

The MULLET RAPPER

WHAT's Happening in the Everglades City Area

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2007

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume I • Issue #33



Sales Tax Holiday

It's almost "back-to-school" time and for ten days (**Saturday, August 4 through Monday, August 13**) there will be no Florida State Sales Tax on children's clothing & shoes, books, and school supplies (pens, paper, tape, disks, etc.).

There are price limits for the tax exemption: clothing or books must normally sell for under \$50 and school supply items must be under \$10.

School starts again on Monday, August 20.



YARD SALE FRIDAY!

Spa-Fari is having a yard sale on Friday, August 3, starting at 9:00 a.m. in front of the old Bank building. Items include designer clothing and gifts. The sale continues on Saturday morning, if there is anything left.

KIDS' TRIP TO PARK FRIDAY

Local youngsters have been invited for a day out on **Friday, August 3**, to the North Collier Regional Park where they will spend the morning swimming and then, after a lunch of pizza, they will watch a performance in the Children's Theater. The bus leaves at 8:30 a.m. from the Skating Rink and returns at 4:30 p.m.

. *Reservations are required.* Phone Brenda Brown at 695-3402 or contact Chris Ammerman.

BIG CYPRESS TRAILS OPEN TO ORVs

Big Cypress National Preserve Superintendent Karen Gustin announced that effective **Friday, August 3**, the off-road vehicle (ORV) trails within the Preserve will reopen to all recreational permitted users. The trails are reopening after a sixty-day closure that began in June. The closure is required under the Preserve's ORV Management Plan to allow for a resting period of reduced ORV use within the area. (see the *Rapper*, May 25, 2007)

Superintendent Gustin said, "With the reopening of the trail system, we hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable ORV season."

CITY COUNCIL

A special meeting of the City Council was convened on Tuesday, July 31, to set the millage rate and the dates for special hearings on the budget. These will be on Tuesday, September 4, and Thursday, September 13, at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall.

There will be a full City Council meeting on **Tuesday, August 7**, at 5:30 p.m. Mayor Sammy Hamilton told the *Rapper* that he has not been idle during the three-month break since the last regular meeting. The FEMA audit is almost ready to sign off, way ahead of the time it normally takes to prepare one. He is working on the Comprehensive Plan for the City and hopes to get some grants.

As for the millage, it has been set at 1.9558, which is slightly lower than last year. He said that in his 12 years in office, he has tried to keep the millage low to help local people. Under the new Property Tax Reform legislation which came into effect this spring, the State determines the maximum millage that can be set by calculating a Compound Annual Growth Rate from the population and tax income in 2001 and 2006. Ours was only 7.46%. Unlike other counties and municipalities, Everglades City has not suffered under this regime because the millage has always been kept low. For comparison, the Collier County millage will be set at 3.15, down from 3.58 mils last year.

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AUGUST 2007

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
JULY 29	30 Hour of Prayer Everglades First Baptist Church 7 pm Vacation Bible School	31 <u>Deadline for Park comments</u> City Council City Hall 5:30 pm	AUGUST 1 Ladies Coffee Roadkill Cafe 8 am	2 Lions Club Seafood Depot 7 pm	3 Yard Sale old Bank bldg 9 am <u>Big Cypress ORV Trails</u> <u>Open</u>	4 Yard Sale old Bank bldg 9 am <u>Sales Tax Holiday starts</u> see front page
5	6 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Mission, 7 pm	7 Diaz-Balart City Hall 3-5pm see page 3 City Council City Hall 5:30 pm <u>Night Out against Crime</u> see page 3	8 Ladies Coffee Roadkill Cafe <i>NEW VENUE</i> 8 am	9	10	11 Mobile Pet Vet McLeod Park 9 am to 1 pm Copeland 2 to 4 pm
12 Mobile Pet Vet McLeod Park 9 am to 1 pm <i>Surgery Only</i> 239-777-PETS	13 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church, 7 pm <u>Sales Tax Holiday ends</u>	14	15 Ladies Coffee Seafood Depot 8 am	16 Lions Club Board Mtg Community Church 5 pm	17	18
19	20 <u>School Starts</u> Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God, 7 pm	21 Reach Out Community Church 8:30 am	22 Ladies Coffee Roadkill Cafe 8 am	23	24	25
26	27 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm	28 ESHP meeting City Hall 10am	29 Ladies Coffee Triad Seafood 8 am	30	31	SEPT 1

