

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

JANUARY 29 – FEBRUARY 11, 2016

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume X • Issue #255

Thanks from Lt. Mark

It has been a pleasure working with the Community over the past 13 years as the District Lieutenant for the area. I'm pleased of the Community Partnerships that we have developed to help make the area a safer place to live. Out of my 30 year career at CCSO my assignment over the last 13 years has been the most rewarding working with the local Community in the area. This past Thursday I attended a luncheon that was held in my honor at the Island Café (see photos on page 11). I was truly amazed when I walked into the back room at the Island Café and saw the turnout of the Community that was present. On top of that the food, cards and book that was presented to me was overwhelming. I'd like to thank everyone again for their support and friendships over the years. I will never forget this area which will always remain a special place for me. You people are great!

Effective Monday January 25 Sgt. John Wargo assumed the role of Acting Lieutenant for District 7. This will be in effect until a replacement is found. Please feel free to contact him at the Everglades Substation should the need arise.

Wishing everyone the best in the coming years ahead. God Bless you all!

Photos of Recent Flooding



Area kids have fun during our full-moon high tides which flooded the streets of Everglades City.



Henry and Jack Snyder (above) making their way down Allen Ave during our high tides and strong southwest winds.



Fish story: Chokoloskee residents enjoy a moment of fun in the flood.

SEAFOOD FESTIVAL



The Everglades Seafood Festival is just around the corner starting with Family Night on **February 12** with carnival activities, rides for the kids, music and good food.

The festivities will continue through the weekend of **February 13-14** starting with the Everglades Community Church on the Circle serving a great pancake breakfast from 7 am to 11 am on Saturday morning. Be sure to stop and enjoy a homemade meal before the festivities begin at 10 am with the opening ceremony.



American Idol star Nadia Turner will sing the National Anthem on Saturday and will perform again on Sunday afternoon. Plan to stay for the entire weekend. Other entertainers are: Charlie Pace, The Last Rodeo, Lets Hang on, Tim Elliott, Dance Company from LaBelle, Lostmans Five, Them Hamilton Boys, Gator Nate, Brandon Maddox, and William Michael Morgan from Nashville.

Arts and crafts and great seafood will also be part of this annual event. For more information, visit website www.evergladeseafoodfestival.org

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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>
24 Everglades Community Church Anniversary	25 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	26	27 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am	28	RAPPER 29 ECC Dinner Live Music Havana Café Firearm Certification <i>see p.3</i>	30 Swamp Buggy Races <i>see p.3</i>
31 Swamp Buggy Races <i>see p.3</i>	1 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm ESHP Meeting 8:30 am	2 Congressional Aide <i>see p.3</i> City Council Meeting 5:30 pm	3 Ladies Coffee Sweet Mayberry's Café, 8 am FME Meeting 3:30 pm	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	RAPPER 12 Seafood Festival Family Night <i>see p.1</i>	13 ECC Pancake Breakfast Seafood Festival <i>see p.1</i>
14 Valentine's Day Seafood Festival <i>see p.1</i>	15 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church 7 pm	16	17 Ladies Coffee Havana Café 8 am	18	19	20 Pancake Fly-In Breakfast Everglades Ultra <i>see p.3</i>
21 ECC Concert <i>see p.3</i>	full moon ● 22 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	23 MSD Festival	24 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am MSD Festival	25 MSD Festival <i>see p.9</i>	RAPPER 26 MSD Festival ESHP Talk	27 MSD Festival Art in Glades ORA Bazaar Antique Auto Show

Mar 5: Aquafest

Mar 11: Movie Night

Mar 12: Art-in-the-Glades; COG Dinner

Mar 13: Everglades 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: 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

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.

