

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

JANUARY 15 - 28, 2016

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume X • Issue #254



BROTHER BROTHER MUSIC

Returning to the Glades Area at 8 pm on **Saturday, January 16**. Formerly known as the Anderson Brothers, the dynamic brother duo will appear at The Little Bar in Goodland. Originally from Sarasota, Bradley (age 18) and Brett (age 16) performed for the Smallwood Store benefit last January to a standing ovation in Everglades City. While there, they were signed on to perform for the 2015 season at the Jim Stafford Theatre in Branson, Mo. Their sibling harmony and electric self-styled music of original songs on guitar and banjo is a fresh dose of youthful musical magic. A show not to be missed! Their two month-14 shows "Coming Home Tour" includes a stopover at Goodland before returning the stage in Branson. Visit BrotherBrotherMusic.com for more info.

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

by Marya Repko

Mayor Sammy Hamilton reported at the meeting on January 12 that he is busy getting a huge grant to rebuild our waste water plant. As he said, "We are a small city but we are a strong and powerful city."

The Mayor then praised Lt. Mark Milligan, who is retiring at the end of the month after 13 years as head of CCSO District 7. The Mayor presented him with a plaque in gratitude. The Lieutenant replied that he appreciated the cooperation he'd received from all the community which allowed amazing things to be accomplished during his term here. There was a standing ovation for Lt. Mark.

Councilor Elaine Middelstaedt thanked Lt. Mark and his team for the "fabulous" things they'd done in the community. Councilors McBeth Collins and Parker Oglesby added their praise. Councilor Howie Grimm especially thanked the Sheriff's Office for the youth programs.

John M. Wilson, during Public Comment, asked that the "No Trucks / No Buses" sign on North Storter Avenue be made more legible to stop big vehicles from using the road as a shortcut.

The Mayor mentioned that the colored lights from the tower on the circle had been vandalized and that he was offering a \$500 reward for help in catching the person who darkened our traditional display.



TOWN HALL MEETING County Commissioner Tim Nance Tuesday, January 19 5:30 pm, Oyster House Restaurant

Commissioner Tim Nance invites area residents, businesses and associations to a Town Hall style meeting to talk about what is new in our community and in our County. Some of the subjects will include updates and information about:

- Growth Planning /Economic Development/Jobs
- The new Chokoloskee Bridge project
- Improvements in the EMS System and EMS Response time goals
- Items of interest to area residents

Please make plans to visit us and share your ideas with Tim. Invite your family, friends and, neighbors!

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

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2016

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
10	11	12 City Council Meeting	13 Ladies Coffee Island Café 8 am	14 Lions Club Meeting	<u>RAPPER</u> 15	16 Art-in-Glades <i>see p.3</i> Concert, <i>p.1</i>
17 Shark Valley Morning Bike Ride <i>see p.8</i>	MLK Day 18 School Holiday Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church 7 pm Shark Valley Free Entrance Day	19 Reach Out Mtg Town Hall Meeting with Commissioner Tim Nance <i>see p.1</i>	20 Ladies Coffee Havana Café 8 am	21 Book Club Ribbon Cutting Ceremony ECC Concert <i>see p.3</i>	22 School Homecoming	full moon ● 23 Free Pancake Fly-In Breakfast Festival in the Woods <i>see p.3</i>
24 Everglades Community Church Anniversary <i>see p.1</i>	25 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	26	27 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am	28	<u>RAPPER</u> 29 ECC Lasagna Dinner Firearm Certification <i>see p.3</i>	30
31	1 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm ESHP Meeting	2 Congressional Aide City Council Meeting	3 Ladies Coffee Sweet Mayberry's Café, 8 am FME Meeting	4	5 ESHP Movie Night <i>see p.3</i>	6 Lions Club Turkey Shoot <i>see p.3</i>
7 Lions Club Turkey Shoot <i>see p.3</i>	new moon ○ 8 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm OFCD Meeting <i>see p.3</i>	9	10 Ash Wednesday Ladies Coffee Island Café 8 am	11 Lions Club Meeting 6:00 pm Oyster House	<u>RAPPER</u> 12 Seafood Festival Family Night <i>see p.11</i>	13 ECC Pancake Breakfast Seafood Festival <i>see p.11</i>

Feb 14: Valentine's Day Feb 20: Pancake Fly-In/Everglades Ultra Feb 23-27: MSD Festival Feb 26: ESHP Talk / BBQ
Feb 27: Swamp Cabbage Fest / ORA Bazaar / Antique Auto Show Mar 5: Aquafest Mar 12: COG Dinner Mar 13: Bike Ride

