

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

NOVEMBER 26 – DECEMBER 9, 2010

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume IV • Issue #121



Kindergarten and Pre-K enjoyed their very own private Thanksgiving feast on November 23. Photo by Trina Mitchell.



SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

One of the headline performers booked for our festival is country singer Josh Gracin who will be on stage on Saturday, February 5. Stay tuned for more info as we receive it from Nashville.



The deadline for food and craft booth applications is **December 15**. If your are accepted, the organizers can send you a link to PayPal for credit cards or you can pay by check. To get an application, see www.evergladesseafoodfestival.com or stop in at the office behind Everglades Island Properties.

For info and to find out how you can help, contact Tammy at 695-4100.

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FEATURE: Swamp Tours & Walks p11



Swiss cartoonist and frequent visitor Jurg "George" Furrer sent us this drawing of the Holiday Boat Parade in front of the Rod & Gun last year. This year it will be held on Saturday, December 11, starting at 7:00 p.m. and ending at the Seafood Depot around 8:00 p.m. For more info, phone Debbie at 695-2429 or Lisa at 249-1002.

FAMILY FEUD



Join a Christmas Family Feud festival fundraiser sponsored by the Everglades Gators Booster Club on Saturday, December 11, at 3:00 p.m. in McLeod Park. There will be food and "family games" such as a greased pole, pig chase, basketball shootout, bed races and kiddies' carnival. Registration fee is \$10 per family team of 2 to 6 people. Forms to sign up are available at the school or around town.

The Feud is followed by a Light Parade at 6:30 p.m. For info, phone the school at 695-2561.

Santa Visit

Don't forget to tell Santa what he should bring on **Friday, December 17**, when he visits the Community Center at 3:00 p.m. The gift distribution will be followed at 5:00 p.m. by the lighting of the Christmas tree in front of City Hall Parents can pick up a Santa request form at City Hall. For more info, phone 695-3781.



The Community Safety Team was lined up in a SWAT demonstration after their monthly meeting on November 23. Thanks to Crime Prevention Officer Sue Gentry for photos.

OFCD Signs



The fire department will be installing signs on commercial, industrial, and multi-family buildings to warn them if roof and/or floor trusses are categorized as "lightweight". New legislation was passed in Florida after a roof collapsed on two firefighters in Orange County who died because they were not aware of the danger as they went into a blazing structure.

Ochopee Fire Control District has done a survey of all eligible buildings in our area and has approached owners about the signs. If you have questions, phone 695-4114.

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2010

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
full moon ● 21	22 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm	23 Coastal Cruise	24 Ladies Coffee Island Cafe 8 am	25 Thanksgiving	RAPPER 26 Butcher Signing <i>see p. 3</i>	27 Butcher Signing <i>see p. 3</i>
28 Holy Family Mass, 10:30 am <i>see p.11</i>	29 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church 7 pm	30	DEC 1 Ladies Coffee Havana Cafe 8 am	2 Booster Club 6:30 pm	3 History Talk <i>see p.3</i>	4 Art in the Glades <i>see p.3</i>
new moon ○ 5	6 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm ESHP mtg City Hall, 8:30 am <i>see p.9</i> FME Luncheon <i>see p.9</i> Pre-K mtg <i>see p.3</i>	7 BigC ORVs <i>see p.3</i> Congressional Visit City Council <i>see p.3</i> Copeland Civic	8 Ladies Coffee Island Cafe 8 am	9 Museum Reception <i>see p.9</i>	RAPPER 10 BBQ Dinner Comm. Church <i>see p.3</i>	11 Pet Vet <i>see p.11</i> Family Feud <i>see p. 1</i> Boat Parade <i>see p. 1</i>
12 Pet Vet <i>see p.11</i> FOF Dinner <i>see p.11</i>	13 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm OFCD Bd Fire Sta, 6 pm Chamber mtg Depot, 6: 30 pm <i>see p.11</i>	14 Festival Plans Island Cafe, 6 pm Kids'Clinic 5-7 pm, <i>see p.11</i>	15 Ladies Coffee Havana Cafe 8 am	16 SAC mtg School, 3 pm Lions Club Depot, 5:30 pm	17 Santa 3 pm Tree Lighting 5 pm <i>see p.1</i>	18 Pancake Fly-In <i>see p.11</i>
19	20 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm	full moon ● 21 Reach Out City Hall, 8:30 am Kids'Clinic 5-7 pm, <i>see p.11</i>	22 Ladies Coffee Island Cafe 8 am	23	RAPPER 24 Christmas Eve Service Comm Church	25 Christmas

