

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

MARCH 29 - APRIL 11, 2013

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume VII

Issue #182



"Ghost Rider" Tram Tours

The popular guided tram tours in the Fakahatchee continues in April with trips leaving at 10:00 a.m. each Tuesday and Thursday from the Ranger Station on Janes Scenic Drive in Copeland. The tour lasts 2½ hours and includes a walk in the woods with an informative naturalist. Cost is \$25 and reservations are required. See www.orchidswamp.org or phone Pam at 695-1023.



Lincoln Vale of "The Everglades" TV series was recently shown by the Historical Society.

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BRIDGE DEDICATION

Approximately 100 attendees were present as Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar cut the ribbon during the formal dedication to open the new Tamiami Trail Bridge on Tuesday, March 19. Eighty five years ago in April of 1928, the Tamiami Trail was completed, allowing motorists to travel by automobile from Miami to Tampa. At the time it was considered one of the world's great marvels. Since then, it has also served as a dam blocking the flow of water from the north to the south. Within the next few months the removal of the old road will begin and eventually water will flow under the bridge.

After the ceremony, Secretary Salazar led a procession of cars across the new bridge (which should open to the public by May).



SCOOP CLOSES

After 15 years of serving ice cream to community kids (of all ages),



Sandy Dampier has closed the Everglades Scoop and is retiring. Best of luck!





Seventy automobiles and over 100 members of the Gold Coast Region of the Porsche Club of America traveled here from Ft. Lauderdale and Miami on Saturday, March 23. The Club sponsored this "Everglades City Drive and Dine" event and enjoyed a delicious lunch at Triad Seafood.

For more information about this Club, visit www.goldcoastregion.org.

Colette Sauer is shown above holding a copy of *The Mullet Rapper*.

MARCH / APRIL 2013

~				T		
<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	WED	THURS	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
24	25 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	26 Kids' Clinic	full moon 27 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am	28 Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm see p.3	RAPPER 29 Good Friday Veneration 12 noon Good Friday Service 7 pm see p.3	30 Easter Egg Hunt see p.3 Coastal Cruise see p.3
Easter Services see p.3	APRIL 1 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm ESHP Mtg Booster Club see p.5	Congressional Aide Visit 3 – 5 pm City Council City Hall, 5:30 pm	3 Ladies Coffee Island Café 8 am FME Mtg see p.9	4	5	6 Jr. Ranger Day see p.3 Big Cypress Landowners see p.3
7 Everglades Bike Ride see p.3 Church of God 100 Anniversary see p.3 Burke Memorial see p.11	8 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm OFCD Mtg see p.3 Chamber Mtg	9 School Board Meeting see p.5	new moon 10 Ladies Coffee Havana Café 8 am	Lions Club Depot, 6 pm	RAPPER 12	13
14 Fakahatchee Dinner/Talk see p.3	Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church 7 pm Poetry Contest Deadline see p.8	16	17 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am Diamonds of the Everglades Tea	Book Club see p.7 SAC see p.5	19	20 Pet Vet see p.3
21 PBS Documentary see p.7	22 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	23 Reach Out City Hall, 8:30 am	24 Ladies Coffee Island Café 8 am	full moon ● 25	RAPPER 26	Pancake Fly-In see p.3 Tamiami 85 th Celebration see p.9

May 2: National Day of Prayer
May 12: Emergency Workers Fish Fry

May 8: 90th Anniversary of Collier County Celebration May 12: ENP Comments Due May 29: BigC ORVs

THRIFT SHOP: Thurs, Sat, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm DR DEMARTINO: Fri, 1:30 pm 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: closed for summer 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: Office Hours and Dates posted on door.

email: mulletrapper@gmail.com

May 31: Graduation

EASTER EGG HUNT

The First Baptist Church of Everglades City will host an Old-Fashioned Easter Egg Hunt. Families with younger children are invited to come on Saturday March 30; hot dogs & soda will be served at 1:00 p.m. and the hunt for eggs at 2:00 p.m. Join the fun!!



7:00 a.m. at Everglades National Park Gulf Coast Visitor Center. Coffee and donuts served on site after the service. Everyone welcome; please bring a chair.

Holy Family Catholic Church:

Good Friday Veneration, 12 noon Easter Sunday Mass, 10:30 am

Everglades Community Church:

Maundy Thursday, 7 pm Good Friday, 7 pm Easter Sunday, 11 am

First Baptist Church:

9:45 am School, 11 am Service

Copeland Baptist Church:

11 am Service

Chokoloskee Church of God:

11 am and 6 pm Services

COASTAL CRUISE

The last Coastal Cruise of the season to historic Fakahatchee Island will take place on Friday, March 30. Cost is \$75 per person. For info and reservations, call 695-1023 or see www.orchidswamp.org,

Junior Ranger Day- April 6 **Shark Valley Visitor Center**

Aspiring Junior Rangers (designed for kids 8 to 12 years old, but is available to kids of all ages) and their families will be treated to a free guided tram ride through the Everglades. Seating is limited so reservations must be made in advance. Call (305) 242-7753 for more information.

