

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

MARCH 16 - 29 , 2012

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume VI • Issue #155



Commissioner Jim Coletta, Mayor Sammy Hamilton and Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart gathered together at the Seafood Depot on March 12 for a "Meet & Greet" evening with community members to answer any questions.



Collier County installed signs stating "No Motor Vehicles on Pathway" along CR29 in order to provide safe walking and biking between Chokoloskee and Everglades City.

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CITY COUNCIL REPORT

by Marya Repko

At the meeting on March 6, Mayor Sammy Hamilton reported on his dealings with the DEP and SFWMD who have given the City another large grant. He commented on the attempts by home owners to roost bats to eat the mosquitoes and also hoped to see more butterflies and hummingbirds here. The baseball field behind Holy Family Catholic Church will now have a clay surface for the Little League games, thanks to Collier County Parks & Recreation. Finally, the Mayor welcomed County Commissioner Jim Coletta who praised the "great constituents" in the area.

Sgt. Todd Taylor of CCSO reported several small thefts in the center of the City on March 5. The items had been recovered and suspects are being questioned.

Marya Repko appeared on behalf of the Fireworks Committee. She said that a down payment had been made for our glorious display during the July 4th celebrations but more funds are needed. The Mayor and Council agreed that the City contribute \$2,500.

John M. Wilson again questioned the speed at which delivery trucks travel on Storter Avenue North. A letter has been written to one company and new signs "No Trucks or Buses" have been installed. Councilor Parker Oglesby reported that he stopped one truck to talk with the driver.

Council voted to renew the dock leases. The Mayor said the rates were not being raised but asked renters to please fix their docks.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 3, at 5:30 p.m.

INDEPENDENCE DAY



Plans are being made for our big Independence Day celebrations. This year the parade and fireworks will be on **Saturday, June 30**, with the parade beginning at 10:00 a.m. Start planning your float to the theme of "Honoring Our Veterans" with a chance to win a prize trophy. You can pick up an entry form in City Hall or phone Elaine at 695-2695. The committee is also looking for musicians to play for the festivities and kiddies' best-dressed contest that follows the parade. If you would like to volunteer, phone Dottie at 695-3781.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES' VACANCIES

The Collier County Board of Commissioners is seeking applicants for several advisory committees, including Animal Services, Hispanic Affairs and Tourist Development Council. Residents may obtain an application by calling 252-8097 or from www.colliergov.net. Forward to the attention of Ian Mitchell, Exec. Manager, Board of County Commissioners, 3299 Tamiami Trail E, Suite 303, Naples, Florida 34112-5746, or fax to 239-252-6406. The deadline for acceptance of applications is **March 29, 2012**.

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

MARCH / APRIL 2012

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
11 <i>Daylight Savings Time</i>	12 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm OFCD Board (canceled) Meet & Greet	13	14 Ladies Coffee Island Café 8 am	15 Book Club 9:30 am SAC School, 6 pm	RAPPER 16	17 Panther Refuge Open House <i>see p.3</i> Big Cypress Gallery Reception <i>see p.3</i>
18 Chokoloskee Church of God Friends' Day <i>see p.3</i>	19 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church 7 pm	20 Reach Out City Hall, 8:30 am <i>First Day of Spring</i>	21 Ladies Coffee Mary Ford's Home 8 am Big C Hunters <i>see p.3</i>	new moon ○ 22 School Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast <i>see p.5</i>	23 Movie Night <i>see p.3</i>	24 Pancake FlyIn <i>see p.3</i> Pig Roast Benefit <i>see p.3</i>
25 Coastal Cruise <i>see p.3</i>	26 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	27	28 Ladies Coffee Havana Café 8 am	29 Deadline for Advisory Com. <i>see p.1</i>	RAPPER 30	31
APRIL 1	2 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm ESHP mtg <i>see p.9</i>	3 Congressional Visit Coletta Visit City Council City Hall, 5:30 pm Kids' Clinic 5-7 pm <i>see p.3</i>	4 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am FME mtg 3:30 pm	Maundy Thursday 5 Everglades Community Church Service 7 pm	full moon ● 6 Good Friday Holy Family Catholic Church Adoration of the Cross – 12 noon ----- Everglades Community Church Service 7 pm	7
8 Easter Sunrise Service Everglades Nat'l Park 7 am	9 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm OFCD Board <i>see p.3</i>	10 Kids' Clinic 5-7 pm, <i>see p.3</i>	11 Ladies Coffee Island Café 8 am	12 Great Gator Luncheon	RAPPER 13	14 Mobile Pet Vet <i>see p.3</i>

