

# The MULLET RAPPER

**What's Happening in the Everglades City Area**

**DECEMBER 4 - 17, 2015**

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume IX • Issue #251



**Big Cypress Preserve  
Swamp Heritage Festival  
Saturday, December 5  
10:30 am – 4 pm**

Best-selling author Carl Hiaasen and world renowned photographer Clyde Butcher will be the keynote speakers at the Swamp Heritage Festival which is an annual event focused on the inhabitants of early South Florida.

Also, learn about the brave pioneering women with local historian Marya Repko discussing her new book "Women in the Everglades" (see Book Review on page 9) during the 11:30 am Campfire Corner Chat. She will describe their early activity as environmentalists, before women had the vote, and how they influenced thought back then over 100 years ago. Enjoy regional music, food, and exhibits at the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center in Ochopee.



**DECEMBER 12 HOLIDAY EVENTS**

**Art-in-the-Glades**, McLeod Park, 10 am to 2 pm.  
Have fun doing your holiday shopping and support local crafts.  
Call 695-2905 for more information.

**Christmas Tree Lighting**

Come join our community event at 5:30 p.m. in front of City Hall to decorate the tree before the Mayor switches on the lights. Visitors to our area welcome. It's fun for the whole family!



**Light Parade, Glow Run**

The annual Booster Club's Light Parade will follow the Lighting of the Christmas Tree. Donations for this fundraiser are: \$20 to put a float in; \$10 for golf cart; and \$25 for the 5K Glow Run. Proceeds go to the school's athletics program. There will also 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.



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**DECEMBER 16**

**Ladies Holiday Coffee**



Ladies Coffee is held every Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. at the different restaurants around town. However, during the Christmas season, Jan Brock graciously offers her home for one of our morning coffee meetings in December. Ladies Coffee is open to everyone and we welcome you to meet (old and new) friends on **Wednesday, December 16**, at her home in Ochopee.

For the holiday coffee everyone is asked to bring a small "breakfast" dish and a "gift" if you wish to exchange (\$7 or less; be sure to check out the Thrift Store for bargains!). It's that time of year to celebrate so come join us! Call Patty at 695-2397 for more information and directions to Jan's home (we usually car pool).



# DECEMBER 2015

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
<b>29</b> Holy Family Catholic Church re-opens	<b>30</b> Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God, 7 pm	<b>DEC 1</b> Kids' Clinic Congressional Aide Visit City Council	<b>2</b> Ladies Coffee Sweet Mayberry's Café, 8 am	<b>3</b> Family Al-Anon Celebration	<b>RAPPER 4</b> Holiday Reception <i>see p.3</i> Veterans Support Group	<b>5</b> 5K-Walk/Run <i>see p.5</i> Swamp Heritage Fest <i>see p.1</i>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm FME Annual Mtg & Luncheon <i>see p.9</i>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Ladies Coffee Island Café 8 am	<b>10</b>	new moon ○ <b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Art-in-Glades Christmas Tree Lighting Light Parade Boat Parade <i>see p.1</i>
<b>13</b> Fakahatchee Dinner <i>see p.3</i>	<b>14</b> Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm OFCD Meeting <i>see p.3</i>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Ladies Coffee Christmas Party at Jan Brock's Home 8 am <i>see p.1</i>	<b>17</b> Book Club <i>see p.3</i> Lions Club Christmas Wells' home 6:00 pm	<b>RAPPER 18</b>	<b>19</b> Pancake Fly-In <i>see p.3</i>
<b>20</b> Church of God Christmas Play <i>see p.3</i>	<b>21</b> Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church 7 pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Ladies Coffee Havana Café 8 am	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve	full moon ● <b>25</b> Merry Christmas 	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve	<b>JAN 1</b> <b>RAPPER</b> Happy New Year!	<b>2</b>

Jan 8: ESHP Movie Night  
Feb 6-7: Turkey Shoot  
Feb 23-27: MSD Festival  
Mar 5: Faka Gala / Aquafest

Jan 9: COG BBQ Dinner  
Feb 12-14: Seafood Festival  
Feb 26: ECC BBQ Dinner  
Mar 13: Everglades Bike Ride

Jan 23: Festival in the Woods  
Feb 13-14: Bluegrass Festival  
Feb 27: Swamp Cabbage Fest / ORA Bazaar

Jan 29: ECC Lasagna Dinner  
Feb 20: Everglades Ultra

THRIFT SHOP: Tues, Thurs & Sat, 11 am – 3 pm  
LIONS CLUB: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs, 6 pm, Oyster House  
DR DEMARTINO: Friday, 1:30-4:30 pm (beginning Dec 4)  
DR MARTIN: Mon, 8 am-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: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm

SKATING RINK: Fri, Sat, 7-10 pm  
REACH OUT: 3<sup>rd</sup> 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; Thurs, 12n, City Hall  
VETERANS SUPPORT: First Fri, 10 am, Com. Church  
SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily, 11 am to 5 pm  
PANCAKE FLY-IN: Dec 19, Jan 23, Feb 20, Mar 19

