

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

FEBRUARY 5 - 18, 2010

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume IV • Issue #100



The early bird catches the sunrise which can be spectacular in January.



The line-up of entertainment on the Big Stage in front of City Hall is:

SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
10:15	Opening Ceremony		
11:15	Parker Oglesby	11:00	Opening Ceremony
12:00	Blackwater	12:00	Parker Oglesby
1:15	Swamp Buggy Girls	1:00	Alcorn
1:45	Mitch & the Boys	2:30	Blackwater
3:00	Down South Rockers	4:00	Confederate Railroad
4:30	Blackwater		
6:00	John Anderson		



As usual, Friday night is family night with local performers.

The Community Church on the Circle is serving breakfast on Saturday morning from 7:00 a.m. and will have live music.

Reach Out, our neighborhood charity, will be selling their delicious chocolate-covered frozen "key-lime-pies-on-a-stick".

The Museum of the Everglades will be open all weekend with blue grass group Tom, Tina, and US Express playing inside both days.

Non-Profit Parking during Seafood Festival

Handicap Parking: Everglades Community Church Parking Lot on the Circle, no charge.

Holy Family Catholic Church Parking Lot, enter via Datura Street, \$4/car.

Lions Club Parking for RV's in lots behind Museum; contact Lee Marteeny at 695-9119 for information and reservations.

Church of God Youth Group and Lions Club Parking in the lots behind Jim Landrum's Fisherman's Supplies, South Buckner Ave.

SEE PAGE 11 FOR CHURCH SERVICES ON FESTIVAL SUNDAY

The MULLET RAPPER

EVERGLADES AREA LOCAL NEWS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2006

SCENIC HIGHWAY?

by Mary Kipke
The South Highway department for most of 1954. (Tentative) will use the route as an international site at the Cuban County Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting on Friday, October 27.

Twenty individuals addressed the MPO which had been set up a recommendation to the Florida Department of Transportation to designate the "Tentative Trail" as a Scenic Highway. The MPO members intend to 50 individuals who came to speak against or in favor of the designation. Six of the 50 individuals requested that the MPO add a provision to the routing study to that year's meeting to request designations, generally known as scenic. They were about the features or aspects that they believe a scenic highway designation should have. Those individuals recognize that the Tentative Trail is a road that has been



KIDS CAN PLAY AGAIN

New equipment is being installed at the playground at Lakeland Park and should be ready by the end of the year. Also, notice that new male rest on the grounds at the playground.
Lakeland Park was restored after District Manager who saw Mayor of the town and City from 1925 until 1959. Equipment was originally installed by the City when the Park opened in 1959.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

by Mary Kipke
City Hall is being restored on grounds that the Mayor hopes it will be ready to open for the children's Christmas party.

It is reported in the City Council meeting on October 2 that 1954 will soon be ready to open for the children's Christmas party. The Mayor also reported that a new road will be built on the grounds at Lakeland Park and the playground is being restored.

This is our 100TH issue! The *Rapper* was first published on October 20 in 2006 after the *Everglades Echo* closed. Visit our website (click on Back Issues) to see how we've grown because of the support of our subscribers, advertisers, and the public who faithfully put a quarter in the bucket every two weeks.

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FEATURE: "TAXING STUFF", p.9

