

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

MARCH 5 - 18, 2010

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume IV • Issue #102



Farewell to a Friend

Keith Hyry, 69, passed away suddenly at his home in The Villages, south of Ocala, on March 1. He and his wife Darlene also owned a condo at Lake Placid, Everglades City which they called their home for many years.

Keith was an enthusiastic hunter & fisherman and had enjoyed the rural life here for over 20 years. He organized the Wild Turkey Federation Banquet each year.

This photo was taken in February last year after he won a raffle at the Museum.

A celebration of his life in Everglades City will be announced after the summer.

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

by Marya Repko

At a brief meeting on March 2, Mayor Sammy Hamilton said that he always likes to bring us good news and is hopeful of grant money to fix our streets and for other projects. A large generator for the water plant will be installed this month to keep the water flowing when the electricity fails and a completely new water system using reverse osmosis is part of a 5-year plan he is negotiating with the South Florida Water Management District.

After the routine motion to renew annual dock leases was passed, the Mayor told the *Rapper* that anyone wanting to repair a dock should get a permit from the City but there was no reason why fish-cleaning stations and benches could not be replaced now.

The next Council meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 6.**

SHERIFF'S REPORT

by Lisa Marteeny

Operation Medicine Cabinet here in Everglades City on February 27 resulted in almost four pounds of outdated and unwanted drugs being taken out of homes and off the streets of our City. Pounding rain and blowing winds didn't deter Deputy Sue Gentry and her fellow CCSO deputies; when rain and wind forced them from the front steps of City Hall, they 'set up shop' in her vehicle and ran the remainder of the program out of her car.

The very first Operation Medicine Cabinet event held here in Everglades City net the program only 8 bottles of pills. So, the collection of 3.8 pounds of unwanted medication is cause for much celebration! That's 3.8 pounds of drugs that will be disposed of safely - pills that won't make their way into our waterways, into our fish population, and into the hands of our children.

To Chief Salley also present for the event, to Deputy Sue Gentry and her fellow officers, Sgt John Wargo, Cpl Barry Anderson, Cpl George Cahill & Cpl Dan Hernandez, thank you for a job well done!

CONTENTS

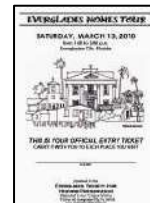
Calendar	p. 2	VIP Report	p. 8
Tides	p. 3	Fishing	p. 9
Events	p. 3	Museum	p. 9
School	p. 5	Local History	p.19
Recipe	p. 7	Airport News	p.10
Paws	p. 7	Restaurants	p.11

FEATURE: "TAXING THINGS", p.9

EVERGLADES HOMES TOUR

If you've ever wondered what some of the lovingly-restored older houses look like inside, here's a chance to explore them. ESHP is organizing an Everglades Homes Tour on **Saturday, March 13.** Nine buildings, including 6 private houses, will be open to the public from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

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.



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

MARCH 2010

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
full moon ● 28 DEADLINE Brick Orders	MAR 1 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	2 Congressional Visit Coletta Visit City Council City Hall, 5:30 pm	3 Ladies Coffee Jan Brock's Home 8 am FME mtg Museum, 9 am	4 Great Gators School, 9:30 am	RAPPER 5	6 Museum Reception <i>see p.9</i>
7	8 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm ESHP mtg City Hall, 9 am <i>see p.9</i> OFGD Bd Fire Sta, 6 pm	9	10 Ladies Coffee Havana Cafe 8 am	11 Music Fest School, 7 pm <i>see p.3</i>	12	13 Homes Tour <i>see p.1</i>
14 Clocks Change <i>see p.3</i>	new moon ○ 15 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm	16 Reach Out mtg City Hall, 8:30 am	17 Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am	18 SAC School, 3 pm Lions Club Depot, 5:30 pm Copeland Civic 7 pm	RAPPER 19	20 Kids' Clinic <i>see p.11</i> Bike Ride <i>see p.10</i> Art-in-Glades Fly-In Reunion <i>see p.3</i>
21	22 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm	23	24 Ladies Coffee TBA 8 am	25	26	27 Pet Vet <i>see p.11</i> Kids' Clinic <i>see p.11</i> Fish Fry <i>see p.11</i>
28 Palm Sunday Pet Vet <i>see p.11</i>	29 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm School Spring Recess	full moon ● 30	31 Ladies Coffee TBA 8 am	APRIL 1 Maundy Thursday	RAPPER 2 Good Friday	3