April 28: Pancake FlyIn, Museum Birthday May 3: Natl Day of Prayer May 12: 911 FishFry June 1: Graduation

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

SKATING RINK: Fri, Sat; 7-10 pm
 LITTLE GATOR CLINIC: Tues, 5-7 pm, April 3,10,17
 AA: Wed, 5:00 pm, Community Church
 NA: Sat, 11:30 am, Community Center (Skating Rink)
 SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily; 10 am to 5 pm

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: Fri, 3/16 (10-11 am) Mon, 3/19 (10-11 am) Thurs, 3/22 (9-10 am) Tues, 3/27 (9-10 am)
 Thurs, 3/29 (10-11 am)

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

Panther Open House

Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge Open House on Saturday, **March 17**, from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Open House will be held at the Work Center complex at the Refuge and will again incorporate many of the tours from previous years, including buggy tours, hikes, plant walks, orchid tours, presentations and more. For information, call 239-353-8442, ext. 222.

BIG CYPRESS GALLERY

Opening Reception

“America the Beautiful”

On Saturday, **March 17**, meet Clyde Butcher in the Big Cypress Gallery from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. New photos from his latest trip out west on exhibit. Contact 695-2428 for more information.



Yoga Workshop ~ Lunch

Swamp Walks

Saturday March 17

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Behind the Big Cypress Gallery

Cost: \$150 per person

Call 695-2428 for information

Swamp Walks Ending

Swamp Walks at Big Cypress Gallery will end **March 29**. Until then they are being offered at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. every Saturday. Private swamp walks can be scheduled any day or time for the month of March. Call 695-2428 to schedule a walk or email bcg@clydebutcher.com.

BOOK SIGNING

On **March 17** at 1:30 p.m. author Maureen Sullivan-Hartung will give a presentation followed by a signing of her book "Hidden History of Everglades City and Points Nearby" at the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center auditorium, 33000 Tamiami Trail East in Ochopee. For additional information, call 695-4758.

FRIENDS' DAY

Sunday – March 18 – 11 am to 2 pm

Come join the Chokolossee Church of God for Friends' Day. Gospel Band "Mercy and Grace" will be ministering in song. Afterwards everyone is welcome to stay and enjoy "Old Fashioned Dinner on the Ground". It is going to be an awesome day with our friends. Everyone is invited. For more information call 695-3735.

Big Cypress Hunting Management Plan

The National Park Service, in consultation with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has drafted a Hunting Management Plan/ Environmental Assessment for Big Cypress Nat'l Preserve. Public meetings will be held from 5 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, **March 20**, at Miccosukee Resort & Gaming on Krome Ave in Miami, and Wednesday, **March 21**, at Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center in Ochopee. To review the draft plan, visit the park's website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/bicy>. Click on the appropriate link to Hunting Management Plan/EA or contact Bob DeGross at 695-1107.

MOVIE NIGHT



The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation is hosting another "Movie Night" featuring two of the 38 segments from the TV program "The Everglades" which ran for one season 1961-62. Ron Hayes stars as Constable Lincoln Vail, an Everglades "county patrol officer", who travels by airboat to solve crimes. The series was produced by Budd Schulberg who made "Wind Across the Everglades" several years earlier. Come enjoy popcorn and coke at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Church Jenkins Fellowship Hall on Friday, **March 23**. For info, call 695-2905.

Pancake FlyIn

The next Pancake FlyIn will be held on Saturday, **March 24**, from 10 a.m. until noon with pancakes courtesy of Chuck Gretzke and Wings 10,000 Islands Aero Tours. Call 695-3296 for more information.

PIG ROAST BENEFIT

For Brian Fitzgerald. Saturday, **March 24**, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at McLeod Park.

Coastal Cruise

Join the Fakahatchee Coastal Cruise on Sunday, **March 25**, at 3:30 p.m. to visit Fakahatchee Island. For more information, visit www.orchidswamp.org or telephone 695-2905.

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 02/28/12: Fire Alarm, Everglades City
- 02/28/12: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 02/29/12: Emergency Med, Chokoloskee
- 03/01/12: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands
- 03/01/12: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands
- 03/01/12: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 03/02/12: Vehicle Accident, 87 MM I-75
- 03/02/12: Vehicle Fire, 74 Mile Marker I-75
- 03/02/12: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 03/03/12: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 03/03/12: Brush Fire, 57 Mile Marker I-75
- 03/03/12: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 03/04/12: Emergency Medical, 52 MM I-75
- 03/05/12: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 03/05/12: Brush Fire, Port of the Islands
- 03/06/12: Smoke Investigation, Port of Islands
- 03/06/12: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 03/06/12: Station Coverage, Marco Island
- 03/06/12: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 03/07/12: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 03/08/12: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands
- 03/09/12: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 03/09/12: Emergency Medical, 63 MM I-75
- 03/09/12: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 03/09/12: Vehicle Accident, Copeland
- 03/09/12: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 03/10/12: Vehicle Fire, 75 Mile Marker I-75
- 03/10/12: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 03/10/12: Vehicle Accident, Ochopee
- 03/11/12: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 03/12/12: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 03/12/12: Fire Alarm, Port of the Islands
- 03/12/12: Emergency Medical, 67 MM I-75

