

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

JANUARY 22 – FEBRUARY 4, 2010

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume IV • Issue #99



Fishing News

According to the Fish and Wildlife Commission, effective January 16, no person may harvest or possess snook in state and federal waters off Florida until September. There is also a temporary prohibition on the harvest and possession of bonefish and tarpon from state and federal waters off Florida through March 31.

Anglers may still catch and release these species during these temporary closures, and the FWC encourages everyone to treat these fish carefully to help ensure their survival upon release. Information regarding the proper handling and release of fish is available at www.catchandrelease.org.

More information regarding the snook, bonefish and tarpon and the collection and disposal of dead fish killed by cold weather, is available at www.MyFWC.com.

See Glades Daze and the VIP Report on page 8 for more fishing news.

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Yes, we had frost on January 11. The temperature in ECity was down to 28°F early in the morning.



Grass and plants in the area are brown from the very cold weather.

REACH OUT ELECTS OFFICERS

At the meeting on January 19 the following officers were elected:

- Carol Foss, President
- Helen Bryan, Vice-President
- Annie Mitchell, Secretary
- Elaine Middelstaedt, Treasurer

Other directors are Fran Tift and Jean Schultz plus City Clerk Dottie Joiner, ECity School Principal Bobby Jones, and CCSO Lt. Mark Milligan.

Our neighborhood charity operates the Thrift Shop, helps people in need, and runs a free summer camp for kiddies. For info, call 695-2277.



SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

The Betterment Association is in the final weeks of preparation for our famous annual festival and have announced some of the performers:

- Confederate Railroad
- John Anderson
- Joey Allcorn
- Parker Oglesby

Crafts booths can get their space assignments at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, February 5, and should be set up by 5:00 p.m. that evening.

As usual, Friday night is family night and the rides will all be humming with excited youngsters.

The Festival opens at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday and at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday. The Community Church on the Circle is serving breakfast on Saturday morning from 7:00 a.m. and will have live music. The Church is also offering handicap parking in their lot.

The Festival Edition of the *Rapper* will be available at the Museum.

See you there ...



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
17	<u>MLK Day</u> 18 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm	19 Reach Out mtg City Hall, 8:30 am	20 Ladies Coffee Gator Express 8 am	21 SAC School, 3 pm Lions Club Depot, 5:30 pm Copeland Civic 7 pm	<u>RAPPER</u> 22	23 Kids' Clinic <i>see p.11</i> Fly-In <i>see p.3</i> Art-in-Glades <i>see p.3</i>
24 Music Festival 1 st Baptist, 6 pm <i>see p.3</i>	25 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm 7 pm	26	27 Ladies Coffee Mary Ford's Home 8 am	28	29 School Homecoming <i>see p.3</i>	full moon ● 30 Kids' Clinic <i>see p.11</i> Swamp Buggy Races <i>see p.11</i>
31 Poker Run <i>see p.11</i> Swamp Buggy Races <i>see p.11</i>	FEB 1 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God	2 BigC ORVs <i>see p.8</i> Congressional Visit Coletta Visit City Council City Hall, 5:30 pm <i>see p.3</i>	3 Ladies Coffee Havana Cafe 8 am FME mtg 10:30 am <i>see p.9</i>	4 Great Gators School, 9:30 am	<u>RAPPER</u> 5	6 <u>SEAFOOD FESTIVAL</u> <i>see p.1</i>
7 <u>SEAFOOD FESTIVAL</u> <i>see p.1</i>	8 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 am ESHM mtg City Hall, 9am OFCB Bd Fire Sta, 6 pm	9 School Early Dismissal	10 Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am	11	12	13 Blue Grass Festival <i>see p.11</i> Muck-About <i>see p.11</i>
new moon ○ 14 Blue Grass Festival <i>see p.11</i> Muck-About <i>see p.11</i>	15 <u>Presidents' Day</u> Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 am	16	17 <u>Ash Wednesday</u> Ladies Coffee TBA 8 am	18	<u>RAPPER</u> 19	20 Pet Vet Kids' Clinic Yard Sale <i>see p.11</i>