Apr 4: Easter Sunday Apr 20: BigC ORVs Apr 24: Museum Birthday

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: 3/20, 3/27, 4/24, 5/1

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: Fri , 3/5 (9-10 am) Tues, 3/9 (10-11 am) Thurs, 3/11 (9-10 am)

Tues, 3/16 (10-11 am) Fri, 3/19 (9-10 am)

BBQ Chicken Dinner

Everglades Community Church is holding a fundraiser on **Friday, March 5**, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The menu includes BBQ Chicken, salad, bread, dessert, and drink. Tickets are \$10 (\$5 for kids under 10).

GARAGE & YARD SALE

Among the things for sale on **Saturday, March 6**, behind Everglades Scoop will be electronics, boating & fishing gear, household & patio items, and much more.

FREE MUSIC FEST

Local musicians will perform on **Thursday, March 11**, at 7:00 p.m. in the Cafetorium at Everglades City School. There is no charge but donations will be collected for the kids' Art & Music Fund. Places are limited. Contact Jean at 695-0202 for tickets.



CLOCKS CHANGE

The time "springs ahead" one hour on **Sunday, March 14**, at 2:00 a.m.

New Welcome Center

The new Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center in Ochopee will be officially opened from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. on **Saturday, March 20**.

Bicycle Ride

To read more about the ROGG event on **Saturday, March 20**, see page 10.



Congratulations to HC Rackley for winning one of Amy Fouchea's painted palm fronds in a raffle at the Museum.

ART-IN-THE-GLADES

There will be an arts & crafts sale with live music and hotdogs for lunch on **Saturday, March 20**, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in McLeod Park. Vendors are welcome to set up a table. For info, phone Marya at 695-2905.

PANCAKE FLY-IN



A pancake breakfast hosted by Wings 10,000 Islands Tours will take place on **Saturday, March 20**, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Everglades Airpark. Everyone is welcome to come along by air, land, or water. For info, phone Chuck at 695-3296.

REUNION

If you lived in the ECity area in the 1930s, 1940s, or 1950s you are invited to a reunion on **Saturday, March 20**, in the Seafood Depot at 11:00 a.m. There will be a display of old photos (bring yours!) and lunch and, of course, lots of chat. For info, phone June at (239) 394-5604.

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 02/17/10: Emergency Medical, Port of the Islands Fire Station
- 02/17/10: Emergency Medical, Port of the Islands
- 02/17/10: Emergency Medical, 70mm I-75
- 02/17/10: Fire Alarm, Everglades City
- 02/17/10: Emergency Medical, Port of the Islands
- 02/18/10: Emergency Medical, Everglades City Fire Station
- 02/18/10: Emergency Medical, Janes Scenic Drive
- 02/19/10: Vehicle Fire, 73mm on I-75
- 02/20/10: Smoke Investigation, US-41 & SR-29
- 02/22/10: Vehicle Accident, 79mm on I-75
- 02/22/10: Assault, Copeland
- 02/24/10: Power Line Down, Port of the Islands
- 02/25/10: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 02/27/10: Emergency Medical, Port of the Islands
- 02/27/10: Emergency Medical, Oasis Ranger Station
- 02/27/10: Emergency Medical, SR-29 on US-41
- 02/28/10: Emergency Medical, Loop Road
- 02/28/10: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee Island
- 02/28/10: Emergency Medical, 61mm on I-75
- 03/01/10: Vehicle Accident, 73mm on I-75
- 03/02/10: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee Island
- 03/02/10: Call Box, 73mm on I-75
- 03/03/10: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee Island

Stop in to Chat with the Lt.