Ochopee Fire Control District Advisory Board will meet **Monday, April 9**, at Port of the Islands.

DOCTOR'S CLINIC



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

Little Gator Clinic



The free walk-in clinic (behind the Fire Station) for youngsters will be open Tuesdays, **April 3, 10, 17**, from 5 to 7 pm. There are no drugs on the premises but Dr. Barnard can write prescriptions.

MOBILE PET VET



Dr Lopez will visit the area on the second Saturday of each month. The next visit will be on **Saturday, April 14**, at McLeod Park from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For info, phone him at 777-PETS (7387) or visit the website online at www.naplesmobilepetvet.com.

TIDE TABLES now on page 11

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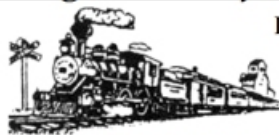
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SCHOOL NEWS

Everglades City School

phone: 377-9800 or 695-2561

website: www.collierschools.com/evg

IMPORTANT DATES

Thurs, March 15 SAC, 6:00 pm
 Thurs, March 22 Volunteer Breakfast, 10 am
 Friday, March 23 No School
 April 2-6 Spring Break



BASEBALL HOME GAMES

Fri, 3/30 Oasis Charter 4:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL HOME GAMES

Tues, 4/10 SWFL Christian 4:30 p.m.

Fri, 4/13 CSN 4:30 p.m.

From Savannah's Eyes



The Miami Heat game is coming up soon on March 20, but only students who do well on their Collier Writes and in class will be able to attend. Everyone tried their best, especially me. I think I did excellent! I am so excited to see who gets to go to the Miami Heat game!

The other day my mom woke me up early around 6:00 am so that I could walk with her and my dad. As we started, I never knew how fresh the air was during this time of year! It was so clean and cool. As we were walking by Win Car, we saw a huge RV that had a famous fisherman's name printed on it, and we saw him driving the bus. I thought to myself that if I had stayed asleep, I would have never seen him! A few minutes later as we walked by the river, my dad heard a buzzing noise. We stopped to listen and saw a huge cloud of bees hovering above a tree. These bees were just flying in place! It was so fascinating. My mom said that they were probably looking for the queen, a place to stay or looking for pollen. I never would have thought how great it was in the early morning. We also saw birds waking up and flying. The best thing about walking early in the morning is watching the sunrise. Every sunrise is different so there will be blues and pinks, oranges; it's just beautiful! If you love nature, go out and walk in the early morning before the sun rises; trust me, you will love it! In love with nature, Savannah

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

GREAT GATORS

- Pre-K – Gena Collins, Kaylee Henry
- K – Wyatt Sylvest, Teddy Smallwood
- 1 – Christian Keefe, Carl Nicholson
- 2 – Lily Batman, Ivan Kibodeaux-Aranda
- 3,4 – Destany Van Lleeuwen
- 5 – Natalie Thompson, George Brummet
- 6 – Austin Lewis, Damian Strickland
- 7 – Courtney Jim, Logan Foss
- 8 – Dalton Stokes, Mackenzie Carver
- High School – Ana Roldan, John Bedford



March 2 was the beloved birthday of Dr. Seuss (and the opening of the movie "The Lorax"). Read Across America was celebrated with students in grades Pre-K through 5th wearing school appropriate pajamas and who were allowed to bring one stuffed animal. Guest readers, including middle and high school students, shared the love of reading. Each grade also received a special visit from the Cat in the Hat (Trina Mitchell). The day ended with cookies, cupcakes, and drinks in the courtyard.

Big Cypress Rangers



Rangers Hanna, Nate and Brian from Big Cypress National Preserve visited the elementary school and read books to the students, then followed up with activities.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

If you have volunteered at our school in any capacity, you are invited to share the morning with us and be treated to some refreshments and a short presentation at 10 a.m. on **March 22**.


