

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 3, 2011

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume V • Issue #125



Copeland Baptist Church was repaired on January 13 thanks to a crew of "Carpenters for Christ" from Naples Baptist Church. This neighborly gang heard about the need from Larry Rigley, a former UPS driver who knows our area well. After the plywood was stripped off, cypress was found underneath!

Donations can be sent to Copeland Baptist Church P.O. Box 457, Copeland, FL, 34137.



And, on January 15 there was a community clean-up thanks to dumpsters provided by Collier County.

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The Gladezmen are headed up by Marco Islander Nate Augustus.

SEAFOOD FESTIVAL ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, February 4

- 5:00 Carnival starts
- 5:30 Opening Ceremony
- 6:00 Jessie Thompson Project
- 7:00 LET'S HANG ON
- 9:00 The Gruv Monstrz

SATURDAY, February 5

- 10:00 Opening Ceremony
- 10:30 Casey Weston
- 11:00 Weathered Souls
- 12:00 The Gladezmen
- 1:30 BIG BOTTOM
- 3:00 Wild Eyed Southern Boys
- 4:30 JOSH GRACIN

SUNDAY, February 6

- 11:00 Opening Ceremony
- 11:30 Weathered Souls
- 12:30 Casey Weston
- 1:30 JOEY & RORY
- 3:00 Wild Eyed Southern Boys
- 4:30 LO-CASH COWBOYS

See www.evergladesseafoodfestival.com or phone the Festival office at 695-4100. More news on page 11.



MR. JONES RETIRES

Everglades City School principal Bobby Jones is retiring at the end of January after serving 11-½ years in the only school in the state to have all 12 grades in one establishment.

He told the *Rapper* that he is most proud of what he has achieved here:

- Drop-out rate has fallen
- Attendance rate has risen
- Implemented a Uniform dress code
- Implemented the AVID program for 9th through 11th grade students.
- School made a "B" grade this past school year for FCAT scores

He plans to spend his time now golfing, fishing, and traveling.

His position will be filled by Mrs. Cherise Brummer who joined the school as Assistant Principal this fall (*see the Rapper issue on 8/20/10*).

Thank you, Mr. Jones, for all you've done. We hope you have a happy and relaxing retirement!

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2011

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
16 Pot Luck at Holy Family	17 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm	18 Reach Out City Hall, 8:30 Kids' Clinic 5-7 pm,	full moon ● 19 Ladies Coffee Island Cafe 8 am	20 SAC mtg School, 3 pm Lions Club Depot, 5:30 pm	<u>RAPPER</u> 21 Neal Boortz Everglades Isle 6:00 pm	22 Pancake Fly-In Antique Air <i>see p.3</i> Art-in-the-Glades <i>see p.3</i>
23 Revival <i>see p.3</i>	24 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church 7 pm	25 Kids' Clinic 5-7 pm, <i>see p.11</i>	26 Ladies Coffee Havana Cafe 8 am Red Cross Class <i>see p.3</i>	27	28 Red Cross Class <i>see p.3</i>	29
30 Evangelist First Baptist <i>see p.3</i>	31 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	FEB 1	2 Ladies Coffee Island Cafe 8 am FME mtg <i>see p.9</i>	new moon ○ 3 Booster Club 6:30 pm	<u>RAPPER</u> 4 Seafood Festival <i>see p.1,11</i>	5 Seafood Festival <i>see p.1,11</i>
6 Seafood Festival <i>see p.1,11</i>	7 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm ESH P mtg City Hall, 8:30 am <i>see p.9</i> OFCD Bd Fire Sta, 6 pm	new moon ○ 8 City Council City Hall, 5:30 pm	9 Ladies Coffee Mary Ford's Home 8 am	10	11	12 Jammin' Bluegrass <i>see p.11</i>
13 Jammin' Bluegrass <i>see p.11</i>	14 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm	15 Reach Out City Hall, 8:30 am	16 Ladies Coffee Havana Cafe 8 am	17 SAC mtg School, 3 pm Lions Club Depot, 5:30 pm	full moon ● 18 <u>RAPPER</u>	19 Muck-About <i>see p.8</i> Paddle-In <i>see p.8</i>

