Dottie Smallwood Joiner Receives Congressional Recognition!

In a meeting with numerous state, local and county officials to discuss infrastructure and other needs post-hurricane, Everglades City’s City Clerk, Dottie Joiner was surprised with an award presented by Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart.

Dottie was recognized for her 20+ years of service to the city by having her service recorded in the official congressional record.

Congressman Diaz-Balart knows Dottie well as he has worked with her for years, but became even better acquainted with her devotion to the City after the hurricane when she would put in countless hours to do whatever necessary to help in the recovery efforts.

On Tuesday, June 5th at the City Council meeting, Mayor Grimm acknowledged the award and the full-house crowd all stood to show their appreciation. Of course, Dottie is very humble and does not want the attention...but it is well deserved.

Dottie Joiner, congratulations!

Photo by Karen Cochran

Dottie Joiner with Mayor Howie Grimm

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION IN EVERGLADES CITY
JUNE 30TH
SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 3!
EVERYONE IS INVITED!

PUBLIC NOTICE
Voice Your Community’s Needs!
The Florida Department of Health in Collier County wants to help you make where you live even better. Be on the lookout for The Mullet Rapper’s July 1st edition where you will find a link and a paper copy of a survey to assess the needs of your community!

You will also be able to pick up and drop off the surveys at:
• City Hall
• City Seafood
• Everglades City Museum
• Right Choice Supermarket

More information to come!

PACE Loans Available in Collier County to Help With Property Repairs & Upgrades

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing is funding available to qualified property owners to make energy efficiency, renewable generation and wind mitigation improvements and repairs. The funding is repaid through an assessment included on the annual property tax bill. In addition, property owners can make additional wind mitigating improvements that will further reduce their property risk, including: wind-rated doors, impact-resistant windows and storm shutters. PACE financing with the Agency is now available in 22 communities throughout the state of Florida.

Benefits include: Not based on credit score, program pays contractors, stretch payments out over terms up to 30 years, fixed interest rates, 

For more information about the Florida PACE Program, go to floridapace.gov.

Diaz-Balart Secures Funding to Continue Everglades Restoration, Fight Wildfires in Interior Appropriations Bill

WASHINGTON --- Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (FL-25), a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, issued the following statement after the Committee approved the fiscal year 2019 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies bill.

“Continued restoration of the Everglades is critical to our ecosystem and local economy. As Floridians, we are fortunate to have access to beautiful parks like Everglades National Park, but we must do everything we can to preserve it for future generations. This bill supports the continued restoration process, as well as funding for Everglades ecosystem studies through the U.S. Geological Survey. The bill also includes funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program, which is vital to localities like Collier County, who rely on those funds to provide emergency and social services. Southern Florida has experienced an outbreak of wildfires, and I am glad this bill also provides for wildland firefighting and prevention.

Highlights of the Bill:
$10 million for planning and interagency coordination in support of Everglades restoration
$157 million for ecosystem programs under the U.S. Geological Survey, including those in the Everglades
$500 million for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program, which Collier County is the largest recipient in Florida of

$75 million for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program
$3.9 billion for wildland firefighting and prevention
$3.25 billion for the National Park Service
$3.5 billion for the State and Tribal Assistance Grants account
$1.6 billion for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
$360 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund
$11 million for the Multinational Species Conservation Fund
Language supporting the inclusion of Latino contributions in Smithsonian Institute programs, exhibitions, collections, and public outreach

If you have news, photos, announcements, or articles ... email us at: mulletrapper@gmail.com or call us at: 954-662-7003.
### JUNE 17, 2018 – JULY 21, 2018

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July 4: Independence Day (National)  
Sept. 1: Snook Season Reopens  
July 26: Health & Smiles Bus  
Sept. 15: Fishing Tourney (see swflgo.com)  
Sept. 29: Blessing of the Fleet  
Oct. 15: First Day of Stone Crab Season

### AREA INFORMATION & NUMBERS:

- **AA:** Wed., 5:00 pm, Evg. Comm. Church, Fellowship Hall  
- **CARNESTOWN Recycle and Trash:** 2nd Saturday, 9 am to 3:30 pm  
- **DR DEMARTINO:** Marco Island office information on p.3.  
- **DR MARTIN:** Call for appointment: 813-787-9738  
- **LIONS CLUB:** Meetings suspended for summer.  
- **MUSEUM:** Open Monday-Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm. 239-695-0008  
- **PANCAKE FLY-IN:** Closed for summer.  
- **REACH OUT:** 3rd Tuesday, 4 pm, City Hall  
- **SKATING RINK:** Closed until further notice  
- **SMALLWOOD STORE:** 11 am to 4 pm, City Hall  
- **THRIFT SHOP:** Open Thurs., & Sat., 11 am to 3, see p.3.  
- **VETERANS SUPPORT:** 2nd & 4th Wed. of month, noon—2 pm

### POST OFFICE INFORMATION:

- **Chokoloskee** (239) 695-4468  
  (M-F: 9:30 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 4:30 pm, closed Sat. & Sun.)  
- **Everglades City** (239) 695-2174  
  (M-F: 9:30 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 4:30 pm, closed Sat. & Sun.)  
- **Ochopee** (239) 695-2989  
  (M-F: 8 am to 10 am, noon to 4 pm; Sa: 10 am to 11:30 am)

### OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

- **AIRPORT:** 239-695-2778  
- **BIG CYPRESS:** 239-695-2000  
- **CITY HALL:** 239-695-3781  
- **CURBSIDE TRASH PICKUP** 239-252-2380, (CALL TUESDAY FOR THURSDAY PICKUP)  
- **EVG NATIONAL PARK:** 239-695-3311  
- **FAKAHATCHEE:** 239-695-4593  
- **PUBLIC LIBRARY:** 239-695-2511  
- **SHERIFF:** 239-252-9300

### RIGHT CHOICE SUPERMARKET:

- ATM Machine  
- Shirts / Caps / Hats  
- Camping Supplies  
- Batteries  
- Beer / Wine / Ice  
- Medicine  
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- Meats  
- Produce

104 S. Buckner Avenue, Everglades City, (239) 695-4535  
www.RightChoiceSupermarket.com
BE A PART OF THE ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION!

June 30th

The annual Independence Day Celebration in Everglades City will take place on Saturday, June 30th.

The parade will not be complete without your participation so please plan on decorating your golf cart, swamp buggy or whatever you can think of to join in on the fun. The Theme is Hometown Heroes!

Donations are appreciated and help fund the day’s event that includes the amazing fireworks, the parade, and celebration at McLeod Park that features contests for kids and a raffle!

To contribute to the celebration, please send a check to: Everglades City Fireworks Fund, PO Box 110, Everglades City FL 34139. For more info, call Dottie at 239-695-3781. Thank you! [See schedule top center column.]

Swamp Walks
Hosted by Clyde Butcher & South Florida National Parks Trust
Saturday & Sunday, October 27 & 28
From 9:00am - 5:00pm.

The fourth Annual Big Cypress Gallery Fall Festival, is a recognition of the continuing importance of protecting our unique swamps of Florida and natural environment through education. The guided ranger-led swamp walks behind the Ochopee gallery are $50 per person (kids 17-and-under are free, no tickets required) If you would like to do a swamp walk there is limited space Call (941) 486-0811 to reserve your space.

Area Website Features Local Attractions, Accommodations & More!!

SWFLGO.com is a virtual hub for residents and visitors to our area. The website is easy to navigate, and a user can find out everything about the area on their mobile device or laptop with just a click... including a weather feed, fishing regulations, tides, food, accommodations, activities and more.

We look forward to building SWFLGO into a great community and visitor resource and look forward to your input and feedback! Please let your friends and visitors know about SWFLGO and look for us on Facebook too @SWFLGO. If you would like a free business listing, please contact us at 954-662-7003 or info@swflgo.com.

Independence Day Schedule

McLeod Park, Everglades City Games, Arts & Crafts, Music, Hot Dogs, Cold Drinks, Raffles & Prizes
10:00 a.m. Opening Ceremony
10:30 a.m. Dedication of Fire Station
10:45 a.m. Parade, Hometown Heroes
11:00 a.m. Booths Open, Food, Music
11:30 a.m. Parade Winners Announced
11:30 a.m. Kiddies’ Contest
12:30 a.m. Raffle Winners Announced
9:00 p.m. FIREWORKS!!!!

COMMUNITY SERVICES

FREE DENTAL, BLOOD PRESSURE & DIABETES SCREENINGS, PLUS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INFORMATION FOR ALL AGES June 26th & July 26th, 8 am to 4 pm
The Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida’s Health & Smiles Mobile Dental Bus is scheduled to be in Everglades City on June 26th & July 26th from 9 am to 4 pm, in the Fire Station parking lot, providing free dental, diabetes, blood pressure screenings and behavioral health information. For more information or an appt: call 239-986-7323.

THE FOOD BANK IS OPEN!
Wednesdays noon to 2pm

Everglades Community Pantry, a proud partner agency of the Harry Chapin Food Bank, is open every Wednesday from noon to 2 in Jinkins Fellowship Hall at Everglades Community Church. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

DOCTOR’S CLINIC
Dr. Kirk DeMartino is seeing patients in his Marco Island Office. You may call his office to schedule an appointment to see him there: (239) 642-5552.

NATURAL MEDICINE
Dr. John Martin can see patients in Everglades City. Appts: from 10 am to 6 pm. Call to confirm: 813-787-9738.

ACCOUNTING SERVICES~ MIKE “THE TAX GUY”
Local and professional, personal & business tax services in Everglades City. Call 239-595-4203 to set an appointment. Email: nfn19842@naples.net for more information.

NEW THRIFT SHOP
The new thrift shop is open, Thursday & Saturday from 11 am to 3 pm. Come see the new store! Please do not leave donations on the porch outside where they can get wet or damaged! Please do not drop off damaged items.

