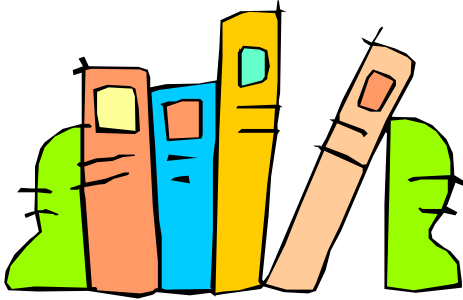


# The MULLET RAPPER

## What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

**SEPTEMBER 18 - OCTOBER 1, 2009**

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### Library Closed!

#### *But Hopefully Not for Long*

In a surprise move on September 16, the County Clerk's office in Everglades City Hall was closed along with other satellite offices in the county. However, the facility here is also a tax collection office and houses our library. The County Tax Collector and the Director of Collier County Public Libraries are exploring options to re-open the facility.

In the interim, the book drop is open and there will be no late fee charges in view of this situation. Fishing licenses can be purchased by phoning 1-888-347-4356.

Mayor Sammy Hamilton told the *Rapper* that he regrets the sudden closure and will do anything he can to ensure that area residents have library and tax collection services.

### CITY COUNCIL REPORT

by Patricia Huff

On Tuesday, September 8, a Public Hearing was held in the Everglades City Council Chambers for the **First Reading** of two ordinances:

- A. Ordinance 2009-02: An Ordinance determining and fixing the millage rate for fiscal year 2009-2010; for the purpose of providing sufficient funds for the general obligation for the City of Everglades City.
- B. Ordinance 2009-03: An Ordinance for the purpose of adopting the fiscal budget for the fiscal year 2009-2010 and the **Second Reading** of one:
- C. Ordinance 2009-01: An ordinance "opting out" and exempting the City of Everglades City from the provisions of section 101.667, Florida Statutes, related to "early voting" and the requirements thereof; repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith; and providing an effective date.

After the Readings, the regular City Council meeting was resumed with the adoption of the three ordinances by the Council.

Mayor Sammy Hamilton gave his report stating that he had met with South Florida Water Management District and that he would soon be sending out a letter to the residents concerning a 5-year plan which will include improvement in our water quality.

In the absence of Lt. Mark Milligan, Sergeant Todd Taylor reported that the number of home and boat burglaries has increased recently in Everglades City, Pleasure Island and Port of the Islands. However, the Sheriff's Office expects that these numbers will decrease as suspects are apprehended.

The City Council members approved motions to accept the Budget Amendments for 2008-2009 and the Bad Debts for 2008-2009 (which the Mayor mentioned were low this year, around \$2000).

Under Public Comments, John M. Wilson noted he was unable to reach LCEC by telephone during the recent power outage. There were no other comments from the public or City Council members and the meeting was adjourned.

The **Second Reading** of the fiscal Ordinances was on **Tuesday, September 16**.

The election for three City Council seats will be held on **November 24**. The positions are currently held by MacBeth Collins, James Landrum, and Johnny Potter who may stand in the election if they want. Qualifying for candidates opens on **September 28** and closes at noon on **October 9**. For info, see City Clerk Dottie Joiner or phone her at 695-3781.

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# SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2009

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm <b>OFCD Bd</b> Fire Sta, 6 pm	<b>15</b> Reach Out mtg City Hall, 8:30 am <b>BigC ORVs</b> CANCELLED	<b>16</b> Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am <b>City Council</b> 5:30 pm	<b>17</b> SAC School, 3 pm <b>Lions Club</b> Depot, 5:30 pm <b>Copeland Civic</b> 7 pm	<small>new moon</small> ○ <b>18</b> <b>RAPPER</b> <b>Anglers' Cup</b> <i>see p.8</i>	<b>19</b> <b>Anglers' Cup</b> <i>see p.8</i> <b>Coastal Clean-Up</b> <i>see p.3</i> <b>Copeland Clean-Up,</b> <i>see p.3</i>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am	<b>24</b> <b>Flu Shots</b> <i>see p.3</i> <b>Copeland Civic</b> 7 pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am <b>Big Cypress</b> <b>Comments Due</b> <i>see p.8</i>	<b>OCT 1</b> <b>Great Gators</b> School, 9:30 am	<b>RAPPER 2</b> <b>RedSnook</b> <b>Tournament</b> <i>see p.8</i>	<b>3</b> <b>RedSnook</b> <b>Tournament</b> <i>see p.8</i> <b>Mobile Pet Vet</b> <i>see p.3</i> <b>Museum</b> <b>Reception</b> <i>see p.9</i>
<small>full moon</small> ● <b>4</b> <b>Mobile Pet Vet</b> <i>see p.3</i> <b>Blessing the</b> <b>Boats, see p.3</b>	<b>5</b> Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm	<b>6</b> Congressional Visit, 3 pm <b>Coletta Visit</b> 3 pm <b>City Council</b> 5:30 pm <b>Kids' Clinic</b> 5 – 8 pm	<b>7</b> Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am <b>FME mtg</b> Museum, 9 am <i>see p.9</i>	<b>8</b> <b>School</b> <b>Early</b> <b>Dismissal</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>10k Islands</b> <b>National</b> <b>Wildlife</b> <b>Refuge Week</b> <i>see p.8</i> <b>SCV</b> Depot, 6 pm
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm <b>OFCD Bd</b> Fire Sta, 6 pm	<b>13</b> <b>Kids' Clinic</b> 5 – 8 pm	<b>14</b> Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am	<b>15</b> SAC School, 3 pm <b>Lions Club</b> Depot, 5:30 pm <b>Copeland Civic</b> 7 pm	<b>RAPPER 16</b>	<b>17</b>

