

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

JULY 8 – 21, 2011

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

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....TRIP TO ALASKA

Helen Bryan arrived back recently from her Alaskan cruise to find husband Jim well and happy after being entertained by their children Kevin & Jamie. She reports that her Alaskan cruise was a great adventure with fantastic foods: most delicious salmon, halibut, Alaskan crab legs, lobster, steaks, lobster bisque, clam chowder, and the plate creativity was most exquisite and appetizing. "What more could one ask for on a cruise!" Legendary Journeys' 11-day trip included two nights in Seattle, WA, then on Carnival Spirit Cruise ship to Tracy Arms, AK, Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan, and Victoria, Canada. Helen told the *Rapper* that her trip was "fantastic, wonderful, a dream come true... words can't describe all I got to see and enjoy on vacation...a few pics helped show the beauty of God's creation that my eyes got to see and I enjoyed so very much in my lifetime."

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FEATURE Living with Alligators p. 9

Loss of Historical Sites

On Monday, June 27, a late afternoon fire (reported to be caused by an electrical shortage) destroyed the old Miccosukee gift shop at Big Cypress Bend on US 41. The village is across from the former Weaver's Station that Barron Collier built for servicing the automobile travelers when the Tamiami Trail was completed in 1928. All the hand-crafted items in the store were lost. Reconstruction of a new gift shop has already begun at the same site.

A few weeks ago an historic site in Everglades City was taken down. One of the original "fishermen's cottages" across the river from the Rod & Gun Club was demolished (reason unknown). The homes had been built by guides who took out the "rich and famous" staying at the Rod & Gun Club in the early to mid-1900s. One of the cottages was bulldozed a few years back; now another has gone.

The Smallwood Store & Museum continues to be closed until the lawsuit filed by the county and owners is settled. Florida-Georgia Grove LLP installed a fence without a permit blocking access to the historic store on April 14; later an application was filed with the County but, due to the pending lawsuit, the permit was not granted. Mamie Street residents William and Patricia Vaughn were recently awarded a temporary injunction on June 23 by Collier County Circuit Court which ordered Florida-Georgia Grove LLP to provide access to the Williams' property.

PLANTATION ISLAND ROADS

by Harold Hall

About seven months ago, the Collier County staff installed a sign "End of County Maintenance" at the entrance to Plantation Island. One was placed at the entrance to Chokoloskee Island, also.

On June 14, the Board of County Commissioners approved the resumption of maintenance of all roads in Plantation Island, except Hawk Lane, Otter Ave, Coon Court and Beaver Lane.

The approval was set forth in a Resolution which listed 22 roads for which the county had no record of such roads being deeded to and/or accepted by the county for maintenance. This included 10 roads in Plantation Island (all asphalt paved). There was no mention of Chokoloskee Island.

Following installation of the "End of County Maintenance" signs late last year, the Plantation Island Property Owners Association formed a five-person committee headed by Frank Garrett and included Association President Larry Weber, Treasurer Sonny Scott, Harold Hall and George Archibald. They assembled extensive historical documentation on Plantation Island roads and Florida Statutes on public roads. On May 24 Frank and Harold met with Commissioner Coletta and Norman Feder (Growth Management Division Director). Mr. Feder agreed with the committee and took steps to have this formalized by the County Commission through a Resolution approved on June 14, 2011.

JULY 2011

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
3	4 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm	5	6 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am	7	<u>RAPPER 8</u>	9
10	11 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church 7 pm Ochopee Fire Board Meeting 6 pm	12	13 Ladies Coffee Island Cafe 8 am	14	full moon ● 15	16
17	18 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	19	20 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am	21	<u>RAPPER 22</u>	23
24	25 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm	26	27 Ladies Coffee Island Cafe 8 am	28 Summer Camp Last Day	29	new moon ○ 30
31	AUG 1 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm	2 City Council 5:30 pm National Night Out	3 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am	4	<u>RAPPER 5</u>	6 Pet Vet see p.11

Future Dates to Remember: Aug 12-14: 2011 Florida State Tax Holiday Aug 22: Back to School Aug 25: BigC ORVs Meeting
Aug 30: First notice for City Elections Oct 22: Redsnook Tournament Nov 22: City Elections