Live at Havana Café

Friday, January 29

Dining to the Music of
Martin & Monroe

5:30 – 6:30 pm First Show

7 – 8 pm Second Show

Basic Firearm & Handgun Safety Course

Friday, January 29, 7 – 9 pm

Certification Class for Concealed and Carry Weapon Permit

- Limited Space Available - \$100 Fee

For more information, call (239) 695-4540

SWAMP BUGGY RACE

January 30 & 31

The 66th Running of The World Famous Swamp Buggy Races return to the Florida Sports Park.

www.ticketderby.com/ea/?id=1563

CONGRESSIONAL VISIT

Enrique Padron, District Representative of Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart, will meet with constituents in City Hall on **Tuesday, February 2**, from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm. For info, phone 348-1620.

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.

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.

LIONS CLUB TURKEY SHOOT

20201 SR 29 (DEEP LAKE)

Sat, February 6 (10 am-5 pm)

Sun., February 7 (12 noon to 5 pm)

Hourly drawings; grand prizes Sun 5 pm
12 Gauge Shotgun & 20 Gauge Shotgun
Gas Grill

Food and Drinks available

NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED

Information call Vicky Wells 695-2660



Bible Study

Every Friday (thru March 11)

2:00 – 3:30 pm

A *Quick Journey Through the Bible*

Holy Family Catholic Church

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Kim_sanmarco@comcast.net

\$20 for workbook & Bible aids



Everglades Book Club

The next meeting of the Book Club will be **Thursday, February 18**, at 9:30 am at Linda Williams' home on Dupont Island. Book to be discussed: *Luncheon of the Boating Party* by Susan Vreeland.

PANCAKE FLY-IN

Wings 10,000 Islands Tours will host a **free** pancake breakfast at the Everglades Airpark on **Saturday, February 20**, from 10:00 am to noon. For more information, call Chuck at 695-3296.



EVERGLADES ULTRAS

Saturday, February 20

Looking for a great trail race in South Florida? EVERGLADES ULTRAS has a place 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.

Everglades Community Church Free Concert

Sunday, February 21

7:00 pm

Everyone is invited - George Tiffit, the Creative Soul Recording Artist from Nashville

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

01/11/16: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee
01/11/16: Emergency Medical, 77 MM I-75
01/12/16: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
01/12/16: Structure Fire, Port of the Islands
01/13/16: Vehicle Accident, 71 MM I-75
01/13/16: Vehicle Accident, US 41 and SR 29
01/13/16: Vehicle Accident, Chokoloskee
01/14/16: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands
01/15/16: Vehicle Accident, 82 MM I-75
01/15/16: Vehicle Accident, 55 MM I-75
01/15/16: Vehicle Accident, 73 MM I-75
01/15/16: Public Assist, Port of the Islands
01/15/16: Power Lines Down, SR 29 and Wagon Wheel Road
01/15/16: Vehicle Accident, 51 MM I-75
01/17/16: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands
01/17/16: Vehicle Accident, Jerome
01/17/16: Power Line Down, Copeland
01/17/16: Vehicle Accident, 53 MM I-75
01/18/16: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands
01/18/16: Public Assist, Port of the Islands
01/18/16: Vehicle Accident, Port of the Islands
01/19/16: Public Assist, Port of the Islands
01/20/16: Public Assist, Port of the Islands
01/21/16: Public Assist, Port of the Islands
01/21/16: Vehicle Accident, 82 MM I-75
01/21/16: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
01/21/16: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands
01/21/16: Vehicle Accident, 65 MM I-75
01/22/16: Vehicle Accident, 56 MM I-75
01/22/16: Public Assist, Port of the Islands
01/22/16: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee
01/22/16: Vehicle Accident, 75 MM I-75
01/24/16: Vehicle Accident, 65 MM I-75
01/24/16: Emergency Med, Plantation Island
01/24/16: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee
01/25/16: Vehicle Accident, 64 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

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SCHOOL NEWS

Everglades City School

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www.evq.collierschools.com

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon, Feb 15 No School – President’s Day



"Small Town Taylor"

The Everglades is such a wonderful place to live in. There's so much to do and see where we live. On Martin Luther King day we went canoeing down Turner River. We loaded the canoe up in the back of my dad's truck and put it in at the canoe ramp on 41 and canoeed all the way through to Chokoloskee!