THRIFT SHOP: Tues, Thurs & Sat, 11 am – 3 pm
LIONS CLUB: 2nd Thurs, 6 pm, Oyster House
DR DEMARTINO: Friday, 1:30-4:30 pm
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: 2nd Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm

SKATING RINK: Fri, Sat, 7-10 pm
REACH OUT: 3rd Tuesday, 9:30 am, City Hall
LITTLE GATOR CLINIC: Re-opens in March
FOOD PANTRY: Wed, 12 n to 2 pm, Community Church
EVERGLADES AL-ANON: Thurs, 12 noon, City Hall
VETERANS SUPPORT: First Fri, 10 am, Com. Church
SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily, 11 am to 5 pm
PANCAKE FLY-IN: Jan 23, Feb 20, Mar 19

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: 1st Tuesday (4:30 pm) Other 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



Art-in-the-Glades

Saturday, January 16

10 am-2 pm, McLeod Park

Ghosts of Chokoloskee? Death of Ochopee? New books with these fascinating local histories will be for sale along with arts & crafts by local vendors.

PYTHON CHALLENGE

The Burmese Python Removal Competition runs from **January 16** through **February 14**. Rules, registration, prizes and events posted at www.PythonChallenge.org. For more information on nonnative species in Florida, go to MyFWC.com/nonnatives.



Everglades Book Club

The next meeting will be **Thursday, January 21**, at 9:30 am at Diana Pollock's home, 309 Riverside Drive. Everyone is invited to come discuss the book *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

January 21, 1:00 pm

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held for the US41 & SR/CR951 Road Projects. Speakers include Commissioners Tim Nance, Donna Fiala, and Penny Taylor; Growth Management Dept Head David Wilkison; and Transportation Engineering Director Jay Ahmad. County Manager Leo Ochs will serve as the Master of Ceremonies and the Nicaea Academy Choir will perform patriotic songs. Parking available adjacent to Freedom Sq shopping center with shuttle service.

Everglades Community

Church Free Concert

Thursday

January 21, 7:00 pm

Live from Nashville, Creative Soul Recording Artist George Tiftt Everyone Invited!



PANCAKE FLY-IN



Wings 10,000 Islands Tours will host a **free** pancake breakfast at the Everglades Airpark on **Saturday, January 23**, from 10:00 am to noon. For more information, call Chuck at 695-3296.



Festival in the Woods

January 23, 10 am – 3 pm

Theme is the ongoing restoration project in Picayune Strand State Forest. Presenters are focusing on aquatic wildlife, red-cockaded woodpeckers, and the restoration challenges. Two new tours of the Merritt Pump Station have been added to the list of activities thanks to the SFWMD. The festival will be held in the Picayune Strand State Forest. Entrance is at the Sabal Palm Hiking Trail Trailhead which is 3.3 Miles East of Collier Blvd. on Sabal Palm Rd. For more information, call (239) 690-8031 or email Melinda.Avni@FreshFromFlorida.com.

Everglades Community Church Lasagna Dinner

Friday, January 29, 5-7 pm

Jinkins Fellowship Hall. Tickets \$10 for adults and \$5 children under 10: phone 695-2223 or see Lisa in City Hall.

Basic Firearm & Handgun Safety Course

Friday, January 29, from 7 – 9 pm

Certification Class for Concealed and Carry Weapon Permit

- Limited Space Available - \$100 Fee

For more information, call (239) 695-4540

Movie Night

Friday, February 5, 5:30 pm

Wind Across the Everglades will be the film presented by the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation in the Jinkins Fellowship Hall at Everglades Community Church; it is free of charge and open to the public. Reservations: phone Marya at 695-2905, or visit www.evergladeshistorical.org.



LIONS CLUB TURKEY SHOOT



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Information call Vicky Wells 695-2660

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 12/28/15: Emergency Med, Everglades City
- 12/28/15: Vehicle Accident, 58 MM I-75
- 12/29/15: Emergency Med, MM 64 on US 41
- 12/29/15: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands
- 12/30/15: Emergency Med, Everglades City
- 12/30/15: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 01/01/16: Vehicle Accident, 57 MM I-75
- 01/01/16: Vehicle Accident, 81 MM I-75
- 01/01/16: Emergency Med, Everglades City
- 01/02/16: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands
- 01/03/16: Vehicle Accident, 81 MM I-75
- 01/03/16: Vehicle Accident, 62 MM I-75
- 01/03/16: Vehicle Accident, 80 MM I-75
- 01/04/16: Vehicle Accident, Copeland
- 01/05/16: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands
- 01/05/16: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee
- 01/05/16: Vehicle Accident, 67 MM US 41
- 01/05/16: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 01/07/16: Emergency Medical, 71 MM I-75
- 01/07/16: Emergency Med, Everglades City
- 01/08/16: Emergency Med, Everglades City
- 01/08/16: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 01/09/16: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands
- 01/09/16: Emergency Med, Everglades City
- 01/09/16: Emergency Med, Everglades City
- 01/09/16: Vehicle Fire, 55 Mile Marker I-75
- 01/10/16: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands
- 01/10/16: Vehicle Accident, 80 MM I-75

