

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

DECEMBER 9 - 22, 2011

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

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Commissioner to Visit

Collier County Commissioner Jim Coletta will be in Everglades City on **Friday, December 16** from 2 to 3 pm to meet with constituents at City Hall. If anyone has any matters concerning Collier County government, Commissioner Coletta asks that they contact his office to schedule an appointment or stop by to say hello. He encourages community leaders and all of Everglades City, Plantation Island, Copeland, and Chokoloskee citizens to visit him while in Everglades City to keep him informed on local events.

He states, "I enjoy this opportunity to meet with so many of the great people that live in these areas and to further my relationships." Additionally, he will be attending the visit from Santa and the Lighting of the Christmas Tree.

Please call Paula Springs at 252-8097 to schedule an appointment or email her at PaulaSprings@colliergov.net. Coletta can be reached at jimcoletta@colliergov.net. or telephone at 252-8391, cell 370-0509.

Mamie Street Update

At the November 30 status conference, County Judge Lauren Brodie scheduled the next hearing regarding Mamie Street for **Thursday, December 29**, at 2 pm.

More HOLIDAY EVENTS on p. 3, 10.

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FEATURE: "HOLIDAY NEWS" p.10

Happy Holidays in the Everglades

Santa Visit Tree Lighting



Santa will visit on **Friday, December 16**, at 3:00 p.m. in the Community Center. The gift distribution will be followed at 5:30 p.m. by the lighting of the Christmas tree in front of City Hall. For more info, phone 695-3781.

PANCAKE FLY-IN



The next Pancake Fly-In will take place on **Saturday, December 17**, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Airport, thanks to Chuck Gretzke of Wings 10,000 Tours which offers flights around the area. For info, call Chuck at 695-3296.

LIGHT PARADE

The Booster Club is sponsoring the Light Parade on **Saturday, December 17**. Activities for all the family start at McLeod Park at 5:00 p.m. and the parade starts near the Fire Station at 6:30 p.m. To register, contact Diana Potter Valdes at 280-8178, Nikki Sylvest at 465-1230 or Nanette Mitchell Watson at 465-0727.

BOAT PARADE

The 4th Annual Everglades City Holiday Boat Parade will begin at 6:30 pm on **Saturday, December 17**, and will run from the Estuary Apartments on Lake Placid to Outward Bound on the Barron River and circle back to dock at Camellia Street Grill. Boats should meet at The Estuary docks at 6:00 pm.

Everyone is welcome to join in the viewing party at Camellia Street where there will be live music and good food. For more info, phone Debbie at 695-2429 or Lisa at 249-1002.

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

by Marya Repko

At the meeting on December 6, Mayor Sammy Hamilton welcomed newly-elected councilor MacBeth Collins who said it was good to be back again.

Before the meeting started officially, Doug House said that he had served as a Councilor under seven Mayors but the present one was the best one. The Mayor said he was proud to have restored this beautiful building (City Hall) which is part of everyone's history, not only in Everglades City but in all of Collier County.

The Mayor announced that after extensive negotiations with the DEP, the submerged land under the City docks now belongs to the City. He has also spoken to the attorney about the 53-acres tract near the airport about the dock that broke loose and the grass which needs to be cut.

Finally, the Mayor said he was looking forward to Santa's arrival and the Christmas Tree Lighting on December 16.

BUILD-A-CHAIR

At the Council meeting on December 6, Lt. Mark Milligan reported about recent criminal activity (*see page 8*) and announced that another BUILD-A-CHAIR program would be held in the Community Center on **December 28-30**. Middle school students should register in advance by phoning him at 253-5031.

TURKEY SHOOT – NEW DATE!



The Everglades Lion's Club Turkey Shoot has been postponed to **January 7/8**. Prizes of a shotgun, gas BBQ grill, and a fishing rod & reel will be offered. For tickets and more info, call 695-2695.