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

FEBRUARY 2010

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
<p>31</p> <p>Poker Run Swamp Buggy Races</p>	<p>FEB 1</p> <p>Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>BigC ORVs Congressional Visit Coletta Visit City Council City Hall, 5:30 pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Ladies Coffee Havana Cafe 8 am</p> <p>FME mtg 10:30 am</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Great Gators School, 9:30 am</p>	<p><u>RAPPER 5</u></p>	<p>6</p> <p><u>SEAFOOD FESTIVAL</u> <i>see p.1</i></p>
<p>7</p> <p><u>SEAFOOD FESTIVAL</u> <i>see p.1</i></p>	<p>8</p> <p>Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm</p> <p>ESHP mtg <i>see p.9</i></p> <p>OFCB Bd Fire Sta, 6 pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>School Early Dismissal</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Blue Grass Festival <i>see p.3</i></p> <p>Muck-About <i>see p.3</i></p>
<p>new moon ○ 14</p> <p><u>Valentines Day</u></p> <p>Blue Grass Festival <i>see p.3</i></p> <p>Muck-About <i>see p.3</i></p>	<p>15</p> <p><u>Presidents' Day</u></p> <p>Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Reach Out mtg City Hall, 8:30 am</p> <p>Congressional Visit</p> <p>Coletta Visit City Council City Hall, 5:30 pm <i>see p.3</i></p>	<p>17</p> <p><u>Ash Wednesday</u></p> <p>Ladies Coffee Linda Williams' Home 8 am</p> <p>Book Group <i>see p.3</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p>SAC School, 3 pm</p> <p>Lions Club Depot, 5:30 pm</p> <p>Copeland Civic 7 pm</p>	<p><u>RAPPER 19</u></p>	<p>20</p> <p>Pet Vet <i>see p.11</i></p> <p>Kids' Clinic <i>see p.11</i></p> <p>Yard Sale <i>see p.3</i></p>
<p>21</p> <p>Pet Vet <i>see p.11</i></p>	<p>22</p> <p>Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>MSD Festival <i>see p.9</i></p>	<p>24</p> <p>Ladies Coffee Ruth Hefflefinger's Home 8 am</p> <p>MSD Festival <i>see p.9</i></p>	<p>25</p> <p>MSD Festival <i>see p.9</i></p>	<p>26</p> <p>MSD Festival <i>see p.9</i></p>	<p>27</p> <p>Kids' Clinic Fly-In ORA Bazaar Medicine Cabinet SAFARI Wild Hog BBQ</p>
<p>full moon ● 28</p>	<p>MAR 1</p> <p>Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Ladies Coffee Havana Cafe 8 am</p> <p>FME mtg Museum, 9 am</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Great Gators School, 9:30 am</p>	<p><u>RAPPER 5</u></p>	<p>6</p>

Mar 13: Everglades Homes Tour Mar 15-20: Panther Week Mar 20: Art-in-the-Glades, ROGG bike ride, BigC Opening
Apr 4: Easter Sunday Apr 24: Museum Birthday

THRIFT SHOP: daily except Sunday; 11:00 am to 3:00 pm
MUSEUM: Tues-Fri; 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sat; 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
FOOD PANTRY: Sat; 8:30 to 10:30 am, Community Church
SHAMROCK BANK: Tues, Thurs; 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

SKATING RINK: Fri & Sat; 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.
SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily; 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
ALCOHOLICS ANON: Wed; 5:30 pm & Sat; noon, Comm Church
LITTLE GATOR CLINIC: 2/20, 2/27

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: see notice outside workstation

BLUE GRASS FESTIVAL



There will be "Jammin' in the Hammock" at the Blue Grass Festival on the weekend of **February 13/14** in Collier Seminole State Park, only 15 miles up the road from us on US-41 (Tamiami Trail) on the way to Naples. The event is from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and tickets are \$15 per person.

Besides great music from the stage, there will be crafts and food booths. This is a fun family event with no pets and no alcohol. You are advised to bring folding chairs. For info, phone **239-394-3397**.

"MUCK-ABOUT"

Clyde & Niki Butcher are holding their winter "Muck About" featuring swamp walks on the weekend of **February 13/14**. Their traditional Labor Day event was such a success, they are now sharing the experience of walking in the swamp with seasonal visitors. Phone 695-2428 or see www.clydebutcher.com.

BOOK GROUP

Author Carlene A. Thissen will meet with the Port of The Islands Book Group on **Wednesday, February 17**, to discuss *Called From Silence: The Father Sanders Novel*, published in 2009. She is also the author of *Immokalee; Fields of Hope* which she wrote after working with migrant children.

The meeting is at 11:00 a.m. in the Port of The Islands Hotel. Guests are welcome!