Oct 26: register to vote    Nov 6-8: Old Florida Festival    Nov 14: Medicine Cabinet    Nov 14/15: Pet Vet  
 Nov 24: Election Day    Dec 1: BigC ORVs    Dec 5: Art-in-the-Glades

THRIFT SHOP: Thurs, Fri, Sat; 11:00 am to 3:00 pm    SKATING RINK: Fri & Sat; 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.  
 MUSEUM: Tues-Fri; 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sat; 9:00 am to 4:00 pm    SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily; 11:00 am to 5:00 pm  
 FOOD PANTRY: Sat; 8:30 to 10:30 am, Community Church    ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Sat; noon, Community Church  
 SHAMROCK BANK: Tues, Thurs; 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.    LITTLE GATOR CLINIC: Oct 6, Oct 13; 5:00 to 8:00 pm

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: Tues, 9/22 (10-11 am)    Thurs, 9/24 (9-10 am)    Mon, 9/28 (9:30-10:30 am)

**LIONS CLUB AT DEPOT**

The Lions Club will meet at the Seafood Depot on **Thursday, September 17**, at 5:30 p.m. and every **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday** of each month. For info, phone Elaine at 695-2695.

**COPELAND CLEAN-UP**

There will be dumpsters in Copeland on **Saturday, September 19**, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more info, phone Jim at 252-3975.

**FLU SHOTS**

Vaccinations for flu and pneumonia will be available on **Thursday, September 24**, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the ECity Community Center. Cost is \$30 and \$45. For info, phone Dottie at 695-3781.

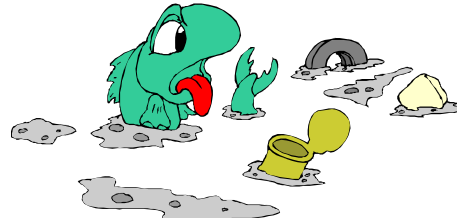
**BLESSING THE BOATS**



There will be a Blessing of the Fleet on **Sunday, October 4**, before the crabbers go out to set their traps. The event will take place behind the Rod & Gun Club in the early evening. Watch the *Rapper* for more details. If you are interested in participating, phone Tod at 695-3299.

**CORRECTION**

Apologies to City Seafood who provided the refreshments for the Drug Free Workshop on August 31. Heartfelt thanks to Richard, Virgil, and the staff for the lovely food.



**COASTAL CLEAN-UP**

The National Park Ranger Station in Everglades City is organizing a clean-up from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on **Saturday, September 19**, on Picnic Key, Tiger Key and Camp Lulu. Transportation will be provided by NPS or bring your own boat. You will need sun-block, bug spray, water, and lunch. For info and to register, contact Ranger Meredith Riester at 695-4217.

**FREE CONCERT**

The Miccosukee Resort on Krome Avenue is holding a free concert on **Friday, September 25**. There will also be Native American dancers and storytelling. For info, phone (305) 222-4600 or see [www.miccosukee.com](http://www.miccosukee.com).



**RECYCLING**

The Carnestown Recycling Center is now open only on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday** of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon and from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. For info, phone 252-2508.

There is now a recycling dumpster near the tennis courts in ECity which accepts cans, bottles, plastic, and waste paper.

**OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT**

- 09/02/09: Possible Assault, Copeland
- 09/03/09: Emergency Medical, Port of the Islands
- 09/04/09: Vehicle Accident, 73mm on I-75
- 09/06/09: Downed Power Line, Chokoloskee Island
- 09/07/09: Vehicle Accident, 72mm on I-75
- 09/08/09: Unknown Medical Problem, Ochopee
- 09/08/09: Vehicle Accident, 83mm on I-75
- 09/08/09: Vehicle Accident, 80mm on I-75
- 09/11/09: Vehicle Accident, 52mm on I-75
- 09/12/09: Vehicle Accident, 74mm on I-75
- 09/12/09: Vehicle Accident, 78mm on I-75
- 09/13/09: Vehicle Accident, 62mm on I-75
- 09/13/09: Call Box Activation, 64mm on I-75
- 09/13/09: Vehicle Accident, 68mm on I-75
- 09/14/09: Unknown Medical Problem, Ochopee
- 09/14/09: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee Island
- 09/15/09: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 09/15/09: Emergency Medical, 63mm on I-75

**MOBILE PET VET**



Dr Baker will be here on **Saturday, October 3**, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in McLeod Park, ECity, and from 2 to 4 p.m. in Copeland. She will also be here for surgery on **Sunday, October 4** by previous appointment only. You can phone her at 777-PETS (7387). For more info, see [www.naplesmobilepetvet.com](http://www.naplesmobilepetvet.com).



**BANK HOURS**

Shamrock Bank in City Hall is now open two days a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Business hours are 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER**

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

09/18/2009	Fri	02:38AM	2.9	H	09:49AM	0.2	L	03:00PM	3.4	H	10:19PM	0.3	L
09/19/2009	Sat	03:05AM	3.1	H	10:34AM	0.1	L	03:46PM	3.3	H	10:58PM	0.4	L
09/20/2009	Sun	03:32AM	3.2	H	11:19AM	-0.1	L	04:33PM	3.1	H	11:34PM	0.6	L
09/21/2009	Mon	04:00AM	3.2	H	12:04PM	-0.1	L	05:22PM	2.8	H			
09/22/2009	Tue	12:10AM	0.7	L	04:31AM	3.2	H	12:50PM	0.0	L	06:16PM	2.5	H
09/23/2009	Wed	12:43AM	0.8	L	05:05AM	3.1	H	01:40PM	0.1	L	07:16PM	2.4	H
09/24/2009	Thu	01:15AM	0.9	L	05:47AM	2.9	H	02:39PM	0.3	L	08:25PM	2.2	H
09/25/2009	Fri	01:41AM	1.0	L	06:54AM	2.7	H	03:49PM	0.4	L			
09/26/2009	Sat	01:12AM	2.2	H	03:36AM	1.1	L	08:33AM	2.6	H	05:04PM	0.4	L
09/27/2009	Sun	01:28AM	2.3	H	05:23AM	1.1	L	10:02AM	2.6	H	06:10PM	0.4	L
09/28/2009	Mon	01:14AM	2.3	H	06:31AM	1.0	L	11:16AM	2.7	H	07:03PM	0.4	L
09/29/2009	Tue	12:55AM	2.4	H	07:20AM	0.8	L	12:15PM	2.8	H	07:48PM	0.4	L
09/30/2009	Wed	01:13AM	2.5	H	08:00AM	0.7	L	01:02PM	2.9	H	08:26PM	0.4	L
10/01/2009	Thu	01:36AM	2.7	H	08:36AM	0.6	L	01:43PM	3.0	H	09:00PM	0.4	L
10/02/2009	Fri	02:00AM	2.8	H	09:12AM	0.4	L	02:21PM	3.1	H	09:33PM	0.4	L

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# SCHOOL NEWS

Everglades City School

phone: 377-9800 or 695-2561

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

## IMPORTANT DATES

Thurs, Sept 17:	SAC meeting, 3:00 p.m.
Tues, Sept 29:	Volleyball, HOME, 4:00 p.m.
Thurs, Oct 1:	Great Gators, 9:30 a.m.
Tues, Oct 6:	Volleyball, HOME, 4:00 p.m.
Thurs, Oct 8:	Early Dismissal



### From Savannah's Eyes

School is going well. I love my teachers that I have this year. Open House was last week on Thursday and it was really fun. I saw all of my friends, and my parents met my teachers.

Volleyball is great: we won two games and lost one, but we tried our best and that is all that counts. Next time though we are really going to try harder! Go Gators! Our next home game is going to be on Tuesday, September 29 from 4 to 5 pm. Wish us luck!

Last weekend my little niece and nephew (Kailey and Riley) came for the weekend and it was Kailey's birthday; she just turned 3 years old. We had a little party and dressed her all up; she was so cute! She called her sister Lashaun because she wanted to talk to her for her birthday and Riley talked to her too. They are growing up on me!

Also, last week, my cat Peanut Butter took a wild ride with my dad. Peanut was sleeping on my dad's spare tire under his work truck and my dad did not know that he was under there so my dad hopped in his truck and drove all the way to Chokoloskee with Peanut Butter under his truck on the spare tire hanging on for dear life! If he had jumped off of the tire, he would have gotten killed but he didn't. While my dad was riding in his truck he heard a small screaming noise, and he kept hearing it. So when he got to where he was working, he looked under his truck and saw Peanut Butter hanging on the spare tire. When my dad picked him off the tire, he put him down. Peanut could not sit down; he just stood there terrified. So my dad picked him up and held him close. Then he drove him back to the house and Peanut was so content in the truck than under it. LOL! That would be really scary to do that! I am so glad that he didn't jump off! And I am also glad that my dad found out what the screaming was or he would have driven Peanut back home with him under the truck again!

