

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

DECEMBER 19, 2014 - JANUARY 1, 2015

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

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Cris Steffen



United States Coast Guard Seaman Recruit Steffen graduated on October 17, 2014, from Company India 190 after 8 weeks of Boot Camp in Cape May, New Jersey. He is now stationed in Kapolei, Hawaii as a United States Coast Guard Seaman Apprentice. Cris was Valedictorian of Everglades City School graduating class of 2014. Cris is the son of Dean and Shirley Steffen of Chokoloskee, Florida.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR**



SANTA'S VISIT

Santa will deliver gifts on **Friday, December 19**, at the Everglades City Community Center from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.



ART-IN-THE-GLADES

Have fun supporting local vendors doing your last minute holiday shopping at Art-in-the-Glades from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on **Saturday, December 20**, in McLeod Park. To set up a table, telephone Marya Repko at 695-2905.

Island Café Gift Shop

The Mullet Rapper failed to mention the wonderful gift shop at Island Café in its last issue highlighting places to shop locally. Be sure to stop by and see their unique items for this season.

Wishes from Win-Car

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Please come by and check our tackle aisle and rods and combos from \$19.95. Mirrolure and Yozuri shrimp: buy 2 and get one free.

Everglades Area Chamber of Commerce General Election

December 29 at 6:00 p.m. Island Café
The following individuals have been nominated for the 2015 Executive Board: Corey Billie, Elaine Middelstaedt, Herb Kehoe, Jack Shely, Kenny Brown, Myrna Baier, Tony Brock, Lynn Stokes, Tod Johnson, Sammy Hamilton, Carol Foss, Ashish Parishad and Karen Cochran. For more info, call Carol Foss at 695-2003.

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FEATURE: Restaurant Holiday News p.11

If you have news, photos, announcements, or articles ... email mulletrapper@gmail.com or phone 695-2397.

DECEMBER 2014 – JANUARY 2015

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
14 Holy Family Catholic Church Pot-Luck	15 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm	16 Reach Out Mtg 8:30 am, City Hall Little Gator Clinic Lions Club Pot Luck	17 Ladies Christmas Coffee Jan Brock's Home, 8 am	18 Book Club <i>see p.9</i> SAC Mtg <i>see p.5</i> Driftwood Spa Party	RAPPER 19 VA Support Santa Arrives <i>see p.1</i> ORV Permits <i>see p.3</i>	20 Art-in-Glades <i>see p.1</i>
21 Youth Christmas Program <i>see p.3</i>	new moon ○ 22 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church 7 pm	23	24 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am Church Services <i>see p.3</i>	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26	27
28	29 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	30	31 Ladies Coffee Sweet Mayberry's, 8 am Church Services <i>see p.3</i>	JAN 1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	RAPPER 2 VA Support	3
4	full moon ● 5 ESHP Mtg 8:30 am, City Hall Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	6 Congressional Aide City Council Mtg Marco Museum Reception	7 Ladies Coffee Havana Café 8 am Back to School <i>see p.5</i>	8	9 ESHP Movie Night <i>see p.3</i>	10
11	12 OFCD Mtg <i>see p.3</i> Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church, 7 pm	13	14 Ladies Coffee Island Café 8 am	15 Book Club SAC Mtg <i>see p.5</i>	RAPPER 16 VA Support	17

Jan 24: Pancake Fly-In

Jan 31: Smallwood Music Fest

Feb 6,7,8: Seafood Festival

Feb 24-28: MSD Festival

THRIFT SHOP: Tues, Thurs, Sat, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm
 LIONS CLUB: No meeting in December
 DR DEMARTINO: Fri, 1:30 to 4:30 pm
 FOOD PANTRY: Wed, 12 noon to 2 pm, Community Church
 EVERGLADES AL-ANON: Tues, 8 am and 12 noon, City Hall
 VA SUPPORT: Alternate Fridays, 10 am, Community Church
 MUSEUM: Mon - Sat, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
 CARNESTOWN Recycle and Trash: 2nd Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm

SKATING RINK: Fri, Sat, 7-10 pm
 REACH OUT: 3rd Tues, 8:30 am, City Hall
 LITTLE GATOR CLINIC: Tues, Dec 16, 5 to 7 pm
 AA: Wed, 5:00 pm, Community Church
 NA: Sat, 11:30 am, Community Center (Skating Rink)
 WEIGHT LOSS: Tues, 5 to 6 pm, Community Church
 SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily, 10 am to 5 pm

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: 1st Tuesday (4:30-5:30 pm), other Tuesdays (10-11 am)

POST OFFICE HOURS: Everglades City 9:30 am to 1 pm and 2 to 4:30 pm; Sat: outside pick-up 3:45 pm; Chokoloskee 9:30 am to 1 pm and 2 to 4:30 pm; Sat: outside pick-up 3:30 pm; Ochopee 8 to 10 am; 12 noon to 4 pm; Sat: Open for service 10 to 11:30 am.

SHERIFF: 252-9300

CITY HALL: 695-3781

PUBLIC LIBRARY: 695-2511

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: 695-3941

AIRPORT: 695-2778

FAKAHATCHEE: 695-4593

BIG CYPRESS: 695-2000

EVG NATIONAL PARK: 695-3311

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

COLLIER COUNTY: 252-8999

ORV PERMITS

Off-road vehicle permits for Big Cypress Preserve will be available for purchase (\$100) on Friday, December 19, at the Off-Road Vehicle Office (Thurs - Mon, 9 am to 3:30 pm; Monday for permit renewals only) at Oasis Visitor Center. Permits are valid from the date of purchase, through January 31, 2016. A total of 2,000 permits will be available during the permit period. For information, contact 695-1205.