THRIFT SHOP: Sat; 11:00 am to 3:00 pm SKATING RINK: Fri, Sat; 7-10 pm DR DEMARTINO: Fridays, by appointment only
LITTLE GATOR CLINIC: closed for summer FOOD PANTRY: Sat, 8:30-10:30 am, Holy Family
ALCOHOLICS ANON: Wed, 5:00 pm, Holy Family Catholic Church NARCOTICS ANON: Sat, 11:00 am, Community Center
MUSEUM: Tues-Fri; 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sat; 9:00 am to 4:00 pm SMALLWOOD STORE: closed until further notice

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: Mon, 7/11 (10-11 am) Fri, 7/15 (9-10 am) Tues, 7/19 (10-11 am) Thurs, 7/21 (1-2 pm)
Tues, 7/26 (10-11 am) Fri, 7/29 (9-10 am)

The preceding scheduled dates may change due to special circumstances. As always, deputies can be reached 24 hrs a day by calling 695-2007; or, in an emergency, call "911".

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

"Summer of Sharks" Lectures

This Month at Rookery Bay

On **July 20** senior scientist, pre-eminent shark researcher and author Dr. Jose I. Castro from Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota will present "The Perfect Predator". Scuba pioneer Stan Waterman will present "In the World of Sharks" on **July 27**. He will share an excerpt from the 1971 documentary "Blue Water, White Death" during which his revolutionary out-of-cage shark dive was filmed. Lectures are from 5:30-7 pm (doors open at 5 pm). The \$10 fee (\$5 for members) includes light refreshments. Pre-registration is suggested. Visit www.rookerybay.org or call 417-6310 x401 for more information.

PARKS & REC MONTH

As part of a nationwide celebration, Collier County is recognizing July as Parks and Recreation Month by offering the following activities: Sunny's Night Out, Dominos, Water Aerobics, A Canoe Trip Through the Estuary, Senior Cards, Community Yard Sale, Bingo, Shelling or Walking Through Freedom Park. Visit online at www.collierparks.com to view the R.E.A.L. Guide for program details.

The Department will host the 10th Annual Ice Cream Social, scheduled for Saturday, **July 30, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.** at Sugden Regional Park. Other activities will include entertainment, games, a giant water slide, canoeing, kayaking and a water ski show. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation Administration by calling 252-4000.



Brenda and Mayor Sammy Hamilton led the Independence Day Parade in a Ferrari, thanks to Naples Motorsports.

EVERGLADES CITY

Drinking Water Quality Report

The 2010 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is included with this issue of the Rapper and online at our website. A copy is also available in City Hall.

New Thrift Shop Hours

Reach Out Thrift Shop behind the fire station is now open only on **Saturdays from 11 am to 3 pm.**

Rainy season has begun so dropping off donations is positively not permitted at the Community Center. Therefore, please call Anne Mitchell at 695-2009 or Helen Bryan at 695-3298; they will personally accept your calls/donations. Thanks!

Commissioner Coletta

Collier County Commissioner Jim Coletta does not have any scheduled visits to Everglades City during July or August. He is available by e-mail at jimcoletta@colliergov.net or by phone at 239-252-8391 for anyone needing assistance.

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 06/21/11: Emergency Medical, 2 Miles West of Port of the Islands on US 41
- 06/21/11: Vehicle Fire, 75 Mile Marker I-75
- 06/22/11: Call Box, 62 Mile Marker I-75
- 06/23/11: Power Line on Fire, Everglades City
- 06/23/11: Possible Structure Fire, Everglades City
- 06/24/11: Power Line on Fire, Port of the Islands
- 06/24/11: Fire Alarm, Port of the Islands
- 06/24/11: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee Island
- 06/25/11: Vehicle Accident, 71 MM I-75
- 06/25/11: Vehicle Accident, Janes Scenic Dr
- 06/26/11: Vehicle Accident, Copeland
- 06/26/11: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 06/27/11: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee
- 06/27/11: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 06/27/11: Structure Fire, 27027 Tamiami Trail
- 06/28/11: Structure Fire, Copeland
- 06/28/11: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee
- 06/28/11: Fire Alarm, Port of the Islands
- 06/28/11: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 06/29/11: Emergency Medical, Plantation Is
- 06/29/11: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 06/29/11: Vehicle Accident, 60 MM & I-75
- 06/29/11: Good Intent, Copeland
- 06/30/11: Vehicle Accident, 74 MM I-75
- 07/01/11: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 07/03/11: Vehicle Fire, 52 Mile Marker I-75
- 07/03/11: Emergency Med., Port of the Islands
- 07/03/11: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 07/04/11: Vehicle Accident, Ochopee

OCHOPEE FIRE BOARD

The Ochopee Fire Control District Advisory Board will meet Monday, **July 11, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fire Chief's Office, Everglades City Fire Station 60, 201 Buckner Ave N. in Everglades City.