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      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

**Holiday Reception**

**Friday, December 4  
12 noon – 3:00 pm**

Everglades Arts - Varick Niles Studio  
110 Camellia St., Everglades City  
Everyone invited to meet  
Dayna Fendrick, art quilter  
For more information, contact  
[varick@varickniles.com](mailto:varick@varickniles.com)

**PROPOSED OIL AND GAS  
SEISMIC SURVEY**

The National Park Service is seeking public comments on the environmental impacts of a proposed oil and gas seismic survey by Burnett Oil Company in Big Cypress National Preserve. There will be a public meeting from 5:30 – 7:00 pm on **December 8** at the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center in Ochopee where NPS staff will be available to answer questions and the public will be allowed to submit written comments. Deadline for comments is **December 20**. For questions, call Don Hargrove 695-1150, Ron Clark 695-1106; or email [www.parkplanning.nps.gov](http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov).

**LONG RANGE  
TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

The Metropolitan Planning Organization has extended the public comment period for the Draft 2040 LRTP through **December 9**. The plan identifies highway, transit, pathways and other transportation projects in Collier County that are needed and are expected to be cost-feasible over the next 25 years. The document may be viewed at [www.colliermopo.com](http://www.colliermopo.com) by going to the Latest News on the left side, then select the link, "21-Day Public Comment Period for the Draft 2040 LRTP".



**FAKAHATCHEE  
DINNER**

**Sunday, December 13**

The public is invited to attend the Friends of Fakahatchee "Welcome Back" dinner at the Everglades Adventure Center featuring environmental educator Cesar Becerra who will discuss the felling of the giant cypress trees by logging companies in Copeland and Jerome. The event begins at 5 pm with a cash bar followed by a buffet dinner and Becerra's presentation. To purchase the \$45 dinner tickets, visit [www.orchidswamp.org](http://www.orchidswamp.org) and click "tours and events."



**FOOD PANTRY**

Every Wednesday a different Community Church is responsible for the Community Food Pantry; this past week it was Chokoloskee Church of God with Pastor Lynette responsible for the "Prayer for Gifts of Food" (from Harry Chapin), the volunteers who work and the food distribution. A very special thanks goes to Pantry Director Chris Ammerman and each of the many volunteers. Over 80 families were served this past holiday week. Between Mayor Hamilton and our local community food pantry not a family missed a Thanksgiving meal and for that we give thanks. Also, this week the pantry received blankets, spreads, coverlets, sheets, towels, etc., from The Knights of Columbus Council #14203 of St. Finbarr Parish of Naples which came just in time to help our community families with the "warmth needed for our first cold weather."

**Everglades Book Club**



The next meeting of the Everglades Book Club will be held on **Thursday, December 17**, at 9:30 am at Sue Rogers' home, 618 Collier Ave. Everyone is invited to come and join in the discussion of the book *Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd.

**PANCAKE FLY-IN**



Wings 10,000 Islands Tours will host a free pancake breakfast at the Everglades Airpark on **Saturday, December 19**, from 10:00 am to noon. For more info, call Chuck at 695-3296.

**Chokoloskee Church of God  
Christmas Play**

**Sunday, December 20**

Chokoloskee Church of God will have a Christmas musical starting at 6:00 pm with refreshments following in the Church Annex next door.

**OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT**

- 11/03/15: Vehicle Fire, 64 Mile Marker I-75
- 11/16/15: Emergency Medical  
SR29 & Tamiami Trail East
- 11/16/15: Emergency Med, Chokoloskee
- 11/18/15: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 11/18/15: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 11/19/15: Vehicle Accident, 80 MM I-75
- 11/19/15: Emergency Med, Chokoloskee
- 11/20/15: Vehicle Accident, 63 MM I-75
- 11/20/15: Emergency Medical, US 41 & SR 29
- 11/21/15: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 11/21/15: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee
- 11/21/15: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 11/22/15: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 11/22/15: Vehicle Accident, 65 MM I-75

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 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the office behind the Fire Station. For information, call (239) 642-5552.

**DR. MARTIN**

Dr. John Martin will be offering office hours behind the Fire Station on Mondays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. rather than Wednesdays for the rest of this calendar year. House calls are available any day, by appointment. Call (813) 787-9738 or email [martinjohnr@gmail.com](mailto:martinjohnr@gmail.com) to schedule an appointment.

**Little Gator Clinic**



The free walk-in clinic (located next to Thrift Shop) will re-open again in January 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](http://www.southfloridaal-anon.org).

The Everglades AL-ANON meets in City Hall every Tuesday at 8 am and every Thursday at 12 noon.