Church Holiday Services

Chokoloskee Church of God

Special Youth Christmas program December 21 at 6 pm. All are welcome!!

Everglades Community Church

On December 24 there will be a Traditional Christmas Eve Service "Carols and Candlelight" at 7 pm and on December 31 a New Year's Eve Service "So Long 2014 - Hello 2015" at 7 pm.

Holy Family Catholic Church

10:30 a.m. Mass will be held on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

See additional information on page 11

Lifetime Sportsman's License

Purchase a Lifetime Sportsman's License for a youngster ages 5 - 21 for \$500 rather than the normal price of \$1,000. This special price is for a limited time only (November 24 - December 31). The license may be purchased at all Florida county tax collectors' offices, and by calling toll-free (888) FISH-FLORIDA (888-347-4356). If you need further assistance with your purchase, you may contact the FWC Help Desk at (850) 270-2750. For more information, visit the website and follow instructions: https://license.myfwc.com/Customer/InternetCustomerLookup



Historic Homes Signs

The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation has ordered additional "Collier Home" signs for the historic 1920s homes in Everglades City. If you would like to have one for your home or give as a Christmas present, call Marya at 695-2905 for more information.

Marco Island Historical Museum

"Painting S.W. Florida History" will be exhibited from January 6 to March 21. An opening artist reception will take place on January 6 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is free. During the reception, artwork will be juried by a panel of experts and will include a "Peoples' Choice Award" for attendees to vote on their favorite piece.

The exhibition portrays Southwest Florida as one of the last frontiers of the United States. Each piece tells the story of settlers like Tommie Barfield, who arrived on Caxambas with her family in 1902, W.T. Collier who settled on Marco in 1870, and Barron Gift Collier who bought large tracts of Lee County in the early 1920s. Given a set criteria laid down by the art committee, the artists were given access to historical photographs from the Collier County Museum archives and by Marco Island Historians Bill and Betsy Perdichizzi. All the paintings were required to be original works produced within the past three years.

MOVIE NIGHT



The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation will again show historical movies, especially those with a connection to this area, each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Jinkins Fellowship Hall behind Everglades Community Church. The first one is "Everglades Odyssey" on Friday, January 9. It tells the story of a young couple who kayak through the Ten Thousand Islands. It was filmed from 1957 to 1960 and shows some lovely scenery in the days before Hurricane Donna. The movies are open to the public and free of charge but reservations are requested. To book your places, email ESHP@hotmail.com or phone Marya at (239) 695-2905.

PANCAKE FLY-IN



The following is the schedule of the pancake breakfasts hosted by Wings 10,000 Islands Tours which will take place at Everglades Airpark from 10 a.m. to noon: January 24, February 21, March 21, April TBA. Everyone is welcome.

HOLIDAY MAIL POSTING DATES:

Domestic
Dec 20: First Class
Dec 21: Priority
Dec 22: Express

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 12/01/14: Emergency Medical, Port of Islands
12/01/14: Emergency Medical, 63 MM I-75
12/01/14: Emergency Medical, Copeland
12/02/14: Vehicle Accident, 81 MM I-75
12/02/14: Emergency Medical, Port of Islands
12/02/14: Emergency Medical, Copeland
12/02/14: Emergency Medical, Copeland
12/04/14: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
12/04/14: Fire, Chokoloskee Island
12/04/14: Vehicle Accident, 70 MM I-75
12/05/14: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
12/05/14: Emergency Medical, Port of Islands
12/01/14: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands
12/01/14: Emergency Med, 63 MM I-75
12/01/14: Emergency Medical, Copeland
12/02/14: Vehicle Accident, 81 MM I-75
12/02/14: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands
12/02/14: Emergency Medical, Copeland
12/04/14: Emergency Med, Everglades City
12/04/14: Fire, Chokoloskee Island
12/04/14: Vehicle Accident, 70 MM I-75
12/05/14: Emergency Med, Everglades City
12/05/14: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands

The next Ochopee Fire Control District Advisory Committee will meet at 4 p.m. on Monday, January 12, in the Port of the Islands Fire Station, located at 525 Newport Drive #C, Naples, Florida 34114.

DOCTOR'S CLINIC



Dr. Kirk DeMartino will see patients in Everglades City every Friday from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the office behind the Fire Station. Call (239) 642-5552 for info.

Little Gator Clinic



The free walk-in clinic behind the youngsters will be open from 5 to 7 pm Tuesday, Dec 16 and Jan 20 when Dr. Barnard and Kathy will see patients aged 18 and under.

THRIFT SHOP HOURS

The Thrift Shop is open every week on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, stop in or phone 695-2009.

WEIGHT LOSS SUPPORT

Success Weight Loss class is held every Tuesday from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. at the Community Church Fellowship Hall.

