

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

DECEMBER 18 - 31, 2015

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume IX • Issue #252

**Chokoloskee Church of God
Christmas Play**

Sunday, December 20

Christmas musical starting at 6:00 pm with refreshments following in the Church Annex next door. All invited!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Thursday, December 24

Copeland Baptist

Candlelight Service 6 pm

Everglades Community Church

Candlelight Service at 7:00 pm

Christmas Day, December 25

Holy Family Catholic Church

10:30 am Mass



New Year Services

Thursday, December 31

Everglades Community Church

7 pm

New Year's Day, January 1

Holy Family Catholic Church

10:30 am Mass

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Do The Right Thing!

by JuJu Hopkins

Does anyone know what this means? Well thanks to newly found friends and our Collier County Sheriff's Department, I had the honor of finding out. "Do The Right Thing" is a program where our Collier County Sheriff's Department recognizes our children who perform good deeds, exhibit exemplary behavior, and perform acts of heroism. Since 1988, hundreds of our young children have been recognized and honored.

On December 7 I attended the "Do The Right Thing" ceremony event at the Lorenzo Walker Institute of Technology in Naples, and it gave me such a warm feeling knowing that we have many wonderful young children in our community who are actively making a difference. These young children will soon be outstanding young adults.

I felt proud watching my new friend, Stevie Markley of Everglades City School receive an outstanding award this evening. Stevie found a wallet that was filled with money on her school bus. Without hesitation, Stevie turned the wallet over to the front office staff at her school. Thanks to Stevie "doing the right thing" the owner of the wallet was located and returned. It's often not easy to do the right thing, at any age, and it gives me hope for our future to know our children are being recognized in this way. Happy 10th Birthday, Stevie!

CITY COUNCIL

REPORT by Marya Repko

Mayor Sammy Hamilton thanked all his supporters at the December City Council meeting and summarized his achievements over the past 20-plus years. When he took office, the City was "in the red" and the Department of Environmental Protection threatened to close it down because no reports had been filed. He corrected the finances and made the effort to talk with the right officials in Tallahassee. As he said, "It's the people I know that makes me what I am as Mayor." He thanked the Council for their back-up and Dottie Joiner, City Clerk, saying "I couldn't do without her." He also thanked his wife Brenda. Raquel Pine, who does the City accounts, said she was amazed that the Mayor does not get paid for all the work he does and that he donates his travel expenses to a fund for local kiddies. She confirmed that three of the five bonds had been paid off and that the City had a surplus.

Crime Prevention Officer Sue Gentry and a large group of youngsters presented the Mayor with a signed photo to thank him for taking them on a boat trip (*see p. 11*). Sheriff's Office reported that crime in the area is down although there was theft from an unlocked shed.

During Public Comment, John M. Wilson thanked the Mayor for the Thanksgiving turkeys. Councilor Elaine Middelstaedt was glad to see a street sign on Allen Avenue. Councilor MacBeth Collins hoped the Mayor would stay in office for another 20 years. Councilor Parker Oglesby remembered how the Mayor had personally ventured out during Hurricane Wilma to check his roof and Councilor Howie Grimm said it would take five or six people to do what the Mayor does. The next Council meeting is on **Tuesday, January 5**, at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall.

DECEMBER 2015 / JANUARY 2016

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
13 Fakahatchee Dinner	14 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm OFCD Meeting	15	16 Ladies Coffee Christmas Party at Jan Brock's Home 8 am	17 Book Club Lions Club Christmas Wells' home 6:00 pm	RAPPER 18 Santa Party 2 – 4 pm Community Center	19 Pancake Fly-In <i>see p.3</i>
20 Church of God Christmas Play <i>see p.1</i> Bird Count <i>see p.3</i>	21 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church 7 pm Pickelball <i>see p.3</i>	22	23 Ladies Coffee Havana Café 8 am	24 Christmas Eve <i>see p.1</i>	full moon ● 25 Merry Christmas 	26
27	28 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	29	30 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am	31 New Year's Eve <i>see p.1</i>	JAN 1 RAPPER Happy New Year!	2
3	4 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm ESHP Meeting	5 Congressional Aide City Council Meeting	6 Ladies Coffee Sweet Mayberry's Café, 8 am FME Meeting	7	8 ESHP Movie Night <i>see p.3</i>	9 Museum Reception <i>see p.9</i> COG BBQ Dinner <i>see p.3</i>
new moon ○ 10	11 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm OFCD Meeting <i>see p.3</i>	12 ReachOut 9:00 am City Hall	13 Ladies Coffee Island Café 8 am	14	RAPPER 15	16 Art-in-Glades

Jan 23: Festival in the Woods Jan 29: ECC Lasagna Dinner
Feb 12-14: Seafood Festival Feb 20: Everglades Ultra
Feb 27: Swamp Cabbage Fest / ORA Bazaar / Antique Auto Show

Feb 5: Movie Night
Feb 23-27: MSD Festival
Mar 5: Aquafest

Feb 6-7: Turkey Shoot
Feb 26: ESHP Talk / BBQ
Mar 13: Annual Bike Ride

THRIFT SHOP: Tues, Thurs & Sat, 11 am – 3 pm
LIONS CLUB: 2nd Thurs, 6 pm, Oyster House
DR DEMARTINO: Friday, 1:30-4:30 pm (beginning Dec 4)
DR MARTIN: Mon, 8 am-6 pm; Com. Center
AA: Wed, 5:00 pm, Community Church
HEALTHY EATING: Tues, 5 to 6 pm, Community Church
MUSEUM: Mon – Sat, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
CARNESTOWN Recycle and Trash: 2nd Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm


SKATING RINK: Fri, Sat, 7-10 pm
REACH OUT: 3rd Tuesday, 9:00 am, City Hall
LITTLE GATOR CLINIC: Re-opens in March
FOOD PANTRY: Wed, 12 n to 2 pm, Community Church
EVERGLADES AL-ANON: Tues, 8 am; Thurs, 12n, City Hall
VETERANS SUPPORT: First Fri, 10 am, Com. Church
SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily, 11 am to 5 pm
PANCAKE FLY-IN: Dec 19, Jan 23, Feb 20, Mar 19

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: Tuesdays (10-11 am) CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Mon–Thurs (9 am to 2 pm); Fri-Sat (9 am to 3 pm)

POST OFFICE HOURS:
Everglades City (695-2174) Mon-Fri: 9:30 am to 1 pm and 2 to 4:30 pm; Sat: outside pick-up 3:45 pm
Chokoloskee (695-4468) Mon-Fri: 9:30 am to 1 pm and 2 to 4:30 pm; Sat: outside pick-up 3:30 pm
Ochopee (695-2099) Mon-Fri: 8 to 10 am; 12 noon to 4 pm; Sat: Open for service 10 to 11:30 am

SHERIFF: 252-9300 CITY HALL: 695-3781 PUBLIC LIBRARY: 695-2511 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: 695-3941
AIRPORT: 695-2778 FAKAHATCHEE: 695-4593 BIG CYPRESS: 695-2000 EVG NATIONAL PARK: 695-3311
CURBSIDE TRASH PICKUP (FRIDGES, WASHING MACHINES, TVs): 252-2380 COLLIER COUNTY: 252-8999

PANCAKE FLY-IN

Wings 10,000 Islands Tours  will host a **free** pancake breakfast at the Everglades Airpark on **Saturday, December 19**, from 10:00 am to noon. For more info, call Chuck at 695-3296.

Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 20
Contact Dave True at 695-1201
see page 10 for information



Pickleball is coming to McLeod Park on **Monday, December 21**, at 9 am. Pickleball is a sport for men and women played with a whiffle ball and a solid paddle. Think of it as a low key, slower paced game of tennis. Everyone is invited to join the fun of this fast growing sport. After a short demonstration you will be up and playing. Paddles and balls will be provided. For more information call Rena at 828 735 2970 or Marlene at 321 682 6288. There is no fee. You can also Google Pickleball for details about the rules and videos of the game.

RESTAURANT HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

See page 11 for regular restaurant hours.
Sweet Mayberry's will be closed Dec. 20 through December 25.

OPEN Christmas Eve:

- City Seafood from 6 am to 6 pm
- Glades Haven from 6 am to 3 pm
- Oyster House – call for hours
- Right Choice Grocery - 9 am to 7 pm

OPEN Christmas Day:

- Glades Haven from 6 am to 2 pm
- Oyster House from 1 to 7 pm
- Right Choice Grocery – 9 am – 1 pm

New Year's Eve

Beach Bar at City Seafood will have **LIVE** music with Raiford Starke from 3 to 07 pm.

CLOSED New Year's Eve:

Triad Seafood Café

CLOSED New Year's Day:

- Camilla Street Grill
- Triad Seafood Café

ESHM Movie Night

Friday, January 8
Stories from Doris Reynolds
5:30 pm, Community Church
www.evergladeshistorical.org
Call 695-2905 for reservations

Chokoloskee Church of God

BBQ Dinner

Saturday, January 9
11 am – 3 pm, McLeod Park, 695-2418

Art-in-the-Glades

Saturday, January 16
10 am-2 pm, McLeod Park, 695-2905



Everglades Book Club

The next meeting of the Everglades Book Club will be held on **Thursday, January 21**, at 9:30 am at Diana Pollock's home, 309 Riverside Drive. Everyone is invited to come and join in the discussion of the book *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn.

Festival in the Woods

January 23, 2016

Guest speakers, guided hikes and bike tours. Two new tours of the Merritt Pump Station have been added to the list of activities. The festival will be held in the Picayune Strand State Forest. Entrance is at the Sabal Palm Hiking Trail Trailhead which is 3.3 Miles East of Collier Blvd. on Sabal Palm Rd. For more information about the event, contact Heather L. Ferrand at (239) 690-8021.



Historic Homes Signs

The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation has additional "Collier Home" signs for the historic 1920s homes in Everglades City. If you would like to have one for your home or give as a Christmas present, call 695-2905.

Little Gator Clinic

The free walk-in clinic will re-open in **March**.