Until next time,

With love,  
Savannah♥

*Savannah Oglesby is in the 7th grade at Everglades City School and is a regular contributor to this paper.*

## OPEN HOUSE GOES WELL



We had Open House on Thursday, September 10, at 6:30 p.m. and we had a very good turn out. Mr. Jones opened by welcoming all the parents and Mrs. Betty Oglesby, our reading coach, followed up with a presentation on the new FAIR (Florida Assessments for Instruction in Reading) assessment that students will be taking this year. Parents then visited their children's classrooms and teachers.

*Photos of students preparing for Open House and report thanks to Trina Mitchell*



**Congratulations to the Varsity Volleyball Team who won two out of three of their home games on September 8.**

The Girl Scouts are holding a Hawaiian Beach Party on **Friday, October 2**, at 601 Park Street, Naples, at 6:30 p.m. For info and to register, phone (239) 262-5236.



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## Paws to Reflect

by a Squeedilifferous  
Pusslet



After a week of glorious late summer weather, it's finally raining in Connecticut. I jumped on Dad's head this morning at half past six, but he and Mom had been up till past midnight watching detective films on the DVD. Needless to say, he wasn't charmed about hopping up and filling my cookie bowl. But I've found that perseverance eventually pays off. By quarter to eight he was up and ambulating. He fed us and let us outside to play with the raindrops. That didn't last long. We were both back inside and glad of it in fifteen minutes. Then Dad dried us off and told us what good girls we were. Of course, we knew that already. To show my appreciation I went into the living room and clawed up the old blue sofa. Then I went up and helped him on the computer. That's the only way I get to use the thing myself. Now he's downstairs having lunch with Mom. Grilled cheese and tomato sandwiches. I can't see why they want to spoil their cheese by putting tomatoes on it, but each to his own, I say. At least I had my strawberry yoghurt this morning – keeps me well lubricated and squeedilifferous.

*Pusslet is assisted by "Constant Waterman" whose book about boating is available for sale around town.*

## HOUSEHOLD TIPS

Why does a plastic bag filled with water keep the flies away? We've seen them hanging in doorways or over picnic tables. We also read that the bag should contain a few pennies. If you have an explanation, please contact us.

Collier County Domestic Animal Services (DAS) at 7610 Davis Blvd. in Naples will be open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. from October 1. Adoptions are from 11:00 a.m. until closing time. For more info, phone 252-7387 or see [www.collierpets.com](http://www.collierpets.com).

## Recipe for Good Eating

### Zucchini Bread

by Sunny Burke



1 cup grated zucchini, drained	2 eggs
¼ cup honey	2 T. sugar
½ cup corn oil	2¼ cup all-purpose flour
¾ tsp. baking soda	2 tsp. baking powder
¾ tsp. salt	1½ tsp. cinnamon
¾ cup nuts (pecan or walnut)	1 T. orange peel

Beat eggs until fluffy; add honey, sugar and oil. Add dry ingredients. Lastly, add zucchini and orange peel. Bake at 350° for 45 to 55 minutes in a loaf pan.

*Sunny Burke is a full-time resident on Plantation Island and is known for her baking. She is a regular contributor to the Rapper.*

## Angels of the Swamp

by Patricia Huff

Who are the Angels who take care of our kids every morning and every afternoon? They are the Angels that are responsible for picking them up early every day, taking them to school and bringing them safely back home. We kiss our children good-bye in the morning with the comfort of knowing that they are in good hands with one of the three bus drivers who have been with the county school system here in Everglades City for many, many years.

Jimmy Brewer has been driving the school bus for 20 years, Robin Smallwood for 19 years and Debbie Hooks for five years. These dedicated individuals give many hours each day driving to and from various parts of the county to bring our students to Everglades City School: from Chokoloskee, Ochopee, Jerome, Ochopee, and all the way to the Dade County line. They also drive the children on field trips and out-of-town sport events. We would like to acknowledge these Angels who look after our children with patience and dedication and thank them for all their good deeds.



## Reach Out Planning Ahead

Reach Out is already anticipating the holiday season when our neighborhood charity helps needy families with Christmas shopping for the kiddies. To raise money, there will be greeting cards for sale again this year with new designs by Everglades City School elementary students. For info about the cards, phone Marya at 695-2905.



The next Reach Out board meeting will be on **Tuesday, October 20**, at 8:30 a.m. in the old council chamber downstairs in City Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. For info, phone Reach Out president Carol Foss at 695-2277.