Feb 22-25: MSD Festival Feb 23: BigC ORVs Feb 25: ESHP Dinner/Talk Feb 26: Fak SAFARI
Mar 5/6: Pet Vet Mar 12: Art-in-the-Glades, Homes Tour

THRIFT SHOP: Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat; 11:00 am to 3:00 pm SKATING RINK: Fri & Sat, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.
MUSEUM: Tues-Fri; 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sat; 9:00 am to 4:00 pm SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
FOOD PANTRY: Sat, 8:30 to 10:30 am LITTLE GATOR CLINIC: 1/25 DR DEMARTINO: Fri, 1:30 to 4:30 pm
ALCOHOLICS ANON: Wed, 5:00 pm, Community Church NARCOTICS ANON: Sat, 11:00 am, Community Center

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: Thurs, 1/20 (9-10 am) Tues, 1/25 (noon-1 pm) Thurs, 1/27 (2-3 pm) Fri, 1/28 (9-10 pm)
see the notice outside the door for February hours

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

FLY-IN



The free pancake breakfast on **Saturday, January 22**, will be a special one because "Antique Air Aficionados" have been invited to come along. The event is hosted by Wings 10,000 Islands Tours and the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation from 10:00 a.m. to noon. There will be a raffle of stone crab claws, thanks to Triad Seafood. For info, phone Chuck at 695-3296 or Mike at 695-2244.

Drop in by air, road, or sea and share your memories of vintage flying.

ART-IN-THE-GLADES



There will be an arts & crafts sale on **Saturday, January 22**, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in McLeod Park under the pavilion with live music and hotdogs for lunch. Among the items for sale will be paintings, books, jewelry, and baked goods. For info, call 695-2905.

REVIVAL!



There will be a Revival on **Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, January 20-22**, at 7:00 p.m. and on **Sunday, January 23**, in the morning at 10:00 a.m. in the large room behind the Island Cafe. Former pastor Clifton Tomes is coming from his home in Kentucky for the event. For info, phone Larry at 695-4417.

MORE News & Events on page 11.



Thanks to Darcy Kidder for this photo of firefighters painting the hydrants around town.

EVANGELIST VISITS



First Baptist of Everglades City and Copeland Baptist Churches welcome Steve Levinson, Creation Science Evangelist, who will visit on **Sunday, January 30**. Steve is a graduate of Liberty University and has been pastor to adults and youth. He also does PowerPoint messages entitled, "Fossils, Flood, Noah's Ark and Dinosaurs", "Text Messaging" which prepares youth to give answers in school, and "The Foundations of Genesis". To learn more about Steve's ministry, see www.campgetaway.org.

Services will be held in First Baptist at 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. and in the Everglades City School at 4:30 p.m. for Middle & High School students and at 6:00 p.m. for everyone. For more info, phone 695-3871.

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 01/05/11: Emergency Medical, Port of the Islands
- 01/05/11: Electrical Fire, Port of the Islands
- 01/05/11: Emergency Medical, 5 Miles West of SR-29 on US-41
- 01/06/11: Vehicle Accident, 50mm I-75
- 01/06/11: Vehicle Fire, 76mm I-75
- 01/07/11: Vehicle Fire, 57mm I-75
- 01/08/11: Emergency Medical, Port of the Islands
- 01/09/11: Emergency Medical, Port of the Islands
- 01/09/11: Brush Fire, SR-29 and US-41
- 01/10/11: Emergency Medical, 68mm I-75
- 01/11/11: Fire Alarm, Chokoloskee Island
- 01/15/11: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 01/15/11: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 01/18/11: Emergency Medical, 74mm I-75
- 01/19/11: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee Island

RED CROSS CLASSES



The Collier County chapter of the American Red Cross is offering first aid and CPR classes in Everglades City on **Wednesday, January 26**, at 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. and also on **Friday, January 28**, at 3:30 p.m. in the Community Center behind the fire station. For info, phone (239) 970-2426.

Public Announcements are on cable Channel 98.