We got to see a lot of interesting things on our canoe trip, like the mangrove tunnels, snail

eggs and mushrooms growing on the trees. In the mangrove

tunnels we saw a mommy and a baby raccoon walking on the mangroves above us. We also saw a few orchids and water beetles. Then my mom handed me the paddle and I got to paddle. When we got out of the mangrove tunnels, we had a picnic at the open prairie. That day was probably the best day ever. I love canoeing!



With lots of love♥, Taylor

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

EVERGLADES BIKE RIDE

Sunday, March 13

During the annual Everglades Bike Ride this year, our school students will have the opportunity of having their bicycles repaired at no charge (donations kindly accepted) by "Bikes for Tykes." Skip will be at McLeod Park to make any repairs to your bicycle so plan to stop by and he'll provide parts and labor. THANKS, Skip!

Also, a supporter has offered to sponsor up to 15 Everglades City students for the 16 mile on-road bike ride and the 27 mile off-road bike ride this year. For more information and to register free of charge, contact Patty Huff at 695-2397.



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Photos by Melissa Owen



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The Rev. Dr. Bob N. Wallace, Pastor

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

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Florida Tales



“1892 Everglades Exploring Expedition”

by Chester Keene

continued from Aug.28, 2015,issue....



Soundings made during the day showed from 3-5 feet of mud all underlaid with hard rock. In the saw grasses the bottom could not always be found with a five foot pole. Mud was everywhere today, little if any sand could be felt with the feet. Reclaimed, it would be very rich land. The richest we have yet seen, says our engineer. Saw grass to the southward almost continuous, as far as the eye could see looking from 15-20 feet elevation. Water averaged for the day 1.2 feet, except on saw grasses where it averaged .2 of a foot only. Our Indian Billy Fiewel did not turn up tonight as agreed. Fresh Indian signs were seen by Mr. Newman who arrived ahead of the party an hour or two before sunset, so he may have come and seeing our saw grass fires to the south and west of the island, concluded we were too far off the course for him to bother about us. The glades at this point present an endless sea of saw and other grasses. The 2 miles of packing from the boat where we left them was the boggiest marsh and saw grass imaginable and all hands were thoroughly tired out when we reached Camp No.5, Island No.23. We are 92,750 feet from Fort Shackleford tonight on our course. *to be continued...*

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

Articles

If you are interested in submitting articles to *The Mullet Rapper*, please submit by next Friday via email to mulletrapper@gmail.com for our consideration. Also, all announcements are welcome at no charge.

Recipe for Good Eating

Easy Recipes

by Marya Repko and Patty Huff

Marva's Zucchini Slaw: I wanted some coleslaw and couldn't find any in our local grocery store so I improvised.

Slice up some zucchini in very thin rounds, then slice again to make julienne strips. Slice up a bit of sweet onion very thin.

Mix up in bowl with mayonnaise and lemon juice. And, if you want a hint of the exotic, add a few cumin or coriander seeds.

Let sit for about an hour in refrigerator so that flavors can meld.

Patty's Tomato Soup: One recent chilly day I decided to make a simple soup. I had some diced tomatoes leftover from a puttanesca recipe I had made the night before.

Sauté a ½ cup of chopped onions in 2 TBS butter until translucent; let cool. In a blender combine onion mixture, diced tomatoes, 1 TBS sugar, ¼ cup chopped basil, salt & pepper. Mix on high until smooth and return to the stove to heat. If you wish a thicker soup, add heavy cream. Garnish with chopped parsley.

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



TAXING THINGS by Mike, The Tax Guy

Oops!