Feb 21: Pet Vet Feb 23-26: MSD Festival Feb 27: ORA Bazaar, Airport Fly-in, Medicine Cabinet, Fakahatchee Safari
 Mar 13: Everglades Homes Tour Mar 15-20: Panther Week Mar 20: Art-in-the-Glades, ROGG bike ride Mar 21: FOF picnic

THRIFT SHOP: daily except Sunday; 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; 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
 FOOD PANTRY: Sat; 8:30 to 10:30 am, Community Church ALCOHOLICS ANON: Wed; 5:30 pm & Sat; noon, Comm Church
 SHAMROCK BANK: Tues, Thurs; 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. LITTLE GATOR CLINIC: 1/23, 1/30, 2/20, 2/27

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: see notice outside workstation

Antique Air Aficionados



PANCAKE FLY-IN

Join us on **Saturday, January 23**, for a nostalgia trip at the Everglades Airpark from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Everyone is invited for a free pancake breakfast, thanks to Wings 10,000 Islands Aero Tours, and a chance to win 10lbs of stone crab claws, courtesy of Triad Seafood. For info, phone Mike at 695-2244.

ART IN THE GLADES



Our informal arts & crafts sale will take place on **Saturday, January 23**, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in McLeod Park. There will be live music, hotdogs for sale at lunch time, and a bake sale to benefit Copeland Baptist Church. For info, phone Marya at 695-2905.

MUSIC FESTIVAL

Everglades First Baptist Church is holding a Music Festival with local performers on **Sunday, January 24**, at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

HOMECOMING



The Alumni basketball game and Homecoming festivities will take place in the School on **Friday, January 29**, at 7:00 p.m.



Mike Danosky and Pete Rinkevich volunteer every Friday morning at 8:00 a.m. to help with the trash pick-up along CR29 for ESHP. Wednesday Ladies' Coffee also has a designated section. Everyone is invited (men and women) to help.

CONGRESSIONAL VISIT

Monica Aranegui, District Representative for Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart, will meet with constituents in City Hall on **Tuesday, February 2**, at 3:00 p.m. For info, phone 348-1620.

COLETTA VISIT

Collier County Commissioner Jim Coletta will be at City Hall on **Tuesday, February 2**, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.. For info, phone 252-8097.

CITY COUNCIL

The next City Council meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 2**, at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall. Everyone is welcome.

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 01/07/10: Vehicle Accident, Janes Scenic Drive
- 01/08/10: Vehicle Accident, 57mm on I-75
- 01/09/10: Vehicle Accident, SR 29 and Tamiami Trail East
- 01/10/10: Vehicle Accident, 58mm on I-75
- 01/10/10: Power Line Down, Chokoloskee Island
- 01/10/10: Unknown Medical Problem, Plantation Island
- 01/12/10: Vehicle Accident, 78mm on I-75
- 01/14/10: Emergency Medical, Port of the Islands
- 01/15/10: Brush Fire, 77mm on I-75
- 01/16/10: Fire Alarm, Everglades City
- 01/16/10: Emergency Medical, 63mm on I-75
- 01/16/10: Vehicle Fire, 77mm on I-75
- 01/16/10: Vehicle Accident, 51mm on I-75
- 01/17/10: Vehicle Accident, Oasis Ranger Station
- 01/17/10: Sick Person, Everglades City
- 01/18/10: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 01/18/10: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 01/18/10: Vehicle Accident, 80mm on I-75

BANK IN CITY HALL



If you weren't here last spring, you might not know that there is a branch of the Shamrock Bank in City Hall. It is open on Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. All services are offered, from checking accounts to CDs, and it is insured by the FDIC. Stop in for a chat.

