



The Girl Scouts will be here on **Wednesday, June 3**, to teach younger girls about pet care, how to make cat & dog treats, building a bird feeder, and creating animal puppets. There will also be a movie, songs & dances. Older girls (7th, 8th, and 9th graders) are invited to help.

The day begins at 9:30 a.m. and activities go on until around 5:00 p.m. The event takes place at Everglades City School in the Cafetorium. Cost is \$12 per person.

Space is limited so register early. For info, call Deborah Gittes at 262-5236.

"Fishing for Fun"

That's the theme for the Independence Day parade which will be held on Sunday, July 5. There are prizes for the best floats so get your thinking caps on and invent something original.

There will also be the traditional "Mister & Miss Firecracker" awards for the most suitable dressed youngsters.



The Choice is Yours ... Make It a Safe One"

by Madelyn Mitchell

"Not again!" I grunted as I heard my mom say, "another child in Florida has been abducted" while we were both watching the news. Unfortunately, there have been numerous accounts of children taken away from their families in just minutes. To keep safe, children should follow some simple guidelines.

Ways to keep safe include avoiding strangers (people you don't know) and being careful on the internet for predators or internet bullies in the cyber world. But most of all, be very cautious when you are home alone.

To begin with, a safe way to keep from being abducted is by avoiding strangers. What you can do is stay close to a parent or a guardian when you are at a store or a restaurant. You can also carry a charged cell phone with you at all times. You might not want to talk to strangers or take anything from them because they can lure you to their car or they can give you something poisoned. If a stranger comes up to me and asks me to come in their car, I would just walk away and not talk to them.

Additionally, you must be aware of internet safety. People can easily pose as a kid just like you and want information about you. So whatever you do, don't give away personal information like your address, your name, your phone number, your school's name, a picture of you, or when you were born! All of that stuff doesn't seem valuable to you, but to them it is gold. You need to know that not every one is who they say they are on the internet. If you want to meet up with a friend over the internet you would want to meet up in crowded places instead of empty places. Always bring a parent or a bunch of friends.

Lastly, you should be very cautious when you are home alone. You shouldn't open a door for a stranger. For example, say a person (a stranger) came up to your door and knocked and said, "Come help! I have lost my dog! Please help me find my lost dog!" What would you do if this situation happened to you? Well, what I would do is keep quiet or call the police. Another tip is not to answer an unknown phone call.

In conclusion, I described ways to keep safe from abduction such as avoiding strangers and being careful on the internet/cyber world from internet bullies. But most importantly, you should be very cautious when you are home alone.

Just like any one, I could be easily abducted if I made the wrong choice.

Well, the choice is yours... make it a safe one.

Madelyn Mitchell is a 5th grader at ECity School. This essay won first prize in the regional DLE contest and goes on to state level. See page 9.

Glades Daze

by Captain Steve Huff

I guess if you float around long enough, you see some unusual things. I was privy to a new spectacle last week. One I hope I do not get to see again.

I was fishing with Randy Moret and his lovely wife, Mickey, last week here in the Everglades City area. We were out looking for tarpon around Pavilion Key. Randy is an avid fly fisherman and tarpon are one of his favorite targets. Randy was standing on the front deck looking forward. Mickey was sitting on a large cooler in the middle of the boat, facing to port. I was on the poling platform pushing the boat around. We had seen a few fish roll and free jump (which means leaping from the water but not a hooked fish) in the distance.

Suddenly, Mickey screamed loudly and I looked down to see an approximate 100 lb tarpon coming straight at her in the air. The fish / projectile turned in the air and hit her broadside, squarely in the face and chest. Fortunately, she was not in a fixed chair but in a canvas folding seat, not attached to the boat. I believe, had the chair been fixed to the boat, her neck probably would have been broken. The fish knocked her over backwards, smashing her head into the gunwale of the boat. The fish then slid over her face, his momentum being over the boat, and went into the water on the other side. Her hat and prescription glasses were knocked off her face and went overboard. The hat was rescued. All this is a blink of an eye.