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# SCHOOL NEWS

Everglades City School

phone: 377-9800 or 695-2561

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

## IMPORTANT DATES

December 5 CCPS 5KRun/Walk  
 December 17-18 Early Dismissal  
 Dec 21 – Jan 5 No School - Winter Break



### Interviews by Trenton Mr. Tribble

Mr. Tribble is a great teacher at E.V.G. He gave me an opportunity to interview him. Everybody knows that he retired but came back this year.

These are some of the questions I asked him.

- 1) How many years have you been working at E.V.G.?  
"35 years"
- 2) What subjects do you teach?  
"Art"
- 3) What are the most important principles to teach your students?  
"Sharing and working together"
- 4) What are the hardest types of art?  
"Water paint and acrylic paint"
- 5) We all know you retired last year. What brought you back to E.V.G.?  
"After I talked to Mr. Spano, he said he was looking for an Art teacher. He was the only one to find me so I came back"



Mr. Tribble has been working at E.V.G. for 35 years. He was worked so hard and has been teaching Art the whole time. After college he came to E.V.G. and has been dedicated to teach you for many years. Mr. Tribble is the best!!

Trenton Mayberry is in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Everglades City School.

## 5K Walk-Run

Everyone welcomed 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](http://www.collierschools.com/ccps5k).



Shannon Snyder organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Everglades Gobble Gobble 5K on Thanksgiving morning. A lot of friends showed up for the kids run and for the adult run.

PAL sponsored another movie night with free popcorn and sodas. The movie was *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. After the movie, some of the kids sent a Get Well message to CCSO Danny Curren who is still in Shands Hospital in Gainesville.



Photos by Sue Gentry

## National Math Competition Comes to Collier County Elementary Schools

This year, some of our high-performing math students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will have the opportunity to compete in the national Noetic Math Competition in April and in a District competition in May. Both competitions will challenge students to apply their math thinking and problem solving skills in order to solve complex math problems. In November students began practicing for the competitions on a weekly or bi-monthly basis. Hopefully, the practices and competitions further excite students about critical thinking in math!

## SPORTS HOME SCHEDULE

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



### Boys' JV Basketball

Monday, Dec 7 Community School of Naples, 4:30 pm  
 Monday, Dec 14 Ida S. Baker High School, 5:00 pm

### Boys' Varsity Basketball

Monday, Dec 7 Community School of Naples, 6:00 pm  
 Monday, Dec 14 Ida S. Baker High School, 6:30 pm

### Girls' Varsity Basketball

No home games December 4 through January 6

### SUPPORT OUR EVERGLADES CITY SCHOOL

Visit <http://www.collierschools.net/Page/3519> for a complete list of the sports schedule.



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## Florida Tales



### "I remember it well"

by Chester Keene

The snow was about a foot deep. I wrapped my baby in a blanket and walked about three miles to Ma and Pa's cabin. They were leaving the next morning not letting me know.



The miners had gone out on a strike. We tramped the hills and dug ginseng. We had to do something to live. John L. Lewis was a big union man; they were supposed to feed us. Bob went once and got a pound of meat and a little bag of flour and a pound of coffee. It would be a week before they came back. We made what we had to last us. Bob and Mother dug ginseng and divided it. They got about 2 pounds in two days. She dried her 2 pounds and got 12 dollars per pound. Bob sold his for 8 dollars a pound and came home with plenty of groceries. We had milk for the babies, Eagle Brand was all the kind of milk. The next day I packed us lunch and took the children and left his Ma at home. We got 4 pounds of ginseng after two days we had about 9 pounds to sell. His Mother split hers and put salt in it on the stove to dry it. We sold ours but when they examined hers they found out she had ruined it and brought it back home. She wanted part of ours and I told her "nothing doing".

*to be continued...*

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

#### HOLIDAY MAIL POSTING DATES:

##### Military

Dec. 10: Priority and First Class

Dec. 17: Express

##### International – Europe

Dec. 1: First Class      Dec. 8: Priority

##### Domestic

Dec 15: Standard      Dec 19: First Class

Dec 20: Priority      Dec 23: Express

If you are interested in submitting an article, please email two weeks in advance to [mulletrapper@gmail.com](mailto:mulletrapper@gmail.com)

## Recipe for Good Eating

### Apple Crisp

by Patty Huff and Alyssia Rosenbaum



Ingredients: 9" pie shell (unbaked)

Filling: ¾ cup packed light brown sugar

2 TBS cornstarch

1 tsp ground cinnamon

½ tsp each of freshly grated nutmeg, ground cardamon, and ground cloves

6 cups ½" sliced and peeled Granny Smith apples

Topping (mix all together with fingers):

½ unbleached all-purpose flour

½ cup rolled oats

1/3 cup packed light brown sugar

½ tsp ground cinnamon

1/8 tsp baking soda

4 TBS cold unsalted butter, cut into small cubes

Preheat oven to 350°. Mix together sugar, cornstarch, cinnamon, nutmeg, cardamon and cloves until blended. Add apples and toss to coat. Pour the apple slices into the pie shell, including sugar and juices; then sprinkle topping evenly over the filling, leaving an inch border uncovered. Bake 1½ hours or until juices are bubbling and the topping is lightly browned. Cool before cutting.