Jan 8: Deaconess Feast Day Jan 13: Museum Lecture Jan 15: Copeland Clean-Up

Jan 22: Art-in-the-Glades, Antique Air Aficionados & Pancake Fly-in, Fakahatchee Cruise Feb 4/5/6: Seafood Festival

THRIFT SHOP: Tues, Thurs, Sat; 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, Holy Family Catholic Church
ALCOHOLICS ANON: Wed, 5:00 pm, Community Church

SKATING RINK: Fri & Sat, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.
SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
LITTLE GATOR CLINIC: 12/14, 12/21, 12/28
NARCOTICS ANON: Sat, 11:00 am, Community Center

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: Tues, Nov 30 (10-11 am) Thurs, Dec 2 (2-3 pm)

SHERIFF: 695-2007 CITY HALL: 695-3781 PUBLIC LIBRARY: 695-2511 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: 695-3941
CURBSIDE TRASH PICKUP (FRIDGES, WASHING MACHINES, TVS): 252-2380 COLLIER COUNTY: 252-8999

Pre-K Meeting

All parents with children who will enter school next year or the year after are encouraged to attend the next Pre-K meeting on **Monday, December 6**, at 6:30 pm in the Media Center in order to participate in the alternatives to be discussed.

BigC ORV Meeting

The Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Committee will meet on **Tuesday, December 7**, from 3:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the new Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center, 33000 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee. For info, phone 695-1107.

CONGRESSIONAL VISIT

Monica Aranegui, the District Representative in Collier County at the office of Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart, will meet with constituents in City Hall on **Tuesday, December 7**, at 3:00 p.m. For info, phone 348-1620.

CITY COUNCIL

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 7**, at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall. If you would like to speak during Public Comments, you can sign up before the meeting starts.

EVERGLADES CITY

Lat: 25.87°N Long: 81.37°W
see www.weather.gov for weather
and www.nhc.noaa.gov for storms



Baby Kingston, born to Misty Daniels Potter and Robert Wiliford Robinson, weighed in at 7lb.11oz.

HISTORY TALK

Learn about Marco Island Pioneers on **Friday, December 3**, at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Church Fellowship Hall. Craig Woodward will give an illustrated lecture about the history of Marco Island and what it looked like before development. Everyone is invited to attend. For more info, phone 695-2905. *See article on page 9.*

Art in the Glades

Have fun doing your holiday shopping on **Saturday, December 4**, in McLeod Park from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be arts & crafts items for sale, hot dogs for lunch, a bake sale, and live music. If you would like to set up a table, there is no charge. Phone Marya at 695-2905.



MORE News & Events on page 11.

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 11/11/10: Emergency Medical, 63mm I-75
- 11/12/10: Trash Fire, Chokoloskee Island
- 11/12/10: Vehicle Accident, 49mm US-41
- 11/12/10: Vehicle Accident, 11 Mile Road and US-41
- 11/12/10: Vehicle Accident, Union Road and US-41
- 11/12/10: Vehicle Accident, 81mm I-75
- 11/13/10: Vehicle Accident, Turner River Road and US-41
- 11/13/10: Vehicle Accident, 71mm I-75
- 11/14/10: Vehicle Accident, 56mm I-75
- 11/15/10: Vehicle Accident, 74mm I-75
- 11/17/10: Tanker Leaking, 70mm I-75
- 11/18/10: Brush Fire, Ochopee
- 11/19/10: Vehicle Accident, 64mm I-75
- 11/19/10: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 11/19/10: Emergency Medical, Monument Road and US-41
- 11/20/10: Call Box Activation, 66mm I-75
- 11/21/10: Emergency Medical, US-41 and Miller Road Extension

BUTCHER SIGNING

Clyde Butcher will be signing his books at the Big Cypress Gallery on **Friday and Saturday, November 26/27**. The Gallery is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For info, call 695-2428 or see Clyde's website www.clydebutcher.com.

