Since the close of last year’s stone crab season, Mitchell Blankenship has been working hard to get his boat ready for another stone crab season. Little by little, every part of the vessel was attended to. The final step was a fresh, new paint job...and then the launch.

However the work does not stop there. Mitch is also the president of ABC Lawn Care and his “off season” is a very busy one. ABC does everything from mowing to tree trimming & removal, stump grinding, grading and more.

One may think that the crabbing business is a 7 month endeavor with a nice, relaxing break when the season closes on May 15th. That could not be further from the truth. When the traps are pulled and brought back to shore, they must be cleaned and repaired for the next season.

The elements take a toll on everything, including the boats (and the people on them!). Many off-seasons are spent fixing, tinkering and rechecking engines, decking and equipment. Some years, the boats are “dry docked” so they can be fully repainted like the Miss Clipper was.

In Mitch’s case, the offseason for crabbing is the height of the season for lawn maintenance making a perfect complementary business...for someone who doesn’t need a day off.

This year’s crab season will be kicking off on September 29th with the annual Blessing of the Fleet hosted at the Rod & Gun Club.

This is a great time to assemble as a community to thank our neighbors who leave at 4 am, rain or shine, to bring home the delicious crustaceans. Stone crabs are a Florida specialty with an international fan base.

Florida stone crabs are legal for harvest from October 15 until May 15th. The catch varies from year to year, ranging between 2.0 and 3.5 million pounds, predominantly from the Gulf coast (as opposed to Atlantic coast). This is believed to be the haul potential each season.

The number of stone crabs traps tripled between 1989–90 and 2009–10 without haul increasing (hence, the catch per trap reduced by 66%). However, it is widely believed that the stone crab population is stable and that there is sufficient successful reproduction to keep the population healthy.

Stone crabs live about 5 years and reach maturity by the age of two, which is when a female is ready to breed.
### SEPTEMBER 23, 2018 – OCTOBER 27, 2018

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**Oct 27 & 28 Butcher Swamp Weekend (see p. 3)**

**November 6: Election Day**

**November 12: Veterans Day**

**November 16: History Talk**

**November 17: Art-in-Glades**

**November 22: Thanksgiving Day**

### 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:** Meet 2nd Thursday of Month, 6 pm
**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:** Now open! Fri. & Sat. 6 to 9 pm
**SMALLWOOD STORE:** 11 am to 4 pm, 239-695-2989
**THRIFT SHOP:** Open Saturday 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 12 pm, 1 pm to 4:30 pm, closed Sat. & Sun.)
**Ochopee** (239) 695-2099
(M-F: 8 am to 10 am, noon to 4 pm; Sa: 10 am to 11:30 am)

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104 S. Buckner Ave., Everglades City, FL 34139, 239-695-4535 [www.RightChoiceSupermarket.com](http://www.RightChoiceSupermarket.com)

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The MULLET RAPPER

What’s Happening in the Everglades & 10,000 Islands

September 22, 2018

Blessing of the Fleet September 29th

The annual blessing of the stone crab fleet will take place on September 29th at the historic Rod & Gun Club in Everglades City. The festivities will start at 10 a.m. and will include, frog races for the kids, a guava cake contest, arts & crafts booths, live music and much more. See the full day’s schedule on the front page. For more information call Marya 239-695-2905.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

FREE DENTAL, BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INFORMATION FOR ALL
October 23, 9 am to 4 pm
The Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida’s Mobile Dental Bus will be in Everglades City on October 23rd from 9 am to 4 pm, in the Fire Station parking lot, providing free dental checks, blood pressure screenings and behavioral health information if requested. 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.

CEDR Hurricane Disaster Recovery Assistance is Available
Communities of Everglades Disaster Recovery works in conjunction with the Salvation Army and have a team set up in Everglades City Hall (right inside the front door). They will have advocates there from 10 am to 3 pm on Mondays to assist people still in need of help. Stop in the office or you can call Elaine at 239-695-2695 for more information.

NEW THRIFT SHOP
Saturday 11 am to 3 pm
The new thrift shop is open 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 or dirty items.