EVERGLADES CITY

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


TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

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

07/08/2011	Fri	03:30AM	0.5	L	08:48AM	2.8	H	04:44PM	0.2	L	10:00PM	2.1	H
07/09/2011	Sat	04:31AM	0.6	L	09:40AM	2.8	H	05:54PM	0.1	L	11:41PM	2.0	H
07/10/2011	Sun	05:37AM	0.8	L	10:39AM	2.9	H	06:58PM	-0.1	L			
07/11/2011	Mon	01:22AM	2.1	H	06:42AM	0.8	L	11:41AM	3.1	H	07:56PM	-0.2	L
07/12/2011	Tue	02:28AM	2.2	H	07:42AM	0.8	L	12:38PM	3.2	H	08:50PM	-0.3	L
07/13/2011	Wed	03:09AM	2.2	H	08:37AM	0.8	L	01:29PM	3.3	H	09:38PM	-0.3	L
07/14/2011	Thu	03:38AM	2.3	H	09:27AM	0.7	L	02:15PM	3.3	H	10:23PM	-0.3	L
07/15/2011	Fri	04:04AM	2.3	H	10:13AM	0.7	L	02:57PM	3.3	H	11:04PM	-0.3	L
07/16/2011	Sat	04:30AM	2.4	H	10:57AM	0.6	L	03:38PM	3.2	H	11:42PM	-0.2	L
07/17/2011	Sun	04:59AM	2.4	H	11:39AM	0.6	L	04:19PM	3.0	H			
07/18/2011	Mon	12:18AM	-0.1	L	05:31AM	2.5	H	12:20PM	0.5	L	05:02PM	2.8	H
07/19/2011	Tue	12:54AM	0.1	L	06:06AM	2.5	H	01:03PM	0.5	L	05:49PM	2.6	H
07/20/2011	Wed	01:28AM	0.3	L	06:43AM	2.5	H	01:51PM	0.5	L	06:42PM	2.5	H
07/21/2011	Thu	02:01AM	0.4	L	07:23AM	2.5	H	02:48PM	0.5	L	07:43PM	2.2	H
07/22/2011	Fri	02:33AM	0.6	L	08:05AM	2.5	H	03:55PM	0.5	L	08:54PM	2.0	H

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SUMMER VACATION NEWS

Everglades City School

phone: 377-9800 or 695-2561

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



From Savannah's Eyes

I have been having such a fun time this summer! I've spent time with my friends and family. But the fun is not over yet! It's only the middle of summer and there are so many more surprises to come.

Hot Summer Nights is here and I had such a fun time! There were snow cones, hot dogs, popcorn, waterslides, sports, and more exciting things! I had a blast with all of my friends!

If you're walking at night be careful. Because, in the shallow drain past the Skating Rink, there is a 4-foot alligator. My dad saw it a few days ago and took a picture of it. So be careful and stay cautious. Last year there was a 6-foot alligator in the same drain! It's scary to think about an alligator in the Gulf of Mexico, but even more scary about one near our homes and in a drain!

There are two very odd things that we saw in our yard the other day. One was a squirrel in our tree and the other a humming bird in our rose garden. It's so rare to see these two extraordinary things in Everglades City! I have never seen a squirrel in Everglades City or a humming bird! But it was such a beautiful sight. My dad thought that the humming bird was a moth at first because it was so tiny and then he realized that it was not a moth but a humming bird! Oh how I love nature!

Can't wait till the mosquitoes go away,

With love,
Savannah

Savannah Oglesby will be entering the 9th grade at Everglades City School in August and is a regular contributor to this paper.

Note: See Glades Daze, p. 10, for an article on the gray squirrel.

GET COLORFUL with CCSO

The Collier County Sheriff's Office invites area children and teens to share their artistic talent this summer.

