

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

NOVEMBER 20 – DECEMBER 3, 2015

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume IX • Issue #250

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

by Patty Huff

The monthly meeting of the Everglades City Council was held on November 10 at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall Chambers.

Mayor Sammy Hamilton opened the meeting by stating that he would give the Mayor's report at the next meeting on **Tuesday, December 1**, when more winter residents have returned. He also announced that the holiday turkeys would be distributed on November 23 this year.

The only agenda item was the Sheriff's report presented by Lt. Mark Milligan (*see p. 9*).

Councilperson Elaine Middelstaedt paid tribute to our past and present servicemen in honor of the upcoming Veterans Day, November 11.

**In November 2000 Everglades City was recognized by the Guinness Book of Records for making the world's largest grilled cheese sandwich weighing 320 lbs (sponsored by Cabot Cheese Company of Vermont).
Happy 15th Anniversary!**

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Crab Boat at Sunset

Photo by Linda Walfield - November 7



Porsche Club comes to Everglades City

The Gold Coast Region of the Porsche Club of America enjoyed stone crabs at Triad Seafood Market and Café.

Big Cypress Gallery Annual Holiday Open House



HOLIDAY Book Signing
Friday-Saturday, November 27-28
Plan to bring your friends and family and enjoy the natural beauty of the swamp. Clyde Butcher will be available to sign books & calendars. Great Holiday gifts! For more information, call 695-2428 or visit www.clydebutcher.com.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING THANKSGIVING DAY



Gobble Gobble 5K

Thursday, November 26

Thanksgiving morning

McLeod Park

Kids fun run starts at 8:30 am

5k at 8:45 am

\$5.00 entry fee for adults

Call Shannon at 961-0669 to register

Restaurants Open

City Seafood: 6 am – 9 pm

Glades Haven: 6 am – 2 pm

Island Café: 6 am – 7 pm (Turkey!)

Oyster House: 1 – 7 pm (Turkey!)

Port of the Islands: 1– 4 pm

(Turkey Buffet - \$24.95)

*Right Choice: 8 am to 1 pm

Rod & Gun Club: 12 – 7 pm (Turkey!)

Gator Express Subway: 7 am – 7 pm

Restaurants Closed Nov 26

Camellia St Grill

Havana Café

Grimm's Seafood

Joanie's Blue Crab

Sweet Mayberry's

Triad Seafood

***Right Choice is now selling fresh-cut flowers.**



**Congratulations to the Foss Family on the birth of Piper Grace born November 3
7 lbs 6 oz; 18½"**

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2015

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
15 Goodland Holiday Bazaar	16 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm	17 Reach Out Mtg Kids' Clinic Health Workshop	18 Ladies Coffee Havana Café 8 am	19 Everglades Book Club SAC Meeting	RAPPER 20 ESHP Talk <i>see p.3</i>	21 Art-in-Glades <i>see p.3</i> Rookery Bay Race <i>see p.3</i>
22 Everglades Community Church Homecoming <i>see p.3</i>	23 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm	24	full moon ● 25 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am	 26 Happy Thanksgiving 5k Fun Run <i>see p.3</i>	27 Clyde Butcher Holiday Open House <i>see p.1</i>	28 Clyde Butcher Holiday Open House, <i>see p.1</i> Beach Bar Music, <i>see p.3</i>
29 Holy Family Catholic Church re-opens <i>see p.3</i>	30 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God, 7 pm	DEC 1 Kids' Clinic Congressional Aide Visit City Council Meeting, <i>see p.3</i>	2 Ladies Coffee Sweet Mayberry's Café, 8 am	3 Family Al-Anon Celebration <i>see p.3</i>	RAPPER 4 Veterans Support Group <i>see p.3</i>	5 5K-Walk/Run <i>see p.5</i> Swamp Heritage Fest <i>see p.3</i>
6	7 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm FME Annual Meeting <i>see p.9</i>	8	9 Ladies Coffee Island Café 8 am	10	new moon ○ 11	12 Art-in-Glades Christmas Tree Lighting Boat Parade <i>see p.3</i> State Parks Night, <i>see p.8</i>
13 Fakahatchee Dinner <i>see p.3</i>	14 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm OFCD Meeting <i>see p.3</i>	15	16 Ladies Coffee Christmas Party at Jan Brock's Home 8 am	17 Lions Club Christmas Meeting Wells' home 6:00 pm	RAPPER 18	19

Dec 20: COG Christmas Play
Feb 6-7: Turkey Shoot
Feb 23-27: MSD Festival

Jan 8: ESHP Movie Night
Feb 12-14: Seafood Festival
Feb 27: Swamp Cabbage Fest

Jan 9: COG Chicken Dinner
Feb 13-14: Bluegrass Festival
Mar 5: Faka Gala / Aquafest

Jan 23: Festival in the Woods
Feb 20: Everglades Ultra
Mar 13: Everglades Bike Ride

THRIFT SHOP: Tues & Sat, 11 am – 3 pm
LIONS CLUB: 2nd Thurs, 6 pm, Oyster House
DR DEMARTINO: Friday, 1:30-4:30 pm (beginning Dec 4)
DR MARTIN: Wed, 9 am-noon; 3- 6 pm; Com. Center
AA: Wed, 5:00 pm, Community Church
HEALTHY EATING: Tues, 5 to 6 pm, 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 Tuesday, 8:30 am, City Hall
LITTLE GATOR CLINIC: Tuesday, Dec 1, 5-7 pm
FOOD PANTRY: Wed, 12 n to 2 pm, Community Church
EVERGLADES AL-ANON: Tues, 8 am, City Hall
VETERANS SUPPORT: First Fri, 10 am, Com. Church
SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily, 11 am to 5 pm

