

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

FEBRUARY 4 - 17, 2011

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume V • Issue #126



Thanks to Lee Kidder for this photo of members of Everglades fire department cleaning a cooler for the school's coke booth at Seafood Festival. The box was donated by Sergio Valdes and was gel coated and painted by the fire fighters.



Congratulations to ECity School students Alex Thompson & Trevyr Daniels who jointly won first prize in a contest to design the 2011 Festival T-shirt and to Cameron Foss who came in second. Their entries contributed to the T-shirt which is for sale to benefit the school athletic program.



New School Principal

Teachers, staff, parents and community members welcomed Everglades City School Assistant Principal Gary Brown and our new Principal Cherise Brummer who introduced her leadership team: Glenna Potter (Guidance Counselor), Betty Oglesby (Reading Coach) and Lynda Feins (Exceptional Student Specialist) at a catered breakfast in the school cafetorium on February 1. Ms. Brummer was thrilled by the turnout and support from the community.

She highlighted the issues she would be focusing on during the coming year: the Pre-K Program, Standard-Based Report Cards (initially for K-2nd grades this year and 3rd-6th grades next year), Student-Led Conferences, Academic Competitions, Advanced Placement Courses, AVID, and the Florida Virtual Courses. She invited parents and community members to get involved by attending the School Advisory Council Meetings which are held the 3rd Thursday of every month at 3:00 p.m.. She stated the school's mission: "Prioritizing Every Student Every Day" and encouraged the community to participate in the school programs, starting on February 10 with the new Family Night (see page 3).

We look forward to exciting things happening with our school!

THANKS FROM THE KIDS

The "Kids of Copeland" is a group of youngsters who are saying "No More" to drugs in this area. They raised money with bake sales to put on a dance and to decorate a float in the Christmas parade. They are planning other events and eventually would like to have a center where they can do homework or socialize, somewhere off the street where they can go. The kids would like to thank adults Arita Parker, Gracie Goff, Babs Daniels, Pastor John Gilmore, and others who helped them.

For info and to make suggestions, phone Casey Henry at 289-9889.

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 3.

CONTENTS

Calendar	p. 2	Florida Flora	p. 8
Tides	p. 3	Museum News	p. 9
Events	p. 3	Local History	p. 9
School	p. 5	Book Review	p. 9
Recipe	p. 7	Sheriff's Report	p.10
Fishing	p. 8	Florida Tales	p.10

FEATURE ALONG THE TRAIL p10

FEBRUARY 2011

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
30 Evangelist First Baptist	31 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	FEB 1 Kids' Clinic 5-7 pm, <i>see p.11</i>	2 Ladies Coffee Island Cafe 8 am FME mtg	new moon ○ 3 Booster Club 6:30 pm	RAPPER 4 Seafood Festival <i>see p.1,3</i>	5 Seafood Festival <i>see p.1,3</i>
6 Seafood Festival <i>see p.1,3</i>	7 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm ESHP 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 Family Night School, 5:30 pm <i>see p.3</i>	11	12 Jammin' in the Hammock <i>see p.3</i>
13 Jammin' in the Hammock <i>see p.3</i>	Valentines 14 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm	15 Reach Out City Hall, 8:30 am	16 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am	17 SAC mtg School, 3 pm Lions Club Depot, 5:30 pm	full moon ● 18 RAPPER	19 Pancake Fly-In <i>see p.3</i> Muck-About <i>see p.8</i> Paddle-In <i>see p.3</i>
20 Muck-About <i>see p.8</i>	MLK Day 21 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church 7 pm Muck-About <i>see p.8</i>	22 MSD Festival <i>see p.9</i>	23 Ladies Coffee Havana Cafe 8 am MSD Festival <i>see p.9</i> BigC ORVs <i>see p.10</i>	24 MSD Festival <i>see p.9</i>	25 MSD Festival <i>see p.9</i> ESHP Talk	26 Fakahatchee SAFARI <i>see p.10</i>
27	28 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	MAR 1 City Council City Hall, 5:30 pm	2 Ladies Coffee Island Cafe 8 am FME mtg	3 Booster Club 6:30 pm	new moon ○ 4 RAPPER	5 Pet Vet <i>see p.11</i>