BBQ DINNER

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Everglades Community Church is holding the first fundraiser of the season, a BBQ Pork Dinner on **Friday, December 10**, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. The menu includes salad, dessert, and drinks. Donation is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 10 years old. For tickets and info, contact Virginia at 695-2223.


TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

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

11/26/2010	Fri	03:54AM	2.9	H	12:55PM	-0.1	L	06:56PM	2.5	H
11/27/2010	Sat	12:58AM	0.8	L	05:05AM	2.7	H	01:50PM	0.1	L
11/28/2010	Sun	02:18AM	0.7	L	06:51AM	2.5	H	02:50PM	0.2	L
11/29/2010	Mon	03:38AM	0.6	L	08:33AM	2.4	H	03:51PM	0.4	L
11/30/2010	Tue	04:48AM	0.4	L	10:06AM	2.3	H	04:51PM	0.5	L
12/01/2010	Wed	05:48AM	0.1	L	11:30AM	2.4	H	05:47PM	0.6	L
12/02/2010	Thu	06:43AM	-0.1	L	12:39PM	2.5	H	06:40PM	0.7	L
12/03/2010	Fri	07:34AM	-0.3	L	01:36PM	2.5	H	07:31PM	0.8	L
12/04/2010	Sat	12:07AM	3.2	H	08:23AM	-0.4	L	02:23PM	2.5	H
12/05/2010	Sun	12:47AM	3.3	H	09:09AM	-0.5	L	03:05PM	2.5	H
12/06/2010	Mon	01:27AM	3.3	H	09:54AM	-0.4	L	03:43PM	2.4	H
12/07/2010	Tue	02:07AM	3.2	H	10:37AM	-0.4	L	04:21PM	2.4	H
12/08/2010	Wed	02:48AM	3.1	H	11:19AM	-0.3	L	04:59PM	2.3	H
12/09/2010	Thu	03:33AM	2.9	H	12:00PM	-0.2	L	05:39PM	2.3	H
12/10/2010	Fri	12:00AM	0.7	L	04:25AM	2.6	H	12:42PM	0.0	L

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SCHOOL NEWS

Everglades City School

phone: 377-9800 or 695-2561

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

IMPORTANT DATES

Nov 24-26: No School, Thanksgiving Holiday
 Thurs, Dec 2: Booster Club, 6:30 p.m.
 Mon, Dec 6: Pre-K Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
 Thurs, Dec 9: Early Dismissal



From Savannah's Eyes

I had a lot of fun at school on Thursday because we had career day at school. Career day is when all the army, navy, marines, national park, post offices and colleges plus other career people come to our school and tell us about what they do and what is available at the colleges so kids could see what they want to do whenever they grow up and graduate. Career day is only for 6-12th graders. I went around every booth to look and see what I want to do when I get older. I got a lot of information from the college booths and others plus everyone got a gift bag! It was fun to look around at all of the booths.

On Friday at cheerleading practice instead of staying at the school we went to the Rod and Gun pool!! We went there to practice stunts like a liberty and a full; this way the flyers wouldn't get hurt if they fell because they would land in water. I am a flyer so they practiced holding me up in a full while doing a liberty. I was stiff and stable, but I started tilting off to the side and I fell! It was so much fun!! Our coach is awesome for taking us there!! See photo below.

At school one of our coaches, Coach Welch, was telling us about this lady that her friend knows that has cancer. And she doesn't have money to get treatments for herself. Coach Welch told us that a company is working with the lady and every 250 plastic caps off any type of bottles (have to be plastic caps) that she collects she gets a free Chemo treatment. We have already given her 2 treatments so far from water bottle caps at school. When Coach Welch told us that, I was really happy!! I love helping other people. If anyone wants to donate plastic caps bring them to our school please.

Hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving, Savannah

Savannah Oglesby is in the 8th grade at Everglades City School and is a regular contributor to this paper.