A Message from Fire-Chief Kingman Schuld
t

September 10th marked the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Irma’s assault on Southwest Florida.

Irma was a Category 5 hurricane for 60 hours, longer than all but one hurricane on record. The storm made landfall seven times, including in the Florida Keys and Southwest Florida, where it arrived as a Category 3 on Sept. 10, 2017. The highest reported sustained wind speed was 112 mph on Marco Island, while the strongest observed wind gust was 142 mph, recorded near Naples.

Irma was one of the strongest and costliest Atlantic hurricanes on record, according to the National Hurricane Center. After devastating the Keys, the storm struck Collier County as a Category 3 hurricane. Several communities in the county suffered extensive damage, especially along the coast.

Throughout the unincorporated areas of the county, 65 homes, including 44 mobile homes, were demolished, while 1,008 homes received major damage. Property damages in unincorporated areas alone reached about $320 million.

Much of Collier County and the Fire District experienced major damage and loss of resources. Most were without power, potable water and access to much needed resources for days.

As a result of Hurricane Irma, the Fire District was also faced with similar challenges. Because of the anticipated storm surge and wind speeds it was necessary to evacuate six fire rescue facilities during the storm.

Damage caused by the storm left the Fire District with three fire stations and its fleet facility uninhabitable. Two marine facilities used to moor the District’s fire boats were also extensively damaged, rendering services inoperable. As of late July, Fire District facilities and marine services were largely returned to full capability, yet many repairs will continue for months to come.

As a result of the many challenges Irma presented our community, your Greater Naples Firefighters and support staff, along with our partners from Collier County EMS and Sheriff’s Office responded in exemplary fashion. It was, and remains, our commitment to the community, to respond in a professional and compassionate manner even during the most disastrous of times.

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Edward L. Larsen, Esq.

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PERSONAL INJURY
CIVIL LITIGATION

The Chamber Building
2390 Tamiami Trail N., #202
Naples, Florida 34103
(239) 643-0100
elarsen@swflgo.com

email: mulletrapper@gmail.com

PAGE 3

www.swflgo.com
Sawfish News by Tonya Wiley of Havenworth Coastal Conservation

International Sawfish Day is October 17

Sawfishes are considered the world’s most threatened elasmobranchs (sharks, rays, and skates) and yet few people know about these amazingly unique animals. There are five species of sawfish in the world and all are classified as critically endangered or endangered by The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

International Sawfish Day is an annual event held on October 17 to raise awareness of these vulnerable rays and to highlight the threats they face in order to safeguard their future. Founded by the European and American Associations of Zoos and Aquariums and the Sawfish Conservation Society, the first International Sawfish Day was celebrated in 2017.

Last year for the inaugural International Sawfish Day, more than 50 participating organizations from around the world including public aquaria, conservation agencies, and research facilities held celebrations and events, shared messages and images on social media, and helped spread the word about endangered sawfish. “Sawfish Swag” became a popular novelty, and ultimately more than 7500 keychains and buttons were given away at events, conferences, and education outreach programs across the globe. Social media posts and interactive events at public aquaria and zoos reached hundreds of thousands of people in the days leading up to, including, and following International Sawfish Day. Fundraising efforts contributed to sawfish field programs in the Sudan. In addition to the awareness generated for sawfish, International Sawfish Day helped strengthen the collaborative relationships between the public aquarium community and research and field conservation organizations.

On October 17, 2018 the second International Sawfish Day is expected to be even bigger and better! Events will be held online and at aquariums, museums, zoos, schools, and other institutions and organizations around the world. The American Association of Zoos and Aquariums will coordinate a fundraiser to contribute to sawfish research. Information about events and the fundraiser can be found at www.InternationalSawfishDay.org.

Want to get involved? Resources are available from the Sawfish Conservation Society to help you celebrate in style or host your own event, and increase your knowledge about all five species of sawfish. You can print posters and handouts, and discover fun sawfish craft ideas. You can also buy an official International Sawfish Day t-shirt to proudly wear on October 17, and any day, to promote the conservation of sawfishes. Information about scheduled events and other International Sawfish Day resources can be found at www.SawfishConservationSociety.org.

