

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

NOVEMBER 27 – DECEMBER 10, 2009

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume III • Issue #95



PLANE CRASH

Four people walked away unhurt from a light plane that crashed while trying to land at Everglades Airpark on Saturday, November 21.

Bob Wells, who saw the lead-up to the accident from his porch, told the *Rapper* that there was a lot of traffic that day. The plane was coming down but bounced. When it tried to power out, it was pulled sideways by the sudden torque of the engine and went through the fence into the field at the east of the runway.

This Cirrus SR22 was built in 2006 and is made of high-tech materials such as carbon fiber and Kevlar which are supposed to be stronger than aluminum. It has airbags and a rocket-propelled parachute.

The FAA was on the scene within an hour and a half conducting its investigation. The downed plane is registered in Naples.



ELECTION RESULTS

There was a dramatic recount for the third seat on the City Council after the election on November 24. The results were:

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Johnnie Potter | 20.39% |
| Tod Johnson | 18.45% |
| Elaine Middelstaedt | 18.12% |
| McBeth Collins | 17.80% |

The difference between the last two candidates was only 0.32% which is less than the 0.50% required. Supervisor of Elections Jennifer Edwards watched over two teams of officials as they examined the ballots. Elaine Middelstaedt was eventually declared the winner by one vote. A total of 129 people voted out of the 308 registered, a turnout of almost 42%.

Councilor Tammy Smallwood thanked outgoing colleagues McBeth Collins and James Landrum for their service over the years.

The next City Council meeting is on **Tuesday, December 1**, at 5:30 p.m.



SHERIFF'S REPORT

In a burglary that took place recently, expensive fishing gear was stolen from a boat moored on the river. Lt. Mark Milligan told the *Rapper* that we should remove temptation by taking rods and electronic equipment home with us and locking them up.

If you see anything suspicious, like the unlit skiff wandering in the canals on Plantation Island at night, please phone the Sheriff at 695-2007.

Jail sentences of 5 years, 8 years, and 10 years have been given to three local offenders for unrelated crimes.



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FEATURE: GLADES DAZE, p.10

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

DECEMBER 2009

| <u>SUN</u> | <u>MON</u> | <u>TUES</u> | <u>WED</u> | <u>THURS</u> | <u>FRI</u> | <u>SAT</u> |
|------------|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| 22 | 23 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm | 24 City Election 7 am – 7 pm | 25 Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am | 26 Thanksgiving | RAPPER 27 | 28 Boat Theft <i>see p.3</i> Pancake Fly-In <i>see p.3</i> |
| 29 | 30 Snook Season Closes Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm 7 pm | DEC 1 BigC ORVs <i>see p.3</i> Congressional Visit <i>see p.3</i> City Council <i>see p.1</i> | full moon ● 2 Ladies Coffee Gator Express 8 am | 3 Great Gators School, 9:30 am Museum Talk <i>see p.9</i> | 4 Santa Deadline <i>see p.11</i> | 5 Art-in-the Glades <i>see p.11</i> Boat Parade <i>see p.11</i> |
| 6 | 7 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God FME Lunch Museum, 11:30 am <i>see p.9</i> | 8 Kids' Clinic <i>see p.11</i> School Early Dismissal | 9 Ladies Coffee Havana Cafe 8 am | 10 | RAPPER 11 Tree Lighting City Hall, 5 pm <i>see p.11</i> BBQ Dinner ECC, <i>see p.11</i> | 12 Kids' Clinic <i>see p.11</i> |
| 13 | 14 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm ESHP mtg City Hall, 9am OFCB Bd Fire Sta, 6 pm Chamber of Commerce Depot, 6:30 pm | 15 Reach Out mtg City Hall, 8:30 am | new moon ○ 16 Ladies Coffee Jan Brock's Home 8 am | 17 SAC School, 3 pm Lions Club Depot, 5:30 pm Copeland Civic 7 pm | 18 Santa at City Hall 3:30 pm | 19 Pancake Fly-In Airport 10 am - noon |
| 20 | 21 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm | 22 | 23 Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am | blue moon ● 24 | RAPPER 25 Christmas | 26 |