The IRS has begun mailing follow-up letters to taxpayers noting that the Identity Protection (IP) PIN they received in a prior mailing is valid despite the incorrect reference to the year. Please be aware the IP PIN listed on the CP 01A notice dated Jan. 4, 2016, is valid for use on individual tax returns filed in 2016. The earlier notice incorrectly indicates the IP PIN issued is to be used for filing the 2014 tax return when it should be used for the 2015 tax return.

U.S Treasury offers myRA, a Free No-Fee, Retirement Savings Option. In November, the Treasury Department launched myRA, a new, simple way to open a starter retirement account. myRA has no fees, and participants can fund their myRA accounts through:

- Payroll deduction. Set up automatic direct deposit contributions to myRA through an employer.
- Checking or savings account. Savers can also fund a myRA account directly by setting up recurring or one-time contributions from a checking or savings account.
- Federal tax refund. At tax time, you may direct all or a portion of a federal tax refund to your myRA account.

Who Can Represent You Before the IRS?

Many people use a tax professional to prepare their taxes. Tax professionals with an IRS Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN) can prepare a return for a fee. Limited representation rights authorize the tax professional to represent you if, and only if, they prepared and signed the return. For returns filed after Dec. 31, 2015, the only tax return preparers with limited representation rights are Annual Filing Season Program Participants.

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

NEW MPO Executive Director

Collier MPO Board has selected Anne McLaughlin as its new Executive Director. Anne brings a stellar wealth and breadth of experience with her; most recently as the Statewide Planning Bureau Chief for the New Mexico DOT. Prior to working for the New Mexico DOT, Anne oversaw a large municipal planning staff responsible for development review, long range planning, and building and zoning code enforcement. The MPO is responsible for prioritizing state and federal dollars that address the county's travel needs. The MPO is committed to providing local residents with a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process for all modes of transportation including highways and roadways, transit, and bicycles and pedestrians. For general information, call MPO Executive Director Ms. Anne McLaughlin at 239-252-8192.



Fishing Report

February In The Ten Thousand Islands: Well winter finally made it to south Florida and water temps dropped enough to get the winter bite going. We have been catching lots of Seatrout on the grass flats. Fish a live shrimp or a DOA shrimp on a popping cork for the Trout. The Black Drum have also been biting extremely well. These fish can also be caught on shrimp. Redfish are still abundant and they are being caught in the islands and in the back country. Fish shrimp or a jig for the Reds. Tip the jig with some shrimp to increase the bites. Fish the incoming tide around the islands for the Redfish and the Black Drum. These have been biting best on the lower water. Sheepshead have been biting really good too and Mangrove Snapper seem to be everywhere. Snook fishing in the back country is still good as well. I have been using soft plastic lures fished close to the mangroves. White DOA Baitbuster mullet fished really slow are a great way to go. You can also fish out on the edges of the flats and catch Mackerel, Bluefish, and Pompano. There will be a lot of variety this month and the weather should be pleasant but cool. A great time to get the novice angler out and have lots of action! Good Luck Fishing, 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 www.everglade-angler.com

From Savannah's Eyes

Well I am currently 3 weeks into my 3rd semester at the University of Florida and loving every minute of it. What makes it even better is that I am surrounded by such amazing, motivated, and talented people. I have made so many friends and already accomplished so much and I'm only a freshman! Not to mention it's crazy how next school year (which is only a couple months away now) I will be a sophomore! These years are flying by way too fast for me.

Speaking of accomplishments, I am excited to share that I am a member on the first ever Dance Marathon which is an annual event benefiting the patients of UF Health Shands Children's Hospital. Every year more than 800 students stay awake for 26.2-hours while being on their feet (the whole time) in order to raise money and awareness for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Dance Marathon has been a part of UF for 21 years and more than \$10 million has been donated, making it the most successful student-run philanthropy in the Southeastern U.S.! In 2015, DM at UF raised a grand total of \$2,015,307.17! This is incredible! As an FTKrew (an abbreviation meaning 'For The Kids') member, my goal is to raise \$1,000 (so far I am at \$320.00) and I would love it if you would checkout my fundraising page! Just go to <http://events.dancemarathon.com/> at the top right you will see a search bar that says "Fundraiser Search"; type in "Savannah Oglesby" to visit my page. Not only is this for a good cause, it's for the kids! For more information about Dance Marathon, visit <http://floridadm.org/about>.

