

# The MULLET RAPPER

## What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

**JUNE 8 – 21, 2012**

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume VI • Issue #161



Pastor Bob Wallace and the congregation of Everglades Community Church celebrated Memorial Day Sunday on May 27.

You can salute our Veterans during the parade at the Independence Day Celebration in Everglades City on Saturday, June 30.

Read more about our patriotic event on page 3.

### CONTENTS

Calendar	p. 2	Sheriff's Report	p. 8
Events	p. 3	FWC News	p. 8
School	p. 5	Living Gulf Coast	p. 8
Florida Tales	p. 7	Flood Insurance	p. 8
Recipe	p. 7	Sawfish	p. 9
Museum	p. 7	Glades Daze	p. 9
Business	p. 7	Florida Flora	p. 9

TIDES & RESTAURANTS p.11 CLASSIFIED p.12

FEATURE: "LOCAL HISTORY" p.10



GRADUATION 2012 from ECity High School took place on June 1. Seen here are Brianna Daniels, Salutatorian, and Meggan Harrington, Valedictorian. Teachers Paul Tribble and Angela Marsaglia sang "Amazing Grace". The books and cap above were cakes!



The Museum of the Everglades kicked off its annual student artwork exhibit with a reception for younger kids on June 1. The pictures will be on display all summer and draws comments from visitors who are impressed by how much talent our Everglades City School produces. Make sure you don't miss it! See page 7 for more info.

# JUNE 2012

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
3	full moon ● 4 <b>Hour of Prayer</b> Everglades Community Church 7 pm	5	6 <b>Ladies Coffee</b> Island Café 8 am	7 <b>Meet &amp; Greet</b> <b>New Principal</b> <b>School, 11 am</b> <i>see p.5</i>	<b>RAPPER 8</b>	9 <b>ENP Canoe Trip</b> <i>see p.3</i> <b>Free Fishing Day</b> <i>see p.3</i>
10	11 <b>Summer Camp</b> <i>see p.3</i> <b>Hour of Prayer</b> Copeland Baptist Church 7 pm	12 <b>Shamrock</b> <b>Bank</b> <b>Training</b> <i>see p.3</i>	13 <b>Ladies Coffee</b> City Seafood 8 am	14	15	16
17 <b>Fathers' Day</b> <b>Chokoloskee</b> <b>Church of God</b> <b>Vacation Bible</b> <b>School</b> <i>see p.3</i>	18 <b>Summer Camp</b> <i>see p.3</i> <b>Hour of Prayer</b> Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	new moon ○ 19	20 <b>Ladies Coffee</b> Island Café 8 am  <b>BigC ORV</b> <b>Trails Plan</b> <i>see p.3</i>	21	<b>RAPPER 22</b>  <b>Meet &amp; Greet</b> <b>Tim Nance</b> <i>see p.3, 12</i>	23
24	25 <b>Build-a-Boat</b> <i>see p.3</i> <b>Hour of Prayer</b> Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm	26 <b>Shamrock</b> <b>Bank</b> <b>Closes</b> <i>see p.3</i>	27 <b>Ladies Coffee</b> City Seafood 8 am	28	29	30 <b>Independence</b> <b>Day Celebration</b> <i>see p.3</i>
JULY 1	2 <b>Hour of Prayer</b> Everglades Community Church 7 pm	full moon ● 3	4 <b>Ladies Coffee</b> Island Café 8 am	5 <b>BigC ORV</b> <b>Deadline</b> <i>see p.3</i>	<b>RAPPER 6</b>	7

July 9-13: First Baptist Vacation Bible School

July 16-19: Build-a-Chair

July 20: Hot Summer Nights

July 23-August 2: Summer Camp

Aug 6-9: Youth Tennis Camp

Aug 7: City Council, Natl Night Out

Aug 14: Primary Election

Aug 20: Back to School

Aug 30: BigC ORVs

THRIFT SHOP: Thurs, Sat; 11 am to 3 pm

SKATING RINK: Fri, Sat; 7-10 pm

DR DEMARTINO: By appointment only, call office

LITTLE GATOR CLINIC: Closed for the Summer

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

AA: Wed, 5:00 pm, Community Church

AL-ANON: Thurs, 12 noon, Community Church

NA: Sat, 11:30 am, Community Center (Skating Rink)

MUSEUM: Tues-Fri; 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sat; 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily; 11 am to 4 pm

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: Thurs, 6/7 (9-10 am) Tues, 6/12 (10-11 am) Thurs, 6/14 (10-11 am)

Mon, 6/18 (9-10 am) Tues, 6/19 (9:30-10:30 am)