Jan 8: Deaconess Feast Day Jan 9: Museum Reception Jan 9/10: Pet Vet Jan 16: Class Reunion

Jan 23: Art-in-the-Glades, Historic Airplanes Fly-In, Pancake Fly-In

Feb 6-8: Seafood Festival Feb 13/14: Collier Seminole BlueGrass Feb 23-26: MSD Festival

THRIFT SHOP: Mon, Wed, 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: 12/8, 12/12, 12/19, 12/22, 12/29, 1/2

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: Fri, 11/27 (10-11 am) Wed, 12/2 (10-11 am) Tues, 12/8 (1-2 pm) Fri, 12/11 (10-11 am)

CITY HALL CLOSED

City Hall will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday on **Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27**. The Everglades branch of the Collier County Public Library will also be closed.

COMMUNITY CHURCH

The Hanging of the Greens for the festive season will take place on **Saturday, November 28**, from 9:00 a.m. to about 11:00 a.m. at Everglades Community Church on the circle.

The first weekly Adult Sunday School starts on **Sunday, November 29**, and is held at 9:45 a.m.

BOAT THEFT WORKSHOP



Come by land or by water to the ORA marina on **Saturday, November 28**, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. to get crime prevention tips and a booklet with identifying photos for your boat and its major equipment at a free CCSO workshop. For info, phone Lt. Mark at 253-5031.

PANCAKE FLY-IN



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



Captain Franklin Adams spoke to a standing-room-only crowd about the history of the Fakahatchee at a meeting hosted by the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation on November 20.

HOLY FAMILY

Holy Family Catholic Church will hold the first mass of the season on **Sunday, November 29**, at 10:30 a.m. Volunteers are needed for the clean-up day on **Saturday, November 29**, at 9:00 a.m. For info, phone Elaine at 695-2879.

BigC ORVs

The Big Cypress ORV Advisory Committee will meet on **Tuesday, December 1**, from 3:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the new Welcome Center on US-41 (just west of the Preserve offices in Ochopee). For info, phone 695-1103.

CONGRESSIONAL VISIT

Monica Aranegui, the District Representative in Collier County at the office of Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart, will meet with constituents in City Hall on **Tuesday, December 1**, at 3:00 p.m. For info, phone 348-1620.

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 11/13/09: Emergency Medical, Port of the Islands
- 11/13/09: Vehicle Accident, Port of the Islands
- 11/14/09: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 11/15/09: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 11/15/09: Fuel Spill, 63mm on I-75
- 11/15/09: Call Box Activation, 70mm on I-75
- 11/17/09: Emergency Medical, Port of the Islands
- 11/17/09: Tree on Fire, Ochopee
- 11/17/09: Vehicle Accident, Copeland
- 11/18/09: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee Island
- 11/18/09: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 11/20/09: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 11/20/09: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 11/20/09: Emergency Medical, US-41 and Birdon Rd
- 11/21/09: Airplane Accident, Everglades City Air Park
- 11/21/09: Vehicle Accident, 55mm on I-75
- 11/24/09: Emergency Medical, Port of the Islands
- 11/24/09: Hand Laceration, Tamiami Trail & Loop Rd
- 11/25/09: Vehicle Accident, 78mm on I-75

JT'S SALE

Get a 40% discount on gifts and artworks at JT's in Chokoloskee from **Wednesday, November 25, through Monday, November 30**. The gallery & gift shop is open for this special event from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For info, phone Rebecca at 695-2630.

BUTCHER GALLERY

Clyde Butcher will be signing books and gifts at the Big Cypress Gallery on **Thanksgiving Friday through Sunday** from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more info, see www.clydebutcher.com.


TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

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

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|-----|---------|------|---|---------|------|---|---------|------|---|---------|-----|---|
| 11/27/2009 | Fri | 05:51AM | 0.4 | L | 11:10AM | 2.3 | H | 05:41PM | 0.7 | L | 10:46PM | 2.7 | H |
| 11/28/2009 | Sat | 06:35AM | 0.2 | L | 12:08PM | 2.4 | H | 06:25PM | 0.7 | L | 11:19PM | 2.9 | H |
| 11/29/2009 | Sun | 07:19AM | -0.1 | L | 12:59PM | 2.5 | H | 07:07PM | 0.8 | L | 11:50PM | 3.0 | H |
| 11/30/2009 | Mon | 08:02AM | -0.2 | L | 01:46PM | 2.5 | H | 07:50PM | 0.8 | L | | | |
| 12/01/2009 | Tue | 12:21AM | 3.2 | H | 08:46AM | -0.4 | L | 02:31PM | 2.5 | H | 08:33PM | 0.8 | L |
| 12/02/2009 | Wed | 12:54AM | 3.3 | H | 09:31AM | -0.5 | L | 03:19PM | 2.5 | H | 09:16PM | 0.8 | L |
| 12/03/2009 | Thu | 01:31AM | 3.4 | H | 10:17AM | -0.5 | L | 04:08PM | 2.5 | H | 10:02PM | 0.8 | L |
| 12/04/2009 | Fri | 02:13AM | 3.4 | H | 11:04AM | -0.5 | L | 05:00PM | 2.5 | H | 10:50PM | 0.8 | L |
| 12/05/2009 | Sat | 03:02AM | 3.3 | H | 11:52AM | -0.4 | L | 05:50PM | 2.5 | H | 11:44PM | 0.8 | L |
| 12/06/2009 | Sun | 04:01AM | 3.0 | H | 12:42PM | -0.3 | L | 06:38PM | 2.5 | H | | | |
| 12/07/2009 | Mon | 12:48AM | 0.7 | L | 05:21AM | 2.7 | H | 01:35PM | -0.1 | L | 07:24PM | 2.5 | H |
| 12/08/2009 | Tue | 02:02AM | 0.6 | L | 06:54AM | 2.5 | H | 02:33PM | 0.2 | L | 08:09PM | 2.5 | H |
| 12/09/2009 | Wed | 03:22AM | 0.5 | L | 08:25AM | 2.3 | H | 03:33PM | 0.4 | L | 08:54PM | 2.6 | H |
| 12/10/2009 | Thu | 04:35AM | 0.3 | L | 10:00AM | 2.2 | H | 04:33PM | 0.6 | L | 09:40PM | 2.7 | H |
| 12/11/2009 | Fri | 05:38AM | 0.1 | L | 11:38AM | 2.2 | H | 05:31PM | 0.7 | L | 10:26PM | 2.8 | 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

Nov 25-27: Thanksgiving break
 Thurs, Dec 3: Great Gators, 9:30 a.m.
 Thurs, Dec 3: Basketball HOME, 5:00 p.m.
 Fri, Dec 4: Basketball HOME, 5:00 p.m.
 Tues, Dec 8: Early Dismissal
 Tues, Dec 8: Basketball HOME, 4:00 p.m.



From Savannah's Eyes

Thanksgiving is a very special time of year for me because every year we go to my Aunt Gee Gee's house and eat a great Thanksgiving dinner. I love how good she can cook food! She cooks us turkey, mashed potatoes, dressing, macaroni, and other great things. I love my Aunt Gee Gee; she is a very special person in my life. One time on Thanksgiving day, Cody, LaShaun and I went swimming in her pool! That is one of the good things about Thanksgiving in Florida.

November 23 was our first basketball game. Both teams played a good game. All of the cheerleaders did great doing all of their cheers. We spent a long time in the girls' locker room getting all pretty. We had sparkles in our hair that shined, and make up on. We all just looked beautiful!

Hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving!

Love, Savannah

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

VOLUNTEERS are needed in the cafeteria and the media center. Phone Mrs Gilmore at the school if you can help.



This photo of the cheerleaders was taken by Rudy Oglesby at the first basketball game on November 23.



BUTTERFLIES FOR REMEMBRANCE

by Trina Mitchell

1,500,000 innocent children were killed during the Holocaust. The Butterfly Project is an effort to always remember these children. The Holocaust Museum in Houston, Texas, is collecting the same number of hand-made butterflies from children today to display in a breathtaking exhibit in 2012.