Youths who participate in "Get Colorful with CCSO" will select one of two scenes that can be printed from the CCSO website and create a piece of artwork with a safety message. One drawing is of a CCSO deputy and the other is of a CCSO patrol car. On the back of the artwork or a separate sheet participants will write a brief description of what the scene is about. Entries may be created using crayons, markers or any other creative materials. To print one of the scenes go to www.colliersheriff.org and click on the "Get Colorful With CCSO" icon.

Completed artwork may be dropped off at any CCSO substation or mailed to: Collier County Sheriff's Office Public Affairs Bureau, 3319 U.S. 41 E., Building J, Naples, Florida 34112-4901. "Get Colorful With CCSO" will run through Aug. 12. At the end of the summer CCSO will share the artwork with the community on

Facebook: www.facebook.com/colliersheriff, and

YouTube: www.youtube.com/colliercountysheriff

Anyone with questions about "Get Colorful with CCSO" may call 252.0604 or e-mail ccsopio@colliersheriff.net.

PROGRAMS FOR KIDS AT ROOKERY BAY

Kids ages 12-16 can enjoy a unique art immersion experience with painter, author and environmentalist Rogest from **July 18-21**. The fee is \$100, and registration is now open at rookerybay.org. **SPACE IS LIMITED. REGISTER NOW.**

Kids ages 12 and younger (accompanied by an adult) receive **FREE ADMISSION** every Friday through Aug. 19 as part of the Kids Free Fridays program. Call (239) 417-6310 for more information on both programs.

Summer Camp



Photos courtesy of Beth White and Helen Bryan

Outings sponsored by CCSO included trips to King Richards on June 29 and Sun and Fun Lagoon on July 6; the kids will go to the Naples Zoo on July 13.



Summer Camp started on June 27 and continues until July 28. About 35 children attended the free camp sponsored by Reach Out, our neighborhood charity. It is now located in the Community Center, behind

the fire station, and operates from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Free breakfast and lunch are served, thanks to Collier County Parks & Recs Department. Donations to help the kiddies can be made to Reach Out Everglades, P. O. Box 894, Chokoloskee, FL, 34138.

The middle school attendees at Summer Camp will be participating in "Build a Chair" with the Deputies during the last week of camp in July.

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Wednesday Evening Prayer: 7:00 PM

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COLETTA
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Recipe for Good Eating

The 1-2-3-4-5 Cake

by Dorothee Williams
Darwin, Australia



Ingredients: Self-rising flour, sugar, oil, milk, egg, and vanilla (optional)

Combine 5 parts Flour to 4 parts Sugar to 3 parts Oil to 2 parts Milk to 1 Egg

Mix lightly all ingredients together in a bowl (add more milk if it seems a little dry); do not over mix. Add any fruit that you have available (i.e., soft bananas or apples). Vanilla or other spices may also be included. Pour into buttered and floured baking pan. Place in 350°F oven and cook for 25 minutes or longer depending upon the size of pan you use.

Editor's Note: This has to be the easiest banana bread / cake recipe I've ever tried (and very moist!). My friend, Dorothee, visiting from Australia suggested this recipe when we had some ripe bananas and apples sitting on the counter. We just used a large serving spoon to make this dish: 5 heaping spoonfuls of flour, 4 heaping spoonfuls of sugar, etc., then added the fruit. Dorothee also suggests that if you wish to have a "lighter" cake, you can add another egg and separate the eggs, then fold in the beaten whites. She says she uses this recipe when friends call at the last minute and say they are coming by for "a cuppa tea". Very easy and very tasty. I'm enjoying a piece while working on this week's issue of the *Rapper*. Do try with any leftover fruit or spices.

If you have a favorite recipe to share, please phone or email us.

Off the Shelf – Book Review



“Spooky Florida, Tales of Hauntings, Strange Happenings and Other Local Lore”

Retold by S. E. Schlosser
reviewed by Patricia Huff

While visiting the Florida Keys last week, I purchased this book to read on the beach while my husband was taking our Australian friends out fishing. It is a series of short stories and somewhat ghostly; something I thought would be a fun summer read. I located an isolated beach on Coco Plum in Marathon; it was late afternoon and the few people swimming there left the area soon after I arrived so I had the beach all to myself (or so I thought).

After finishing just a few of the “spooky” chapters, I heard a rumbling in the grass behind me and, turning around, I was surprised by a two-foot long green iguana. He quickly ran up the mangrove tree, camouflaged in the leaves and branches. Just as I settled back to reading, another larger iguana arrived and began eating the leaves of the dune plants. I moved a few feet away to read in private.