Mar 5/6: Pet Vet Mar 12: Art-in-the-Glades, Homes Tour Mar 19: Fly-In
Apr 19: ROGG Bike Tour Apr 30: Museum Birthday, Fly-In June 3: graduation July 2: Independence Day Parade/Fireworks

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 DR DEMARTINO: Fri, 1:30 to 4:30 pm LITTLE GATOR CLINIC: 3/22, 3/29
ALCOHOLICS ANON: Wed, 5:00 pm, Community Church NARCOTICS ANON: Sat, 11:00 am, Community Center

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: Tues, 2/8 (9-10 am) Thurs, 2/10 (9-10 am) Mon, 2/14 (9-10 am) Wed, 2/16 (1-2 pm)

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



SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

Some of the local events during the weekend of **February 5/6** are:

- Pancake Breakfast, 7:00-11:00 a.m. on Saturday at the Community Church on the Circle.
- 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.
- Sunday worship at 9:00 a.m. at the Community Church instead of 11:00 a.m.
- Mass at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church on Sunday.
- *For traffic info, see the Sheriff's Report on page 10.*

SCHOOL FAMILY NIGHT

Family Night at the school on **Thursday, February 10**, features Kaye Byrnes who invites families from all grades for her storytelling. The evening starts with snacks at 5:30 p.m. To learn more, see www.kayebyrnes.com.

FLY-IN

The next free pancake breakfast at Everglades Airpark on **Saturday, February 19**, is hosted by Wings 10,000 Islands Tours from 10:00 a.m. to noon. For info, phone Chuck at 695-3296. *See photos from the previous Fly-In on page 9.*



On January 28 Ms. Ryan's Kindergarten class celebrated the 100th day of school by creating posters of 100 items.

Jammin' in the Hammock

Just a week after our own Festival, Collier Seminole on the Trail (US-41) near CR-92 holds a bluegrass jamboree on **February 12/13** 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.

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, see www.evergladesareatours.com or phone 695-3633.



YOGA ON THURSDAY

Everyone is welcome to take part in gentle yoga on Thursday mornings at 8:00 a.m. in Chokoloskee Island Park Club House. If you have a mat, you should bring it. For info, call Betsy at 695-2166.

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 01/19/11: Vehicle Accident, 58mm I-75
- 01/19/11: Airboat Accident, Everglades City
- 01/19/11: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 01/19/11: Emergency Medical, Port of the Islands
- 01/20/11: Vehicle Accident, 52mm I-75
- 01/20/11: Emergency Medical, Port of the Islands
- 01/21/11: Emergency Medical, Port of the Islands
- 01/22/11: Emergency Medical, Port of the Islands
- 01/22/11: Brush Fire (Mutual Aid), Riggs Road
- 01/22/11: Emergency Medical, 63mm I-75
- 01/22/11: Emergency Medical, Plantation Island
- 01/22/11: Grass Fire, 64mm I-75
- 01/22/11: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 01/22/11: Structure Fire, Six L's Road
- 01/23/11: Fire, Six L's Road
- 01/23/11: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 01/23/11: Vehicle Accident, 73mm I-75
- 01/23/11: Vehicle Accident, SR-29 and US-41
- 01/24/11: Emergency Medical, 67mm I-75
- 01/26/11: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee Island
- 01/27/11: Fire Alarm, Ochopee
- 01/27/11: Vehicle Accident, 78mm I-75
- 01/28/11: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 01/28/11: Vehicle Accident, 57mm I-75
- 01/29/11: Emergency Medical, Plantation Island
- 01/29/11: Vehicle Accident, 63mm I-75
- 01/29/11: Emergency Medical, 62mm I-75
- 01/30/11: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 01/30/11: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 01/31/11: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 02/01/11: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee Island

MORE News & Events on page 11.

