

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

APRIL 22 – MAY 6, 2016

© 2016, K Bee Marketing

P O Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume X • Issue #261



**New Publication
Schedule to Go
Into Effect for
Next Issue of *The
Mullet Rapper***

Dear Readers and Contributors:

Beginning May 7, the *Rapper* will change from a traditional Friday publication date to Saturdays. The April 22 issue will be the final issue released on a Friday and it will include the extra day of tides and information to make the transition as smooth as possible!

The next issue of the *Mullet Rapper* will be on sale Saturday, May 7th. We thank you for your continued patronage.

Sincerely,



The Mullet Rapper Team

CONTENTS

Calendar	p. 2	Capt. Merritt	p. 8
Events	p. 3	Pythons	p. 9
School	p. 5	NOAA Update	p. 9
Taylor	p. 5	House Tips	p. 9
Diamonds	p. 7	Park News	p.10
My Paradise	p. 7	Monroe Sta	p.10
Gulf Coast	p. 8	Obituaries	p.11

TIDES & RESTAURANTS p.11 CLASSIFIED p.12

FEATURE: MONROE STA. FIRE, p. 10

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

by Marya Repko

At the meeting on April 12, Mayor Sammy Hamilton welcomed Lt. Jake Walker, the new Sheriff's commander for District 7 based in Carnestown. The lieutenant said he grew up in a small town in the bayous of Mississippi and had worked in law enforcement for 23 years, recently in North Naples. The Mayor commented on how young Lt. Jake looked and could not believe he had been on the force that long.



Lt. Jake Walker Addresses the Council

During the Mayor's report, he said that progress on the waste water plant was good and grants were coming in as he checked off the list of "things to do" to get the project financed. He reminded us that "we're all local" and that "we all pull together" for the community. He showed a note received from Governor Rick Scott which said, in Scott's own handwriting, "*Mayor Hamilton, Please let me know how I can be helpful!*"

During the CCSO report, Crime Prevention Officer Sue Gentry said she had worked with Lt. Jake in North Naples and was sure he would fit in here. She said no crimes had been reported since the last meeting but deputies were busy with community education, especially reminding drivers to wear their seat belts. Plans are being made for Summer Fest and the kiddies had planted a community garden in containers behind the skating rink.

In response to the Independence Day Committee, the Mayor promised \$2,500 for the Fireworks Fund and said he hoped to see more participants in the parade.

Councilor Howie Grimm said that he loves what CCSO does with the kids because building up trust helps to ensure they are occupied now and behave in future.



Mayor Sammy Hamilton Holds Note He Received From Gov. Scott

Council is in recess for the summer. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 2, at the usual time of 5:30 p.m.

APRIL - MAY 2016

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
17	18 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	19 Lions Club 6 pm Oyster House	20 Ladies Coffee Sweet Mayberry's Café 8 am	21	<u>RAPPER</u> 22 full moon ●	23 Pancake Fly-In Museum Birthday see p.3, 10
24	25 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm	26	27 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am	28	29	30
MAY 1	2 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm	3 FME Mtg 3:30 pm City Hall Congressional Aide	4 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am	5 National Day of Prayer see p.3	6 new moon ○	<u>RAPPER</u> 7 New Publ. Date Athletic Banquet, E-City School
8 Mother's Day	9 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm OFCD Meeting see p.3	10	11 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am	12	13	14 Cookout for Emergency Workers See p. 3 McLeod Park 5:00 pm
15	16 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	17 ReachOut 9:00 am City Hall	18 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am	19	20	<u>RAPPER</u> 21 full moon ●

June 3: Graduation
Aug 15: Back to School

July 2: Independence Day Celebration
Aug 20: Primary Election

Aug 5-7 No Tax Holiday
Sept 24: Blessing of Fleet

THRIFT SHOP: Sat, 11 am-3 pm
LIONS CLUB: 2nd Thurs, 6 pm, Oyster House
DR DEMARTINO: Friday, 2:00-4:30 pm
DR MARTIN: Mon & Wed, 10 am-2 pm & 3-6 pm; Com. Center
AA: Wed, 5:00 pm, Community Church
HEALTHY EATING: Tues, 5 to 6 pm, Community Church
MUSEUM: Mon - Sat, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
CARNESTOWN Recycle and Trash: 2nd Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm

SKATING RINK: Fri, Sat, 7-10 pm
REACH OUT: 3rd Tuesday, 9:30 am, City Hall
LITTLE GATOR CLINIC: Closed for the Summer
FOOD PANTRY: Wed, 12 n to 2 pm, Community Church
EVERGLADES AL-ANON: Thurs, 12noon, City Hall
VETERANS SUPPORT: First Fri, 10 am, Com. Church
SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily, 11 am to 5 pm
PANCAKE FLY-IN: Saturday, April 23rd -last of season