Mr. James Mishier's last day was today. He replaced Mrs. Elizabeth Ihle during her maternity leave teaching high school English and Language Arts. The kids gave him a goodbye cake, card, and party. The students wanted him to know how much they appreciated him and how much he will be missed.

From Haleigh's Heart



Hey everyone! I didn't write in the paper the last issue but I did have a topic in mind. The topic was: our Dean (also known as Vice Principal) Ms. Brummer took the school to McLeod Park (in Everglades) for a field day. They supplied us with fun games, activities and food. For lunch we got to choose the kind of chips we wanted, the drink we wanted, and what we wanted on our hotdogs. The games were volleyball, basketball, and you could also play on the playground. They brought out Monopoly for everyone to play too. The Elementary, Middle, and High schoolers got separate times to go to the park; that way it wasn't too crowded. Thank you SO much, Ms. Brummer! That day was so much fun! Also, Everglades City School's computer teacher Mrs. White let us make thank you cards for Ms. Brummer. That day was so much fun!

Until Next Time, Haleigh Levingston

Haleigh Levingston, a 5th grader at Everglades City School, is our junior reporter for the elementary school.

GREAT GATORS

Pre-K – Aulbrey Wooten
 K – Addy Martinez-Valdes, Trey Bee
 1 – Case Vanleeuwen, Ivan Kibodeaux
 2,3 – Christian Bee, Savannah Weeks
 4 – Natalie Thompson, Brandon Beaty
 5 – Damian Strickland, Ashlyn Goff
 6 – Braxton Kidder, Kiley West
 7 – Megan Williams, Alicia Martinez
 8 – Ana Roldan, Dylan Lucase
 High School – Morgan Daffin, Cris Steffan

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Recipe for Good Eating

Turkey Hash by Patricia Huff



- 1 1/2 pounds medium Yukon Gold potatoes
- 5 tablespoons unsalted butter, divided
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 2 finely chopped green peppers
- 1 cup shredded cooked turkey (preferably dark meat)
- 4 large eggs

Cook potatoes in boiling water for 20 minutes; drain, peel, grate and set aside. Melt butter (4 TBS) in a nonstick skillet over medium heat and sauté onions and peppers until brown, about 8 minutes. Add potatoes, turkey, salt and pepper to taste, and cook for 15 to 20 minutes until browned, turning occasionally. Fry eggs in 1 TBS butter and serve on top of hash.

Quiz Can Help School

Please remember to sign up for a free account & complete the quiz for our school. It will allow us to complete the parent & coach quiz for 2 credits. Instructions are on the district web page (www.collier.k12.fl.us), click on the link "Help Everglades City School". It takes less than 10 minutes of your time and could lead to new uniforms, new equipment, and new supplies for our team!



Thanks again to Bob Wells for letting us scan this old photo of the Chokoloskee school boat. Can you recognize anyone?

WANTED: The Culinary Class at the School would like donations of flour, sugar, butter, vegetable oil, Crisco, powdered milk, unsweetened cocoa (for baking), white distilled vinegar, cream cheese, shredded cheddar cheese, shredded mozzarella cheese, dishwashing liquid. Contact Stacia at 695-2561.



Fishing Report

by Captain Bill Lindsay

When people call me at this time of year and ask "How's the Fishing?", the only thing I can say is that it all depends on the weather. After a strong cold front, when the wind is coming out of the Northeast and the temperatures are in the 40's, it's tough. When it's warm and calm, fishing can be great. Even large tarpon can be found in good numbers. Fishing for redfish in November was pretty good. Capt. Tim Brady and Mike Merritt, both caught lots of Red's using shrimp on the bottom. They fished the outside points in the Lostmans River area on the incoming tide. Snook fishing has not been great. Most of the fish seem to be in the backcountry. Cobia fishing has been good on the outside wrecks. If you want to try something different, try anchoring and chumming with a block of frozen chum for mackerel and bluefish. Blue crabbing is a great way to enjoy the backcountry if you're not fishing.

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



FWC News

The Statewide Nuisance Alligator Program is accepting applications for nuisance alligator trappers and crocodile response agents in Collier County. FWC currently does not have an opportunity in Collier County, but it is pre-screening applicants in preparation for future needs. Visit MyFWC.com/Alligator to apply online or to learn about the requirements. Applicants must have a clean criminal history and no fish or wildlife law violations. For info about these jobs, call 863-462-5195 or email fwcgator@myfwc.com.