SHERIFF: 695-2007

CITY HALL: 695-3781

PUBLIC LIBRARY: 695-2511

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: 695-3941

AIRPORT: 695-2778

FAKAHATCHEE: 695-4593

BIG CYPRESS: 695-2000

NATIONAL PARK: 695-3311

CURBSIDE TRASH PICKUP (FRIDGES, WASHING MACHINES, TVS): 252-2380

COLLIER COUNTY: 252-8999

## ENP Canoe Trip

Join a ranger on **Saturday, June 9**, at 9:30 a.m. at the Gulf Coast Visitor Center for a 3-hour paddle through the Ten Thousand Islands. Bring your own canoe/kayak or rent one. First 8 participants to sign up get free canoe rental. Bring water, snacks, sun protection, insect repellent, and shoes that can get wet. For reservations, call 695-3311.

All National Parks have free admission on National Get-Outdoors-Day.

## FREE FISHING DAYS

The **June 9** date for freshwater fishing also coincides with the last day of National Fishing and Boating Week. For wildlife info and regulations, see [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com). Wildlife Alert Hotline: 888-404-FWCC (3922).

## Big Cypress Stakeholders

The newly organized Big Cypress Stakeholders will hold their first meeting on **Saturday, June 9**, at 10:00 a.m. at TRC Worldwide Engineering, Inc, 12550 Professional Park Drive, Suite 7, in Ft. Myers (located a couple miles west of SWR Airport just north of Daniels Road).

Call (239) 370-8532 for more information.

## SUMMER CAMP

The first two-week session begins the week of **June 11**, and the second two week session begins **July 23**. Summer Camp is sponsored by Reach Out, our neighborhood charity, for kids aged 4 through 11. It meets at the Community Center (behind the fire station) on Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. *See more activities on page 5.*

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL KIDS CRUSADE

**Chokoloskee Church of God  
June 17-21 Nightly**

Scot and Marcie Crosby from Abbeville, Louisiana, will be coming to Chokoloskee to teach the children. Families are also invited. There will be puppets, bible verses, black light stories, amazing object lessons and learning about God every night; there will also be prizes and refreshments. The church vans will be picking up every night. If you need a ride call 695-3735.

## MEET & GREET BBQ

**Tim Nance**

**Candidate for County  
Commissioner District 5**

**Friday, June 22, 6:00 p.m.**

**Everglades Community Church  
Everyone Invited**

## BigC ORV Trails Plan

Public comments are sought for the draft Environmental Assessment for up to 8 off-road vehicle trail heads in Big Cypress National Preserve and 5 turn lanes on part of US-41. There will be a meeting on **Wednesday, June 20**, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center in Ochopee. The deadline for comments is **Thursday, July 5**. For info, see [www.parkplanning.nps.gov](http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov) or phone 695-1107.

## BUILD-A-BOAT/CHAIR

"Build a Boat" will be at the Community Center on **June 25-29** from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

"Build a Chair" will be at the Community Center on **July 16-19**.

For info and to register, contact Christa Renaud at District 7 Substation at 695-2301 on Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



## Shamrock Bank Closing Everglades City Branch

Shamrock Bank will close its Everglades branch on **Tuesday, June 26**, after servicing the community for a little over three years. Customers may continue to bank online with Shamrock ([www.shamrockbankfl.com](http://www.shamrockbankfl.com)).

The Bank will provide online training at 12 noon on **Tuesday, June 12**.

The main office is located at 895 Fifth Avenue South at the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> Street in downtown Naples. For any questions, contact Branch Manager Mary Birr at 919-5199.

## ATV SAFETY COURSE

Sheriff Kevin Rambosk and County Commissioner Jim Coletta will be sponsoring a voluntary ATV Safety Course. Details of the date and location of this event will be announced later. For info, contact the Sheriff at 793-9145 or the Commissioner at 252-8391.

## OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

05/22/12: Brush Fire, Janes Scenic Drive  
05/22/12: Brush Fire, South Blocks  
05/22/12: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands  
05/23/12: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands  
05/23/12: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands  
05/23/12: Emergency Medical, Ochopee  
05/26/12: Vehicle Accident, Ochopee  
05/26/12: Emergency Medical, Everglades City  
05/26/12: Vehicle Accident, 60 MM I-75  
05/28/12: Emergency Medical, Everglades City  
05/29/12: Emergency Med, Plantation Island  
05/29/12: Emergency Medical, Everglades City  
05/31/12: Smoke Investigation, Port of the Islands  
06/01/12: Emergency Medical, Copeland  
06/02/12: Vehicle Accident, 50 MM I-75  
06/03/12: Vehicle Accident, 64 MM I-75  
06/04/12: Emergency Medical, Everglades City  
06/04/12: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee  
06/04/12: Vehicle Accident, 71 MM I-75  
06/05/12: Vehicle Accident, Chokoloskee  
06/05/12: Vehicle Fire, 78 MM I-75

Ochopee Fire Control District Advisory Board will meet **Monday, July 9**, at Port of the Islands at 4:00 p.m.