I returned home on January 22 to crown our new Everglades City School Homecoming Queen 2016! (See page 5).

Loving the life I live!

Love always, Savannah



Living Gulf Coast

by Charles Sobczak

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)

Other names: snakebird, water turkey, darter / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=LC / Life span: Life span: to 11 years / Length: 30-37 in. (75-95 cm) / Wingspan: 45-48 in. (114-123 cm) / Weight: 2.7 lb (1.22 kg) / Nests: throughout SW Florida / Found: AC, coastal, near coast, mainland / Months found: JFmamJASOND (lower case indicates breeding and nesting season).



One of the most photographed birds in Florida, the anhinga can be seen at almost any time of the day along canals and drainage ditches, drying its wings. The name anhinga, which comes from the Tupi-speaking natives of the Amazon basin, means "evil spirit of the woods." Locally it is often referred to as the snakebird because of its ability to swim through the water with only its long, snakelike neck exposed.

When in full breeding plumage, the male anhinga sports a stunning black and white neck, back, and forewings that resemble piano keys. The female has a brown neck and breast. Because of its similar size and feeding habits, the anhinga is easily confused with the cormorant. Unlike the cormorant, however, the anhinga is an excellent flyer and can sometimes be seen soaring with wood storks and vultures high above the peninsula.

The anhinga, a distant relative of the pelican, has evolved a unique style of fishing. Unlike the cormorant and most diving ducks, the anhinga has no natural oils in its feathers. That, coupled with its dense bone structure, allows the anhinga to sink once its feathers become saturated with water. Also unlike the cormorant, the anhinga seldom grasps its prey but instead impales the pinfish or sand trout on its sharply pointed, dagger-like beak which it uses to impale the unfortunate fish. The anhinga carefully flips the minnow off of its beak, eventually working its way around to its mouth where it swallows the minnow whole. Its unusual perching behavior, with its large wings spread wide open, occurs because the anhinga becomes completely waterlogged after fishing. Sometimes, when startled and still too wet to fly, the anhinga will tumble back into the water creating a loud, unexpected splash. Although its principal diet is fish, the anhinga has been known to eat baby alligators, water snakes, leeches, and frogs. Monogamous and colonial, it often nests with egrets and herons. Aside from alligators and great horned owls, the anhinga has few natural predators.

Photos by Richard Fortune and Sara Lopez

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



LOCAL HISTORY

Everglades Community Church - 90th Anniversary

by Marya Repko

A Presbyterian congregation was established in 1926 for residents of the Everglades area. Services were held in various locations around the town such as Club Everglades, the community center that also showed films. By 1939 it was decided that a permanent location was needed and the Collier interests gave land to the church on condition that the building be finished by 1940 and that the church be non-denominational.

Various improvements were made over the years after that and the Fellowship Hall at the rear was added in 1957. More recently, the complete building has been renovated under the leadership of Pastor Bob Wallace.



In 2008 the vinyl siding was removed, revealing decorative arches over the front windows. The interior of the sanctuary was enlarged and stained glass windows, donated by members, were installed. Finally, the Fellowship Hall was completely modernized thanks to a bequest by Louise Collier Jinkins who had joined the church in 1937 and continued to attend until her passing in 2010.

A celebration was held to mark the 90th Anniversary on Sunday, January 24, with the issue of an historical booklet, posters of photos, and a video.