LARGE TRASH

Before you put out televisions, fridges, washing machines, and other large trash please phone 252-2380.



MORE News & Events on page 11.


TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

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

01/22/2010	Fri	02:08AM	0.2	L	07:08AM	1.7	H	01:03PM	0.5	L	06:42PM	2.4	H
01/23/2010	Sat	03:20AM	0.2	L	08:43AM	1.5	H	01:28PM	0.6	L	07:20PM	2.5	H
01/24/2010	Sun	04:31AM	0.0	L	10:29AM	1.6	H	02:09PM	0.8	L	08:20PM	2.5	H
01/25/2010	Mon	05:35AM	-0.2	L	12:07PM	1.7	H	04:51PM	0.8	L	09:43PM	2.5	H
01/26/2010	Tue	06:32AM	-0.3	L	01:00PM	1.9	H	06:09PM	0.8	L	10:57PM	2.7	H
01/27/2010	Wed	07:25AM	-0.5	L	01:36PM	2.1	H	07:11PM	0.7	L	11:57PM	2.9	H
01/28/2010	Thu	08:14AM	-0.6	L	02:08PM	2.2	H	08:05PM	0.6	L			
01/29/2010	Fri	12:49AM	3.1	H	09:00AM	-0.6	L	02:40PM	2.3	H	08:56PM	0.4	L
01/30/2010	Sat	01:40AM	3.2	H	09:44AM	-0.6	L	03:12PM	2.4	H	09:45PM	0.3	L
01/31/2010	Sun	02:30AM	3.1	H	10:26AM	-0.5	L	03:45PM	2.5	H	10:34PM	0.1	L
02/01/2010	Mon	03:23AM	2.9	H	11:07AM	-0.4	L	04:19PM	2.5	H	11:24PM	0.0	L
02/02/2010	Tue	04:19AM	2.6	H	11:47AM	-0.1	L	04:54PM	2.6	H			
02/03/2010	Wed	12:16AM	-0.1	L	05:21AM	2.4	H	12:27PM	0.1	L	05:32PM	2.6	H
02/04/2010	Thu	01:15AM	-0.1	L	06:30AM	2.0	H	01:08PM	0.4	L	06:14PM	2.5	H
02/05/2010	Fri	02:21AM	-0.1	L	07:49AM	1.7	H	01:54PM	0.6	L	07:04PM	2.5	H

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SCHOOL NEWS

Everglades City School

phone: 377-9800 or 695-2561

website: www.collier.k12.fl.us/evg

IMPORTANT DATES

Thurs, Jan 21: SAC, 3:00 pm
 Thurs, Jan 21: Basketball HOME, 5:00 pm
 Fri, Jan 22: Basketball HOME, 5:00 pm
 Tues, Jan 26: Report Cards
 Fri, Jan 29: Basketball HOMECOMING, 7:00 pm



From Savannah's Eyes

I had a good weekend this last Saturday because the cheerleaders had a bake sale by Circle K. We were all dressed in our cheerleading uniforms. We sold beaded necklaces, sweets and also tee shirts. And everyone that stopped by was so nice and gave us a lot of donations. We almost made \$300.00! It started at 10:00 a.m. and ended at 2:00 p.m. The cheerleaders had so much fun! We are thinking of doing another bake sale Saturday the 23rd.

We want to thank everyone who donated money to the cheerleaders because all the money is going to the homecoming dance that we are having after homecoming! The theme for the homecoming dance is called "A Night In Hollywood." The colors are going to be black, silver, and a little bit of red. 6th grade and up to 12th grade are invited and they are allowed to bring one friend with them. Homecoming is on the 29th of January which is this month and it is very close too! For homecoming the cheerleaders are doing a huge dance routine and it is going to be one of the best dance routines in Everglades City School ever!! I hope everyone comes to see us cheer because we have worked soooo hard on our routines and we want to make it very special for our school. We know you will love it so please come and also please come to our bake sale this Saturday – you will enjoy our goodies!!