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: Tuesdays (10-11 am)

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Mon–Thurs (9 am to 2 pm); Fri-Sat (9 am to 3 pm)

POST OFFICE HOURS:

Everglades City (695-2174) Mon-Fri: 9:30 am to 1 pm and 2 to 4:30 pm; Sat: outside pick-up 3:45 pm
Chokoloskee (695-4468) Mon-Fri: 9:30 am to 1 pm and 2 to 4:30 pm; Sat: outside pick-up 3:30 pm
Ochopee (695-2099) Mon-Fri: 8 to 10 am; 12 noon to 4 pm; Sat: Open for service 10 to 11:30 am.

SHERIFF: 252-9300
AIRPORT: 695-2778
CURBSIDE TRASH PICKUP (FRIDGES, WASHING MACHINES, TVs): 252-2380

CITY HALL: 695-3781
FAKAHATCHEE: 695-4593

PUBLIC LIBRARY: 695-2511
BIG CYPRESS: 695-2000

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: 695-3941
EVG NATIONAL PARK: 695-3311
COLLIER COUNTY: 252-8999

ESHIP Talk

Friday, November 20, at 5:30 pm

Jinkins Fellowship Hall

Everglades Community Church

Ray Carroll will present "Everglades City, the First County Seat." To book your places or for more information, contact Marya at (239) 695-2905 or see www.evergladeshistorical.org.

Art-in-the-Glades

Saturday, November 21

McLeod Park, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Have a fun day out and support local crafters in this laid-back little town. Burgers & hot dogs & drinks, plus baked goods. For information, call 695-2905 or see www.evergladeshistorical.org.



Friends of Fakahatchee

Schedule of Tours

Reservations Required!

www.fofreservation.eventbrite.com

Tram Tour & Swamp Walk (every Tues)
Ghost Rider Tram Tour (every Thursday)
Swamp Walk (Sat / Thurs) - starts Nov 21
Moonlit Tram Tour - starts Nov 25
Boardwalk Tours (Thurs) - starts Dec 4
fakaevent@yahoo.com or call 695-1023



Rookery Bay

Adventure Race

Saturday, November 21, 8 - 10 am

Enjoy a 3k kayak along Henderson Creek and a 4k trail run at the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center to benefit the Friends of Rookery Bay. New this year: a 5k Trail Run and 10-yr age group awards! www.rookerybay.org or (239) 530-5977.

Everglades Community Church

Sunday School Schedule 9:45 am

Nov. 22-The Bible & How to Study It

Annual Homecoming-Everyone Invited

November 29 - Why Read the Bible

Live Music

Beach Bar, City Seafood

Saturday, November 28, 4:00 - 7:00 pm

Everyone invited

Holy Family Catholic Church

re-opening for the season

Mass - Sunday, November 29

10:30 am

CONGRESSIONAL VISIT

Enrique Padron, District Representative for Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart, will meet with constituents in City Hall on Tuesday, December 1, from 3 to 5 pm. For information, phone 348-1620.

CITY COUNCIL

Everglades City Council will meet on Tuesday, December 1, at 5:30 pm.



Everglades Al-Anon

Family Group

4th Anniversary Celebration

Thursday, December 3

Everglades Community Church

Fellowship & Snacks: 11:30 am

Program: 12:00 Noon to 1:00 pm

Open Speaker Meeting-All are welcome

Big Cypress Preserve Swamp Heritage Festival

Saturday, December 5, 10:30 am - 4 pm

FREE family-friendly event shines a spotlight upon the inhabitants of early South Florida. Enjoy regional music, food, informational presentations and exhibits. This year's keynote presenters are author Carl Hiaasen and photographer Clyde Butcher. For information, call 695-4758.

DECEMBER 12 Events

Art-in-the-Glades, McLeod Park

10 am to 2 pm; Call 695-2905 for info

Christmas Tree Lighting

Light Parade, Glow Run

The Christmas Tree Lighting celebration will be held at 5:30 pm at City Hall followed by the Booster Club's Light Parade (\$20 to put a float in; \$10 for golf cart); the 5K Glow Run (\$25). Proceeds go to the school's athletics program. There will be caroling and a concession stand.

Holiday Boat Parade

Everyone is welcome to participate! Boats will meet at mouth of the Barron River in front of Outward Bound by 6:30 pm. The parade will start at sundown and follow the river back under the bridge and end at the Estuary Condo docks. Call 695-2429.