*Note: My 9-yr-old granddaughter Alyssia and I made this recipe for our family Thanksgiving dinner in Nashville; very delicious and easy to make. She wanted me to include it in The Mullet Rapper for others to enjoy. Happy Holidays! Patty*

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



## TAXING THINGS

by Mike, *the Tax Guy*

### YEAR'S END WRAPUP

Amidst the holiday season activities and pleasantries, it's important to keep in mind a few real time necessities for the tax season.

If you are required to make estimated tax payments, don't forget to file your 1040-ES by January 15. You can make your payment online with IRS Direct Pay. Go to [irs.gov](http://irs.gov) and select the 'Pay Your Tax Bill' option.

For those lucky folks who turned 70 ½ years of age this year, remember that you must make a minimum withdrawal from your IRA account before December 31. There is a serious penalty (50%) imposed for failure to make the withdrawal. Your IRA finance institution can advise on the amount required.

And, just in case you have some great ideas about the income tax program, this year there is the opportunity to let the IRS know your thoughts. Do you have an idea that could help the IRS simplify reporting requirements, streamline procedures or shorten forms? Here's your chance to let the IRS know. Fill out [Form 13285A](#), Reducing Tax Burden on America's Taxpayers, and send it in. The [Taxpayer Burden Reduction website](#) lists examples of how the IRS is working to reduce taxpayer burden:

<https://www.irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-&Self-Employed/Taxpayer-Burden-Reduction-TBR>.

Be nice. *Merry and Happy to all!*

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



## Holiday Shopping

Every year we encourage our readers to shop locally. Many stores (and restaurants) offer unique gifts (and gift certificates!). As you run errands around town, take a second look at the variety of items available; no need to fight the traffic and long lines!



## Fishing The Ten Thousand Islands in December

Well, November certainly was a great month! Warm temps and more baitfish than I can ever remember seeing before. The fishing has remained strong. We have experienced warmer than normal temps and some less than great water quality in different places. But, now that the temps have finally come down and the water temps have dropped, the fishing is changing.

Black Drum have shown up in good numbers, Snook fishing has picked up in the back country, Redfish are still around, Sea Trout are being caught and others such as Sheepshead, Mangrove Snapper are all available this month. The cooler weather is a nice change and the variety of fish you can catch makes for an exciting day of fishing. A jig tipped with shrimp will catch everything I mentioned and then some. Fishing will be good on the outside islands, in the rivers and in the back country. Tides, winds and water temps should dictate where you fish according to what you're after.

If you are just after a good day of action then catch an incoming tide on the outside and start fishing shorelines with the jig. You will locate plenty of action. The back country action can be better on the outgoing tide when water is lower. The rivers can also be good on the outgoing tides. A great time to catch a variety so get out and enjoy the fishing here. Capt. Mike Merritt

**Captain Mike Merritt fishes artificial lures, live bait, or both out of a 22ft. Pathfinder boat powered with a 150hp Yamaha 4 stroke. Contact Capt. Merritt at (561) 795 3437 or email: [snookfishing1@juno.com](mailto:snookfishing1@juno.com) [www.everglade-angler.com](http://www.everglade-angler.com).**

## Panther Deaths



On October 31 FWC staff recovered the remains of a 4-month-old uncollared male Florida panther (UCFP252) in Collier-Seminole State Park (CSSP). The cause of death is likely due to orphaning resulting from the death of the mother. FWC staff believes that this kitten was part of a family group that was photographed in CSSP on October 6 and was orphaned, along with two other siblings, after the death of UCFP251 on US41 on October 8. UCFP253, a probable sibling of UCFP252, was captured by FWC staff with the assistance of CSSP staff and the public. UCFP253 is currently being cared for at the Naples Zoo (not on public display).

FWC panther staff recovered the remains of an 8-10 month old uncollared male Florida panther (UCFP254) at the intersection of Immokalee Road and Everglades Boulevard in Collier County on November 23. The cause of death was collision with a vehicle.

FWC staff recovered the remains of a 2.8-year-old male Florida panther (K387) on SR29 between the junctions Pollywog Road and SR78 in Glades County (north of the Caloosahatchee River). The cause of death was collision with a vehicle. K387 was a kitten of FP192 and was marked at her den in the Corn Dance Unit of Big Cypress National Preserve in February of 2013. K387 was killed 103km (65 miles) from the den site where he was marked. This is the 35th Florida panther mortality and 25th road mortality for 2015.

The total of 35 mortalities is a new record for mortalities in a year and 25 ties the record for road mortalities set in 2014. Please drive carefully in the southwest Florida rural area which is home to the Florida panther as well as other endangered wildlife.