SHELTER FOR ABUSED WOMEN & CHILDREN

Are you in an abusive relationship? Call the 24-hr crisis line: 775-1101 or TTY (239) 775-4265. The shelter provides all services free of charge. Visit www.naplesshelter.org for information.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Everglades City School

phone: 377-9800 or 695-2561

www.evg.collierschools.com

IMPORTANT DATES

Fri, Dec 19	Early Dismissal
Dec 22 – Jan 6	Winter Break – No School
January 7	Students return from Holiday Break
January 13	Report Cards will be distributed
January 15	School Advisory Council Meeting and Student Led Conferences
January 16	Early Release Day
January 19	No School - Martin Luther King's Birthday
January 30	Homecoming

New Season of SWAMP Programs begins for Sixth-Grade Students in Collier County

A new season of environmental education programs for sixth-grade students in Collier County has begun with student field trips to the Big Cypress National Preserve scheduled from now through the end of March. More than 3,000 students, teachers and parents are scheduled to explore the Big Cypress Swamp this season on ranger-led field trips while participating in the Swamp Water and Me Program (SWAMP), the preserve's hands-on environmental education program. The program gives sixth-grade students in Collier County the opportunity to become junior scientists and wildlife biologists for a day of field work in the Big Cypress Swamp. "The program gets students out into the swamp in a fun and exciting way that will build a lasting impression and connection not just to the Big Cypress but to the natural world in general" stated Lisa Andrews, Education and Outreach Coordinator at Big Cypress National Preserve.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Everglades City School will be offering an Adult Education Class for the GED from **January 20 through June 4** every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6:00 - 8:30 pm. The cost will be \$30.00 per person. Please contact the school at (239) 377-9800 to reserve your spot. We look forward to registering anyone who is interested in this program.

YEARBOOK ADS

Purchase an advertisement in the 2015 Everglades City Yearbook (deadline **January 30, 2015**): Full Page: \$150.00; Half Page: \$75.00; Quarter Page: \$50.00; Business Card: \$35.00. Photos and text can be submitted in paper or electronic format. Digital text and photos need to be emailed to Mrs. Owen at owenm3@collierschools.com.

Volunteers Needed

Everglades City School is seeking volunteers for the classrooms, media center and general office assistance. If you would like to assist, please contact Angela Nicholson at 377-2852 or 377-9800. Your assistance is both appreciated and needed!

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Students, Staff and Community,

Our students and staff have worked hard throughout the first semester of this school year and are all looking forward to a very deserving Holiday Break. We will rest up and come back even stronger for the second semester.

I would like to take this time to complement our seniors for the leadership and direction they have given to our underclassmen. I know the underclassmen are watching our seniors and they will follow their lead. When you have a group of seniors like we have, you count on a successful year. Thank you Houston Brown, Trevyr Daniels, Nic Jones, Dylan Lucas, Savannah Oglesby, Dalton Patt, MacKynzie Redmond, and Ana Roldan for what you are doing for our school.

Listed below are some of the upcoming events in January:

January 7 – Students return from the Holiday Break

January 13 – Report Cards will be distributed

January 15 – School Advisory Council Meeting and Student Led Conferences

January 16 – Early Release Day

January 19 – No School - Martin Luther King's Birthday

January 30 – Homecoming

As always, please feel free to call with any questions.

Happy Holidays! Bob Spano, Principal



SPORTS SCHEDULE

Basketball Schedule - HOME Games

For a complete schedule, visit www.evg.collierschools.com
Click on "Sports"

BOYS Varsity:

Dec 18 at 7:00 pm vs Gateway Charter High School

Jan 2 at 1:00 pm vs Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame H.S.

BOYS JV:

Dec 18 at 5:30 pm vs Gateway Charter High School

Jan 2 at 11:30 am vs Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame H.S.

GIRLS:

Away Games; check online for schedule.

THANK YOU from the Booster Club

The Booster Club would like to thank everyone who participated in our activities on December 13 at McLeod Park. Once again, a very successful fundraiser for our Club. Also, a very special thanks to Margaret Johnson, Hazel Mitchell and Jane and HC Rackley. Congratulations to the winners:

1st place for Best Float

Diana Valdez

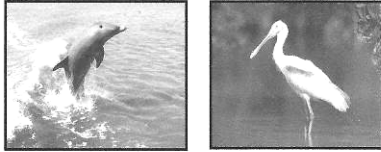
1st place for Golf Cart

"You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" Shannon Brown and Brittney Potter

1st place for Bike

Cameron Foss

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Florida Tales

by Chester Keene



Captain John Foley Horr's Island

Horr's Island, now known as Key Marco, was once owned and settled by Capt. John

Foley Horr 1943-1926. He grew produce as other settlers, pioneers and farmers did in the 10,000 Islands. The good weather, soil and climate produced great amounts of vegetables for the markets. Produce and products were moved to market by schooners and later a railroad was brought in. Pineapples were the fruit most sought after by the consumers as there was a pineapple craze going on around the turn of the century. Over farming and not refurbishing the land led to smaller amounts of crops brought to market. Capt. Horr took advantage of the oyster shells and made them into tabby cement a product which he built his two



story house of there. Some of it still stands as a reminder what was tough enough to survive the hurricanes and other elements. This story and photos were loaned to me by his great granddaughter Ann Dilbone of Naples, Florida.



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

Recipe for Good Eating

Roasted Sweet Potato and Butternut Squash Salad

by Elaine Middelstaedt



Ingredients:

- 2 lbs sweet potatoes and 2 lbs butternut squash, peeled and cut into 1/2 inch cubes (6 cups each)
- 2 teaspoons olive oil and olive oil spray
- 1 cup snipped fresh parsley
- 1 cup fresh cranberries
- 3 TBS orange juice , 2 TBS pure maple syrup, 2 TBS vinegar, 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon, 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg, 1/2 teaspoon salt (or to taste)
- 1 bunch scallions, sliced (about 1 cup)
- 1 cup walnuts
- 1/4 cup olive oil

Preheat oven to 400°. Line 2 cookie sheets with aluminum foil. Spray the foil with olive oil spray. Spread sweet potatoes and butternut squash in a single layer on the cookie sheets. Spray the vegetables with olive oil spray to coat; then drizzle 1tsp of olive oil on each sheet. Roast, uncovered, about 30 minutes, or just until vegetables are tender. Let cool.