The Ochopee Fire Control District Advisory Committee will meet at 4 p.m. on **Monday, February 8**, 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 on Friday at the Everglades Community Center behind the Fire Station.. To schedule an appointment in his Marco Island office, please call (239) 642-5552.

SPORTS PHYSICIAN

Dr. John Martin will be behind the Fire Station in the office next to the Everglades Community Center on Monday from 8 am to 6 pm. Call (813) 787-9738 or email martinjohndr@gmail.com for appt.

Little Gator Clinic



The free walk-in clinic will re-open in **March**.

Attention: Bridge Players

Every Wednesday at 1:00 pm a group of bridge players meets at a resident's home in Everglades City. If you are interested in joining us, call Patty at 695-2397.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Everglades City School

phone: 377-9800 or 695-2561

www.evg.collierschools.com

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, Jan 15	Religious Freedom Day
Mon, Jan 18	No School – Martin Luther King Day
Thurs, Jan 21	SAC Meeting, 6 pm, Media Center
Friday, Jan 22	Homecoming
Jan 25 -29	Literacy Week
Mon, Feb 15	No School – President's Day



"Small Town Taylor"

So 2016 is here! It is always fun to celebrate the new year with your friends and family. That's what we do on New Year's Eve. This year we went to my Aunt Na & Uncle Ry's house. We had a camp fire, ate dinner and blew our fog horns at midnight. Grandma makes black-eyed peas every New Year's Eve because she says it's good luck for the new year. What surprised me was the kids were louder than the adults! It was so fun playing with my cousins and friends just running around in the back yard. We heard other people celebrating. We also heard fireworks. A lot of our family came, even our family from West Palm Beach came.

On New Year's Day we went out on the boat to Coconut Island and played in the sand with our friends Ty and Charlie. My mom and dad had their friends there too. It was so much fun. We jumped off the back of the boat. When we were there I got sand for my turtle project then we went home. On the boat ride home I decided I liked the name "Small Town Taylor" for my articles in the Mullet Rapper.

Family and friends are what make New Years a holiday. We had a great time celebrating the new year and hope you had one too. I wish you all in Everglades City, Copeland, Ochopee, Chokoloskee, Plantation and Jerome a happy new year! 2016 is going to be great!!!

With lots of love ♥, Taylor

Taylor Mayberry is 9 years old and in the 4th grade at Everglades City School.



Literacy Week

Everglades City School celebrated this year's first Ice Bucket Celebration on January 8. Students are given individual and class reading goals. The Scholastic Reading Counts program is used to collect and document the students reading success! If the semester goals are met, the teachers at EVG

get "iced" for reading. We were thrilled to have the first grade, second grade, fourth grade, sixth grade and ninth grade all in attendance! Thus far, our school is proud to report record breaking numbers as we passed 4,895 points and have read over 15 million words! (Photo of Media Specialist Mrs. Owen getting iced for the classes passing their reading goals.)



Letter from the Principal 2016 Brings Excitement to Everglades City School

We are excited to be back in session after a wonderful holiday break that provided our students and staff a great opportunity to spend time with family and loved ones. It is

hard to believe that we have completed half of our school year, but there are a number of exciting events and activities on the horizon.

In January we will celebrate our Homecoming with a basketball game the evening of January 22. Our students have selected their representative for the Homecoming Court and we will announce who was voted to be the Homecoming King and Queen that evening with a dance to follow. The week of January 25th through 29th will be Literacy Week at Everglades City School! Multiple events are planned for our students as we celebrate the importance of literacy on our campus. Mrs. Owens and Ms. Secory have worked diligently to create an exciting week and we look forward to these events.

February brings the Seafood Festival's excitement to our students and town. We are fortunate again this year to have the support of the Betterment Association, Mayor Hamilton, and the City Council as they allow us to provide water and soft drinks for the entire Festival. This fundraiser is of tremendous importance to our students as the funds go to paying for the prom, "Senior Grad Night" trip, our Academic Awards Dinner and Graduation along with other needs that our students may have during the course of the year. We greatly appreciate this opportunity and extend our thanks to the Betterment Association, Mayor Hamilton and the City Council for their commitment to the children of this community.