## DOCTOR'S CLINIC

Dr. Kirk DeMartino of Marco Island will see patients on Fridays by appointment only. You can contact him at (239) 642-5552.



## MOBILE PET VET

Dr. Lopez will not be coming to Everglades City in June. His next visit to our area will be on **Saturday, July 14**, at McLeod Park from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. He will also not be coming in August but will return in September. Residents may take their pets to his office in Naples. For more information and appointments, please phone him at 777-PETS (7387) or visit website [www.naplesmobilepetvet.com](http://www.naplesmobilepetvet.com).



## INDEPENDENCE DAY

Our Independence Day celebrations will be on **Saturday, June 30**.



The theme of the parade is "Honoring Our Veterans." There are prizes for the best floats! Fill in a parade entry form at City Hall or phone Elaine at 695-2695.

Donation boxes have been placed around town to help pay for the fireworks. Residents are asked to donate \$10.00 - \$20.00. You can drop off your cash or check at City Hall.

Plan to have a fun-filled family day and dress up the kiddies patriotically for a chance to be Miss or Mister Firecracker.

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# SCHOOL NEWS

Everglades City School

phone: 377-9800 or 695-2561

website: [www.collierschools.com/evg](http://www.collierschools.com/evg)

## IMPORTANT DATES

Thurs, June 7 Meet New Principal Bob Spano  
 Tues, June 12 Regular School Board Meeting  
 Fri, June 15 Report cards sent home (secondary)  
 End of June FCAT scores expected  
 Wed, July 25 Individual student FCAT scores may be picked up at school



### *From Savannah's Eyes*

Hooray!! School's out for Summer! I am so happy that summer is here because I'm ready to soak up the sun and go on vacation with my family. Plus I'm going to spend time with all my friends. My freshman year has flown by so quickly! It seems like it was just yesterday that I was starting my 9th grade year in a new shirt, jeans, and shoes. Next school year I'm going to be a sophomore and next thing you know a junior then senior! I want my high school years to pass by slowly so I can take it all in; but I guess I'm going to have to soak it in! So what's your plan for summer? Beach, family vacations, month getaways? Whatever it is I hope you all have a great start of your summer vacation and I know I will be!

Living it up!

Love, Savannah

*Savannah Oglesby will be entering the 10<sup>th</sup> grade at Everglades City School and is a regular contributor to this paper.*

## Summer Tutoring Classes Offered

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

## **BUSY SUMMER!**

There's plenty for youngsters to do during the school recess:  
 June 11-14: Summer Camp (ages 4-11)  
 June 17-21: Chokoloskee Church of God Vacation Bible School  
 June 18-21: Summer Camp (ages 4-11)  
 June 25-28: Build-a-Boat (High School students)  
 July 9-13: First Baptist Vacation Bible School  
 July 16-19: Build-a-Chair (grades 5-12, younger kids preferred)  
 July 20: Hot Summer Nights  
 July 23-26: Summer Camp (ages 4-11)  
 July 30 – Aug 2: Summer Camp (ages 4-11)  
 Aug 6-9: Tennis Camp (ages 6-15)  
 Plus 3 CCSO outings, dates to be announced.

## GREAT GATORS

Pre-K – Waylon Demere  
 K – Carson Foss  
 1 – Sienna Dungan  
 2– Chloe Carver, Lily Batman  
 3,4 – None submitted  
 5 – Claybrook Story, Bailey Richards  
 6 – Damian Strickland  
 7 – Brandon Bruscini  
 8 – Mackenzie Carver  
 High School – Cris Steffen, Wayde Strickland



**Congratulations to Brandy Bowen, Lillian Pablo Jeronimo, Kristin McMillin, Paige Robinson Hilton, Cris Steffen, Houston Brown, Trevyr Daniels, and Savannah Oglesby (pictured above) who scored a Level 4 on their FCAT. Principal Cherise Brummer promised to receive a pie-in-the-face from the achievers.**



**Cindy Dreyfuss presented Star Lab for the school students who took their shoes off and climbed inside. They saw all the stars and learned about constellations and the stories behind them.**  
*Photos & reports by Trina Mitchell*