In large serving bowl, combine sweet potatoes, butternut squash, scallions, parsley, walnuts and cranberries. Cover and chill for at least 4 hours or up to 24 hours.

For dressing, in a screw-top jar, combine olive oil and the remaining ingredients. Cover and shake well. Pour dressing over salad and toss to coat. Cover, chill for at least 2 hrs, then let stand at room temperature for 30 minutes before service.

Adapted from a Better Homes and Gardens recipe. Great make-ahead recipe for holiday parties.

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

Health, Wellness, and Green Living

by Shannon Snyder



Gluten Free and Wheat Free

The term "gluten" is popping up everywhere, and the topic can be downright confusing at times. The terms "wheat" and "gluten" are often used interchangeably, but they are not the same thing. Gluten is a protein that is found in wheat, barley and rye. While all wheat contains gluten, not all gluten comes from wheat. Some people may also have an actual allergy to wheat itself, not necessarily the gluten.

Wheat Allergy Versus Gluten Intolerance

Those with a wheat allergy experience an allergic reaction, characterized by swelling of the throat, hives, itchy skin, nasal congestion, watery eyes, difficulty breathing, cramps, nausea and possibly anaphylaxis, when wheat is consumed. A wheat allergy usually develops during infancy. Most people outgrow a wheat allergy by 3 to 5, but it can be a lifelong disorder. Gluten intolerance is inability to properly digest gluten, which is a protein found in wheat, barley and rye. Gluten intolerance, which is becoming increasingly prevalent, can range from gluten sensitivity to celiac disease.

What You Can't Eat

The best treatment for both wheat allergy and gluten intolerance is to remove the offending grains from the diet. Those with a wheat allergy must remove foods that contain wheat and wheat products. Sometimes, the presence of wheat is obvious and listed as wheat, whole wheat or wheat bran. Other times it's not so obvious. Other terms that indicate the presence of wheat include semolina, spelt, triticale, seitan, bread flour, farina, couscous, bulgur, malt, malt extract, matzo and graham flour. Those who cannot properly digest gluten must eliminate all wheat products, as well as foods that contain barley and rye. Other gluten-containing ingredients include emmer, kumut, panko, farina, furo, udon, bran and orzo.

What You Can Eat

Although it might seem like having a wheat allergy or gluten intolerance limits pretty much Everything; there are a lot of things that are safe to eat. The foundation of both wheat-free and gluten-free diets is fruits, vegetables and protein, like lean meats and beans. You can also consume grains that don't contain wheat or gluten, like white rice, brown rice, quinoa and maize. Almost any baked good like breads, cookies, and cakes can be made with flours from foods such as oat flour, potato starch, coconut flour and almond flour, which are both wheat-free and gluten-free. Most stores, such as Walmart and Publix, sell pre-made flour mixes and grains such as quinoa that are wheat and gluten free. There has also been a lot of talk about how the wheat we eat in this country is produced and its potential harmful effects. In my next article I will bring up GMO's and what people are saying about our country's genetically modified farming practices and our health.

Shannon Snyder lives in Everglades City with her husband Billy, their two sons and their dog Ruby. She is the owner of Driftwood Spa. Call Shannon at 695-0069 for an appointment.

Collier-Seminole State Park

Guided Canoe Trips: Paddle in the mangroves. Daily guided tours: 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Learn about our unique history & nature. \$30/pp. Reservations: (239) 394-3397

Star Gazing Party

Sponsored by Friends of Collier-Seminole State Park on **January 17, March 14 and April 11** at 7:00 pm. Bring your chairs and enjoy a relaxing night under the stars at Collier-Seminole State Park. You will be viewing the night skies with The Everglades Astronomical Society. There will be an interpretive presentation followed by constellation tours, using telescopes to view stars, galaxies, planets, and nebulae. Come watch the night sky open up and amaze you. For information, call (239) 394-3397.

The Star Gazing Party event can only be held if the weather is permitting. Regular park entrance fees apply (\$5 per vehicle).

ENVIRONMENTAL TALK

by Marya Repko

At the Friends of Fakahatchee Welcome-Back Dinner on December 13, guest speaker Nick Penniman briefly outlined the major topics in his book "Nature's Steward" (reviewed in the *Rapper* 12/5/14) and then brought us up to date with some of the potential disasters waiting to happen in Florida, particularly with water quality.



He outlined the 1998 judgment of the Federal government that the State was not abiding by standards for water pollution and showed examples of terrible destruction since then. And, was it "fudging" to say there was no pollution when an area had not been measured? He admitted to not liking Federal intervention but suggested that sometimes it was necessary and regretted that the EPA was taking a backseat.

He mentioned that many people live in pristine gated communities and do not know about their natural surroundings - the swamps and forests, the native flora and fauna. Although he did not say it, that is what the FOF can help with by conducting tram tours and walks. I spoke later to some Port-of-the-Islands residents (active FOF members) who said they had taken neighbors out into the Fak where they were amazed at what was just down the road and did not realize that the Port had been developed from such a unique environment.