Collier County Sheriff's Office has a workstation upstairs in Everglades City Hall so local residents and visitors can talk to Lt. Milligan or other deputies without having to drive to Carnestown.

The duty hours are posted outside the door of the office and listed under the calendar on page 2 of the *Rapper*.


TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

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

03/05/2010	Fri	12:48AM	-0.2	L	06:15AM	1.9	H	12:29PM	0.5	L	05:20PM	2.6	H
03/06/2010	Sat	01:49AM	-0.1	L	07:28AM	1.7	H	01:05PM	0.7	L	06:13PM	2.5	H
03/07/2010	Sun	03:00AM	-0.1	L	07:28PM	2.4	H						
03/08/2010	Mon	04:15AM	0.0	L	12:55PM	1.7	H	04:10PM	0.8	L	08:56PM	2.3	H
03/09/2010	Tue	05:24AM	0.0	L	01:20PM	1.9	H	05:33PM	0.8	L	10:17PM	2.3	H
03/10/2010	Wed	06:21AM	0.0	L	01:31PM	1.9	H	06:32PM	0.7	L	11:20PM	2.4	H
03/11/2010	Thu	07:07AM	-0.1	L	01:16PM	2.0	H	07:18PM	0.6	L			
03/12/2010	Fri	12:09AM	2.5	H	07:47AM	-0.1	L	01:17PM	2.1	H	07:56PM	0.4	L
03/13/2010	Sat	12:49AM	2.5	H	08:22AM	-0.1	L	01:33PM	2.3	H	08:32PM	0.3	L
03/14/2010	Sun	01:26AM	2.5	H	09:54AM	0.0	L	02:55PM	2.4	H	10:06PM	0.2	L
03/15/2010	Mon	03:01AM	2.5	H	10:24AM	0.1	L	03:18PM	2.5	H	10:39PM	0.1	L
03/16/2010	Tue	03:36AM	2.5	H	10:51AM	0.2	L	03:40PM	2.5	H	11:14PM	-0.1	L
03/17/2010	Wed	04:12AM	2.5	H	11:17AM	0.3	L	03:59PM	2.6	H	11:49PM	-0.1	L
03/18/2010	Thu	04:51AM	2.3	H	11:42AM	0.4	L	04:15PM	2.7	H			
03/19/2010	Fri	12:28AM	-0.2	L	05:37AM	2.2	H	12:04PM	0.5	L	04:36PM	2.7	H

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SCHOOL NEWS

Everglades City School

phone: 377-9800 or 695-2561

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

IMPORTANT DATES

- Thurs, Mar 4: Great Gators, 9:30 a.m.
- Thurs, Mar 4: Early Dismissal
- Mar 9-19: FCAT
- Thurs, Mar 18: SAC, 3:00 p.m.
- Thurs, Mar 25: Baseball HOME, 4:00 p.m.
- Mar 29 – Apr 5: Spring Recess



From Savannah's Eyes

What's up with this cold weather! I went to the recent baseball game and thought we were in Alaska! My fingers were so frozen we had to go home early and at home I turned on my little heater and had to thaw out my fingers so I could feel again! But the baseball game was still very fun. And there was a good crowd for both teams! People brought blankets and big jackets with them so they would not get cold like I did! It was way too cold to be Florida. I can't wait until the summer so I won't have to thaw out my fingers!

I am going to start gymnastics on March 2nd. It is going to be a lot of fun! Our teacher's name is Kamal Farhop. And I can't wait to meet him and also start doing cartwheels and backbends and much, much more! I am so happy!