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 (239-695-2174) Mon-Fri: 9:30 am to 1 pm and 2 to 4:30 pm; Sat: outside pick-up 3:45 pm
Chokoloskee (239-695-4468) Mon-Fri: 9:30 am to 1 pm and 2 to 4:30 pm; Sat: outside pick-up 3:30 pm
Ochopee (239-695-2099) Mon-Fri: 8 to 10 am; 12 noon to 4 pm; Sat: Open for service 10 to 11:30 am

SHERIFF: 239-252-9300 CITY HALL: 239-695-3781 PUBLIC LIBRARY: 239-695-2511 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: 239-695-3941
AIRPORT: 239-695-2778 FAKAHATCHEE: 239-695-4593 BIG CYPRESS: 239-695-2000 EVG NATIONAL PARK: 239-695-3311
CURBSIDE TRASH PICKUP (FRIDGES, WASHING MACHINES, TVs): 239-252-2380 COLLIER COUNTY: 239-252-8999

Community Events



Saturday, April 23

PANCAKE FLY-IN

Wings 10,000 Islands Tours will host the last **free** pancake breakfast of this season at the Everglades Airport on **Saturday, April 23**, from 10:00 am to noon. For more information, call Chuck at 695-3296.



Tamiami Trail Celebration

The Museum of the Everglades is excited to announce the celebration of the 88th anniversary of the opening of the Tamiami Trail in addition to the 18th birthday celebration of the opening of the Museum of the Everglades. Friends of the Museum of the Everglades invite guests to attend the full day of festivities including lectures, antique cars and live music at 105 West Broadway. The celebration is free and open to the public.

For more information, please visit <http://www.colliermuseums.com> or call (239) 695-0008. This annual event is sponsored by the Friends of the Everglades Museum.

See page 10 for a schedule of events



UPCOMING EVENT JOIN THE PARADE!

The city is already planning for the Independence Day Celebration which will be held on Saturday July 2.

The theme of the parade this year is "Faith, Freedom, Family" so use your imagination to win one of the parade's entry prizes.

The categories for entry include golf carts, swamp buggies, floats or whatever.

The spectacular fireworks have been booked and the deposit paid. If you would like to contribute to the celebration, send a check to:

**Everglades City Fireworks Fund
PO Box 110
Everglades City FL 34139**

For more info call Dottie at 695-3781.



Museum of the Everglades Pauline Reeves Gallery

For the months of **April and May** Lynn Pierce's historic photographs of the Barron Collier days will be on display in the Pauline Reeves Gallery. Her family has deep roots in the beginnings of Collier County with her grandfather F.J. Frankenhoff, one of Barron Collier's key men who helped in the success of developing South West Florida. Her mother was valedictorian of the Everglades High School class of 1939. This exhibit will showcase family photographs from the roaring 20's and 30's in the then-bustling Everglades City.

CONGRESSIONAL VISIT



Enrique Padron, District Representative of Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart, will meet

with constituents in City Hall on **Tuesday, May 3**, at 3 p.m. For information, phone 239-348-1620.

Thursday, May 5



12:00 noon - City Hall Lawn followed by a light lunch
Pastors from Local Churches
Mayor Sammy Hamilton
Collier County Sheriff's Office
Ochopee Fire Control District
Music by Mitch Mitchell

EVERYONE WELCOME!

For information, call Elaine at 695-2695



FISH FRY

Mayor Sammy Hamilton invites one and all to the Sixth Annual Everglades City Area 'Thank You Fish Fry' to honor the members of our EMS, Fire, & Sheriff's Departments and the U.S. Military. Please join us for a Community-Wide Fish Fry Cookout