This collection of Florida tales offers a glimpse into the past lore of old Florida (although some stories are contemporary but still ghostly). Ms. Schlosser covers most of the State, having traveled from coast to coast and from Key West to Tallahassee to find the folklore covered in this book. One of the most interesting chapters discussed the “ghosts” from the ill-fated Flight 401 that crashed into the Everglades in 1972. Many local residents may remember this accident, but I had to google it to learn more information about the Eastern Airlines flight and its captains who died, then reappeared to other airline employees on other Lockheed L-1011 aircraft. Although many of the stories are somewhat bizarre, there are lots of interesting “spooky” chapters that readers might enjoy about our Florida past. Several stories sound as if they came from friends sitting around a fire and trying to “spook” their companions. Ms. Schlosser has also written similar books “Spooky Canada”, “Spooky New England”, “Spooky North Carolina”, etc. Her books can be purchased through bookstores and online at www.amazon.com.



Fishing Report

by Captain Bill Lindsay

Fishing for the last few weeks has been difficult. Off-color water continues to hurt our fishing. Soon heavy rains should start to wash bait and small blue crabs down the rivers on the falling tide. I like to bounce jigs as I drift down with the current. This is a great way to catch snook and tarpon. Capt. Norman Brown has been catching plenty of redfish on the incoming tide. Capt. Steve Huff is still finding some tarpon in the backcountry. Some small snook are being caught and released in the small creeks. Speaking of snook, the possession of these game fish will be suspended for another season in our area. Capt. Don Cochran has been catching some tarpon out on the Gulf wrecks. One day he landed a large trout on a wreck 26 miles offshore. Thunderstorms and bugs can make you head home early. Still, even with these small problems to overcome, fishing in July can be hard to beat.

Capt. Bill Lindsay lives in Chokoloskee (695-0314) and has been fishing in the Everglades National Park for 31 years. In 1992 he was Master Angler of the MET Tournament.



FWC News

The FWC Commissioners decided to take additional action to protect Florida's snook population after reviewing the latest available information on the status of the snook population. The Commission ruled to reopen the recreational harvest season of snook in Atlantic waters (beginning Sept. 1, 2011) but maintained a closed season for snook in Gulf waters through August 31, 2012. Anglers may still catch and release snook during snook harvest closures. To learn more about snook research or to read the Snook Cold Kill Report, visit www.research.MyFWC.com.

The harvest of blue crabs from traps will not be allowed from **July 10 through July 19** in the waters of Broward through Pasco counties. This closure will give authorized groups the opportunity to identify and retrieve lost and abandoned blue crab traps from the coastal and inland waters in this area. All commercial and recreational blue crab traps within three nautical miles of shore and in the inland waters of Broward County, south to and around the tip of Florida and north up the Gulf coast through Pasco County must be removed during the 10-day closed period. The harvest of blue crabs by other gear, such as dip nets and fold-up traps, will still be permitted during the 10-day closure. The closure also applies to recreational harvesters who use standard blue crab traps, unless the traps are attached to private property.

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

SAWFISH REPORTS

If you see a sawfish, please report it:

* 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.



PARK NEWS

Everglades National Park has announced an expanded video and podcast program. Two new exciting video series first introduced on the park's website (www.nps.gov/ever) are now available as podcasts through iTunes. Anyone with a digital media player like a smart phone, computer, iPod or internet TV can use these for free. "The goal ... is to share the Everglades experience with anyone in the world. The podcast videos are great to use either at home or to take with you to enhance your park visit" says Superintendent Dan Kimball. In these podcasts, rangers highlight different places in the park where visitors can explore, relax, recreate, or stay overnight. The educational "Glades Glimpse" series includes a range of park staff sharing their knowledge about habitats, human stories, and unique experiences in the Everglades. The open-captioned "Plan Your Visit" podcasts are on iTunes at: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/plan-your-visit-everglades/id414917434>

The open-captioned "Glades Glimpse" podcasts on iTunes at: <http://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/everglades-glades-glimpse/id416610201>

Also new to the park website is the series "Video Clips" which provides high quality B-roll footage for school, research or media purposes. This series has dozens of video clips ranging from aerial shots, habitat, wildlife, visitor activities and videos of guest speakers giving insider perspectives on natural and cultural resources. "Park Partners" series features short documentaries, orientation movies, and TV shows about the Everglades' ecosystems. All the Park's video episodes are available at:

<http://www.nps.gov/ever/photosmultimedia/videos.htm>

For more information on the park's podcasting program, contact Greg Litten at 305 242-7878 or greg_litten@nps.gov

FPL Comment Period Extended

Superintendent Dan Kimball announced that Everglades National Park has extended the public scoping comment period for the Acquisition of Florida Power and Light Company (FPL) Lands Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The comment period will continue through **July 25** in response to requests from agencies and the public for additional time to review and comment on the scoping newsletter.