City Council Update

The City Council passed four resolutions during the June 5th meeting as described below:
1) As described above by Chief Schuldt, the Greater Naples Fire District (GNFD) will perform fire inspections for the City and assist with fire safety programs. This resolution passed unanimously by the members present.
2) Collier County and Everglades City to execute an inter-local agreement for the County to provide code inspection service on building code only (not any other code issues). This resolution passed unanimously by the members present.
3) The resolution to rename the fire station to the “Lt. Tom Mitchell Fire Station” passed unanimously by the members present.
4) Public records request fee: This resolution passed unanimously by the members present. Document requests up to 20 pages are free. Anything over 20 pages will be 15 cents per page, single sided, 20 cents per page double sided.

A Message from Fire Chief Kingman Schuldt

On June 5th, The City of Everglades City Council members and the GNFD Board of Fire Commissioners agreed to enter into an interlocal agreement at their respective meetings.

The purpose of this agreement is to recognize the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District as the AHJ (Authority Having Jurisdiction) for Everglades City which allows the District to administer fire and life safety services; including but not limited to fire inspections, fire code enforcement, fire plans review, fire investigations, fire prevention, and fire and life safety education.

The Investigative Section, under the leadership of Deputy Chief and Fire Marshal Shawn Hanson, is committed to working closely with Everglades City Officials to provide the most professional fire and life safety services and strengthening our relationship with this great city.

email: mulletrapper@gmail.com
PAGE 3
www.swflgo.com
Our Amazing Bodies by Dr. John Martin
The Special Senses: Taste and Smell

Growing up in the country, about twelve miles due north of Tampa stadium, there was lots of wildlife (yes, it was pretty wild and rustic back in the 1950's and '60's). We had a big three acre yard with a fence around it to keep the wild animals OUT of the yard. The house was situated on a thirty-six acre lake and was a hunting lodge back in the 1920's. In addition to panthers, black bears, deer, bobcats, alligators, raccoons, rabbits, eagles, quail, mallards, and a slough of fish and wading birds, snakes, even gopher tortoises, we always had domesticated pets. Horses, dogs, and cats, and more ducks (usually ours and somebody else's). It was a great experience. But I kind of always felt a little sad for the animals – wild and domesticated. You see, our Mom was a great cook, and Dad was really talented at the grill. It's just that I felt the animals were missing out on the wonderful smells coming from my folks cooking, and even more so when it was time to eat!

The animals were ever present when we humans dined, but very rarely did any of them get to taste Mom's cooking. By the way, Dad always cooked Sunday morning breakfast. Nobody wanted to miss Dad's Sunday morning breakfast.

So, how does our ability to smell things (not always pleasant, perhaps) and taste, too, (do animals really miss out?) how does that work? Smell (aka olfactory) receptors are olfactory hairs (or cilia) that excite sensory neurons buried deep in the roof of the nasal cavity. The nasal mucosa (mucus lining) contains specialized cells that help keep the nerve endings clean and help dissolve the chemicals sensed by these receptors. The olfactory neurons run up through the cribriform plate of the ethmoid bone of the skull and synapse with additional neurons leading to the olfactory bulb, and then the anterior frontal lobe and medial temporal lobe of the brain. It's this olfactory lobe that is proportionately larger in dogs and even more so in sharks, that gives them such powerful sniffing abilities. The olfactory tract terminates in the brain centers for memory, eating, survival, sex and other emotional behavior.

Taste interpretation occurs at the lower reaches of the sensory cortex (post central gyrus). Basic tastes (sweet, sour, salt, and bitter) are detected most strongly at specific points along the outer edge of the tongue with sweet up front, sour back along the side of the tongue, salt further back still, and bitter on the back of the tongue. Specialized cells further facilitate these sensations. “Taste buds” are embedded in the periphery of the tongue within stratified squamous epithelium. Together with their supporting cells, the taste bud receptor cells receive dissolved material through pore canals from the outside. This in turn stimulates the chemoreceptor (gustatory) cells. These impulses are delivered to the brain stem via Cranial Nerves VII, IX, and X. Interpretation of taste occurs as a function of smell, food texture, and temperature, in association with taste bud sensations.

The basic anatomy and physiology works very similar in other mammals, besides humans. Remembering back to those Mom's kitchen and Dad's grill smells, I just feel bad for all the animals that missed out on the taste sensations of consuming the whole meal, not just smelling it. What a big tease that must have been for all the animals. And MAYBE the frequent delicious aromas were part of the reason for such an abundance of wildlife (and neighborhood kids) near the house, especially at meal time. Next issue... The Sensation of “Touch”

Dr. Martin sees patients in Everglades City. You can call 813-787-9738 to schedule an appointment during weekdays between 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Big Athletic Department Improvements in Store for Students When the New School Year Gets Underway!

Wow...what a difference a year makes. Last September soon after the school year started, Hurricane Irma wiped out the school gym, many classrooms and the first 3 weeks of classes. Just getting back to class seemed a bit daunting.

The school district, Principal Ragusa and the entire staff did a great job of getting the school back on its feet. Along the way some really good things happened.

Tireless Athletic Director Jill Whitcomb worked hard all year to make it as good as it could be. I met with her soon after the storm and she told me what she’d really like for the kids...an interactive scorer’s table for the gym to really get the kids engaged.

With a hefty price it pretty much seemed out of the realm of possibility...but not if you know Jill Whitcomb. Jill successfully launched the “Hook ‘em in the Glades” fishing tournament which raises funds for the school. The weather may not have been perfect, but the tournament was, and that combined with some other donations, funded the purchase of the table that will help make our events, events to remember.