Big Cypress Preserve Landowner Meeting

A Landowner's meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. at the Preserve Headquarters in Ochopee on Saturday, April 6. Topics related to Preserve management will be covered. RSVP your attendance with camp identification number and contact information to 695-1126 or by email to christine_clark@nps.gov. Please contact Christine Clark at 695-1153 for more info.



CONGRATULATIONS! Chokoloskee Church of God celebrates its 100^t Anniversary on April 7. Festivities will start at 10 a.m. and include horse & carriage rides by "Winn Carriage" of Naples, For info, phone 695-3735.



EVERGLADES DAY Annual Bike Ride

The annual Everglades Bike Ride will take place this year on Sunday, April 7, which is being recognized

as National "Everglades Day" to bring attention to this important ecosystem. The ride will include options for both road and off-road cyclists with a "smooth ride" of 62 miles (starting at 8 a.m.) or 16 miles (starting at 9 a.m.). Opportunities to customize the distance of your ride are available. The 27-mile "bumpy ride" will take bicyclists down beautiful Janes Scenic Drive into the Fakahatchee (starting at 9 a.m.). A seafood lunch will provided. To register, www.naplespathways.org and click on "Stay & Play Everglades Ride" on the left side of the Home page or call Patty Huff at 695-2397 for more information. Also contact Patty if you would like to volunteer during the event.

FAKAHATCHEE TALK

The guest speaker at the Dinner/Talk on Sunday, April 14, is Jeff Klinkenberg, the author whose entertaining articles about unusual people and places appear in the St. Petersburg Times. The event is hosted by Friends of Fakahatchee and reservations are required. For info, call 695-2905 or see www.orchidswamp.org.

PANCAKE FLY-

The last pancake breakfast hosted by Wings 10,000 Islands Tours will take on Saturday, April 27, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Everyone is welcome. For info, call Chuck at 695-3296.

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

03/11/13: Emergency Medical, Copeland

03/12/13: Fire Alarm, Ochopee

03/12/13: Vehicle Accident, 71 MM I-75

03/13/13: Emergency Medical, Copeland

03/14/13: Emergency Med, Chokoloskee

03/14/13: Emergency Medical, Copeland

03/14/13: Emergency Medical, Ochopee

03/15/13: Emerg. Med, Everglades City

03/16/13: Mutual Aide, Marco Island

03/16/13: Smoke Investigation, US-41

03/16/13: Emergency Medical, Ochopee 03/16/13: Vehicle Accident, Ochopee

03/16/13: Smoke Investigation, S Blocks

03/16/13: Emergency Med, Chokoloskee

03/17/13: Vehicle Accident, 68 MM I-75

03/17/13: Emergency Med, Chokoloskee

03/18/13: Vehicle Accident, 53 MM I-75

03/18/13: Vehicle Accident, 80 MM I-75

03/19/13: Vehicle Accident, 72 MM I-75

03/19/13: Emergency Med, Chokoloskee

03/20/13: Emergency Med, Port of Islands

03/20/13: Emerg. Med, Plantation Island

03/21/13: Vehicle Accident,

US-41 & Turner River Rd 03/21/13: Vehicle Accident, 66 MM I-75

03/21/13: Emerg. Med, Everglades City

03/22/13: Vehicle Fire, 58 MM I-75

03/22/13: Vehicle Accident, SR29 & US-41

03/22/13: Vehicle Fire, 70 MM I-75

03/23/13: Emerg. Med, Everglades City

03/24/13: Emerg. Med, Everglades City

03/24/13: Emergency Med, Port of Islands

03/24/13: Fire Alarm, Port of the Islands

03/25/13: Emergency Med, 69 MM I-75

03/25/13: Emerg. Med, Plantation Island

Ochopee Fire Control District Advisory

Board will meet Monday, April 8, at Port of the Islands at 4:00 p.m.

DOCTOR'S CLINIC

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

MOBILE PET VET

Lopez will visit Everglades City on Saturday,

April 20, from 9:00 am. to 1:00 pm at McLeod Park. Please order products in advance by phone or website. For more information, phone 777-7387 or see www.naplesmobilepetvet.com.

Little Gator Clinic

The free walk-in clinic for youngsters will be closed until the fall. We wish the Barnard's a happy summer vacation and appreciate all you both have done for the kids in our community.