There was plenty of activity at our casual **Art-in-the-Glades** sale on **January 23**. Thanks to all the participants and visitors. And, a big thanks to the musicians organized by **Snooker Joe Stem**. The next arts & crafts sale will be on **March 20**. There is no charge for vendors who should bring their own tables & chairs. For info, phone **Marya at 695-2905**.

CONGRESSIONAL VISIT

Monica Aranegui, District Representative for Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart, will meet with constituents in City Hall on **Tuesday, February 16**, 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 16**, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.. For info, phone 252-8097.

CITY COUNCIL

The City Council meeting scheduled for February 2 has been postponed to **Tuesday, February 16**, at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall. Everyone is welcome.

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 01/20/10: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee Island
- 01/20/10: Vehicle Accident, 70mm on I-75
- 01/22/10: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 01/23/10: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 01/24/10: Vehicle Accident, Ochopee
- 01/26/10: Vehicle Accident, 74mm on I-75
- 01/26/10: Semi Truck Accident With Fire, 62mm on I-75
- 01/26/10: Brush Fire, 62mm on I-75
- 01/26/10: Brush Fire, SR-29 and US-41
- 01/27/10: Vehicle Accident, 52mm on I-75
- 01/27/10: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 01/28/10: Emergency Medical, Collier Seminole State Park
- 01/29/10: Emergency Medical, Tamiami Trail and Union Road
- 01/30/10: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee Island
- 01/30/10: Emergency Medical, 52mm on I-75
- 02/03/10: Emergency Medical, Port of the Islands Fire Station
- 02/03/10: Emergency Medical, Everglades City Fire Station

YARD SALE

Everglades First Baptist Church opposite the school is holding a Yard Sale on **Saturday, February 20**, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will also be hotdogs and baked goods for sale. For info, phone Sue at 695-4273.



LADIES' COFFEE

An informal group meets every Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. at local restaurants or at ladies' homes. See the calendar for venues.



All ladies are welcome to just turn up for a good chat and a cuppa.


TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

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

02/05/2010	Fri	02:21AM	-0.1	L	07:49AM	1.7	H	01:54PM	0.6	L	07:04PM	2.5	H
02/06/2010	Sat	03:35AM	-0.1	L	09:49AM	1.5	H	03:03PM	0.7	L	08:06PM	2.5	H
02/07/2010	Sun	04:49AM	-0.1	L	01:09PM	1.7	H	04:31PM	0.8	L	09:22PM	2.4	H
02/08/2010	Mon	05:55AM	-0.1	L	01:49PM	1.8	H	05:47PM	0.8	L	10:36PM	2.5	H
02/09/2010	Tue	06:50AM	-0.2	L	02:16PM	1.9	H	06:48PM	0.7	L	11:36PM	2.5	H
02/10/2010	Wed	07:37AM	-0.2	L	02:24PM	1.9	H	07:37PM	0.6	L			
02/11/2010	Thu	12:23AM	2.5	H	08:17AM	-0.2	L	02:12PM	2.0	H	08:18PM	0.6	L
02/12/2010	Fri	01:02AM	2.6	H	08:53AM	-0.3	L	02:19PM	2.1	H	08:54PM	0.5	L
02/13/2010	Sat	01:38AM	2.6	H	09:26AM	-0.2	L	02:39PM	2.2	H	09:28PM	0.4	L
02/14/2010	Sun	02:11AM	2.6	H	09:56AM	-0.2	L	03:03PM	2.3	H	10:02PM	0.3	L
02/15/2010	Mon	02:45AM	2.5	H	10:25AM	-0.1	L	03:28PM	2.4	H	10:36PM	0.2	L
02/16/2010	Tue	03:20AM	2.5	H	10:52AM	0.0	L	03:52PM	2.5	H	11:11PM	0.1	L
02/17/2010	Wed	03:57AM	2.3	H	11:16AM	0.1	L	04:14PM	2.5	H	11:50PM	0.1	L
02/18/2010	Thu	04:40AM	2.1	H	11:37AM	0.3	L	04:32PM	2.5	H			
02/19/2010	Fri	12:35AM	0.1	L	05:34AM	1.9	H	11:56AM	0.4	L	04:54PM	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

Feb 9-11: FCAT Writing
 Tues, Feb 9: Early Dismissal
 Mon, Feb 15: Presidents' Day
 Thurs, Feb 18: SAC, 3:00 p.m.