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


TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

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

01/21/2011	Fri	02:37AM	3.0	H	10:42AM	-0.5	L	04:07PM	2.5	H	10:49PM	0.3	L
01/22/2011	Sat	03:27AM	2.8	H	11:22AM	-0.4	L	04:42PM	2.5	H	11:39PM	0.2	L
01/23/2011	Sun	04:24AM	2.6	H	12:03PM	-0.2	L	05:18PM	2.5	H			
01/24/2011	Mon	12:34AM	0.1	L	05:30AM	2.3	H	12:45PM	0.1	L	05:57PM	2.6	H
01/25/2011	Tue	01:36AM	0.0	L	06:46AM	2.0	H	01:30PM	0.3	L	06:41PM	2.6	H
01/26/2011	Wed	02:47AM	-0.1	L	08:14AM	1.7	H	02:25PM	0.6	L	07:34PM	2.5	H
01/27/2011	Thu	04:02AM	-0.1	L	10:11AM	1.6	H	03:39PM	0.7	L	08:39PM	2.5	H
01/28/2011	Fri	05:13AM	-0.2	L	12:54PM	1.7	H	04:58PM	0.8	L	09:53PM	2.5	H
01/29/2011	Sat	06:16AM	-0.3	L	01:43PM	1.9	H	06:08PM	0.8	L	11:02PM	2.6	H
01/30/2011	Sun	07:11AM	-0.3	L	02:13PM	2.0	H	07:07PM	0.7	L	11:59PM	2.7	H
01/31/2011	Mon	07:59AM	-0.3	L	02:27PM	2.0	H	07:58PM	0.6	L			
02/01/2011	Tue	12:45AM	2.7	H	08:41AM	-0.4	L	02:32PM	2.0	H	08:42PM	0.5	L
02/02/2011	Wed	01:26AM	2.7	H	09:19AM	-0.3	L	02:46PM	2.1	H	09:22PM	0.4	L
02/03/2011	Thu	02:02AM	2.7	H	09:54AM	-0.3	L	03:06PM	2.2	H	09:59PM	0.3	L
02/04/2011	Fri	02:38AM	2.6	H	10:27AM	-0.2	L	03:32PM	2.3	H	10:35PM	0.3	L

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SCHOOL NEWS

Everglades City School

phone: 377-9800 or 695-2561

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

IMPORTANT DATES

Thurs, Jan 20: SAC, 3:00 p.m.
 Fri, Jan 21: Basketball HOME, 5:30 p.m.
 Fri, Jan 28: Basketball HOME, Alumni Game
 Mon, Jan 31: Basketball HOME, 5:00 p.m.
 Thurs, Feb 3: Booster Club, 6:30 p.m.



From Savannah's Eyes

Our Homecoming dance is coming up this Friday January 21; the homecoming game is on the same date too. Be sure to go because it's going to be a great game and the Cheerleaders of Everglades City School have a big dance routine this year! Then after the game our homecoming dance will be at 9:30 at the Oyster House restaurant. We are going to have the same DJ thanks to our Major Sammy Hamilton Jr. for donating \$400 towards the dance. But we do need more donations for other things.

We are getting a new principal starting February 1st! Mr. Jones is retiring and a very special lady will take his place. Her name is Mrs. Cherise Brummer. She is very sweet and awesome!! She has two daughters, Jessica age 15 and Madison age 12. She already has big plans for our school. She is very interested in our sports because her daughter is a cheerleader on our squad. We will miss Mr. Jones but we know he probably will enjoy being retired. Mrs. Brummer I welcome you to your new job.

Going to be dancing this Friday!

Love, Savannah

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

CALLING ALL PARENTS!

We are trying to start an after-school program on Mondays and need adult volunteers to help out. The children will be divided into groups by age. If you can spare a few hours, please phone Patty at 695-2397.



ORDER YOUR YEARBOOKS at the school office
 or with a credit card online at www.jostensyearbooks.com
 for \$45 or \$50 with your name imprinted on the front.

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



Mik Jacobs starred as Professor Whys from Florida Power and Light for a science presentation to grades 4, 5, and 6 on January 13. Students learned about energy and the "5 Whys."