Finally, Nick warned that the funds from documentary tax stamps were earmarked to save endangered lands in Amendment 1 on our last Florida ballot (it carried by a large majority) but might be used by the governor and legislature to pay for management of state parks, thus freeing up money in the general fund and not doing what we thought was specified.

Signed copies of "Nature's Steward" were generously donated by Nick for sale at the Dinner with all proceeds given to the FOF Annual Fund. There are a few left so please send a check for \$22.50 (\$20 plus postage) if you would like one to FOF, P.O. Box 35, Everglades City, 34139, and it will be posted it to you.



Living Gulf Coast

by Charles Sobczak

(*The Living Gulf Coast* is available at the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center)

American Alligator

(*Alligator mississippiensis*) Other names: gator, el lagarto (Spanish), alli / Status: FL=species of special concern, IUCN=LC / Length: 8.2-14.5 ft (2.5-4.4 m) / Weight: 160 (female)-1,200 lb (male) (72-544 kg) / Life span: to 66 years / Reproduces: throughout SW Florida / Found: AC, coastal, near coast, inland / Months found: JFMamijasOND (lower case indicates breeding season).

The alligator, along with birds, survived the fifth extinction some 65.5 million years ago at the end of the Jurassic period. Its lineage goes back 230 million years. Despite the obvious difference in appearance, the alligator is more closely related to birds than to other cold-blooded animals such as turtles, snakes, and lizards. The alligator builds nests, lays eggs, and remains with its offspring for as long as a year after they are hatched—all characteristics commonly found in birds. Another similarity is that, like birds, the alligator, especially the American alligator, is very vocal. Because the alligator was over-harvested for its hide and flesh, the species was placed on the endangered species list in 1967. At that time experts estimated that fewer than 400,000 alligators were left in the state of Florida. Restrictions on hunting, strong conservation efforts, and the alligator's ability to reproduce rapidly all helped to bring this primeval predator back, and 20 years later its status was changed to a species of special concern. Today an estimated 1-1.5 million alligators are living in Florida. Only Louisiana has more, with an estimated 1.5-2 million living in its swamps and bayous. The American alligator has the strongest bite of any living animal, measured in laboratory conditions at 2,125 pounds per square inch. The only known animal to have ever exceeded that level of bone-crushing jaw power was Tyrannosaurus rex. The alligator can hold its breath and remain underwater for as long as six hours. It does this by shunting off the blood supply to its extremities and circulating all of its blood between its brain and heart. It can survive temperatures as low as 26° F but only for brief periods. Its optimum functioning temperature is 89° F.



The alligator has a high reproductive rate. After breeding in the spring, the male and female separate. The female generally lays one clutch of 20 to 50 eggs, covering them with decaying vegetation that generates heat and serves as an incubator. The warmer eggs (90-93° F) become males, and the cooler eggs (82-86° F) become females. Hatchling mortality is very high, with 93 percent succumbing to predation before reaching sexual maturity around seven years of age. Almost every animal living in the wetlands habitat eats alligator eggs or hatchlings, including herons, egrets, raccoons, otters, snakes, bobcats, panthers, bears, fire ants, fish, crocodiles, and other alligators. (*to be continued next issue*)

Photo by Dick Fortune and Sara Lopez

Charles Sobczak is a Sanibel author whose works include the novel *Six Mornings on Sanibel*, and two local guide books, *Living Sanibel* and *The Living Gulf Coast – A Nature Guide to Southwest Florida*. His books are available online and at most local bookstores. For more information about Sobczak's writing go to www.indigopress.net.

LOCAL HISTORY

by Marya Repko
Monroe Station Memories



Laureen Tibbs (shown on the left) and her brother Roy Williams spoke around the camp fire at the Big Cypress Swamp Heritage Festival on December 6 about growing up in Monroe Station in the late 1940s.

They were teenagers in Coral Gables when their parents took over the lease of the wayside facility in 1945. After attending high school from Monday through Friday in Miami, they would drive over the Trail for a weekend in the wilderness.

There was no electricity so that had to pump the gas by hand. A generator charged 12-volt batteries to provide lighting. The station served breakfast and lunch plus drinks. However, there was a telephone line that ran through the hole in a huge tree along the road.

The neighboring Miccosukees became friends and their children followed them around when they went for walks on the Loop Road to observe the wildlife. They swam in the canal next to the Trail and the little Indian youngsters would sit on the bank and yell out when they spotted a gator. The Williams' mother helped the natives produce aprons and pillow cases in traditional patchwork.

During the 1947 hurricane, they boarded up the building and moved to the Standard Oil station in Ochopee (the concrete building next to Joanie's) where everyone gathered to be safe from the winds. The lease for Monroe Station was taken over in 1950 but the couple have fond memories of their time spent there.



Photo of Monroe Station tinted in color by Niki Butcher



MUSEUM of the Everglades

Pauline Reeves
Gallery

Ke Robinson continues her mixed media art collection "Tropical Art with an Edge!" through the end of December. You don't want to miss this colorful exhibit that focuses on Tropical Expressionism. The Friends hosted a reception for the artist on December 6.



Pat Newman with the Marco Island *Coastal Breeze* took this photo of Ke (pictured on the right) with her daughter Brandy and Gayle and County Commissioner Tim Nance. Brandy is also an artist in Winter Park (check out her website at www.brenee.com).

FME Annual Meeting and Luncheon

The Friends of the Museum held their annual meeting and luncheon at Everglades Isle on December 8 with Miami-Dade County's first archaeologist Robert S. Carr. His presentation "New Discoveries in Prehistoric South Florida" was very interesting and informative to the almost 50 attendees. Bob discussed the Miami Circle as well as prehistoric sites in Collier County. His most recent book "Digging Miami" will be reviewed in a future issue of *The Mullet Rapper*.