And, as always, to report a smalltooth sawfish encounter call 1-844-4SAWFISH or email sawfish@myfwc.com.

For more information:
Internet: www.SawfishRecovery.org
Facebook: U.S. Sawfish Recovery

A Message From Principal James Ragusa

Davonte Detweiler Honored by Florida State Board of Education

On Friday, September 14th, Davonte Detweiler, Class of 2018, was recognized by the Commissioner of Education, Pam Stewart, and the entire State Board at their meeting at the district administrative center. He was among a group of ten students recognized and we could not be more proud of this young man.

Davonte was recognized for his achievement and overcoming obstacles he faced to become an excellent student, and graduate of, Everglades City School. This is the first time that I am aware of that a student has been recognized with this honor from Everglades City School. We are so proud of Davonte for his success and wish him well as he moves on this year as a student at Florida Gulf Coast University where he will be majoring in journalism. Davonte epitomizes the value of hard work and striving to attain your dreams.

IT IS ALWAYS A GREAT DAY TO BE A GATOR!

Congratulations Davonte.
The entire community is proud of you!

Second Annual Hook ‘em in the Glades Fishing Tournament is a REEL Success!

Above left, Rylee Mayberry celebrates her 2nd Place, 26” Redfish catch with her dad, Robby, and grandma, Joleen. Above right, Teddy Smallwood celebrates his 2nd Place finish in the Snook Category. Naples youth, Ben Mey, took 1st place in both the snook & redfish categories.

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped during the event.

Next Edition: An In-depth Look at the tournament, and what’s coming next for Hook ‘em in the Glades!

NOTICE TO PARENTS, STUDENTS AND VISITORS REGARDING COLLIER COUNTY SCHOOL SAFETY POLICIES

In our continuing efforts to add layers of security to our school campuses, backpacks, cinch bags, and other large bags are no longer permitted inside CCPS sporting venues, including high school stadiums and gymnasiums. An exception will be made for medically necessary items after proper inspection. This security enhancement is effective immediately and will impact this week’s games.

In addition, we have increased security patrols at our upcoming games and competitions. Thank you for your understanding and continued support to help keep our students, staff, and community safe.

Kamela Patton, Ph.D.

Visit This Website for the School Athletic Calendar
https://www.collierschools.com/Page/10896#calendar16972/20180903/month

Mullet Rapper Donations to Everglades City School

Over $2300 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 Everglades City School!
Cycle Tours through the Everglades
FREE Monthly Tours!

Come join us on our free monthly bicycle tours on and off-road in the Everglades. The next tour will be Sunday, October 7, starting at 9:00 am at the visitor center at Shark Valley. This is a 15.8-mile ride along a paved road in the Everglades National Park. Along the way you may see alligators, herons, egrets, deer, turtles, and snail kites. An observation tower at the halfway point provides panoramic views. Bicycles can be rented from the Shark Valley Tram Tour Company. Participants should wear a helmet and bring your own drinks, snacks or purchase at visitor center. If interested in this or any other guided tour, please contact Patty Huff at 239-695-2397 or email info@evergladesrogg.org.

Other tours will include rides through the Big Cypress, the Fakahatchee Strand, Loop Road, Ave Maria / Immokalee, and historic Everglades City / Chokoloskee. The Friends of the River of Grass Greenway has published brochures about these tours and other on and off-road rides. Please visit website www.evergladesrogg.org/events. The bicycle tours are part of FROGG’s mission to focus on safety and environmental education and stewardship for those hiking, walking, or cycling through south Florida and the Everglades.