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>

02/04/2011	Fri	02:38AM	2.6	H	10:27AM	-0.2	L	03:32PM	2.3	H	10:35PM	0.3	L
02/05/2011	Sat	03:14AM	2.5	H	10:57AM	-0.1	L	04:00PM	2.4	H	11:11PM	0.2	L
02/06/2011	Sun	03:52AM	2.4	H	11:25AM	0.1	L	04:29PM	2.4	H	11:49PM	0.2	L
02/07/2011	Mon	04:35AM	2.2	H	11:50AM	0.2	L	04:59PM	2.4	H			
02/08/2011	Tue	12:32AM	0.2	L	05:25AM	2.0	H	12:09PM	0.3	L	05:28PM	2.4	H
02/09/2011	Wed	01:23AM	0.2	L	06:28AM	1.7	H	12:21PM	0.5	L	05:57PM	2.4	H
02/10/2011	Thu	02:27AM	0.2	L	07:46AM	1.5	H	12:33PM	0.6	L	06:33PM	2.3	H
02/11/2011	Fri	03:41AM	0.1	L	09:21AM	1.5	H	12:52PM	0.7	L	07:29PM	2.3	H
02/12/2011	Sat	04:51AM	0.0	L	09:04PM	2.4	H						
02/13/2011	Sun	05:51AM	-0.2	L	12:24PM	1.7	H	05:28PM	0.8	L	10:26PM	2.5	H
02/14/2011	Mon	06:43AM	-0.3	L	12:54PM	1.9	H	06:32PM	0.7	L	11:27PM	2.6	H
02/15/2011	Tue	07:31AM	-0.4	L	01:23PM	2.1	H	07:25PM	0.6	L			
02/16/2011	Wed	12:18AM	2.8	H	08:15AM	-0.5	L	01:52PM	2.3	H	08:14PM	0.4	L
02/17/2011	Thu	01:05AM	3.0	H	08:57AM	-0.5	L	02:21PM	2.4	H	09:01PM	0.2	L
02/18/2011	Fri	01:51AM	3.0	H	09:38AM	-0.4	L	02:50PM	2.5	H	09:47PM	0.1	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, Feb 3: Booster Club, 6:30 p.m.
- Wed, Feb 9: Early Dismissal
- Thurs, Feb 10: Great Gator Luncheon
- Thurs, Feb 10: Family Night, 5:30 p.m.
- Thurs, Feb 10: Softball HOME, 4:30 p.m.
- Thurs, Feb 17: SAC, 3:00 p.m.
- Mon, Feb 21: Presidents' Day, no school



From Savannah's Eyes

The homecoming dance this year was great! I had a blast of fun and so did everyone else there! All night long all the kids danced the night away as the DJ kept on playing great music! I loved it so much I wished that the dance would never end!!! All the kids were dressed very pretty the girls dresses were beautiful and the guys looked handsome. It was a Masquerade dance so everyone had awesome masks on! No one had the same mask so it made everyone unique and sometimes you wouldn't recognize them. The decorations were awesome especially with all the huge masks that were hanging on the walls!! They were all different colors and sizes; it was cool. Some of the booster club members helped decorate and it looked great!! Thank you for your time!!!

At our school 3 days ago on the 25th we had a little science fair and the people who won (which one of them was me) I got first place out of 8th grade and I was soo happy!! The winners got to go to a bigger science fair! On Friday January 28th a few 6th, 7th, and me (8th) graders went to the Collier County Science fair for grades 6,7,8th. It was a great experience to see other kids and their projects and I made a lot of friends and the judges were all very nice! The real judging to see who won is the next day so fingers crossed on who wins!

Can't wait to see who wins!

Love, Savannah

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



We would like to proudly announce that Brandon Steffen won first place at the Collier County Math and Science Fair held on January 28. Brandon's project "The Most Efficient Boat Hull Design" was one of 150 projects representing all middle schools of Collier County. This was EVG's first science fair and all 10 projects representing our school competed admirably. Brandon won a first place certificate, a blue ribbon, and \$75 worth of gift certificate. **GREAT, FANTASTIC JOB, BRANDON!**

Thanks to Dr Tom Anders for the report and Trina Mitchell for photo.

From Haleigh's Heart



Hi Everyone! So much is going on here in Everglades this week! First of all, I wanted to send out my best wishes to Mr. Bobby Jones who is retiring as Principal of Everglades City School and I also wanted to thank him for his hard work and dedication with our students over the past 11 1/2 years.

This week is also the Everglades City Seafood Festival! (What some of us call "The Best Time Of The Year!") Starting Friday and ending Sunday is this wonderful event!