Also, a few days ago my parents got a letter that stated that an invitation is going to be sent to me to go to Washington, D.C., for a leadership award! In the letter it said if I go to Washington, D.C., I will meet people who could be future leaders of our country. My parents are so proud of me and I am so proud of myself!

Can't wait till summer,
Love, Savannah♥

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

FREE BOOKS ONLINE



During the week of March 8, libraries across the nation will take part in "Read an E-Book Week". Collier County's Virtual Library offers two online E-Book resources OverDrive and NetLibrary, both of which require a valid Collier County Public Library card. If you don't have one, you can apply at the branch in City Hall.

THANKS TO TRINA MITCHELL FOR PHOTOS & REPORTS

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



Students in grades 4-6 who scored a 3 or better on their FCAT last year received the privilege of going on a field trip to King Richards Family Fun Park in Naples and lunch at McDonalds on February 19. This was an incentive for students to try their best for the upcoming FCAT. There were 16 students who qualified for the field trip and two teachers who attended: Mrs. Hazel Mitchell (5th and 6th) and Ms. Alicia Dalto (4th grade). They had a fantastic time playing games and riding the rides! *Thanks to Ms Dalto for the photos.*



Jan Siegel (aka "Tooth Fairy") visited Mrs. Well's Pre-K and Ms. Ryan's K classes on February 12. She came from the Collier Health Department to help educate the children on the importance of daily oral hygiene. They watched a cool video, sang songs, and played games. For further information, see www.collierhealthdept.org



Jennifer Greene from South West Florida's Children Hospital came to see Mrs. Andler's 1st & 2nd grade class on February 9. They learned about the human body and the digestive, circulatory, and other systems. Students were also told about hand washing and how to keep germs from spreading.



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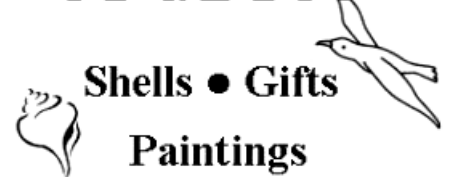
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Recipe for Good Eating



Baked Potato Soup by Diana Curry

- 1 lb Bacon, cut into 1/2" chunks
- 3 T. onion, finely chopped
- 5 T. butter
- 14 oz. broth (I use 1/2 chicken and 1/2 beef)
- 1/3 c. cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 huge baked potato (6-7") with skin on, cut into bite-sized cubes
- 2 c. Half & Half
- 3 T. celery, finely chopped
- 5 T. flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. white pepper

In a large saucepan: cook bacon pieces until crisp, then drain. Pour out all but one T. of the grease. Add butter to pan with onion and celery. Let simmer, stirring often until vegetables are cooked, then add flour stirring until dissolved in butter. Slowly add broth stirring until thickened. Add grated cheese and stir until melted. Stir in baked potato pieces (A freshly baked potato blends in better than a baked, refrigerated one). Add Half & Half and seasonings, stir until heated through and creamy. Stir in bacon pieces. Best if made 24 hours ahead of time for flavors to blend. When reheating, stir constantly but do not boil as cream will separate. Serves 6. Recipe can easily be doubled or tripled.

Recipe from *WHAT'S COOKIN' in the EVERGLADES* by Reach Out Everglades, our neighborhood charity. Copies of the book are available at the bargain price of \$10 around town (Thrift Shop, Right Choice Supermarket, City Hall).

Paws to Reflect by a Squeedilifferous Pusslet



Bast, Goddess of the Pusslets, has been weeping again, mourning the loss of her consort, Lord Leopard Sveldt. Sometimes Her tears freeze coming down and we get snow or sleet. One day She broke down completely and the snow was above my ears. Some days I don't choose to go outside but lie and dream by the fire. Other days I come in soaked and Dad has to dry me off. He keeps my towel hanging by the woodstove so it's always warm and dry. But the tears of Bast have always brought forth the flowers, and the flowers bring forth the mice, so we all rejoice. If only everyone else besides us pusslets could be content knowing this, how happy they'd be. For once every spring, Lord Sveldt returns, and then Bast, the Great Pusslet, gives birth to litters of kittens. So the world of pusslets is renewed. And the dear little mice come out to nibble the flowers and provide us utmost amusement. Meanwhile, the hearth is warm, I've trained Mom and Dad to brush me more often and, most importantly, at five o'clock, the tuna is over the yardarm.