FPL owns about 320 acres within the Expansion Area. Because the FPL property is currently undeveloped and is needed for restoration of the Everglades ecosystem, the NPS is seeking to acquire the FPL property, manage and maintain it in its undeveloped condition. FPL is currently seeking state and federal permits to construct three major transmission lines on its existing property in the Park or on the proposed exchange corridor within the Park. The NPS began an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed FPL land acquisition in 2009. During evaluation of impacts likely to result from transmission line construction and operation following a land exchange and issuance of required permits, the potential for significant impacts on Park resources was identified. In light of these concerns, the NPS has initiated this EIS process to more fully examine the potential impacts of land acquisition alternatives. For more information or questions about the Acquisition of FPL Lands EIS or the scoping process, contact Brien Culhane, Chief of Planning and Compliance at 305-242-7717 or by e-mail at brien_culhane@nps.gov or visit website: www.nps.gov.

Living with Alligators

by Jeff Whichello



People move to Florida and encounter alligators. For some, the sight of alligators may cause discomfort or panic. Once, an Iranian man decimated an alligator with an automatic assault rifle in Saint Petersburg. He assumed the animal relaxing in the man-made pond behind his apartment would eat his children. The arresting police officers assumed that the man would shoot his neighbors. In Ochopee, Florida, it's the alligators that encounter the people. Tourists marvel at the beasts from behind tall steel fencing, while puzzle at the ones not behind the fence.

Children born here face a real danger as they may be considered prey. They teeter along treacherous rocky canal banks during the day, watching the slithering, hairless giants slip beneath shadowy water. During the night, they find themselves in grueling nightmares where being eaten is a weekly occurrence. Sometimes they hear news of their dogs, cats, or livestock having been gobbled up, never to return.

In time, alligators succumb to the natural fear of humans and when approached by a six-year-old child, run like their tiny lizard cousins. At eight the child's fear has turned to respect. They find cautious moments where they sit on a wooden dock without concern, watching in peace at the creatures lying lazy in the sun. When older, they take a notion to swim, keeping an eye on the un-submerged curious eyes of the animal, floating half way down the canal. As adults, they wrestle the alligators, walk across their backs, and feed them by hand.

This land of alligators, a place devoid of technology, a distant past, to outsiders may appear alien, but to those who grow up here, it is home.

Photo of Jeff as a child, growing up in Ochopee.



MUSEUM NEWS

The Everglades City School students' art work continues through the summer months. Please stop by and see our community children's exhibit. 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. For info, phone 695-0008.



Become a member of the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades. Visit website www.evergladesmuseum.org for more information and an application form.



Marco Island News

Selected paintings from the Storter Collection can be seen at the Marco Island Historical Museum, located at 180 South Heathwood Drive (next to the Collier County Public Library). The Museum is now open on Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For info about monthly programs and exhibits, see www.themihs.org.



FLORIDA FLORA

by Patricia Huff

Spanish Bayonet (*Yucca aloifolia*)



Also known as the dagger plant in the Agave Family, this Florida native reaches up to 5 to 20 feet tall (beyond that height it may fall over with its weight). The Spanish Bayonet's trunk has very sharp needles at the end of its one to two-foot long leaves. As seen in this photo taken in Chokoloskee, the older leaves turn brown and hang around the lower trunk like a skirt. The blossoms are white and fragrant, growing approximately two feet long and four inches across. The trunk will stop growing once it has flowered.

This yucca is native to the coastal areas and may be used as a "security" plant since the spikes are very sharp and pointed. Care should be taken not to plant them where children will be playing or along walkways.



Glades Daze

by Larry Webber

Gray Squirrels: Bird Feeder Bandits

In Boston Gardens, a park in the middle of that city, I recall seeing people feeding peanuts to the squirrels. My visits to the city were only periodic but nevertheless it was not unusual to see the same person on the same bench feeding, presumably, the same squirrels. I have always been impressed by the dedication of feeders of gray squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*).