THRIFT SHOP: CLOSED FOR SUMMER BREAK

FOOD PANTRY: Sat, 8:30 to 10:30 am, Community Church

MUSEUM: Tues-Fri, 9 am to 5 pm; Sat, 9 am to 4 pm

NATIONAL PARK GULF COAST VISITORS' CENTER: daily 9 am to 4 pm (boats 8:30 am to 4:00 pm)

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INFORMATION CENTER (Carnestown): daily, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL:

8/2 (noon-2pm) 8/6 (1-3pm) 8/7 (5-7pm) 8/10 (1-3pm) 8/14 (9-11am) 8/15 (9-11am) 8/16 (3-5pm) 8/21 (10-11:30am)

SKATING RINK: Friday/Saturday, 7:00 - 10:00 pm

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Wed, 5 pm, Community Church

SMALLWOOD STORE: daily 11 am to 5 pm

TELEPHONE NUMBERS: Sheriff: 695-2007 Fire Dept: 695-2902 City Hall: 695-3781 Library: 695-2511

SHERIFF INVITES US TO NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Every year on the first Tuesday in August residents are invited to show their support for crime prevention by turning on their porch lights and joining in neighborhood gatherings. The event is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and Collier County Sheriff's Office.

Lt. Mark Milligan told the *Rapper* that there will be a crime prevention booth in Copeland on **Tuesday, August 7**, from 7:00 p.m. and that they plan to serve hotdogs to the neighborhood. He will also be at the City Council meeting with CCSO Crime Prevention Officer Sue Gentry.

By the way, make sure you lock your doors before you join an outdoor gathering!

AVOID TRAFFIC FOR LICENSES RENEWALS

There is a Driver License renewal center at Eagle Creek (the corner of CR-951 and US-41) where the old Winn Dixie used to be. The Collier County facility also includes other tax collection functions such as hunting & fishing licenses, and motor vehicle registration. The office is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Phone is 417-3936.



New Aide to Diaz-Balart Visits Tuesday

Karen Cruz, aide to Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart, will be here on **Tuesday, August 7**, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Ms Cruz grew up in Naples and received a degree in Political Science from Ave Maria University. Her previous job was with Senator Mel Martinez. She is interested in foreign policy and international relations.

Stop by to meet her and share your concerns about the area.



OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 07/18/07: Vehicle Accident, 77m I-75
- 07/18/07: Vehicle Accident, 78m I-75
- 07/18/07: Illegal Burn, Dupont Road
- 07/19/07: Unconscious Person Port of the Islands
- 07/19/07: Head Injury, Everglades City
- 07/20/07: Unknown Medical Problem, Ochopee
- 07/20/07: Brush Fire, 6m West of Monument Road
- 07/21/07: Brush Fire, 76m I-75
- 07/21/07: Brush Fire, US-41 & Monument Lake
- 07/21/07: Brush Fire, Ochopee
- 07/21/07: Vehicle Accident, 77m I-75 (Canceled)
- 07/22/07: Vehicle Fire, 70m I-75
- 07/24/07: Brush Fire, US-41 4m West of Carnestown
- 07/25/07: Unknown Medical, Everglades City
- 07/27/07: Chest Pains, Oasis Ranger Station
- 07/27/07: Vehicle Accident, 60m I-75
- 07/27/07: Power Line Down/Brush Fire, Chokoloskee Bridge
- 07/27/07: Vehicle Accident, 61m I-75
- 07/27/07: Person Feeling Sick, Everglades City
- 07/27/07: Unconscious Person, Plantation Island
- 07/28/07: Person Having Seizures, 52m I-75
- 07/28/07: Vehicle Accident, 77m I-75
- 07/28/07: Vehicle Accident, 70m I-75
- 07/29/07: Motorcycle Accident, Lee Cypress
- 07/30/07: Unknown Medical Problem, US-41 and SR-92
- 07/31/07: Possible Suicide, Port of the Islands
- 07/31/07: Laceration, Port of the Islands

MOBILE PET VET

Dr Baker will be here on **Saturday, August 11**. She will also be doing surgery on **Sunday, August 12**, by previous appointment only. Phone 777-PETS to arrange a time.



TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

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

08/03/2007	Fri	01:11AM	0.2	L	06:23AM	2.7	H	01:37PM	0.3	L	06:34PM	2.6	H
08/04/2007	Sat	01:50AM	0.4	L	06:56AM	2.8	H	02:40PM	0.2	L	07:51PM	2.4	H
08/05/2007	Sun	02:31AM	0.6	L	07:34AM	2.9	H	03:52PM	0.2	L	09:21PM	2.1	H
08/06/2007	Mon	03:22AM	0.8	L	08:23AM	2.9	H	05:09PM	0.1	L	11:22PM	2.0	H
08/07/2007	Tue	04:37AM	1.0	L	09:30AM	2.9	H	06:21PM	0.0	L			
08/08/2007	Wed	02:04AM	2.2	H	06:00AM	1.0	L	10:53AM	3.0	H	07:25PM	-0.1	L
08/09/2007	Thu	02:49AM	2.3	H	07:10AM	1.0	L	12:07PM	3.1	H	08:23PM	-0.2	L
08/10/2007	Fri	03:16AM	2.3	H	08:10AM	0.9	L	01:07PM	3.3	H	09:13PM	-0.2	L
08/11/2007	Sat	03:31AM	2.3	H	09:01AM	0.8	L	01:57PM	3.4	H	09:58PM	-0.2	L
08/12/2007	Sun	03:43AM	2.4	H	09:47AM	0.7	L	02:40PM	3.4	H	10:38PM	-0.1	L
08/13/2007	Mon	04:00AM	2.4	H	10:30AM	0.6	L	03:20PM	3.3	H	11:14PM	-0.1	L
08/14/2007	Tue	04:21AM	2.5	H	11:10AM	0.5	L	03:59PM	3.2	H	11:48PM	0.1	L
08/15/2007	Wed	04:46AM	2.5	H	11:49AM	0.4	L	04:38PM	3.0	H			
08/16/2007	Thu	12:19AM	0.2	L	05:13AM	2.6	H	12:28PM	0.4	L	05:21PM	2.8	H
08/17/2007	Fri	12:48AM	0.4	L	05:41AM	2.6	H	01:09PM	0.4	L	06:08PM	2.5	H

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Swamp Tales

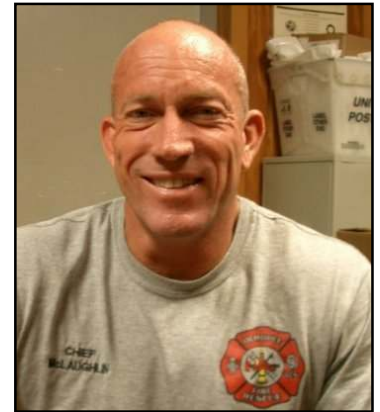
by Bob N. Wallace



Have you ever wondered about alligators? I have. There's a really big one at the Seafood Depot in Everglades City in the bar to the right of the front lobby. It had to have been one bad dude. An alligator is a large, semi-aquatic, carnivorous reptile that has four legs and a huge tail. If you look at the tail, which is the rear business end of a gator you will see it is half the animal's length. The gator tail helps push an alligator through the water and is used as a very dangerous weapon. The tail is also used to make pools of water during the dry seasons, which we call gator holes out here in the Everglades. The gator tail also stores fat that the alligator may use for nourishment during the winter season. They are cold blooded, pre-historic creatures 250 million years old and they do not make their own body heat. They gain body heat by basking in the sun. That is why you see them along the banks of canals in the Ten Thousand Islands or on the banks of canals along the Tamiami Trail. My advice to you is to stay far away from an alligator. They are really fast on land and can run about 11 MPH. They can do a hunkered-down body crawl between 3 and 6 MPH. And you sure don't want to try to out swim a gator because they can do a little over 6 MPH in the water. My advice to you is to leave them alone. They really can become mean dudes in no time at all. Meanwhile, enjoy eating some delicious fried gator tail during your visit to the Everglades of Florida. That's as close as you want to get to a gator tail!

MEET THE NEW CHIEF

Alan McLaughlin has been appointed Interim Fire Chief for our district while Paul Wilson is on medical leave. He told the *Rapper* that he is no stranger to some of our firemen because he taught them at the Training Academy in Naples.



McLaughlin grew up in Golden Gate when there were still sugar cane fields nearby. After 18 years in the City of Naples fire department he did a stint in North Carolina (where the station received a "Most Improved" award), worked in Golden Gate as Assistant Chief and most recently was at Isles of Capri.

In the two months since he has been here, he has replaced out-dated equipment and started a project to make sure that all the trucks are fitted out the same way so that it is easier for firemen to operate under stress. He has also had new software installed on the office computers to help with administrative details.

The Interim Chief welcomes dialog with the community and can be contacted at 695-4114.

SNAP SHOTS



The combination of a high tide and torrential rain for several days flooded our streets and yards for several hours but the water soon went down. We had at least 1.5 inches of rain according to NOAA but it must have been more than that! Does anyone have a rain meter?




Best Deal in Town? Both the lemonade and cookies were home-made. Unfortunately, the girls are going back to school next week.