## Living Gulf Coast

by Charles Sobczak

**Tripletail (*Lobotes surinamensis*)** Other names: buoy fish, flasher, biajaca de la mar / Status: FL=stable, ICUN=NE / Life span: to 20 years / Length: 14-42 in. (.35-1.1 m) / Weight: 3-8 lb (1.3-3.6 kg); Florida record: 40 lb 13 oz, IGFA: 42 lb 5 oz / Spawns: in the offshore waters / Found: Nearshore and inshore waters of SW Florida.

A primitive fish and the only member of its family, *Lobotidae*, the tripletail has some unusual habits, making it one of the easiest fish to catch in the Gulf of Mexico. It is called buoy fish for good reason: it has the unusual habit of hanging around almost any floating or stationary object in the sea. Locally it is often targeted by anglers shortly after the stone-crab traps are set in mid-October every year. Anglers run the traps with a light tackle rod in hand and a live well filled with shrimp. Once they discover a basking buoy fish, they turn the boat around, head upwind, and drift down unto the unsuspecting fish. A fresh shrimp cast out with no sinker within a few feet of this predator cannot be turned down. Once hooked, the tripletail is a powerful adversary. It dives, runs, and flops up and out of the water like a 10-pound pancake. The larger ones tend to wrap the trap line and escape, but the smaller ones come home for dinner. A delicious eating fish, the tripletail, because it is so easy to catch, has been overharvested by local anglers and is now a rare catch. Twenty years ago the tripletail was so plentiful that almost every buoy held one or more fish. Today, an angler might run 200 traps before spotting one. Ten years ago there were no size or catch limits on tripletail, which didn't help the survival rate. Recently Florida Fish and Wildlife adopted both slot and take limits on tripletail. The tripletail eats small fish, shrimp, and crabs. It is often too large to be eaten by anything other than sharks and goliath grouper. A solitary wanderer, its range is worldwide in tropical waters.



**Charles Sobczak is a Sanibel author. For more information, go to [www.indigopress.net](http://www.indigopress.net). This article is an excerpt from Living Sanibel by Charles Sobczak.**

Photo Art by Diane Peebles



## FWC News

The recreational harvest season for snook closed on December 1 in Gulf state and federal waters (including Monroe County and Everglades National Park) and will remain closed through February 29, 2016, reopening to harvest March 1, 2016. Snook can continue to be caught and released during the closed season. This and other regular season closures are designed to help conserve the species during vulnerable times such as cold weather.

Atlantic state and federal waters (including Lake Okeechobee and the Kissimmee River) will close December 15 this year through January 31, 2016, reopening to harvest Feb. 1, 2016.

Visit [MyFWC.com/Fishing](http://MyFWC.com/Fishing) and click on "Saltwater Fishing" and "Recreational Regulations" for more information on snook. Interested in snook research and management? Attend the 2016 Snook Symposium Jan. 13 in Orlando. Learn more about how to register at [MyFWC.com/Snook2016](http://MyFWC.com/Snook2016).



## FLORIDA FLORA

by Patty Huff

### Fiddlewood

(*Citharexylum fruticosum*)

It has been said that “no yard in Florida should be without a Fiddlewood.” It is considered to be one of the most beautiful of our native trees.

With its shrub-like appearance, many landscapers plant the Fiddlewood as a hedge, spacing the trees 8 feet apart along a property line.

These trees do well in the dry woodlands of south Florida, requiring part sun to part shade, and are extremely drought tolerant. Being a hearty tree, few insects or diseases seem to bother the Fiddlewood. Its oblong 5 inch leaves are a very glossy green on the top and dull green underneath.

The trunk can either be multi-stemmed or single. The bark is light brown and its hard wood has been used to make musical instruments (thus, the name “Fiddlewood”).

One of the most attractive features of this beautiful tree is its blossoms which are small fragrant white flowers with 2 to 4 inch clusters, blooming from spring to fall. When not in bloom, the tree produces marble-like berries, fruit that is enjoyed by our native bees, butterflies and birds.

Overall, with little care, you will enjoy this nice Florida native with its fragrant blossoms.



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If you are interested in other “Florida Flora” highlighted in *The Mullet Rapper*, visit [www.evergladesmulletrapper.com](http://www.evergladesmulletrapper.com) and go to “Back Issues” and click on “Index.”



## MUSEUM of the Everglades

“Visions of the Everglades”

Quinn Hiaasen’s exhibit will continue through the month of December in the Pauline Reeves. This young photographer demonstrates an artful eye in his ability to capture the beauty of the Everglades in both black & white photos and in color. Only a few weeks left to stop by and view these striking images of our area.



### Volunteers Needed

If you enjoy meeting new people from around the world, stop by the Museum of the Everglades and talk to Martha about volunteering at the front desk, welcoming visitors to the Museum. Call 695-0008 for more information.