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## Florida Tales



## "The Stone Crab"

by Chester Keene

I was helping a friend out by helping him pull his Stone Crab traps, this was all new to me not knowing anything about the process. First thing on the trap was a bale of Marijuana that was tossed overboard and caught in the trap buoy line. Now what? A call was made to the Coast Guard Station to advise them of the Weed. That was the first mistake of the trip. They asked us to pick it up and put it on board. Second mistake of the trip. We picked it up and it smelled to High Heaven, it had been in the water a long time. Later found out it was tossed off a boat up around Sarasota and had been floating south with the tide. The weather was cold and windy and blowing. The seas were picking up. We went ahead and pulled the traps and put the MJ in the rear of the boat with the box used to keep the claws in when removed from the crab. The trap was rebaited and set out again. The weather was really beginning to pickup and some traps that needed to be repaired were kept on board adding additional weight in the stern of the boat. The water in the back was turning dark, it reminded me of a strong Tea color. The Scuppers had to be plugged to keep the water from flooding the boat. A stone crab had crawled out of the box before the claw was removed and was crawling around in this dark water, he was frothing from the mouth. After I worked my way to get him reached down and in a defiance pose he raised both claws in the air for a second or two and they both fell off, right off his shell. Crabs have the ability when needed to shed the claws when they have to. Must have been some bad stuff he was swimming in.

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

Recipe for Good Eating  
Cheesecake

submitted by Patty Huff

## Crust:

1 to 1 ¼ cups Graham Crackers, crushed  
¼ cup sugar  
5 to 6 TBS Unsalted Butter, softened

## Filling:

10 oz Cream Cheese, softened  
½ cup Powdered Sugar  
1 tsp Vanilla  
1 cup Heavy Cream, whipped

Make crust by combining all in a food processor, then spread into the bottom and up the sides of a spring form pan.

For the filling, stir together cream cheese and sugar; add vanilla. In a separate bowl, whip heavy cream until thickened; then fold gently into cheese mixture. Pour into prepared crust and bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Serve warm or cold. Keep refrigerated. May be topped with your favorite fruit or sauce. Enjoy!

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

## MUSEUM of the Everglades NEWS

The reception for the Everglades City Students was held on Friday, June 1, with visitors and students enjoying the exhibit. "Artists of the Swamp" will be on display in the Pauline Reeves Gallery throughout the summer months of June, July and August.



*Art work by Hector Roldan, 11<sup>th</sup> grade, pictured above*

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

With the winter residents gone, volunteers are needed at the front desk to greet visitors. If you are able to spare a few hours a week and enjoy meeting new people from around the world, please call Martha at 695-0008 to schedule a time. Everyone welcome!

## Businesses Spotlight

## Loco's Produce

by Marya Repko



We're all happy to get good veggies here at a reasonable price without having to drive to Naples, thanks to Loco's Produce which is set up next to Everglades City Post Office on Saturday mornings during the summer.

I remember young Frank here when he was a teen, talking in English to customers because father Loco wasn't that fluent. They were under the SR-29 Barron River bridge for a while but can't remember where they were before that. I also met Loco at Everglades National Park gathering up fiddler crabs for fishing bait and at old Airport 52-acre tract on the docks when he was fishing. And, I met Loco's wife at the veggie stand after Loco's death... a lovely woman who I think works in the school system.

Frank said they buy veggies in Immokalee market to bring down here. We're all glad he is keeping up Loco's tradition and serving this area.



## SHERIFF'S REPORT

On Thursday, May 24, there were two daylight residential burglaries that occurred on Rewis Drive on Chokoloskee Island. Both cases are currently under investigation.

Sometime during the evening hours of Monday, June 4, a vehicle was burglarized while parked at Outdoor Resorts in Chokoloskee.

**If you have any information concerning criminal or suspicious activity please notify the Collier County Sheriff's Office immediately at 252-9300 non-emergency or "911" for emergencies.**



## FWC News

There will be a Hunter Safety Course on **Saturday, June 9**, in Veterans' Park, Naples. For info, phone 561-625-5122.

The 2012 Gulf of Mexico red snapper recreational harvest season began on June 1 in state and federal waters. The last day of the 40-day season is July 10. By filling out a survey card or making a phone call, anglers can provide biologists valuable information about red snapper and other reef fish. This information includes where a red snapper is caught and released, the type of fishing equipment used, the size of the fish and its condition when released. Fisheries researchers and managers use the data from these reported catch-and-release trips to assess the status of this important recreational fishery. To request a postage-paid survey card, email FishStats@MyFWC.com. And, if you catch a tagged fish and report it to the Angler Tag Return Hotline at 800-367-4461, you will receive a free T-shirt.