MSD Festival scheduled for February 24 - 28

The brochure for the 2015 Marjory Stoneman Douglas Festival is now available at the Museum of the Everglades. Many of the kayak/canoe trips, swamp walks and other excursions into the swamp have limited spaces available so call Martha at 695-0008 to sign up now or stop by the Museum. The opening luncheon will be held at Everglades Isle. There are many interesting presentations during the week so don't miss the most popular event of the year at the Museum of the Everglades.

LIFECASTING

by Patty Huff



In reference to the article in the "Local History" section of the December 5 issue, Camille Baumgartner explains in more detail the interesting process of "lifecasting":

"The plaster process is called LIFECASTING, using Alginate then covered with plaster gauze strips to harden. The client is out of the mask within 6 minutes as soon as the gauze sets. They breath normally and love the process...it's like getting a facial! Molds are poured with plaster until set, cleaned & mounted with a pipe.

Joel Meisner & Foundry in New York took the plaster molds to Bronze using the 'lost wax' process. There were eight Bronzes of the Dignitaries of the Seminole Nation completed & turned over to the Curator at that time. They also bought three paintings from the "Seminole Celebration" Exhibit of my art held at Smallwood's Trading Post...depicting Seminole lifestyles."

TAXING THINGS

by Mike, *The Tax Guy***Top Four Year-End IRA Reminders**

Individual Retirement Accounts are an important way to save for retirement. If you have an IRA or may open one soon, there are some key year-end rules that you should know. Here are the top four reminders on IRAs from the IRS:

1. Know the limits. You can contribute a maximum of \$5,500 (\$6,500 if you are age 50 or older) to a traditional or Roth IRA. If you file a joint return, you and your spouse can each contribute to an IRA even if only one of you has taxable compensation. In some cases, you may need to reduce your deduction for traditional IRA contributions. This rule applies if you or your spouse has a retirement plan at work and your income is above a certain level. You have until April 15, 2015, to make an IRA contribution for 2014.

2. Avoid excess contributions. If you contribute more than the IRA limits for 2014, you are subject to a six percent tax on the excess amount. The tax applies each year that the excess amounts remain in your account. You can avoid the tax if you withdraw the excess amounts from your account by the due date of your 2014 tax return (including extensions).

3. Take required distributions. If you're at least age 70½, you must take a required minimum distribution, or RMD, from your traditional IRA. You are not required to take a RMD from your Roth IRA. You normally must take your RMD by Dec. 31, 2014. That deadline is April 1, 2015, if you turned 70½ in 2014. If you have more than one traditional IRA, you figure the RMD separately for each IRA. However, you can withdraw the total amount from one or more of them. If you don't take your RMD on time you face a 50 percent excise tax on the RMD amount you failed to take out.

4. Claim the saver's credit. The formal name of the saver's credit is the retirement savings contributions credit. You may qualify for this credit if you contribute to an IRA or retirement plan. The saver's credit can increase your refund or reduce the tax you owe. The maximum credit is \$1,000, or \$2,000 for married couples. The credit you receive is often much less, due in part because of the deductions and other credits you may claim.

Mike, The Tax Guy, provides income tax services. His phone number is 695-0595.

**SHERIFF'S REPORT**

Please remember to always secure your valuables. The holidays are a busy time in the Everglades area with lots of visitors enjoying our National Parks. Items left in automobiles parked along the Tamiami Trail have been stolen in the past so be sure to lock all car doors. Also, boaters should take care not to leave fishing tackle or equipment in their boats overnight.

Should you have any information any suspicious activity, please contact the Collier County Sheriff's Office immediately at 252-9300.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

**From Savannah's Eyes**

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving filled with delicious food and family! I filled myself up with so much food I could barely breathe. We went up to visit our family in Old Town, Florida, and stayed there for about a week. On the second day, I stumbled upon what seemed to be a young, stray Siamese cat. At first she was shy and stayed a distance from me, but I sat down and was patient and determined to make this cat come to me. Finally, after about 10 minutes of sitting there saying "Come here Kitty!" she finally let me pet her. She was so comfortable with me after a while she just hopped into my lap! Of course she was a bit skittish but over the course of the week I got her to be less scared or her surroundings. Every day I gave her water in a cup (warm because it was in the 40's) and ham or either turkey (from Thanksgiving). Finally, on the last day we were up there, I didn't want to leave her because I knew she couldn't survive without anyone to feed her, so I convinced my parents to let me take her home so we could find her a loving home. She stayed with us in the house for 3 days and she was one of the sweetest cats I've ever been around. She just followed you around, never bit you or scratched you, didn't even like to play with cat toys! She just wanted to sit there next to you or either in your lap and look around. I went to school for a few days and talked about her of course (I named her Kiki). One of my friends said she was looking for a new cat. She came over and picked her up and she says she loves her! I'm so happy that she found a loving home, and proud of myself for rescuing yet again another cat.