### Friends of the Museum Annual Meeting and Luncheon

The annual meeting of the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades will be held on **Monday, December 7**, at 12 noon at Everglades Isle Lighthouse Club. Guest Speaker is Bob DeGross, Chief Interpreter with the Big Cypress National Preserve, who will present an update on the restoration of Monroe Station, one of few surviving stations built by Barron Collier to service automobiles traveling on the newly constructed Tamiami Trail in 1928. For information about becoming a member of the Friends of the Museum, visit FME’s website at [www.evergladesmuseum.org](http://www.evergladesmuseum.org).

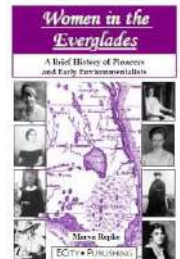
### 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala for the Collier County Museums

Mark your calendars early and R.S.V.P. by December 28 to attend the Gala to benefit all five county museums (Naples, Naples Depot, Marco Historical, Everglades City and Immokalee). This event is being hosted by the Friends of the Collier County Museum and will be held at 6 pm on **January 16** at the Windstar County Club in Naples. There will be a cocktail reception, followed by a three-course dinner, auction, reenactors and live music. Cost is \$120 per person or \$1,000 for a table of eight. For more information and to make reservations, call 252-8476.



### Off the Shelf - Book Review “Women in the Everglades - A Brief History of Pioneers and Early Environmentalists”

by Marya Repko and Reviewed by Patty Huff



This is Marya’s seventh book about the history of our area! For many years readers have been asking about the women pioneers of the Everglades and now we have a concise account of those brave and hearty folks who had dreams of their own of how this land should (or not) be developed and cities managed. Individual ladies and groups such as the Florida Federation of Women’s Clubs established libraries and schools, formed committees to support the rights of the Seminoles, became active in protecting birds and the environment and accomplished more than we realize, especially in the days before they could vote!

Many people are familiar with Marjory Stoneman Douglas and Deaconess Harriet Bedell, but have you heard about Ivy Stranahan, Ruth Bryan Owen, or May Mann Jennings? You will be surprised with what these strong, energetic women were capable of achieving during their lives on the fringes of the wilderness.

Marya will be available to sign her new book at the upcoming Big Cypress Swamp Heritage Festival in Ochopee on **Saturday, December 5** (see page 1). If you miss her there, you will still be able to purchase “*Women in the Everglades*,” as well as her other popular “brief history” books at WinCar Hardware, Right Choice Supermarket, Sweet Mayberry’s Café, the Ivey House, Smallwood Store & Museum, and Everglades National Park Boat Tours.

For more information, visit [www.ecity-publishing.com](http://www.ecity-publishing.com) or call (239) 695-2905.

## BIG CYPRESS NEWS

### Water Restoration Project

A restoration project, known as the Ochopee Sheet Flow Restoration Plan in the Big Cypress National Preserve, will deliver hydrological benefits across a broad expanse of Big Cypress wetlands – 20 square miles in total – through the strategic placement of canal plugs, the installation of underground culverts and the removal of a mile-long levee. The regional project began in 2013 and will be completed in 2016 as part of the centennial celebration marking the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Park Service.

### Star Parties

Star Parties are scheduled on Saturdays for the following dates: **December 5, January 9, February 6 and March 5** at 8:00 pm on the grounds of the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center. Explore the celestial sky and one of the darkest night skies on the east coast. <http://www.nps.gov/bicy/planyourvisit/astronomy-programs.htm>. For information regarding other park 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.

## EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

A backcountry permit is required for all wilderness campsites and issued the day before or day of your trip. This permit is required for a number of ground sites, beach sites, and elevated camping platforms (chickees) available in various locations in the park. Most sites are accessible by canoe, kayak, or motorboat, though a few may be reached by hikers. For more information, visit: <http://www.nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/backcamp.htm>.

Everglades National Park completes a New Fire Management Plan which may be downloaded from the project website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ever> and clicking on the "Document List." A limited number of copies are available upon request by calling the Fire Management Office at (305) 242- 7850. For more information, contact Jackson Weer, Acting Fire Management Officer, at (305) 242-7057 or by email at [jackson.weer@nps.gov](mailto:jackson.weer@nps.gov).

## FAKAHATCHEE STRAND

### Friends of Fakahatchee

[www.fofreservation.eventbrite.com](http://www.fofreservation.eventbrite.com)

Tram Tour & Swamp Walk (every Tues)

Ghost Rider Tram Tour (every Thursday)

Swamp Walk (Sat / Thurs); Moonlit Tram Tour

Boardwalk Tours (Thurs)

[fakaevent@yahoo.com](mailto:fakaevent@yahoo.com) or call 695-1023

## BIG CYPRESS GALLERY

Clyde Butcher's Big Cypress Gallery is offering private swamp walks 7 days a week through March. Also, the Centennial Celebration of the National Parks will be held on March 5 and 6 from 10 am to 5 pm. Meet Clyde and Niki in the gallery. View Clyde's special exhibit of the parks he has photographed around the United States. Also, the Marco Island Historical Museum is pleased to host Clyde Butcher's special exhibition *Nature's Places of Spiritual Sanctuary* which is on display at the Marco Museum from **December 1 through February 10**.