**For wildlife info and regulations, see [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com).  
Wildlife Alert Hotline: 888-404-FWCC (3922) or \*FWC (cell)**

## Collier County Flood Insurance Maps

On **June 14**, map amendment documents will be available through the Collier County Land Development Services website ([www.colliergov.net](http://www.colliergov.net)) and through the FEMA Map Service Center website ([www.msc.fema.gov](http://www.msc.fema.gov)). Residents who may be affected are encouraged to visit the websites, or call the Collier County Floodplain Hotline at (239) 252-2942 to find out if their property will be removed from the SFHAs shown on the new maps. By removing properties from high-risk areas of flooding on flood insurance rate maps, this also removes the Federal mandatory flood insurance purchase requirement for those properties. However, a mortgage lender, as a condition of the mortgage loan, may require the purchase of flood insurance in any flood zone.

## Recreational ORV Closure in BigC

The annual 60-day Recreational ORV Closure began on June 4 for all units of Big Cypress National Preserve that allow for wheeled ORV access. The closure will be lifted on August 3. For info, contact Bob DeGross at 695-1107.



## The Living Gulf Coast

by Charles Sobczak

(Excerpt from *The Living Gulf Coast* which is available at the Chamber Welcome Center and the Big Cypress Swamp Visitor Center)

**Magnificent Frigatebird** (*Fregata magnificens*) Other names: man-o'-war bird, pirate of the sea, hurricane bird / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=LC / Life span: to 19 years / Length 35-45 in. (89-116 cm) / Wingspan: 85-88 in. (217-224 cm) / Weight: 2.8-4.2 lb (1.3-1.9 kg) / Nests: in a large colony in Estero Bay in Lee County and in the Florida Keys / Found: Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Collier Counties, coastal / Months found: **JfmaMJASOND** (lower case indicates nesting season).



*Photos by Judd Patterson*

One of the most efficient flying birds in the world, the magnificent frigatebird rivals the albatross family in its ability to remain airborne for extended periods of time. Extremely light and with an enormous wingspan, it has the lowest wing-loading (weight to wingspan) of any bird in the world. Seemingly suspended in the breeze, the frigatebird resembles a kite or large black bat soaring high overhead.

The frigatebird is kleptoparasitic, a feeding characteristic most often found in insects but also observed in certain birds. This means that the frigatebird will often harass a gannet, anhinga, or booby into disgorging its catch, then snatch it away from the other bird in midair—hence the nickname, pirate of the sea.

On the open ocean the frigatebird survives on squid, jellyfish, fish, and even young sea turtles. A truly spectacular flyer, the frigatebird has been observed synchronizing its speed and aligning its direction perfectly to snatch flying fish while the fish is airborne! In the Florida Keys, this behavior makes the frigatebird a welcome sight for anglers searching for the pelagic fishes of the Gulf Stream (dolphin, wahoo, marlin, and tuna) because the frigatebird tends to follow these fish in hopes of feeding on their by-catch or capturing the flying fish fleeing before them.

The male frigatebird has a large red pouch that it inflates during breeding season. The chicks of the frigatebird are pure white and extremely vulnerable to predation. They remain with the mother for more than a year after hatching, and because of the risk of being killed by other nesting frigatebirds, they are never left unattended. Because of this lengthy upbringing, the female frigatebird mates once every other year. The frigatebird has been known to get swept up in major storms. In 1988 Hurricane Gilbert carried a flock deep into North America, leading to record sightings as far north as Ontario. Recent DNA testing has shown that the frigatebird is more closely related to the penguin than to the pelican family where most scientific literature still places it. Most predation to the frigatebird comes at the nesting site. It has no known predators once this large bird is at sea.



*Charles Sobczak lives and writes on Sanibel Island. To find out more about the author and his books, visit [www.indigopress.net](http://www.indigopress.net).*



## 2012 Sawfish Abundance Survey in Everglades National Park

by Dana M. Bethea

NOAA Fisheries Panama City Laboratory Panama City, FL



After skipping the April expedition, researchers were excited to get back to Everglades City and back in the field May 23-24. This trip was short and focused mainly on downloading data from and cleaning the acoustic receiver stations in the Ten Thousand Islands Backcountry Region.

Researchers were able to fit 2 new animals with acoustic tags last week. Each acoustic tag emits an ultrasonic “ping” at a unique frequency. Acoustic stations record the acoustic tag number as a tagged animal swims by. Stations are anchored on the east- and west-sides of Chokoloskee Island and along Turner River, Hurdles Creek, Mud Bay, Cross Bays, Crooked Creek and Lopez River. Stations are designated with a large white hard plastic float. Boaters, please exercise caution and stay clear of all acoustic stations. The acoustic tagging project will continue through December 2012 in the backcountry waters of Everglades National Park.