Look ahead in further editions of the *Rapper* for highlights of the months that follow later this school year.

It is ALWAYS a Great Day to be a GATOR! Jim Ragusa

SPORTS HOME SCHEDULE

www.evg.collierschools.com/sports



Boys' JV Basketball

Fri, Jan 22 (HOMECOMING) Palmetto Ridge H.S., 5:30 pm

Thursday, Jan 27 Belen Jesuit Preparatory School, 5:00 pm

Boys' Varsity Basketball

Friday, Jan 22 (HOMECOMING) Palmetto Ridge H.S., 7 pm

Thursday, Jan 27 Belen Jesuit Preparatory School, 6:30 pm

Girls' Varsity Basketball

Friday, January 15 Oasis High School, 6:00 pm

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for a complete list of the sports schedule.

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Florida Tales



“I remember it well”

by Chester Keene



Mother had told me that Mama had written her life story and she had written it at a time when she was a little depressed and down. As you were reading Mama's story, you was able to see what my mother was talking about. The beautiful thing is... Mama left her life story! I learned so much about Mama's life from her story that I had never known before. I cannot imagine moving as much as the Dorrough's moved around and the hardships they lived through. I learned how hard Mama worked. I just can't imagine it. I knew Mama could sew and crochet, but never knew she had been musical in her young life .I learned that although she didn't have much formal education; she was a good speller and her grammar wasn't bad either. And then, at the end of this story, she praised the goodness of her children and how wonderful her in-laws were, all of them. She praised God for staying with her through those many times when she didn't know what she was going to do. That is so commendable! Mama was a great lady and I'm proud to be her granddaughter. I hope you enjoyed reading her story as much as I did. Love to all, Jane Lawson Osmond.

to be continued...

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

Panther Death



The remains of a 7-mo-old uncollared female panther (UCFP259) were collected on December 31, 2015, on CR832 in Hendry County, 3 miles west of the intersection with CR833. The cause of death was vehicle collision. This is the 41st panther mortality and the 30th road mortality for 2015.

Please drive carefully in the southwest Florida rural area which is home to the Florida panther as well as other endangered wildlife. To learn more about the endangered Florida panther, visit FWC's website:

<http://myfwc.com/conservation/you-conserve/wildlife/panthers/>

Recipe for Good Eating

Cottage Cheese Pancakes

by Nathaniel Linville of Key West



Ingredients: 1 cup cottage cheese
2 level tablespoons of whole wheat flour (or white flour)
2 tablespoons of oil (safflower or canola)
3 eggs

Mix all the ingredients together in a blender or cuisinart, and add fruit as desired before cooking. We always cooked them on a griddle over a burner on the stove, but any flat non-stick pan would work. We added butter to the pan before cooking to keep them from sticking, and flipped them as soon as they began to bubble on the uncooked side. They cook quickly, and it's easy to size up the recipe for a larger group of people by simply doubling the ingredients.

Note from Nathaniel: I remember eating these (many of them) when I was a kid, and I have very fond memories of them. We used to make them with blueberries, raspberries, strawberries or peaches. They are very thin, and not at all doughy. It's a simple recipe and there are only four ingredients, which is helpful for people like me that are challenged in the kitchen. Enjoy!

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

Angel of the Swamp

by Patricia Huff

Lt. Mark Milligan has been an integral part of our community for the past 13 years. He has been with the Collier County Sheriff's Office for 30 years and started serving the Everglades City area in March 2003. Prior to coming here, Lt. Milligan was assigned to East Naples, Marco Island and mostly in North Naples. A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh and majoring in Psychology, Mark Milligan first worked as a professional paramedic with the EMS Department in an eastern suburb of Pittsburgh. He then put himself through the Police Academy and entered law enforcement accepting a position in January 1986 with the Collier County Sheriff's Office. Mark feels honored to have worked with this community and is proud of the partnership his staff has made with the school, the community and the various organizations in town. He has especially enjoyed working with the youth in the area and being involved in the various events around town.

After retirement, Mark says he will work as an auxiliary with the Sheriff's office as well as having more time to volunteer with his favorite organization "Make a Wish Foundation" in which he and his wife have been involved for many years. His wife has been home-schooling their four youngest boys and now their 18-yr-old is preparing to go to college so they are both looking forward to helping others. Mark says he will also be spending a lot more time chasing after their two grandchildren who live in Texas. His oldest son Mark who lives there is about to be promoted from Captain to Major in the U.S. Army after having serving for two tours in Afghanistan and one in Iraq.