For general wildlife info, see www.myfwc.com.
Wildlife Alert Hotline: 888-404-FWCC (3922)

Big Cypress Addition Lands

The final management plans for the Addition Lands have been released and are available online. There is also a Biological Opinion. For info, see www.nps.gov/bicy/parkmgmt or phone 695-1107.



ENP OPENS CHEKIKA

Chekiika was a famous Indian chief during the Seminole Wars. The popular part of the Everglades National Park named after him at the west end of SW 168th Avenue will be open from dawn to dusk from December 1 until May 1 for picknicking, hiking, and bike rides. For info, call (305) 242-7700.



FLORIDA FLORA

by Patricia Huff

Blue Porterweed

(Stachytarpheta jamaicensis)

I first came across this "weed" at JT's in Chokoloskee. Avery Sumner had planted it along the side of the building and it spread throughout the patio area. She loved to plant wildflowers that attracted butterflies. The Porterweed usually reaches a height of 3 to 4 feet and prefers sun and partly shady areas. I transplanted some to a large pot on my deck and it does very well as a patio plant with small blue to purple flowers blooming year round. The leaves are dark green, oval and pointed with rough edges. It has a woody, brown stem which may be single or multi-stemmed. It is considered a sprawling shrub plant so keep in a pot if you want to "contain" it. You'll enjoy the blooms and the butterflies in your garden.

ROGG at Trails Conference

Patty Huff and Maureen Bonness (pictured here) were asked to give a presentation at the 20th Annual American Trails National Symposium held in Chattanooga, TN, November 14-17, about the River of Grass Greenway (ROGG) project. ROGG is a proposed multi-use greenway along the Tamiami Trail from Naples to Miami which will be available for hikers, bird-watchers, fishermen, nature photographers, and bicyclists.



The River of Grass Greenway recently received additional support with a resolution passed by the City of Homestead, FL, on November 17. For more information, visit website www.evergladesROGG.org or phone Patty at 239-695-2397. You can help by joining FROGG (Friends of the River of Grass Greenway).



photo courtesy of Florida State Archive

LOCAL HISTORY

Marco Island wasn't always a maze of condos and shopping malls. The island started out much like our own area with farming and fishing. Prominent families were the Barfields, Stephens, Horrs and Colliers – not Barron Collier, although he did play a role later, but W. D. and his son W. T. Collier. The clamming industry had two canning factories which provided work for locals throughout the Ten Thousand Islands. Pineapples were one of the successful agricultural crops.

The island was finally linked to the mainland with ferries, a railway, and a bridge for automobile traffic but the mass clearing of land and building of high-rise hotels did not start until the 1960s.

Craig Woodward, a Marco resident for more than 40 years, has studied the island's early days and is president of the Marco Island Historical Society. He will give an illustrated lecture about "Marco Island Pioneers" on **Friday, December 3**, at 5:00 p.m. in the Everglades Community Church Fellowship Hall. There is no charge and everyone is welcome. The event is hosted by ESHP. For info, see www.evergladeshistorical.org or phone 695-2905.

ESHP Meeting

The Board of the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation will meet on **Monday, December 6**, at 8:30 a.m. in the Historical Library in City Hall.

Among the topics on the agenda are the future of the Bula Mission building in Copeland and events for the season, such as the Antique Air Aficionados Fly-In (January 22) and the Everglades Homes Tour (March 12).

Members are welcome. For info, phone Marya at 695-2905.



MUSEUM NEWS

The Friends of the Museum will be holding their annual meeting and luncheon on **Monday, December 6**, at 11:30 am. Following a short meeting when new board members will be elected for 2011, guest speaker Harold Hall will be discussing the Lee Tidewater Cypress Company survey of the land now owned by Fakahatchee Strand State Park. The history of this area is fascinating so please contact Patty Huff at 695-2397 for reservations.

The exhibit beginning in December will be "Murder and Mayhem, the Life and Times of E. J. Watson" in recognition of the 100th anniversary of his death in 1910. An opening reception will be held on **Thursday, December 9**, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Be sure to attend and learn more about this colorful character of the Everglades area.