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

DECEMBER 2011

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
4 Hanging of the Green	5 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm ESHP mtg FME Luncheon Booster Club	6 BigC ORVs Congressional Visit City Hall, 3:00 pm City Council City Hall, 5:30 pm	7 Ladies Coffee Havana Café 8 am	8 Great Gator Luncheon	RAPPER 9 ESHP Talk ECC, 5 pm <i>see p.3</i>	full moon ● 10 Art-in-Glades <i>see p.3</i> Mobile Pet Vet <i>see p.11</i>
11 Pot Luck <i>see p.3</i>	12 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm OFCD Bd, see p.3	13	14 Ladies Coffee Jan Brock's Home 8 am <i>see p.3</i>	15 Packages for Troops Deadline <i>see p.10</i>	16 Commissioner Coletta <i>see p.1</i> Santa & Tree Lighting <i>see p.1</i>	17 Pancake FlyIn Light Parade Boat Parade <i>see p.1</i>
18 Church of God Program <i>see p.3</i>	19 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm	20 Reach Out City Hall, 8:30 am Kids' Clinic 5-7 pm, <i>see p.11</i>	21 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am Christmas Play <i>see p.3</i>	22	RAPPER 23	new moon ○ 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service <i>see p.10</i>
25 Christmas Day	Public Holiday 26 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church 7 pm Micosukee Arts Fest starts	27 Kids' Clinic 5-7 pm, <i>see p.11</i>	28 Ladies Coffee Island Café 8 am Build-a-Chair <i>see p.1</i>	29 Build-a-Chair <i>see p.1</i>	30 Build-a-Chair <i>see p.1</i>	31 New Years Eve ECC service
JAN 1 New Years Day Micosukee Arts Fest ends	Public Holiday 2 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	3 City Council City Hall, 5:30 pm Copeland Civic 7 pm	4 Ladies Coffee Havana Café 8 am FME mtg	5	RAPPER 6	7 Lion's Club Turkey Shoot <i>see p.1</i>

Jan 8: Turkey Shoot, Deaconess Day Jan 20: ESHP Film Night Jan 21: Art-in-Glades, Fak Coastal Cruise, Everglades Ultras
 Feb 4-6: Seafood Fest Feb 11/12: Jammin' in the Hammock Feb 18: Antique Air Aficionados Feb 21-24: MSD Festival
 Feb 24: ESHP Dinner/Talk Feb 25: Fak Coastal Cruise Feb 26: Everglades Bicycle Ride Mar 10: Art-in-Glades, Homes Tour

THRIFT SHOP: Wed through Sat; 11 am to 3 pm
 DR DEMARTINO: Friday, 1:30 to 4:30 pm
 FOOD PANTRY: Sat, 8:30-10:30 am, Community Church
 AL-ANON: Thurs, 12 noon, Community Church
 MUSEUM: Tues-Fri; 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sat; 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

SKATING RINK: Fri, Sat; 7-10 pm
 LITTLE GATOR CLINIC: Tues., Dec 20 & 27, 5-7 pm
 AA: Wed, 5:00 pm, Community Church
 NA: Sat, 11:30 am, Community Center (Skating Rink)
 SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily; 10 am to 5 pm

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: Thurs, 12/8 (9-10 am) Tues, 12/13 (9-10 am) Fri, 12/16 (10-11 am)
 Mon, 12/19 (10-11 am) Thurs, 12/22 (1-2 pm) Tues, 12/27 (9-10 am) Thurs, 12/29 (1-2 pm)

SHERIFF: 695-2007 CITY HALL: 695-3781 PUBLIC LIBRARY: 695-2511 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: 695-3941
 AIRPORT: 695-2778 BIG CYPRESS: 695-2000 FAKAHATCHEE: 695-4593 NATIONAL PARK: 695-3311
 CURBSIDE TRASH PICKUP (FRIDGES, WASHING MACHINES, TVS): 252-2380 COLLIER COUNTY: 252-8999

ESHP History Talk

There will be a free lecture about "Monroe Station and the Tamiami Trail" on **Friday, December 9**, at 5:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall at Everglades Community Church. Everyone is welcome. For info, phone 695-2905.

ART-IN-THE GLADES

Have fun doing your holiday shopping!



Come along to McLeod Park on **Saturday, December 10**, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for an arts & crafts sale, live music, and hotdogs. For info, phone 695-2905.

Potluck Supper

Holy Family Catholic Church will have a pot-luck after Mass on **December 11**.

LADIES' COFFEE



Everyone is invited to Ladies' Coffee at Jan Brock's home in Ochopee on **Wednesday, December 14**, at 8:00 a.m. for the annual Christmas party. Bring a covered dish and a small gift (the Thrift Shop is a great place to find one).

SEAFOOD FESTIVAL



The application deadline for all non-profit organizations is **December 15**. To get an application, click on "contact us" online at www.evergladesseafoodfestival.com or stop in at the real estate office behind Island Café. For info, call (239) 695-2277.

LIBRARY BOOK SALE

The Everglades City Branch Library invites you to save money while you shop at its Fall Book Sale on **Monday through Friday, December 12-16**, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The sale benefits the Collier County Public Library system and offers both adult and children's books plus some audiovisual materials. For more info, call the ECity Branch Library at 695-2511.

Big Cypress ORV Permits

The 2012 Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) permits for Big Cypress National Preserve go on sale **Friday, December 16**. Permits are valid through January 31, 2013. For more information on the designated trails and permitting, contact 695-1205 or visit: www.nps.gov/bicy/planyourvisit/orv-use.

CHRISTMAS PLAY

Copeland Baptist Church will present the annual Christmas Play featuring local kiddies on **Wednesday, December 21**, at 6:00 p.m. Everyone welcome!