In addition, the school applied for, and was awarded the SWFL Sports Award Athletic Grant by Suncoast Credit Union for $2500 which will help fund any other short-falls the school may encounter for the upcoming year.

Even though it was a difficult year, the recovery showed how pulling together, keeping positive and never giving up pays off...and sometimes, big time.

We look forward to attending events next year with our new, interactive display table! Go Gators, have a great summer everyone!

Mullet Rapper Donations to Everglades City School
~$1900 so far in 2018!!!!

Thank you to everyone who buys the Mullet Rapper every two weeks. Remember, the Mullet Rapper donates 100% of the proceeds from the sale of the print edition of the paper to the Everglades City School Athletic Department! When you see the coin receptacle, please put your quarter (or more) into the slot!

When You Buy the Print Edition of the Mullet Rapper, It Helps a Our School!

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The Everglades City School Corner

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THE EVERGLADES CITY SCHOOL CORNER

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TAXING THINGS
by Mike the Tax Guy

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act includes changes to moving, mileage and travel expenses:

**Move-related vehicle expense**
The new law suspends the deduction for tax years beginning after Dec. 31, 2017, through Jan. 1, 2026. During the suspension, no deduction is allowed for use of an auto as part of a move using the mileage rate listed in IRS Notice 2018-03

This does not apply to members of the Armed Forces on active duty who move related to a permanent change of station.

**Unreimbursed employee expenses**
The Act also suspends all miscellaneous itemized deductions subject to the 2 percent of adjusted gross income floor. This change affects unreimbursed employee expenses such as uniforms, union dues and the deduction for business-related meals, entertainment and travel.

**Standard mileage rates for 2018**
The standard mileage rates for the use of a car, van, pickup or panel truck for 2018 remain:

- 54.5 cents for every mile of business travel driven, a 1 cent increase from 2017.
- 18 cents per mile driven for medical purposes, a 1 cent increase from 2017.
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations, which is set by statute and remains unchanged.

**Increased depreciation limits**
The recent legislation also increases the depreciation limitations for passenger autos placed in service after Dec. 31, 2017, for purposes of computing the allowance under a fixed and variable rate plan. The maximum standard automobile cost may not exceed $50,000 for passenger automobiles, trucks and vans placed in service after Dec. 31, 2017.

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Florida Panther Update
So far in 2018, fifteen panthers have been reported dead to FWC. The most recent reporting came on May 18th where a young, male panther was hit by a vehicle on I-75 and mile marker 78 (just two miles east of the SR29 exit).

Please take note that the fencing on I-75 is still down in several placed in Collier County as a result of Hurricane Irma and that this can allow wildlife onto the roadway.

Encounters with Panthers are fairly rare, but if you should encounter a panther, there are some steps to take to keep you and your family safe:

- Make yourself appear larger, open your jacket, raise your arms, throw stones, branches, etc., without turning away.
- Wave raised arms slowly, and speak slowly, firmly, loudly to communicate that you are not prey and may actually be a danger to it.
- Avoid crouching or bending over. Squatting or bending over makes you look smaller, resembling a prey-sized animal.
- Do not run. Running may stimulate a panther’s instinct to chase. Stand and face the animal.
- Make eye contact.
- Give the panther space. Most Florida panthers will avoid a confrontation.
- Give them a way to escape. If attacked, fight back with whatever is at hand (without turning your back). While there has never been a reported panther attack in Florida, in western states, potential victims have fought back successfully with rocks, sticks, caps, jackets, garden tools and even their bare hands. Since large cats usually try to bite the head or neck, try to remain standing and face the animal.

If you feel threatened by a panther or have lost pets or livestock to a panther, please call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 1-888-404-3922.

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email: mulletrapper@gmail.com

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www.swflgo.com
Fiddler Crabs

Fiddler crabs or “calling crabs” are easily seen on the coastal areas of Southwest Florida. There are over 100 species worldwide of these semi-terrestrial marine crabs which make up the genus Uca. The fiddler crab is a small crab with the largest being just over 2 inches.

Fiddler crabs are most recognized for their sexually dimorphic (each sex is different) claws. Males have a “major claw” which is much larger than the “minor” claw. Females have claws both the same size.

Like all crabs, their shells are shed (molt) as they grow. If a crab loses a claw or leg, a new one will be present when they molt. Interestingly, if the large claw is lost on a male, the new larger claw will develop on the opposite side the next time. When crabs molt, their shells are very soft making them extra vulnerable to predation. For this reason, after molting, the crabs will hide until their new shell hardens.

Fiddler crabs function very much on a circadian rhythm. Even in a controlled laboratory setting, crabs will mimic the timing of the ebb and flow of the tide which indicates that they are influenced by the pull of the moon.

The oversized claw of the male, also known as the chela, is used in mating rituals. The male will use it in a series of waves and gestures. It is also a signal to other males that they are entering the wrong territory. The waving action is said to look like a fiddle being played thus the name “fiddler crab.”

Females choose their mate based on the size of the major claw and the mating ritual performance by the male.