If you would like to help Reach Out in its worthy causes, send your check or money order to P.O. Box 894, Chokoloskee, FL, 34138. Your donation to this 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation could be tax-deductible. Every little bit counts and all the contributions stay in the area to help local families.



## FLORIDA FLORA

by Patricia Huff

### Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*)

One of the most impressive trees native to Florida is the Live Oak which can spread its branches more than 150 feet with a trunk circumference of 30 feet. Although it is slow growing, it is long-lived. It is a wonderful shade tree and romantically mysterious when draped in Spanish moss. We associate the Live Oak with plantations in Georgia, South Carolina and Virginia but there are many trees not only in North and Central Florida but also South Florida. This beautiful specimen is located in Chokoloskee.

## Fishing Tournaments

**The Anglers' Cup Big Snook Challenge**, September 17-19

Website: [www.TheAnglersCup.com](http://www.TheAnglersCup.com)

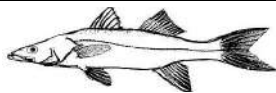
**Conservancy RedSnook Catch & Release**, October 2-4

Registration until: September 11

website: [www.conservancy.org/redsnook](http://www.conservancy.org/redsnook)

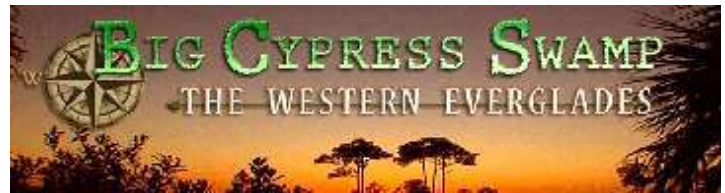
### SNOOK RULES

1. slot limit 28 to 33 inches
2. one fish per person per day
3. valid fishing license with current Snook stamp



Thanks to Helen Bryan for this photo and email about the huge "he-la monsters" living in her friend's back yard. If it is feeding in the yard when Helen drives over to Ft. Lauderdale to visit, she has to blow her horn to have her

friend come out. The size of this iguana is 5 to 6 feet and it hangs out at near the house, sleeping in trees and watching everyone very closely.



There will be a preview of two PBS films at the new Big Cypress Visitor Center at 33050 Tamiami Trail East in Ochopee every day during the week of **September 20-27**. The public premier of *Big Cypress Swamp, The Western Everglades* will be shown at 11 am and 12 noon. There will also be a sneak peak to PBS's new Ken Burns documentary series, *The National Parks, America's Best Idea* featured at 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 pm.

The full show will be on WGCU-TV at the end of the month (see [www.wgcu.org](http://www.wgcu.org) for schedule). A full screening of *Big Cypress Swamp: the Western Everglades* can be seen on WGCU-TV (30.3) Encore on **Saturday, September 26**, at 7:00 p.m. The Big Cypress new facility will be completed and open to the public in February 2010.

## ESTUARY DAY

Rookery Bay is celebrating Coastal Stewardship on **Saturday, September 26**, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with boat tours, kayaking, lab tours, live music, food, and other family activities. For info, phone 417-6310 or see their website [www.rookerybay.org](http://www.rookerybay.org).

The refuge was founded at the instigation of Lester Norris who owned Keywadin Island nearby. He also rescued the Fakahatchee area at Big Cypress Bend (Weaver's Station) on the Trail from being logged and then built the boardwalk.

## BigC Comments DEADLINE!

Written comments about the proposed plans for the Addition Lands are due by **Wednesday, September 30**. They can be submitted either online or by post.

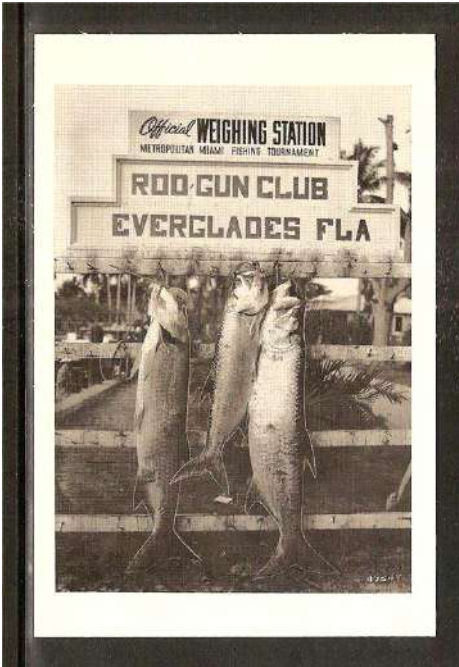


The alternatives offer different usages for the northeast corner of the Preserve and strip along the east side of SR-29, including the junction at the Trail.