Church of God Program

The Christmas Program at Chokoloskee Church of God this year is on **Sunday, December 18**, at 6:30 p.m. and will feature the children under the direction of Nanette Watson. Community welcome.

EVERGLADES CITY
 Lat: 25.87°N Long: 81.37°W
 see www.weather.gov for weather

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 11/15/11: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 11/17/11: Public Assist, Port of the Islands
- 11/18/11: Emergency Medical, Port of Islands
- 11/18/11: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 11/19/11: Vehicle Accident, Ochopee
- 11/19/11: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 11/20/11: Emergency Medical, 54 MM I-75
- 11/21/11: Vehicle Fire, 68 Mile Marker I-75
- 11/21/11: Vehicle Fire, 70 Mile Marker I-75
- 11/22/11: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 11/22/11: Vehicle Fire, 70 Mile Marker I-75
- 11/23/11: Emergency Medical, 73 MM I-75
- 11/24/11: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 11/24/11: Emergency Medical, 63 MM I-75
- 11/25/11: Possible Hazmat, Port of the Islands
- 11/26/11: Possible Heat Stroke, Chokoloskee
- 11/28/11: Vehicle Fire, 76 Mile Marker I-75
- 11/28/11: Emergency Medical, 55 MM US 41
- 11/28/11: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 11/28/11: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 11/28/11: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 11/29/11: Emergency Medical, Plantation
- 11/30/11: Structure Fire, Plantation Island
- 12/01/11: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 12/02/11: Fire Alarm, Port of the Islands
- 12/02/11: Vehicle Accident, 70 MiM I-75
- 12/03/11: Vehicle Accident, Turner River Rd
- 12/03/11: Vehicle Accident, Ochopee
- 12/03/11: Vehicle Accident, 72 MM I-75
- 12/04/11: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 12/04/11: Fuel Spill, SR 29 and US 41
- 12/06/11: Vehicle Accident, Ochopee

Ochopee Fire Control District Advisory Board will meet **Monday, December 12** at 4:00 p.m. in the future POI Fire Station, 525 Newport Drive Unit #5, in Naples.

LAST HOLIDAY POSTING DATES

- Dec 12: Europe, first class
 - Dec 15: USA, parcel post
 - Dec 20: USA, first class
 - Dec 21: USA, priority
- Visit www.usps.gov for more info.

TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

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

12/09/2011	Fri	12:42AM	2.9	H	08:54AM	-0.2	L	02:31PM	2.4	H	08:45PM	0.8	L
12/10/2011	Sat	01:12AM	3.0	H	09:31AM	-0.3	L	03:08PM	2.4	H	09:20PM	0.8	L
12/11/2011	Sun	01:40AM	3.0	H	10:08AM	-0.3	L	03:47PM	2.4	H	09:56PM	0.8	L
12/12/2011	Mon	02:08AM	3.0	H	10:46AM	-0.3	L	04:29PM	2.4	H	10:34PM	0.8	L
12/13/2011	Tue	02:40AM	2.9	H	11:24AM	-0.3	L	05:11PM	2.4	H	11:16PM	0.7	L
12/14/2011	Wed	03:19AM	2.8	H	12:03PM	-0.2	L	05:54PM	2.5	H			
12/15/2011	Thu	12:05AM	0.7	L	04:09AM	2.6	H	12:46PM	-0.1	L	06:35PM	2.5	H
12/16/2011	Fri	01:06AM	0.6	L	05:17AM	2.5	H	01:32PM	0.1	L	07:16PM	2.5	H
12/17/2011	Sat	02:18AM	0.5	L	06:52AM	2.2	H	02:25PM	0.3	L	07:58PM	2.5	H
12/18/2011	Sun	03:33AM	0.4	L	08:32AM	2.1	H	03:26PM	0.5	L	08:42PM	2.6	H
12/19/2011	Mon	04:42AM	0.2	L	10:08AM	2.0	H	04:30PM	0.6	L	09:31PM	2.8	H
12/20/2011	Tue	05:44AM	-0.1	L	11:36AM	2.1	H	05:32PM	0.7	L	10:23PM	2.9	H
12/21/2011	Wed	06:40AM	-0.3	L	12:46PM	2.2	H	06:30PM	0.7	L	11:15PM	3.1	H
12/22/2011	Thu	07:34AM	-0.5	L	01:40PM	2.3	H	07:26PM	0.8	L			
12/23/2011	Fri	12:05AM	3.2	H	08:25AM	-0.5	L	02:26PM	2.4	H	08:18PM	0.7	L

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SCHOOL NEWS

Everglades City School

phone: 377-9800 or 695-2561

website: www.collierschools.com/evg

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, Dec 8	Great Gator Luncheon
Saturday, Dec 10	ACT
Friday, Dec 16	FCD for Salsa Training
Dec 22 – Jan 4	Winter Holiday Break



From Savannah's Eyes

Wow what a great way to start off the basketball season! 83-46 was our score against Marco Academy on Monday November 28! We are so proud of our team for getting 83 points at our first game! They also had help from the cheerleaders that were cheering them on so much we almost lost our breath! I am so excited for the rest of our

games to come, and I just know that we are going have a great and rewarding basketball season this year!