Fiddler crabs live approximately 2 years in the wild and up to 3 years in captivity.
I could not stop myself. My urge to be a multi-dog owner has overcome my fear of the unknown. My desire to give the dog that has had it tough a shot, has overcome my urge to get the super-cute puppy. We chose a true “underdog” figuratively and literally!

“Sunny” is our new fur-baby. She is 4. She had no name, was homeless and carrying nine puppies on the streets of Miami when an angel of a woman, Andrea (Sherri was her foster mom) rescued her.

From Miami, she was scuttled to the Bradenton area where she delivered the pups and rehabbed until she was adoptable, which was about mid-May. I started looking soon after we lost our Tanker (part 1 of this 3-part series) not really expecting to act upon it. Well, that’s a lie. I always knew I would, just didn’t know when.

During my online search, I saw the face that wouldn’t leave my mind, so I reached out to the Underdog Rescue of Florida (that’s what I meant by “literally”). Where we live in EC, it is outside of their normal placement range...but I would not give up. I am sure I was starting to remind them of a stalker, calling, emailing, and texting about her. Finally, I received the phone call I was waiting for...to introduce myself and Tim and explain why I zeroed in on “Sunny.” Soon after, was the at-home visit. We passed the test and will bring her home on June 13th.

Sunny comes with baggage like all rescues do. She will be nervous and unsure. She is not well trained. She is leaving her foster mom after about 6 months to another unfamiliar location...which we intend to make her best and last. She may not have been treated well in her past...you just have no way of knowing? Rescuing a dog is just as rewarding as raising a puppy...and it could be a bit better, especially for experienced dog owners.

Sunny really has had no training but has a sweet disposition, she likes other dogs, and is starved for attention. To us, that is a recipe for perfection. It will be a challenge, and I am sure it may be frustrating at times. However, just knowing what her previous life was makes it very rewarding already. We know we can give her a great home. Our friend Chris says, “she hit the dog lottery.”

Some folks may not understand why people rescue dogs, cats, and other animals. I have heard some suggest that they should be doing this for children...not animals. However, I do not think that way. I believe everyone has a calling. If you are an advocate for breast cancer awareness, does that mean you do not care about prostate cancer? No. If you want to save the manatee, does that mean you do not want the whales or elephants to be saved too? No. If you work with a dog rescue, does that mean you do not care about rescuing children in need? Of course not! All that it means is that this is the vocation one the individual was called to, and they act upon it, thankfully.

If we all focused on the same issue...everything else would be ignored...and that would not be a good thing at all! So, I commend the men and women who advocate for whatever they advocate for. They take their free time and give it to a cause. In this case, the cause is a dog that has had a rough time and needs a break. Remember, a human usually causes the mess these animals are in, so it will take one of us to clean up the mess too.

I want to thank the Underdog Rescue of Florida for being so thorough and caring. These pups have been through the ringer and they make every effort to find the right homes.

The survival of a dog or cat rescue is donations. If you want to donate to the Underdog Rescue of Florida, visit their website at UnderdogAdopt.com, or donate to the rescue of your choice!

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My Little Slice of Paradise
by Kathy Brock
Canines Part III

Recipes for Good Eating
By Joan Remley
Banana Split Sauce

Ingredients:
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup white sugar
1 tablespoon flour
1 egg
2/3 cup milk
1/3 cup oleo/margarine
Dash of salt

Directions: Mix all dry ingredients. Add small amount of milk, and then beat in egg, the rest of the milk and oleo. Cook and stir until it boils for about 2 minutes. Cool in the refrigerator. It will keep for quite a while! Suggesting serving: Quarter bananas, place on lettuce leaves, and top with the sauce and some chopped peanuts. Of course, you can use it over ice cream too!

This is a recipe that has been in Joan’s family for over 100 years!

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MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

1. Angel dust (illegal drug)
4. Adds
8. Citizen of Santa Ana
11. Due to
13. Morning drops
14. Grease
15. San Diego is a big one
16. Classify
18. Live through
19. "I haven't seen you in ---""
21. Leading light?
24. Doghouse sounds
28. Gas station abbr.
29. Small battery
30. Exclamation of surprise
31. Like some university staffers
34. Mapped out
35. Inner being
36. Narrow beam of light

Down

1. Window divisions
2. Talons
3. Pipe plastic
4. One type of music
5. Vase
6. Unleavened bread
7. Pry
8. Pop
9. Squash variety
10. "Encore!"
12. Enemy
17. You need it in a row boat
18. Suit with an MBA, maybe
20. Rate
21. Title for a distinguished Indian
22. Is inclined
23. Give consent
25. "We --- touchdown!"
26. Tyne Daly TV role
27. Storage shelter
29. "Like that would happen!"
32. 90-degree fitting
33. Hearing organ

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6/16/18

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My Little Slice of Paradise
by Kathy Brock
Canines Part III

The survival of a dog or cat rescue is donations. If you want to donate to the Underdog Rescue of Florida, visit their website at UnderdogAdopt.com, or donate to the rescue of your choice!
**Poetry Street**
*By Katherine Tullie*

Many of the problems of the world can be overcome by love. As the old song says “It’s the only thing that there’s just too little of.” That is the inspiration for this poem.