From Savannah's Eyes

Well, cheerleading is over and now I can relax at home with my parents for a while. Homecoming was awesome: all of the girls were gorgeous, while all of the guys were handsome. The Alumni cheerleaders (older cheerleaders from Everglades City school) did really great doing stunts and cheers; they were so cool! And the dance routine that the cheerleaders did was so awesome!! Everyone loved it!! I had so much fun doing the routine because it was so cool and unique!! And the basketball players were good too.

After Homecoming the cheerleaders set up a school dance at Seafood Depot called "A Night in Hollywood" which was so much fun! I had the best time of my life!! My friends Kristin and Houston came over to get dressed. and then my date Alex arrived and he got me a corsage with white orchids in it! We took a few pictures together then we went to the dance. When we got to the dance we had to walk the red carpet and get our picture taken then went inside. Music was playing and everyone was dancing on the dance floor. We danced sometimes to slow songs like "One Less Lonely Girl" by Justin Beiber but mostly to fast songs like "Crank That" by Soulja Boy, "Poker Face" by Lady Gaga, and "Down" by Jay Sean.

And, the DJ that worked the music was awesome!! They took requests to any songs. I danced with my friends all night!! Also all of the cheerleaders congratulated our coach Nanette and our co-coach Cortney! We all told them how much we appreciate them because we could not have done the dance or the routine with out them! And the parents that helped us too. The cheerleaders want to thank everyone who gave us a donation or helped us out in any way; we all appreciated it a lot! I hope everyone had a great homecoming, and congratulations Kimberly Brown and Peyton Beebe for getting homecoming Queen and Princess!

Can't wait till the seafood festival,
 Love, Savannah♥

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



"Hollywood Nights" Dance

Hosted by Everglades City Cheerleaders

I would like to thank all of the businesses and individuals for their donations and support. It is deeply appreciated and means a lot to the cheerleaders and the children of their community.

Also, our cheerleaders need to be thanked for their dedication and hard work, all the hours of practicing and fund raisers. Their names are Kimberly Brown Mitchell, Meggan Harrington, Kendyl Smallwood, Paige Robinson Kee, Savannah Oglesby, Savannah Humphreys, Ana Roldan, and Tawny Wood.

A big thanks go out to Nanette and Quortni Watson for their hard work and dedication in coaching and taking the time with our girls.

Thanks again to all,
 Jean Robinson



To celebrate Homecoming on January 29, the school held Spirit Week. Seen above are "Nerd Day" on Thursday and "Mix & Match Day" on Tuesday. The rest of the week had "Sports Day", "Camo/Military Day", and "Blue & White Day". Thanks to Trina Mitchell for report and photos.

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

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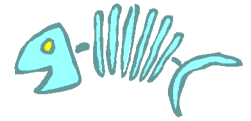
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Recipe for Good Eating



Bill Butler's Fish Spread

submitted by Adela Padron-Butler

- | | |
|---|---|
| *Fish, deboned and filleted | 2 tsp Everglades Seasoning |
| 1 med. onion | 2 cloves garlic |
| 1/2 tsp crushed red pepper | 1 small tub garlic whipped cream cheese |
| 1/2 tsp black pepper | 1 whole squeezed lime |
| mayonnaise to consistency (softer - more / firmer - less) | |
| Tabasco sauce (optional) | |

Season fish of choice with Everglades Seasoning and cook in a covered gas or charcoal grill for about 15 minutes. It is best to place fish on a sheet of aluminum foil. Do not over-cook. Mince onion and garlic and combine with the rest of ingredients. Mash cooked fish and add to onion and cheese mix. Spatula mix for a chunkier result or use a food processor for a smoother spread. A splash of purified water may be needed to help with texture. Tabasco sauce to taste is optional. Serve with favorite crackers. May be used as sandwich spread. Enjoy.