Biking Event Schedule

- October 7 – Shark Valley in ENP (15 miles)
  Meet at Shark Valley
- Nov. 11 – Loop Rd, Big Cypress (34 miles)
  Meet at West End of Loop Road
- Dec. 9 – Everglades City/Chokoloskee (10 miles)
  Meet at McLeod Park in Everglades City
- January 13 – Janes Scenic Drive in the Fakahatchee (17 miles).
  Meet at Fakahatchee Strand Headquarters in Copeland
- February 10 – Ave Maria (40 miles)
  Meet at McLeod Park in Everglades City
- March 10 – Bear Island in the Big Cypress
  Meeting Location TBA

Solution to September 8, 2018 Puzzle:

Breakfast 8 am to 10 am, 12 to 6 Lunch & Dinner

The MULLET RAPPER
What’s Happening in the Everglades & 10,000 Islands
September 22, 2018

City Seafood
702 Begonia Street, Everglades City
OPEN ALL YEAR...
We are one of the most affordable restaurants with one of the most beautiful waterfront locations.
Breakfast 8 am to 10 am, 12 to 6 Lunch & Dinner
We Serve Delicious, Local Seafood & Cuisine
Want to book a private party?
Call Richard or Candice at 239-695-4700

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email: mulletrapper@gmail.com www.swflgo.com
**My Little Slice of Paradise**  
by Kathy Brock  
**It's Just My Opinion...**

Watching the weather channel this past weekend was very difficult. Hurricane Florence caused a bit of PTSD...if you know what I mean? For those of us who experienced the post-irma flooding, the images of the Carolinas post-Florence were gut wrenching. The storm was a beast.

Florence flooding is even worse (if that’s possible). The type of flooding being experienced by Florence victims is more prolonged, and it could be days before rivers reach their crest, and only after that, will the waters recede so the digging out begin.

The damage left behind will be shocking and devastating to those who do not have first-hand flood experience before. Unfortunately, we know what they are in for.

One thing that really caught my attention over the weekend is that some of our local TV Stations (out of Naples/Ft. Myers) are already collecting items to send up north. One broadcaster was talking about all of the furniture they are collecting to send.

I don’t want to be a negative Nelly, but really? Furniture? Now? For flood victims? Anyone who is reading this that went through the Irma flood will chuckle at that. Why? Because right now, the LAST thing these people need is a bunch of furniture to store. It’ll be months before furniture can be put back into place. These folks haven’t even started gutting their houses yet.

What they need right now are squeegees, bottles of bleach, paper products, feminine products, soap, disinfectant, gloves, boots...things to help them get into these flooded homes and extract out whatever they can. Then they will need garbage picked up over and over again...then rebuilding supplies to put it all back together again. Buying furniture now is like getting a soccer ball for a kid who just broke his ankle.

You would think that TV stations could do some recon and talk to us down here to see what the needs really are. More importantly, when the items will be useful. The “when” is the big issue here because truthfully, everything is needed...but a lot of it just cannot be used right now.

It is amazing to me that after all of the local media coverage about what went on here, the general lack of knowledge about a flood is still so pervasive. It really all comes down to personal experience. If you have lived through something, you understand it. If something has not personally affected you, you tend to ignore it...or at least, not pay really close attention to it.

I guess that is where the famous idiom comes from, “Before you judge a man, walk a mile in his shoes.” I am going to try to remember this when I am judging an unfamiliar situation or when I think I know how others feel...even though it’s totally opinion based and not experience based. Perhaps that would be good advice for the news media too? A little research goes a long way.

Another thing bugging me is the property tax rebate/reduction offered by Collier County. I stumbled upon it 4 weeks ago and put it in the Rapper. It’s nicely “advertised” on the home page of the tax assessors website...where no one who needs it will ever find it. I did by accident one day when looking there for a different reason.

Why couldn’t a flyer be included in our trim notices to tell us about this (Hello, we are not difficult to find)? What about Immokalee? Do they know about this? Why was it advertised in the Naples paper and not in the Mullet Rapper? I get that we are not actually on the same “level” as the Naples paper...but the Rapper is more widely read here, and if you really wanted to reach area residents one would think you’d reach out to us in our back yard...and not elsewhere? It makes me wonder IF they really want us to take advantage of this...or if it’s just there as an election-cyce bullet point for politicians? Thankfully, our City texted out a message about the tax program to try and get the word out (see p. 8).

To recap: 1) Send bleach now, furniture later. 2) If you had severe damage to your home, file with the county for property tax relief. If you qualify, you can save thousands. Find the documents at: swflgo.com/property-tax-waiver-form.