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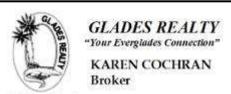
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SCHOOL NEWS

phone: 377-9800 or 695-2561

Everglades City School

website: www.collierschools.com/evg

IMPORTANT DATES

Fri, Mar 29 Good Friday, No School

Teacher Planning Day

Mon, Apr 1 Booster Club, 3 pm

Tues, Apr 9 School Board Mtg, 4 pm, Cafetorium

Thurs, Apr 18 SAC Meeting, 6 pm, Media Center



Shannon Snyder sent in this photo of Everglades' kids at the Children's Museum in Naples, compliments of the free passes from the Collier County Library right here in Everglades City. You can sign up for a pass that includes admission for 4 people.

GREAT GATORS

1st Grade: Gabe Herrin

2nd Grade: Mackenzie Gibson,

Brandon Purvis, Gavin Moore

3rd Grade: **Taylor Richards** 4th / **5**th **Grade**: Evan Richards 6th Grade: **Dustin Young** 8th Grade: Kiley West **High School:** Miranda Rincon

Note from Principal Bob Spano

Everglades City School will host the April 9th Collier County School Board Meeting in the Cafetorium at 4:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend the meeting.



Two Everglades City students were recognized at the fifth "Do the Right Thing" award ceremony for the 2012-13 school year at Lorenzo Walker Institute of Technology on March 18.

Evan Richards, 5th grade, and Seth Hooks, 6th grade, came across some fishing rods and reels while playing outside. They turned them over to the Collier County Sheriff's Office. It was believed that the rods and reels were possibly stolen. The Collier County Sheriff's Office adopted the "Do the Right Thing" program in January 1988 and has honored hundreds of children for acts that reinforce good behavior, positive acts, and outstanding accomplishments in the community.



Morgan Daffin pitching for the Gators.

Girls Softball HOME Games

Tues, Apr 2 Ahfachkee School Thurs, Apr 4 Pamayelv Emahakv

Boys' Baseball HOME Games

Marco Island Academy 5:00 pm Mon, Apr 1 Thurs, Apr 4 Pemayety Emahaky 4:00 pm

See website www.collierschools.com/evg for full game schedule.





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Recipe for Good Eating Left-over Hard Boiled Eggs

Submitted by Patty Huff



6 Hard Boiled Eggs

Chopped Parsley, Dill Weed, Chives, Tarragon, or whatever you have in your garden Salt & Pepper to taste

34 cup Mayonnaise and 14 cup Mustard

What to do with all the left-over Easter eggs! Spice up your deviled eggs or make a healthy egg salad by combining above ingredients; serve with lettuce or in a wrap with spinach.

Another recipe is to make your own eggs benedict by serving sliced boiled eggs and sliced tomato on an English muffin. Top with grated mozzarella and broil for just a few minutes in the oven. Enjoy!

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

Everglades Book Club

The last-of-the-season Everglades Book Club meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 18,** at 9:30 a.m. at Dianna Pollock's house, 309 Riverside Drive. The book to be discussed is *The Mirror Crack'd* by Agatha Christie. Everyone is invited to join. The next issue of *The Rapper* will list the books for next year. For information, call Patty at 695-2397.

HOUSEHOLD TIP

Right Choice Supermarket, our friendly local grocery store, has re-organized and introduced lots of new products. Before you go shopping in Naples, have a look on the shelves. They even have esoteric things like capers plus a wide array of different snacks. And, some items are at special, good-value prices. Stop in for a chat and a wander around.

Off the Shelf – Book Review "Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition Everglades to Okefenokee, 1000 Miles in 100 Days"

Photographs by Carlton Ward, Jr., and Essays by Mallory Lykes Dimmitt, Joe Guthrie and Elam Stoltzfus reviewed by Patricia Huff



A wonderfully illustrated book about the incredible journey taken by a team of conservationists beginning on January 17, 2012! The group started traveling by kayak from Flamingo in the Everglades, then by bicycle and finally by foot to complete their 100-day wilderness journey which ended on Earth Day in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in southern Georgia. Carlton Ward, Jr., an 8th generation Floridian, is well known for

his photography; this book is full of beautiful wildlife photos and also includes descriptions of the Florida animals and flora along their trek from the south to the north through central Florida. This is the "real" Florida, showing it at its best; maps are included depicting their route and GPS coordinates provided for those wishing to follow their path. A PBS documentary (WGCU Channel 30) will be shown at 5:00 p.m. on **Sunday, April 21** (check your local listing). Don't miss it! You may purchase a copy of the book at the Marco Island Historical Museum, 180 South Heathwood Drive, in Marco Island.