*Preferred fish: Crevalle Jack, Spanish mackerel, redfish, bluefish, mullet or a combo of these

This recipe can be found in What's Cookin' in the Everglades the cookbook issued by Reach Out Everglades & COPS Assn, Inc., our neighborhood charity. It is available for sale at various locations around town and at Reach Out's Booth at the Seafood Festival.

Paws to Reflect

by a Squeediliferous Pusslet



Yesterday was chilly enough to make this pusslet put on her scarf and mittens. It was six degrees when I first went out, with a nose chill factor of nearly fourteen below. At least the moon was full. I could see a doe on the hill out back, stripping buds for her breakfast. I made my contribution to the garden, then came inside and got friendly with the wood stove. After I bit Dad on the leg he remembered to fill my bowl. Breakfast is important when you have to squat in the snow. Yesterday, Mom's sister and her daughter came for a visit and brought this animal with them. It was scarcely as large as I am, but it smelled just awful and chased me up the stairs. I passed through the railing up in the loft and ran out onto one of the beams above the living room. Fortunately, it didn't follow. It stuck its head through the balusters and wagged it's tail and yipped. I never heard anything like it. I don't what this world's coming to. And just when I thought that global warming was plenty to worry about ...

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

ELECTRICITY COOP CELEBRATES 70TH BIRTHDAY

Our power supplier, Lee County Electric, was founded in 1940 in North Fort Myers as a cooperative and spread its service to Pine Island, Sanibel, and Captiva within a year.

Immokalee asked to be electrified before World War II but, because of shortage of materials, power lines did not reach the ranching town until 1946.

By 1951, Chokoloskee was connected and in 1953 the Everglades City Power Plant was acquired. This was the facility that Collier established to charge up his streetcar and light the globe lamp posts which still illuminate our roads. Marco Island got connected to the grid after that.

Congratulations to LCEC, its elected Board of Directors, and all the staff who keep us up & running despite thunder storms and hurricanes.



Fishing Report

by Captain Bill Lindsay

Snook Fishing remains closed until further notice. The arctic blast that hit us killed thousands and nobody knows how soon they will recover. The good news is that several people have caught and released some nice ones. On my last trip, I spotted several schools of snook. I couldn't get them to take my jig but they looked fine as they headed for deep water. Redfish are making up for the poor snook fishing. I've caught several slot size fish and saw plenty more. Trout fishing has remained good and they can be caught on the grass flats and in the deep holes in the rivers. Sheepshead fishing has been very productive and are very good eating. Black drum fishing is excellent and aren't bad on the dinner table in a pinch. Remember, water levels can be extra low when northeast winds blow hard for a few days; if you don't know the area well, stay in the deep channels. We have a lot of boat traffic at this time of year so be careful of boats coming around blind corners and slow down for canoes and kayaks.

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.

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.



BOAT RAMP OPEN

The boat ramp on CR-951, just east of the Jolley bridge from Marco Island, will open on February 5 after being enlarged and improved by the County. The launch fee is \$5 per day or \$75 for an annual permit for non-commercial boaters.

POND CLOSED WHILE BIRDS BRED

Paurotis Pond in Everglades National Park is closed for the nesting season from January until as late as May, depending on the behavior of the rare birds, particularly the endangered Wood Stork. The NPS reports that this is a good location for bird watching from the parking lot.

FWC NEWS

The Fish & Wildlife Commission has extended the period to the end of February when dead saltwater fish may be legally disposed of. Fish killed by the cold weather may be taken out of the water but not eaten or sold. A fishing license is not necessary.



Shallow-water grouper season is closed for sports fishing during the months of February and March in Gulf waters except for Monroe County during the spawning season.

See www.myfwc.com for more news.

VIP Report

A Daring Duo

by Shirley Leonard



Florida residents Claudet Benton and Dale Samler, long time visitors to Everglades National Park, spent New Year's week camping in the Ten Thousand Islands portion of the park. I'm recounting it here to give others an idea of what to expect paddling and camping in the Ten Thousand Islands.