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**Island Life Recipes**

**Stone Crab & Shrimp Creole**
by Kathy Brock

**Ingredients**
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 cup chopped red & green bell pepper
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 3 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 pint cooled vegetable broth
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon zest
- 1-3 teaspoons cayenne pepper to taste-taste to test “heat”
- 8 stone crab claws, slightly cracked
- 1 pound medium shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1/2 chopped green onions, green tops only (top garnish)

**Directions:** In a deep skillet, sauté peppers, celery, garlic until soft. Mix in the cayenne pepper. Next, add the rest of the ingredients, except the crab and shrimp. Cook covered for about 20 minutes. Add the shrimp and cracked stone crab claws and cook for 5 more minutes until shrimp is done. Serve over white rice.

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**MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD**

![Crossword Puzzle](image-url)
The MULLET RAPPER

Poetry Street
by Katherine Tullie

Every day we awaken and see the new day. Every day the Sun will shine down its warmth and light. It gives us a chance to start anew. That is the theme of my poem.

The MULLET RAPPER

The brightness will shine forth everywhere
The sun and its rays will soothe our soul
It lifts up sadness in our lives, for sure
Making our lives better in many ways
So when you are sad look to the light
It will make you feel shining bright

The sun will shine for us each day
Making our lives better in many ways
Now isn’t that a positive goal?
Our hearts will lighten up
Just like a buttercup
So when you are sad look to the light
It will make you feel shining bright
Positivity will surely set in
You cannot lose but only win!

Email: Kathythepoet@gmail.com
Look for #PoetryStreet on Twitter!

New Book Highlights Ochopee
Get it Now as a Great Holiday Gift

Local News
Sign Up for Area Emergency Text Messaging System
Just Text “Everglades” to 474747
Notifications for Everglades City, Chokoloskee, Plantation Island, Jerome & Copeland Residents. Sign Up Today!

If you would like to be contacted via text of any alerts, notices, engagements & reminders from the City please activate your EZ Texting account by texting the keyword “Everglades” to 474747.
Messages will be sent regarding emergencies, business, water issues, voting, and anything else you may need to know! If you decide you no longer want to receive messages it is easy to be removed from the list.

New Book Highlights Ochopee
Get it Now as a Great Holiday Gift

It may be a popular tourist stop now but the Ochopee Post Office is a symbol of growth in southwest Florida and of the resilience of its pioneers.
Before the little building became the "Smallest Post Office in the United States" in 1953 after a disastrous fire burned down the general store, it was a shed in the thriving tomato farm in Ochopee on the Tamiami Trail, the road linking Tampa to Miami which opened in 1928.
These stories were recorded by the late Maria Stone, author of many “written oral histories” that are invaluable to historians. They are reprinted with new material and photos in this edition to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of Ochopee Post Office.
The book can be purchased at Win-Car and the Right Choice market in Everglades City. Or order direct from the publisher by phone at 239-695-2905 on www.ecity-publishing.com.

Regional News
A New Band-Aid for Florida Water
Polluted water flowing into Lake Okeechobee, to the Caloosahatchee River and into Southwest Florida’s coastal estuaries, is an environmental disaster that has been decades in the making.
Now an old idea is being reconsidered as a possible “interim solution” until other projects can be completed.
State Rep. Ray Rodrigues is an advocate of deep well injection and believes it can be fast-tracked to begin making a difference in just a couple of years.
When proposed originally, scientists with the federal government, which partners with the state on the restoration plan, ultimately ruled against the plan, calling it unworkable, unsafe or both.
The idea was shelved, but as the water quality in SW Florida has been too dire to ignore, the South Florida Water Management District revisited the idea and decided to press forward without federal funding.
Instead of putting the water underground with the intention of withdrawing it later, the water would be injected deeper, with no plan to recapture, Rodrigues said.
The “plan” would cost about $330 million and take close to 10 years to complete at the funding level in place late last year, when the project advanced.
The wells are planned to go north of Lake Okeechobee and would be more than 3,000 feet deep, beneath a layer of rock.
Many oppose the plan, arguing, among other things, that once pumped deep underground, the water can’t be reclaimed for use during a drought (if desired). There is also the issue of the wells leaking or failing altogether. In the 1990s over 200 deep wells failed in Florida, and there are other similar issues across the country.
But Rodrigues said about 200 municipalities around Florida are using deep well injection to get rid of wastewater.
Let’s hope we do not close one Pandora’s box to only open another...