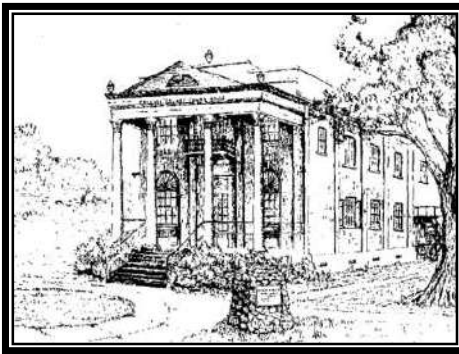
You can see the documentation at [www.nps.gov/bicy](http://www.nps.gov/bicy) or request a copy by phoning 695-1168. There are also comment forms at City Hall.



## LOCAL HISTORY



It's fishing tournament season and this appropriate photo was sent to us by enthusiastic Everglades historian Alvin Lederer. Does anyone remember when the Metropolitan Miami Fishing Tournament was held here?



This sketch is from the 1973 Collier County 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary calendar which was another donation by Virginia Klotz to the Historical Library. If you have old postcards or memorabilia, don't throw them away! Contact the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation in City Hall or phone Marya at 695-2905.

## HISTORY ON TV

The next episode in the "Untold Stories" series on WGPU-TV is *A Watery Wilderness: The Ten Thousand Islands* which will be shown on **Friday, September 25**, at 8:30 p.m. You can buy the DVD at the Museum or order it from [www.evergladesmuseum.org](http://www.evergladesmuseum.org) (click on Gift Shop to download a form).



## MUSEUM NEWS

The "Meet the Artists" reception on September 5 for Edwin Villasmil and Elba Martinez was attended by many who enjoyed talking with this unique couple. The dramatic pictures on the wall show their passion for environmental preservation.

The next reception will be on **Saturday, October 3**, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. for artists Lorna Rewis and Amy Fouchea. It will be followed by a guided Walking Tour of Historic Buildings.

Exhibits in the Pauline Reeves Gallery at the front of the Museum run for a month. Members of the public can visit on Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There is no admission charge but donations are welcome. For info, phone 695-0008.

There is still space for FME members to join the trip to the Edison/Ford Estates in Fort Myers on **Thursday, September 24**. To make reservations and for info, phone 695-2397. The full schedule of members' activities is posted on the Friends' website [www.evergladesmuseum.org](http://www.evergladesmuseum.org) on the Events page.

The Friends of the Museum of the Everglades (FME) will have a Board meeting on **Wednesday, October 7**, at 9:00 a.m. in the Museum. All members are invited to attend.

## CELEBRATING MUSEUMS

National Museum Day is **Saturday, September 26**, and the Collier County Museum in Naples at Government Center (corner of US-41 and Airport-Pulling Road) is celebrating with a day of events. Activities include guided tours from noon to 3:30 p.m. and a screening at 2:15 p.m. of "Distant Drums" with Gary Cooper which was filmed in the area over 50 years ago. For info, phone the Museum at 252-8476.

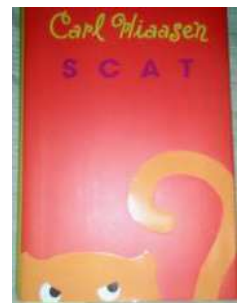


## Off the Shelf – Book Review

### "Scat" by Carl Hiaasen

reviewed by Peyton Beebe

*Scat* by Carl Hiaasen has got to be one of the most enjoyable books I have read. Not only does it zone in on the importance of our environment, but there are many fun facts about the Florida Panther in it as well. In the beginning the most-disliked teacher goes missing after a school field trip. Not only is that weird, but the school bully starts acting stranger than normal and finds himself skipping school more than he should. The main character, Nick, and his best friend, Marta, use what detective skills they have and their knowledge of the Everglades to get to the end of the unexplained disappearances at Truman School. *Scat* is an adventurous mystery with a twist of comedy wrapped between two covers. I'd be sure to put it on your reading list.



*Peyton Beebe is a Senior at Everglades City High School.*

## Report on U.S. Sugar Deal

by Andy Hill

*US Sugar is a good deal for both the environment and the economy of Everglades City*

How would you like invest in the future of fishing the Everglades? With the recent validation of the bond issue to finance the US Sugar acquisition, you soon will be able to participate in the bond issuance. The acquisition of U.S. Sugar by the State of Florida has been viewed favorably by most conservation minded organizations, yet there has been limited analysis of the financial benefits of the transaction. There is no better situation to apply "eco-economics" analysis than the cost-benefit analysis of the acquisition of US Sugar properties to help restore the natural water flows from Lake Okeechobee through the water-starved Everglades.