The Smalltooth Sawfish Abundance Survey researchers will be back in Everglades City June 26-30.

If you see or encounter a smalltooth sawfish, please contact the National Sawfish Encounter Database at (352) 392-2360. Input and cooperation from the general public is greatly valued. Remember, exercise caution when untangling the animal from fishing line and never remove the saw.



This research follows permits EVER-2012-SCI-0008 and ESA-13330 and is funded through the NOAA Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office in St. Petersburg, FL.

## GLADES DAZE

by the ENP Gulf Coast Park Rangers

### Lightning Whelk

As the last of the dinosaurs took their final breaths a new creature began to emerge. This marine invertebrate was a large snail, their foot- long shells still appreciated by beachcombers today. It is one of a select few species with a “sinistral” shell that coils to the left instead of the right, considered sacred in certain parts of the world. Named for the lightning-like pattern on its shell, the Lightning Whelk has a very interesting life history as well as a significance reaching beyond its ecological role.



The life of a Lightning Whelk begins as a struggle takes place in the intertidal zone in an egg capsule about the size of a quarter containing 20 to 100 eggs. Only one whelk will survive and break out of the egg capsule, one capsule of up to 175 forming part of a twirled egg case attached to a rock or other substrate by the female. This whelk emerges a miniature adult Lightning Whelk primed to become a powerful predator living up to 10 years in shallow marine waters.

It spends its time slowly cruising the sea floor on its tongue-like foot or burying itself just under the sand’s surface in search of the preferred menu of bivalves such as clams, oysters, and scallops. Upon locating a tasty morsel, the lightning whelk begins to work on slowly yet forcefully prying it open.

Not only is the lightning whelk a strong predator but it is also prey for animals, like crabs or gulls. Whelks have also been an important food source for humans, dating back to at least 10,000 years. The meat extracted, the shell then becomes a very useful tool as a hammer or axe, and even as a drinking cup!

## FLORIDA FLORA

### Mosquitoes

by Marya Repko

One way to keep the mosquitoes down is to keep your grass short. The rule in Everglades City is "10 inches for 10 days"— that's how tall your grass can be before the City takes action. If the City has to mow, after you've been warned, you will be charged.

I've also discovered that trimming bushy plants releases lots of the pesky insects who like to nestle in them so keep your shrubs tidy in the summer

I bought something called “citronella” which is a lemon-scented geranium (*pelargonium citrosum*) but have since read that, although it does smell nice, this is not the source of the insect repellent oil. That is a form of lemongrass (*cymbopogon*) so it's back to the garden center to see if I can find it.



## LOCAL HISTORY

### A Pioneer Remembers the Everglades Early Days History of Southwest Florida

by Melanie Benfield



*House on S.R. 29 in Copeland where Smith resided*

When the Everglades was nothing but swamp and sawgrass, a few brave folks came to tame the wilderness.

Over the past 80

years, an original pioneer has come face-to-face with a panther, traversed the Ochopee swamps searching for oil and seen the rise of the tomato industry. Smith has also watched the tomato and the lumber industries come and go, and he has seen the Tamiami Trail rise out of a sea of sawgrass.

#### Smith's Beginning

Smith was born in Tampa in 1910 and started his career in the donut business, but his passion was building and selling radios. He constructed early prototypes in empty oatmeal boxes, but by the mid-20's, he moved on to more complicated "tube-sets," the first of which was given to his grandfather.

#### The Move to Southwest Florida

In October 1928, Smith's uncle, J.B. Janes, moved to Ochopee with his partner E.C. Gaunt, and planted the first tomato field. Smith drove his aunt, Eulalie Janes, down from Tampa to manage the Gaunt-Janes boarding house that same year.

In 1931, Janes befriended county founder, Barron G. Collier and bought ten acres from Collier on the east side of State Road 29 in Copeland. Janes moved there with a new partner, Alfred B. Webb. "Barron Collier owned 90 percent of the county back then," Smith recalls.

#### The Land of Tomatoes

The 10-acre parcel was located next to Highway 29 and included a boardinghouse, bunkhouse (which Eulalie took over) and a store, along with two small houses on the south side. Across the highway lay the railroad tracks.

Janes and Webb planted the first tomato field in Copeland in 1931.

"Unfortunately, the rains came early and flooded the fields," Smith said. "They had to float small boats between the plowed rows to pick tomatoes. The crop was ultimately a failure."

In 1932, a new tomato crop allowed the Janes-Webb partnership to pay off all their debt from the previous year and still clear \$40,000.00.

"That was good money back then," stated Smith.

In 1932, Smith permanently moved to sparsely populated Copeland, working as the electrician for Janes Packing House and operating his first radio shop out of the pine-framed bunkhouse.