Fishing Report

by Captain Bill Lindsay

Fishing should start to improve once our summer rains begin. Tarpon will start their migration up the coast and can be caught

with lures or flies as they round the outside points on the edge of the Gulf. These fish also move into the shallow coves near deep channels and can be found "laid up" or resting below the surface. Anglers are still catching redfish, but there are not as many as there were a few months ago. Big black drum have started to move into our area and will take a well-placed shrimp or crab. These are often over 30 lbs. The large ones are not good eating, but fish under 8 lbs are not bad. Trout fishing has also slowed down for me. Snook fishing has also been difficult for me in the last few weeks. Not many are being taken out front, and you really have to work hard to take a large one in the backcountry. Offshore, when the wind is down, permit fishing with live crabs can be productive. Mackerel, cobia and tripletail are still being caught when wind is down.

Capt. Bill Lindsay lives in Chokoloskee and has been fishing in the Everglades for over 33 years. In 1992 he was Master Angler of the MET Tournament. His telephone number is 695-0314.

ENP Comments

Everglades National Park is seeking public comment on its Draft General Management Plan / East Everglades Wilderness Study / Environmental Impact Statement with public comment requested by **May 12,** 2013. The Draft GMP is available for review and comment at: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/EVER (then go to the "Open for Comment" link). For info, call 305-242-7700.

WORK ALONG BEAR ISLAND GRADE

There will be culvert repair work along the Bear Island Grade within the Bear Island Unit from **April 1 through April 30**. The work will require that the grade be blocked during the day at the work site, disrupting through travel along the grade. The grade will be passable at night and on weekends. Landowners in the vicinity are advised that electrical power will shut down temporarily during the project.

April is National Poetry Month

Big Cypress National Preserve is having its first annual poetry contest. Participants are encouraged to explore the Preserve and write about their experiences. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place; poems will be displayed on their website and Facebook throughout April / May. Winners selected by **April 20**.

Poetry Guidelines: Poems must be single spaced with 12-point font; may be written in any format. Poems must be submitted by April 15 (limit up to three poems per poet). They must be original and unpublished and cannot exceed two-pages (title page does not count toward this limit); subject related to natural or cultural history of South Florida. Poems must include a title page with: Name of poem, name of poet, contact address, email and phone number. Poems are to be mailed to: Big Cypress National Preserve Oasis Visitor Center, 52105 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee, FL 34141. ATTN: Poetry Contest or, email to: andrew frieder@nps.gov,



The Living Gulf Coast

by Charles Sobczak
(Excerpt from *The Living Gulf Coast* available at the Chamber Welcome Center and the Big Cypress Swamp Visitor Center)

Brown-headed Cowbird

 $\label{eq:continuous_continuous$



mainland / Months found: JFMamjJASOND (lower case: nesting season).

Birders and naturalists alike lament the success of this native blackbird and the toll it has taken on many of the continent's songbirds. That is because the brown-headed cowbird is North America's most notorious and successful brood parasite. The medium-size blackbird never builds its own nest, relying completely on this parasitic behavior. It is known to lay its eggs in the nests of at least 220 different species. The female may lay as many as 40 eggs in a single season, depositing only one in each nest. Of the 220 victim species, 144 raise the young cowbird, almost always at the expense of their own offspring. Because the cowbird often lays its eggs in the nests of much smaller warblers, the larger fledgling cowbird hatches first and out-competes the warbler and vireo chicks, causing them to starve or be ejected from the nest. Some species, such as the American robin, gray catbird, and brown thrasher, have adapted to the parasitism by either ejecting or burying the unwanted eggs. The yellow warbler will often desert its nest upon discovery of a brown-headed cowbird egg, or, in some cases, build a second nest on top of the egg, effectively killing the embryo inside. Studies have indicated that after laying its unwelcome egg in a nest, should the host bird eject it, the cowbird will actually return to ransack the nest, forcing the host bird to build a second nest. Once the nest is rebuilt, the same female cowbird will then lay a second egg, hoping for better results.

The cowbird's unusual parasitic behavior has been a boon to its survival. Originally called the buffalo bird, it was first identified in the late 1700s in the short-grass western plains where it often followed the immense buffalo herds. In recent times it has abandoned that practice and greatly expanded its range to cover almost all of North America except the boreal forests and tundra of northern Canada and Alaska. This expansion has come at a tremendous cost to certain passerines that have become the favorite target species of the cowbird. These include the painted bunting, black-whiskered vireo, and Florida prairie warbler.

The adult cowbird is subject to the same predation as all smaller birds. Owls and hawks take their toll, as do weasels and feral cats. One interesting form of chick mortality comes when the cowbird accidentally lays its eggs in the nests of vegetarian species such as house finches and mourning doves. The young cowbirds, which require insect protein to thrive, eventually starve to death on the vegetarian bird's diet of seeds, fruits, and drupes. The fledglings are also taken by black rat snakes, rats, and blue jays. The cowbird is a year-round resident of Florida, although the interior mainland population swells during the winter months from migratory northern birds.