This year in December my family and I are going to Disney to the Mickey's Very Merry Christmas party! I am so excited to go because I have never been to the party before. There is going to be a big parade, musical shows, free hot cocoa, and did I mention real snow on Main Street? I bet it will be freezing there! They better have a lot of hot cocoa if it is cold!

This year's Christmas parade in Everglades City is going to be spectacular! If you want to enter your business or yourself in the parade you can! Just contact the Booster club to get in and get more information about the parade (*see page 1*).

Excited about Christmas!!

Love,
Savannah

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



Cheerleaders pep rally for the first home basketball game.

BASKETBALL HOME GAMES



Fri, Dec 9 Donahue: JV 4:30 pm / Varsity 6:00 pm
 Tues, Dec 13 W. Glades Middle: JV 4:00 pm
 Tues, Dec 20 Immokalee: Varsity 5:00 pm

PRACTICE TIMES

	Basketball	Cheerleading
Varsity	3:00 – 4:30 p.m.	3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
JV	4:30 – 6:00 p.m.	4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

SAC NEWS

Please email any questions, concerns, thoughts and ideas, and agenda items to the SAC Chair at evgsac_chair@yahoo.com. Agenda items must be submitted in writing for inclusion on the agenda 7 working days prior to the scheduled SAC meeting. There will be no meeting in December because of the holidays. The next SAC meeting will be **January 19** at 6 pm in the Media Center.

GREAT GATORS

- Pre-K – Jade Freeman, Chandler O Connell
- K – Katie Collins, John Mark Gilmore
- 1 – Trey Bee, Christian Keefe
- 2– Tyler Bruscini, Faith Brown
- 3,4 – Alexis Hendrickson, Jesse Goff
- 5 – Samantha Bruscini, Kalen Kibodeaux
- 6 – Scott Morris, Tori Wells
- 7 – Travis Daniels, Cody Potter
- 8 – Kevin Maley, Savannah Humphries
- High School – Kristin McMillin, Brianna Daniels

Everglades City School has several volunteer opportunities for you to come and share your day!

Everglades City School appreciates your gifts of knowledge, time, talents, and efforts with our students. Please call 377-9800 and let them know your interest. There is a place for you here! Visit website www.collierschools.com/evg/Volunteer for more information.

YEARBOOK ADS

You can help our school by advertising in the 2012 yearbook. For more info, call Casey Henry at 377-9800.



The Culinary Class needs sugar, cupcake cups and vegetable oil. Please take to Stacia at the School.

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Sunday Morning Service: 11:00 AM
Sunday Evening Service: 6:00 PM
Wednesday Evening Prayer: 7:00 PM

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Recipe for Good Eating



Slow Cooker Shrimp & Sausage Jambalaya by Dana M. Bethea

Ingredients:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 package Andouille sausage, diced | 1 15-oz can red kidney beans |
| ½ stick butter | 2 cups chicken broth |
| 1 onion, chopped | 1 lb shrimp, peeled and de-veined |
| 1 green bell pepper, chopped | Tony Chachere's or Tabasco,
to taste |
| 1 cup chopped celery | ¼ cup parsley, chopped |
| 2 tbs minced garlic | 1 loaf French bread with butter |
| 1 box Zataran's Jambalaya Mix | |
| 2 15oz cans diced tomatoes with juice | |

Directions:

1. Dice and brown sausage, set aside.
2. Sauté onions, bell pepper, garlic and celery in butter.
3. Combine Jambalaya Mix, sautéed vegetables, tomatoes, beans, and broth in a slow cooker. Stir in sausage.
4. Cover and cook on Low for 4-5 hours.
5. Stir in shrimp and cook for an additional 30-45 minutes.
6. Serve in bowls, topped with parsley and Tabasco/Tony Chachere's. Bread and butter on the side.

Dana often visits ECity with the sawfish research team and cooks up this dish for the gang. If you have a favorite recipe to share, please phone or email us.



Off the Shelf – Book Review

“Weeks Family Connections”

“The Weeks from Massachusetts to The Everglades and Marco Island Florida”

by Faye A. Brown

reviewed by Marya Repko

If you're a member of the Weeks family, here's a book that traces some of your ancestors. It was written by Faye A. Brown who is related to the original pioneer John Weeks. She grew up on Marco Island and remembers what it was like to live there in the 1940s and early 1950s. Besides researching the history, she collected stories from friends and family.