**Love Will Overcome Hate**

Love is here to stay
Even if someone tries to push it away
Love is stronger than hate
Let’s help turn our land around before it’s too late

In a garden we take out the weeds
Let us replace them with love seeds
By planting love seeds all around our land
We will not give them the upper hand
Let the love seeds grow into beautiful flowering plants
And overcome the marching of the red ants
The flowering plants are a symbol, I say
They keep all the hate away
Let us all do our part to clean up our land
Let us eradicate hate and shovel hate under the sand
We can do it … So let’s get to it
Let us turn our land into the land of love without hate
We the people can make it happen and it won’t be too late!

Email: Kathythepeet@gmail.com
Look for Poetry Street on Twitter
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**SAWFISH NEWS**

Since the early 1930’s when the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago displayed a smalltooth sawfish, *Pristis pectinata*, for the first time, public aquariums have created connections between people and these unique elasmobranchs. Over the years, millions of visitors to zoos and aquariums around the world have shared that experience as well, and for many it is the only opportunity they will have to see a living sawfish. With the decline of sawfishes worldwide and the ever-increasing need for conservation of their fragile coastal habitats, public aquariums are in a unique position to build on these connections and help to create conservation solutions. Sawfish conservation requires a multi-faceted approach to be successful, and the public aquarium community shares common concerns with researchers, field biologists and conservation agencies in terms of the need for continued and increased collaboration between stakeholders at all levels.

Many of the public aquariums in the United States are members of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), which is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of accredited zoos and aquariums in the areas of animal care, husbandry, conservation, education, science and recreation. With more than 183 million visitors to more than 230 accredited zoos and aquariums each year, AZA’s focus on connecting people and animals provides a critical link to helping animals in their native habitats. For many years members of the AZA Marine Fishes Taxon Advisory Group have worked with governmental and non-governmental conservation agencies to find solutions to protect sawfish in their natural environment. In addition to their role in education, research and conservation, AZA member zoos and aquariums also play an important role in the preservation of species through population management programs and AZA Species Survival Plans® (SSP). The mission of a SSP is to cooperatively manage specific, and typically threatened or endangered, species populations within AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums, certified related facilities, and approved non-member participants.

There are currently 14 AZA accredited facilities that house sawfish within the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Bahamas and Hong Kong. Within the United States sawfish can be seen in public aquariums in Colorado, Georgia, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. Smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*), largetooth sawfish (*Pristis pristis*), and green sawfish (*Pristis zijsron*) are the three species most commonly displayed in aquarium collections.

Along with Sawfish SSP leaders from AZA and EAZA (the European Association of Zoos and Aquariums), public aquariums have continued to help create awareness for the plight of sawfish through numerous presentations at professional conferences. At the Regional Aquatic Workshop (RAW) in Boston, Massachusetts in May 2017, a gathering of more than 400 aquarium industry professionals, staff from the Ripley’s Aquarium, the National Aquarium, The Dallas World Aquarium and The Deep, Hull (United Kingdom) collaboratively announced the date for the First International Sawfish Day to be held on October 17, 2017. Sawfish keychains and buttons were distributed to promote the awareness day. More than 50 participating organizations from around the world including public aquarium, conservation agencies, and research facilities held celebrations and events, shared messages and images on social media, and otherwise spread the word about these amazing animals. “Sawfish Swag” became a popular novelty and ultimately more than 7500 keychains and buttons were given away around the world at events, conferences and education outreach programs. Social media posts and interactive events at public aquarium and zoos reached hundreds of thousands of people in the days leading up to, including, and following International Sawfish Day. The hashtag #IntlSawfishDay is the official hashtag for the annual event. Fundraising efforts by The Deep, Sawfish Conservation Society (SCS) and others contributed to sawfish field programs in the Sudan. Plans have already begun for next year’s event and this momentum will be carried forth in future years solidifying efforts to strengthen conservation and research efforts, with the intent that along with increased awareness about sawfish, these actions will generate additional funding in the future for important sawfish conservation and research projects.

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Although this species is commonly singled out, it is not the only known python species found in the Everglades. Other species include African rock pythons, boa constrictors, and ball and reticulated pythons, making the task of removing these massive snakes all the more troublesome. The Burmese python is native to Southeast Asia, where it feeds as a constrictor on wild chickens, peacocks, and an assortment of mammals as large as domestic goats and pigs.

In Florida it is known to take nutria, alligators (including some large ones), deer, raccoons, an assortment of wading birds, as well as other snakes. In 2010 personnel from Everglades National Park removed 322 pythons, though most biologists believe this is only a fraction of the current population. In 2000, when the snakes were first discovered in the park, only two were removed. To date, more than 1,334 have been taken out, and the numbers captured every year are increasing exponentially. In short, the Burmese python is a snake Florida will be dealing with for decades to come.

Unlike the invasive iguana species, which is vulnerable to cold snaps, the Burmese python is capable of a form of hibernation called brumation. This adaptation allows this large snake to survive in the northern part of its Asian range, including regions of higher elevation. In Florida brumation is triggered by cold weather and shorter daylight hours. Some biologists project that the Burmese python might eventually make it all the way into southern Georgia and become established in places such as the Okefenokee Swamp.