Photo by Bob Gress

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



Florida Tales "A Hundred for a Hundred"



by Chester Keene

Back before the great depression, if you were lucky and able to work instead of waiting for a handout, there were several things people did to subsidize their income. Two of those were my uncle and dad. If you worked for the Work Progress Administration, some called it "We Piddle Around," my dad worked for the W.P.A. and was told by the foreman "if you break out in a sweat you will get fired." One of my other uncles joined the Civilization Conservation Corps, or the CCC. He helped put in roads and bridges in the National Parks when the war broke out and he joined the Navy. One of my uncles, who was a meat cutter or butcher by trade, found there was money to be made on rabbits (was told they used them in making Hasenpfeffer) in the Chicago market. He also worked on the building of the Tamiami Trail, which I'll write about at a later time. He started a Rabbit Hunting business on the side to make some extra money. Only one person from each household could work for the WPA.

My dad got married, moved out and built a shack from the lumber of an old barn that was on my grandparent's property. Right away we started multiplying like rabbits. He got the job with the WPA and was employed also by my uncle to hunt rabbits which were over running the Prairies, eating grass needed for the cattle grazing on the open range. The equipment needed for this was some canvas vests which were sewn to hold the big bottle size batteries. They were hooked up in series to keep the light on their headlamp bright enough to spot the rabbits eyes at night. They would take and put all the gear in the Skeeter (a cut down model a car with homemade wooden floors and sideboards) with the wooden barrels to keep the rabbits in while hunting. Before they left they were given two boxes of 50, each of .22 short bullets and were told "100 bullets, 100 rabbits." They usually had some extra ammo stored up some place with them. A box of bullets cost 20 cents. My dad was an excellent shot, told me many times son "shoot'em in the eye and they won't run off." It was nothing to stop in one spot and shoot 25 rabbits, which they had to carry in a sack back to the vehicle and place in the barrel. With a full load, they would skin them at first daylight and transfer to a clean wooden barrel with ice and send them by rail to the Chicago market which sold them for 20 cents apiece.

That was good money back then, and when WWII broke out they all had different jobs till it ended in 1945.

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

MUSEUM of the Everglades



During the month of April, the Pauline Reeves Gallery will have on exhibit "Barron Collier's Path through the Everglades – The Tamiami Trail", depicting the building of the Trail in the 1920s.

This will lead up to the special 85th anniversary of the opening of the Tamiami Trail celebration on **Saturday**, **April 27**. It is also the 15th Birthday of our Museum and the 500th anniversary of Ponce de Leon's arrival in Florida (VIVA Florida 500). There will be antique cars, a parade, arts & crafts, live music, fish fry & BBQ, story-telling by old-timers, historical walking tour, and tea & birthday cake. This is a family-fun event and everyone is welcome. For information, call 695-0008.

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.

The Friends of the Museum of the Everglades will hold its next meeting on **Wednesday**, **April 3**, at 3:30 p.m. at the Museum. Members are welcome to attend.

TAXING THINGS



by Mike the Tax Guy

Doing your taxes shouldn't be taxing. This year you can make preparing and filing your federal income taxes easier. These tips from the IRS can help.

- **Don't delay.** Avoid doing your taxes at the very last minute. If you rush to meet the filing deadline, you may overlook possible tax savings. You are also more likely to make an error.
- Visit IRS.gov. Go online for tax news and information. Make "1040 Central" your go-to source for filing tips, tax tools and news.
- Try IRS e-file. Whether you do your own taxes or have them done for you, you should try IRS e-file. E-file is the safest, most accurate, easiest and most popular way to file a tax return. If you owe taxes, you can file now and delay your payment until the April 15 filing deadline.
- File on time. If you owe taxes when you file your return but you can't pay what you owe by April 15, you should still file on time and pay as much as you can. This will minimize penalties and interest charges. If you cannot pay the total amount of tax you owe you may request an installment agreement. Most people who owe taxes are eligible for one.
- File an extension. If your return is not ready by April 15, you can get an automatic extension for an extra six months. E-file your extension using the Free File program. You should e-file or mail your extension, and pay any tax due, by April 15. An extension gives you extra time to work on your return, not more time to pay.

Angels of the Swamp



They are the angels whom we see every day. They are there to help us when we have questions; they are sympathetic to our needs; they show interest in

our families, our lives, but most of all they are an integral part of our community and we appreciate so much all that they do, going above and beyond their governmental jobs. They are our postmistresses. Angie and Pam are retiring. They will be missed!



BALD EAGLES

by Millie Wallace

While I was preparing dinner, I heard an urgent request from my husband to "Grab your camera and come here quickly. There is a big bird in the pine tree!" I was busy and I had seen plenty of "big birds." Nevertheless, I followed instructions and headed to the back yard with my camera. There I was rewarded with the beauty of a Bald Eagle perched on a limb devouring what appeared to be a fish held between his feet.