(Excerpts from NaplesNews.com)

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- SOUVENIRS, GIFTS, HATS
- T-SHIRTS, FISHING SHIRTS
- SUNBLOCK, REPELLENT
- REC 90 FUEL (NO Ethanol)
- OIL, LUBE
- LIVE SHRIMP, BAIT
- TACKLE, GEAR
- GATOR SKIN HANDBAGS, CASE KNIVES, NOVELTIES
- COSTA SUNGLASSES

COMING SOON! KRISPY KRUNCHY CHICKEN! EAT IN OR TAKE OUT.

OPEN DAILY UNTIL 7 PM! 203 COLLIER AVENUE, EVERGLADES CITY, FL 34139, PHONE: 239-695-3937

email: mulletrapper@gmail.com
The regions’ smallest bird, the ruby-throated hummingbird is an amazing creature. One of the few birds able to truly hover and the only bird able to fly backwards and upside down, the ruby-throated hummingbird beats its wings so fast it creates a humming sound. When in flight its feet virtually disappear into its tiny body, making it more aerodynamically perfect.

In the summer in our area, this bird is found only on occasion and is far more commonly seen throughout its northern range. However, it is quite common during the winter months.

Despite its tiny size, the ruby-throated hummingbird stores enough fat to enable it to fly nonstop across the 600-mile expanse of the Gulf of Mexico twice a year.

The hummingbird is found only in the Americas, from Tierra del Fuego to Alaska. There are an amazing 325 species of hummingbirds, though the vast majority of these birds live in Central and South America.

Unlike humans, the hummingbird is able to see things in the ultraviolet color spectrum, which lies far above our eyesight capabilities. This allows the hummingbird to spot the flowering plants upon which they rely for nectar. Fascinating to observe at feeders, it seems to be attracted to the color red. Sadly, this is also a cause of mortality, since it is attracted to the red tops of certain power-line capacitors and is electrocuted when attempting to feed on them.

The hummingbird is an important pollinator, but it also eats nectar-eating insects and tiny spiders. The high-energy diet of nectar is essential to its metabolic needs, with some hummingbirds known to have heart rates as high as 1,260 beats per minute. That is roughly 1,200 times faster than the heartbeat of a well-trained athlete. As if that isn’t enough of an amazing feat, it has been calculated that when flying forward, a hummingbird’s wing can exceed 4,500 beats a minute, or 75 beats per second.

The ruby-throated hummingbird will readily come to artificial feeders, attracted by sugar water. Only white granulated sugar has been proven safe to use: a ratio of one cup sugar to four cups water is the most common recipe.

The hummingbird is seldom preyed upon as an adult, but the size of its tiny eggs—smaller than jellybeans—and chicks make them vulnerable to being eaten by predators as small as lizards, mice, and tiny snakes. Some of the South American species, especially the highly specialized birds, are endangered, but the ruby-throated hummingbird appears to be doing well throughout its range, possibly in part because of the innumerable feeders put out across the backyards of North America every summer.

Charles Sobczak is a writer and author from Sanibel Island, Florida
The MULLET RAPPER
What's Happening in the Everglades & 10,000 Islands
September 22, 2018

National News
Diaz-Balart Votes for EAA Storage Reservoir, Herbert Hoover Dike Funding, Continued Everglades Restoration

Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (FL-25), senior member of the House Committee on Appropriations and Founder and Co-Chair of the House Everglades Caucus, issued the following statement after the passage of America’s Water and Infrastructure Act of 2018 and the fiscal year 2019 Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act. America’s Water and Infrastructure Act of 2018 is a reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