MUSEUM of the Everglades

Pauline Reeves Gallery "Phlorida Photos"

Tommy Owen is currently exhibiting his photographs of the Everglades through the end of February. The Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9 am to 4 pm. If you are interested in volunteering as a greeter at the front desk, please contact Martha at 695-0008. If you would like to support our local museum, please join the Friends of the Museum. For information visit FME's website at www.evergladesmuseum.org.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Festival February 23 – 27



Lots of events are being planned for the upcoming MSD Festival. In addition to the opening presentation by Franklin Adams and the luncheon on **Tuesday, February 23**, there are guided outdoor activities in our parks and wonderful speakers throughout the week. 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. For a complete list of events, pick up a brochure around town or at the Museum.



Off the Shelf – Book Review

"Hey, God? Yes, Charles, Conversations on Life, Loss and Love"

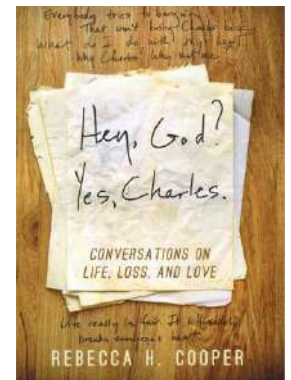
by Rebecca H. Cooper

reviewed by Patty Huff

Some people say that everything that happens to us in life is for a purpose. That is hard to accept when we lose a loved one who is (relatively speaking) much too young.

Somehow, though, I don't believe my chance meeting with Becky Cooper at Ladies Coffee a few weeks ago was without a purpose. I arrived late and the only available seat was right next to her. This was Becky's first visit to Everglades City; her long-time friend Nina Armstrong had been coming here for years and from our introductions I learned that they were from the Nashville area (my home town) and Nina's older sister had been a patient of my father's. So, we had an immediate connection, and the southern ladies that we are, we didn't stop talking. It was from our conversation that morning that I learned of Becky's loss in 2007 of her husband, a healthy 58-year-old who had an underlying heart condition that took his life, so unexpectedly that it took Becky years to recover. She was angry with God and lonely; she and Charles had been high school sweethearts and married for 38 years.

As Becky explains it, during the months following Charles' passing, she would hear conversations between him and God. We all handle loss of a loved one in different ways, many of us continuing that close connection after the death. Becky would just write down on scraps of paper what she was experiencing and those little notes evolved into this heartrending book which a friend encouraged her to share with others. All of us can relate to her words and suffering but few can express it with such humor (strange word but true) and simplicity. Thank you, Becky. Read the reviews on Amazon where the book may be purchased and visit website www.heygodyescharles.com for more information.



Everglades Book Club

The following books are to be discussed at the Everglades Book Club this season. Everyone is invited to join the group discussions. The Book Club meets at 9:30 am and the location will be announced in *The Mullet Rapper*. **February 18** information on page 3)

March 17 - Deep Down Dark by Hector Tobar

April 7 - Charlotte's Story by Charlotte Niedhauk

PARK NEWS

Collier-Seminole State Park

Guided Canoe Trips: Thurs – Monday Mornings (\$25)
and Moonlight Trips – **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.orchidswamp.org for more information

Tram Tour & Swamp Walk (Tuesday); Ghost Rider Tram Tour (Thursday); Swamp Walk (Sat / Thurs); Moonlit Tram Tour; Boardwalk Tours (Thurs) Call 695-1023.

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.

Preserve Seeks Comments

NPS is seeking public comments from now 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.

Commercial Air Tours over Big Cypress

The FAA, the NPS, and two commercial air tour operators (Wings & Miami Seaplane Tours, Inc.) have signed air tour management agreements to manage commercial air tours over Big Cypress National Preserve. These are the first-ever agreements of this kind developed for any unit of the NPS. The agreements establish conditions for conducting air tours, including specific routes, altitudes, number of flights, type of aircraft, hours of operations, and reporting requirements. Wings has been providing air tours over the preserve for many years under interim operating authority from FAA for up to 1,260 tours annually; the new agreement now authorizes up to 720 tours a year. The agreement with Miami Seaplane Tours, Inc., a new operator over the preserve, authorizes up to 252 tours a year. The agreements will be fully implemented when the FAA updates the operating specifications for each operator within 90 days of Dec. 21, 2015, the date of final signatures.