The estimated cost to acquire the initial 73,000 acres is \$536 million. While it is a significant investment, it pales in magnitude to the economic value of eco-tourism and sport fishing in the Everglades region. According to a recently published report on the economic value of the Everglades by Florida Atlantic University, the total annual impact of eco-tourism in 2007 was \$1.8 Billion. Further, the total annual expenditures of sport fishing in Florida is estimated to be between \$3.4 billion and \$5.6 billion. With approximately 70% of the state's population residing near the Everglades region, sport fishing in the Everglades appears to be at least a \$2 billion annual business. Just looking at the estimated annual expenditures associated with ecotourism and sport fishing (a combined \$4 billion), the initial acquisition cost of the U.S. Sugar properties of \$536 million appears to be an economically justified investment. With the initial acquisition representing only 13% of the annual economic benefit of just two industries, the investment to improve the long term health of this sustainable resource appears to be of sound judgment.

The long term environmental benefits of re-establishing water flows from Lake Okeechobee to Florida Bay also includes minimizing unnatural water discharges, and the acquisition also mitigates other potential expenses. The red tide problems experienced a few years ago caused dramatic environmental and economic damage to the tourist business on the east and west coasts of Florida. Fortunately, the Everglades avoided that problem, but we were impacted by the "Black Water" a few years earlier.

In summary, the US Sugar acquisition will help ensure that we have a sustainable natural resource that is integral to the economy of the Everglades region. While the cost to finance the acquisition is significant, relative to the economic benefits derived from the Everglades region, the investment is a sound business decision that will pay dividends in the form of improving the quality of life and economic opportunity for Florida residents for generations to come.

**Andrew D. W. Hill, C.F.A., is a Senior Portfolio Manager with Comerica Asset Management. In addition, he also serves as the Vice-Chair of the Conservancy of Southwest Florida and is the past Chair of the RedSnook Fishing Tournament with Roland Martin, an International Game Fish Association sanctioned event.**

## MEMORIES

### CHOKOLOSEE Then and Now

by Audrey Hancock

As we get older it seems we spend a lot of time reminiscing about "the good old days".

I was born in Everglades City but grew up on Chokoloskee Island. It is hard to imagine what the Island looked like back then. It has changed so much.

The church was established in 1913. About 40 people were baptized the first year. My Grandfather McKinney was instrumental in getting the church started; he donated the land and the nails to build the church. He also started the first post office on the island in 1891.

My mother had a small grocery store on the north side of the island right near the bay (the one Grandfather McKinney started when he moved there in 1886). Groceries had to be brought by boat from Everglades City. We hired the local young boys to bring them in from the dock. Most staples like flour, sugar, rice etc. came in 25 lb. bags and we would weigh out what the customer wanted in paper bags.

On the south west side of the island Ted Smallwood had a large store and post office, which is now the Smallwood Museum. He had hardware, groceries and dry goods. The Seminole Indians would paddle their canoes across Chokoloskee Bay to trade with Ted. Mr. Smallwood owned most of the island including the cemetery. He also had a boat ways for the local fishermen.

The infamous outlaw, E.J. Watson, was shot and killed in 1910 by some of the local men on the beach at Smallwood's store. His body was dragged by boat, buried on one of the outside islands. His family later moved him to Ft. Myers.

The two room school was near the center of the island near the cemetery. There were two teachers for grades one through eight. Most students thought they had enough education after eighth grade. In the late 1940's the school board supplied a boat like a small sightseeing boat to take students to Everglades School to complete their high school education. After the causeway was built, students were bused to Everglades.

There were small walking trails all over the island. Guava trees grew wild and we would find a good tree and pick guavas to make jelly and guava dumplings. There were lots of tropical fruit trees, Spanish limes, tamarind, sapodilla, hog plum, sugar apple and also avocado pears, but they were off limits because they belonged to Mr. Smallwood.

Jimmy Singleton brought the mail from Everglades daily. If anyone needed a ride to Everglades, Mr. Singleton would let them ride the mail boat. The bright spot of my day was to run to the post office and see if I had a package from Sears Roebuck.

We were always happy when school was out for the summer and we could swim in the bay, borrow a skiff boat and paddle to Turner River and have a picnic or just roam the island, climbing trees and taking pictures with my Brownie camera. Now the island is so different. But like they say, nothing stays the same. But we still have our memories.

**Audrey Brown Hancock is descended from several pioneering families in this area. Her brothers Totch and Peg both won medals during World War II. Although she no longer lives here, she comes to visit regularly.**