The Mullet Rapper would like to wish Lt. Mark Milligan the best for his retirement and thank him for all that he has accomplished through his concern and interest in our community. A true hero and our best "Angel of the Swamp."

Note: Sgt. John Wargo will be the acting Lieutenant for District 7 until a replacement is found.



SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sometime during the evening hours of December 29 persons unknown entered the Everglades City School Gymnasium and committed Criminal Mischief. This investigation is ongoing at this time. Please help us by remembering to report any suspicious activity or persons immediately to the Collier County Sheriff's Office at 252-9300 or in an emergency by dialing "911" You can help deter crime from occurring by always locking your doors and securing your valuables.

PARK NEWS

Collier-Seminole State Park

Guided Canoe Trips: Thurs – Monday Mornings (\$25)
and Moonlight Trips – **Jan 23/24, Feb 21/22** (\$35)
Reservations: 239-394-3397

Antique Auto Show: Saturday, February 27, 10 am – 2 pm

Come experience an afternoon in the hammock within Florida's Everglades. There will be several antique autos, live music, food, and various artisans for the entire family to enjoy. Free Admission with Park Entrance Fee. For information, call (239) 394-3397.

Star Gazing Party: Saturday, March 5, at 7:30 pm

Bring some chairs and enjoy a relaxing night under the stars. View the night skies with The Everglades Astronomical Society. This event can only be held if the weather is permitting. Free Admission with Park Entrance Fee (\$5 per vehicle). For information, call (239) 394-3397.

Friends of Fakahatchee Strand

www.fofreservation.eventbrite.com

Tram Tour & Swamp Walk (Tuesday); Ghost Rider Tram Tour (Thursday); Swamp Walk (Sat / Thurs); Moonlit Tram Tour; Boardwalk Tours (Thurs). 695-1023 or fakaevent@yahoo.com.

Big Cypress Preserve

Star Gazing Party: February 6 and March 5 at 8:00 pm at the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center. For more information, visit <http://www.nps.gov/bicy/planyourvisit/astronomy-programs.htm> or call 695-1201.

Tamiami Trail Triathlon: Join Park Rangers for a day of Paddling, Hiking, and Bicycling. Ranger-led, one-day events are being offered on **January 24, February 21, and March 6**. Reservations are required. Call (239) 695-3311.

Preserve Seeks Comments

NPS is seeking public comments from **January 11 to March 11** on preliminary alternatives for managing backcountry access and use within Big Cypress and also receive public input related to the development of a wilderness study and potential wilderness proposal. Local public workshop will be held at the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center on **Thursday, February 11, 5 to 7 pm**. Contact Bob DeGross at bob_degross@nps.gov or 695-1107.

Everglades National Park

Python Challenge™ along with a Burmese Python Removal Competition from **January 16 through February 14**. Details are posted online at PythonChallenge.org. To report nonnative fish and wildlife, call the FWC's Invasive Species Hotline at 888-IVE-GOT1 (888-483-4681). For more information on Burmese pythons and other nonnative species in Florida, go to MyFWC.com/nonnatives.

Glades Biking in the Morn' at Shark Valley

Jan 17, Feb 28, March 13, April 10, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Join a Park Ranger or Volunteer for a 15-mile bike ride out into the Shark River Slough. Bring your own bicycle or rent one from the concession for \$18.00. Call (305) 221-8776 for information.



Living Gulf Coast

by Charles Sobczak

Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*)

Other names: pink curlew, pink / Status:

FL=species of special concern, IUCN=LC / Life span: to 15 years / Length: 30-40 in. (76-101 cm) / Wingspan: 50-53 in. (127-135 cm) / Weight: 2.54 lb (1.13-1.81 kg) / Nests: in remote rookeries throughout SW Florida / Found: AC, coastal, near coast / Months found: JFmamJJASOnd (lower case indicates nesting and breeding season).



Without question, the roseate spoonbill is the poster child of bird lovers. A difficult bird to add to anyone's life list, the roseate is commonly found in this area year round and thus attracts thousands of avid birders annually to the islands.



Because of its pink coloration, the roseate is sometimes mistakenly confused with the flamingo. Unmistakable for its spatulate bill, bald head and flamboyant pink coloration, the roseate was nearly extirpated from Florida during the 1800s. Not only was it taken by the plume hunters, it was also killed for its meat, and its rookeries were repeatedly raided for eggs. Now recovering, the numbers of these lovely birds are still only a fraction of what they were when Ponce de Leon first landed in Florida. The roseate's feeding style is unique, similar to wood storks. It swishes its spatula-shaped bill back and forth through the soft, exposed muck of a tidal flat. When it comes across a shrimp or crustacean, it claps its bill together, eating the prey, then quickly resumes feeding. It also has a unique behavior called "skypointing" where it extends its bill and neck upward toward other spoonbills flying overhead.