This past Friday I was chosen along with three other of my classmates to present a speech about each of us to the Forum Club for a scholarship. The meeting took place at the Naples Beach Club; when we arrived, the only other school that was there presenting was Seacrest. The funny thing is that, that same day we had a game against them! I didn't realize how many people were there until we all walked into the banquet room where there were literally tables on tables. After lunch it was time for us to present our speeches to the Forum Club. I went second and I'll admit I was a little nervous because I was told that I would be talking in front of 400 people in the room! I knew it was a lot of people but I never would have guessed 400. I can't believe that I talked in front of them, too; it actually wasn't that nerve racking when you were up there either! I got to mingle with many interesting people, from preachers to retired Navy men. Did I mention that food was delicious too? In the end I had a great time and it was a great experience.

Love, Savannah

Savannah Oglesby is a student in the 12th grade at Everglades City School and a regular contributor to this paper.

**REINDEERS IN TOWN**

Deb Trujillo photographed these reindeers made from the boots of palm trees. They were crafted by Denise Rousseau of Everglades City. Cute!!

RESTAURANTS



- Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands**
(239-642-1025): 11:30 am – 9 pm;
Tues-Sunday. 4 pm–9 pm; Monday
- Camellia Street Grill (695-2003):**
12 noon – 9:00 pm; daily
- City Seafood (695-4700):**
6:00 am – 6:00 pm; Mon thru Wed
6:00 am – 9:00 pm; Thurs thru Sun
- Glades Haven Deli (695-2091):**
6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily
(Marina: 6 am - 4 pm; daily)
- Havana Café (695-2214):**
7:00 am to 3:00 pm; Sun thru Wed
7:00 am to 8:00 pm; Thurs-Fri-Sat
- 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):**
10:00 am – 5:00 pm; *Closed Wed*
- Oyster House Restaurant (695-2073):**
11:00 am – 9 pm; Sun thru Thurs
11:00 am – 10:00 pm; Fri, Sat
- Rod & Gun Club (695-2101):**
11:30 am - 9:00 pm; daily
- Subway at Gator Express (695-3937):**
7:00 am – 7:00 pm; daily
- Sweet Mayberry's Café (695-0092):**
8:00 am – 5:00 pm; Tues thru Sat
10 am – 4 pm; Sunday; *Closed Mon*
- Triad Seafood & Cafe (695-2662):**
10:30 am – 5:00 pm; daily
- Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535):**
9:00 am – 7:00 pm; daily
- Grimm's Stone Crab (695-3222):**
8:00 am – 6:00 pm, Mon thru Sat
- Loco's Fresh Produce: (239-462-7050)**
(next to the ECity Post Office)
7:00 am – 4:00 pm; Thurs thru Sun

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

- Chokoloskee Church of God**
10 am Sunday School, 11 am Sun Worship
- Copeland Baptist Church**
10 am Sunday School, 11 am Sun Worship
- Everglades Community Church**
11 am Sunday Worship
9:45 am Adult Sunday School
- Everglades First Baptist Church**
9:45 am Sunday School
11 am Worship
- Holy Family Catholic Church**
10:30 am Sunday Mass



The Flamingos are back. Geri Freiberger sent this photo of her yard being "flocked."

TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

Lat: 25.87°N Long: 81.37°W
<http://TIDESANDCURRENTS.NOAA.GOV>

12/19	Fri	07:42am	-0.2	L
12/19	Fri	01:22pm	2.3	H
12/19	Fri	07:32pm	0.8	L
12/20	Sat	12:20am	3.0	H
12/20	Sat	08:25am	-0.3	L
12/20	Sat	02:04pm	2.4	H
12/20	Sat	08:17pm	0.7	L
12/21	Sun	12:54am	3.1	H
12/21	Sun	09:08am	-0.5	L
12/21	Sun	02:45pm	2.5	H
12/21	Sun	09:01pm	0.7	L
12/22	Mon	01:30am	3.2	H
12/22	Mon	09:50am	-0.5	L
12/22	Mon	03:27pm	2.5	H
12/22	Mon	09:46pm	0.7	L
12/23	Tue	02:08am	3.2	H
12/23	Tue	10:33am	-0.6	L
12/23	Tue	04:11pm	2.5	H
12/23	Tue	10:33pm	0.6	L
12/24	Wed	02:52am	3.2	H
12/24	Wed	11:17am	-0.5	L
12/24	Wed	04:56pm	2.5	H
12/24	Wed	11:22pm	0.5	L
12/25	Thu	03:43am	3.0	H
12/25	Thu	12:03pm	-0.4	L
12/25	Thu	05:43pm	2.5	H
12/26	Fri	12:17am	0.5	L
12/26	Fri	04:47am	2.7	H
12/26	Fri	12:50pm	-0.2	L
12/26	Fri	06:30pm	2.6	H
12/27	Sat	01:20am	0.4	L
12/27	Sat	06:06am	2.4	H
12/27	Sat	01:43pm	0.1	L
12/27	Sat	07:18pm	2.6	H
12/28	Sun	02:32am	0.4	L
12/28	Sun	07:32am	2.1	H
12/28	Sun	02:41pm	0.3	L
12/28	Sun	08:08pm	2.6	H
12/29	Mon	03:46am	0.2	L
12/29	Mon	09:02am	1.9	H
12/29	Mon	03:45pm	0.5	L
12/29	Mon	09:01pm	2.7	H
12/30	Tue	04:56am	0.1	L
12/30	Tue	10:40am	1.9	H
12/30	Tue	04:50pm	0.6	L
12/30	Tue	09:57pm	2.7	H
12/31	Wed	05:57AM	-0.1	L
12/31	Wed	12:15AM	2.0	H
12/31	Wed	05:52AM	0.7	L
12/31	Wed	10:52AM	2.8	H
01/01	Thu	06:53AM	-0.2	L
01/01	Thu	01:10AM	2.1	H
01/01	Thu	06:50AM	0.7	L
01/01	Thu	11:44AM	2.9	H
01/02	Fri	07:42AM	-0.3	L
01/02	Fri	01:53AM	2.1	H
01/02	Fri	07:41AM	0.7	L