The Museum is open on Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and on Saturday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. There is no admission charge but donations appreciated.

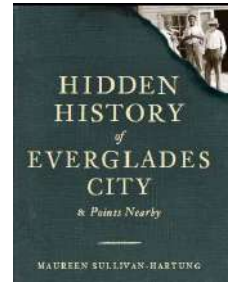


Off the Shelf – Book Review

Hidden History of Everglades City and Points Nearby by Maureen Sullivan-Hartung

reviewed by Patricia Huff

Although this is Maureen's first book, she is no stranger to the history of the area or to writing. Maureen was a regular contributor to my first newsletter "What's Happening Around Town" under the column "Along the Trail." It's wonderful to experience her writing again about the Everglades folks including Rusty Rupis, Ms. Frances, Annie Mae Perry, and Mama Hokie, among many others. The photos will bring back a lot of memories for locals and even for those of us who have been visiting or lived here the past 30 years. The first chapter starts with the "History of the Last Frontier" beginning with Barron Collier and the building of the Tamiami Trail with Everglades City as the first county seat. Maureen does not exclude the earlier years and does include Harriet Bedell, the Storters, C G McKinney and the Smallwoods. Although written as a history book, it reads as if someone is sitting down and telling you a story about a wonderful place to live and work, full of colorful characters and interesting facts and photos. *Hidden History* may be purchased at the following locations: Clyde Butcher's Big Cypress Gallery, Ivey House, Museum of the Everglades, National Park Boat Tours, Right Choice Supermarket, Carnestown Welcome Center, and Win-Car Hardware. It would be a great gift for the holidays!



Marco Museum Party

The Marco Island Historical Society presents Marion Nicolay in "Mr. Pickwick's Christmas" after a festive Christmas luncheon on **Tuesday, December 7**, at 12:00 noon at the Rose History Auditorium. There will also be a brass band from Marco Charter School plus a sing-along of Christmas tunes. The cost is \$20 per person and reservations are required. For more info and to book your places, phone (239) 389-6447.

The new museum on South Heathfield Drive (next to the Collier County Public Library) is now open on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and features an exhibit about plume hunters. See www.themihs.org.



SHERIFF'S REPORT

Nov 9: A resident off Janes Scenic Drive reported a burglary. A large-screen television was removed from the residence.

Nov 11-14: A business reported the theft of trailer tires and rims from a fenced-in compound off of Dupont Street.

Nov 16: Following an investigation a 40-year-old man was arrested, charged with 6 felony counts of "doctor shopping" and transported to CCSO jail.

Freedom from Chemical Dependency, which has been awarded a grant to work in our area, will meet with the Community Safety Team on December 7/8 to assess the drug problems here before formulating a program.

If you have information about criminal activity or see anything suspicious, call 695-2007. In emergencies, call 911.

We received this photo and email from Sue Gentry, CCSO Crime Prevention Officer and a great supporter of the ECity area:

Thank-you to everyone who participated in Operation Medicine Cabinet on November 13. Members of the CCSO collected expired and unneeded medications on the front steps of City Hall. This years efforts took 12.55lbs of dangerous drugs out of the area to be properly disposed of. Almost all of the pills collected here were Oxycodone, Methadone and other powerful narcotics. Weights are for pills only, not containers.



Florida Tales

Be Prepared
by Chester Keene



It was raining one night and cold on the hoot owl shift. After shaking door knobs in the business district and catching a call in reference to a fight in the parking lot of the Royal Castle on 9th Street North, it was around 3:00 a.m. when I pulled down to Rusty's Hill on Gordon Drive to listen to my "juke" radio and eat my donut. I dozed off. You always keep your windows rolled up so nothing will be put in your car, i.e., turtles, coons, or cats. The kids loved to catch a police car with its windows down.

It was still sprinkling when there was this knocking on the window and someone asked "Mr. Policeman, are you ok?" I thought I was having a bad dream with these things that looked like wet sheets draped over something standing there. My car was surrounded with Boy Scouts. I said, "I'm on stakeout! What do you want? Do your parents know where you are? Why are you not home?" He replied, "You parked your car in the middle of our scout jamboree". I said, "Be Careful" and left embarrassed, to say the least. Busted by the Boy Scouts. I wonder if they got a badge for it.

