

# *The MULLET RAPPER*

## EVERGLADES AREA LOCAL NEWS

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2006**

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### SCENIC HIGHWAY?

by Patty Huff

The Scenic Highway designation for parts of US-41 (Tamiami Trail) was on the agenda as an informational item at the Collier County Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting on Friday, October 13.

Twenty individuals addressed the MPO which last year had sent a recommendation to the Florida Department of Transportation to de-designate the Tamiami Trail as a Scenic Highway. The MPO members listened to 20 individuals who came to speak against or in favor of the de-designation. Six of the 20 individuals requested that the MPO not reconsider the motion made at last year's meeting to request de-designation, primarily because of concerns they have about the limitations or controls that they believe a Scenic Highway designation could incur. These individuals recognize that the Tamiami Trail is a special road but they feel



### KIDS CAN PLAY AGAIN

New equipment is being installed in the playground at McLeod Park and should be ready any day now. Also, notice the new metal roof on the pavilion in the background.

McLeod Park was named after Daniel McLeod who was Mayor of the town and City from 1925 until 1959. Equipment was originally donated by the Lions when the Park opened in 1969.

### CITY COUNCIL MEETING

by Marya Repko

**City Hall is being restored so quickly that the Mayor hopes it will be ready in time for the children's Christmas party!**

He reported at the City Council meeting on October 3 that FEMA had been really helpful since Hurricane Wilma and that he had just received \$600,000 from Collier County, thanks to the efforts of Commissioner Jim Coletta and Manager Jim Mudd. The Mayor also reported that a new metal roof has been put on the pavilion in McLeod Park and that the playground equipment is being installed.

Scott Lewis of U.S. Water said that the yellow water seen at the end of September was due to rust that got into the system when a filter was bypassed. The situation has been corrected. He also said that the TTHM by-product of chlorine would be reduced by new treatments in the next few weeks to meet the new standard.

that it does not need a sign to be scenic. They also believe that additional publicity could add to the traffic and congestion on the Tamiami Trail. The 14 speakers in favor of the MPO reconsidering their de-designation recommendation felt that the local businesses along the Trail and in Everglades City would benefit from the recognition and national attention. They also stated that more funding through the National Scenic Highway grants would enhance the road. For example, Big Cypress has received the following as part of the Scenic Highway designation: \$5.7 for the Big Cypress Scenic Highway Safety Improvement projects. This encompassed 10 sites along the Tamiami Trail and improved egress to and from the sites along the road and also improved facilities that were already in existence. Funds for this project came from the NPS, but it is believed that this was in part due to the Scenic Highway designation; \$2.3 million for the proposed multi-agency welcome center which came from a FDOT grant; and \$490,000 grant from a FDOT Transportation Enhancement Project to stabilize and restore Monroe Station. It states in the grant application that the station is along the Scenic Highway. These were indirect benefits of the designation. For more information or if you have comments regarding this issue, please contact our district Commissioner Jim Coletta who is a member of the Metropolitan Planning Organization. Commissioner Coletta can be reached via telephone at 774-8391, e-mail at jimcoletta@colliergov.net or fax 774-3602.



## SKUNK APE AT MUSEUM

Photographers Judy Caseley, Tracy Stokes, and Gene Barryman welcomed friends and family at a reception in the Museum on Saturday, October 7, hosted by the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades.

The exhibit, entitled “A Look Through Local Lenses” includes the premier showing of Judy’s photo of the Skunk Ape.

The pictures can be seen in the Museum for the month of October on Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.

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## GREAT DEAL ON PUMPKINS!

ReachOut is selling beautiful pumpkins for just \$7.50 (*buy one, get one free*). They are available in Right Choice Supermarket, City Hall, the Thrift Shop, and Everglades Island Properties. All the profit goes to ReachOut to help with their Christmas gift campaign for needy neighborhood children.

The Sheriff’s department reported two burglaries (one in DuPont, one in Chokoloskee) but crime generally was down 25% this year compared to last. He said 21 residents had taken the course for Neighborhood Watch.

Patty Huff gave an update on the activities of the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation. There were orders for 264 bricks and another campaign will take place this winter. The Society’s new projects are repairing the original 1920s street lamps and providing historical signage around the area.