Mickey was moaning and both Randy and I thought she may be seriously injured. After careful inspection we found that she had badly bruised the back of her head, not to mention being covered in tarpon slime on her face and chest. Mickey is a wonderful sport; a lesser person would have been whining for days. She assured us, after a short time, that she felt she would be fine and that we should continue our quest.

Through the years I have had two other tarpon free jump over my skiff while poling. Also, I have had three other tarpon jump completely over my boat while hooked, and a few others land in the boat. This was the first time one of these fabulous missiles has actually impacted a human. We were very lucky she was not seriously injured. After several days, her neck was still very sore and continues to be even now.

I know, and have heard of, several incidences where people have been hit by tarpon, on a few occasions resulting in serious injuries and deaths, to my knowledge.

We were, of course, kidding with Mickey after the incident that the odds of it happening again had to be awfully slim. However, she seemed a little gun-shy for the rest of the trip.

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 - 3: pm; Mon - Fri
fresh grouper & pompano for sale
- Havana Cafe (695-2214):**
closed 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):**
closed for summer

NEW BREAKFAST LOCATION

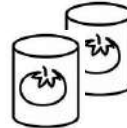
Port of the Islands is serving breakfast Monday through Saturday, 7-10 a.m. and on Sunday, 7-11 a.m. The menu includes eggs, grits, sausage, biscuits, gravy, and cinnamon rolls. For info, phone (239) 394-3101.

BIKE FESTIVAL

The First Annual Greenway Bike Festival will take place on **May 16 & 17** in the Downtown Homestead Historic District. For info, see their website www.homesteadmainstreet.org or call 305-323-6564.



Thanks to U-Haul for donating a trailer so that volunteers at the Food Pantry could stock up on non-perishables donated during the Post Office Carriers' Food Drive. And *thanks* to Karen and Kayla Grala for making trips with the trailer to the Harvest Bank and unloading all the goodies.



NEW LIBRARY

On May 15, Collier County is opening a new South Regional branch of the Public Library at 8065 Lely Cultural Blvd which is off CR-951, south of Rattlesnake Hammock. The new building has numerous function rooms and dozens of computers.

Hours will be Monday to Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Friday/Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



HOTDOG LUNCHES

Glades Haven Deli is now offering gourmet Boar's Head hotdogs, chili, and soups as well as their range of sandwiches. The hotdogs come with a choice of chili, sauerkraut, and Vidalia onions in sauce. There is also a "soup of the day" and bowls of chili on offer.



Butcher Gallery Hours

The Big Cypress Gallery on the Trail east of Ochopee will be open during the summer on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For info, see www.clydebutter.com or phone the Gallery at 695-2428.

By the way, they emailed to say that last year they ran out of calendars so you should place your order for the 2010 edition soon.

PARK NEWS



The Park Service has announced that the pilot project to study the efficiency of spreader swales on the Trail has advanced after the NPS issued a "Finding of No Significant Impact" for the project. The swales could become part of the Everglades restoration effort to increase water flow. For more info, see www.nps.gov/ever or phone (305) 224-4214.

Thursday is Clean-up Day!

Have you noticed how tidy SR-29 looks as you come into or go out of Everglades City?

That's thanks to the Wednesday Ladies' Coffee group and ESHP (our historical society) who turn out every **Thursday** morning between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. with plastic bags to pick up the litter.

Now that many seasonal volunteers have left, they hope everyone will join them to keep the road tidy. For info, phone Patty at 695-2397.

SNOOK CLASSIFIED

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

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 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.

FOR RENT: Mobile Home on Canal, 29 Plantation Drive, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, unfurnished, \$600 per month or \$700 per month with lawn maintenance. Call 239-250-0668



Pastor John Gilmore of Copeland Baptist Church adjusts the microphone for Rev. Jane Wallace from the Everglades Community Church during the National Day of Prayer on May 9.

JOBS VACANT

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

Put your job ad in the Rapper. No charge – phone 695-2397.

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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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