Loving Life and Being Happy,
 Cheerleader for life, Savannah♥

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



Grade 5 & 6: Dalton Stokes, Alex Thompson, Brandon Steffen

GREAT GATORS, December 2009



Pre-K: River Brown, Addy Martinez-Valdes, Madison Forbes



K: Paris Humphreys, Morgan Herrin, Faith Brown



Grade 1 & 2: Destany Vanleeuwen, Alexis Rain, Savannah Weeks



Grade 3: Cameron Foss, Hailey Fogle, Brandon Beaty



Grade 4: Haleigh Ellington, Emily Brown, Scout Morris

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Recipe for Good Eating

Minestrone

Marcella Hazan, submitted by Mary Morris



- | | |
|---|--|
| 8 Tbs. Olive Oil | 5 Tbs. Butter |
| 2 or 3 Large Onions, sliced | 2 Stalks Celery, diced |
| 2 Carrots, quartered and sliced | 2 Zucchini, quartered and sliced |
| 1 8 oz Potato, cubed to 1 inch or so | 8 oz Green Beans, sliced to about 1 inch |
| 8 oz Cabbage, preferably Savoy, chopped | 4 or 5 Cloves Garlic, sliced thinly |
| 8 oz Canned Tomatoes, chopped | |
| 2 quarts Beef or Chicken Broth (or more, if needed) | |
| 19 oz can Cannellini Beans, drained and rinsed | Grated Parmesan Cheese |

Heat olive oil and butter in a large, heavy-bottom pot over medium-high heat. Add onions; cook for three minutes, stirring occasionally. Add celery; cook for three minutes. Continue adding vegetables and cooking for three minutes after each addition. Cook for six minutes after adding cabbage and garlic. Add tomatoes and broth (enough to cover by about 1 inch). Season with salt and pepper. Bring to boil, then simmer, covered, for 2 to 2½ hours, stirring occasionally. Soup should be thick, but if it is too thick, add water, not more broth.

Add beans in last 15 minutes of cooking. Adjust seasoning. Serve with plenty of grated Parmesan cheese. Serves 6. This soup is particularly delicious the day after preparation!

Angel of the Swamp

by Chris Ammerman



This special angel and her family have been a blessing to us for many years. She daily looks to the needs of others and tries to find ways to help. In the earlier years of Reach Out, when we started having a booth at the Seafood Festival, she was there to help in anyway she could. She and her family ran our parking lot fund raiser at the Festival every year. They worked countless hours at our booths at all functions we took part in. She has most recently been a main stay of the Community Food Pantry. She spends hours every week stocking the food shelves, bagging up and delivering to shut-ins along with Jimmy Brewer. She will meet any need that we ask of her. Although she works a full time job at the Naples Hospital scheduling day surgery patients, she uses this to our advantage by making herself available for various needs. From picking up prescriptions, food, and people to helping move furniture; no request is turned down if she hears of the need.

Over the years Karen Grayla has helped every organization needing her. At the Community Church she and her family jump in to help in many ways, from decorating for Christmas to helping us with fund raisers. During this last cold front Karen could be found working with Helen Bryan delivering to Copeland people the warm clothes and blankets donated by the Knights of Columbus. Karen does many things that are just done quietly without request; just seeing a need and filling it for people without thought to recognition. It's really the opposite for Karen; it's all about her service to God and how she believes that this is what we are here to do – care for one another. Karen is also one of those rare parents who is teaching her children the art of giving back as well as paying forward. Karen along with her husband Mike encourage their kids to join them in their community service; you will often see them together working on a project. Our community would be blessed if we had more "Karens" out there, just quietly filling the needs. There are many memories of times with Karen and the family working with us on various things. We appreciate her and all she does.