Cecil Oglesby, from the floor, said that he was “bubbling up with joy” at what the Mayor is doing for the City. Mayor Hamilton replied that we all had to stick together to accomplish things.

Tony Polozi, from the floor, reported that the County rate structure for EMS had changed and that helicopter transport would only be charged if the trip were life-threatening.

The next council meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 7, at 7:00p.m.

### *Memorial Service*

Loyd D. (LD) Iles, 79, passed quietly away, at home on May 21, 2006. He will be remembered by his friends and family at a special memorial service on Friday, October 27, at 1:00 pm at the Everglades Community Church on the Circle. Everyone is welcome to attend.

## SNAP SHOTS



Little John Mark Gilmore (born May 9, 8lbs, 18.5inches) with his dad Pastor John. Mother Gina, who took the photos, writes *"I look at the pictures of John Mark from just two months ago and I melt, thinking he was so tiny. He's a lot of fun now. He blows raspberries, laughs and giggles. His feet are ticklish! Such a joy and a blessing. We love him so much and praise God every day for His blessing on us."*



October 15 was the beginning of crab season so anyone close to the river will hear the wonderful sound of the crab boats' engines as they leave from the docks around 4:00 o'clock every morning and return about 12 hours later. It's a lot of hard work and long hours. Crabbers have been a part of this community for a long time and we sure do appreciate the good crab claws that are available just up the road at the various fish markets.

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### **Production:**

layout by Marya Repko  
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### **Publisher's Statement**

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

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

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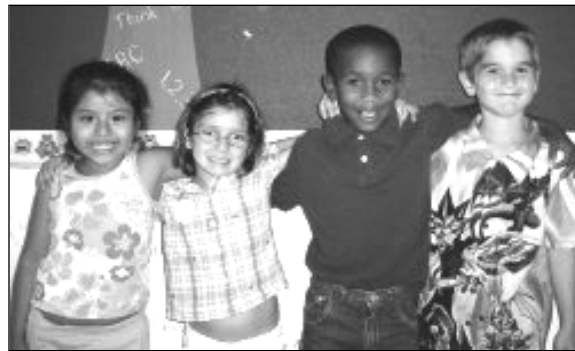
## **THINGS TO DO**

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### **PET VET IN TOWN SATURDAY**

The Mobile Pet Vet will be at McLeod Park on **Saturday, October 21** from 9:00a.m. to 1:00p.m. and in Copeland from 2:00p.m. to 4:00p.m. Dr Baker will also be here Sunday for surgery only by previous appointment. Phone 777-PETS.

# ECity School GREAT GATORS for September 2006



Photos courtesy of Pennie Crawford

## PANTHER REFUGE WORKDAY

On Saturday, October 21, the Panther Refuge will have a volunteer work day for maintaining their Trail. If you would like to help, phone 353-8442, extension 222

## TALK ABOUT OLDE MARCO INN

Betsy Perdichizzi will give a presentation on Wednesday, October 25, entitled the "The Olde Marco Inn Remembered" at a luncheon organized by the Alumnae Club of Marco Island. Cost is \$22 per person, dress code is Halloween costumes. For more information, phone 642-0087

## KIDS ACTIVITIES CLUB (KAC)

Program for Grades 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, 2:50 to 4:00 pm

Everglades City School Art Room  
begins Thursday, October 26, 2006

## HALLOWEEN PARTY

Kids under 12 years old are invited to the ReachOut party on Saturday, October 30, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at the Community Center. There will be games, prizes, food, and "Trick or Treat" in the neighborhood.

## THRIFT SHOP HOURS

The Thrift Shop is open every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday from 11:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. The store is located in the Everglades City Community Center, behind the fire station, and is operated by local charity ReachOut Everglades & C.O.P.S. Inc. It sells clothing for children and adults, books, and household good. Donations of items in good condition are always welcome, as are volunteers to staff the shop.

If you have **photographs** or **announcements** for the paper, please email [snookcity@hotmail.com](mailto:snookcity@hotmail.com) or phone Patty at 695-2397