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 11/23/15: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 11/24/15: Vehicle Accident, SR29 North of I-75
- 11/25/15: Vehicle Accident, 64 MM I-75
- 11/25/15: Vehicle Accident, 64 MM I-75
- 11/25/15: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 11/25/15: Stand By, 64 Mile Marker I-75
- 11/25/15: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 11/25/15: Vehicle Accident, 64 MM I-75
- 11/26/15: Vehicle Accident, 65 MM I-75
- 11/26/15: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 11/26/15: Emergency Med, Janes Scenic Drive
- 11/27/15: Vehicle Accident, 56 MM I-75
- 11/27/15: Vehicle Accident, Ochopee
- 11/27/15: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 11/28/15: Vehicle Accident, 81 MM I-75
- 11/28/15: Emergency Medical, Port of Islands
- 11/28/15: Vehicle Accident, 69 MM I-75
- 11/28/15: Public Assist, Janes Scenic Drive
- 11/29/15: Vehicle Accident, US41 East of POI
- 11/29/15: Smoke Invest., Everglades City
- 11/29/15: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 11/30/15: Vehicle Accident, 52 MM I-75
- 12/01/15: Vehicle Accident, 80 MM I-75
- 12/01/15: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 12/01/15: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 12/02/15: Emergency Medical, Port of Islands
- 12/02/15: Vehicle Accident, US41 West of POI
- 12/02/15: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee
- 12/02/15: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 12/03/15: Emergency Medical, Port of Islands
- 12/03/15: Vehicle Accident, 64 MM I-75
- 12/04/15: Vehicle Fire, 72 Mile Marker I-75
- 12/04/15: Emergency Medical, 76 MM I-75
- 12/04/15: Vehicle Accident, 61 MM I-75
- 12/04/15: Emergency Medical, 61 MM I-75
- 12/04/15: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee
- 12/05/15: Vehicle Accident, 70 MM I-75
- 12/05/15: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 12/05/15: Vehicle Accident, 60 MM I-75
- 12/05/15: Vehicle Accident, 60 MM I-75
- 12/06/15: Plane Crash, 49 Mile Marker US 41
- 12/07/15: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands
- 12/07/15: Vehicle Accident, 63 MM I-75
- 12/08/15: Public Assist, Wagon Wheel Road
- 12/09/15: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 12/10/15: Fire Alarm, Port of the Islands
- 12/10/15: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands
- 12/10/15: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands
- 12/11/15: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 12/12/15: Vehicle Accident, 79 MM I-75
- 12/12/15: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 12/13/15: Vehicle Accident, 84 MM I-75
- 12/13/15: Vehicle Accident, 67 MM I-75
- 12/13/15: Vehicle Accident, 57 MM I-75
- 12/13/15: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 12/12/15: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee
- 12/13/15: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 12/13/15: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 12/13/15: Vehicle Accident, 57 MM I-75
- 12/14/15: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 12/15/15: Vehicle Accident, 86 MM I-75

The Ochopee Fire Control District Advisory Committee will meet at 4 p.m. on **Monday, January 11**, in the Port of the Islands Fire Station, located at 525 Newport Drive #C in Naples.

NOTE: the Tuesday morning Al-Anon will be closing the end of this month; the Thursday noon meeting will continue as usual.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Everglades City School

phone: 377-9800 or 695-2561

www.evg.collierschools.com

IMPORTANT DATES

December 18 Early Dismissal
Dec 21 – Jan 5 No School - Winter Break



Interviews by Trenton

Ms. Ryan

Ms. Ryan is an amazing teacher. Ms. Ryan (Field Trip Queen) will take her kids anywhere to go on a field trip.

These are the questions I asked:

- 1) What year did you start teaching?
I started teaching in 1989.
- 2) How long have you been teaching at EVG?
23 years
- 3) What subjects do you teach?
As an Elementary teacher, I teach all subjects.
- 4) What grades have you taught?
*2 years in Naples: Kindergarten
2 years in Everglades: 4th grade
9 years Kindergarten
1 year, Volunteer in Appalachia
9 years in Everglades: Kindergarten
4 years in Everglades: 1st grade*
- 5) Why have you taught only Elementary students?
When I volunteered, I taught K – 12.
- 6) What does teaching mean to you?
It is my calling.
- 7) Have you gone to a fun place with your classes?
Our first principal, Mr. Hall, called me the "field trip queen." I took them to the Dentist, Library, Beach, large grocery store, and crab hunting as a reward for good behavior.
- 8) What are some memorable events in your grade?
Kids tying shoes so I do not have to bend down.
- 9) What do you like about teaching at EVG?
The sense of being a part of the community. Watching families grow.

Ms. Ryan has been dedicated for many years. Here is a note to her 1st grade students: "Read and write over the winter break. Have an amazing time off." Ms. Ryan

Trenton Mayberry is in the 6th grade at Everglades City School.

AMI Kids Big Cypress donate bicycles



Everglades City School children were the recipients of bicycles that were repaired and donated by AMI-Kids Big Cypress. Since 1995 AMI-Kids has been dedicated to helping kids discover the potential within

them, transform their lives and strengthen our community.

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Our students are so excited with all the wonderful activities that our community and school have planned for the holiday season. It is a blessing to see the smiling faces of the students when we participate in events such as the Winter Light Parade, (Thanks to our Athletic Boosters for all their work!!!) our Polar Express Day in the elementary school, and the "Shop with a Cop" program that the Collier County Sheriff's Office conducts each year. These activities along with so many others that are organized by the city, churches and civic organizations of this community make this an amazing place to live and work.

Our teachers, staff and students are also excited about the time they will have to spend with families and friends over the holiday break. I hope their vacations are full of joy and happiness. I am also grateful to be able to work with such a great community that is focused on the success and opportunities of our children. Thanks to all of you for the continued support and kindness you offer to us each day.

It is always Great to be a Gator! Jim Ragusa

SPORTS HOME SCHEDULE

www.evg.collierschools.com/sports



Boys' JV Basketball

No HOME games December 18 through January 11

Boys' Varsity Basketball

Thursday, Jan 7 Community Christian School, 6:30 pm

Girls' Varsity Basketball

No HOME games December 18 through January 6

SUPPORT OUR EVERGLADES CITY SCHOOL

Visit <http://www.collierschools.net/Page/3519> for a complete list of the sports schedule.



Collier County PAL sponsored their annual Shop With a Cop this year with 52 kids.