Fakahatchee Dinner

Sunday, December 13

Everglades Adventure Center, 5 pm

Guest Speaker: Cesar Becerra

www.orchidswamp.org

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 11/03/15: Vehicle Fire, 64 Mile Marker I-75
11/04/15: Emergency Med, 63 MM I-75
11/04/15: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
11/04/15: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
11/05/15: Public Assist, Port of the Islands
11/05/15: Vehicle Accident, 70 MM I-75
11/05/15: Mutual Aid, 89 Mile Marker I-75
11/05/15: Public Assist, Everglades City
11/05/15: Vehicle Accident, 52 MM I-75
11/07/15: Emergency Medical, 63 MM I-75
11/07/15: Emergency Medical, Port of Islands
11/08/15: Emergency Medical, Port of Islands
11/08/15: Mutual Aid (Fire Alarm), Marco Is
11/08/15: Mutual Aid (Marine Rescue), Marco
11/08/15: Vehicle Accident, 83 MM I-75
11/08/15: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
11/09/15: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
11/09/15: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee
11/11/15: Emergency Medical, Copeland
11/12/15: Fire, US 41 W of Port of the Islands
11/12/15: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
11/12/15: Fire Alarm, Everglades City
11/12/15: Vehicle Accident, 82 MM I-75
11/13/15: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
11/13/15: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
11/14/15: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
11/14/15: Emergency Medical, Copeland
11/15/15: Vehicle Stuck, SR 29 and US 41
11/15/15: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
11/16/15: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands

The Ochopee Fire Control District Advisory Committee will meet at 4 p.m. on Monday, December 14, in the Port of the Islands Fire Station, located at 525 Newport Drive #C in Naples.

DOCTOR'S CLINIC

Dr. Kirk DeMartino will see patients in Everglades City every Friday beginning December 4 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the office behind the Fire Station. For information, call (239) 642-5552.

Little Gator Clinic

The free walk-in clinic (located next to Thrift Shop) will be open from 5:00 to 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 1, when Dr. Barnard and Kathy will see patients aged 18 and under.

VETERANS SUPPORT

Meetings will be held the FIRST Friday of every month at 10 am at Everglades Community Church. Call Joy at (239) 403-2377 for more information.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS

Are you troubled by someone else's drinking? Help and hope are a phone call away. Al-Anon Family Groups: for meeting schedule, contact 263-5907 or visit www.southfloridaal-anon.org.

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110 Camellia Street, Everglades City, FL
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Show Dates: Nov. 12 – Dec. 18, 2015

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SCHOOL NEWS

Everglades City School

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www.evg.collierschools.com

IMPORTANT DATES

November 23-27 School Closed – Fall Break
December 5 CCPS 5KRun/Walk

My sun is not like yours

My sun is not like yours.
 My sun does not float in the sky or cause skin cancer,
 My sun does not create the energy that most of the world
 depends on,
 When you stare at my sun for too long, your eyes will not
 swell and burn like mine do,
 Your sun is not like the overwhelmingly huge orb of light that all
 of the planets in our galaxy revolve around,
 But my sun is not like yours.
 My sun is six feet tall with lanky arms and legs, and a beautiful
 smile that warms the deepest and darkest corners of my soul.
 My sun may not create energy in your world,
 But he creates it in mine.
 My sun does not tan my pale skin, but he makes my inner
 being glow.
 My sun may not be the center of a galaxy,
 But I see galaxies in his eyes.
 My sun does not hide behind overcast, but welcomes the
 rainclouds because he knows I favor the dark.
 I guess the difference between my sun and yours
 Is your sun burns my skin, and mine takes the burn away.
 Your sun lives part time in the sky, and my sun lives full time in
 my soul.
 My sun is not like yours.

Anonymous (student)

THANK YOU !

Everglades City School would like to thank all the EVG families, students, staff and community for making our fall Scholastic book fair a huge success! Thanks to the support of Everglades City businesses/sponsors, we received over \$1,500 in book donations. These donations sponsored classroom book baskets which were hand selected by our teachers. Our students, classrooms and the media center are truly thankful for the incredible new books! In addition, the media center will benefit from Scholastic credit earned from fair sales!

Everglades City School would like to thank the following:

Platinum Sponsors (Sponsored over \$200)

The Captain's Table Lodge and Villas, Island Café,
 and Naples Custom Homes, LLC.

Gold Sponsors (Sponsored over \$100)

Speedy's Airboat Tours, Snook Publications,
 Everglades Lions Club, and Grimm's Stone Crab Company.

Bronze Sponsors (Sponsored over \$50)

Candi & Rocky Hendrickson, Chance Enterprise, Inc., The
 Johnson's, Sweet Mayberry's Café,
 Glades Realty, and Camellia Street Grill.



Letter from the Principal Lady Gators Shine!

It has been a great November at school as our Lady Gators Basketball kicked off their season on November 10. We are excited to have fifteen ladies participating in the program this year under the leadership of Coach Chappell and Coach Yacono. Our team is young but their enthusiasm and effort are a pleasure to watch.

Another group of exceptional young ladies are on our cheerleading squad. Ms. Secory is the coach of this group and her work over the last few years is greatly appreciated. She works with our coaches as well since some of our athletes participate in athletics and that can cause challenges in scheduling. Keep an eye out for our home basketball games (*see schedule below*) as these ladies are improving each and every day.

A special thank you goes out to our parents, students and community members for their support of our Scholastic Book Fair. Mrs. Owen has created a tremendous event that highlights literacy for our students. I am always amazed by her efforts to create an event that brings tremendous energy to our campus. Her goal is to raise money to purchase more books for the media center. She has had great success due to the generosity of our families and community members. Each teacher selected a collection of books that they would like to have in their classrooms and once again this year every teacher's wish list was purchased for them! Words can't describe our appreciation for these acts of kindness. It is always a Great Day to Be a Gator!