Tutoring Classes Offered

Tutoring Subjects: music theory, music history, world and American history, anthropology, geography, government, Spanish, French, English, writing, biology, chemistry, Algebra I, Arithmetic. Music Lessons: violin, voice coaching, master classes. College counseling: undergraduate and graduate level application process, specialization/major consulting, application essay editing. Lessons are private and will be customized to the needs of each client. Also looking to perform as violinist, composer and vocalist for hire. For information and fees, e-mail Danielle Swisher at dmswisher85@gmail.com or call (239) 280-8971.

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Recipe for Good Eating



STRATA

by Sue Anderson

This delicious breakfast casserole was served at Ruth Hefflefinger's home on March 7 for Ladies Coffee. Many of us requested the recipe so here it is. Thanks, Sue, very tasty!

Ingredients:

- 1 lb Pork sausage, cooked and crumbled
- 2 ½ C Milk
- 2 C Fresh mushrooms, sliced
- 12 Eggs
- 1 lb Velveeta, cut into 1/2 in cubes
- 1/2 C Sliced green onions
- 1 Loaf bakery Italian bread, crust off, cut into 3/4 in cubes
 (or 1 1/2 loaf sliced, crust cut off and quartered)

Brown sausage and drain. Mix bread, sausage, mushrooms, onion, and cheese and place in 9x13 pan. Beat milk and eggs and pour over rest. Refrigerate overnight. In morning heat oven to 350° and bake uncovered 40-45 min or until it puffs up and the top becomes golden. Let stand 10 min before serving. Serves 10-12 people. Make half for 4-6 guests.

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



Off the Shelf – New Books “A Beckoning Wind” by John Dandola reviewed by Marya Repko

Here's a detective story about Marco Island history - plus the obligatory contemporary murder. When Jeff and Kirsten visit her aunt they discover an ancient (Calusa?) artifact that he begins to research. Is that linked to the bashed body found on the golf course? The dialog is interspersed with prophetic dreams and a bit of gangland action but nothing blood-curdling.

The author, whose books are mostly set in Massachusetts, is a part-time resident on the island. He thanks Marco Island Historical Society members for their help and describes the delay that the new museum had in 2010 in getting displays from the County.

The book is available at our branch of the Collier County Public Library by request or directly at the Marco Island branch.

Appreciation of Election Workers

On February 27, Senate Resolution 1296 was published in the Journal of the Senate recognizing Florida Election workers for their dedication and commitment: ‘A resolution commending those who serve as Election Day officials at polling places throughout Florida for their outstanding service and dedication.’ Supervisors of Elections not only rely upon Election Day officials to assist in administering elections but also the many workers who assist during Early Voting, at call centers, as rovers, and those who work behind the scenes to make the process seamless! As the resolution asserts, ‘Freedom is best maintained and nurtured through the democratic process...’ “In Collier County, the democratic process is accomplished by an extraordinary team of committed Election workers and Election staff working together to serve the voters and residents of Collier County,” noted Supervisor of Elections Jennifer Edwards.

HOUSEHOLD TIP

If you're packing up for a summer visit away from Florida, please donate any unwanted cans and unopened dry foods to the Community Food Pantry. You can leave them in the annex vestibule at the Community Church on the Circle in Everglades City.



What is the FWC ?

The FWC protects and manages more than 575 species of wildlife, more than 200 native species of freshwater fish, and more than 500 native species of saltwater fish. FWC balances these species needs with the needs of nearly 19 million residents and the millions of visitors who share the land and water with Florida's wildlife. For wildlife info and regulations, see www.myfwc.com. Wildlife Alert Hotline: 888-404-FWCC (3922)

Fishing Where the Wild Things Are

by John Repoza

There aren't many places left in this country where you have a good chance of not seeing another boat for the day; but, like most things that are great, it takes some effort. The effort for me was a road trip from Rhode Island to Miami to stay with a friend. Then waking up at 4:30 in the morning to drive the Tamiami Trail which runs across Florida. This is the liquid land that is what is left of this vast swamp that we know of as Everglades National Park, one of the most diverse ecosystems on the planet. The eighty mile drive from Miami takes you through some of the best largemouth bass fishing in the country. As you get closer to the coast you can start to taste the salt from the Gulf of Mexico mixing with the freshwater. You also start to see signs of the tides and the river currents converging. It's one of the few places that still has a primordial feel to it, and you realize quickly that out here you aren't the top of the food chain. Without a GPS you could spend several lifetimes trying to find your way back to the boat ramp. With an average water depth of only 2.5 feet for hundreds of miles you will be lucky to get back to the ramp without running aground. Fortunately our guide Capt. Bob Lemay had over 3 decades of running these backwaters in his shallow draft skiff. We launched at 6:30 a.m. and were treated to Mother Nature at her finest with this sunrise. After a 30 minute run we stopped at our first spot and within short order we had our first of many beautiful redfish in the boat. Fishing the Glades is a simple matter of casting a soft plastic plug or fly to "the tangles," as Capt. Bob called them--downed trees along the shore, drop-off or point. The complicated part was figuring out which of the millions of downed trees was the right spot. This is where over 30 years of trial and error helps to get you in fish. It was an amazing day with beautiful weather and lots of different species of fish willing to take our offerings. My friend Dave and I both got the back-county slam, snook, redfish and spotted trout along with a who's who of others including tons of jacks, ladyfish, snapper and juvenile Goliath groupers. Anyone who fishes has experienced how fast a day on the water goes by, and before I knew it we were back at the dock. It was one of the best days I have had on the water, and I can't wait to return to fish where the wild things are -- the Everglades.