Chester Keene is a retired law enforcement officer and Florida native. He retains the copyright to this article.



STEVE'S SWAMP BUGGY TOURS

Steve Markley has a passion for showing visitors the beauty of the Everglades, specifically the Big Cypress National Preserve which he believes has more varieties of bromeliads and wildlife than anywhere. On their tours they have seen Oceloa turkeys, deer and panthers. Previously an employee of the Big Cypress National Preserve, Steve left to start his own business which is something he has always dreamed of. He says his grandfather, Charlie Boggess, was the first guide to take visitors on boat tours so he is continuing the tradition of taking people on one of the first guided swamp buggy tours through the Big Cypress. Steve's mother lived on Sandfly Island before moving to Chokoloskee where Steve was born and raised (initially living on one of the house lighters). All private tours are guided by local Florida "crackers" and Captain Steve is now offering free trips to local businesses for them to experience this unique area.

For info, see www.captainstevesswampbuggyadventures.com or contact him directly at 695-2186 or cell phone 325-7171.

BOARDWALK TOURS

Take a guided tour of the Fakahatchee boardwalk on US-41 with a master naturalist on **Saturday, December 11**, at 11:00 a.m. This is a new opportunity being offered by the Friends of Fakahatchee. The cost is only \$15 and reservations are required. Phone Pam at 695-1023.



SWAMP WALKS

Clyde Butcher is offering guided swamp walks behind the Big Cypress Gallery every Saturday from now until March. Private walks on other days can also be arranged. For info, phone the gallery at 695-2428 or see www.clydebutcher.com.

Janes Scenic Drive Closures

Janes Drive in Copeland will be impassable Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. during November and December while workman install new culverts. For info, phone the Fakahatchee park office at 695-4593.

RESTAURANT NEWS



- Camellia Street Grill (695-2003):**
12:00 noon – 9:00 pm; daily
- 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
- Everglades Scoop (695-0375):**
11:00 am – 5:00 pm; daily
5:00 – 7:00 pm; Fri, Sat (specials)
- Gator Express (695-3937):**
6:30 am – 8:00 pm; Mon - Thurs
6:30 am – 9:00 pm; Fri, Sat, Sun
- Glades Haven Deli (695-2091):**
6:00 am - 9:00 pm; daily
Food service stops 1 hr before close
- Havana Cafe (695-2214):**
7:00 am – 3:00 pm; Sun – Thurs
7:00 am – 9:00 pm; Fri, Sat
- Island Cafe (695-0003):**
6:00 am – 3:00 pm; daily
6:00 – 9:00 pm; Fri/Sat
- Ivey House (695-3299):**
6:30 – 9:30 am; daily
Continental breakfast, box lunches
- Joanie's Blue Crab Cafe (695-2682):**
11:00 am - 5:00 pm;
daily except closed Tues
- Leebo's Rock-Bottom Bar:**
3:00 pm; daily
"mike night" Wed
live music every Fri-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
4:30 -6:30 pm – Early Bird Specials
- Port-of-the-Islands (239-394-3101):**
7:00 - 11:00 am; daily (hot buffet)
11:30 am – 2 pm; daily (lunch)
5:00 – 9:00 pm; Thurs, Fri, Sat
- Right Choice Pizzeria (695-3663):**
5:00 - 9:00 pm; Thurs-Sun (takeout)
- Rod & Gun (695-2101):**
7:00 - 10 am Breakfast; daily
11:30 am - 9:00 pm; daily
- Susie's Station (695-252273):**
11:00 am - 5:00 pm; daily
- Triad Seafood (695-0722):**
10:30 am – 5:00 pm; Sun - Thurs
10:30 am – 8:30 pm; Fri, Sat
- Right Choice Supermarket:**
9:00 am – 7:00 pm, Mon-Sat
9:00 am – 6:30 pm, Sun



Students attended the first Annual Career Day at ECity School on November 18 to learn about career options. The event was organized by the Everglades Community Safety Team, and the School. See Savannah's report on page 5.