Mrs Ihle's 7th and 8th graders at Everglades City School have contributed their own hand-made butterflies with a picture of a child killed in the Holocaust. These will go to Houston to be a part of the other 1.5 million butterflies to remember the children.



HONOR ROLL

Elementary: Logan Foss, Madelyn Mitchell

Middle: Jessica Thomas

High School: Karisa Brown, Brianna Daniels, Renee Gonzalez, Meggan Harrington, Leah Minton

FUND RAISER FOR SCHOOL

The Annual Fund Raiser goes until **Monday, November 30**. This year a wonderful Jewelry catalog has been added along with the Christmas paper, CD, magazine, candy, and other gift items.

Each student who sells seven items receives a toy. The top seller receives a \$50 gift card, second place receives a \$35 gift card and third place receives a \$20 gift card. All sales must be turned in by November 30. For info, phone Mrs Snider at 695-2561.

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Recipe for Good Eating

Turkey Hollandaise submitted by Patty Huff



left-over turkey, chopped
sliced baked ham
Holland rusk

fresh mushrooms
butter
Hollandaise sauce

Warm the Holland rusk and ham in oven. Sauté mushrooms in butter. Add turkey and cook until warm. Place mixture on top of rusk and ham, top with warm Hollandaise sauce. Sprinkle with freshly-ground black pepper. Serve with tomato salad.

Note. Toasted bread can be used instead of rusks.

FREE SEMINAR

You can learn about Filing a Small Claim to settle a legal dispute not exceeding \$5000 at a workshop held by the Clerk of the Circuit Court on **Tuesday, December 1**, at 1:00 p.m. at Hodges University in Naples. For info and to register, phone (239) 598-6133.

Angels of the Swamp

by Patricia Huff



During the season when the winter residents come to stay, they contribute more than a boost to our economy. As volunteers, they bring their talent and experience. Two of these special "angels" are the ones who have been providing our children with medical treatment, at no cost. Dr. G. B. Barnard graduated from the University of Tennessee Medical School and completed his residency at the University of South Florida. He has had a private practice for 32 years in DeLand, Florida, caring for children 0-18 years old. He and his wife, Kathy, a recently retired Registered Nurse, have been traveling for several years working in Central America medical missions. They fell in love with the Chokoloskee/Everglades area over 20 years ago when they came to fish. According to these angels, they felt "called by God to open a faith-based free walk-in medical clinic for children here". The Little Gator Clinic, Inc., is a non-profit organization. Anyone interested in donating to its funding may do so through Everglades Community Church. Thank you, Kathy and G.B. Barnard, for your service to our community and for being angels in our swamp. *See the calendar and p.11 for more info.*

HOLIDAY CARDS



Designs by ECity School students were used for the greeting cards on sale to benefit Reach Out, our neighborhood charity. Packs of 6 assorted cards are available at the Thrift Shop (behind the Fire Station), the School, and City Hall. For special orders, phone Marya at 695-2905 or see www.reachouteverglades.org.

WANTED: The Culinary Class at the School would like donations of butter, vegetable oil, flour, sugar, powdered milk, and eggs. Contact Stacia at 695-2561



Fishing Report

by Captain Bill Lindsay

Fishing for snook in November was difficult to say the least. We all had some good days, but there were a lot of days we could not catch a fish in the "slot". As long as it stays warm, snook fishing can only get better. Trout fishing has been very good both in the Gulf and in the backcountry. Bruce Hitchcock caught two dozen nice ones on the islands in the rivers on his last trip. Of course, the season is closed beginning on December 1 so they must be released. On most days, redfish can still be caught on the edge of the Gulf as long as the weather is good. Offshore, fishing has picked up. Captain Don Cochran caught several large cobia on the shallow Gulf wrecks on his last trip. There is a lot of bait in the Gulf and schools of mackerel are feeding on them. Grouper fishing is not great but, if you work at it, you should catch a couple for dinner. While you're out there, look for tripletail, some nice ones were brought in this week.

Capt. Bill Lindsay lives in Chokoloskee and has been fishing in the Everglades National Park for 30 years. In 1992 he was Master Angler of the MET Tournament.