James Ragusa, Principal

SUN-N-FUN LAGOON OPENS FOR COLLIER COUNTY SCHOOLS THANKSGIVING BREAK

Sun-N-Fun Lagoon Water Park will open for the Collier County schools' Thanksgiving Break from 10 am to 5 pm daily from Saturday, **November 21**, to Sunday, **November 29**. The park will be closed Thursday, **November 26**, for Thanksgiving.

5K Walk-Run

Please join us for the inaugural CCPS 5K on **Saturday, December 5**. The event will include a 5K run, a 1 mile walk, a health and wellness fair, and fun activities. The race will take place on the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Administrative Center, Barron Collier High School, and Osceola Elementary School campus. Register via www.collierschools.com/ccps5k.



SPORTS HOME SCHEDULE

www.evg.collierschools.com/sports



Girls' Varsity Basketball

Thursday, Dec 3 Ida S. Baker High School, 5:00 pm



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Sunday School October - April 9:45 A.M.

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Florida Tales



“McDanal Diary 1879-1967”

by Chester Keene

Ma always nagged me; she said I had done something to turn him against me and I had never said a word about Morgan Shaw. I think I'd stood all I could and said I'll marry the first man that asked me. I did. One night



Bob Miracle came over to the house and was standing in the door. He just looked at me and said, when are we getting married? I said November 21, 1897. So we married at my home in Middlesboro, Kentucky, by Reverend Sam Pratt. I learned a lot. Bob, he was full of fun; he did not drink and he did not work-only when he wanted to. He made \$1.25 per day then; they worked six days per week. At the most Bob made \$8.00 per week, \$32.00 a month. When he put in every day one dollar per week for rent, one dollar per week to the company doctor that was \$8.00 out of \$32.00 left or \$24.00 a month to live on. I crocheted and made dresses by hand; I didn't have a machine. I made three dresses a week and got fifty cents a dress. I never went to the store, but one day when I was five months pregnant I went to the store. I got some cloth to make baby clothes. When I had what I wanted to make the clothes, I went to the check-out window to pay. Howard Ralston the clerk said, "I'm sorry, Katie, Bob's mother was here and checked out all Bob had in" so I did not get anything. Bob came home and asked me what was the matter. I told him; he said I told Mommy to let my wages alone. I went to the commissary because we didn't have anything in the house and told Ralston not to let Bob's mother check out Bob's wages. So another fight.

to be continued...

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

If you are interested in submitting an article, please email two weeks in advance to mulletrapper@gmail.com

Recipe for Good Eating

Easy Turkey Broth

by Patty Huff

Sauté leftover carved turkey legs and wings in 2 TBS of canola oil for 10 min. over high heat in a large pot; add 3 cloves of garlic, chopped onion, 2 carrots (chopped), 1 tsp black peppercorns and cook for another 5 minutes. Add 2 quarts of water; bring to a boil and simmer for 45 minutes. Strain liquid, set aside and cool; add salt & pepper, 2 TBS parsley and chives (chopped). When cooled, pour into ice cube trays and freeze; frozen cubes can then be transferred to zip-lock freezer bags to use to flavor pasta or rice dishes (thaw first).

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



Scam Alerts by Lt. Mark Milligan, CCSO

Some local residents have recently been contacted by phone from an individual posing as being from the IRS, demanding payment for additional money for owed taxes. It is important to know that the IRS will **not** contact you by phone demanding payment. These scam artists will often then ask for personal information from bank accounts etc. for their ultimate purpose of gaining access to your money. Although many of these types of phone scams may at first appear or sound real, they are nothing more than thieves attempting to obtain money from you. What you should do if you receive these types of calls is to immediately “hang up”. Again remember that the IRS will not contact you by phone demanding payment (*see article below*). After hanging up you can report the scam directly to the IRS by filing an electronic complaint with the Treasury Inspector General for tax administration at www.tigta.gov and clicking on the red box to the right of the page.



TAXING THINGS - HOLIDAY SHOPPING SECURITY

by Mike, *the Tax Guy*

The IRS is committed to protecting you from identity theft; however, cybercriminals are constantly evolving, and so must we. The IRS is working with state revenue officials, tax software providers and your tax preparer. By taking a few simple steps, you can better protect your personal and financial data online and at home.

Keep Your Computer Secure: use security software and update automatically; include Firewall and virus/malware protection • Give personal information only over encrypted websites – look for “https” addresses. Use strong passwords and protect them • File encryption for sensitive data • Treat your personal information like cash, don't leave it lying around • Check out companies to find out who you're really dealing with

Avoid Phishing and Malware: • Avoid phishing emails, texts or calls that appear to be from the IRS and companies you know and trust, go directly to their websites instead • Don't open attachments in emails unless you know who sent it and what it is • Download and install software only from websites you know and trust • Use a pop-up blocker

Protect Personal Information: • Don't routinely carry your social security card or documents with your SSN. • Do not overshare personal information on social media. Information about past addresses, a new car, a new home and your children help identity thieves pose as you. • Keep old tax returns and tax records under lock and key or encrypted if electronic. Shred tax documents before trashing.