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



Off the Shelf – Book Review “Immokalee's Fields of Hope” by Carlene A. Thissen Reviewed by Patricia Huff

I have lived so close to Immokalee for over 15 years but know so little about it. I've ridden my bicycle through the town, purchased vegetables and fruit from the outdoor market but never knew the story about so many of its residents. The history of Immokalee itself is wonderful and we have Roberts Ranch and Lake Trafford to visit and learn more. Carlene Thissen also writes about the early history of this area in her book. She then takes us on a journey into the lives of the families, the immigrants who have come from Mexico, Haiti and Guatemala. She describes the conditions in their native countries that drove them to seek work and safety for their families in our country. The author gives you new insight and appreciation for the people who are now a part of this diverse community. Our library has a copy or go to www.iuniverse.com to buy one.



Fishing Report

by Captain Bill Lindsay

This has been one of the coldest winters on record and has made fishing a challenge. After the freeze no one had any idea what snook fishing would be like. The good news is that some nice fish have been caught and released. Tom Richardson fished with Capt. Steve Huff and released a 16-1/2 lb beauty with his fly rod. During the week they fished together, he caught several more snook over 30" and released four nice redfish.

Trout fishing has been excellent. Redfish and sheepshead were not hurt by the cold and are being caught in the deep holes in the rivers and on the outside points. Mackerel have not moved in yet but should be here any day. When it gets warm, tarpon will start to show up and fishing, in general, should improve.

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.

SHERIFF'S WARNING

Lt Mark Milligan has reported that cans of gasoline were stolen from the dock at the new Backcountry Marina and wrote:

Please remind your neighbors to not become an "easy target of opportunity" for would be thieves. Unsecured gas containers on docks are easily accessed and stolen by boat.

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.



LOOP ROAD REPAIRS

The National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the rehabilitation and repair of approximately 16.5 miles of Loop Road to improve drainage, replace pavement, and repair damage caused by Hurricane Wilma in 2005. Work will include replacing and installing additional culverts, raising some portions of the road, and replacing existing pavement. There will be no paving of gravel sections or changes in road width. Details can be found at www.parkplanning.nps.gov.

Comments from the public are due by **Thursday, March 25**, either online or by post to Superintendent, Big Cypress National Preserve, 33100 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee, Florida 34141-1000. For info, phone 695-1107.

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.

VIP Report

Flags at Half Staff

by Shirley Leonard



Anyone visiting or driving by any national park's visitor center last week may have noticed the flag flying at half staff beginning on Tuesday, February 23, and ending Saturday at sunset. This was to recognize the death of Sam Hamilton, Director of the National Fish and Wildlife Service. He was 54.

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar released the following statement Feb. 23rd on the passing of Hamilton:

The Interior Department family has suffered a great loss with the passing of Sam Hamilton. Sam was a friend, a visionary, and a professional whose years of service and passionate dedication to his work have left an indelible mark on the lands and wildlife we cherish. His forward-thinking approach to conservation ... will continue to shape our nation's stewardship for years to come. My heart goes out to Sam's family, friends, and colleagues as we remember a remarkable leader and a compassionate, wise, and eternally optimistic man.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife oversees wildlife refuges throughout the country. In Florida alone there are 28 including the nearby Panther Federal Wildlife Refuge and 10,000 Island Wildlife Refuge. Since President Theodore Roosevelt designated Pelican Island in Sebastian, Florida as the first wildlife refuge in 1903, the system has grown to more than 150 million acres, 551 national wildlife refuges and other units of the refuge system, plus 37 wetland management districts.