MEDS DISPOSAL

You can dispose of bottles and pills in a special "Prescription Drop Off Box" box located in the first floor main lobby at CCSO Headquarters, Building J, 3301 Tamiami Trail East, East Naples, on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Photographer Angie Chestnut took this dramatic photo early in the morning along the Tamiami Trail. For more of her work, see www.GladesPix.com.

Glades Daze

by Steve Huff

My friend, Bill Lindsay, stopped by the other day and he called it "the perfect storm." What he meant was that it could not have been a more devastating sequence of weather events to contribute to a massive fish kill.

First a week of extreme cold. Water temperature changes much slower than air temperature. Water in the 60-degree range would scarcely be affected by one night in the low 30's. But, after a week in the 30's, the water was already precariously close to being lethal. Then, the bomb went off. Air temperature in the high 20-degree range reinforced with 30 mph winds, resulting in water temperatures in the low to mid 40's. Snook cease to function at 52 degrees water temperature. Tarpon have about the same tolerance. Although fish kills of these two species are not unusual every decade or so, they are usually specific to some smaller areas near shallow water where the fish cannot get out quickly enough. This kill was not specific to any one area. It was all-encompassing. In my 64 years of living and fishing in South Florida, I have never seen a mass extermination like this. Rather than name all the fish species that were affected, it is easier to name the few that survived. Redfish, black drum, trout and sheepshead must be very hardy as they are still functioning. Everything else from snook to sawfish, tarpon to tadpoles, went through the nuclear winter. Time will measure the extent of this tragic event. We will have to stay healthy and keep casting. This event, although very serious to the sports-fishermen of South Florida, somehow seems a trifle insignificant with the events of Haiti. Try to keep it in the proper perspective.

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 e-mail: sawfish@flmnh.ufl.edu

The smalltooth sawfish is a protected species.



VIP Report

Frozen Fish

by Shirley Leonard



And we thought last winter was a cold one! There were some frigid mornings but nothing like the recent cold snap. Nearly two weeks of overnight low temperatures in the 30s caused massive fish kills as well as the deaths of many manatees. The size of the fish kill has triggered changes in state fishing regulations. These changes also apply in federal waters.

Because the cold spell killed so many fish, three species' seasons are temporarily closed to help in their recovery. These include:

1. Tarpon closed until March 31st.
2. Bonefish closed until March 31st.
3. Snook closed until August 31st.

Taking of dead fish is allowed until February 1st. No saltwater license is required for taking dead fish. Size, season and bag limits for all dead saltwater fish of all species have been removed. Collection methods now allow collection by hand and use of legal cast nets.

Anyone taking dead fish should:

1. Not sell, trade, barter or consume such fish.
2. Immediately dispose of them in compliance with local safety, health and sanitation requirements. Local boards of health should be consulted.
3. Take only fish killed due to prolonged exposure to cold weather.

For information, contact Florida Fish and Wildlife, 561-357-4202.

Driving along Wagon Wheel Road recently, large numbers of dead fresh water fish were observed including catfish, Oscars, sun fish and bass.

Oscars are considered an exotic tropical fish which means only that they aren't native to these waters. They compete with native species for food, and some exotic species become truly invasive due to their rapid reproduction cycles and other factors. Cold snaps can help rid the waters of exotics.

Size, season and bag limits for freshly caught fish vary significantly from species to species. State and National Park fishing regulations are available in the Gulf Coast Visitor Center.

Shirley Leonard is a member of the "Volunteer in Parks" program during the winter season. She was a journalist in Quincy, Massachusetts, on The Patriot Ledger for over 20 years and is a regular contributor to the Rapper.

BIG CYPRESS ORV MEETING

Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Committee will meet on **Tuesday, February 2**, at the new Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center, 33000 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee, from 3:30 to 8:00 p.m.

For more info, phone 695-1107 or visit the preserve's website www.nps.gov/bicy/parkmgmt where you can see the agenda and past minutes or submit items for discussion at future meetings.