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F.W.C. NEWS

The most likely fatal boating accident will occur during July, between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. in a small (under 18-foot) boat operated by a male between 36 and 50 years old in a river or creek when it collides with another vessel or a fixed object; the cause of death will be drowning by a person not wearing a life jacket.

The FWC recently released its statistics for 2006. In Florida, there were 600 accidents during the year, 69 of which were fatal; Monroe County had the most accidents in the state.

For more information, see their website www.myfwc.com.

Household Tip

Soak your toothbrushes in 3% Hydrogen Peroxide Solution every week to make sure there aren't any germs breeding there. And, don't worry if you don't rinse it all out; diluted Peroxide is a good mouthwash.

LOCAL HISTORY

WHY IS IT CALLED "HUSTON" RIVER?

The Chatham River was probably named in the late 1770s after a town in England where the Royal Naval Dockyard was or after the Earl of Chatham (William Pitt, 1708-1778).

The Lopez River obviously honors the pioneering family who settled there (and in Chokoloskee) in the 1890s. Turner River was settled by Capt Richard Turner who had discovered it in 1857 during the Third Seminole War and returned in 1874 to farm on the shell mound.

But, who or what was "Huston" and why was the river called that?

If you have any clue, please phone Marya at 695-2905.

Angel of the Swamp

by Marya Repko



Our angel this month is on vacation and it certainly is well-deserved. She's a bundle of energy in her quiet, efficient way and seems to be involved in almost everything in our community. She encourages local youngster through the School Advisory Council, the Kids' Activity Club which meets on Thursday afternoons, and the Perfect Attendance rewards at the end of each academic year.

One of her great passions is local history. As president of Friends of the Museum of the Everglades, she spearheaded the purchase of the Storter Collection and then single-handedly created prints for sale to raise funds before convincing the Board of County Commissioners to complete the acquisition for the Museum. She founded the Everglades Society for Historical Preservation and ensured that it had an office in City Hall for the Historical Library. And, she spreads the word outside our area as a member of the Collier County Historical & Archeological Preservation Board.

It's not all mental activity. She's an avid long-distance cyclist and has been involved with the Friends of Fakahatchee for many years (as president and treasurer). She enjoys a day out fishing with her husband and can be seen at her restored Collier home working in the garden or nonchalantly whipping up delicious meals or jars of calamandin marmalade.

If you haven't guessed yet, the biggest hint is that she is the publisher of this newspaper which started life over six years ago as "What's Happening Around Town" the neighborhood newsletter which she wrote, printed, and distributed every month. Her Snook Publications is a member of the Chamber of Commerce which she supports by being membership secretary.

Yes, our angel is Patty Huff. What would the community do without her!



Off the Shelf - Florida Fiction

by Marya Repko

Fans of Travis Magee are missing something if they have not read "Condominium". Author John D. MacDonald writes flowing, descriptive prose punctuated with pithy messages about the condition of Florida and the newcomers who try to mold it into their own version of paradise. Of course, that has been happening since Disston started draining the swamp and continues to this day with pristine gated communities.

Published in 1977, this novel dwells on shortcuts in condo construction, the destruction of natural habitats, and human morality. In the end, nature in the form of a hurricane, sorts out the baddies from the goodies.

Another of his books, "A Flash of Green", has a similar theme – corruption and despoliation – and was just as well-written back in 1962 when he comments "People down here despise natural beauty. It seems to make them terrible uneasy. The don't really feel secure until they can see asphalt in every direction, and they don't trust a tree unless they've grown it themselves."

Carl Hiaasen and other Florida writers pay tribute to MacDonald but none, in my view, has come close to his depth of perception about the Florida scene, nor to his fluent verbiage.

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ADVERTISER SPOT-LIGHT

Havana Cafe is celebrating its second birthday this month. The popular cafe next to the Post Office in Chokoloskee opened on August 1, 2005. Since then, the lovely outside area has been furnished and landscaped, providing relaxing *al fresco* dining. The cafe offers delicious sandwiches, Cuban specialties, and a daily hot lunch, as well as seasonal dishes made with fresh ingredients.

JOBS VACANT

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COMMUNITY NOTICES

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED in Museum to greet visitors. Phone Martha 695-0008.

HELP NEEDED for Tamiami Trail 80th celebration. Old photos, uniforms, vintage vehicles, ideas! Phone Carol at 695-2159.

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

PUBLISHER

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PRODUCTION

layout by Marya Repko
printing by Snook Publications

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

We aim to provide local news that is of interest to the extended community of Everglades City, Chokoloskee, Plantation Island, Lee Cypress, Copeland, Jerome, and Ochopee.

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