John Weeks was born in Beaufort, South Carolina, in 1821. After the Seminole Wars, he drifted southward, ending up in the Chokoloskee area where William Smith Allen found him farming on the bank of Potato Creek (now the Barron River) in 1868. John and his brother Madison later settled in Naples.

This little book is available online at www.straubpublishing.com or directly from the author. Send \$20 to Faye A. Brown, 258 Deer House Drive, Blairsville, GA, 30512. And, I'm sure she'd be glad to hear from you if you haven't already talked with her.

Our thanks to Craig Woodward of Marco Island and ECity for discovering Faye and writing about the family in the *Coastal Breeze* on August 12, 2011.

LOCAL INFO ON TV

Community Television is back online again on Channel 98. Please contact Lisa Marteeny at City Hall with your information about local events.



FLORIDA FLORA

by Patricia Huff

Tropical Flowering Trees for the Winter Season



If you'd like to dress up your garden this festive holiday season, plant a tropical tree that blooms in the winter with red flowers. Some of these include:

- The Red Silk Cotton Tree (*Bombax ceiba*) shown here
- The Rose of Venezuela (*Brownea grandiceps*)
- The Red Powderpuff (*Calliandra haematocephala*)
- The Red Saraca (*Saraca declinata*)
- The African Tulip (*Spathodea campanulata*)
- The Long John or Ant Tree (*Triplaris cumingiana*)



FWC News

Except for peacock bass and triploid grass carp, non-native fishes do not have bag or size limits. Anglers are encouraged to take as many as they can.

Bobcat and otter hunting season is December 1 to March 1 and there's no daily bag or season limit on either species.

Join the FWC's "Wings Over Florida" program or become a Junior Birder by visiting www.FloridaBirdingTrail.com where you can learn about the Junior Birder Program and download a copy of the Bird Detective checklist.

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

Florida Tales

Jet Engine Mystery

by Chester Keene



On June 10, 2011, the story of the jet engine laying in a shallow bay off Chokoloskee was printed in hopes of finding any more facts about how it got there. I received two calls from residents of the Everglades and Chokoloskee area. One said he saw the plane when he was in high school in 1964; the other stated he thought it may have been around 1972. His version was the day after the crash. He stated the crew was ejected and picked up by helicopter. It appeared the crew was having engine trouble and pointed it out to sea and bailed out. The plane fell short of making it to open water and pancaked down hitting hard losing an engine and ended up in the top of mangrove trees. The witness to the after crash stated the military was loading the rest on barges but left the one engine. He stated he had old movies of his children standing on it but hasn't produced any and did not want to be named. The other witness was resident Bob Wells of Everglades. He said it was an F4 Phantom Jet, as did the other source. A research on the engine confirmed it was the type used in that aircraft. So far no word from the manufacturer GE. I'm still trying to get to the bottom of this. If you have any information or know who may, please call me at 239-649-0836. I will get back to you.

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



The Living Gulf Coast

by Charles Sobczak

(Excerpt from *The Living Gulf Coast* now available at the Chamber Welcome Center)

Dusky Pigmy Rattlesnake (*Sistrurus miliarius barbouri*) **VENOMOUS!** Other names: ground rattlesnake, pigmy rattler, hog-nosed rattler / Status: FL = stable, IUCN = LC / Length: 18-30 in. (45-76 cm) / Weight: 5-6.5 oz (141-185 g) / Life span: to 20 years / Reproduces: live birth of 5-7 baby snakes, generally born in the spring / Found: All Counties, coastal, near coast, inland / Months found: **JFMAMJJASOND**.

The smallest venomous snake found in Florida, the pigmy rattlesnake's bite is seldom fatal. The record length for this diminutive rattler is a mere 30 inches, more than a foot shorter than the average length of a mature coral snake. Because of its size, this pit viper delivers roughly 18 mg of venom, which, while extremely painful to the victim, is only a tenth of the amount delivered by an eastern diamondback rattlesnake. A handful of people have lost digits to these bites, but deaths are extremely rare. The same readily available anti-venom serum used for the eastern diamondback is used to treat pigmy rattler bites.



The pigmy rattlesnake is carnivorous, foraging primarily on green and brown anoles, cotton mice, and insects. It tends to strike its prey quickly, then withdraw and wait out the effects of its toxin. While most small rodents succumb quickly, some reptiles can escape, only to die 10 to 15 minutes later. This small pit viper is a fairly common sighting at Myakka River State Park, especially along the road in the fall when the first cold snaps leave the snake seeking the warmth of the pavement. Because it is so small, the pigmy is taken by a host of predators, including kingsnakes, opossums, great blue herons, and owls. (photo by *Kenny Krysko*)

Charles Sobczak lives and writes on Sanibel Island. To find out more about the author and his books, visit www.indigopress.net.



SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sometime between November 12 and November 21 person(s) unknown entered an unlocked screened lanai to a residence at Chokoloskee Island Park and removed beer.

Three arrests were made during the first week in December. One was for the theft of money in a charity jar at a local restaurant. The other two were on previous warrants.

As always, please remember to secure your premises. Keep valuables out of sight when you leave your car and be sure to lock it. Report any suspicious activity immediately to the Collier County Sheriff's Office at 695-2007.

A Modern Day Thanksgiving

by Faye A. Brown

(continued from our last issue)

Daddy, by this time most likely knew that our chances of seeing a Turkey would be slim, so when we saw a flock of brown Curlew, he shot a good mess of them for our dinner the next day. The loggers soon returned and we hitched a ride back with them to the horse pens where uncle Luby Kirkland kept his horses. Curlew is an Ibis and is white when it gets older. The brown Curlew is a young mature Ibis and, when fried up like chicken, the meat is very tender and makes for some very good eating. Mama cooked up a pot of rice and made a pan of good thick brown gravy to cover it with. A large pan of homemade buttermilk biscuits, with a large picture of sweetened ice tea, just set the meal off and it was "larruping" good! Now, I'm not advocating hunting Curlew, because it was then, and still is today, illegal! At the time, my family, who were pioneers of the area had learned to live off the land because there weren't a lot of jobs in the fifties. It was a means of survival!

While our daddy was cleaning the birds, our younger sister asked him what they were. Not wanting her to spread the word that we had Curlew, he told her they were Buzzards. She went back to school and when her first grade teacher asked her class to tell what they had for Thanksgiving dinner, she told them that she had eat Buzzard. Our mama was working in the school cafeteria at the time and the teacher told her what Glenda had told the class. Our mama had some explaining to do.

I can remember a few good times having Thanksgiving dinner at our grandma Weeks' house when we lived next door to her and the Kirkland family on Curtis Street in east Naples. Later, after our parents bought the "old Brown fish house" in Everglades City, Florida, our grandma went to live with them on the Barron River. We had several good Thanksgiving reunions there and celebrated with a large Turkey and all the trimmings. Our mama thought bigger was better. Everyone helped with the cooking. There were so many pies and cakes baked that it made it very difficult to choose. There were four generations of family celebrating the Holidays then.

As I approach seventy years of age, both my parents and grandparents are deceased. My husband and I moved to the North Georgia mountains, far removed from the family we have in Florida. Many have moved in other directions to different states. With the failing economy that we are experiencing and prices of gasoline sky rocketing; it makes it very difficult for families to reunite for special occasions.

This Thanksgiving I sat near my fireplace, alone, while my husband sits in a tree stand somewhere watching the deer. After contacting our children and grandchildren via Facebook, we enjoyed a meal of fried venison, fluffy white rice with some good brown gravy covering it. Sacrificing the biscuits, we now have a nice lettuce salad instead.

See the review of Faye's book "Weeks Family Connections" on page 7.

MUSEUM NEWS

Attendees at the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades Annual Membership meeting and luncheon on December 5 heard Vicky and Bob Wells talk about their memories of growing up in Everglades and Chokoloskee.

At a brief business meeting, new directors were announced: Helen Bryan, Tina Collins, Georgia Garrett, Patricia Huff, Virginia Kanning, Barbara Portz, Jane Rackley, Renee Rau, and Vicky Wells. Volunteers for committees and to greet visitors at the front desk are always welcome. If you would like to learn more about FME, see www.evergladesmuseum.org or phone 695-2397.

The current exhibit featured in the Pauline Reeves Gallery is entitled "A Walk through the Everglades" with photographers Tyler McDonald and Bruce Hitchcock.

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.



ESHP NEWS

Historic signage was discussed at the meeting of the Everglades Society for Historical Preservation on December 5. To learn more about these special markers for homes and public buildings, contact Mike Danosky at 695-2244 or see www.evergladeshistorical.org where you can download an order form.



INVESTMENT INSIGHTS

by Darcie Guerin, CFP® Raymond James & Associates, Inc.

Women, Wisdom & Wealth

"Most of us ask for advice when we know the answer but want a different one." Ivern Ball

The cost of money just went down. On November 30, 2011, the Federal Reserve and central banks from the Eurozone, England, Japan, Switzerland, and Canada announced their plan to make it less expensive for banks around the world to borrow U.S. dollars. Not surprisingly, markets reacted positively to the news, which is designed to boost liquidity and support the global economy.

If the European debt crisis escalates this plan allows central banks to offer liquidity in foreign currencies if necessary. At the same time, China announced a plan to increase liquidity by lowering its reserve requirement for financial institutions, freeing up funds to stimulate China's economy.

In addition, Americans took advantage of falling home prices and lower borrowing costs to push used home sales up 10.4%, the largest gain since November 2010, although unemployment levels and tight lending are still keeping others out of the market.