LOCAL HISTORY



ECity Airpark in 1947 at opening of Everglades National Park, photo courtesy of Florida State Archives.

X01 – ECITY AIRPORT

Everglades Airpark started life as a landing strip for the Collier brothers, sons of county and city founder Barron Collier. The boys flew in from Palm Beach to attend business meetings after WWII.

The first airport manager was Albin Gerish whose wife Gretchen was the registered nurse attached to the little Juliet Carnes Collier hospital (5 beds) next to the Rod & Gun. Son Albin (recently deceased) remembered helping as a youngster to mow the grass landing strip. You can read his memoirs at www.ahippystale.com.

After the Collier interests shifted to Naples in the mid-1950s, the airport was leased to the City. In 1961 permission to land was granted by the FAA who agreed in 1964 to provide funds for a mile-long runway. In 1968 the County agreed to buy the land and improve the runway, lighting, and fencing. The runway was extended from 1800 to 2400 feet in 1969.

Major work to “transform that landing strip into an airport” was undertaken in 1994 and the new airport building, hangars and sheriff’s dwelling were opened in 1996. Funding for the development came from the State, the County and the National Park.

Hurricane Wilma in 2005 damaged the hangars but the construction of new ones is almost complete.

See page 3 for the *Antique Air Aficionados Pancake Fly-In*.

WANTED

The Culinary Class at the School would like donations of butter, vegetable oil, flour, sugar, powdered milk, chocolate chips, and peanut butter. The Yearbook Class needs re-chargeable AA batteries. Contact Stacia at 695-2561

MUSEUM NEWS

Don't miss the free poetry reading on **Tuesday, February 2**, at noon in the Museum. Karla Linn Merrifield is a Pushcart Prize Nominee and the 2009 Everglades National Park Artist-in-Residence. The Friends will serve a complimentary light lunch.

The “Artist-of-the-Month” for February in the Pauline Reeves Gallery will be Jeff Ripple whose Everglades photographs are famous. During Seafood Festival, the Museum will have live music by Tom, Tina, and US Express.

The next FME Board meeting is at 10:30 a.m. on **Wednesday, February 3**. All members are invited to attend. If you would like to join the Friends of the Museum, stop by and complete an application form or visit website www.evergladesmuseum.org.

The Marjory Stoneman Douglas Festival will take place from **Tuesday, February 23**, through **Friday, February 26**. The program is now available at the Museum. Stop by for a copy or phone Martha at 695-0008 for reservations and more information.



Off the Shelf – Book Review

“A Guide to Native Wildflowers of Southwest Florida”

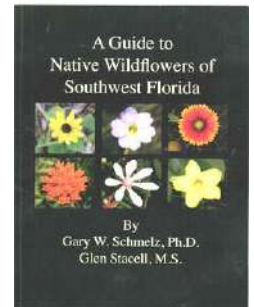
by Gary W. Schmelz and Glen Stacell

reviewed by Patty Huff

If a picture speaks a thousand words, then this book would say volumes about our native wildflowers. This is the second edition written by Dr. Schmelz who currently serves as President of Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum and Glen Stacell who sits on the board of the Friends of the Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve.

In this edition they have included wildflowers in 10 South Florida counties, not just Collier County. The photographs are beautifully presented and the book includes maps in the back with a complete list of Southwest Florida Parks & Preserves as well as Collier County Parks and Preserves.

Anyone interested in learning more about our native wildflowers will enjoy this book which also comes with a CD. It will be available at the Chamber of Commerce Welcome Center and can be ordered by mail at www.fwfonline.org (click on Shop).