Hamilton became the agency's fifteenth director on Sept. 1, 2009. He joined the fish and wildlife service in 1979. A native of Mississippi, at 15 years old he started work as a Youth Conservation Corps member on the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge in Mississippi. Prior to becoming director last year, he served as director of the agency's southeast region working out of Atlanta. In 2005 he oversaw the extensive recovery and restoration efforts required following hurricanes Katrina and Rita, which devastated coastal wetlands, wildlife refuges and other wildlife habitat along the Gulf of Mexico.

Hamilton helped lead the effort to develop the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). It is the largest ecosystem restoration project in the country. CERP was part of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000. It includes more than 60 elements, will take more than 30 years to implement and will cost about \$9 billion in October 2007 dollars.

While skiing in Colorado last week, Hamilton suffered chest pains, was taken from the slopes and pronounced dead shortly thereafter. The local coroner said his death was consistent with underlying heart issues. Hamilton is survived by his wife Becky, his sons Sam Jr. and Clay, and a grandson, Davis, all of Atlanta, GA.

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



ESHP Annual Meeting

The Annual Members' Meeting of the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation is on **Monday, March 8**, at 9:00 a.m. in City Hall. The results of the election for Board members will be announced and plans for the future will be discussed, including an update on our Everglades Homes Tour.

Everyone is welcome to attend. For info, phone Marya at 695-2905.



The Fashion Show at the MSD festival on February 23 displayed clothing that could have been worn by Marjory Stoneman Douglas in her earlier life.



Our historic City Hall attracted three elderly artists escaping the cold in New Hampshire to set up their easels in the Circle to enjoy our relatively warm climate under blue a brilliant blue sky.

Photos in this column thanks to Helen Bryan.

MUSEUM NEWS

The "Artist-of-the-Month" for March in the Pauline Reeves Gallery is oil painter Mary Ellen Rand, whose exhibit is titled "The Ever-Changing Colors of the Everglades". Cards and prints of her work are for sale during the month.

There will be a reception on **Saturday, March 6**, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. to "Meet the Artist", Everyone is welcome to come along and meet the artist.

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.

On **Tuesday, March 16**, FME members will take a road trip to Miami to visit the historic Spanish Monastery. Estimated cost of the trip is \$28 (\$5 for entrance fee; \$15 for lunch and \$8 for fuel). Call Patty Huff for reservations at 695-2397.

The next FME Board meeting is at 9:00 a.m. on **Wednesday, April 7**. All members are invited to attend and help to plan the Birthday Party on **Saturday, April 24**. 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 THINGS

by "Mike the Tax Guy"



Credit where Credit is Due

Tea Party fans may take some solace from the Obama administration tax givebacks that have been instituted as part of the overall economic recovery stimulus program. For the 2009 filing year a number of new and improved credits for taxpayers have been instituted.

One is the Making Work Pay credit - discussed in a prior *Mullet Rapper* article; a second is the special credit for those who have had property tax payments. Up to \$500 for single filers, \$1000 for married filing jointly. This credit is available even if you don't itemize your property tax deduction. A really big credit for those who have education expenses either for themselves or a dependent is the American Opportunity credit. This credit can return up to \$2500 and is an option to the Hope or Lifelong Learning credits for qualified filers.

Did you buy a new car between February 17, 2009 and January 1, 2010? Well, if you registered your new vehicle in certain states including Michigan, Minnesota, Indiana, New Hampshire, and a number of other states, you can deduct the portion of sales or excise taxes paid. If you participated in the Cash for Clunkers program you probably know about the \$3500 or \$4500 credit.

Most folks already know about the various retirement savings account reduction to their Adjusted Gross Income calculation, but this year you can get an extra credit of up to \$1000 to \$2000 for Single or MFJ filing status. The credit is income tested, designed to aid middle class earners, and phases out at \$27,750 for Single and \$55,500 for MFJ. It is available for most plans including IRA's, 401k, 403b and is applicable to both traditional and Roth designations.