I hope you all have fun! 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 – John Mark Gilmore
- K – Carl Nicholson
- 1 – Reyvan Cifuentes
- 2, 3 – Evan Richards
- 4 – Samanth Bruscini
- 5 – Davonte Detweiler
- 6 – Cody Potter
- 7 – Megan Williams
- 8 – Savannah Oglesby
- High – Kendell Wooten

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Recipe for Good Eating

Split Pea Soup

by Patricia Huff



When I was growing up, I hated vegetables and would hide my peas in my napkin during dinner to avoid eating them. Also, when my mother would make the best pea soup, I would ask her to strain out all the vegetables that I could see (carrots, onions). How I have changed! I love vegetables more than any other food group, and I really enjoy cooking split pea soup on cold wintery days like we've been experiencing. I use my mother's basic recipe, then add my own ingredients depending on what's in the refrigerator.

2 TBS olive oil or butter
2 tsp minced garlic (optional)
1 pkg of split peas (rinsed and picked over)
3-4 cups water
Salt and pepper to taste
ham bone or crumbled bacon slices (optional)

1 large sweet onion
2 carrots (sliced)
2 cups low-salt chicken or vegetable broth

Sauté onion and garlic in olive oil until tender. Add carrots, peas, water and broth. Add salt and pepper to taste. Bring to a boil, cover and simmer for 35 minutes. Add ham or bacon, if desired. Continue to add water or more broth if needed to consistency you like (some people, like my husband, prefer thick pea soup). Occasionally, if I have extra potatoes, I'll add to soup for additional thickness.

Serve with bread or saltine crackers. Enjoy!

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

HOUSEHOLD TIP

by Marya Repko

Did you know that it takes 450 years for a plastic bottle to decompose? And, that 80% of marine debris is made of plastic?

The numbers are enormous. Over 300 billion barrels of petroleum and natural gas are used to make plastic products in the USA. Every 5 seconds, 60,000 plastic bags are used!

Besides recycling, we can refuse to accept plastic bags when we buy only one or two items and take reusable cloth bags to the store on big shopping trips. Think of how much safer marine life will be without all that plastic trash floating around and how many resources we can save.

HELPING OUR PRE-K PROGRAM

If you are wondering about the collection jars around town for the Pre-K, here is part of a statement from the school:

Although the district has paid and is committed to keeping the Pre-K program at EVG school, the incurred cost of running the program has not been covered through the district's Kindergarten to 12th grade budget. Other Pre-K programs in Collier County are funded through parent pay and other grants. This is not the case in Everglades City.

The district has hosted two parent meetings at school to brainstorm ways to fund the EVG program for the coming years. There were several options discussed. Parents are not in a position to pay the weekly cost, therefore a half day option, a half year option, a 3 yr. and 4 yr. program option, and the existing full day option was considered. Many parents were in favor of the full day option. The EEE (Everglades Early Education) project has been created to raise funds. We are committed to raising as much of the needed funds as possible in order to contribute to the cost and send a message to the district that the community supports the Pre-K program at Everglades City School.

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Fishing Report

by Captain Bill Lindsay

February may be one of the most difficult months to fish in the Everglades. But the water north of us is even colder and for anglers that are willing to work hard, fishing can be rewarding. Remember water levels can be extra low when northeast winds blow hard for a few days; if you don't know the area well, stay in the channels. Try to get out on the water a day or two before approaching cold fronts. Sometimes snook will float near the surface when the sun warms the water up a little. Even though these fish are hard to catch, some of them will hit a well-placed fly or plug. Redfish can still be found around the oyster bars and outside points. Trout fishing has been productive and can be lots of fun when snook fishing is slow. Sheepshead and tripletail are still active. When the weather gets nice, cobia can be caught around the park boundary markers and Gulf wrecks. We have a lot of boat traffic at this time of year so be careful coming around blind corners and slow down for canoes and kayaks.

Capt. Bill Lindsay lives in Chokoloskee and has been fishing in the Everglades National Park for over 30 years. In 1992 he was Master Angler of the MET Tournament.



FWC News

The FWC seeks information on the conservation needs of the 60 species listed as threatened or of special concern in Florida and any economic or social factors that should be considered in managing these species in Florida. Send your comments to imperiled@myfwc.com.