Avoid IRS Impersonators. The IRS will not call you with threats of jail or lawsuits. The IRS will not send you an unsolicited email suggesting you have a refund or that you need to update your account. The IRS will not request any sensitive information online. These are all scams, and they are persistent. Don't fall for them. Forward IRS-related scam emails to phishing@irs.gov. Report IRS-impersonation telephone calls at www.tigta.gov.

Additional steps: • Check your credit report annually; check your bank and credit card statements often; • Review your Social Security Administration records annually at www.ssa.gov. • If you are an identity theft victim whose tax account is affected, review www.irs.gov/identitytheft for details and contact your local law enforcement or Registered Tax Return Preparer.

Mike, The Tax Guy, provides income tax services. Phone number 695-0595.

Big Cypress Preserve Winter 2015 / 2016 Activities

2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, the agency that cares for special places set aside by the American people so that everyone can experience our heritage.

In celebration take the time to connect with the special natural and cultural areas in your own backyard, those areas that in many ways define us as a people. Visit <http://findyourpark.com>.

Big Cypress Star Parties, Saturdays - **December 5, January 9, February 6 and March 5**, starting at 8:00 pm on the grounds of the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center. Through the cooperation of partner astronomical societies, explore the celestial sky and one of the darkest night skies on the eastern U. S. coast. <http://www.nps.gov/bicy/planyourvisit/astronomy-programs.htm>.

Ranger-led Tamiami Trail Triathlon, Sundays - **December 20, January 24, February 21, or March 6**. For reservations call 695-3311. Hike three miles of trail from the Oasis Visitor Center, and in Everglades National Park bicycle the 15-mile loop at Shark Valley, and paddle roundtrip from the Gulf Coast Visitor Center to Sandfly Island. Complete all three activities and earn the title "Tamiami Trail Triathlon Finisher." Bring your own bicycle, canoe/kayak, or rent one. For more information, visit <http://www.nps.gov/bicy/planyourvisit/tamiami-trail-triathlon.htm>

Big Work at Big Cypress, an exhibit featuring former artist in residence Patricia Cummins on display at the national preserve visitor centers from November through January. This exhibit reflects the artist's interaction and interpretation of the landscapes of the Big Cypress. Cummins' pastel and oil paintings aim to connect the viewer to the deeper beauty of this unique landscape. An artist reception, along with a special viewing of second generation wildlife filmmaker Richard Kern's Ghost of the Western Glades, will be held at the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center, 33000 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee, FL on **Saturday, December 12** at 2:00 p.m.

Fire Prairie Trail Bike Ride – Saturdays - **January 16, February 13, and March 12**, at 10:00 am (around 4 hours). Ride on a raised trail over moderate terrain. Bring your bicycle, water, food, and sun protection. Meet a park ranger at the Fire Prairie Trail access point along Turner River Road 14 miles north of U.S. 41. Explore a part of Big Cypress many may not be familiar with. Reservations required; call 695-4758.

For information on programs go to NPS website - <http://www.nps.gov/bicy/planyourvisit/ranger-led-activities.htm> or call one of the national preserve visitor centers at 695-1201 or 695-4758. Due to popularity some activities may require advance reservations, check out the complete ranger-led activity schedule on our website for details.

State Parks Night at Germain Arena Saturday December 12

The Florida Everglades will be hosting a "recognize the State Parks night." Everyone is invited to attend; tickets are \$20 each and all the Park affiliated people will be seated together. To take advantage of the offer please contact: Mike Kelly at the Florida Everglades Office (239) 948-7825, ext. 1500, or email Mike at mikek@floridaeverglades.com.



Living Gulf Coast

by Charles Sobczak

Osceola Wild Turkey (Meleagris gallopavo silvestris) Other names: gobbler, turkey / Status: FL = stable, IUCN = LC / Life span: to 12 years / Length: 43-45 in. (110-115 cm) / Wingspan: 49-57 in. (88-392 cm) / Weight: 5.5-24 lb (2.5-10.5 kg) / Nests: throughout SW Florida, mostly inland / Found: All Counties, near coast, mainland / Months found: JfmamJASOND (lower case indicates nesting season).



The male wild turkey is the heaviest bird living in Florida. Almost entirely terrestrial, this huge gobbler is nonetheless capable of short, powerful flights, seldom exceeding a quarter of a mile. Most of its days are spent foraging on the ground and its evenings roosting in trees, where it is safe from predators such as raccoons and bobcats.

This is an important game bird throughout Florida where it is found in all 67 counties. Although the wild turkey was once common on many of the gulf coast's barrier islands, extensive development has eradicated these flocks, and the wild turkey is now found exclusively inland.

Benjamin Franklin proposed the wild turkey as the national bird and was disappointed when Congress chose the bald eagle instead. Once abundant throughout North America, the turkey was hunted to extirpation in almost the entirety of its former range. The Florida population, however, remained healthy throughout the 1800s and 1900s, and was instrumental in repopulating the species starting in the 1950s. Today, because of the success of this reintroduction program, the wild turkey not only thrives in its former range, but can also be found in every state except Alaska and Hawaii. It has even moved into parts of southern Canada, where it was historically never a native species. The turkey also occurs in Mexico, where the domesticated stock originated. Prior to its near eradication, the turkey was an important food source for Native Americans and pilgrims.