1. energy comes from the sun
2. the sun's energy is stored in fuel
3. the fuel is used to generate electricity
4. nature's forces are used as renewable resources
5. energy conservation

Professor Whys demonstrated mixing a chemical to make a flame, wind power, and how to generate electricity. Stephanie Pablo-Ramirez held the "sun" and Hailey Mitchell rode a bicycle to turn a light bulb on. At the end, all the teachers were called to dance to the "5 Whys Song" while the professor rocked out to a guitar. Everyone had a great time learning about energy and the students reported that Professor Whys was "awesome!"

Thanks to Trina Mitchell for photos and report.

From Haleigh's Heart



Hey Everyone! So, it's 2011 now and I'm sure everyone has realized how fast 2010 has gone by, because I sure did! I'm so excited that 2011 is here! Also, January 17 was Martin Luther King Jr. Day and there was no school and the day after that was Teacher Work Day and school was canceled for that so our whole school got a good 4 day weekend! I'm sure everyone enjoyed that! (including me!) That means we only have January 19, 20, and 21 in school and then it's another weekend. Yay us! Well, until next time!

-Haleigh Levingston

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

GREAT GATORS

PK – Riley Weeks, Taylor Mayberry

K – River Brown, Cayla Starr

1 – Alycia Kibodeaux, Alyssa Story

2, 3 – Jesse Goff, Christian Bee

4 – Wendy Raffield, Dalton Waddell

5 – Tori Wells, Hailey Mitchell

6 – Haylee Ellison, Brandon Steffen

7 – Alex Thompson, Madelyn Mitchell

8 – Ana Roldan, Houston Brown

High – Linzy Fails, Dairean Williams, Morgan Daffin

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Sunday Morning Service: 11:00 AM
Sunday Evening Service: 6:00 PM
Tuesday Bible Study: 7:00 PM

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Recipe for Good Eating

Shrimp Salad

by Karen Colson



- 2 lbs shrimp (cooked and chopped)
- 1 stalk of celery (finely chopped)
- ¼ cup red onion (finely chopped)
- 2 tbsp Hellmann's Mayonnaise
- 1 tsp or so of Old Bay or seafood seasoning of your choice
- squeeze of ½ a lemon

Mix well and enjoy!

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

KITCHEN TIP

by Marya Repko



Peeling garlic was always such a chore until I discovered that if I cut each clove in half lengthwise, the peel just falls off.

Then what? I chop it up finely and mix with store-bought mayonnaise and a bit of tarragon or dill in a small plastic container. My concoction goes on hot veggies instead of butter or is spread on bread which is nice toasted under the grill or used with fish instead of tartar sauce.

Raw garlic is probably good for you (unless you are allergic to it) as an antioxidant, antibiotic, and disease preventative. To learn more see www.garlic-central.com.

HELP US TO CLEAN UP TRASH

Every Friday morning from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. you'll see our locals (including our winter residents) clean up CR-29 from the Welcome Center on US-41 all the way south to Everglades City. This is the Adopt-a-Highway program and the Wednesday Ladies Coffee group along with the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation (ESHP) have divided the highway into six sections so there's plenty of area for more people to join in the clean up effort. This is, unfortunately, the only way to keep the entrance into our beautiful Everglades City free of trash. So much of the discarded waste is coming from outside our City since we don't have the fast food restaurants that are labeled on the bags and cups that we pick up.



It's amazing, and discouraging, that every week we continue to find more paper, plastic cups, aluminum cans, beer/soda bottles, cigarette packets, etc, etc. We're also finding a lot of ice bags that apparently just fly out of trucks or boats. So, some of the trash is probably not intentionally thrown away on our roads but just not secured.



No matter how or why it's discarded, we wish there was some way to educate the public to PLEASE dispose of your trash in the many containers around town, rather than just out the window. Someone has to pick it up; it doesn't just disappear on its own.

So, this is a request. If you have the time to join us on any Friday morning, call Pat Rinkevich at 695-4642 or if not, please keep our beautiful City clean!



Pete Rinkevich enjoyed a visit from grandson Matt from Asheville over the holidays and some fishing for sheepshead.



FWC News

There were 23 Florida panther deaths in 2010, down 2 from the total in 2009. Vehicles caused 16 of the deaths last year, the rest attributed to “intraspecific aggression” (panthers killing other panthers) or to unknown causes. FWC warns motorists to be careful in wild areas, especially around sundown and sunrise.