“Today, Congress took another step forward in continued Everglades restoration and protection from flooding and harmful algal blooms in the communities surrounding Lake Okeechobee. The America’s Water and Infrastructure Act, which authorizes the construction of the EAA Storage Reservoir, is a much-needed solution as Lake Okeechobee and Southern Florida’s coasts continue to suffer from algal bloom. The EAA Storage Reservoir has been a top priority for Florida, and I am glad we could work together with our partners at the local and state levels to address the issue in an effective and expedient manner. WRDA also includes a provision to ensure Lake Okeechobee’s water levels coincide with the expedited completion of the Herbert Hoover Dike, reducing the risk of flooding in the surrounding Hendry County communities.

“Similarly, with passage of the Appropriations bill, Southern Florida will continue to see dividends as the bill contains provisions that further the expedited completion of the dike, as well as Everglades restoration. Specifically, it provides the dike with $96 million, $14 million above last year’s level. These funds, combined with the $514 million I helped secure this July from the hurricane relief and recovery funding package, are anticipated to complete this much-needed rehabilitation project by 2022-2023. I look forward to this achievement being reached and am proud to have had a part in securing the necessary funding from Congress. As an Appropriator and Founder and Co-Chair of the House Everglades Caucus, I will continue to be a stalwart advocate for Everglades restoration and ensure the necessary funds are delivered to our state.

“I thank Speaker Ryan, Chairman Shuster, Chairman Frelinghuysen, and Subcommittee Chairman Simpson for their support in getting these bills to the floor. By approving these bills, Congress has proven it prioritizes Florida’s waterways and ecosystem.”

Included in this portion:
$67.5 million for South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (which includes projects from the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (CERP)

$96 million for Herbert Hoover Dike

Park News
Reservations Open for Fakahatchee Swamp Walks & Tram Tours

Reservations are now open for three adventures in Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park. The park, east of Naples, is Florida's largest and has been called "the Amazon of North America."

The season begins Wednesday October 24 at 5:30 p.m. with a three-hour Moonlit Tram Tour of the park. The $35 evening tour sells out rapidly and will be repeated on Saturday, December 22 at 4:30 p.m.

Ghostrider Tram Tours of the park from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. get underway Nov. 8. The tours are offered for $25 per person most Thursdays in November and December and are named for the famous ghost orchid found in the park.

The Naturalist Led Tram Tour and Swamp Walk begins Tuesday, Nov. 6 at 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This $60 adventure is offered on most Tuesdays during the season.

For directions, complete details and required reservations for all Fakahatchee adventures, visit www.orchidswamp.org and click on Tours and Events.

Please note that tours sell out fast so book your reservations early to secure your dates!

TAXING THINGS
by Mike the Tax Guy

Oct. 15 is almost here, and it’s the last day to file for most people who requested an automatic six-month extension for their 2017 tax returns. Taxpayers should remember that they can file any time before Oct. 15 if they have all their required tax documents.

As extension filers prepare to file, here are some things they should know:

IRS Free File. Nearly everyone can e-file their tax return for free through IRS Free File available now through Oct. 15.

A refund may be waiting. The sooner someone files, the sooner they’ll get it; and consider direct deposit into your checking or savings account.

Taxpayers who owe taxes can pay with IRS Direct Pay. It’s the simple, quick and free way to pay from a checking or savings account. Taxpayers can just click on the ‘Pay’ at IRS.gov.

Here’s what taxpayers should do about a missed deadline. Anyone who did not request an extension by this year’s April 17 deadline should file and pay as soon as possible. This will stop additional interest and penalties from adding up. IRS Direct Pay offers a free, secure and easy way to pay taxes directly from a checking or savings account.

There is no penalty for filing a late return for people who are due a refund.

Taxpayers who aren’t ready to file yet should remember to file by Oct. 15 to avoid a failure-to-file penalty.

Taxpayers who owe and can’t pay their balance in full should pay as much as they can to reduce interest and penalties for late payment and apply for more time to pay or set up an installment agreement. In most cases, the failure-to-file penalty is 10 times more than the failure-to-pay penalty.