Afterwards, they stopped by Barrington Terrace where the kids sang Christmas carols and delivered gifts and handmade cards for the residents there.



Photos by Sue Gentry



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Florida Tales



"I remember it well"

by Chester Keene

I was so tired living at home; that is my mother's home. Work the fields, go to the woods and pull a crosscut saw for stove and firewood. Cut rails to split, sew rugs, scrub the floors with sand and



homemade lye soap. Dip the lye from oak ashes and put them in a barrel, sit slant wise on boards. Take a shuck mop, holes bored in a board with an auger and pull the corn shucks through them to make a mop. Put sand and lye soap on the floor and pull that old heavy mop up and down the planks till they were white and then draw water out of an 80 foot well and rinse them with the bucket. I thought any home would beat this. I promised God I would do the best I could and only God knows the trials I had from time to time that I could remember. On Sunday evening we would split kindling. What a way to spend a Sunday evening. On Monday, Mr. Mc would haul this to Birmingham and sell it for 5 cents a bunch. We'd make 3 or 4 dollars a load; we gave a lot of it away. This was my first year of marriage. This was in the year of 1904 and I had joined the Baptist Church. I was a natural singer. I only took two dozen lessons on the organ when I was only 12 years old. I learned the notes or rather the line and spaces. Ma thought that was lessons enough. I played sacred music well.

To be continued...

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

SOLAR CHOICE

Floridians for Solar Choice is a grassroots citizens' effort working to help more homes and businesses to generate electricity by harnessing the power of the sun. Florida is one of only four states that prohibit citizens from buying electricity from anyone other than a utility. To learn more, visit www.flsolarchoice.org.

Recipe for Good Eating



Picadillo

by Patty Huff

Ingredients: ¼ cup olive oil	1 cup diced tomatoes (with juice)
1 yellow onion, diced	¼ cup dry white wine
1 green bell pepper, diced	¼ cup green olives, halved
3 cloves garlic, minced	¼ cup raisins (dark)
1 tsp salt	1 TBS capers
1 tsp dried oregano	1 TBS red wine vinegar
½ tsp ground cumin	2 TBS fresh flat-leaf parsley, chopped
¼ tsp ground black pepper	2 TBS fresh oregano, finely chopped
2 TBS tomato paste	1 lb lean ground beef

Sauté onion, green pepper, garlic salt, oregano, cumin and black pepper in olive oil for 8 minutes. Add the tomato paste and mix well for 2 minutes. Add the ground beef and cook on high until meat is brown. Stir in the diced tomatoes, wine, olives, raisins and capers. Cover and simmer on low for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in vinegar and garnish with fresh parsley and oregano.

Note: This is one of my husband's favorite dishes. His mother was born in Cuba and she always made him traditional Cuban meals; so for his 70th birthday last week, I surprised him with it. Serve over white rice and a side of black beans, plantains and fresh Cuban bread. Enjoy!

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



TAXING THINGS

by Mike, *the Tax Guy*

THE BATTLE GOES ON

The Internal Revenue Service last week announced the release of its IRS Criminal Investigation (CI) annual report, for fiscal year 2015, Focusing on tax-related identity theft, money laundering, public corruption, cybercrime and terrorist financing.

In May, indictments were unsealed in the FIFA investigation which involved coordination with police agencies and governments in 33 countries and was one of the most complicated international white-collar cases in recent memory.

Ross Ulbricht, the creator and owner of the "Silk Road" website, was sentenced to life in prison and ordered to forfeit more than \$183 million.

A Michigan man, Dr. Farid Fata, was sentenced to 540 months in prison and ordered to forfeit \$17 million for his role in a health care fraud scheme. Fata purposefully misdiagnosed people with cancer, pumping their bodies with chemotherapy that they did not need, in order to get rich.

The IRS arrested 17 individuals, 14 of whom were college students at Miami Dade College, for their involvement in a stolen identity tax refund fraud scheme that utilized students' accounts and implicated 644 victims.

Actively guard your defenses:

Read your health insurance statements; look for claims you never filed or care you never received.

Shred any documents with personal and financial information. Never toss documents with your personally identifiable information, especially your social security number, in the trash.

Review and respond to all notices and correspondence from the Internal Revenue Service. Warning signs of tax-related identity theft can include IRS notices about tax returns you did not file, income you did not receive or employers you've never heard of or where you've never worked.

Review each of your three credit reports at least once a year. Visit www.annualcreditreport.com to get your free reports.

Mike, The Tax Guy, provides income tax services. Phone number 695-0595.

Important Information about Everglades City Drinking Water

Situation

Total coliform bacteria were detected in two bacteriological compliance samples collected on October 6, 2015, from the Everglades City water distribution system. Total coliform bacteria were also detected in 2 of the 6 repeated samples on October 7. This public water system is not allowed to have more than one unsatisfactory sample during any one calendar month; therefore, exceeding the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL).

Health Effects

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

What is Being Done?

The water system's samples collected on October 6 were followed up with the collection of two sets of three repeat samples on October 7. Both of these sites were resampled again on October 15 and were found to be absent of coliform bacteria. Even though the violation has now been resolved, this notice is still required to notify customers/consumers that the violation occurred.

What Should Customers Do?

Since all four of the Total coliform-positive locations eventually cleared (were found to be absent of bacteria), **customers/consumers of drinking water from this water system need not take any action at this time.**

Additional Information

For more information, contact Tim Stephens at 695-2503 or Patty Baron of the DEP at Patty.Baron@dep.state.fl.us or call (239) 344-5615.