They departed in a canoe from the Visitor Center's ramp on December 29. Their itinerary included stays at Sweetwater Chickee, Watson's Place, Darwin's Place, Pavilion Key, Rabbit Key and Jewel Key. They obtained the necessary permit at the Visitor Center before launching. They returned January 5.

The two women encountered many other paddlers and campers in their weeklong undertaking. The Ten Thousand Islands part of the national park was a very busy place that week. The day after Christmas the park's visitor's center issued float plans and camping permits to over 300 people.

One day near sunset they observed "three pilot whale fins silhouetted about 50 feet away, a totally enchanting sight," Samler wrote in an account of the trip. They also met paddlers who had sighted a white-crowned pigeon, a Caribbean bird found within the United States only in the Keys and southern Florida. Its numbers have been declining across its Caribbean range due to loss of habitat and other factors. In Florida it is considered a threatened species.

The biggest challenge of the trip proved to be bad weather. They encountered high winds and temperatures in the 30s. Having visited the area off and on since 1978, their experience served them well. "We knew that Darwin's Place was the best place to sit out bad weather," Benton wrote in an account of the trip. Even experienced campers can make mistakes, however. Tackling the keys on the Gulf side at the end of their trip was one of theirs. "The big thing we learned this trip was to take the Gulf-side of our trip at the beginning, when the forecast is most reliable," according to Samler. "If the forecast is for bad weather at the start, keep the entire trip inland. This year's 10-day forecast was useless after 3 days."

Knowing how and what to pack for a trip is essential. Samler and Benton "carry a personal locator beacon, flares and have been trained in First Aid and CPR," Benton said. When Benton became wet and very cold after falling in about six inches of water, Samler recognized the early stage of hypothermia and knew how to combat it. "Thank goodness Dale was able to minister to my near hypothermic condition and set up a sketchy camp alone," Benton said.

Samler and Benton, in their 60s and 70s, have been camping and paddling since they belonged to Girl Scouts as children. Samler's advice: If a person wants to make the kinds of adventures we have had, it isn't necessary to start in your teens, but it would be wise to start at a nearby state park ... ask your local Red Cross, Coast Guard and "Y" about small-boat handling classes ... (and) join a local group that goes canoeing at least once each month and learn how to paddle efficiently."

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.



LOCAL HISTORY

The Antique Air Aficionados Fly-In on January 23 was a huge success with crowds of spectators wolfing down pancakes & sausages – except that early fog discouraged planes from flying in. Thanks from the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation to Chuck Gretzke of Wings 10,000 Islands Aero Tours who provided the breakfast (in photo above) and to Triad Seafood Market & Cafe for donating 5lbs of stone crab claws as a raffle prize.

ESHP Nominations

The next meeting of the ESHP Board will be on **Monday, February 9**, at 9:00 a.m. in City Hall. That day is also the deadline for nominations to be handed in for the election of Board members. For info, phone Marya at 695-2905.

RARE GLIMPSE INTO HOMES

ESHP is organizing an Everglades Homes Tour on **Saturday, March 13**, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.



Headquarters on the day are the famous Rod & Gun Lodge where there will be artists & authors selling their works. Visitors can also see the inside of five private homes, some over 75 years old, and three other establishments.

Ticket booklets are for sale at \$20 in City Hall or can be bought with a credit card at www.evergladeshistorical.org. For info, phone 695-4642 or 695-0202.

ANTIQUES IN MUSEUM

Antiques Road Show will hold an Appraisal Faire at the new Marco Island Museum (next to the library) on **Saturday, February 6**, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Marco Island Historical Society who raised funds to build the new building.

MSD Festival

The Marjory Stoneman Douglas Festival is just around the corner and it's time to make your reservations now for the opening presentation on **Tuesday, February 23**. Dr. Laura Ogden will be talking about "Everglades Culture and History" followed by a luncheon and fashion show.