John Repoza is a visitor to our area from Charlestown, Rhode Island.



The Living Gulf Coast

by Charles Sobczak

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

Harn's Marsh Preserve,
3399 38th Street West in Lehigh
Acres (239) 533-7275 / Website:
www.leeparks.org / 578 acres /
Admission is free.

Harns Marsh, a storm-water retention facility located at the headwaters of the Orange River in Lehigh Acres, is an unlikely destination for naturalists and birders. It is not included in the South Florida Birding Trail, though no one has informed the countless birds that frequent this large freshwater marsh of that omission. It offers no amenities, no interpretive center, not even any signs directing visitors to the marsh. Now under the jurisdiction of the East County Water Control District, Harns Marsh is slated to become a Lee County regional park, which will bring restrooms, picnic tables, and other amenities to this undiscovered treasure.



Snail kite photo by Juss Patterson

The site is roughly one square mile (578 acres). In 2007, some 182 acres along the north marsh were dredged and cleared of invasive plants, which improved water quality and wildlife viewing. Hiking and bicycling, but no motorized vehicles, are allowed on the four-mile sandy impoundment road encircling the marsh.

Scores of birds, snakes, snails, and small mammals are found here. Two species of particular interest are the snail kite (aka the Everglades kite) and the limpkin. Birders who might spend years trying to catch a glimpse of either of these species can cut their search short with a single visit to Harns Marsh. These hard-to-find birds are attracted by the tens of thousands of snails that live in the marsh, including both the native apple snail and the invasive island apple snail. The island apple snail (*Pomacea insularum*) is from South America and has, through accidental releases, invaded many of Florida's freshwater marshes. These enormous snails, many as large as a small apple, litter the edge of the marsh. Snail kites and limpkins are adapting to dining on these foreigners, which have also become an important source of food for turtles, great blue herons, alligators, and other animals.

Other sightings at Harns Marsh, especially during the winter months, might include redwing blackbirds, cowbirds, various migratory duck species, and sparrows. Sightings of sandhill cranes are common along the western edge of the marsh. Visiting the marsh is best just after dawn and before sunset. Be sure to bring bug spray and a hat, since areas of shade are in short supply. Harns Marsh is an undiscovered treasure in Lee County that hopefully, once made into a park, will get the recognition it deserves.

Author's note: On leap day, February 29th, of this year I had an opportunity to revisit Harns Marsh during the winter months, when most of the migratory waterfowl are feeding amongst the ponds and bulrushes. The bird count did not meet my expectations; it far, far exceeded them! Together, Molly (my wife) and I counted more than 1,000 birds. Those numbers included three eagles, four snail kites, three limpkins, hundreds upon hundreds of ducks, cranes, coots and wading birds. Harns Marsh is a true, Lee County wildlife treasure that, on a good day, compares well with J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge when it comes to our feathered friends.

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



Melvin Brown is shown here installing Lizzie Weeks Sawyer's headstone at the Marco Island cemetery with the assistance of Craig Woodward of the Marco Island Historical Society. Melvin is the son of Faye

Brown and is a direct descendent of Lizzie Weeks Sawyer (appropriate during March which is Women's History month).



LOCAL HISTORY

The Everglades Homes Tour on March 10 was enjoyed by over 150 people who had entry to up to 5 houses and 4 other buildings. One highlight for out-of-towners was a glimpse of City Hall where many were in awe of the Council Chamber upstairs ("the seats are so comfortable", "the floors are beautiful"). Another attraction was the boat trip to Outward Bound across the river where staff there welcomed visitors and showed them around, including the old Brown cemetery.

The Homes Tour would not have been possible without the cooperation of the buildings' owners and the volunteer time given by the docents. The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation thanks them all and looks forward to the 4th annual tour next year.