Panther Deaths

NPS staff recovered the skeletal remains of a 16.8 year old female Florida panther (FP93) on December 2 in the Turner River Unit of Big Cypress National Preserve in Collier County. The cause of death is currently unknown due to the level of decomposition. This was in a remote location and there was no evidence of foul play. Also, upon initial examination, there was no evidence on scene that indicated FP93 died due to intraspecific aggression (e.g., no puncture holes in the skull, no broken bones, no hair in the claws, no sign of a scuffle in the vegetation nearby, etc.). FP93 was originally marked as a kitten (K58) at the den of TX107 on 11 March 1999. Researchers documented 4 dens for FP93 during periods when she was monitored with a radiocollar.

The remains of a 1-year-old uncollared female panther, UCFP255, were collected on December 8 on CR832 (Keri Rd) 0.1 mile west of Wild Cow Grade in Hendry County. The cause of death was vehicle collision. This is the 37th panther mortality and the 26th road mortality (which breaks the previous record for documented vehicle caused mortality) for 2015.

Please drive carefully in the southwest Florida rural area which is home to the Florida panther as well as other endangered wildlife. To learn more about the endangered Florida panther, visit FWC's website: <http://myfwc.com/conservation/you-serve/wildlife/panthers/>.



Living Gulf Coast

by Charles Sobczak

Fisheating Creek WMA

Location: 7555 U.S. Highway 27 North, Palmdale, (863) 675-5999 www.fisheatingcreekoutpost.com/

E-mail: info@fisheatingcreekoutpost.com / 18,272 acres / Admission is free, fees charged for launching canoes and camping.

The most attractive feature of Fisheating Creek is the complete absence of houses, cabins, or any substantial development along its 52 miles of navigable waterway. Aside from a few private roads leading down to the water and the train trestle next to the Highway 27 overpass near the town of Palmdale, Fisheating Creek is a true wilderness waterway.

Ancient bald cypress trees tower over this free-flowing stream, while immense alligators bask on small patches of sandy shoreline. The creek teems with bream, bass, and crappie. On the higher ridges massive live oak branches reach out over the water, their limbs covered with resurrection fern and bromeliads. Deer, wild boar, and wild turkeys can often be spotted along the shoreline, and swallowtail kites and crested caracaras hover overhead. Cypress knees appear to spring up everywhere, sometimes catching the keel of the canoe and making for some unexpected bumps and spins for the inexperienced paddler. The water is stained almost black by the tannic acid coming off the roots of the cypress and oak forests, and it runs deep and steady through these untouched remnants of what much of Florida must have looked like 500 years ago.

The headquarters for much of the activity on the creek is the Fisheating Creek Outpost which is located on the west side of U.S. Hwy 27 about a mile north of where SR 29 enters the highway. The campground, renovated in 2010, is operated by Patty and Allen Register, who also run the nearby roadside attraction, Gatorama. It has 120 campsites, ranging from primitive tent sites right along the creek to 52 RV sites, most with hook-ups for water, electricity, and sewer. Several of the primitive tent sites sit along the shoreline of Depot Lake, which is kept free of alligators and a popular swimming hole during the warmer months of the year. Every campsite has a picnic table and a fire pit, and the communal bathhouses offer hot showers and restrooms. Firewood is available at the nearby camp store.

The history of the creek is a fascinating study in riparian rights and the power of a community committed to preserving a beautiful piece of wilderness. Almost all of the land abutting the creek was owned by the Lykes Brothers, who were the local land barons for much of this section of Glades County. The land, some 300,000 acres, was purchased by Dr. Howell Tyson Lykes in the 1880s and inherited by his seven sons. At one point the family owned 76 percent of Glades County. The Lykes Brothers Company became the largest cattle producer and biggest meatpacking firm in Florida.

In 1989 the family decided to close the campground and canoe concession located in Palmdale (the same location where the Outpost is today) and seal off the entire creek to the general public. The citizens of Glades County were outraged by the sudden and unexpected closure of one of the most popular fishing and outdoor destinations in their county.

... to be continued

Charles Sobczak is a Sanibel author. For more information, go to www.indigopress.net. This article is an excerpt from *Living Sanibel* by Charles Sobczak.



Dedication

On December 13, Jim Woodard, representing the Friends of Fakahatchee presented a plaque to Elsa Caldwell (pictured above with her family) in memory of her husband Allen who a founding member of FOF and supporter of the Park even before the Friends group was incorporated in 1998. The plaque was installed at Gator Pond,



located at the end of the Big Cypress Boardwalk in the Fakahatchee Strand. Allen was always the go-to guy whenever extra help was needed. Above is the group photo of the many FOF members who attended the dedication.

Photos by Jay Staton

Celebration of Life

On December 13 friends and family gathered for a celebration of life in honor of Bonnie Louise Wallace who passed away on December 3. Pastor Bob Wallace led the congregation in the service. Her sister Ruth recalled their life together and Bonnie's love for animals, and many of Bonnie's friends who worked with her in real estate in Naples spoke about her laughter, her enthusiasm, the way she would light up a room and other fond memories. Bonnie was born on November 12, 1956, and the step-daughter of Everglades Community Church Pastor Bob Wallace.



MUSEUM of the Everglades

Pauline Reeves Gallery

Quinn Hiaasen's beautiful exhibit of our Everglades area is on display in the Pauline Reeves Gallery just through the Christmas holidays.