Restaurant Holiday News

- Angler's Cove Restaurant:** Christmas Eve Dinner & Dancing 5 - 9 pm with Surf 'n Turf Menu. Call by 12/21 for reservations. New Year's Eve Masquerade Party 5 pm - 1 am with Tapas Buffet. Call by 12/28 to make your New Year's Eve reservation.
- Camellia St Grill:** Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
- City Seafood:** Closed Christmas Day
- Glades Haven:** Christmas Day 6 am to 3 pm.
- Grimm's Stonecrab:** Open Christmas Eve from 8 am to noon. Closed Christmas Day. Open New Year's Eve 8 am – 5 pm). Open New Year's Day 1 to 5 pm.
- Havana Café:** Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
- Island Café:** Closed Christmas Day.
- Oyster House:** Open Christmas Eve until 9 pm; Open Christmas Day 12 noon – 7 pm; Open New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.
- Right Choice Supermarket:** Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
- Rod & Gun Club:** Open throughout the holidays.
- Sweet Mayberry's Café:** Closed December 20 through December 25; Closed Mondays.
- Triad:** Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Smallwood Music Fest

Plan early for a spectacular array of performers on **Saturday, January 31**, to benefit the Smallwood Store. The extravaganza starts at 11:00 a.m. behind the historic Rod & Gun Club and continues all afternoon until dark. There will also be arts & crafts booths, raffles, and an auction. Admission is \$40 for VIP seating or \$10 for general admission (bring your own chair). Your contribution goes directly to the Smallwood benefit fund and you will get a receipt for your income tax deduction. Among the musicians are the Wholtones, Raiford Starke, Nate the Gladesman, Stone Crab Steve Arvey, Florida Boy (Pete Gallagher & Pat Barmore), Valerie C. Wisecracker & The Walkin' Catfish, Cindy Hackney, J. Robert, Snooker Joe Stem, and Sun Guy.

Lynn Smallwood McMillin, whose grandfather started the store in Chokoloskee almost 100 years ago, is fighting a legal battle to keep the road open to this old trading post which is now a museum.

The Smallwood Store & Museum is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit. Donations can be made online at www.smallwoodstore.com or call (239) 695-2905 for more information.

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

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We strive to present the facts accurately with no political bias or personal opinion.

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

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www.evergladesmulletrapper.com

Everglades Area Hot Lines

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) 239-216-1208
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) 313-530-3395
Everglades AlAnon 239-263-5907

12-Step Meeting Schedules are available in City Hall and Chokoloskee Post Office

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Greet Visitors in the Museum
Meet people from around the corner or around the world!
Phone 695-0008.

EVERGLADES CITY

Lat: 25.87°N Long: 81.37°W
see www.weather.gov for weather and www.nhc.noaa.gov for storms



PET PICS

Pretty girl loves Everglades City. Likes to go in the boat fishing, does guard duty at night and sleeps in owner Tom Rech's bed during the day.

Send us your Pet Pics by post or email.

JOBS & SERVICES

Cashiers Needed

Joanie's Blue Crab is looking for reliable (retired) individuals who enjoy working with the public. Call 695-2682 for more info.

Volunteers Wanted

Everglades National Park is looking for volunteers to help out (to paddle in canoes or kayaks) on ranger-led canoe trips this winter. Please contact Andy Webb at 695-3311.

CAREGIVER

Looking for experienced CNA/HHA and companion caregivers for in-home senior care. Call Visiting Angels at (239) 561-7600.

Freelance Writer

for articles, books, advertisements, etc., and

Music Lessons & Tutoring

Call Danielle Swisher at 280-8971 or Email: dmswisher85@gmail.com

All Classified Ads for Jobs & Services are posted at no charge.

SNOOK CLASSIFIEDS

FREE PIANO: Everglades Community Church has an upright piano for free. Please contact 695-2009 Anne Mitchell.

FOR SALE: Jacuzzi, 2-seater, used but never used; it costs \$4,995; get in now for \$495. Call 695-0611 for more information.

FOR SALE: Waterfront 3 BR/2 BA mobile home, one lot away from Halfway Creek, 150' on the water, with dock and boat ramp. 2 1/2 lots, large fenced yard and 10' x 40' screened decked porch. Furnished. Must see to appreciate! \$225,000. Call 340-4770.

FOR SALE: Lot #26 in Fisherman's Cove; dock included. \$40,000. Call (239) 300-7077 or (239) 682-6025.

FOR SALE OR RENT-TO-OWN House & Barn on 1.02 acres in Fakahatchee Strand. \$139,000 purchase or \$1200/mo. Rent to Own. Call Don (321) 439-7635. See info & pictures at www.DonsHouse.com.

WANTED: All Motor Homes, 5th wheels and travel trailers. Any condition. Cash paid on the spot. Call Paul at (941) 347-7171.

FOR SALE: Chicks & Chickens (assortment of breeds) and farm fresh eggs. Bedford Farms, call 695-0500.

See the Rapper in full color! Visit our website.

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MONTHS AT ALTERNATE ADDRESS

__ JAN __ FEB __ MAR __ APR __ MAY __ JUN __ JUL __ AUG __ SEP __ OCT __ NOV __ DEC

12/19/14