In May 1932, Smith and Louis Brocksmith built two bridges to cross the canal in front of the Janes' properties. The bridges and facility remained in use until the National Park Service purchased the property in the late 1990's. Two other uncles, Wayne and Winford Janes, moved to the area in 1933, and the company of J.B. Janes was incorporated. (Janes Scenic Drive is named for Winford Janes who would later serve as county commissioner).

#### Growth Begins

The Janes Restaurant opened New Years Eve 1933 with jukebox music, dancing and 3.2 beer.

"Jukeboxes were a rarity," Smith recalled. "I drove to Tampa with J.B. and Winford, and we bought a 'non-selecting' Seeburg Jukebox from a 'house of ill-repute'. At that time, there were no selection buttons on jukeboxes. Customers would feed the machine nickels till it played their favorite songs."

Smith met his wife, Bobbie Paul, in Copeland when she came down with her sister and brother-in-law who worked in the packing house. Smith knew there was no heat in the little house Bobbie's family was staying in, and he wooed her with a portable space heater. The couple married in Everglades City in 1937, and later had two children, Virginia and Marvin Smith.

#### Searching for Oil

When Gulf Oil Corporation began exploration in Copeland, Smith joined the company's research division in 1937.

"Gulf Oil had the first four-wheel drive trucks in the state of Florida. They were custom-made in Detroit by Marmon-Herrington," he related. "They had over-sized Goodyear tires - the precursor to the famed swamp buggy."

In 1939, the Smiths and their newborn baby girl moved into one of the small, pine-framed houses south of Janes Store. All of the houses in the area were built above the ground with boardwalks running to the outhouses.

#### Living with Panthers

"One night I had walked 50 feet along the boardwalk, when I heard the hissing and snarling of a panther who was stalking the chicken coop," said Smith. "We stared at each other. Neither one of us wanted to jump from the boardwalk into the water, so I turned and ran back to the house. It only took me five steps to run back 50 feet. The next time I went out after dark, I made sure I brought a flashlight and a 30-30."

#### During World War II

In the early 1940's, Smith was the only electrician in Eastern Collier County. There were two sawmills and six tomato packing houses. During World War II, they were all rated "priority number one," which meant the lumber and the tomatoes went to the army.



Smith remembers D. Graham Copeland, who played a vital role procuring the Atlantic Coast Line Railway to Southwest Florida and was instrumental in the creation of Collier County. Smith said, Graham managed the development of Everglades (now Everglades City), which was the county seat until 1962, and oversaw the completion of the Tamiami Trail, which opened April 1928.

#### Tamiami Trail - Tampa to Miami

"Tamiami Trail was the worse road in the county," Smith said. "It was all sharp, graveled stone. General Tire Company tested their tires by running trucks on it between Naples and Miami. And there was so little traffic, you could lie down and take a nap in the middle of it."

**Editor's Note: E.B. Smith passed away in May 2011 at the age of 100.**

RESTAURANT NEWS



- Camellia Street Grill (695-2003):  
*Closed for the summer*
- City Seafood (695-4700):  
6:00 am – 6:00 pm; daily  
Fish Market also open
- Everglades Seafood Depot (695-0075):  
10:30 am - 10:00 pm; daily
- Everglades Scoop (695-0375):  
*Closed for the summer*
- Gator Express (695-3937):  
7:00 am – 6:00 pm; Sun - Thurs  
7:00 am – 7:00 pm; Fri, Sat  
*Subway closed for summer.*
- Glades Haven Deli (695-2091):  
6:00 am – 6:00 pm; Sun - Thurs  
6:00 am – 9:00 pm; Fri, Sat
- Havana Café (695-2214):  
*Closed for the summer*
- Island Café (695-0003):  
6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily
- Ivey House (695-3299):  
6:30 – 9:30 am; daily  
Continental breakfast, box lunches
- Joanie's Blue Crab Café (695-2682):  
11:00 am – 4:00 pm; Thurs thru Mon
- Oyster House Restaurant (695-2073):  
11:00 am – 9:00 pm; Sun thru Thurs  
11:00 am – 10:00 pm; Fri, Sat  
4:30 -6:30 pm – Early Bird Specials
- Right Choice Pizzeria (695-3663):  
5:00 – 8:30 pm; Thurs- Sun (takeout)
- Rod & Gun (695-2101):  
7:00 – 10:00 am Breakfast; daily  
11:30 am - 9:00 pm; daily
- Susie's Station (719-0190):  
11:00 am - 5:00 pm; daily
- Triad Seafood (695-0722 or 695-2662):  
*Closed for the summer*
- Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535)  
9:00 am – 7:00 pm, Mon-Sat  
10:00 am – 6:30 pm, Sun
- Grimm's Stone Crab (695-3222)  
*Closed for the summer*
- Loco's Produce  
Frank's cell phone (239) 462-7050  
7:00 am - 4:00 pm; Saturday  
ECity Post Office



Swiss artist and frequent visitor George Furrer sent us this painting of Copeland. See the Local History article about E.B. Smith on page 10.


TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

Lat: 25.87°N Long: 81.37°W

<http://TIDESANDCURRENTS.NOAA.GOV>

		48pm	3.5	H	
06/08	Fri	01:17am	-0.3	L	
06/08	Fri	07:03am	2.4	H	
06/08	Fri	01:20pm	0.7	L	
06/08	Fri	06:06pm	2.9	H	
06/09	Sat	02:06am	-0.1	L	
06/09	Sat	07:49am	2.4	H	
06/09	Sat	02:22pm	0.7	L	
06/09	Sat	07:15pm	2.6	H	
06/10	Sun	02:58am	0.1	L	
06/10	Sun	08:34am	2.4	H	
06/10	Sun	03:33pm	0.6	L	
06/10	Sun	08:26pm	2.3	H	
06/11	Mon	03:53am	0.3	L	
06/11	Mon	09:20am	2.5	H	
06/11	Mon	04:47pm	0.6	L	
06/11	Mon	09:39pm	2.1	H	
06/12	Tue	04:50am	0.5	L	
06/12	Tue	10:07am	2.6	H	
06/12	Tue	05:55pm	0.4	L	
06/12	Tue	10:59pm	2.0	H	
06/13	Wed	05:46am	0.7	L	
06/13	Wed	10:55am	2.6	H	
06/13	Wed	06:52pm	0.3	L	
06/14	Thu	12:21am	2.0	H	
06/14	Thu	06:39am	0.7	L	
06/14	Thu	11:41am	2.7	H	
06/14	Thu	07:42pm	0.2	L	
06/15	Fri	01:27am	2.0	H	
06/15	Fri	07:28am	0.8	L	
06/15	Fri	12:24pm	2.8	H	
06/15	Fri	08:27pm	0.1	L	
06/16	Sat	02:11am	2.1	H	
06/16	Sat	08:13am	0.9	L	
06/16	Sat	01:04pm	2.9	H	
06/16	Sat	09:08pm	0.0	L	
06/17	Sun	02:46am	2.1	H	
06/17	Sun	08:54am	0.9	L	
06/17	Sun	01:41pm	3.0	H	
06/17	Sun	09:47pm	-0.1	L	
06/18	Mon	03:20am	2.2	H	
06/18	Mon	09:32am	0.9	L	
06/18	Mon	02:15pm	3.1	H	
06/18	Mon	10:25pm	-0.2	L	
06/19	Tue	03:55am	2.3	H	
06/19	Tue	10:08am	0.8	L	
06/19	Tue	02:46pm	3.1	H	
06/19	Tue	11:01pm	-0.2	L	
06/20	Wed	04:32am	2.3	H	
06/20	Wed	10:43am	0.8	L	
06/20	Wed	03:15pm	3.1	H	
06/20	Wed	11:37pm	-0.2	L	
06/21	Thu	05:12am	2.3	H	
06/21	Thu	11:20am	0.8	L	
06/21	Thu	03:45pm	3.1	H	

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

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

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

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

**FOR SALE:** If you're into fishing, this is the place for you! Lovely duplex with each unit having 2 bedrooms & 2 baths. Lower level completely redone. Located in Chokoloskee on a canal, deeded waterfront, with dock & lift. Reduced to \$350,000. Call Bonnie Woodward, Keller Williams Realty, (239) 860-6369.

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

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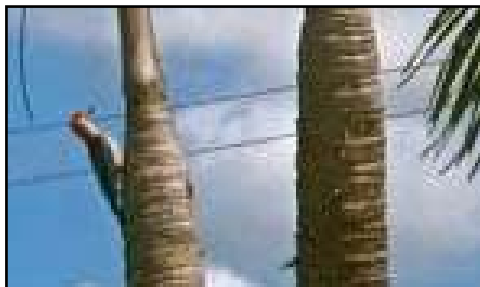
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**PET PICS**

**Bingo Dickinson recently visited the Everglades; now on his way cross-country to Seattle for a summer vacation.**

**SEND US YOUR PET PICTURES!**



David Freundlich sent this photo of a Pileated Woodpecker on Plantation Island.



Thanks to Franklin Adams for this photo of a bear behind his home in Golden Gate.

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**The MULLET RAPPER**

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

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

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

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6/8/12