The Osceola, or Florida, wild turkey, named for the famous Seminole chief, is a subspecies. It is slightly smaller than other wild turkeys, and its body feathers are an iridescent green-purple. The wild turkey is an omnivore, foraging on acorns, insects, worms, grubs, seeds, and even snakes and small reptiles. One of the best spots in Southwest Florida to see this large bird is Myakka State Park and Babcock Ranch, where the uplands and oak forests provide ample habitat. The wild turkey is legally hunted by man but also falls victim to a variety of natural predators including raccoons, opossums, skunks, foxes, eagles, great horned owls, bobcats, coyotes, panthers, and any number of larger snakes.

Reduced to a U.S. population of a mere 30,000 birds in 1901, the wild turkey today numbers more than 7 million birds worldwide and counting. This is a clear-cut example of how a well-monitored conservation effort coupled with a reintroduction program can make a huge difference for the future of wildlife.

Charles Sobczak is a Sanibel author. For more information, go to www.indigopress.net. This article is an excerpt from Living Gulf Coast by Charles Sobczak. Photo Art by Judd Patterson



FLORIDA FLORA

by Patty Huff

Manchineel

(*Hippomane mancinella*)

This column is usually devoted to native plants that are attractive and easy to grow in our climate. However, some of our Florida plants are not so agreeable.

Many residents are familiar with the strangler fig, poison ivy and the poisonwood which grow around south Florida. There is a much rarer tree that is found mostly in the Cape Sable area of the Everglades National Park. It is a large tree that grows up to 50 feet and has smooth, pointed oval leaves that are two to four inches long.

The light gray bark has poisonous, milky sap that can cause blisters, swelling, skin rash and even blindness if it touches a person's eyes (don't get caught under the tree in the rain or be near it if the tree is burned). Also, a bite from its fruit (which looks like a small green apple) will cause severe pain, blistering and even death.

The Manchineel is considered to be the world's most dangerous tree. The name "manchineel" is from the Spanish manzanilla ("little apple"), from the resemblance of its fruit and leaves to those of an apple tree. In fact, the present-day Spanish name is *manzanilla de la muerte*, meaning "little apple of death."

You may remember the scene in "Wind Across the Everglades" when the plume hunter outlaw "Cottonmouth" (played by Burl Ives) confronted game warden Paul Murdock (Christopher Plummer) in the Glades and spoke about this deadly tree.

Take care and beware when you are out there paddling or fishing in the southern part of the Everglades; there are things more threatening than snakes and gators.



MUSEUM of the Everglades

Pauline Reeves Gallery

"Visions of the Everglades"

Quinn Hiaasen Photography

Over 150 visitors to the Pauline Reeves Gallery met Quinn during his reception hosted by the Friends of the Museum. It was a great turnout! If you missed it, the exhibition will continue through the month of December. Pictured here are Quinn with his parents' Fenia and Carl Hiaasen.



If you would like to support the Museum, you are invited to become a member of the Friends of the Museum and attend our upcoming annual luncheon meeting on **Monday, December 7**, at noon at Everglades Isle Lighthouse Club. Bob DeGross with the Big Cypress National Preserve will be presenting "**Working to Restore Monroe Station.**"

Reservations are required; please call Martha at the Museum at 695-0008 by **November 30**. For information about the Friends, visit FME's new website at www.evergladesmuseum.org.

MEMORIES by Craig Woodward

Reading the obituary about Olga Hirshhorn in the recent October 23 issue of *The Mullet Rapper* reminded me of this photo of that same boat lift at the Rod & Gun. In 1970 my parents decided that my twin brother Mark and I needed an adventure and so we headed down the Wilderness Waterway from Everglades City to Flamingo, stayed overnight, then headed back. The photo is of my father standing on the left, myself in the middle and my brother sitting on the base of the lift. My mother, at the time a teacher at the Everglades City School, took the photo as our boat is being lowered into the Barron River with a fishing boat shown behind heading south. It was a great trip and opened up a new world of the 10,000 Islands to us. Now 45 years later I can see the repainted lift from my house and it brings back memories!



EVERGLADES BOOK CLUB

The following books will be discussed during the 2015-16 season. The book club meets the 3rd Thursday of each month (except in April) at 9:30 am (location to be announced in *The Mullet Rapper* prior to the meetings). Everyone is invited to come and join in the discussions. **December 17-** *Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd; **January 21-** *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn; **February 18-** *Luncheon of the Boating Party* by Susan Vreeland; **March 17-** *Deep Down Dark* by Hector Tobar; **April 7-** *Charlotte's Story* by Charlotte Niedhauk.



SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sometime between October 1 and the 24th, several items from a boat on Plantation Island were stolen. On October 30, a 26" Schwinn blue & white bicycle was stolen from a residence on Buckner Ave in Everglades City. On November 6 a CCSO K-9 deputy, attempting to stop a dark blue Buick for speeding on I-75 near exit 80, had shots fired on him. Instead of stopping, the driver sped up down SR29 into the Everglades City area where the driver eluded the deputies. The car was found abandoned on Plantation Island and the incident is still under investigation. The Sheriff's office encourages anyone who might have any information concerning this case to notify them as this active investigation continues. Please call 252-9300, or if you want to remain anonymous and be eligible for a reward, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-780-TIPS (8477).