There is no season for coon hunting but you must have a license which is available at the County tax collector’s office at only \$17 for Florida residents. A trapping license is \$26.50 and traps must be checked at least every 24 hours and it is illegal to transport wild-trapped live animals.



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

MANATEE TALK

Dr Gary Pettit will speak about manatees at 11:00 a.m. on **Tuesday, January 25, at Naples Preserve. A light lunch follows. There is no charge but donations are welcome. For info, phone 261-4290.**

“Muck-About”

There will be swamp walks and an open house at the Butchers’ Big Cypress Gallery in Ochopee over Presidents’ Day Weekend, **Saturday-Monday, February 19-21.** To make reservations, call 695-2428 or see website www.clydebutcher.com.

The gallery is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and features Clyde’s famous black & white photography.

Paddle-In

Capt. Charles Wright and Everglades Area Tours hold their annual Paddle-In on **Saturday, February 19**, which culminates in a party at JTs in Chokoloskee. For info, phone 695-xxxx or see www.evergladesareatours.com.



FLORIDA FLORA

by Patricia Huff

Necklace Pod

(*Sophora tomentosa*)

This Florida native shrub has colorful pea-like yellow flowers which bloom most of the year, attracting butterflies and hummingbirds. The fruit grows beadlike with fuzzy brown pods four to six inches long. Several weeks ago a nice couple stopped me at a local restaurant parking lot and asked if I could help identify some bushes they saw growing near the entrance to Plantation Island. I’m not sure if it is the Necklace Pod shrub tree, but it did have yellow flowers and long bean like fruit (which actually had a string green bean scent). If it is, I would like to report that the fruit of this shrub is definitely poisonous if eaten so beware of the danger. The dark green oval leaflets are one to two inches long growing pinnately along a foot long stem. The new growth is lighter in color with a silver tint, and the trunk has grayish brown bark. The Necklace Pod enjoys full sun and open areas with good drainage. Because it is salt and drought tolerant, it grows well in our surroundings.

NATIONAL PARK NEWS



The deadline to apply for a copy of the Draft Management Plan is **Monday, January 24.** The paper copy is expected to be about 500 pages long but a CD will also be available. It will also be available online when it is published in March. Contact Charlotte Heard at (305) 242-7700, extension 7208.

The Old Ingraham Highway from Gate 15 to the end of the road, Ernest Coe Campsite and Old Ingraham Campsite will all be closed starting January 18 so that culverts can be installed. The project is expected to be completed by March 14.

Flamingo Campground now has 41 sites with electrical hook-ups. The fee is \$30 per night, an increase from \$16. For info, phone (305) 242-7700.

You can visit the Nike Hercules Missile Base, which was built in 1963 after the Cuban missile crisis. There is no charge for the daily ranger-led tours which start out from the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center. For more info about this and other happenings at the park, see www.nps.gov/ever and click on “Plan Your Visit” and then “Things to Do”.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP ANIMALS

If you can drive small injured wild animals into the Conservancy in Naples (near Coastland Mall), phone Jessica at 262-2273.



LOCAL HISTORY

Marco Museum News

“Florida’s Lost Tribes” is the subject of exhibit of oil paintings by artist Ted Morris which opens on **Thursday, January 20**, with a reception at 6:00 p.m. The show continues through April 8.

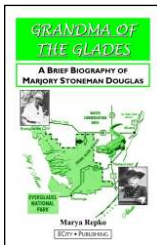
On **Sunday, January 23**, at 3:00 p.m. the Marco Island Historical Re-Enactors will present “Florida Land Barons of the Gilded Age”, a play by Betsy Perdichizzi featuring Flagler’s wives, Barron Collier, and Bion Barnett.

On **Tuesday, February 1**, at 7:00 p.m. there will be a lecture about the Deltona Years when the island was developed.

The museum at 180 South Heathwood Drive (next to the Collier County Public Library) is now open on Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. See www.themihs.org.

MSD Lecture

Marya Repko will give an illustrated presentation about Marjory Stoneman Douglas at 3:00 p.m. on **Friday, January 28**, at the Naples Preserve to launch her new book *GRANDMA OF THE GLADES*. For info, phone 695-2905 or see her website www.ecity-publishing.com.