## SHERIFF'S REPORT

CCSO is reminding the community to follow these holiday shopping tips:

- \* Shop during daylight hours when possible. If shopping at night, take a friend or family member and park in a well-lit area.
- \* Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- \* Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible. They are prime targets in crowded areas. Keep cash in your front pocket.
- \* Avoid carrying large amounts of money.
- \* Be alert to your surroundings.
- \* Don't leave new merchandise, wallets and purses in unattended vehicles.
- \* Locate your keys and have them in your hand before you arrive at your car.

Stay safe while shopping in cyberspace this holiday season:

Thanks to the World Wide Web, the bulk of your shopping can be done online. You can even have your orders gift wrapped. With the added convenience of shopping online, you need to know how to protect your bank account and identity. Here are some tips to help keep your personal information safe:

- \* Use companies you know.
- \* When making purchases online, make sure the Web site you are using is secured with "https://www..." in the URL and make certain the padlock symbol is on the bottom of your browser.
- \* Read the company's privacy statement carefully. Will they sell your personal information to other companies?
- \* Trust your instincts. If something doesn't seem right, then it probably isn't.
- \* Limit the amount of personal information you give out and print all online receipts.
- \* Consider obtaining a credit card that you use only when shopping online to easily keep track of all your purchases.
- \* If possible, call in your order.
- \* Notify the issuer if your credit card is lost or stolen.



## Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Postponed

A ribbon cutting ceremony was scheduled for the U.S. 41 & SR/CR 951 Intersection Improvement Project on December 4 with speakers Commissioners Tim Nance, Donna Fiala, and Penny Taylor; Growth Management Department Head David Wilkison; and Transportation Engineering Division Director Jay Ahmad. Due to inclement weather, the ceremony has been postponed until further notice.

These projects were part of the Florida Department of Transportation Joint Agreement reimbursing the county for approximately \$14 million of the approximately \$20 million construction cost. The US41/951 project realigned the intersection to improve a skew that was a safety concern; it also added bike lanes, sidewalk, and a 10-foot shared use pathway on the east side of Collier Blvd. In addition, the project constructed Collier Area Transit bus stop enhancements both on north and southbound Collier Blvd. The SR951 Resurfacing Project milled and resurfaced the existing four-lane roadway, widened and paved the roadway shoulders, added designated bike lanes with pavement markings and signs, upgraded traffic signals at the East Naples Fire Station and at the Manatee Road intersection where CAT bus stop enhancements were added both northbound and southbound.

For more information, contact Community Liaison Connie Deane at 252-8365 or [conniedeane@colliergov.net](mailto:conniedeane@colliergov.net).

**RESTAURANTS**



- Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands**  
(642-1025): Tuesday thru Sunday,  
Noon - 9 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
- Tastes of the Everglades (695-0075)**  
11 am - 7 pm; daily
- 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-Sat)