The packed program for the rest of the week includes walks, talks, films, a photo workshop with Rick Cruz, and Otter John with his wild animal show. For a schedule, stop by the Museum, see www.evergladesmuseum.org or phone 695-0008. Reservations are required for some of the activities so don't delay.



MUSEUM NEWS

The "Artist-of-the-Month" for February in the Pauline Reeves Gallery is Jeff Ripple whose Everglades photographs are famous. The Museum is open 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.

During Seafood Festival, the Museum will have live music by Tom, Tina, and US Express and will be open on Sunday as well as Saturday. The Friends will have tents outside with their merchandise and membership forms.

The next FME Board meeting is at 9:00 a.m. on **Wednesday, March 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.

TAXING STUFF

by Mike the Tax Guy

Part of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is the *Making Work Pay credit*. This credit reduces 2009 taxes up to \$400 for individuals and \$800 for couples filing a joint return. Most of us have already received this credit in the form of reduced withholdings on our paychecks. For those receiving Social Security benefits the credit should have automatically been issued as part of your Social Security payment and it is deductible against your entitlement. For example, if you qualify for a making work pay credit of \$800 but already received an economic recovery payment of \$250, your credit would be \$550 (\$800-\$250). You can verify the amount on the IRS website at irs.gov.

Refund choices: this year you can choose to receive your refund in the form of Series-I US Savings bonds. You must select amounts in \$50 increments up to \$5000. For example if your refund is \$480 you can request that \$450 be used to purchase a bond and that the remaining balance (\$30) be deposited in your checking or savings account. The IRS will mail the bonds and you will need to file Form 8888 to designate where to deposit the balance of your refund.

Rental Rules: do you rent out property seasonally in Everglades City? Well, the Collier County Tax Collector advises that it is the responsibility of owners and rental agents to collect a tourist tax on all accommodations that are rented for six months or less. Collier County Ordinance 2005-43 levies a 4% percent Tourist Development Tax on all rental income received from accommodations rented for six months or less.

These include living quarters in hotels; apartment-hotels; motels; resort motels; rooming houses; tourist or trailer camps; cooperatively owned apartments; multiple-unit structures; mobile homes; trailers; single-family dwellings; beach houses; cottages; and condominiums. In addition to this "Bed Tax" the State of Florida levies a 6% Sales Tax on this income. Contact them at (239) 434-4858 for details.



FLORIDA FLORA

Florida Privet (*Forestiera segregata*)

by Patricia Huff

This native shrub is found throughout coastal Florida, the Caribbean and Central America. It is very hearty being both drought and salt-tolerant. The shrub grows to approximately 10 to 15 feet and the oval leaves are a glossy dark green with lighter green underneath. The tiny yellowish-green flowers bloom in clusters in the Spring. Birds are attracted to the black fruit which is olive-like in shape. We have two of these Florida privet shrubs in our yard growing wild among other plants.



Photo thanks to FOF member Subrata Basu.

Glades Daze

by Marya Repko

I was out in a National Park tour boat on Sunday when we spotted a dolphin. The captain whirled the boat around in an invitation to frolic in the wake but, unusually, the smiling creatures ignored us. It's breeding season and they were more interested in cavorting with each other than with mere motorized humans.

It was cold and damp that day, quite different from the previous Thursday when I went out in perfect sunshine with a friend in a smaller boat. But, we didn't see any dolphins. Perhaps they know the sound of the National Park tour boats and treat them like old play-mates?

Fakahatchee Discovery Series

Exciting Events from the Friends of Fakahatchee

The SAFARI

The first signature SAFARI in the Fakahatchee will have plenty for people to do: swamp walks, birding walks, photo workshops, tram rides, exhibits, a guest appearance by Clyde Butcher, and optional swamp buggy rides. And, to end it all on a high note – a Cracker Dinner with complimentary wine-tasting thanks to Redwood Creek.

The cost is only \$125 per person, some of which is considered a tax-deductible donation to Friends of Fakahatchee who help our www.friendsoffakahatchee.org. For info, phone (239) 695-2905.