ESHP News

The next meeting of the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation will take place on **Monday, April 2**, at 8:30 a.m. in the Historical Library in City Hall. For info, phone 695-2905. To learn more about ESHP, see www.evergladeshistorical.org.

MUSEUM of the Everglades NEWS

On March 3 the Friends of the Museum hosted a reception for Bonnie Warecki whose beautiful art is now being exhibited at the Museum through the month of March. The title "Rubbing Up Against the Everglades" depicts Bonnie's Gytacku paintings of various fish species. Don't miss this exciting exhibit.

The Museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There is no admission charge but donations are welcome. For information, phone 695-0008.



The Friends of the Museum would like to express their appreciation to all the wonderful winter residents and locals who have volunteered at the front desk and at our various events this year.

Local Residents Honored

The Marco Island Historical Society is proud to announce that Craig and Bonnie Woodward (weekend residents of Everglades City) have been chosen for the local Rotary Spirit Award for their continued and selfless support and for their work for the Society. They will be honored at a dinner at San Marco Church on Friday, **April 13**. The dinner will feature live entertainment, a silent auction as well as the awards ceremony. Tickets are \$45.00 per person and may be obtained by calling Linda Sandlin at 239-389-3200.



TAXING THINGS

by Mike the Tax Guy

The early retirement option

Should you take early Social Security retirement when eligible, or should you wait until your full retirement age?

Well, like everything else in life – it depends. The Social Security Administration has charts that show the break-even point in years where you will have collected the amount equal to full retirement, but remember that at full retirement age your benefits do not increase to that level. Take a close look at your personal situation first.

Much depends on your health and ability to work. Waiting until full retirement age or later may not be an option if you're unable to work and if you don't have substantial savings to live on in the meanwhile.

Keep in mind that the reduced benefits you'd receive if you start collecting early may be even lower on an after-tax basis than you're expecting. If your annual income in retirement from all sources, including pension plans, exceeds the qualifying limit, you will owe income taxes on a portion of your benefits. You'll owe even more if your income exceeds the amount established for joint filers. More and more people will be subject to the tax since the income thresholds are not adjusted for inflation, unlike Social Security benefits, which are. Your benefits may be reduced even further because Medicare premiums, which are paid out of your Social Security check, have been rising faster than inflation.

If you take a job that pays more than the annual allowable amount in retirement while collecting early retirement benefits, your benefits will be reduced by \$1 for every \$2 earned above that threshold unless you are past your full retirement age. However, after you reach full retirement age, you will get an increase in your Social Security check to reflect the amount of benefits withheld while you were working. No matter how much you earn after full retirement age, you will not have any benefits withheld.

Social Security benefits are calculated based on your highest earning years. So if you've logged less than that you might want to work a few extra years before full retirement age to boost your benefits.



SHERIFF'S REPORT

On March 5 a resident on Collier Ave advised that someone had stolen fishing poles that were left on his porch. The Collier County Sheriff's Office is looking at a person of interest from this case. Residents are reminded to not leave valuables unsecured or unattended.

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

Editor's Note: On March 13 a group of young women were going door to door asking for money. It was reported that they were very insistent. Please beware that individuals are not allowed to solicit in Collier County without a permit. The Sheriff's office advises residents to ask individuals if they have a permit and to contact the Sheriff's office if you have any suspicions.

Florida Tales

"Acrefoot Johnson" Part 4

by Chester Keene



crefoot Johnson could out last a horse anytime. One time he was delivering the mail and came into a clearing; he ran upon a friend of his in a horse and buggy. The friend said "Get in and I'll give you a ride and you can rest your feet a minute." Johnson said "Thank you, think I will." He got into the buggy and after some small talk about where he was going, he said "Thanks, Friend, I got to be going now, I'm falling behind schedule and want to make my Sister's house in time for supper so I can save a board bill for the night." He jumped out and set his stride of 8 mph and soon was out of the friend's sight. Another story was told to me about him just plain wearing out his shoes and pitched them along the trail. He got home to Ft. Ogden and was told by his wife that there was a dance that night. Well, he sure liked to dance but didn't have any shoes; but that was OK he just took off down the wire road which is now SR 31. He set his 8 mph stride for the 30 mile walk to Ft. Myers, he always had a lard can or waterproof pouch he carried some food in for an emergency. (Not no energy bars or drinks like today). He got to the Calooshatchee River and crossed around Russell Park area putting his clothes in the lard can to keep them dry. On the south side of the river he redressed and found a store and woke up the owner who sold him a pair of shoes. Reversed his actions at the river and got home for a good old Hoedown. My Great-granddad Elias Britt Keen(e) told my Granddaddy, who also liked to play the fiddle and he and Granny would do the same thing later after they married in 1904. (That's another story in its self). When Acrefoot's son Elias was about half grown up he came down with a Fever that wouldn't go down with cold compresses. Acrefoot was so concerned he strapped a chair to his back and took him to a doctor in Ft. Myers. To be continued...