Paws to Reflect

by a Squeedilifferous Pusslet



Today we're taking down the Christmas tree. First, Mom has to remove all the decorations that I haven't been able to reach these past three weeks. I mean, taking down the decorations is what Christmas is all about for this pusslet. It's an ongoing project. I especially liked the little birds that Mom hung up, but most of them were too high in the tree for me to get at. This spruce is really prickly, and most difficult to climb. I never got more than half way up before my long, silky hair snagged in the branches. One night it took me an hour to extricate myself, and Dad couldn't understand how I'd gotten so disheveled. He had to spend most of an hour brushing me. By the time he finished, I was fast asleep in his lap. The little balls I knocked off the tree made admirable soccer balls. Pye and I had many a game while Mom and Dad were in bed trying to ignore us. In the past two weeks I've outscored Pye one hundred forty-nine to ninety-seven. It's been nearly as much fun as a rousing game of mouse hockey.

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



FLORIDA FLORA

by Patricia Huff

Our Florida Flora has gone through a traumatic change the past few weeks with the cold weather. Now that we are seeing warmer temperatures and can get outside to enjoy our South Florida winter, we are beginning to see the effects. The coconut palms, along with the seagrape and the smaller native bushes, seem to have been hit the hardest, at least in our Everglades City area. Brown leaves and fronds that are usually bright green at this time of year look completely dead. Only time, water, and our warm weather will tell if they survive and come back.

On a lighter note, my husband, a friend from Washington State, and I went bicycling up SR-29 and Janes Scenic Drive this past weekend. It was awash with bright autumn-like colors. With the nice cool wind, it felt more like Tennessee than South Florida. The Drive was covered with the fallen leaves from the red maples and golden cypress trees. It was a wonderful ride and felt so good to enjoy the 65 to 70 degree weather again!

Gardening Tip

Even if the leaves do look sad and brown, don't pull out your normally-hardy plants ... nature has a wonderful way of recovering. The frost probably wasn't deep enough to destroy the roots and the warm weather should encourage new growth.



Miccosukee Plans in BigC



The Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida has recently completed a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the expansion of three tribal member camps in Big Cypress National Preserve. The Owen Billie, Joe Jimmie, and Rainey Jim camps are located off U.S. 41 and are proposed to be expanded to accommodate a new home and septic system at each camp. The expansion would result in the filling of 1.49 acres of wetlands, for which the Tribe would compensate by restoring 2.7 acres of previously filled wetlands elsewhere in the Preserve.

The environmental effects of this alternative, along with the no-action alternative, are analyzed in the EA.

Public comments are welcome through **February 27**. For info see www.parkplanning.nps.gov, select "Big Cypress NPres", and click on "Expand Three Miccosukee Camps".

HOUSEHOLD TIP

by Marya Repko

During the cold weather, I've been filling up my hot water bottle to take to bed. Go on, laugh! It really does work. After I very carefully pour in the boiling water, I wrap it up in an old hand towel. Then I wrap my nightgown around it and shove it in the bed. When I change, my "nighty" is warm and so is the bed. The HWB goes down near my feet until I feel toasty and then at my back to ease away the cares of the day.

A simple solution to comfort in the cold – I don't have to worry about being zapped by an electric blanket or getting too hot in the night. And, the doggie gets a bit of extra warmth in his cocoon between the duvet and blanket.

By the way, even in warm weather a hot water bottle does soothe tired, achy muscles.

HELPING HAITI

We received this email from Kris Mol:

I spoke with Ralph and Barb Peters who travel to Haiti at least once a year to provide medical and other aid. They said people can help by donating to the Haiti Medical Mission. One hundred percent of donations go to the people in Haiti. Besides medical care they have provided food, installed 4 clean water wells, assisted with the construction of buildings including medical clinic, school, and housing. Our mission team consisting of several doctors and nurses is still planning on traveling to Haiti possibly in April. Donations may be made to: Haiti Medical Mission, c/o Ralph and Barb Peters, P.O. Box 725, Chokoloskee, FL 34138



Thanks to Helen Bryan for this photo of Haitian women washing their clothes in the gutter in 1981.