ESHP News

The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation is looking for volunteers to serve as directors. You can submit nomination forms up to 8:30 a.m. on **Monday, February 7**, when the monthly board meeting will be held. For info, phone 695-2905.

MUSEUM NEWS

We celebrated the Feast Day of Deaconess Harriet Bedell on January 8, who passed away on that day in 1969, with a reading of the invocation she gave at the opening of the Everglades National Park in 1947. Patty Huff stood in for the Deaconess and Marya Repko gave an illustrated lecture based on the book *Angel of the Swamp* which is available in the Museum gift shop.



The current exhibit in the Pauline Reeves Gallery is "Murder and Mayhem, the Life and Times of E. J. Watson." It will be replaced in February by photographer Joel Curzon’s “Light Fading, Reflections on the Imperiled Everglades”. The Museum is open on 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 appreciated. For more info, phone 695-0008.

During Seafood Festival the drawing for the beautiful Seafood Festival T-shirt Quilt will take place; a great keepsake so don't wait for the last minute to purchase your winning ticket. The quilt is on display in the Museum where you may buy tickets at \$10 a piece or 3 for \$25.

We also welcome back Tom, Tina, and US Express who will be playing blue-grass music in the Museum during Seafood Festival from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

The Friends of the Museum of the Everglades (FME) Board will meet on **Wednesday, February 2**, at 9:00 a.m.. Members are welcome. To learn more and to join, see www.evergladesmuseum.org.

Off the Shelf – Book Review



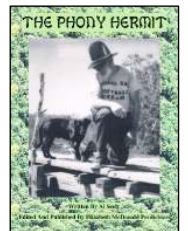
“The Phony Hermit”

Written by Al Seely

Edited and published by Betsy Perdichizzi

reviewed by Patricia Huff

This is a hermit's journal; a well-known hermit of the Everglades. Many locals will recognize Al Seely from the Prop Roots project Vol. II that the Everglades City students published years ago from their interviews and stories about various hermits who lived in the Everglades. Al spent 10 years as a "hermit" on several islands, primarily on the 65 acres of Dismal Key with his black dog. Originally from New England, Al decided in 1969 to escape, choosing the Ten Thousand Islands. As his son Mark Cowell states in the Preface "His decision to leave society and become a hermit was not done out of a sense of adventure but out of a combination of despair and grabbing for straws." He wanted to live on an island; a place he could be by himself and so he started out, knowing nothing of the area, nothing about boats or living alone on an island. He learned a lot from his first 7 or 8 months on Brush Island, off Marco. Then he moved to Dismal Key for 2 months; from there to Panther Key for 5 years and then back to Dismal Key. His journals are full of his experiences and of paintings he did himself of the wildlife surrounding his "home". They were discovered by someone cleaning up the Chamber of Commerce, fifteen years after Al's death. The journals were then given to Betsy Perdichizzi, a well respected historian of the area. Six years later Betsy has published this wonderful collection of Al Seely's stories. The book is available locally at Smallwood's Store in Chokoloskee, the Museum of the Everglades, and other outlets in future. Congratulations, Betsy, great job on your editing and publishing of a great book!



You can meet Betsy and buy her books at Art-in-the-Glades on January 22.



A disaster waiting to happen ... fishing gear left overnight on a boat. Fortunately, it was still there early the next morning.



SHERIFF'S REPORT

Dec 24-31: burglary at a residence on Riverside Drive in Everglades City.

Nov 25-Jan 7: forcible entry and burglary at a residence on Church Street in Copeland; a handgun, TV, and DVDs were taken.

Jan 8-9: burglary of Garcia and Penn fishing rods & reels and a Garmin GPS taken from a garage at the Captain's Table Villas in Everglades City.