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

FLORIDA FLORA

by Patricia Huff
Pongam Tree
(Pongamia pinnata)



The Pongam tree is a native of India where its seeds are pressed to make oil to be used for lamps and for cooking. This beautiful and fast growing evergreen with its immense canopy can reach heights up to 40 feet. This photo was taken in Everglades City, and there are several others near the airport on property that was originally landscaped with shade trees and designed as a golf course. The Pongam is well suited to our climate since it can tolerate warm temperatures and needs the rain during the wet season. Its fragrant blossoms hang in clusters up to 10" long.



What are the signs of winter in the Everglades?

by Linda Friar

Winter is here again! The signs of changing seasons in south Florida can be hard to perceive, but if you take a closer look you will discover the beauty in a tropical winter.

The first signs begin with the birds. The Belted Kingfisher is a blue bird with a white band around his neck. His arrival around the end of August and beginning of September is an early indicator that the heat will soon be gone. You can see these small, crested-headed birds sitting on the power lines along waterways, or darting in the mangroves.

Another sign of winter is "dead trees" on the side of the road. Fortunately, those are not dead pine trees, but a deciduous conifer called the Bald Cypress. These cypress trees drop their needles in the winter to conserve energy when the water dries up. The needles are acidic and begin to break down the limestone bedrock, helping to make cypress domes and strands deeper for the following generations of cypress trees. When the needles (leaves) fall, it is a sure sign that the water is getting low and cool, dry air is on its way.

Some know winter is here when those "chilly" seventy-five degree days require us to wear long pants and a jacket. For those living in south Florida, the most prevalent sign of winter has to be all the license plates from Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and Minnesota. It really is winter in south Florida when the snow birds arrive. South Florida inhabitants, both natural and human, welcome the signs of winter in the Everglades!

Linda Friar is the Public Information Officer of External Affairs with the Everglades National Park.

RESTAURANT NEWS



- Camellia Street Grill (695-2003):**
12 Noon – 9:00 pm; daily
6–9 pm; Fri, Sat: Country Music
- City Seafood (695-4700):**
6:00 am – 6:00 pm; daily
Fish Market also open
- Everglades Seafood Depot (695-0075):**
10:30 am - 10:00 pm; daily
- Everglades Scoop (695-0375):**
11:00 am – 5:00 pm; daily
- Gator Express (695-3937):**
7:00 am – 7:00 pm; Sun - Thurs
7:00 am – 8:00 pm; Fri, Sat
- Glades Haven Deli (695-2091):**
6:00 am – 6:00 pm; Sun - Thurs
6:00 am – 9:00 pm; Fri, Sat
- Havana Café (695-2214):**
7:00 am – 3:00 pm; daily
- Island Café (695-0003):**
6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily
- Ivey House (695-3299):**
6:30 – 9:30 am; daily
Continental breakfast, box lunches
- Joanie's Blue Crab Café (695-2682):**
11:00 am – 4:00 pm; Thurs - Mon
- Oyster House Restaurant (695-2073):**
11:00 am – 9:00 pm; Sun-Thurs
11:00 am – 10:00 pm; Fri, Sat
4:30 -6:30 pm – Early Bird Specials
- Right Choice Pizzeria (695-3663):**
5:00 – 8:30 pm; Thurs- Sun (takeout)
- Rod & Gun (695-2101):**
7:00 – 10:00 am Breakfast; daily
11:30 am - 9:00 pm; daily
- Susie's Station (719-0190):**
11:00 am - 5:00 pm; daily
- Triad Seafood (695-0722 or 695-2662):**
10:30 am – 6:00 pm; Sun-Thurs
10:30 am – 7:00 pm; Fri, Sat
(beginning Dec. 30)
Fish Market also open
- Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535)**
9:00 am – 7:30 pm, Mon-Sat
10:00 am – 6:30 pm, Sun
- Grimm's Stone Crab (695-3222)**
8 am to 6 pm; Mon-Sat
- Loco's Produce (Fri, Sat, Sun)**
7:00 am - 2:00 pm; ECity Post Office
2:00 – 4:00 pm; outside ORA (Sun)



Over 20 vendors took part in Art-in-the-Glades on March 10 where live music was provided by Joe Stem & Friends. Many visitors stopped by to purchase tickets for the Homes Tour and browse.

TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

Lat: 25.87°N Long: 81.37°W
<http://TIDESANDCURRENTS.NOAA.GOV>

03/16	Fri	05:48am	-0.1	L
03/16	Fri	01:02pm	1.9	H
03/16	Fri	05:58pm	0.8	L
03/16	Fri	10:57pm	2.5	H
03/17	Sat	06:52am	-0.1	L
03/17	Sat	01:35pm	2.0	H
03/17	Sat	07:07pm	0.7	L
03/18	Sun	12:12am	2.5	H
03/18	Sun	07:46am	-0.1	L
03/18	Sun	01:53pm	2.1	H
03/18	Sun	08:03pm	0.5	L
03/19	Mon	01:10am	2.6	H
03/19	Mon	08:33am	-0.1	L
03/19	Mon	02:09pm	2.3	H
03/19	Mon	08:50pm	0.3	L
03/20	Tue	01:56am	2.6	H
03/20	Tue	09:14am	0.0	L
03/20	Tue	02:28pm	2.4	H
03/20	Tue	09:32pm	0.2	L
03/21	Wed	02:35am	2.6	H
03/21	Wed	09:52am	0.1	L
03/21	Wed	02:49pm	2.5	H
03/21	Wed	10:11pm	0.1	L
03/22	Thu	03:11am	2.6	H
03/22	Thu	10:26am	0.1	L
03/22	Thu	03:13pm	2.6	H
03/22	Thu	10:47pm	0.0	L
03/23	Fri	03:45am	2.5	H
03/23	Fri	10:58am	0.2	L
03/23	Fri	03:38pm	2.7	H
03/23	Fri	11:23pm	-0.1	L
03/24	Sat	04:21am	2.4	H
03/24	Sat	11:27am	0.4	L
03/24	Sat	04:03pm	2.7	H
03/24	Sat	11:59pm	-0.1	L
03/25	Sun	05:01am	2.3	H
03/25	Sun	11:53am	0.5	L
03/25	Sun	04:29pm	2.7	H
03/26	Mon	12:37am	-0.1	L
03/26	Mon	05:46am	2.1	H
03/26	Mon	12:15pm	0.6	L
03/26	Mon	04:54pm	2.7	H
03/27	Tue	01:19am	0.0	L
03/27	Tue	06:40am	2.0	H
03/27	Tue	12:30pm	0.7	L
03/27	Tue	05:22pm	2.6	H
03/28	Wed	02:07am	0.0	L
03/28	Wed	07:43am	1.8	H
03/28	Wed	12:45pm	0.8	L
03/28	Wed	05:56pm	2.5	H
03/29	Thu	03:07am	0.1	L
03/29	Thu	08:55am	1.8	H
03/29	Thu	01:12pm	0.8	L
03/29	Thu	06:47pm	2.4	H

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SNOOK CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE BY OWNER: Lot on Chokoloskee; on canal behind Post Office. Call (561) 622-6011 or email: marysue2006@bellsouth.net.

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

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

FOR RENT: Studio apartment for rent. \$600 a month or 1200 sq ft commercial space with office & handicapped-accessible bath w/shower plus apartment for \$1000 a month. Call 239-340-4770.

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

FOR SALE: AmeriGlide Outdoor stair lift. Rarely used. Purchased new for \$2,200; will sell for \$1,500 or best offer. (239) 695-3554.

FOR SALE: Waterfront lot #149 with electric boat lift in ORA RV Park in Chokoloskee. Also, **FOR SALE:** 40-ft 5th wheel. Excellent condition; located at Outdoor Resorts in Chok. Call 695-0202

FOR SALE: 14" Wood Cutting Band Saw, good condition. Call 695-0243.

CLASSIFIEDS only \$10/issue
phone 695-2397 or email



Baby goat with visitor at Museum

SNOOK CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE OR RENT TO OWN. House & Barn on 1.02 Acres in Fakahatchee Strand State Park, \$129,000 purchase or \$1200 monthly Rent to Own. Call Don at 321-439-7635. See more info & pictures at www.DonsHouse.com.

FOR SALE: Electric sewing machine – Sonata by Jo-Ann, model 560. Wood cabinet with two drawers. \$100.

JOBS VACANT

HELP WANTED: Leave name and number at 695-2273. Will call back.

WANTED: Joanie's Blue Crab looking for retiree two days a week. Call Joanie for more info at 695-4271 or 695-2682.

CASHIER WANTED: Gator Express & Everglades Gas Station are looking for a cashier. Call 695-3937.

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What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

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

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