FWC Meeting



The next Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission meeting is on **December 9/10** in Clewiston where issues under consideration will concern hunting & fishing. For info, see www.myfwc.com.

NO MORE SNOOK



Snook season is closed on December 1 until March 1. If you catch one, be sure to handle it carefully and return it to the water.

SAWFISH REPORTS

If you see a sawfish, please report it to:
* Online at: www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/sharks/sawfish
* By phone: (352) 392-2360 or (352) 871-8230
* By email: sawfish@flmnh.ufl.edu
The smalltooth sawfish is a protected species.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP ANIMALS

If you can drive small injured wild animals into the Conservancy in Naples (near Coastland Mall), phone Jessica at 262-2273.



NATIONAL PARK PROJECT

A groundbreaking ceremony for the Tamiami Trail Bridge Project will take place on **Friday, December 4**, at 1:30 p.m. at the S-334/356 structure in Miami-Dade County. The featured speaker is DOI Secretary Ken Salazar. The project includes a one-mile bridge and other roadway modifications that will allow increased water flows to Everglades National Park. This will mark a new beginning for the Park and a major milestone along the journey to restore America's Everglades. For info, phone (305) 242-7714.

FLORIDA FLORA

by Patricia Huff

Mahoe (Hibiscus tiliaceus)

This past weekend my husband and I went to Miami to visit one of our favorite places, Fairchild Tropical Gardens, where one can walk among hundreds of native plants. This weekend they had their annual "Ramble" show that included woodworkers who demonstrated their art of making bowls and other items. One gentleman was working on a piece from the native Mahoe tree. We have many examples of this tree in Everglades City, including two by the fence at the retaining pond near the school. These two trees are about 25 feet high which is the average height for the Mahoe. When they are in bloom, a beautiful five-petaled cupped yellow flower opens in the morning and then turns orange-pink to deep red through the day. The leaves are distinguishable by their heart shape and glossy dark green color. The Mahoe are salt-tolerant and fast growing which is ideal for our Everglades area.



Ms. Dalto, our fourth grade teacher, invited Mr. Garrett Richter, a Florida Senator, to come and speak with the students. He spoke with grades 4, 5, and 6. He discussed his upbringing, work values, Florida law, how laws are made, and the Florida Legislature. He also provided each student with a "Senate Kids Discovering Florida" guide book. The book includes key facts about Florida, symbols, legislative terms, crosswords, mazes, etc. Students were fascinated as he related the creation of a bill to making a sundae where each person changes the bill, or adds a topping to the sundae. Report & photo by Trina Mitchell.



LOCAL HISTORY

by Marya Repko

The “south blocks” are those mysterious tracts north of Port of the Islands, mostly uninhabited, barren, and a bit scary if one wanders out there without a good map.

The area was developed in the 1960s by Gulf American, a property company set up by the Rosen brothers from Baltimore who made their first fortune selling shampoo on television. They came to Florida and developed Cape Coral in the late 1950s. They tried to repeat the exercise in the land east of Naples and Golden Gate City is now thriving. But, converting swampland wilderness into the Estates subdivision was beyond even this fearless team. They destroyed the ecology by leveling the land and draining off the water into the Fakaunion Canal.

Not deterred by that fiasco, Gulf American bought the cut-over logging territory in the Fakahatchee and built two hotels on the Trail, calling the new project Remuda Ranch Grants. Why two? No one seems to know. What we now call Port of the Island south of the Trail had the marina, now owned by Collier County. The mirror-image north hotel had stables and still has a shooting range.

Gulf American was taken over by GAC Properties (no relation despite the similarity in the name) and did no better. The new company was dissolved in 1980.

There are still many private owners of parcels in Fakahatchee State Park which, fortunately, was not drained. An email arrived recently asking if the State were interested in buying the land in the Fakahatchee that the correspondent's mother had bought many years ago and had paid taxes on since.

The “blocks” themselves are now part of Picayune State Forest and being filled in as part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

It remains to be seen how the ecology recovers.