Holy Family Mass

Holy Family Catholic Church will offer Mass every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. from November 28 until Easter.



FOF Dinner

Strange sightings in the swamp? That is the subject of a talk which will be given at the Friends of Fakahatchee "Welcome-Back" Dinner on **Sunday, December 12**, by biologist Glen Stacell after a "meet & greet" wine reception and 3-course dinner at Port of the Islands. For info, phone 695-2905 or see the Friends' website www.orchidswamp.org where you can book online.

Chamber Meeting

The result of the annual executive board elections will be announced at the Everglades Area Chamber of Commerce meeting on **Monday, December 13**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Seafood Depot. For info, phone Winnie at 695-3172.

PANCAKE FLY-IN



The next free pancake breakfast hosted by Wings 10,000 Islands Tours will be on **Saturday, December 18**, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Everglades Airpark. For info, phone Chuck at 695-3296.

Grimm's Stone Crab (695-3222) is open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Monday through Saturday.



Chokoloskee Church of God celebrated their Annual Fall Festival this year on November 20 and had a great turnout for their Missions Fundraiser. Smoked mullet, stone crab claws, homemade cakes, cookies, Seagrape jellies, and garden-raised home-canned foods were for sale. There was also a delicious fish fry, raffle, and yard sale. Martha Dantin wishes to thank those who supported this Mission Drive and made it most successful.

Little Gator Clinic



The free walk-in clinic for youngsters 18 and under is located next to the Thrift Shop (behind the fire station). It will be open on **Tuesday, December 14, 21, and 28**, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. There are no drugs at the clinic but Dr. Barnard can prescribe if necessary.

MOBILE PET VET



Dr Baker will visit the area on **Saturday, December 11**, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in McLeod Park and from 2 to 4 p.m. in Copeland. There will be surgery on **Sunday, December 12**, by previous appointment only. For info, phone her at 777-PETS (7387) or see www.naplesmobilepetvet.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Greet Visitors in Museum.
Meet people from around the corner or around the world!
Phone Martha 695-0008.

SNOOK CLASSIFIED

FOR RENT: 10 x 10 Storage units at 103 S. Storter, \$60 a month. Call Paul at (727) 430-3460.

FOR SALE BY OWNER: 3 lots in Chokoloskee, 2 on Calusa Dr, Lot M-4; Lot M-5 (filled); Lot by cemetery. Phone owner at (419) 441-2068 or at (740) 864-2179

FOR SALE: 916 Dupont, Zoned Commercial Fishing, 2,500 +/- sq ft concrete building, High ceiling; land 90 x 190 +/- ft in Enterprise Zone. Building needs updating. \$125,000. Brokers welcomed. Call Owner/Broker at 239-340-4770.

FOR RENT: 1 bed/1 bath condo in Everglades City Captain's Table Villa, \$850/mon plus utilities. Includes shed with washer/dryer and extra fridge & freezer. Free pool, cable, water. 1 to 2 year lease required. Available Sept 1. Will consider prime time at \$1450/mon plus utilities. Call Dave 612-282-2443.

FOR SALE: Truck-bed Toolbox (with locking lid) Diamond Plate; like new (just a few months old). \$200. For info, call 695-8497.

FOR RENT: Seasonal in Everglades City, Florida stilt house with large, family room & kitchen, 2 bed/1 bath, washer/dryer, use of private dock nearby, \$1600/mon or \$1000/2-wks, (utilities included). For info call Nick at 239-261-9592 or 508-677-5136.

SNOOK CLASSIFIED
only \$10 per issue ...



PET PICS

Reader Janet Treadway sent us this holiday snap of 2-year-old Molly. Send us your Pet Pics by email or post.



Maureen Sullivan-Hartung launched her new book *Hidden History of Everglades City and Points Nearby* recently. You can read a review on page 9.

P. O. Deadlines for Christmas Mail

USA:	
1 st Class	Dec 20
Priority	Dec 21
Express	Dec 22
Parcel Post	Dec 15
CANADA	Dec 10
MEXICO	Dec 10
EUROPE	Dec 10
CENTRAL AMERICA	Dec 3

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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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