The roseate is monogamous and tends to nest with other wading birds. Its nests are sometimes raided by raccoons and other predators. It needs extensive tidal flats to survive, and it suffers from polluted waters, as well as long-term habitat loss.

Photos by Sara Lopez and Richard Fortune

Charles Sobczak is a Sanibel author. For more information, go to www.indigoexpress.net.



9th Annual Everglades Bike Ride

Registration is now open for the annual Everglades Bike Ride which will take place at McLeod Park on **Sunday, March 13**. The event is planned earlier this year to enable our winter residents to participate. Once again, bicycling enthusiasts will have an opportunity to experience the “real” Everglades with options for both road and off-road cyclists: a “smooth ride” of 62 or 16 miles or you may also customize the distance of your ride. The 27-mile “bumpy ride,” will take cyclists down beautiful Janes Scenic Drive into the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park. A seafood lunch at McLeod Park is included in the registration fee as well as entrance into the historic Smallwood Store & Museum in Chokoloskee.

The event is being organized by the Friends of the River of Grass Greenway (www.evergladesROGG.org) which has been reorganized to focus on safety and environmental education and stewardship for those hiking, walking, or cycling through south Florida and the Everglades. A portion of the proceeds will also be donated to the Friends of Fakahatchee (www.orchidswamp.org). Call Patty at 695-2397 or register online <https://raceroster.com/events/2016/6573/everglades-bike-ride>.

All Everglades area residents (especially our school students) will have the added benefit of having their bicycles repaired at no charge (donations kindly accepted) by “Bikes for Tykes.” Skip will be at McLeod Park after the ride to make any repairs to your bicycle so plan to stop by and he'll provide parts and labor. THANKS, Skip!



EVERGLADES ULTRAS Saturday, February 20

Are you an ultra-runner? A half-marathoner? Looking for a great trail race in South Florida? EVERGLADES ULTRAS has a place saved just for you! Join us in Copeland for the 5th annual EVERGLADES ULTRAS trail races at Fakahatchee Strand Preserve. Visit online www.evergladesultras.com for more information



TAXING THINGS

by Mike, *The Tax Guy*

NEW FOR THE NEW YEAR

Following a review of the tax extenders legislation signed into law last month, the Internal Revenue Service announced the nation’s tax season will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 19. The IRS began accepting all business tax returns on January 9, except for the Form 94x which began on January 11.

The IRS reminds taxpayers that the quickest way to get a copy of their tax transcript is to order it online using the Get Transcript application on IRS.gov. By planning ahead, they should receive their transcript in the mail within five to 10 days from the time the IRS receives the request online.

The Internal Revenue Service issued the 2016 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on January 1, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) are:

- 54 cents per mile for business miles driven, down from 57.5 cents for 2015
- 19 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, down from 23 cents for 2015
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

Form Number	Reporting Information	Due Date
1098	Home mortgage interest	February 2
1098-E	Student loan interest	February 2
1098-T	Tuition, reimbursements, scholarships, grants	February 2
1099-B	Sales, barter and redemptions of securities	February 17
1099-C	Cancellation/forgiveness of debt income (including mortgages)	February 2
1099-DIV	Dividends, capital gains and distributions	February 2
1099-G	Government payments, including tax refunds and unemployment compensation	February 2
1099-INT	Interest income	February 2
1099-K	Credit card payments in course of trade or business	February 2
1099-MISC	Rents & royalties, prizes & awards & non-employee compensation	February 2
1099-MISC	Attorney’s fees & substitute payments	February 17
1099-R	Distributions from retirement plans, including IRAs and profit sharing plans	February 2
1099-SA	Information about real estate sales	February 17
1099-SA	Distributions from an HSA, Archer MSA, or Medicare Advantage MSA	February 2
SSA-1099	Social Security payments	February 2
W-2	Wages, including sick pay and benefits	February 2
W-2G	Gambling winnings	February 2

When should you receive your necessary forms?

Happy New Year - Live Long and Prosper
from Mike the Tax Guy

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

LOCAL HISTORY PARK ANNIVERSARIES

by Marya Repko

This year is the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service which was signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson on August 25, 1916.

And, it is also the 100th anniversary of what became Everglades National Park, thanks to some determined women in the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs who created a park at Paradise Key, also called Royal Palm Hammock. If it were not for May Mann Jennings and her political clout (her husband William Sherman Jennings had been governor of Florida 1901-1904), the ages-old trees might have been cut down so that the land could be farmed or developed.