MUSEUM NEWS

The new exhibit at the Museum opening on December 1 will be “Evergladesmen” and an illustrated talk explaining it will be given on **Thursday, December 3**, at 2:00 p.m. by David Southall of Collier County Museum. The public is welcome. For more info, phone 695-0008.



Exhibits in the Pauline Reeves Gallery at the front of the Museum are on display 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.

The Friends of the Museum will hold its Annual Members' Meeting and Luncheon on **Monday, December 7**, at 11:30 a.m. in the Museum. Candidates running for the board are Jimmy Brewer, Helen Bryan, Patty Huff, Hannah Ineson, Virginia Kanning, Barbara Portz, Jane Rackley, Renee Rau, and Vicky Wells. The speaker will be Bob Wells who will talk about “Hermits & Hunters of the Mangrove Country”. For reservations, phone Patty at 695-2397.

The next FME members' outing is a visit to Palm Cottage in Naples to see the holiday decorations on **Wednesday, December 16**. For reservations, phone Patty at 695-2397.



Off-the-Shelf – Book Review

A Brief History of the Fakahatchee

by Marya Repko

Reviewed by Patricia Huff

If you missed the ESHP presentation on November 20 by Marya Repko and Franklin Adams, you will still have an opportunity to learn about this remarkable State Preserve by reading Marya's most recent "Brief History". She takes you back to the early 20th century when farmers and fishermen lived on the islands and rivers. Then, in the 1940's land on the mainland was valuable for its hundreds-of-years old cypress trees which were needed for World War II aircraft carriers, PT-boats and other construction. The logging companies employed workers who had moved to Copeland and Lee Cypress just to work on cutting down the old growth trees. There was a vibrant community, many of them Black families, who lived, played and worked 12 hours a day. Many descendents of these families are still in the area. After the logging, small plots of land were being sold by the Gulf American Corporation as real estate in Florida to people around the world (they were actually purchasing swampland under water). The Fakahatchee was "saved" from further destruction and development by Miami attorney and orchid-lover Mel Finn. He learned about this unique land from Franklin Adams, who came with his brother John and father from Miami to camp and hunt in the Fakahatchee. It was finally in 1974 that Fakahatchee became a State Preserve and a place for all of us to enjoy and cherish. Marya has given us a concise and interesting portrayal of this special place. You may purchase a copy at WinCar, Smallwood Store, Museum of the Everglades, and the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center. There is also a special Holiday package with Jay Staten's DVD *Catching the Fak-a-Habit*. For info, phone Marya at 695-2905 or see www.ecity-publishing.com.

Paws to Reflect

by a Squeedilifferous Pusslet



“Squeedles,” Mom said, “We’re going to have a turkey for Thanksgiving.”

My mouth began to water. There’s nothing we pusslets like better than roast turkey with all the trimmings. I like *my* turkey stuffed with Friskies tuna.

Well, I thought, there’s no reason I can’t make a contribution. All these years and I haven’t provided as much as one little field mouse for Thanksgiving. All week I prowled about the yard, waiting for a wild turkey. Tuesday I had my chance.

Along came this large and stately fowl and began to scratch and peck beneath the hemlocks. I leapt, I pounced, I dispatched him. Nothing to it. I dragged him to the back door and commenced removing his feathers. What a chore!

I hid my kill and waited for Mom to return. What a surprise when I showed her I had provided Thanksgiving dinner!

When Mom returned she was in a hurry. The phone was ringing in the kitchen. In a moment she came outside.

“Squeedles,” said Mom, “Mr. Invidious says he’s missing his peacock. You haven’t seen it, have you?”

“Peacock?” I said.

“Squeedles!” said Mom. “What are these blue feathers all over the yard?!”

Constant Waterman emailed: *Squeedler says she dint reely harm that peacock none. all them blue feathers she jus bought down at Cindy's Emporium to kinda like spruce up the yard a bit. we ain't got no spruces - only hemlocks.*

Pusslet lives in Connecticut and is assisted by “Constant Waterman” whose book about boating is available for sale around town.



ECity School principal Bobby Jones joined students for the experience of driving in a vehicle that simulates impairment with slow reactions. The program was provided by CCSO.