The Black Friday and Cyber Monday post-Thanksgiving shopping period sent consumer spending to new heights. Preliminary reports showed that Cyber Monday was the highest-grossing online shopping day in U.S. history with spending reaching \$1.25 billion, better than the previous record set in 2010 by more than 20%.

During periods of market volatility, whether good or bad, it's important to maintain perspective and avoid emotional decisions. Stay focused and invest accordingly.

Investing involves risk, and investors may incur a profit or a loss. This article provided by Darcie Guerin, CFP®, Associate Vice President & Branch Manager of Raymond James & Associates, Inc., 606 Bald Eagle Dr, Suite 401, Marco Island, FL 34145. She may be reached at (239) 389-1041; email Darcie.guerin@raymondjames.com. Website: www.raymondjames.com/Darcie.

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HOLIDAY NEWS



SHOP LOCAL!

by Patricia Huff

'Tis the Holiday Season and, during this festive time, shoppers are out and about. Don't forget about all of our local places to shop. You'll avoid the big city crowds and really be surprised on the variety of gifts just here in the Everglades area, and everyone likes something from the 'glades.

For example, Win-Car has so many ideas for all ages, it's like shopping in a department store. We sometimes forget there are gift shops in all the park outlet stores, and the two museums in our area. Clyde Butcher has signed books available as Christmas gifts and don't forget gift certificates for stone crab claws or from your favorite restaurant.

If you don't want to face the traffic or crowds, you'll find lots of opportunities close to home for your holiday shopping. Happy Shopping!

Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center and Oasis Visitor Center: *books, videos, souvenirs*

Camellia Street Grill: *Everglades folk art*

Captain Doug's: *souvenirs, T-shirts, souvenirs*

Chamber Welcome Center: *books, T-shirts, souvenirs*

City Hall: *bricks, cards*

Clyde Butcher Big Cypress Gallery: *books, photos*

Everglades Island Boat Tours: *souvenirs, gifts*

Gator Express: *souvenirs, T-shirts*

Glades Haven: *fishing, wines, spices & hot sauces*

Ivey House: *books, art, T-shirts*

JT's: *gifts, books*

Museum of the Everglades: *books, prints, T-shirts*

National Park: *books, videos, souvenirs*

National Park Boat Tours: *books, souvenirs, T-shirts*

ORA: *books, fishing*

Parkway: *fishing*

Right Choice: *T-shirts, wine*

Shealy's: *souvenirs*

Smallwood Store: *books, souvenirs*

Thrift Shop: *clothes, toys, books, DECORATIONS!*

WinCar Hardware: *books, T-shirts & other clothing, fishing, household goods*

Wooten's: *books, souvenirs*

Christmas Packages for Troops

The Sheriff's office is working with the American Red Cross to send stockings to the troops this year. If you have items you would like to donate, please drop them off at the Substation in Carnestown by **Tuesday, December 15**. For info, call Christa at 252-2900.



CITY HALL CLOSED

City Hall will be closed in observance of the Christmas holiday on **Friday and Monday, December 23 and 26**. The Everglades branch of the Collier County Public Library will also be closed.

Live Nativity & Christmas Eve Service

Everglades Community Church will have a special service on Christmas Eve, **Saturday, December 24**, at 7:00 p.m. The celebration will feature the singing of carols and communion.

Before that at 6:00 p.m. there will be a Live Nativity on the Church lawn when real people will re-enact the Nativity in front of the Manger.



Holy Family Mass

Holy Family Catholic Church will have Mass on Christmas Day, **Sunday, December 25**, as well as **Sunday, January 1**, at 10:30 a.m. There will be a pot-luck after Mass on **Sunday, December 11**.



CHRISTMAS RESTAURANT INFO

Camellia Street Grill: closed Dec 24/25 and Jan 1

City Seafood: closed Dec 25

Everglades Seafood Depot: close 4 pm Dec 24, closed Dec 25

Everglades Scoop: closed Dec 24/25

Gator Express: closed Dec 25 and Jan 1

Glades Haven: open 6 am to 4 pm on Dec 24; open 6 am to 12 noon on Dec 25

Grimm's Stone Crab: open until 1:00 pm on Dec 24, closed Dec 25

Havana Cafe: close 3 pm on Dec 23; closed Dec 24/25

Island Café: close 3 pm on Dec 24; closed Dec 25

Joanie's: call 695-2682

Leebo's: closed Dec 25, party with music Dec 31

Oyster House: close 4 pm on Dec 24; closed Dec 25

Right Choice Supermarket: closed Dec 25

Right Choice Pizza: call 695-3663

Rod & Gun: open on Dec 25 and Jan 1

Susie's Station: closed on Dec 25

Triad: closed Dec 24/25 and Jan 1



Thanks to Helen Bryan for this photo of a house on South Storter Avenue which is brilliantly decorated for the holidays.