In 1934 enabling legislation for Everglades National Park, which includes Royal Palm Hammock, was passed by Congress, thanks to Ruth Bryan Owen (the first woman from Florida to be elected as a Representative). However, World War II intervened and it was not until 1947 that President Harry S Truman pronounced the formal opening at a ceremony in Everglades City with our own Deaconess Harriet Bedell giving the invocation.

The NPS is offering free entry during this momentous year on 16 days; see www.nps.gov
To learn more about ENP, see www.nps.gov/ever.



Off the Shelf – Book Review

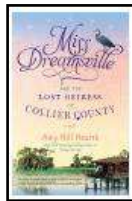
Miss Dreamsville and the Lost Heiress of Collier County

by Amy Hill Hearth

reviewed by Marya Repko

In her second novel set during the 1960s in the Naples area, the author tackles the problem of development. Will unscrupulous businessmen, with money from outside, pave over paradise?

The zany gang of gals who also featured in the previous book (see *Rapper*, 6/21/09) include the Turtle Lady, Plain Jane, upper crust Mrs. B-W, and flamboyant radio star Miss Dreamsville. They are joined by a former feisty stripper who now hunts gators from her shack in the swamp on a river estuary where the new condos are being planned.



The book includes good descriptions of the Glades and poses the "jobs vs. environment" question. It's a good read, funny but with a serious message and lots of local color when Naples was still a remote rural southern town. The old Courthouse and its history in Everglades City is mentioned with an acknowledgement at the end to the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades!

This new book is available at the Collier County Public Library.

Everglades Book Club

The following books are to be discussed at the Everglades Book Club. Everyone is invited to join the group discussions.

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

MUSEUM of the Everglades Pauline Reeves Gallery "Phlorida Photos"



A reception was held for photographer Tommy Owen (pictured above with Donna Glann-Smyth, his father Mike Owen and Collier County Museum Director Ron Jamro). The event was hosted by the Friends of the Museum on January 9. If you missed it, please stop by and visit this new exhibit which will be on display through February 29. The Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9 am to 4 pm. For information about supporting our Museum and becoming a member of the Friends, visit FME's website at www.evergladesmuseum.org.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Festival February 23 – 27

On Tuesday, February 23, Captain Franklin Adams will discuss "My Memories of Marjory". He first met Marjory as a student when she was lecturing and later he became a close friend in "Marjory's Army" as he helped her give her speeches around the state. For a complete list of events, pick up a brochure around town or at the Museum. 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.



Pioneering Women, 100 Years Ago

A century ago, the first woman to be Mayor of a city in Florida was Marian O'Brien who was elected in 1916 when the little town of Moore Haven, west of Lake Okeechobee, was incorporated. Included in its statutes was the right to vote for women - three years before Amendment 19 was passed in 1919.

Marian was a competent business woman who took over her husband's holdings in remote Florida after he suddenly passed away. She created a bank, a hotel, and other amenities for the new town. She then went on to help found Clewiston and the sugar industry there.

You can read more about this amazing woman who achieved so much in those early days in the new book "Women in the Everglades" which describes some of the brave pioneers who lived on the fringes of the River of Grass, from Miami to Sanibel and parts in-between.

For information, see www.ecity-publishing.com or phone author Marya Repko at (239) 695-2905.

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
Supper Upstairs 6-9 pm; Thurs-Sun
- 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
- 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)



Everglades Community Church will be celebrating their 90th Anniversary on Sunday, January 24.

TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

Lat: 25.87°N Long: 81.37°W

<http://TIDESANDCURRENTS.NOAA.GOV>

01/15 Fri	01:16	0.3	L
01/15 Fri	05:56	2.3	H
01/15 Fri	01:33	0.1	L
01/15 Fri	07:04	2.5	H
01/16 Sat	02:26	0.2	L
01/16 Sat	07:22	2.0	H
01/16 Sat	02:30	0.3	L
01/16 Sat	07:54	2.5	H
01/17 Sun	03:40	0.1	L
01/17 Sun	08:55	1.8	H
01/17 Sun	03:36	0.5	L
01/17 Sun	08:49	2.6	H
01/18 Mon	04:50	0.0	L
01/18 Mon	10:34	1.8	H
01/18 Mon	04:45	0.6	L
01/18 Mon	09:50	2.6	H
01/19 Tue	05:54	-0.2	L
01/19 Tue	12:07	1.9	H
01/19 Tue	05:50	0.7	L
01/19 Tue	10:50	2.7	H
01/20 Wed	06:51	-0.3	L
01/20 Wed	01:11	2.0	H
01/20 Wed	06:50	0.7	L
01/20 Wed	11:44	2.8	H
01/21 Thu	07:43	-0.4	L
01/21 Thu	01:53	2.1	H
01/21 Thu	07:44	0.6	L
01/22 Fri	12:32	2.9	H
01/22 Fri	08:30	-0.5	L
01/22 Fri	02:25	2.1	H
01/22 Fri	08:33	0.6	L
01/23 Sat	01:15	2.9	H
01/23 Sat	09:14	-0.5	L
01/23 Sat	02:53	2.2	H
01/23 Sat	09:17	0.5	L
01/24 Sun	01:55	2.9	H
01/24 Sun	09:55	-0.4	L
01/24 Sun	03:21	2.2	H
01/24 Sun	09:59	0.4	L
01/25 Mon	02:34	2.8	H
01/25 Mon	10:33	-0.4	L
01/25 Mon	03:51	2.3	H
01/25 Mon	10:40	0.4	L
01/26 Tue	03:13	2.7	H
01/26 Tue	11:09	-0.3	L
01/26 Tue	04:24	2.3	H
01/26 Tue	11:20	0.4	L
01/27 Wed	03:54	2.5	H
01/27 Wed	11:45	-0.1	L
01/27 Wed	05:00	2.3	H
01/28 Thu	12:01	0.3	L
01/28 Thu	04:39	2.3	H
01/28 Thu	12:19	0.0	L
01/28 Thu	05:38	2.3	H



SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

The Everglades Seafood Festival is just around the corner starting with Family Night on **February 12** and continuing through the weekend of **February 13-14**. Everglades Community Church will have a pancake breakfast from 7 am to 11 am on Saturday morning. Stop and enjoy before the festivities begin.

American Idol star Nadia Turner will sing the National Anthem at the opening ceremonies on Saturday and will again perform a full set at least once on the big stage. The following is a preliminary list of the other entertainers:

- Them Hamilton Boys
 - Dance Company from LaBelle
 - Lets Hang On
 - Lostman's Five
 - Tim Elliott
- More artists are being booked.
See website

www.evergladesseafoodfestival.org

(more information and a full schedule of events will be listed in the next two issues of the Mullet Rapper)

MUSEUM OF THE EVERGLADES



105 West Broadway, Everglades City
OPEN: Monday - Saturday
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
(239) 695-0008
www.evergladesmuseum.org

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EVERGLADES CITY

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see www.weather.gov for weather
and 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
- 1st Baptist Church of Everglades City**
9:45 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship
6 pm Sunday, 6 pm Wed Bible Study
- Holy Family Catholic Church**
10:30 am Mass

See the Rapper in full color!
Visit our website

www.evergladesmulletrapper.com

SNOOK CLASSIFIEDS

LOT FOR SALE: Desirable large residential lot on historic South Starter. Includes architect's drawings for attractive cottage stilt house. hannahi@tidewater.net, 207-380-4334.

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.

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

FOR RENT: Mobile home lot in Copeland. Electric power pole, sewer tie in hook up and mobile home pad already in place...1/14 acre lot. Rent \$350/month ...first and last month rent required. Lovely property for your new home. 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.

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.



PET PICS

Our local flock of Ibis are enjoying a trip around town during the holidays. With the recent rain, they are finding lots to eat.

SNOOK CLASSIFIEDS

FREE: Hot Springs spa, seats 5, cover with opener, includes some chemicals. Call (239) 293-9305.

FOR SALE: Deeded Boat Slips in protected basin. Ramp available. Call Karen at Glades Realty (239) 695-4299.

CONDO FOR SALE: Hidden haven of man caves at waterfront complex having gateway to 10,000 islands and Fisherman's Paradise \$240,000 OBO. www.FlexTeamRealty.com (239) 398-7990.

AM LOOKING FOR HOUSE TO LEASE OR BUY: Call Bill 695-0075.

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

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

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PRODUCTION

layout: Marya Repko, printing: Hinson Studio

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

We provide local news of interest to the extended communities of Everglades City, Chokoloskee, Plantation Island, Lee Cypress, Copeland, Jerome, and Ochopee.

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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

25¢ per issue or \$40 per year by US Post

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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.

Joanie's Blue Crab Café - A mature and experienced person to run a cash register part time after 11 am; also needed an experienced person in the kitchen prep area full time! 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.

Tastes of the Everglades now hiring for a cook, breakfast cook, waitresses and dish washers. For info, call Stuart at 695-0075.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

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1/15/16