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

Florida Tales

Please Don't Chute Me
by Chester Keene



I had a friend who was into skydiving. He started out by having his friends pull his parachute behind a car. After a few practice runs, he was ready for the wild blue yonder. He started skydiving, free falling, etc. His girlfriend also got an interest in it. She got past the instruction stages and was ready to "go it alone" after several jumps. Her boyfriend and she thought it would be cute if Fluffy, her cat, jumped with them. A harness and parachute was made for him. Fast forward 5,000 feet up. She took Fluffy in his nice custom-made outfit and told her boyfriend to release Fluffy after her exit. On "go" she jumped. She was free-falling and Fluffy was released. She looked up to see the event unfold but, to her horror, Fluffy had decided he didn't like it and started to climb the shrouds and the chute collapsed. Fluffy the feline fell like a fur ball wrapped in a rock. As he passed her, his eyes big as golf balls, wrapped in his chute he wiggled and the chute caught air just before hitting landing zone. He walked away with eight lives left. She wouldn't speak to her boyfriend and never jumped again. He found another hobby, less stressful. He joined the Police Department.

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

TAXING THINGS

by Mike the Tax Guy



The Internal Revenue Service opened the 2011 tax filing season by announcing that taxpayers have until April 18 to file their tax returns.

Because Emancipation Day, a holiday observed in the District of Columbia, falls this year on Friday, April 15 and District of Columbia holidays impact tax deadlines in the same way that federal holidays do, taxpayers will have until Monday, April 18 to file their 2010 tax returns and pay any tax due. Taxpayers requesting an extension will have until October 17 to file their 2010 tax returns.

Who Must Wait to File

For most taxpayers, the 2011 tax filing season starts on schedule. However, tax law changes enacted in December mean some people need to wait until mid- to late February to file their tax returns in order to give the IRS time to reprogram its systems. This includes taxpayers impacted by any of three tax provisions that expired at the end of 2009 and were reenacted December 17. Those who need to wait to file include:

- Taxpayers Claiming Itemized Deductions on Schedule A.
- Taxpayers Claiming the Higher Education Tuition and Fees Deduction. claimed on Form 8917. However, there will be no delays for those who claim other education credits, including the American Opportunity Tax Credit and the Lifetime Learning Credit.
- Taxpayers Claiming the Educator Expense Deduction.

The IRS will announce a specific date in the near future when it can start processing tax returns impacted by the recent tax law changes. In the interim, taxpayers affected by these tax law changes can start working on their tax returns, but they should not submit their returns until IRS systems are ready to process the new tax law changes. For taxpayers who must wait before filing, the delay affects both paper filers and electronic filers. The IRS urges taxpayers to use e-file instead of paper tax forms to minimize confusion over the recent tax law changes and ensure accurate tax returns.

BUY BOOKS TO HELP LITERACY

If you are ordering books from online shopping websites, try to buy them from Better World Books. This company provides funding for literacy initiatives locally, nationally, and around the world. It runs book drives on college campuses and make arrangements with libraries and used bookstores to gather unwanted books. Some of these books are sent directly to charitable partners for use in their work. The rest are sold online with a portion of every sale donated to the same charity organizations.



Since its founding in 2003, it has become the largest donor to Books for Africa, an organization dedicated to ending the book famine there. For more info, see www.betterworldbooks.com.

RESTAURANT NEWS



- Camellia Street Grill (695-2003):**
12:00 noon – 9:00 pm; daily
- City Seafood (695-4700):**
10:00 am - 6:00 pm; daily
Fish Market also open
- Everglades Seafood Depot (695-0075):**
10:30 am - 9:00 pm; daily
- Everglades Scoop (695-0375):**
11:00 am – 5:00 pm; daily
- Gator Express (695-3937):**
6:30 am – 8:00 pm; Mon - Thurs
6:30 am – 9:00 pm; Fri, Sat, Sun
- Glades Haven Deli (695-2091):**
6:00 am - 9:00 pm; daily
Food service stops 1 hr before close
- Havana Cafe (695-2214):**
7:00 am – 3:00 pm; Sun – Thurs
7:00 am – 9:00 pm; Fri, Sat
- Island Cafe (695-0003):**
6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily
- Ivey House (695-3299):**
6:30 – 9:30 am; daily
Continental breakfast, box lunches
- Joanie's Blue Crab Cafe (695-2682):**
11:00 am - 5:00 pm; daily
- Leebo's Rock-Bottom Bar (465-9521):**
3:00 pm; daily
"mike night" Wed
live music every Fri-Sat at 8:00 pm
- Oyster House Restaurant (695-2073):**
11:00 am – 9:00 pm; Sun-Thurs
11:00 am – 10:00 pm; Fri, Sat
4:30 -6:30 pm – Early Bird Specials
- Port-of-the-Islands (239-394-3101):**
7:00 - 11:30 am; daily (breakfast)
11:30 am – 3 pm; daily (lunch)
5:00 – 10:00 pm; Fri, Sat
- Right Choice Pizzeria (695-3663):**
5:00 - 9:00 pm; Thurs- Mon (takeout)
- Rod & Gun (695-2101):**
7:00 - 10 am Breakfast; daily
11:30 am - 9:00 pm; daily
- Susie's Station (695-2273):**
11:00 am - 5:00 pm; daily
- Triad Seafood (695-0722):**
10:30 am – 5:00 pm; Sun - Thurs
10:30 am – 8:30 pm; Fri, Sat