60TH WILD HOG BBQ

The Everglades Conservation & Sportsman's Club started a tradition in 1950 when the first Wild Hog BBQ was held to raise funds in the fight against tick eradication. Thousands of deer were being slaughtered under the direction of the state to stop ticks from infecting cattle. It was eventually proved that deer were not the only carriers and the massacre stopped.

The event this year is on **Saturday, February 27**, at the clubhouse on Loop Road. Gates open at 11:00 a.m. and tickets are \$20 each. See www.wildhogbbq.org or phone 786-390-0009.

BIKE RIDE



The Everglades Bicycle Ride is coming back to Everglades City on Saturday, March 20. We are announcing it early since you'll receive a discount if you sign up in advance. The ride this year will be offered to all ages (children must be accompanied by a parent or adult).

There will be a 16-mile ride along the bike path on SR-29 to the Welcome Center at US-41, then returning to Chokoloskee and back to McLeod Park in Everglades City. Additional rides for bicyclists riding 8, 23, 50, 62 or 82 miles will also be offered. All rides will start in the center of Everglades City at the Park. Extras: continental breakfast, rest stops along the route, SAG vehicle support, maps and lunch will be provided.

This annual ride is sponsored by the Naples Pathways Coalition with proceeds benefiting the River of Grass Greenway (ROGG) and Reach Out Everglades & COPS Association, Inc, our neighborhood charity. To register and for more information (even if you'd just like to volunteer at the event), contact Patty Huff at 695-2397 or see www.evergladesrogg.org and click on Everglades Ride.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY



The new slogan from this volunteer group is "A library card is what the library does for you. The Friends are what you do for the library." The organization contributes to the ten Collier County Public Libraries by purchasing books and organizing events.

Members receive advance ticket information and savings at the popular Nick Linn Lecture Series which is hosting bestselling author James Patterson on **February 15**. For info, phone 262-8135 or see their website www.collier-friends.org.

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 (695-2091):**
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
"mike night" Wed
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

Leebo's has introduced "mike night" on Wednesday when everyone is invited to bring an instrument or borrow a guitar.

Church Schedules

Seafood Festival Weekend



Everglades First Baptist Church,
Datura St and School Drive, 695-3871
Sunday School (all ages), 9:45 am
Sunday Worship, 11 am
Sunday Evening Service 6 pm

Copeland Baptist Church,
908 Church St, Copeland, 695-2900
Sunday School, 10 am
Sunday Worship, 11 am
Sunday Women's Bible Study, 6 pm
Sunday Evening Service, 7 pm

Everglades Community Church,
on the Circle, 695-4787
Saturday, 7 am Breakfast; cookie sale
Sunday Service, 9 am

Chokoloskee Church of God,
Mamie St, Chokoloskee, 695-4437
Sunday School, 10 am (all ages)
Sunday Worship, 11 am
Sunday Evening Service, 6:30 pm

Holy Family Catholic Church,
Datura Street, 695-2110
Sunday Mass, 8:30 and 10:30 am

First Assembly Ministries,
1125 Chokoloskee Dr, 659-2646
Sunday Bayside Worship, 10:30 am

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 **Saturday, February 20 and 27**, 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.



Congratulations to Homecoming Queen Kimberly Brown and Princess Peyton Beebe. Read all about it in Savannah's column on page 5. *With thanks to Rudy Oglesby for this photo.*

Income Tax
New Rules for 2009 Income



Mike the Tax Guy
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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.

HOUSE FOR SALE BY OWNER: Waterfront 2/2 home on Dupont with boat lift and floating dock. Well constructed home built to last. Priced to sell at \$595,000. Visit www.h4sale.com for details, and/or call (239) 588-0560.

**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

FULL-TIME hotel maintenance person with pool qualifications. Position opens for training in April. Please leave your resume at the Captain's Table Hotel office or fax it to 239-695-2697 or email it to info@captainstablehotel.com. For info, phone hotel at 695-4211.

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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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website: www.evergladeschamber.com

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