You Can Find Mike “the Tax Guy” Klein’s contact information on page 3.
EATERNES & AREA WORSHIP

Angler’s Cove, Port of the Islands (642-1025): Monday - Wed 5 to 11 pm, Thurs to Sun Noon - 11 pm
Camellia Street Grille (695-2003): 11:00 am – 9:00 pm daily
City Seafood (695-4700): 8:00 am – 10:00 am; breakfast Noon-6pm Lunch & Dinner
Glades Haven Deli (695-2091): Deli Closed for Repairs Live bait available at marina
Havana Café (695-2214): We are Opening October 15th! See our ad on page 10!
Island Café (695-0003): 6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily
Ivey House (695-3299): 6:30 – 9:30 am; daily
Joanie’s Blue Crab Café (695-2682): 11:00 am – 4:00 pm
Open: Mon., Fri., Saturday & Sunday
Oyster House Restaurant (695-2073): Currently closed Please check back!
Rod & Gun (695-2101): 11:30 am - 8:00 pm; daily
Tastes of the Everglades Closed for summer.
Triad Seafood & Café (695-2662): Opening October 1st See our ad on page 4
MARKETS

Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535): 9:00 am – 7:00 pm; daily
Grimm’s Stone Crab (695-3222): We are opening on Oct. 15th.
Fresh Produce
1181 Hamilton Ln, Chok. Closed for Summer
By E City Post Office, Closed for Summer

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

Chokoskee Church of God Sunday: 10 am Sch., 11 am Worship Wed. 7 pm Hr. of Prayer
Copeland Baptist Church Sunday: 10 am School, 11 am Worship
Everglades Community Church 11:00 am Sunday Worship
1st Baptist Church of Everglades City 9:45 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship 6 pm Sunday, 6 pm Wed. Bible Study
Holy Family Catholic Church Closed for Summer, see San Marco below
St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples Phone: 239-417-2084
San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Island 239-394-5181

OBSITUARIES

Estelle Brancenier Hodges, 1924-2018
After being discharged from the Air Force in 1946, Robert brought his family to live in Hialeah, Florida where he went to work at Eastern Air Lines as an aircraft mechanic. He advanced to a member of the flight crew as a flight engineer and spent about 35 years in the airline industry working for various companies. He retired from Pan American.

He and his wife then moved to Everglades City. They were avid fishermen. His wife passed away suddenly on May 9, 1988. He then met his second wife, Rachel O. Coleman. They were married and she came to live with him in Everglades City. He is survived by his wife Rachel O. McBeath, his son Charles E. McBeath and his step son Frank Fogle and his wife Leanne Kinsella, his nephew Steve Graham, his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

A memorial to his life will be held on Sunday October 7, 2018 at Everglades Community Church.

Reverend Bob Wallace will conduct 11 AM church services 12 Noon food will be serve in the kitchen. 1:00 PM the memorial service will be held. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the church, PO Box 177, Everglades City, FL 34139.

Robert E. McBeath, 1924-2018
CLASSIFIED ADS


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.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Electricians helper. Experience preferred, but not necessary. Must be reliable and honest. Call Herb @ 239-398-5093.


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 SPACE 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.

WANTED PYTHON SKINS: I want to buy tanned, black Python skins for bag and wallet making experimentation. Contact: Scott snick75@earthlink.net.

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

RV LOT FOR SALE: 30'X70', 30/50 amp service. Sewer, city water, 8 x 10 shed. Site is suitable for an RV, stilted trailer or motor home. In Fisherman’s Cove. For info call Bob: 912-665-2354.

NEW! HELP WANTED: Two positions available. Full time housekeeper, and a part-time handyman for the Captains Table Resort. To inquire and apply, contact JoAnn at 239-695-1011.


RAPPER CLASSIFIEDS WORK! Reach the Everglades community and our visitors in the classifieds. Contact us today at 954-662-7003 to place your ad.

The MULLET RAPPER
P.O. Box 134
Everglades City, FL 34139

The Everglades is a test. If we pass it, we may get to keep the planet.” ~ Marjory Stoneman Douglas
Visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/evergladescitynews/