RESTAURANT NEWS



- Camellia Street Grill (695-2003):**
12 Noon – 9:00 pm; daily
6:–9 pm; Fri, Sat: Country Music
- 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
- Everglades Scoop (695-0375):**
11:00 am – 5:00 pm; daily
- Gator Express (695-3937):**
7:00 am – 7:00 pm; Sun - Thurs
7:00 am – 8:00 pm; Fri, Sat
- Glades Haven Deli (695-2091):**
6:00 am – 6:00 pm; Sun - Thurs
6:00 am – 9:00 pm; Fri, Sat
- Havana Café (695-2214):**
7:00 am – 3:00 pm; daily
5:00 – 8:00 pm Dinner; Fri, Sat
- Island Café (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 Café (695-2682):**
11:00 am – 4:00 pm; Thurs - Mon
- Leebo's Rock-Bottom Bar (465-9521):**
3:00 pm; daily
live music
- 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
- Right Choice Pizzeria (695-3663):**
5:00 – 8:30 pm; Thurs- Sun (takeout)
- Rod & Gun (695-2101):**
7:00 – 10:00 am Breakfast; daily
11:30 am - 9:00 pm; daily
- Susie's Station (719-0190):**
11:00 am - 5:00 pm; daily
- Triad Seafood (695-0722 or 695-2662):**
10:30 am – 5:00 pm; Sun-Thurs
10:30 am – 7:00 pm; Fri, Sat
Fish Market also open
-
- Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535)**
9:00 am – 7:00 pm, Mon-Sat
10:00 am – 6:30 pm, Sun
- 
- Grimm's Stone Crab (695-3222)**
8 am to 6 pm; Mon-Sat
-
- Loco's Produce (Fri, Sat, Sun)**
7:00 am - 2:00 pm; ECity Post Office
2:00 – 4:00 pm; outside ORA (Sun)




Storter Collection at BigC

The Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center at 33000 Tamiami Trail East in Ochopee features a new historical swamp buggy exhibit and the Rob Storter Collection, the folk artist who grew up in Everglades City and later sketched his memories of fishing and surviving in rural Southwest Florida.

The exhibit will continue through December 29. The Center is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. For info, call 695-4758 or visit website www.nps.gov/bicy.


DOCTOR'S CLINIC

Dr Kirk Demartino of Marco Island will see patients on Fridays from 1:30 to 4:30 pm in the clinic behind the Fire Station. He accepts Medicare and insurance. For info, call (239) 642-5552.




Little Gator Clinic

The free walk-in clinic (behind the Fire Station) for youngsters will be open Tuesdays, December 20 & 27 from 5 to 7 pm. There are no drugs on the premises but Dr. Barnard can write prescriptions.




MOBILE PET VET

Dr Lopez will visit the area on Saturday, December 10, at McLeod Park from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For info, phone him at 777-PETS (7387) or visit the website online at www.naplesmobilepetvet.com.



Fresh Veggies

Visit Loco's Produce outside Everglades City Post Office on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and also in Chokoloskee outside ORA from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.




THRIFT SHOP OPEN 4 DAYS

The Reach Out Thrift Shop is open Wednesday through Saturday from 11 am to 3 pm.

BARBER SHOP HOURS

Fish 'n' Clips barber shop next to Right Choice Supermarket is now open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. every day except Sunday. For info, phone Jorge at 695-0009.



Thank you

I would like to express my appreciation to those who supported me in my bid for a council seat. Thank you very much and I congratulate Parker and Mackey on their win.

Thank you again, *Jim Tankersley*

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SNOOK CLASSIFIED

WANTED: 14 to 16 foot welded Jon boat with trailer; motor not necessary. Please email: bobhought@gmail.com

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

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 & handicapped-accessible bath w/shower plus apartment for \$1000 a month. Call 239-340-4770.

FOR SALE: If you're into fishing, this is the place for you! Lovely duplex with each unit having 2 bedrooms & 2 baths. Lower level completely redone. Located in Chokoloskee on a canal, deeded waterfront, with dock & lift. Reduced to \$375,000. Call Bonnie Woodward, Keller Williams Realty, (239) 860-6369.

FOR SALE: 14" Wood Cutting Band Saw, good condition and a RCA Stereo, CD, AM/FM, iPod port, New Condition, Surround Sound, Cabinet, 4 speakers. Call 695-0243.

FOR SALE: HP Deskjet 3940 Printer. Excellent condition \$50.00. Call Sue Evans at 695-4273.

CLASSIFIEDS only \$10/issue



First Baptist Church held its traditional "Hanging of the Green" on December 4 which children decorated the tree and heard "grandma" Sue Evans read the Christmas story. Adults decorated the windows with garlands before all enjoyed refreshments.

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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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