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



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



This beautiful photo is just one of many in the portfolio of new advertiser Maria Ioup (see below).



SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

After months of planning, it's almost here. Some of the special things happening on Festival weekend (February 4-6) are:

- Pancake Breakfast, 7:00-11:00 a.m. on Saturday at the Community Church on the Circle.
- Sunday worship at 9:00 a.m. at the Community Church instead of 11:00 a.m.
- WinCar True-Value Hardware closed on Saturday at 12:00 noon.
- Tom, Tina, and US Express play live blue-grass at the Museum, 1:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.
- Traffic may be one-way going out of town if the Sheriff's Office thinks it is necessary on Saturday or Sunday evening.

Mullet Fest

Goodland holds its Annual Mullet Festival on **Friday to Sunday, January 28-30**, at Stan's Idle Hour. The Mullet Queen Pageant is on Sunday at 4:00 p.m. There will also be a fish-cleaning contest, live music, and, of course, mullet to eat.

Jammin' in the Hammock

Just a week after our Festival, Collier Seminole on the Trail (US-41) near CR-92 holds a bluegrass jamboree to benefit their Friends group which helps the state park. Tickets are \$15 each day or \$25 for the weekend. For info, call (239) 353-9500.

YEARBOOK ADS

You can help our school by advertising in the annual yearbook. For more info, call Stacia at 695-2561.



DOCTOR'S CLINIC

Dr Kirk Demartino of Marco Island will see patients on Friday afternoons 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.



Our apologies for having the wrong hours in the last issue of the Rapper.

Little Gator Clinic

The free walk-in clinic for youngsters 18 and under is located next to the Thrift Shop (behind the fire station). It will be open on Tuesday, January 25, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. There are no drugs at the clinic but Dr. Barnard can prescribe if necessary.



MOBILE PET VET

Dr Baker will visit the area next on **Saturday, March 5**, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in McLeod Park and from 2 to 4 p.m. in Copeland. There will be surgery on **Sunday, March 7**, by previous appointment only. For info, phone her at 777-PETS (7387) or see www.naplesmobilepetvet.com.



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

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

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

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

FOR RENT: Live-aboard Slip, Naples, starting at \$300/mon. For info, phone 239-289-3143.

BOAT FOR SALE: \$5,500. 1996 20' Seaswirl Striper Boat w/130 Johnson Tandem Axle Trailer. Radio, GPS, FF, Cushions/ Covers/Bim. Dual Battery New w/SW. Comp. Check 118/125, Carbs Tuned. Clean. Call 695-2931.

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PET PICS

A cat of a different kind this week and not quite a "pet". This Florida Panther visits the yard behind Capt. Franklin Adams' house in Naples. He captured the snap with a motion-sensitive camera.

Send us your Pet Pics by email or post.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Greet Visitors in the Museum
Meet people from around the corner or around the world!

Phone Martha 695-0008.

JOBS VACANT

SunStream Hotels & Resorts is now hiring for the following positions at Port of the Islands Resort & Marina in Naples:

- Restaurant Manager (full time)
- Line Cook (full time)
- Bartender (part time)

See www.sunstream.com/employment to view full job descriptions and apply online.

No Charge! for Job Ads in the Rapper.
or email mulletrapper@gmail.com

The MULLET RAPPER
What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

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We strive to present the facts accurately without political bias or personal opinion.

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

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