He was quickly joined by another "big bird" which I assumed to be his mate. I say assumed because this bird had a lighter colored head and it was a little smaller. The female is usually larger with a wingspan reaching seven feet while the male is only about six feet. It can take four to five years before the heads are white. So I am thinking it was a young female. By the way "bald" use to mean white, not hairless, and with his white head, neck and tail, he was called the Bald Eagle.

Anyway, he continued to use his strong hooked bill, which is yellow along with his legs and feet, to tear the fish apart as well as crushing bones and dropping much of it to the ground. His mate made no effort to take any of the fish and he did not offer her any. She very carefully watched him and the "crumbs" falling from his perch as he ate and twittered at her with a shrill, high pitched squeaking sound. This sound can be either to reinforce the bond between the male and female or to warn other eagles and predators that an area is defended.

As he appeared to be nearly finished with his eating she had been eyeing the ground and gracefully dropped down to within a few feet of the food. By that time he was carefully watching her. He dropped down near her and they flew away together without her ever eating a bite. They rarely flap their wings but hold their wings almost completely flat and soar. So it was a beautiful sight to see them soar off together. However, I was somewhat unhappy with him. He had eaten and been very wasteful and she had had nothing to eat. I confess I had trouble enjoying my dinner later wondering if she was hungry.

While this was happening another drama was taking place high in the air. We became aware that what we found out later were turkey buzzards circling way above us. As soon as the eagles flew away the buzzards very quickly dropped in large spiraling circles until they were under the tree fighting and gobbling up the remaining scraps of fish. We were so surprised at the swiftness of their actions although we do know the sharpness of their eyesight is four times that of a person with perfect vision.

Since we live on the edge of the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park and near the area of The Ten Thousand Islands, there is a good supply of fish which is a large part of the diet of the Bald Eagles. So we are hoping to have more visits from these beautiful birds which are the proud national bird symbol of the United States and the only eagle unique to the North America. Some were not happy with their selection as the symbol because they do prey on smaller birds and often steal the food other birds are eating.



From Savannah's Eyes

Finally, Spring Break 2013! I was so excited to go on amazing adventures with my friends and family. One adventure was going to Disney World where my parents and I stayed with our other relatives at Fort Wilderness campground

to visit two theme parks. The first day we set up the camper and our relatives came over to hang out with us (since we haven't seen them in over a year). Suddenly, two HUGE turkeys (a girl and a boy) walked right past the camper and were about 4-5 feet away from us. They weren't even scared or cautious! I was amazed since I had never seen a live turkey, let alone two so close to me. The closest I've ever been to a turkey was about a foot away, and it was stuffed! We took a lot of pictures and ran after them to get better ones.

The next day my family, my Dad and I went to Disney's Animal Kingdom; (my Mom stayed at the camper and watched all the wildlife there). My cousin Ciera and I ran quickly to the ride "Expedition Everest" in Asia; Expedition Everest is a huge rollercoaster of Mount Everest and the story behind it is that you have to search for the legend, the Yeti, all through the mountain. After we rode that ride a few times, we went to Dinoland U.S.A. where the ride "Dinosaur" sits. Dinosaur is an amazing ride in a time-rover through pre-historic times when the asteroids hit earth and killed all the dinosaurs. It's such an adrenalin rush when you're trying to get away from the Carnotaurus (or T-Rex) which is chasing after you and is everywhere you look! I loved that ride, and I always ride it every time we go there. The next day we went to Disney's MGM Hollywood Studios where you will find the scariest and most thrilling rides, like "The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror" and "Aerosmith's Rockin' Rollercoaster"! I had been on every single ride in Disney except those two rides because I was always scared of them until now. First we ran over to the "The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror" and I was so scared; it's based on the Twilight Zone series but the story behind this is about a Hollywood couple, a little girl with a nanny, and a bellboy that mysteriously disappeared while their elevator was struck by lightning. So the ride is you get on an elevator and you go up to the haunted hotel which takes you into the Twilight Zone. Then, right before you think you're done, everything goes pitch black and out of nowhere lightening is in front of you and you drop down and come back up and drop down again. It is officially my favorite ride now! After that ride we went to the Rockin' Rollercoaster, which was also awesome! You go in a stretchedout limo and shoot off into the ride at literally 65 miles per hour in two seconds! It was amazing!

Hope everyone's Spring Break was great; mine sure was! Love, Savannah

Savannah Oglesby is a student in the 10th grade at Everglades City School and a regular contributor to this paper.