Contact Information: Vicki Ward, Overflights Program Manager, National Park Service, (970) 267-2117

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, go to MyFWC.com/nonnatives.

Glades Biking in the Morn' at Shark Valley

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.

Ranger-Led Programs

The Everglades National Park offers free, ranger-led programs for the public each week! See website for a complete list of programs: <http://www.nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/rangerprograms.htm>.

Check in or call area visitor centers for current schedules and times. Some programs require reservations in advance. (Required reservations are specified in program schedules.)

In addition to ranger programs and concession tours, there are a number of permitted guides who offer a variety of more personalized tours. A list of these on the park website as well: <http://www.nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/permittedtours.htm>

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.

Tamiami Trail Triathlon

The Tamiami Trail Triathlon is not your typical triathlon, nor is it a race against the clock or other participants. Normally, participants can do each leg at their leisure, in any order, and on any day they choose. They don't even have to complete all the legs in one day. But on specific Sundays, rangers will be leading visitors on special one-day events to experience it all! It is a great way to experience the diverse habitats and recreational opportunities offered along the Tamiami Trail/U.S. Highway 41. The Tamiami Trail Triathlon is designed to encourage people to try different ways to see the diverse habitats of the Everglades. Ranger-led, one-day events are being offered on Sundays, **February 21 and March 6**. Reservations required. 695-3311.

Paddle: The first segment starts at Everglades National Park's Gulf Coast Visitor Center in Everglades City. Canoes will be provided or bring your own. Visit the following website: <http://www.nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/gcdirections.htm>

Hike: Drive to the second segment, being held at the Oasis Visitor Center in Big Cypress National Preserve in Ochopee. <http://www.nps.gov/bicy/planyourvisit/directions.htm>

Bike: Drive to the final segment, being held at the Shark Valley Visitor Center. (Please plan for a \$20.00 entrance fee, per vehicle, and a bike rental fee if not bringing your own bikes.) <http://www.nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/svdirections.htm>

For more information about the Tamiami Trail Triathlon:

Everglades: <http://www.nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/tamiami-trail-triathlon.htm>

Big Cypress: <http://www.nps.gov/bicy/planyourvisit/tamiami-trail-triathlon.htm>

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 - 8 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)

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
2-3:30 pm Bible Study every Friday
(through March 11)



Little Rocky (son of OFCD firefighter Bobby Campbell) showed off his Tshirt during the retirement luncheon for Lt Milligan on January 21.

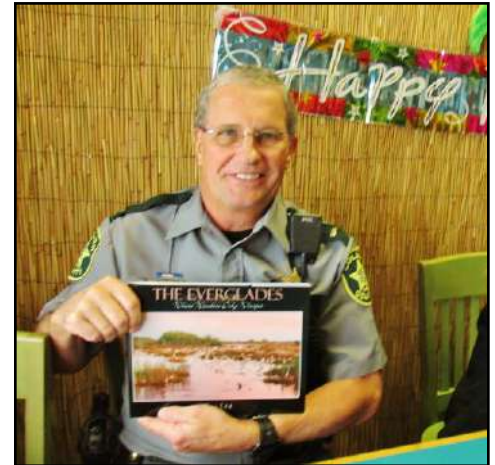
TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