And one other credit of note for many folks this year: under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, those who received unemployment benefits in 2009 can exempt \$2400 of those payments as tax free. In prior years all unemployment benefits were fully taxable.

So take a close look at these and many other changes; they make a significant difference on your 2009 income tax bill liability.

THANKS!

We had this email about the First Baptist Yard Sale:

Many thanks to all who helped and all who shopped at the Everglades First Baptist Church Yard Sale. The increase of dollars in our Benevolent Fund will be put to good use helping others within our community. Thank You!



FLORIDA FLORA

Mastic

(*Mastichodendron foetidissimum*)

by Patricia Huff

This evergreen shade tree with its large canopy is one of the tallest hardwood trees found in hammocks of the Florida Keys and South Florida. It may take 100 years to grow to its tallest height of 80 feet. The Mastic has dark green, oblong shiny leaves and wavy edges which flutter in a light breeze and hardwood bark that is reddish brown and rough. In the Bahamas and West Indies, the Mastic (also called "false mastic") is important for its timber which is used for cabinetwork.

The yellow-orange berries and small yellow flowers have an unpleasant odor and although the fruit may be bitter and acidic, some people enjoy its flavor. The fruit also attracts birds, squirrels and raccoons. The Mastic tree does well in our area since it is salt-tolerant and resistant to strong winds.

PANTHER FUNDRAISER

The 116-mile "Panther Prowl Poker Run" takes place on **Sunday, March 28**, and starts at Cracklin' Jack's on CR-951 between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. For more info, contact Friends of the Florida Panther Refuge president Lisa Ostberg at (239) 642-5472.



Free Panther Month Events

Save-the-Florida-Panther Month kicks off on **Saturday, March 6**, with a day at Naples Zoo and continues during March with a number of free events ending up on **Saturday, March 20**, with a day of Buggy Rides, walks, and talks at the Panther Refuge (SR-29 just north of I-75).



Other activities on the calendar are:

- Photo Workshop, **March 13**, 9:00 a.m. to noon, led by Larry Richardson, Florida Panther Refuge, reservations at 353-8442.
- Panther Presentation, **March 16**, 11:00 a.m., by Lisa Hamilton, at Naples Preserve, phone 261-4290 to reserve.
- Bicycle Ride at Bear Island, **March 18**, 9:00 a.m. to noon, led by Big Cypress rangers, phone Lisa at 695-1164.

For more info, see www.floridapanther.org and click on the Calendar button at the top of the screen.

Everglades Bicycle Ride



Don't miss out on this annual bicycle ride around the Everglades area on **Saturday, March 20**. Even if you only ride a few miles for pleasure, you will enjoy this event. This year the shortest distance is just 8 miles (with the longest 82 miles) so the Naples Pathway Coalition is offering something for everyone.

We start out the morning at McLeod Park on the circle in the middle of Everglades City with a continental breakfast. Along the way at various rest stops there will be water and snacks. When you return after your ride, there will be Art-in-the-Glades with music and craft booths. Havana Cafe will be catering lunch to registered riders at the park. There are lots of other activities in the area, including free programs at the Panther Refuge.

Proceeds from this event will benefit the River of Grass Greenway (ROGG) and Reach Out Everglades, our neighborhood charity. For more information and to register, call Patty Huff at 695-2397 or visit www.evergladesrogg.org. Deadline for early registration is March 10.

SHORT FIELD LANDINGS

by Mike Klein



Air to Ground – Posting Your News

Throughout the year, and especially during stone crab season, there are dozens of airplanes that arrive at the Everglades Airport expressly for the purpose of picking up a load of stone crabs for weekend parties and family gatherings. Everglades is a destination airport and most fliers come in to explore the town, ride the airboats, go on fishing expeditions, stay over, and have a great meal at one of our many restaurants.