SHERIFF'S REPORT

Please remember to help us keep our neighborhoods safe by reporting any suspicious activity immediately to the Collier County Sheriff's Office at 252-9300 or in emergencies by dialing "911". Also, don't let yourself become an easy victim by always remembering to lock your doors.

RESTAURANTS



Camellia Street Grill (695-2003): 12 noon – 9 p.m. daily Seasonal closing: end of April / early May

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

Glades Haven Deli (695-2091): 6:00 am - 9:00 pm; daily

Havana Café (695-2214): 7:00 am – 3:00 pm; daily March 29/30 Last Dinner Meals Seasonal closing: end of April

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 thru Mon

Oyster House Restaurant (695-2073): 11:00 am – 9:00 pm; Sun thru Thurs 11:00 am – 10:00 pm; Fri, Sat

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

Subway at Gator Express (695-3937): 10:00 am – 4:00 pm; daily \$5 specials & 10% discount to locals

Sunset Raw Bar & Grill: (next to Glades Haven Deli) 11:00 am to 6:00 pm; Tues thru Sun

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

The Catch at Port of the Islands (239-394-3005, ext. 507, 1): 12 noon – 10 pm (Tues – Sun) now serving Sunday Brunch

Triad Seafood (695-2662): 10:30 am (call for hours); daily Fish Market also open

Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535): 9:00 am – 7:00 pm, Mon-Thurs 8:00 am – 7:00 pm, Fri, Sat, Sun

Grimm's Stone Crab (695-3222): 8:00 am – 5 pm, Mon-Sat

Loco's Fresh Produce (239-462-7050):
7:00 am - 3:00 pm; Thurs, Fri, Sat
ECity Post Office parking lot
Chokoloskee:
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm; Thursday



Our annual Fireworks Fund collection boxes can be found around

town for the June 29 Independence Day celebration with the theme "Stars & Stripes". Please support this community event!

EASTER RESTAURANT NEWS

Seafood Depot – Special Chicken/Ham Buffet Island Café – closing at 3 pm Oyster House – Prime Rib Rod & Gun – Easter Dinner

TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER
Lat: 25.87°N Long: 81.37°W
http://TIDESANDCURRENTS.NOAA.GOV

04:48am 2.5 H

03/29 Eri

03/29	Fri	04:48am	2.5	<u>H</u>
03/29	Fri	11:40am	0.3	L
03/29	Fri	04:12pm	3.0	H
03/30	Sat	12:24am	-0.3	L
03/30	Sat	05:43am	2.4	H
03/30	Sat	12:17pm	0.5	L
03/30	Sat	04:44pm	3.0	H
03/31	Sun	01:15am	-0.3	L
03/31	Sun	06:47am	2.2	H
03/31	Sun	12:57pm	0.6	L
03/31	Sun	05:26pm	2.9	H
04/01	Mon	02:12am	-0.3	L
04/01	Mon	07:59am	2.0	H
04/01	Mon	01:46pm	0.7	L
04/01	Mon	06:20pm	2.8	Н
04/02	Tue	03:18am	-0.2	L
04/02	Tue	09:17am	1.9	Н
04/02	Tue	03:03pm	0.8	L
04/02	Tue	07:44pm	2.6	Н
04/03	Wed	04:30am	-0.1	L
04/03	Wed	10:41am	2.0	Н
04/03	Wed	04:39pm	0.8	L
04/03	Wed	09:29pm	2.5	H
04/04	Thu	05:39am	-0.1	L
04/04	Thu	11:55am	2.1	H
04/04	Thu	06:01pm	0.7	L
04/04	Thu	11:01pm	2.5	Н
04/05	Fri	06:41am	0.0	L
04/05	Fri	12:42pm	2.2	H
04/05	Fri	07:06pm	0.5	L
04/06	Sat	12:15am	2.5	_ <u>_</u>
04/06	Sat	07:35am	0.0	L
04/06	Sat	01:15pm	2.4	_ <u>_</u>
04/06	Sat	08:01pm	0.3	L
04/07	Sun	01:15am	2.6	H
04/07	Sun	08:24am	0.1	L
04/07	Sun	01:44pm	2.5	_ <u>=</u>
04/07	Sun	08:50pm	0.2	L
04/08	Mon	02:04am	2.6	<u>-</u>
04/08	Mon	09:07am	0.2	L
04/08	Mon	02:11pm	2.7	H
04/08	Mon	09:34pm	0.0	_ <u></u>
04/09	Tue	02:47am	2.6	<u> </u>
04/09	Tue	09:48am	0.2	L
04/09	Tue	02:38pm	2.8	H
04/09		10:15pm		_ <u>_</u>
04/10	Tue		-0.1 2.5	<u>г</u>
		03:25am	0.3	
04/10	Wed	10:25am	0.3	L
04/10 04/10	Wed	03:05pm	2.9	<u>H</u>
	Wed	10:55pm	-0.2	L H
04/11	Thu	04:02am	2.5	
$\frac{04/11}{04/11}$	Thu	11:00am	0.4	L
04/11	Thu	03:33pm	2.9	<u>H</u>
04/11	Thu	11:34pm	-0.2	L