Beginning January 2 local photographer Tommy Owen will display his work entitled "Phlorida Photos." Tommy, son of Mike Owen, park biologist at Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park, has lived his whole life in and around the natural wonders of the Everglades. He has been able to capture, through vivid large scale photographs, the amazing flora and fauna of this very unique ecosystem.



The Friends of the Museum will host a reception to meet Tommy on **Saturday, January 9**, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm so please stop by the Museum and meet Tommy.

Friends Host Annual Meeting and Luncheon



The Friends of the Museum of the Everglades held their annual members' meeting and luncheon on December 7 with guest speaker Bob DeGross, Chief of Interpretation for the Big Cypress National Preserve. He discussed the history of the Tamiami Trail as well as the stations along the Trail built after the road was constructed. He also talked about the ongoing efforts to "save Monroe Station" and the combined efforts of Big Cypress, the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation and the South

Florida National Parks Trust to apply for grants to secure funding for the renovations. To donate to the fund, see www.evergladeshistorical.org to download a form and contribute with a credit/debit card. For more information, call (239) 695-2905. For information about becoming a member of the Friends of the Museum, visit FME's website at www.evergladesmuseum.org.

MSD Festival Scheduled for February 23 - 27

The brochure for the 2016 Marjory Stoneman Douglas Festival is now available at the Museum of the Everglades. Many of the kayak/canoe trips, swamp walks and other excursions into the swamp have limited spaces available so call Martha at 695-0008 to sign up now or stop by the Museum.

Off the Shelf – Book Review
"The Way Life Should Be"



by Christina Baker Kline
reviewed by Patty Huff

This is not the typical book I review. It is a novel, it is not about history or the Everglades but many people may enjoy it. A successful events coordinator loses her job and moves to live in a cabin on an island off of the coast of Maine (something she has always dreamed about). She is encouraged to re-locate by a man she meets on an online dating site (again something that does not interest me) but eventually discovers that he is really just a jerk.

The only reason I started reading this book was because my daughter gave it to me after she finished it during our bike trip to France, and I was looking for something to read in flight on the way home. Well, half way through the book, when the main character started a cooking class during the cold winter months in Maine, I couldn't put it down. It is full of recipes, all Italian, and all with detailed instructions on how to make a meal/sauce from scratch and why you need to cut/dice/chop a specific way. The character grew up watching her grandmother from the old country prepare all the family meals, and in the end she discovers her true profession, her passion for food. For those who enjoy novels, cooking and life on an island would find this book to be a fun holiday read. The author also wrote "Orphan Train" which was a #1 *New York Times* bestseller for fiction.

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

The National Park Service has released the Final Environmental Impact Statement for acquisition of land owned by Florida Power & Light Company in the East Everglades Expansion Area (EEEA). Superintendent Pedro Ramos stated that "Acquisition of this property is central to our efforts to elevate water levels in this area of the park. It is a critical component of long-term Everglades ecosystem restoration." The FPL parcel consists of about 320 acres and the NPS land to be conveyed in exchange for the FPL parcel consists of about 260 acres. The United States would have the perpetual right to flood and submerge the exchange corridor, consistent with hydrologic restoration requirements. A 30-day no-action period began on December 4, 2015. The Final EIS can be downloaded at:

http://parkplanning.nps.gov/FPL_FEIS

BIG CYPRESS NEWS PROPOSED OIL AND GAS SEISMIC SURVEY

The National Park Service is seeking public comments on the environmental impacts of a proposed oil and gas seismic survey by Burnett Oil Company in Big Cypress National Preserve. A public meeting was held on December 8. The deadline for comment period has been extended to **Sunday, January 4**. For questions, email www.parkplanning.nps.gov or call Don Hargrove 695-1150 or Ron Clark 695-1106.

Ranger Guided Tamiami Trail Triathlon

December 20, January 24, February 21, or March 6th. Bicycle the 15-mile loop at Shark Valley, hike three miles of trail at Oasis, and paddle round-trip from Gulf Coast to Sandfly Island. Complete all three activities and earn the title "Tamiami Trail Triathlon Finisher." Bring your own bicycle, canoe/kayak, or rent one. A limited number of spots available so call for reservations now! For reservations call 695-3311.

Star Parties

Star Parties are scheduled for Saturdays on the following dates: **January 9, February 6 and March 5** at 8:00 pm at the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center. Explore the celestial sky. Visit <http://www.nps.gov/bicy/planyourvisit/astromy-programs.htm>. For information regarding other park programs go to NPS website – <http://www.nps.gov/bicy/planyourvisit/ranger-led-activities.htm> or call one of the national preserve visitor centers at 695-1201.

FAKAHATCHEE STRAND

Friends of Fakahatchee

www.fofreservation.eventbrite.com

Tram Tour & Swamp Walk (Tuesday); Ghost Rider Tram Tour (Thursday); Swamp Walk (Sat / Thurs); Moonlit Tram Tour; Boardwalk Tours (Thurs). 695-1023 or fakaevent@yahoo.com.

Collier-Seminole State Park

Guided Canoe Trips: Morning and Moonlight Trips
Star Gazing Party: January 9 at 7:00 pm and
March 5 at 7:30 pm
Antique Auto Show: February 27

Audubon Christmas Bird Count or "CBC"

by Thais Tepper

As an 18-year-old college student, I was introduced to the *The Audubon Christmas Bird Count* or "CBC", as it was called by birders. It was an extra credit option provided by a Botany professor. Only 3 students from the class opted to forego a day of winter break to trek around the woods in bitter cold with folks 3 times our age. That one day experience evolved into a lifelong interest in birding. My last participation in a Pennsylvania CBC involved counting birds a huge cemetery in foot of snow the day after Christmas. Last year I participated in the 10,000 island circle in Collier Seminole Park and was eaten by mosquitoes.