Capturing a 15-foot-long, 200-pound snake isn’t easy. Thus far, firearms and traps are not permitted, and the only way to catch this huge reptile is by hand, with nets, or by using snake snares. There is currently a program in place allowing concerned trappers and citizens to capture the python, though there is no bounty paid. In Asia, the Burmese python is readily consumed by humans, but in the Everglades it contains unacceptably high levels of mercury and eating one is ill advised. Its skin is also harvested in Asia, but to date, no market has been found for python hides in the United States.

Alligators, black bears, and panthers are known to feed on the Burmese python, but nothing smaller than these top predators is capable of tackling a snake this large. Young pythons are probably eaten by herons, raccoons, and other predators, though no sightings or records are available to confirm this.

It is widely held that this invasive population got its start after Hurricane Andrew came through in 1992, inadvertently freeing dozens of domestic pets after the storm destroyed zoos, homes, and apartment buildings. This python can be deadly. A two-year old girl was strangled to death by a nine-foot Burmese python in Sumter County, Florida, in 2009 after the snake escaped from its cage.

This article is an excerpt from “The Living Gulf Coast – A Nature Guide to Southwest Florida.” Charles is a writer and photographer that resides in Sanibel.

Photos: Burmese Python by Charles Sobczak

(Python found on Chokoloskee! See page 10 for details.)
Local News

Eight Foot Burmese Python Captured in Chokoloskee

Thais Tepper enjoys feeding her ducks each morning at her Chokoloskee home...but on the morning of May 31st, things seemed a bit different...a little too quiet.

When Thais went outside at 7:30 am to check on things, she looked into the duck pen and saw that a 8 foot python was wrapped around one of her ducks, while the other two were cringing in terror.

Thais’ son Drue has been handling reptiles since the age of 4, so he called on him to help. Drue wrestled the snake into a cat carrier (please do not attempt this if you are not very experienced! These snakes are dangerous.), and then took it to Ian Bartoszek, wildlife biologist with the Conservancy of Southwest Florida.

“Ian heads the python project at the Conservancy and prefers to capture the pythons live for research purposes. FWC was also notified, who informed me that this was the first python reported on Chokoloskee, although several have been seen on the causeway and in Everglades City. I was told that Kelly Construction found a 9 ft python while moving a steel plate at the bridge construction site,” says Tepper.

Burmese Pythons are not native snakes, and are believed to be breeding in much of south Florida. It is estimated that over 150,000 adult snakes may be living in the Everglades.

Where snakes are abundant, native species like the marsh rabbit, otter, other small reptiles, deer and other mammals are dwindling in population.

Releasing any non-native species into our environment can have a very dramatic impact on our native plants and animals.

If you see a python, or think you see one, please call the FWC exotic species hotline to report its whereabouts at: 888-IVE-GOT1 (888-483-4681).

Photo: Drue Tepper with Burmese Python by Thais Tepper

Pioneering Marco Island Couple Leave A Loving, Lasting Legacy

William “Bill” and Mayfield “Miff” Blair, longtime Marco Island residents and parents of Bonnie (Craig) Woodward, passed away two months apart from each other, both peacefully at their home. Miff Blair passed away on April 3rd at the age of 95 and her husband William “Bill” Blair passed away on June 9th at the age of 99.

It was during World War II when Bill was flying the Florida coastline as a Navy pilot that he fell in love with Florida, the islands of the State, specifically. During one mission, Bill’s plane went down in the Bermuda triangle where he floated and survived for nine hours. He was rescued by a Naval ship and continued his Navy career as a pilot until the war ended.

The couple met in college in North Dakota, married and celebrated 74 wonderful years together. They came to Marco in 1965 and wintered on the Island each year until permanently residing on Marco Island later in life.

In the early 1970’s, Bill focused on Marco real estate and built the first four condominiums on Marco on the South end of the island. Miff helped Bill with his business and kept the family of five (three children) together and active.

The couple was involved in many groups and civic organizations until their passing. Both had a love of golf. Miff boasted multiple holes-in-one at the Marco Island Country Club, and Bill played 18 holes quite well to the age of 98.

As role models, this couple set a standard that is difficult to emulate. Faith, family and friends were the foundation of this couple. They attended the United Methodist Church on Marco Island.

As they got well into their 90’s, the couple no longer made the trip back to Bemidji, MN each summer, and made Marco their permanent home - which made their daughter and Everglades City resident, Bonnie very happy.

As sad as it is to know that these two area icons are gone, it is gratifying to know that they lived out their dream of staying home together and departing on their own terms. Their lasting, loving legacy will live on in the hearts of everyone who knew them.

YIKES!

Fireworks Safety A Must for A Great Celebration

As June winds down we will start hearing the pop, pop of fireworks. Ah, yes the holiday powered by gunpowder.

The displays are beautiful often, but seldom does an Independence Day pass where we don’t hear news of a tragic explosion, fire or something worse. Fireworks can be dangerous if not handled properly and caution needs to take place when using them.