Argumentative Essay

by Lilian Pablo-Jeronimo, EVG English 4

Over the years, technology has really progressed. What is the one thing that almost everyone has? A smart phone. They keep us connected to each other but isolate us in a way that we don't recognize. We rarely live in the moment because we are too busy trying to get our phones out so we can snap that perfect picture. Even when we're with our friends, we still don't put our phones down. We're too obsessed with these devices and we don't even realize it. Our phones are significant to us, but the thing we love the most is slowly making us even more alone.

Phones are always a must at concerts. Comedian and actress Charlene deGuzman created a two minute video that shows how absurd we can be with our phones. *"I started to realize how ridiculous we were all being, myself included, when I was at a concert and people around me were recording the show with their phones, not actually watching the concert,"* Ms. deGuzman said in an interview. She is trying to say that we are too busy trying to get the perfect shot, rather than having our full attention on the band. Before you know it, the concert is over and you feel like you didn't get to embrace it. Snapping a picture here and there is totally fine, but don't miss the concert because you're too busy trying to make the camera focus. We never realize the true meaning of a moment until it becomes a memory.

When you're young, you want to be around your friends. Who doesn't like to socialize? In the two-minute video that was created by Ms. deGuzman, there is a scene where she is sitting with her friends at a restaurant and everyone is on their phones. Physically you're with your friends, but mentally you're not. You're more focused on your phone, rather than actually having a conversation with your friends that are there with you. People without their phone literally sit there in awkward silence because everyone is tweeting or instagraming something. This is one of the many reasons why we shouldn't be so obsessed with our phones. Have you heard of parents not letting their kids have their phones during dinner time? I totally agree with putting your phone away while you're eating because if you have your phone out on the table, then you will most likely be too busy on your phone instead of conversing. As humans, we need to interact with each other and communicate.

There are people out there that are not consumed by their phones, but the majority of people that have their iphones literally cannot put their phones down for more than 10 minutes. When they're waiting for something, they're on their phone. When they're at a concert, they're taking videos and pictures. When they're at a sports event, they are too busy taking selfies. We need to be able to control how much time we spend on our phones and focus on other things. On the other hand, some people say technology can bring positives to our relationships. This point of view makes sense because think about how many people meet their partners online. However, virtual communication is no match for a face-to-face conversation. Therefore, we must not lose touch with the physical community and the people in it.

It is nice to be able to stay in touch with your friends and family that are across the country, but you need to be able to balance this with relationships within the community. We need to live in the moment and cherish every second of our lives. We need to have more face-to-face conversations and not be so consumed by our phones or any other form of technology. When you weigh all the evidence, you can conclude that our smartphones or any other form of technology should not be the center of our universe.



ANGEL of the SWAMP

by Patty Huff

Only nice things come to mind when we think of our Angel of the Swamp. She always has a smile on her face; always conducts herself in a professional manner; is always willing to help out, especially when our kids or our community are involved; and always puts her family first. Vicky Wells was born and raised in Everglades City and seems to be related to just about everybody here and in Chokoloskee. She is currently serving as President of the Everglades Lions Club, President of the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades, and has served on the Everglades City School Advisory Council for many years. In addition to all her volunteer duties, she is a full-time Sales Associate at Bob Wells Real Estate. She loves to cook and entertain with her extended family.

LIONS Club welcomes District Governor

At its regularly scheduled meeting at the Oyster House Restaurant



on November 12, Everglades Lions Club President Vicky Wells welcomed District Governor David Skillin who in turn honored Lion Vicky with an award for bringing in three new

members to the Everglades Lions Club which was organized in

1952. He also inducted new members Connie and Cecil Barker sponsored by Joe and Liz West (photo note: Patty Huff stood in for Liz who was out of town). On November 14 the Lions Club participated in the annual Baconfest Naples which is sponsored by the Kiwanis of Pelican Bay and Naples Airport to benefit the Kiwanis of Pelican Bay Children Charities. It was a day of music, festivities, food and fun.



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(642-1025): Tuesday thru Sunday,
Noon - 9 pm; bar open until 11 pm.
closed Monday

Camellia Street Grill (695-2003):
12 noon - 9 pm; daily

City Seafood (695-4700):
6:00 am - 6:00 pm; daily

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):
7 am - 3 pm (Sun thru Wed)
7 am - 8 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):
11:00 am - 5:00 pm; Fri thru Tues
closed Wed and Thurs

Oyster House Restaurant (695-2073):
11:00 am - 9 pm; Sun thru Thurs
11:00 am - 10:00 pm; Fri, Sat

Rod & Gun (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):
9 am - 5 pm; Mon thru Sat
closed Sunday

Triad Seafood & Café (695-2662):
10:30 am - 5 pm; daily

Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535)
9:00 am - 7:00 pm; daily

Grimm's Stone Crab (695-3222):
8 am - 6 pm; Mon thru Sat

Loco's Fresh Produce: (239-462-7050)
next to the Everglades Post Office
7 am - 3 pm; (Thurs-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
9:45 am Sun. School, 11 am Sun Worship

First Baptist Church of Everglades City
9:45 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship

6 pm Sunday, 6 pm Wed Bible Study

St. Finbarr Catholic Church
8 am (Spanish) and 10 am (English) Mass

Holy Family Catholic Church (Nov.29)
10:30 am Mass



Shannon and Wesley Mitchell's children, Ace and Aria, enjoy a day of fishing.

TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER
Lat: 25.87°N Long: 81.37°W

<http://TIDESANDCURRENTS.NOAA.GOV>

11/20	Fri	04:29AM	0.7	L
11/20	Fri	09:26AM	2.4	H
11/20	Fri	04:44PM	0.4	L
11/20	Fri	10:12PM	2.8	H
11/21	Sat	05:31AM	0.4	L
11/21	Sat	10:46AM	2.5	H
11/21	Sat	05:41PM	0.4	L
11/21	Sat	10:56PM	3.0	H
11/22	Sun	06:26AM	0.2	L
11/22	Sun	11:53AM	2.7	H
11/22	Sun	06:35PM	0.5	L
11/22	Sun	11:37PM	3.1	H
11/23	Mon	07:17AM	-0.1	L
11/23	Mon	12:50PM	2.8	H
11/23	Mon	07:25PM	0.6	L
11/24	Tue	12:15AM	3.3	H
11/24	Tue	08:07AM	-0.3	L
11/24	Tue	01:41PM	2.8	H
11/24	Tue	08:14PM	0.6	L
11/25	Wed	12:53AM	3.4	H
11/25	Wed	08:55AM	-0.4	L
11/25	Wed	02:29PM	2.8	H
11/25	Wed	09:01PM	0.7	L
11/26	Thu	01:31AM	3.5	H
11/26	Thu	09:42AM	-0.5	L
11/26	Thu	03:16PM	2.7	H
11/26	Thu	09:46PM	0.7	L
11/27	Fri	02:10AM	3.4	H
11/27	Fri	10:28AM	-0.4	L
11/27	Fri	04:04PM	2.7	H
11/27	Fri	10:31PM	0.7	L
11/28	Sat	02:51AM	3.3	H
11/28	Sat	11:13AM	-0.3	L
11/28	Sat	04:52PM	2.6	H
11/28	Sat	11:17PM	0.8	L
11/29	Sun	03:37AM	3.1	H
11/29	Sun	11:59AM	-0.2	L
11/29	Sun	05:41PM	2.5	H
11/30	Mon	12:07AM	0.8	L
11/30	Mon	04:31AM	2.8	H
11/30	Mon	12:47PM	0.0	L
11/30	Mon	06:31PM	2.4	H
12/01	Tue	01:03AM	0.8	L
12/01	Tue	05:38AM	2.6	H
12/01	Tue	01:39PM	0.2	L
12/01	Tue	07:20PM	2.4	H
12/02	Wed	02:12AM	0.8	L
12/02	Wed	06:53AM	2.3	H
12/02	Wed	02:35PM	0.3	L
12/02	Wed	08:10PM	2.4	H
12/03	Thu	03:28AM	0.7	L
12/03	Thu	08:09AM	2.2	H
12/03	Thu	03:36PM	0.5	L
12/03	Thu	09:00PM	2.5	H
12/04	Fri	04:37AM	0.6	L
12/04	Fri	09:25AM	2.1	H
12/04	Fri	04:35PM	0.6	L
12/04	Fri	09:48PM	2.5	H

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FOR SALE: Homes, condos, vacant lots and boat slips. Glades Realty (239) 695-4299 - www.GladesRealty.com.

FOR SALE: 12' Aluminum boat with 3hp Johnson motor; runs well. \$500 OBO. For information, call 232-0074.

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FOR RENT: Motor home/camper lot in Copeland near Everglades City. Lovely location w/large Poinciana tree across from a park. Hook ups installed & available. Rent \$450/mo. Call Rancho T Properties LLC at (727) 480-1640.

FOR SALE: Cabins #7 & #8 at Glades Haven. Call (239) 695-9142 or email at fishnw.mykee55@live.com.

- FOR SALE:**
- 1) 2 Clyde Butcher photos; 'Florida Bay' framed 32 x 19" \$4800 OBO; 'Indian Key Pass' 1989, 16 x 11" matted \$1400 OBO.
 - 2) Rentals available in Glades Building, across from Rod & Gun; 1 & 2 bedroom furnished apts (includes use of private dock); 1 furnished office space.
 - 3) Kawasaki Prairie360 \$2500; 4x4 autos with front & rear racks, elec. winch, original and mud tires; under 700 miles. Call 695-4150 for all above items.



PET PICS

Oscar is in the spotlight again as he enjoys a day out hiking in the backpack of Taylor Dahlke.

SNOOK CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: Classic 1990 Mustang, \$4000. Call 232-0074 or 719-0332.

FOR SALE: Naples Memorial Gardens. Two burial plots, side by side, in the Garden Of The Redeemer. Lot 107, 3 and 4. Both for \$7,900. Contact: Craig Carlisle (352) 371-2164.

FOR SALE or LEASE: Waterfront Lot, 165 ft on the water; 60 ft dock; deep water. \$350,000. For more information, call (239) 253-2844.

FOR SALE: Park Model trailer & lot in Everglades VR Corp. 1 BR / 1 bath / large screen room, boat dock. Fully furnished, washer/dryer / ceiling fans/ A/C, awnings, metal roof, concrete pad w/18 tie downs, fully skirted. Explore & fish the 10,000 Islands. (410) 289-8835.

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The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

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

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Glades Haven / Oyster House Restaurant now hiring for Convenience Store and Restaurant: Cashier, Hostess, Food Runner and waitresses. Apply in person at the Oyster House or send a professional resume to gm@oysterhouserestaurant.com.

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