Prior to the turn of the 20th century, people engaged in a holiday tradition known as the Christmas "Side Hunt," choosing sides to go afield with their guns; whoever brought in the biggest pile of feathered (and furred) quarry won. Conservation was in its beginning stages at the turn of the century, and many observers and scientists were becoming concerned about declining bird populations. Beginning on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank M. Chapman with the Audubon Society proposed a new holiday tradition - a "Christmas Bird Census" that would count birds during the holidays rather than hunt them. So began the Christmas Bird Count. Thanks to Chapman and the enthusiasm of 27 dedicated birders, 25 Christmas Bird Counts were held that day; locations ranged from Toronto, Ontario, to Pacific Grove, CA, with most counts in or near the population centers of northeastern North America. Those original 27 Christmas Bird Counters tallied around 90 species on all the counts combined.

Each November birders interesting in participating in the CBC can sign up and join in through the Audubon website. From December 14 through January 5 each year tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas brave snow, wind, or rain, and take part in the effort. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this long-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations - and to help guide conservation action. The data collected by observers over the past century allow Audubon researchers, conservation biologists, and wildlife agencies to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America. When combined with other surveys, it provides a picture of how the continent's bird populations have changed over the past hundred years.

Each individual count is performed in a "count circle" with a diameter of 15 miles. At least ten volunteers, including a compiler to manage things, count in each circle. They break up into small parties and follow assigned routes, which change little from year to year, counting every bird they see. Counter can participate by boat or kayak, as long as they stay within the designated circle. In most circles, some people also watch feeders instead of following routes. Volunteers of various skill levels can participate. Novices (even children) join a group with at least one skilled birder. Counts can be held on any day from Dec. 14 to Jan. 5 inclusive.

David True, a NPS Park Guide in Big Cypress Preserve, will be the compiler for the practice year CBC circle located in southern Collier County. The CBC will be held on **December 20** and the proposed circle will be Highway 29 South which will include the Everglades Welcome Center, Chokoloskee, and Everglades City. Once the data is submitted, an application can be made for a permanent, designated circle. Traditionally, volunteers meet at a central location to submit their lists, share a meal and brag about their rare sightings. If you wish to participate this year, please contact Dave True at 695-1201 or david_true@nps.gov.

RESTAURANTS



- Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands**
(642-1025): Tuesday thru Sunday,
Noon - 9 pm; closed Monday
- Camellia Street Grill (695-2003):**
12 noon - 9 pm; daily
- City Seafood (695-4700):**
6:00 am - 6:00 pm; daily
Supper Upstairs 6 - 9 pm; Thurs-Sun
- 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 am - 3 pm (Sun thru Wed)
7 am - 8 pm (Thurs-Fri-Sat)
- Island Café (695-0003):**
6:00 am - 9:00 pm; daily
- Ivey House (695-3299):**
6:30 - 9:30 am; daily
- Joanie's Blue Crab Café (695-2682):**
11:00 am - 5:00 pm; Fri thru Tues
closed Wed and Thurs
- Oyster House Restaurant (695-2073):**
11:00 am - 9 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):**
7:00 am - 7:00 pm; daily
- Sweet Mayberry's Café (695-0092):**
9 am-5 pm; Mon thru Sat
closed Sunday; closed Dec 20-25
- Tastes of the Everglades (695-0075)**
11 am - 7 pm; daily
- Triad Seafood & Café (695-2662):**
10:30 am - 5 pm; daily
- Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535)**
9:00 am - 7:00 pm; daily
- Grimm's Stone Crab (695-3222):**
8 am - 6 pm; Mon thru Sat
- Loco's Fresh Produce: (239-462-7050)**
next to the Everglades Post Office
7 am - 3 pm; (Thurs-Sat)



Mayor Sammy Hamilton with area children at the annual lighting of the Christmas Tree celebration.
Photo by Sue Gentry



Everglades City students presented Mayor Hamilton an appreciation award during the City Council Meeting.

TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

Lat: 25.87°N Long: 81.37°W

<http://TIDESANDCURRENTS.NOAA.GOV>

12/18	Fri	02:51AM	0.5	L
12/18	Fri	07:33AM	2.2	H
12/18	Fri	03:02PM	0.3	L
12/18	Fri	08:35PM	2.6	H
12/19	Sat	04:05AM	0.4	L
12/19	Sat	09:09AM	2.1	H
12/19	Sat	04:07PM	0.4	L
12/19	Sat	09:26PM	2.7	H
12/20	Sun	05:11AM	0.1	L
12/20	Sun	10:38AM	2.1	H
12/20	Sun	05:09PM	0.5	L
12/20	Sun	10:17PM	2.8	H
12/21	Mon	06:10AM	-0.1	L
12/21	Mon	11:55AM	2.2	H
12/21	Mon	06:08PM	0.6	L
12/21	Mon	11:07PM	3.0	H
12/22	Tue	07:04AM	-0.3	L
12/22	Tue	12:57PM	2.3	H
12/22	Tue	07:03PM	0.7	L
12/22	Tue	11:53PM	3.1	H
12/23	Wed	07:55AM	-0.4	L
12/23	Wed	01:47PM	2.4	H
12/23	Wed	07:55PM	0.7	L
12/24	Thu	12:37AM	3.2	H
12/24	Thu	08:43AM	-0.5	L
12/24	Thu	02:30PM	2.4	H
12/24	Thu	08:44PM	0.7	L
12/25	Fri	01:19AM	3.2	H
12/25	Fri	09:28AM	-0.5	L
12/25	Fri	03:09PM	2.4	H
12/25	Fri	09:30PM	0.6	L
12/26	Sat	02:00AM	3.2	H
12/26	Sat	10:12AM	-0.5	L
12/26	Sat	03:47PM	2.4	H
12/26	Sat	10:15PM	0.6	L
12/27	Sun	02:41AM	3.1	H
12/27	Sun	10:54AM	-0.4	L
12/27	Sun	04:24PM	2.4	H
12/27	Sun	10:59PM	0.6	L
12/28	Mon	03:24AM	2.9	H
12/28	Mon	11:35AM	-0.3	L
12/28	Mon	05:04PM	2.3	H
12/28	Mon	11:43PM	0.6	L
12/29	Tue	04:11AM	2.6	H
12/29	Tue	12:15PM	-0.1	L
12/29	Tue	05:45PM	2.3	H
12/30	Wed	12:32AM	0.6	L
12/30	Wed	05:05AM	2.4	H
12/30	Wed	12:57PM	0.1	L
12/30	Wed	06:28PM	2.3	H
12/31	Thu	01:28AM	0.6	L
12/31	Thu	06:08AM	2.1	H
12/31	Thu	01:41PM	0.2	L
12/31	Thu	07:12PM	2.3	H
01/01	Fri	02:34AM	0.6	L
01/01	Fri	07:16AM	2.0	H
01/01	Fri	02:37PM	0.4	L
01/01	Fri	08:03PM	2.4	H

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see www.weather.gov for weather
and www.nhc.noaa.gov for storms

- SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES**
- Chokoloskee Church of God**
10 am Sunday School, 11 am Sun Worship
- Copeland Baptist Church**
10 am Sunday School, 11 am Sun Worship
- Everglades Community Church**
9:45 am Sun. School, 11 am Sun Worship
- First Baptist Church of Everglades City**
9:45 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship
6 pm Sunday, 6 pm Wed Bible Study
- Holy Family Catholic Church**
10:30 am Mass
- See page 1 for Christmas Schedule

SNOOK CLASSIFIEDS

FOR RENT: Office/warehouse for rent. ADA compliant full bathroom. \$600 per month includes water/sewer, electric. First/ last and security. (239) 340-4770.

FOR SALE BY OWNER: Captains Table Villa #315. 1B/1B Remodeled kitchen/bath \$90,000. Call (317) 446-5316 or (317) 446-5312.

FOR SALE: Homes, condos, vacant lots and boat slips. Glades Realty (239) 695-4299 - www.GladesRealty.com.

FOR SALE: 12' Aluminum boat with 3hp Johnson motor; runs well. \$500 OBO. For information, call 232-0074.

WANTED: Motor Homes, 5th wheels and travel trailers. Any condition. Cash paid on the spot. Call (941) 347-7171.

FOR RENT: Mobile home lot in Copeland. Electric power pole, sewer tie in hook up and mobile home pad already in place...1/14 acre lot. Rent \$350/month...first and last month rent required. Lovely property for your new home. Rancho T Properties (727) 480-1640.

FOR SALE: Cabins #7 & #8 at Glades Haven. Call (239) 695-9142 or email at fishnw.mykee55@live.com.

FOR SALE: 1) 2 Clyde Butcher photos; 'Florida Bay' framed 32 x 19" \$4800 OBO; 'Indian Key Pass' 1989, 16 x 11" matted \$1400 OBO. 2) Rentals available in Glades Bldg across from Rod & Gun; 1&2 bedroom furnished apts (use of private dock); 1 furnished office space. 3) Kawasaki Prairie360 \$2500; 4x4 autos with front & rear racks, elec. winch, original & mud tires;



PET PICS

Mango and her "rescue" friend enjoyed the Swamp Heritage Festival

SNOOK CLASSIFIEDS

CONDO FOR SALE: 2bed/2bath located in Everglades City, waterfront complex. Gateway to 10,000 islands and a Fisherman's Paradise \$240,000 OBO. Call for open house dates (239-398-7990) www.FlexTeamRealty.com.

AM LOOKING FOR HOUSE TO LEASE OR BUY: Call Bill 695-0075.

FOR SALE: Classic 1990 Mustang, \$4000. Call 232-0074 or 719-0332.

FOR SALE: Naples Memorial Gardens. 2 burial plots, side by side in the Garden Of The Redeemer. Lot 107, 3&4. Both \$7,900. Craig Carlisle (352) 371-2164.

FOR SALE or LEASE: Waterfront Lot, 165 ft on the water; 60 ft dock; deep water. \$350,000 (239) 253-2844.

FOR SALE: Park Model trailer & lot in Everglades VR Corp. 1 BR / 1 bath / large screen room, boat dock. Fully furnished, washer/dryer / ceiling fans/ A/C, awnings, metal roof, concrete pad w/18 tie downs, fully skirted. Explore & fish the 10,000 Islands (410) 289-8835.

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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Joanie's Blue Crab Café - A mature and experienced person to run a cash register part time after 11 am; also needed an experienced person in the kitchen prep area full time! Please call Joanie at 695-2682.

Glades Haven / Oyster House Restaurant hiring for Convenience Store & Restaurant: Cashier, Hostess, Food Runner, waitresses. Apply in person at Oyster House or send resume to gm@oysterhouserestaurant.com.

Tastes of the Everglades now hiring for a cook, servers and dish washers. For more information, Call Glenda at 404-0577.

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