Glades Daze

by Bob Stumpf

Having flown over many times, but not actually visited the Everglades, perhaps the best introduction for me was to just get down into it. Literally.

So that’s what we did last Thursday on a swampwalk in the Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve, organized by Patty Huff. Seven of us met at the Ranger Station and drove from there several miles into the Fakahatchee on a dirt road with bald cypress forest on either side. A short hike from the staging area brought us to the jumping in point where we simply scurried down the road embankment into waste-deep clear brown water under a canopy of cypress, royal palms, hardwoods, vines and bromeliads.

Our Florida Ranger, Terrance, led us into this otherworldly environment following a trail of small pieces of blue tape spaced at intervals so that at least one would be visible at all times. Otherwise, navigation would have been difficult without a good compass and paying close attention. As we made our way further into the swamp, it was apparent that the water surrounding us was moving at a steady pace, inexorably southward towards the sea. All of the cypress trees in this area were less than eighty years old as the old growth forest had been harvested during World War II for aircraft carrier decks and minesweeper hulls. That the forest had recovered to such a great extent in a relatively short time was really astonishing.

Terrance expertly described the various flora specimens as we waded, assisted by his able apprentice, Laura, who brought up the rear of our column. He gently assuaged any concerns we may have had about the swamp’s large predators; snakes including water moccasins, boa constrictors and anacondas, not to mention alligators. We observed eight of the forty species of orchids in the Fakahatchee and learned that orchids make up ten percent of all plant species on Earth. Often we looked high into the canopy for various species of cascading bromeliads. Sunlight was highly filtered and barely reached the waters’ surface.

After an hour or more we had circled back and arrived at the road where we climbed out and shook the water out of our shoes and had a much greater appreciation for the treasure of the greater Everglades ecosystem.

Bob Stumpf came from Pensacola to visit local FME members when he joined in this adventure. Our thanks to him for his report.

Note. You can sign up for a swampwalk conducted by the Friends of Fakahatchee by phoning 695-1023.

RESTAURANT NEWS



- Backcountry Cafe (695-2552):**
6:00 am - 3:00 pm.; daily
- Camellia Street Grill (695-2003):**
12 noon – 8:00 pm; Mon – Sat
12 noon – 5:00 pm; Sun
- City Seafood (695-4700):**
11:00 am - 6:00 pm; daily
Fish Market also open
- Everglades Seafood Depot (695-0075):**
10:30 am - 9:00 pm; daily
Seafood Buffet, 4:00-9:00 pm; Thurs
- Everglades Scoop (695-0375):**
11:00 am – 5:00 pm; daily
- Gator Express (695-3937):**
6:30 am - 8 pm; Mon, Tues
6:30 am - 9 pm; Wed, Thurs, Sun
6:30 am - 10 pm; Fri, Sat
- Glades Haven Deli (695-2746):**
6:00 am - 9:00 pm; daily
Food service stops 1 hr before close
- Grimm's Stone Crab (695-3222):**
8:00 am – 6:00 pm; Mon - Sat
Fish market (grouper/pompano)
- Havana Cafe (695-2214):**
8:00 am – 3:00 pm; daily
5:00 – 9:00 pm; Fri, Sat
- Ivey House (695-3299):**
6:30 – 9:30 am; daily
Cold breakfast buffet
- Joanie's Blue Crab Cafe (695-2682):**
11:00 am - 7:00 pm; Thurs - Sun
- JT's Cafe & Gallery (695-2630):**
gallery & gift shop open
- Leebo's Rock-Bottom Bar:**
3:00 pm; Mon - Sat
noon; Sunday
live music every Sat at 8:00 pm
- Oyster House Restaurant (695-2073):**
11:00 am – 9:00 pm; Sun-Thurs
11:00 am – 10:00 pm; Fri, Sat
- 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-Mon (takeout)
- Rod & Gun (695-2101):**
7:00 - 10 am Breakfast; daily
11:30 am - 9:00 pm; daily
- Susie's Station:**
11:00 am - 5:00 pm; daily
- Triad Seafood (695-0722):**
10:30 am – 3:00 pm; daily
Fish Market also open

Little Gator Clinic



The free walk-in clinic for youngsters 18 and under is located next to the Thrift Shop (behind the fire station). It will be open on Tuesday, December 8, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 12, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. There are no drugs at the clinic but prescriptions can be written.