This dedication, however, is surpassed by the determination of the bird feeders who spend countless hours devising ways to keep squirrels from eating the birdseed. I have seen wires and strings and boards and pots and pans and a whole arsenal of odds and ends to discourage the little scouters from reaching the food left out for the birds.

Many of them work for a while but soon the squirrels learn to drop to the feeders from a limb above or some such tactic and soon they busily cleaning out the feeder. Many animal lovers have developed a love-hate relationship with squirrels because of this.

The gray squirrel is found in the wooded areas of Collier County, usually near oak trees. They are rarely found very far from trees and spend most of their lives in them, making them arboreal. The nests are usually above 25 feet in either tree hollows or in leaf nests in limb crotches. Young are born twice a year, in the spring and fall, by the older females and once [a year] by younger mothers. The little ones are on their own after about three months.

Their food varies but for the most part they are vegetarians. Tree bark, fungi, fruits, seeds, nuts (mostly acorns in our area) and other plant materials make up their basic diet.

In the fall they stash nuts and seeds but apparently they do not remember exactly where they put them. The idea is that they will run across some other squirrel's "stash" when looking for their own. This way there is usually enough to go around.

The barks and chatters of squirrels are very distinctive, making them easy to locate. Because they are so active and common, they are good animals to show to young children just getting interested in nature.

Reprinted by permission from the author, Larry Webber, who was a guest columnist for the *Bonita Springs* and *The Golden Gate Eagle* Newspapers..

Editor's Note: I didn't think this article was relevant to our area until I discovered a gray squirrel eating birdseed below my bird house where I feed my visiting cardinals. This is the first time I have ever seen a squirrel in Everglades City so I was quite surprised (as was Savannah; see p. 5). This photo was taken by Franklin Adams at his Collier County home; he says it's a native gray squirrel. South Floridians call them cat squirrels because of one of their "mewing" calls that sounds cat like.

Florida Tales

JET ENGINE MYSTERY

by Chester Keene



After the June 10, 2011, article, I received one good call so far and several guesses. I thought someone must know some first-hand knowledge of the crash. Maybe it will surface soon.

I remember reading a story out of the *New York Times* that was sent to me by Alvin Lederer, a South Florida historian. The article was published June 12, 1922. "Treed by a Panther." A young cadet told of his experience of flying out of Carlstrom Field to Okeechobee City and back on a solo-training flight. The first leg went OK without incident. On the return flight, I figure he didn't have Lake Okeechobee as a land reference and strayed off course and ran out of fuel about forty miles southeast of Immokalee, FL, in Lee County then. The plane was a complete wreck but he wasn't injured and started to walk out looking for human habitation. His clothes were torn in shreds, mosquitoes biting until he was almost going crazy when he was chased and treed by a panther in a cypress tree. Spending the night without water, the search planes spotted the wrecked plane but not him.



He continued, only to have his thirst quenched by swamp water. He was picked up the next evening by a Seminole Indian and was taken to their camp. He spent the night and proceeded the next day with his guide for help. They spotted several search planes but could not get their attention. They went to Kennedy Carson's Ranch, another night passed and the next morning Kennedy Carson and the aviator started towards Immokalee in his buckboard. A plane flew over them and they got its attention by waving a white sheet. The plane landed and took the cadet on board. The cadet did walk fifty miles before he was rescued. Well, back to the future of the jet engine; I'm still waiting for that call where we can solve this mystery (239-649-0836).

Note: Photos are of the type of plane that crashed in 1922.

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



SHERIFF'S REPORT

Lt. Mark Milligan reports that there have been no crimes in the Everglades City area since our last issue. CCSO was an active and welcomed participant in our Independence Day celebrations on July 2, including having the rock climbing wall which was also there for Hot Summer Nights the previous evening.

If you have information about criminal activity or see anything suspicious, call 695-2007 right away, no matter what the hour. In emergencies, call 911.