RESTAURANT NEWS



- Backcountry Cafe (695-2552):**
6:00 am - 3:00 pm.; daily
- Camellia Street Grill (695-2003):**
12 noon – 8:00 pm; Sun – Thurs
12 noon – 9:00 pm; Fri, Sat
- City Seafood (695-4700):**
10:00 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 - 9 pm; Sun - Thurs
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
Hot breakfast buffet
- Joanie's Blue Crab Cafe (695-2682):**
10:00 am - 5:00 pm; Thurs - Mon
- 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
- 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 (695-2580):**
11:00 am - 5:00 pm; daily
- Triad Seafood (695-0722):**
10:30 am – 5:00 pm; daily
Fish Market also open

Gator Express is now operating as a Subway restaurant for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. They told the *Rapper* that the new ice machine outside will be working on January 29.



SWAMP BUGGY RACES

The Winter Classic takes place on **Sunday, January 31**, after qualifying time trials on **Saturday, January 30**. This is a fun family event at the Sports Park (south of CR-951) where the amazing machines roar through the mucky water. For more info and advance tickets, see www.swampbuggy.com.

POKER RUN

The Friends of the Florida Panther Refuge are having a Panther Prowl Poker Run on **Sunday, January 31**, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. One of the stops is the Iron Rhino. The bikes will also be at the Panther Refuge northwest of I-75 Exit 80. For more info or to participate, contact Lisa at (239) 642-5472.

BLUE GRASS FESTIVAL

“Jammin’ in the Hammock” is the name of the Blue Grass Festival that will be held at Collier Seminole State Park on the weekend of **February 13/14**. The *Rapper* will have more info in our next issue.

MUCK-ABOUT

Clyde & Niki Butcher are holding their winter “Muck About” featuring swamp walks on the weekend of **February 13/14**. For more info, see www.clydebutcher.com or phone 695-2428.

YARD SALE

First Baptist Church is holding a Yard Sale on **Saturday, February 20**, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For info, phone Sue at 695-4273.

SAFARI

The Friends of Fakahatchee are presenting an afternoon of activities on **Saturday, February 27**. For info, see their website www.friendsoffakahatchee.org.

OBITUARIES

Two old-timers with long Everglades links, sisters **Sarah Rindy** and **Louise Jinkins**, passed away recently. They were daughters of Charles H. Collier, a cousin of Barron Collier, who eventually operated an insurance agency in the 1950s from the building that is now the Museum. The girls had moved with their parents from Richmond, VA, in 1926 and went to Everglades City School.

Sarah, 91, graduated from nursing school in Memphis, TN, and then became a homemaker after marrying Donald Rindy who predeceased her. She passed away on January 6.

Louise, 92, worked for the Collier companies. She faithfully attended Everglades Community Church and sang in the choir, driving from Naples for practice and services when she was in her 80s. She said in her older years that she did not sleep much and woke up around 2:30 a.m. each night.

Louise passed away on January 18 and services will be held on January 23 at Fuller Funeral Home, Pine Ridge Road in Naples, at 3:00 p.m. Donations can be made in her name to the Everglades Community Church, P.O. Box 177, Everglades City, FL, 34139. There are guestbooks at www.naplesnews.com and www.fullerfuneralhome.com.

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 every **Saturday** in January 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. There are no qualifying criteria and the clinic is free, thanks to Dr GB & Kathy Barnard.

MOBILE
PET VET

Dr Baker will be here on **Saturday, February 20**, 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, February 21**, by previous appointment only. Phone her at 777-PETS (7387). For more info, see www.naplesmobilepetvet.com.

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, \$459,000. 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: 5-vinyl fence panels, 37" high by 92" long. Paid \$230; Asking \$100. Phone 695-1559.

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

JOBS VACANT

WANTED: Sales staff for gift shop in ECity. For info, phone 695-2758



Our "copy cat" is patiently waiting for her supper as the *Rapper* gets some final corrections. You can read about her mischievous northern cousin in "Paws to Reflect" on page 9.

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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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