Remember, everything you buy is not necessarily designed to be shot off in a neighborhood. These tips will help you enjoy a great, much safer day:

> Know your fireworks; read the cautionary labels and performance descriptions before igniting.
> A responsible adult SHOULD supervise all firework activities. Never give fireworks to children.
> Alcohol and fireworks do not mix. Save your alcohol for after the show.
> Wear safety glasses when shooting fireworks.
> Light one firework at a time and then quickly move away.
> Use fireworks OUTDOORS in a clear area; away from buildings and vehicles.
> Never relight a “dud” firework. Wait 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.
> Always have a bucket of water and charged fire hose nearby.
> Never carry fireworks in your POCKET or shoot them into METAL or GLASS containers.
> Do not experiment with homemade fireworks.
> Dispose of spent fireworks by wetting them down and place in a metal trash can.
> Report illegal explosives, like M-80s and quarter sticks, to the fire or police department.
> Don’t bring your pets to a fireworks display, even a small one. Keep pets indoors during use of fireworks the entire time.
> Be aware of your surroundings!

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Ronald Robert Ouellette quietly passed away in his home in Walsenburg, Colorado on May 22, 2018. He was born on January 17, 1949 in Lewiston, Maine. Ronald graduated from Brunswick High School, then served in the US ARMY. Returning to Maine he built a 50 foot Ferro Cement sailboat designed for offshore sailing with live aboard accommodations including a bathtub. He then set a course for the Caribbean where he spent most of his adult life.

A career change brought Ronald to Everglades City, Florida where he built a cracker style house and his second boat. It was a modified F9 Ian Farrier designed trimaran. Its shallow draft and higher speed ratios made it a perfect coastal boat that enabled him to sail solo from Maine to Florida. For the next two years, he sailed around the Bahamas, the Keys and the west coast of Florida. Its bright yellow hulls gave it the befitting name Chiquita.

Ronald retired after 17 years as a cardiac care nurse and headed west. He transformed a Sprinter van into a customized land yacht for traveling throughout the United States and Canada. It was on the east side of the Rocky Mountains where he discovered a peaceful existence in Southern Colorado. During his life time Ronald went from boat builder to construction worker to Registered Nurse, with an erudite smile so wide it would brighten the sky. Ronald was a true Mainer believing blood is thicker than water while holding true to those who will miss him.

Ronald was pre-deceased by his mother and father, Irene and Robert Ouellette. He is survived by his sister, Joan O. Deemer, brother John Ouellette, their spouses, nieces and nephews and his life-mate Marlene Sassaman.

Ronald’s family will pay tribute to him during a private memorial. Those wishing to honor his life can donate to the Friends of Casco Bay (cascobay.org) in Portland, Maine.
## Classified Ads

### RV Hookups
Everglades City. Two Sites, 30 and 50 amps. Service, water, no sewage. Rent nightly or weekly. Rough boat ramp, 100 ft. dock. Private & secure. Contact Capt. Wayne of Fish Hunt Charters at 239-695-2445.

### Wanted to Lease
In Everglades City or Chokoloskee area. Full time resident looking for a home, condo or trailer for long term lease. Please contact John @ 954-422-3469.

### Reduced!

### For Rent
One bedroom apartment in the Glades Building across from the Rod & Gun Club on the corner of Allen Ave. For more information call: 239 293 3033.

### Office Spaces for Rent
Two office spaces for rent in the Glades Building across from the Rod & Gun club. For more information or to set an appointment call: 239 293 3033.

### For Sale
2005 3 Bdrm., 2 Bath concrete stilt home with additional Deeded adjoining lot. @ 233 Worley St Chokoloskee. Asking $269,000. View by appointment only. Call 813 763 1944.

### Online Listings
List your item in the New Online Classifieds. Swflgo.com basic listings are free with a paid ad in the Rapper. Deluxe listings, with photos & more, are only $10 for 2 weeks. Contact us at info@swflgo.com for more details. You can also call: 954 662 7003.

### FOR SALE
RV Lots with docks. Call Bob Wells Real Estate @ 239-695-2660 for more information.

### Golf Cart Charger
EZ Go golf cart charger. Links brand. Only used 2 months. Standard plug in, perfect condition, automatic shut off. This charger is over $300 new. Will sell for only $100. Located in Everglades City. For more information, call Kathy: 954-662-7003.

### Job Opportunity
Become an election worker for the 2018 elections. Qualifications: Be a registered voter in Collier County. Be able to read and write English. Complete the orientation and training. You must be available to work a 12-14 hour shift. Get started today! Complete your application at www.CollierVotes.com. Call us if you have questions. By email at: ElectionWorker@colliergov.net. Or by phone: (239) 252-VOTE (8683).

### For Sale

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### The MULLET RAPPER
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“*The Everglades is a test. If we pass it, we may get to keep the planet.*” — Marjory Stoneman Douglas

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EVERGLEADES CITY FIREWORKS FUND

Your Donations are Needed!

Donations are appreciated and help fund the day’s event that includes the amazing fireworks, the parade, and celebration at McLeod Park that features contests for kids, hot dogs, beverages and a raffle!

To contribute to the celebration, please send a check to:
Everglades City Fireworks Fund, PO Box 110, Everglades City FL 34139.

For more information, call Dottie at 239-695-3781.

Thank You!