The recreational harvest of all shallow-water groupers (gag, black, red, yellowfin, scamp, yellowmouth, rock hind and red hind) is prohibited from February 1 through March 31 in all Gulf of Mexico state and federal waters off Florida, except in all waters of Monroe County.

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

“Muck-About”

There will 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.

GOODLAND BOAT PARADE

This annual event will be held at 2:00 p.m. on **Saturday, February 19**, with the theme of “The Gold Old Days”. To register or form info, see www.mardigrasgoodland.com or phone Elaine Richie at (239) 642-8356.



FLORIDA FLORA

by Patricia Huff

Poisonwood (*Metopium toxiferum*)

This beautiful Florida native, growing mostly in the Keys, is very similar in looks to the Gumbo limbo but it is not one that you would want to plant in your yard. The black (tar-like) sap contains alkaloids and is highly toxic, causing skin irritations and a rash similar to poison ivy. The bark of the older trees shed like the Gumbo limbo with reddish-brown and gray markings on the tree left by the sap. The Poisonwood is also known as Florida poisons tree or hog gum tree and can grow in height up to 35 feet or more with a nice shady canopy. The dark green oval pinnate leaves are 3" to 4" long with a leathery appearance. This photograph was taken at my son's house in the Keys but Poisonwood is found in the Everglades and on the mainland. There were several trees in his yard which is an upland hammock area and all the trees I observed differed from the Gumbo limbo at the base where it sprouted out from the ground rather than the trunk growing straight up so this may be an identifying characteristic if you happen upon one in our area. Beware and stay clear!

Just seven months ago in our June 25 issue, we published an article about Ron Ouellette of Dupont Island building his 31-ft Trimaran with a completion date of January 2011. On Saturday, January 29, Ron and his friends celebrated the "launch" of "Chiquita" right on schedule. The Rapper will be writing more about Ron and his future plans as he finishes up the final touches and begins his journey on the seas. *Thanks to Linda Williams for this photo.*



ROGG Bike Ride

Once again, bicycle riders will be coming to Everglades City on **Saturday, April 17**, to participate in the annual Everglades Ride beginning in McLeod Park with riders having the opportunity of bicycling as short as 16 miles and as long as 80 miles.

The Everglades River of Grass Greenway (ROGG) is a plan for a non-motorized path parallel to the Tamiami Trail (US-41) for the benefit of hikers and bicyclists.

To register for the Everglades Ride and for more info, visit website www.naplespathways.org and click on “Stay N Play Everglades Ride”.



LOCAL HISTORY



There were crowds of cars on the road up to the Everglades Airpark for the Antique Air Aficionados Fly-In on January 22 but aircraft were hampered by inclement weather. That did not stop this 1959 Cessna. Thanks to Phill Lawry for the photos, to Chuck Gretzke for the pancakes, and to Triad Seafood for the raffle prize of stone crab claws.

Marco Museum

The Marco Island Historical 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. For info about monthly programs and exhibits, see www.themihs.org.

Naples Depot Open

After extensive renovation, the Collier County Museum in the Naples Depot 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. The Depot is located at the corner of Tenth Street and US-41 (Tamiami Trail). For info, phone 262-6525 or 262-5119.

ESHP News

The next meeting of the Board of the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation (ESHP) will be at 8:30 a.m. on **Monday, February 7**, which is also the deadline for nominations in the upcoming election for Directors. For info, phone 695-2905.

BOOK SIGNING

Naples author Maureen Sullivan-Hartung will sign copies of her book *Hidden History of Everglades City and Points Nearby* at the Museum of the Everglades during the Seafood Festival on **Saturday, February 5**, and also at the Smallwood Store in Chokoloskee, on **Saturday, February 12**, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

MUSEUM NEWS

The new exhibit is photographer Joel Curzon's "Light Fading, Reflections on the Imperiled Everglades". Joel will be signing his book of the same name during the Seafood Festival on **Saturday, February 5**, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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. It will also be open on the Sunday of Seafood Festival. 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 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 Marjory Stoneman Douglas Festival takes place this year on **February 22-25** and the schedule is filled with interesting activities. Reservations are required for some of the events so book early. Many of the swamp walks, canoe trips and photography workshops are filling up fast. Also, the opening presentation for the luncheon on **Tuesday, February 22**, by Joel Curzon, whose exhibit is now on display at the Museum, should not be missed. The title is "Listen to the Everglades: Reality, Humility and the End of Growth". At 1:00 p.m. the presentation on "The Life and Times of Ed Guthrie" should also be of interest. Don't miss out! Call 695-0008 for reservations and more information or see www.evergladesmuseum.org.