**RESTAURANT NEWS**



- Backcountry Cafe (695-2552):**  
6:00 am - 3:00 pm.; daily
- Camellia Street Grill (695-2003):**  
*Opening October 1*
- City Seafood (695-4700):**  
11:00 am - 6:00 pm; daily  
*Fish market also open*
- Everglades Scoop (695-0375):**  
11:00 am – 5:00 pm; Mon - Sat
- Gator Express (695-3937):**  
7:00 am - 9:00 pm; Sun – Thurs  
except closing 8:00 pm Tues  
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  
*Food service stops 1 hr before close*
- Grimm's Stone Crab (695-3222):**  
8:00 am – 3:00 pm; Mon - Sat  
*Fish market (grouper/pompano)*
- Havana Cafe (695-2214):**  
*Opening October 1*
- Ivey House (695-3299):**  
6:30 – 9:30 am; daily  
*Cold breakfast buffet*
- Joanie's Blue Crab Cafe (695-2682):**  
11:00 am - 5:00 pm; Thurs - Sun
- JT's Cafe & Gallery (695-2630):**  
1:00 – 5:00 pm; Sat  
*Gallery & Gift Shop also open*
- Leebo's Rock-Bottom Bar:**  
3:00 pm; Mon - Sat  
noon; Sunday
- Oyster House Restaurant (695-2073):**  
*Opening October 1*
- Port of the Islands (239-394-3101):**  
7:00 – 10:00 am; Mon-Sat  
7:00 – 11:00 am; Sun  
*Hot and cold breakfast menu*
- Right Choice Pizzeria (695-3663):**  
5:00 - 9:00 pm; Thurs-Sun (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):**  
*Opening October 1*

For a list of church services and park openings, see our website or phone us.



**DIVE RESCUE**

All our firefighters qualified at a recent 5-day course they took in Dive Rescue. They will use their expertise and new equipment for boating accidents, submerged cars, and drownings. Before OFCD staff got their certificates, they had to rely on members from Golden Gate and Isles of Capri in emergencies. The rescue boat is moored at the end of Broadway and at least one member in each shift has knowledge of local waters.



And, speaking of water ... this was the scene on September 16 when the airboat at Capt Doug's near the Seafood Depot was up in the parking lot because of the unusually high tide. You can see that the slipway to Lake Placid is completely covered.



Empty Nest. This osprey along CR29 on the way to Chokoloskee was resting on the disk supplied by LCEC. We wonder if it is looking for a new home.

**Entertainment**

There is live music every Saturday at both the Seafood Depot from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. during the popular "Cabana Bash" and at Leebo's Rock Bottom Bar beginning at 8:00 p.m.



Leebo's is planning a fish fry for Halloween with a costume party to follow. Camellia Street Grill will also have a costume party with dancing on Halloween. More information to follow next month.

**Restaurant News & Views**

by Patricia Huff

Several of our seasonal restaurants will be opening up again in October, some with new menus and new ideas and events. Our next issue will feature news on these places to eat. In the meantime, don't forget to visit our year-round restaurants with their excellent meals and friendly staff.

For breakfast be sure to check out the eye-opening meals at Back Country Café. Other places for breakfast include Gator Express, the Rod & Gun Club, the Ivey House for a cold breakfast buffet, Glades Haven for breakfast sandwiches, and Port of the Islands out on the Trail.

For lunch the Everglades Scoop, the Seafood Depot, City Seafood, Joanie's Blue Crab and Susie's are open as well as the Back Country, Gator Express, Glades Haven, and Rod & Gun.

For dinner, Seafood Depot, Rod & Gun and our very own Pizzeria which will provide you with a great take-out pizza.

Lots of choices even before the busy season is here. Stay tuned for what's happening when we're in full swing.

**Ladies Coffee**

All residents and visitors are invited to join the Ladies Coffee which meets every Wednesday morning at 8:00 am. See Calendar for locations.

## SNOOK CLASSIFIED

**FOR SALE:** House and Barn on 1.02 Acres. Zoned (A). Sale price \$139,000 (\$59,000 below appraised value) or for rent at \$900/mon. For more info, call 321-439-7635.

**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:** Lot on Plantation Island with Boat Ramp and Dock, \$75,000. Phone 239-825-4502.

**FOR RENT:** Mobile Home on Canal, 29 Plantation Drive, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, unfurnished, \$500 per month or \$600 per month with lawn maintenance. Call 239-250-0668

**FOR SALE:** Deeded waterfront home on a quiet canal; 2 kitchens, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, remodeled, furnished, new A/C, new dock. \$525,000 (owner licensed realtor). Call 239-860-6369

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

Snook Classified is \$10 per issue. Phone 695-2397 or email us.

## JOBS VACANT

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



Bill surprised his wife Adela

On Friday, September 11, Adela Butler was surprised by her husband and friends as they gathered for her 60th birthday party at Seafood Depot. Happy Birthday, Adela!



Friends gather to celebrate



Mari Varallo lights the 60 candles on Adela's cake

## The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

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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, Sunny Burke

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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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MONTHS AT ALTERNATE ADDRESS

\_\_\_ JAN \_\_\_ FEB \_\_\_ MAR \_\_\_ APR \_\_\_ MAY \_\_\_ JUN \_\_\_ JUL \_\_\_ AUG \_\_\_ SEP \_\_\_ OCT \_\_\_ NOV \_\_\_ DEC

9/18/09