The clinic does not treat pregnant girls or give vaccinations. Spanish speakers should bring a translator, if possible. Everyone is welcome. There are no qualifying criteria and the clinic is free, thanks to Dr & Kathy Barnard.

MOBILE PET VET



Dr Baker will be here on Saturday, January 9, 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, January 10 by previous appointment only. Phone her at 777-PETS (7387). For info, see www.naplesmobilepetvet.com.

GREEN LODGING

The annual Green Lodging & Hospitality Conference will be held in Orlando on **December 9-11**. For more info, see www.greenlodgingconference.com.

TREE LIGHTING



The annual lighting of the Christmas tree in front of City Hall will take place on **Friday, December 11**, at 5:00 p.m. Kiddies are asked to bring a decoration to place on the tree. There will be cookies and hot cocoa. For info, phone 695-2397.

BBQ DINNER

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Everglades Community Church is holding a Bar-B-Q Pork Dinner on **Friday, December 11**, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for under 10-years-old, and are available from Lisa at City Hall.

POLITICS



If you are interested in the redistricting of Florida, see www.fairdistrictsflorida.org to read their proposed amendments and sign a petition.



OBITUARY

Everett Reeves, 74, died unexpectedly on November 19 at home in Lehigh Acres. He and his late wife Pauline operated the Everglades Supermarket during the 1980s and 1990s. Among the survivors is daughter Tina Collins. This photo was taken in the Museum on October 9, 2005, when he donated a picture of Pauline.

HELP SANTA!



Make sure you let Santa know what the kiddies want for Christmas by filling in the form at City Hall by **Friday, December 4**.

Santa would also be glad to receive donations of money towards his work. Contact Lisa at City Hall, 695-3781.

ART IN THE GLADES

Do your holiday shopping without hassle and support local vendors at Art-in-the-Glades on **Saturday, December 5**, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in McLeod Park. There will be live music, food for sale, and interesting items to buy as gifts or for yourself.

Vendors are welcome to set up their own tables. There is no charge. For info, phone Marya at 695-2905.

BOAT PARADE



Boats decorated for the holiday season will make a procession up the river and under the bridge to the Seafood Depot on **Saturday, December 5**. They will meet at 6:00 p.m. opposite Outward Bound and motor gently up the Barron River, under the SR-29 bridge, and down to the Depot where the Cabana Bar will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more info, phone Debbie at 695-2429.

SNOOK CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE: House and Barn on 1.02 Acres. Zoned (A). Sale price \$139,000 (\$59,000 below appraised value). Owner Financing. For 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.

HOME for SALE by Owner: Beautiful sunset views on the River, 2 bedrooms and 2 baths, Wrap around porch, 2-1/2 car garage, \$495,000. For info, call (239) 571-5929.

FOR SALE: Two deeded waterfront homes for the price of one. Located on quiet canal with direct gulf access in Everglades City. 2 bed, 2 bath. Dock & Lift for each home. \$598,000 for both or \$299,000 each. (Owner licensed realtor) Call 239-229-8682.

FOR SALE: Ceiling Fan with light, Stained glass ceiling light fixture, Small speakers, Tape player. FREE: Ceiling fixture, Bathroom vent with light. Call 695-2244.

FOR RENT: 2-3 bedroom, 1 bath in Everglades City, \$950/month plus utilities, dock available for extra fee. Call (239) 961-3986.

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



Congratulations to Chokoloskee Church of God Youth Group who won 3rd place at the Florida Youth Leadership Association games with a total of 11 awards.

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The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

PUBLISHER

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PRODUCTION

layout: Marya Repko, printing: Snook Publications

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

We aim to provide local news of interest to the extended community of Everglades City, Chokoloskee, Plantation Island, Lee Cypress, Copeland, Jerome, and Ochopee.

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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

25¢ per issue or \$38 per year by US Post

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