Off the Shelf – Book Review

Dark Caribbean, A Novel based on a True Story

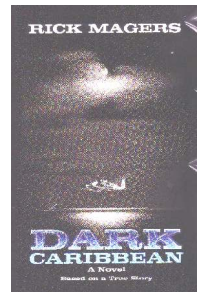
by Rick Magers

reviewed by Patricia Huff

Many Everglades City and Chokoloskee residents may be familiar with Rick Magers who trapped here in the 1970s and 1980s but also spent time writing in the Caribbean and now during winter in Cross Creek. But, for others who are new to Rick's books and interested in tales of fishermen in the Everglades, it's time to pick up one of his novels.

Ray and Roland are feisty characters trying to make it as fishermen, trapping for lobsters in the Caribbean, Bahamas, Florida Keys and the Everglades area. They must deal first with pirates who steal from their traps, and then with even more challenges as they come to the Everglades. *Dark Caribbean* is the same book published earlier (*Blue Water Adventures*) but has a new title and cover. It is available for purchase at the Smallwood Store & Museum in Chokoloskee and other local outlets.

Another of Rick Magers' books is *The McKannahs, A Western Novel* which was awarded Best Western Novel 2009 by the American Readers Club. This book can be purchased directly from the author at email magersrick@yahoo.com.



ART EVENING

Lighthouse of Collier, the non-profit which helps visually impaired people, is holding a fundraiser on Thursday, February 10, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at 424 Bayfront Place in Naples and features artist Val McGann. To learn more, phone 239-430-3934 or see www.lighthouseofcollier.org.





SHERIFF'S REPORT

It has been a quiet 2 weeks. As always we like to remind the residents to secure their vehicles, boats and residences and to not leave anything in plain view which entices would be thieves. Likewise residents should remain vigilant for any suspicious activity or persons and to report the same to the Collier County Sheriffs Office immediately.

The Seafood Festival is a busy time of year for the immediate area and Deputies will be working this event to help assure everyone's safety. As needed, traffic out of Everglades City may be reversed should the area become a complete gridlock which compromises the flow of emergency vehicles in the City and warrants our reverse-flow procedures. Should this become necessary, traffic flow into Everglades City could be temporary halted for up to 20 minutes. Residents should be aware that this may become necessary during Saturday and Sunday. No specific times can be planned and only as situations dictate.

As always we appreciate everyone's patience during the Seafood Festival and wish the Betterment Association continued success in raising funds to support our area youth.

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

The Horse Threw a Shoe

by Chester Keene



Joe Soto was a prankster and liked to have a laugh once in a while. Right after he got married to his young bride from Missouri, while they were walking on the beach at Coconut, she saw all these long-tailed things washing ashore. She asked her new groom what they were. He said "horseshoe crabs, they are excellent to eat".

With this in mind, Margie gathered up a washtub full of them and proceeded to clean and cook them while Joe was out fishing for shrimp. When he got home, she greeted him at the door with "Honey, I got your dinner fixed." He said it smelled good and upon going in the kitchen, she said, "They didn't have much meat on the bone." He looked in the pot and saw all the horseshoe crabs stacked in there. He started laughing; she didn't understand why. He said, "I was just kidding you."

He had cold baloney sandwiches which he fixed himself. The dog went outside to eat an old bone he had for backup.

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



ALONG THE TRAIL

by Patricia Huff

Many times we forget that some of the best vacations can be spent in our own backyards. We are surrounded by the Everglades beauty and so much to do and see. Last week some friends of mine from Washington state were visiting Miami and asked me to join them for a bike ride around the loop at Shark Valley, just east of the Miccosukee Indian Reservation and part of the Everglades National Park. I have biked there several times before but I continue to be amazed at the wildlife and quiet beauty of the prairie lands. Just minutes after we started out on the loop (trail), we immediately saw a deer, then several alligators basking in the sun on our path, then a woodstork, ibis, more alligators, egrets, a blue heron, anhingas, and so on. One of my friends had never seen a roseate spoonbill, and at the top of the Observation Tower six miles into our ride, we saw three of them nesting in a tree, then as we biked farther along the pathway, we saw several others feeding alone. She was thrilled! Don't miss out on the wonders of our world. Just drive along the (Tamiami) Trail and discover something new, or revisit some of your previous adventures.