**Helen Bryan took this beautiful November full moon photo**

**TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER**

Lat: 25.87°N Long: 81.37°W

<http://TIDESANDCURRENTS.NOAA.GOV>

|       |     |         |      |   |
|-------|-----|---------|------|---|
| 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 |
| 12/05 | Sat | 05:34AM | 0.5  | L |
| 12/05 | Sat | 10:39AM | 2.1  | H |
| 12/05 | Sat | 05:28PM | 0.6  | L |
| 12/05 | Sat | 10:34PM | 2.6  | H |
| 12/06 | Sun | 06:22AM | 0.3  | L |
| 12/06 | Sun | 11:41AM | 2.2  | H |
| 12/06 | Sun | 06:16PM | 0.7  | L |
| 12/06 | Sun | 11:15PM | 2.7  | H |
| 12/07 | Mon | 07:04AM | 0.2  | L |
| 12/07 | Mon | 12:31PM | 2.3  | H |
| 12/07 | Mon | 07:00PM | 0.7  | L |
| 12/07 | Mon | 11:53PM | 2.8  | H |
| 12/08 | Tue | 07:44AM | 0.0  | L |
| 12/08 | Tue | 01:13PM | 2.3  | H |
| 12/08 | Tue | 07:40PM | 0.8  | L |
| 12/09 | Wed | 12:27AM | 2.9  | H |
| 12/09 | Wed | 08:22AM | -0.1 | L |
| 12/09 | Wed | 01:52PM | 2.4  | H |
| 12/09 | Wed | 08:18PM | 0.8  | L |
| 12/10 | Thu | 12:58AM | 3.0  | H |
| 12/10 | Thu | 09:00AM | -0.2 | L |
| 12/10 | Thu | 02:30PM | 2.5  | H |
| 12/10 | Thu | 08:55PM | 0.8  | L |
| 12/11 | Fri | 01:26AM | 3.0  | H |
| 12/11 | Fri | 09:37AM | -0.3 | L |
| 12/11 | Fri | 03:09PM | 2.5  | H |
| 12/11 | Fri | 09:31PM | 0.8  | L |
| 12/12 | Sat | 01:52AM | 3.1  | H |
| 12/12 | Sat | 10:16AM | -0.3 | L |
| 12/12 | Sat | 03:51PM | 2.5  | H |
| 12/12 | Sat | 10:09PM | 0.8  | L |
| 12/13 | Sun | 02:20AM | 3.1  | H |
| 12/13 | Sun | 10:55AM | -0.3 | L |
| 12/13 | Sun | 04:35PM | 2.5  | H |
| 12/13 | Sun | 10:50PM | 0.7  | L |
| 12/14 | Mon | 02:54AM | 3.0  | H |
| 12/14 | Mon | 11:35AM | -0.3 | L |
| 12/14 | Mon | 05:21PM | 2.5  | H |
| 12/14 | Mon | 11:35PM | 0.7  | L |
| 12/15 | Tue | 03:37AM | 2.8  | H |
| 12/15 | Tue | 12:19PM | -0.2 | L |
| 12/15 | Tue | 06:09PM | 2.5  | H |
| 12/16 | Wed | 12:29AM | 0.7  | L |
| 12/16 | Wed | 04:33AM | 2.6  | H |
| 12/16 | Wed | 01:07PM | -0.1 | L |
| 12/16 | Wed | 06:57PM | 2.5  | H |
| 12/17 | Thu | 01:35AM | 0.6  | L |
| 12/17 | Thu | 05:51AM | 2.4  | H |
| 12/17 | Thu | 02:01PM | 0.1  | L |
| 12/17 | Thu | 07:45PM | 2.5  | H |
| 12/18 | Fri | 02:51AM | 0.5  | L |
| 12/18 | Fri | 07:33AM | 2.2  | H |
| 12/18 | Fri | 03:02PM | 0.3  | L |
| 12/18 | Fri | 08:35PM | 2.6  | H |

**RESTAURANT NEWS**

Everglades Adventure Center has recently opened its new restaurant *Tastes of the Everglades* (at the Depot) for lunch and an early dinner outside in the screened Chickee Bar. They are open 7 days a week from 11 am to 7 pm (hours may be extended later this month). The menu offers a variety of choices: appetizers (chicken, shrimp, gator, oysters, buffalo wings); salads; baskets (gator, shrimp, grouper, oysters, chicken fingers); sandwiches (grouper, hamburger, chicken, pulled pork and hot dogs); as well as seafood platter, steak and daily specials (including smoked chicken). Live music is available on Sundays.

As one local pointed out, it's nice to see cars parked at the old Depot again!

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[www.evergladesmuseum.org](http://www.evergladesmuseum.org)



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see [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) for weather  
and [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov) for storms



**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**  
10:30 am Mass

## SNOOK CLASSIFIEDS

**FOR RENT:** Office/warehouse for rent. ADA compliant full bathroom. \$600 per month includes water/sewer, electric. First/ last and security. (239) 340-4770.

**FOR SALE BY OWNER:** Captains Table Villa #315. 1B/1B Remodeled kitchen/bath \$90,000. Call (317) 446-5316 or (317) 446-5312.

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

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

**WANTED:** Motor Homes, 5<sup>th</sup> wheels and travel trailers. Any condition. Cash paid on the spot. Call (941) 347-7171.

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

**FOR SALE:** Cabins #7 & #8 at Glades Haven. Call (239) 695-9142 or email at [fishnw.mykee55@live.com](mailto: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 Bldg across from Rod & Gun; 1&2 bedroom furnished apts (use of private dock); 1 furnished office space. 3) Kawasaki Prairie360 \$2500; 4x4 autos with front & rear racks, elec. winch, original & mud tires; under 700 miles. Call 695-4150 for all of the above items.



### PET PICS

Joe and Liz West sent us this photo of Sparky & Leo enjoying an Everglades City evening together.

## 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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## JOBS & SERVICES

**Ivey House B&B** - Full-time Front Desk and Housekeeping Positions. Must work flexible days/hours. Call 695-3299 or email resume to [fdsupervisor@iveyhouse.com](mailto:fdsupervisor@iveyhouse.com).

**Joanie's Blue Crab Café** is looking for an experienced cash register helper. Please call Joanie at 695-2682.

**Glades Haven / Oyster House Restaurant** hiring for Convenience Store & Restaurant: Cashier, Hostess, Food Runner, waitresses. Apply in person at Oyster House or send resume to [gm@oysterhouserestaurant.com](mailto:gm@oysterhouserestaurant.com).

**Tastes of the Everglades** is now hiring for a cook, servers and dish washers. For more information, please call Bill at 695-0075 or Glenda at 404-0577.

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12/04/15