RESTAURANT NEWS



Camellia Street Grill (695-2003):
Closed for the Season

City Seafood (695-4700):
6:00 am – 6:00 pm; daily
Fish Market also open

Everglades Seafood Depot (695-0075):
10:30 am - 10:00 pm; daily
Cabana Bash, 5:00 pm Sat

Everglades Scoop (695-0375):
Closed for the Season

Gator Express (695-3937):
6:30 am – 8:00 pm; daily

Glades Haven Deli (695-2091):
6:00 am – 6:00 pm; Sun - Thurs
6:00 am – 9:00 pm; Fri, Sat

Havana Cafe (695-2214):
Closed for the Season

Island Cafe (695-0003):
6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily

Ivey House (695-3299):
6:30 – 9:30 am; daily
Continental breakfast, box lunches

Joanie's Blue Crab Cafe (695-2682):
Noon – 4:00 pm; Thurs - Sun

Leebo's Rock-Bottom Bar (465-9521):
3:00 pm; daily
live music all the time

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):
4:00 – 10:00 pm; Thurs-Fri-Sat
in the Lounge

Right Choice Pizzeria (695-3663):
5:00 – 8:30 pm; Thurs- Sun (takeout)

Rod & Gun (695-2101):
7:00 - 10 am Breakfast; daily
11:30 am - 9:00 pm; daily

Susie's Station (695-2273):
11:00 am - 5:00 pm; daily

Triad Seafood (695-0722 or 695-2662):
Closed for the Season

Right Choice Supermarket:
9:00 am – 7:00 pm, Mon-Sat
10:00 am – 6:30 pm, Sun



Grimm's Stone Crab (695-3222). Open 8 am to 6 pm Monday through Saturday if seafood available. Call in advance.



Elaine Middelstaedt won the 4th of July cake made by Margaret Johnson. Proceeds benefited the Pre-K Program.



Fun-filled day with many floats.



CCSO's "Build-a-Boat" project.



Crime Stoppers won "Best of Parade"



The fireworks display was as wonderful as always, one of the best (if not the best) in the area.

DOCTOR'S CLINIC



Dr Kirk Demartino of Marco Island will see patients by appointment only on Friday afternoons in the clinic behind the fire station. He accepts Medicare and insurance. For info and appointments, call (239) 642-5552.

Little Gator Clinic



The free walk-in clinic (behind the Fire Station) for youngsters age 18 and under is closed for the summer.

MOBILE PET VET



Dr Baker will visit the area again on **Saturday, August 6**, 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, August 7**, by previous appointment only. Call early since Dr. Baker's schedule for surgery is filling up fast in August. For info, phone her at 777-PETS (7387) or see www.naplesmobilepetvet.com.

WEATHER INFORMATION

If you want to watch the weather from NOAA, go to www.weather.gov and type in your ZIP code in the left column. After that, click on the radar map and loop over the past hour to see how the storm is moving.

Senator Rubio Office in Naples



The Board of County Commissioners has approved a lease agreement with U.S. Senator Marco Rubio to utilize county-owned office space within the main administration building at the Collier County Government Center. Senator Rubio's new district office is expected to open to the public in late July. The address for the office will be 3299 Tamiami Trail E., Suite 106, Naples, FL 34112-5746. For more information, contact Com. Coletta at 252-8097.

Volunteers Needed at the Museum of the Everglades
Call Martha at 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. Call (419) 441-2068 or (740) 864-2179.

FOR RENT: Studio apartment for rent. \$600 a month or 1200 sq ft commercial space with office and handicapped-accessible bathroom with shower plus apartment for \$1000 a month. Call 239-340-4770.

FOR SALE: Fishermen's Paradise Lovely Duplex, 2 beds, 2 baths each unit. Lower level completely redone. Live in one unit; rent out the other. Located in Chokoloskee on a canal, deeded waterfront. \$465,000. Call Bonnie Woodward, Keller Williams Realty 239-860-6369.

FOR RENT: 1 bedroom / 1 bath condo. \$650 monthly. Glades Realty 239-695-4299 or Glades Realty@aol.

FREE: 50-ft.+/- Radio Antenna. You dismantle. Located at 306 N. Storter Ave. EC. Phone 603 591 3812.

FOR RENT: Office at 102 Buckner Ave South, phone 695-4535.

FOR SALE: Condo full of furniture, everything must go, furniture, all linens, kitchenware, etc. 239-695-4150 or 239-695-4299.



PET PICS

David Freundlich took this picture of a hawk (believe to be a Northern Harrier, *Circus cyaneus*) on Plantation Island on Sunday 6/26/11.

Send us your Pet Pics by email or post.

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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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