Big Cypress ORVs



The Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Committee will meet from 3:30 to 8:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, February 23**, at the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center, 33000 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee,

For more info, phone 695-1107 or see the preserve's website www.nps.gov/bicy/parkmgmt where you can see the agenda and past minutes or submit items for discussion at future meetings.



"Take a Walk on the Wild Side of Southwest Florida" on **Saturday, February 26**, when the Friends of Fakahatchee present their annual jamboree in our local state park. Activities include swamp walks, tram rides, photo workshop, Art & Nature Gallery, and a BBQ Cookout with sunset bonfire. The cost for the day is \$125 per person and proceeds help our local state park. You can book online at www.orchidswamp.org or phone (239) 695-2905.

RESTAURANT NEWS



- Camellia Street Grill (695-2003):**
12:00 noon – 9:00 pm; daily
- City Seafood (695-4700):**
6:00 am – 9:00 pm
Fish Market also open
- Everglades Seafood Depot (695-0075):**
10:30 am - 10:00 pm; daily
- Everglades Scoop (695-0375):**
11:00 am – 5:00 pm; daily
- Gator Express (695-3937):**
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.



DOCTOR'S CLINIC

Dr. DeMartino, Board Certified Family Practitioner, with his first patient, Sonny Scott, last month at the new clinic in Everglades City behind the fire station. The Doctor is available to see patients every Friday from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. The following services are available:

- Management of acute and chronic illnesses
- Coumadin/Warfarin monitoring
- Gynecological exams
- Immunization against
Flu, Shingles, Pneumonia, HPV, Hepatitis
- Allergy Injections

Appointments can be made through the Doctor's Marco Island office by calling (239) 642-5552. Walk-In patients are gladly accepted.

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OBITUARIES

Anneliese Fragiaco, 81, passed away in New Port Richey on January 16. She and husband Leo lived nine years at Port of the Islands and attended the Everglades Community Church where she was president of the Ladies' Auxiliary and helped with the Seafood Festival Pancake Fundraiser.

We received this email from her husband Leo:

I would like to thank the people of Everglades City, Chokoloskee, and Port of the Islands for attending the memorial Sunday, January 30, for my wife, Anneliese Fragiaco, at Everglades Community Church.

Terry W. Browning, 51, passed away on January 26 in Naples. He was the son of Amos and Lucille Browning. He is also survived by his grandmother, Beatrice Rogers of Chokoloskee, FL; two brothers, Gene (Pam) Browning of Cleveland, TN, and Rick Browning of Chokoloskee, FL; three nieces; one nephew; and lots of family and friends. Services took place on January 29:

The Browning Family would like to thank you for all of your prayers and please continue to pray for Lucille and Amos!!!

Little Gator Clinic



The free walk-in clinic for youngsters 18 and under will not be open until Tuesday, March 22, while GB & Kathy Bernard take a well-earned vacation. There are no drugs at the clinic.

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 6**, by previous appointment only. For info, phone her at 777-PETS (7387) or see www.naplesmobilepetvet.com.

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SNOOK CLASSIFIED

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

FOR SALE BY OWNER: 3 lots in Chokoloskee, 2 on Calusa Dr, Lot M-4; Lot M-5 (filled); Lot by cemetery. 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

KittyKat checks her potted catnip plant to see if it needs water. Her owner, Sue Evans, seems to be too busy to care for it properly and must be reminded to water it!

Send us your Pet Pics by email or post.

JOBS VACANT

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

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

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

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

SNOOK CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE: 2000 Park Model Home, 1bed/1bath, screen room, excellent condition, boat dock, in VR Corp. \$70,000 or best offer. Call 695-2006 or (815) 824-0737.

FOR SALE: R.V. lot at Outdoor Resorts, Chokoloskee, with 5th wheel & Boston Whaler boat. Call 695-0202 for info and appointment.

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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