Lat: 25.87°N Long: 81.37°W

<http://TIDESANDCURRENTS.NOAA.GOV>

01/29	Fri	12:47AM	0.3	L
01/29	Fri	05:31AM	2.1	H
01/29	Fri	12:53PM	0.2	L
01/29	Fri	06:19PM	2.3	H
01/30	Sat	01:41AM	0.3	L
01/30	Sat	06:33AM	1.8	H
01/30	Sat	01:27PM	0.4	L
01/30	Sat	07:03PM	2.3	H
01/31	Sun	02:47AM	0.3	L
01/31	Sun	07:45AM	1.7	H
01/31	Sun	02:06PM	0.6	L
01/31	Sun	07:52PM	2.2	H
02/01	Mon	03:58AM	0.2	L
02/01	Mon	09:07AM	1.6	H
02/01	Mon	03:17PM	0.7	L
02/01	Mon	08:49PM	2.2	H
02/02	Tue	05:02AM	0.1	L
02/02	Tue	10:35AM	1.6	H
02/02	Tue	04:39PM	0.8	L
02/02	Tue	09:50PM	2.3	H
02/03	Wed	05:58AM	0.0	L
02/03	Wed	11:51AM	1.7	H
02/03	Wed	05:45PM	0.8	L
02/03	Wed	10:48PM	2.4	H
02/04	Thu	06:48AM	-0.1	L
02/04	Thu	12:42PM	1.9	H
02/04	Thu	06:40PM	0.7	L
02/04	Thu	11:37PM	2.6	H
02/05	Fri	07:33AM	-0.3	L
02/05	Fri	01:20PM	2.0	H
02/05	Fri	07:28PM	0.7	L
02/06	Sat	12:21AM	2.7	H
02/06	Sat	08:15AM	-0.4	L
02/06	Sat	01:55PM	2.2	H
02/06	Sat	08:13PM	0.6	L
02/07	Sun	01:01AM	2.9	H
02/07	Sun	08:57AM	-0.5	L
02/07	Sun	02:29PM	2.3	H
02/07	Sun	08:56PM	0.5	L
02/08	Mon	01:39AM	3.0	H
02/08	Mon	09:37AM	-0.5	L
02/08	Mon	03:03PM	2.4	H
02/08	Mon	09:40PM	0.3	L
02/09	Tue	02:20AM	3.0	H
02/09	Tue	10:17AM	-0.5	L
02/09	Tue	03:37PM	2.5	H
02/09	Tue	10:24PM	0.2	L
02/10	Wed	03:04AM	2.9	H
02/10	Wed	10:56AM	-0.4	L
02/10	Wed	04:13PM	2.5	H
02/10	Wed	11:10PM	0.1	L
02/11	Thu	03:53AM	2.7	H
02/11	Thu	11:37AM	-0.3	L
02/11	Thu	04:50PM	2.6	H
02/12	Fri	12:01AM	0.0	L
02/12	Fri	04:52AM	2.5	H
02/12	Fri	12:19PM	0.0	L
02/12	Fri	05:30PM	2.6	H

Photos from Lt. Mark's Retirement Luncheon at Island Café



MUSEUM OF THE EVERGLADES



105 West Broadway, Everglades City
OPEN: Monday - Saturday
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www.evergladesmuseum.org

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see www.weather.gov for weather
and www.nhc.noaa.gov for storms

See the Rapper in full color!
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www.evergladesmulletrapper.com

SNOOK CLASSIFIEDS

LOT FOR SALE: Desirable large residential lot on historic South Storter. Includes architect's drawings for attractive cottage stilt house. hannah@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 \$292/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

Kallie is a rescue dog and enjoys relaxing at Art-in-the-Glades. She has only lived in Everglades City for 90 days!

SNOOK CLASSIFIEDS

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

FOR RENT: Cozy furnished house. 2 bedrooms/ 1 full bathroom. Seasonal only. Weekends \$200 per night (3 min); \$1,000 per week. Call (508) 677-5136.

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

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

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www.evergladesmulletrapper.com

JOB & SERVICES

Ivey House B&B - Fulltime Housekeeping Positions available. Must be able to work flexible times/hours. Applications are available at the Front Desk of the Ivey House or call (239) 695-3299.

Joanie's Blue Crab Café - Mature and experienced person to run cash register part time after 11 am; also experienced person in the kitchen prep area full time! Please call Joanie at 695-2682.

Glades Haven / Oyster House Restaurant
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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