OBITUARIES



Karen Collins, 61, of Everglades City, passed away unexpectedly on March 9. She always considered herself to be a "southern belle" since she was born in South Carolina although her family were 4th generation Floridians

from this area (Johnson, Hamilton, Smith). She loved spending time with her family, telling them stories about growing up in the Everglades. Karen met her husband in 1964 when they were in junior high together at Everglades City School; they married six years later on January 31, 1970. Karen was loved by many and will be missed, especially by her little dog Maggie (also well-known and loved by the neighbors). Karen was predeceased by her sister Betty Janes and her grandson Spencer Collins. She is survived by her husband, Richard, of 43 years, her two sons Richie (Tina) Collins and Mackie (Jenny) Collins, six grandchildren, her brothers Speedy (Margaret) Johnson and Kit (Brenda) Johnson and sister Vicky (Robert) Wells.

Walter Raymond Burke, grandfather of 13



grandchildren and 19 greatgrandchildren, passed away after a long illness on March 23 at the age of 88. While serving in the last Army Calvary in World War II, Walt was wounded and was highly decorated; he also served with the 2nd Battle of Leyee. Walter then attended Michigan State University and became a

veterinarian. Upon retiring to Everglades City, he was very active in Everglades Community Church where he sang for 29 years. He was also a member of the Lions Club. Many community members remember Walt not only for his art work but also for his friendliness. Walt is survived by his beloved wife, Marion "Sunny" of 54 years, and daughter Stephanie Burke of Marietta, Georgia, sons Craig Poltrock of Boca Raton, Bryan Poltrock and Sheree Moriarty of Boca Raton, daughter-in-law, Lennie Carol Poltrock of Butler, Tennessee, widow of son Cary Poltrock.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to Everglades Community Church Memorial Garden, Museum of the Everglades, or Vistas Hospice in Naples. Memorial services will be held at Everglades City Community Church on **Sunday, April 7**, after church services at 11 o'clock, lunch at 12 noon with the memorial service followed by coffee and dessert.

SNOOK CLASSI FI ED

FOR SALE: \$4,000 OBO, 2005 Ford Freestar Passenger Minivan, Seats 6, 6 Cyl Automatic Transmission, Front and Rear A/C, Mileage is about 86,500, Denise Johnson, (239) 465-1580 call or text.

WATERFRONT LOT FOR SALE: Located in Outdoor Resorts RV Park on Chokoloskee Island. Call (574) 850-4526.

HANGER FOR RENT: Contact Everglades Airpark at (239) 695-2778.

FOR SALE BY OWNER: Lot on canal behind P.O. in Chokoloskee. Call (561) 622-6011 or marysue2006@bellsouth.net.

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/mo 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: Duplex in Chokoloskee-- rent out one level & use the other yourself. Terrific location, deeded waterfront with dock & boat lift. Lower level has been completely renovated. Each level has 2 bedrooms/2 bathrooms. Good rental income and motorhome hook-up, too. Offered at \$299,900. Call Bonnie Woodward, Keller Williams Realty, (239) 860-6369.

SNOOK CLASSI FI ED only \$10/issue phone 695-2397 or email us at mulletrapper@gmail.com

email: mulletrapper@gmail.com



PET PICS

Jűrg Furrer from Switzerland (and visitor to Everglades City) sent us a Happy Easter pet.

Send us your Pet Pics by email or post.

JOBS

Year–Round Jobs for Camp Staff in nearby Ochopee. Drug/Background screens/H.S. or GED required. Send resumes to bigcypress-bm@amikids.org or call 695-1001 for more information.

Notary Public Services

Denise Johnson, By Appointment 308 Storter Ave South Everglades City, 239-465-1580

Job Wanted: Pressure cleaning homes, boats, RV, store fronts, etc. Call Justin at 595-5930.

Staff wanted: Greeter, hostess, cashier all in one. Leave name at 695-2273.

Gator Express: Subway workers needed. Call 695-3937.

WANTED: Automotive Window Tinter Certain Requirements Apply Please Call Skip: 695-3667

Tutoring for students:

Danielle Swisher at 280-8971 or email dmswisher85@gmail.com

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

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We strive to present the facts accurately with no political bias or personal opinion.

The views expressed in signed articles are not necessarily those of the editors or publisher.

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Painting demonstrations 1 – 3 pm

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Museum of the Everglades

Phone Martha at 695-0008

Everglades City School

Phone Gina at 377-9800

See the Rapper in full color! Visit our website.

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