Even though the mail is not flown in, ground transportation is the one element that continues to be a challenge. There are bicycles available at the airport, and of course most of the town is walkable, but there is still sometimes a need for means to get to the more distant locales and to haul those coolers filled with ice and stone crabs. Most places will pick up visitors when called, and now there may be some opportunity for others to let fly-in visitors know that they can be picked up at the airport or to have their products delivered. There is a fairly new website called weekendwaypoints.com that will let you list your information for free and also offers some paid advertising spots. They have links to many airport and aviation websites so that those planning trips can see what might be available in and around the local area.

Local business enterprises are invited to leave information, brochures, and business cards at the terminal building for some free promotion. Space may be limited, but usually everyone can be accommodated.

ORCHID SHOW & SALE

The 37th Annual Naples Orchid Show takes place on the weekend of **March 19-21** in McSpadden Hall at the Naples United Church of Christ, 5200 Crayton Road, Naples, near the Waterside Shops. The show will be open on Friday (3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.), Saturday (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) and Sunday (12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.). For info, see www.NaplesOrchidSociety.org or phone 403-7155.



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
line dancing on Wed
live music Fri, Sat
- City Seafood (695-4700):**
10:00 am - 7:00 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
- 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

Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535) is open Mon-Fri, from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm, on Sat from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm and on Sun from 10:00 am to 6:30 pm

BigC Preserve at BigC Market

On Friday, March 19, there will be a talk at 10:30 a.m. at the Big Cypress Market Place (on US-41 just south of CR-951) by Ranger Julia Greer titled "Symbiosis" about how plants and animals live together.

On Friday, April 2, Ranger Justin Mercer will talk about the barred owl which thrives in our tropical swamps.

There is no charge for the series of talks which are open to the public.

IMMOKALEE FEST

The 50th Annual Harvest Festival takes place on Saturday, March 20, in Immokalee from 9:00 a.m. at the Seminole Tribal Rodeo Grounds. There are activities for all the family including gator wrestling, fresh farm produce for sale, and live music. For info, see www.immokaleeharvestfestival.com or phone (239) 370-1752.

FISH FRY

Chokoloskee Church of God is holding a Fish Fry on Saturday, March 27. More info in our next issue.

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 from 9:00 a.m. to noon, on Saturday, March 20 and 27. 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 service is free, thanks to Dr GB & Kathy Barnard.

MOBILE PET VET



Dr Baker will be here on Saturday, March 27, 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, March 28, by previous appointment only. Phone her at 777-PETS (7387). For more info, see www.naplesmobilepetvet.com.

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Saturdays, 9 am - 4 pm

Donations Welcome

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Contact Martha at 695-0008

YARN WANTED

The school is looking for scrap or extra yarn for art projects. For info, phone the office at 695-2561.



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.

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.

FOR SALE: Tohatsu 50 hp Motor, Trailer reworked - spare tire, Southern Skimmer 1990 16'2" Boat, Awning - extras \$2,900.00, See Jim Landrum; call 695-2741.

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



Thanks to Charlotte Ledford for this photo of Peyton Beebe at the graduation party held for her in the Everglades Community Church.



Read about our "Short Field Landings" on page 10.

SNOOK CLASSIFIED

LOST CAT: Black & brownish gold, long hair, Smallwood Drive area. Reward. If you see him, please phone Joyce at 695-2998 or 259-7105.

FREE ITEM: An emachine computer monitor, Model 1772ED, August 2007. Please call Sue at 695-4273, if interested.

FOR SALE: Two teak futons, \$75 each. Call 239-860-6369

FOR SALE: 5-weeks of Nutri-System Meals. Paid \$270. Make Offer. Call 695-2055.

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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www.evergladesmulletrapper.com

JOBS VACANT

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.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR sought for Everglades Association which supports the National Park Service. Send resume and covering letter with 3 references to miami-employment@hotmail.com.

PUT YOUR JOB ADS IN THE RAPPER no charge! phone us at 695-2397

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