**Saturday, May 14, 5:00 p.m.
McLeod Park**

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 04/03/16: Vehicle Accident, 51 Mile Marker I-75
- 04/04/16: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands
- 04/04/16: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 04/05/16: Public Assist, Port of the Islands
- 04/05/16: Vehicle Accident, 69 MM I-75
- 04/05/16: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands
- 04/05/16: Public Assist, Plantation Island
- 04/05/16: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee
- 04/05/16: Vehicle Accident, 53 MM I-75
- 04/06/16: Vehicle Accident, 53 MM I-75
- 04/07/16: Fire (Mutual Aid), Six L Farms
- 04/08/16: Vehicle Accident, 84 MM I-75
- 04/09/16: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands
- 04/09/16: Vehicle Accident, 53 MM I-75
- 04/09/16: Structure Fire, Ochopee
- 04/09/16: Public Assist, Ochopee
- 04/10/16: Emergency Med, 52 MM I-75
- 04/11/16: Vehicle Accident, 72 MM I-75
- 04/11/16: Vehicle Accident, 65 MM I-75
- 04/11/16: Vehicle Accident, 77 MM-I-75
- 04/12/16: Vehicle Accident, 53 MM I-75
- 04/12/16: Public Assist, SR 29 and US 41
- 04/13/16: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee
- 04/13/16: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 04/13/16: Emergency Med., Port of the Islands
- 04/04/16: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 04/14/16: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee
- 04/15/16: Emergency Med, Plantation
- 04/15/16: Snake Bit, SR 29 and Jerome
- 04/15/16: Vehicle Accident, 61 MM I-75
- 04/16/16: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands
- 04/17/16: Vehicle Fire, 52 Mile Marker I-75

The Ochopee Fire Control District Advisory Committee will meet at 4 p.m. on **Monday, May 9**, in the Port of the Islands Fire Station, located at 525 Newport Drive #C in Naples.

DOCTOR'S CLINIC



Dr. Kirk DeMartino sees patients on Fridays from 2:00 to 4:30 pm at the Everglades Community Center. Please call (239) 642-5552 for an appointment.

SPORTS PHYSICIAN

Dr. John Martin is in the office at the Everglades Community Center on Mondays & Wednesdays 10 am to 2 pm, then 3 pm to 6 pm. Call (813) 787-9738 or email martinjohndr@gmail.com.

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Store is open on Saturdays from 11 am to 3 pm, located behind the fire station. **Please do not leave items on the porch where they will get damp.**

CITY COUNCIL

The council is in recess. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, August 2**, at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall.

Daily • Weekly • Monthly Rentals

River Wilderness


★WATERFRONT VILLAS★

FREE WI-FI - SCREEN PORCH - CANOES
SWIMMING POOL - BOAT RAMP- DOCK - OUTDOOR BBQ

210 Collier Ave. Everglades City, FL 34139 239-695-4499
riverwilderness@localline2.com

www.bobwellsrealestate.us Office: 239-695-2660
bob@bobwellsrealestate.us Fax: 239-695-0967

Bob Wells Real Estate



Bob Wells, Broker
Vicky Wells, Sales Associate
Liza Wells, Sales Associate
P.O. Box 250 • Everglades City, FL 34139



GLADES REALTY

"Your Everglades Connection"

KAREN COCHRAN
Broker

207 West Broadway
P.O. Box 599 (239) 695-4299 (Bus)
Everglades City, FL, 34139 (239) 777-6614 (Cell)
www.gladesrealty.com (239) 695-3849 (Fax)

Havana Café

Chokoloskee, 695-2214 

Thank you for your business.
We are closed for the summer.
SEE YOU IN OCTOBER ...



STANLEY & SON, INC.

Auctioneers & REALTORS
Henry M. Stanley, III *
CAI, AARE, GPPA, CES Auctioneer in
FL, AL, GA, SC, NC, TN, KY, VA, WV,
IN, PA & OH * Real Estate Broker: OH, WV, KY & AL
Toll Free: 888 BID IT UP
www.StanleyAndSon.com
E-MAIL: info@stanleyandson.com
4 Generations Proudly Serving You Since 1960
FL Auctioneer No. 1604 

JOANIE'S BLUE CRAB CAFE

Everglades Dining at its Best
US Hwy 41, Ochopee, Florida 34141
1/4 Mile East of Ochopee Post Office

(239) 695-2682
11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Gator Nuggets with Indian Fry Bread & Salsa
Save Room for the Homemade Key Lime Pie!



Triad Seafood Market & Café



Full Table Service
Stone Crabs • Shrimp • Conch
Crab Cakes • Homemade Key Lime Pies
Orlo & Pam Hilton (239) 695-2662
"On the River behind the School"

DARCIE H. GUERIN, CFP®

Resident Branch Manager
Associate Vice President, Investments

INVESTMENT INSIGHTS RAYMOND JAMES®

O 239.389.1041 606 Bald Eagle Drive, Suite 401
T 866.343.0882 Marco Island, FL, 34145
F 239.393.2135 darcie.guerin@raymondjames.com
www.raymondjames.com/darcie
Raymond James & Associates, Inc. member New York Stock Exchange: SIPC

Gifts Hardware
Marine Supplies T-Shirts
Knives – Apparel Tackle - Caps



WIN-CAR, INC.

209 N. Collier Ave. Carolyn Thompson and Suzan Griffis
Post Office Box 247 (239) 695-3201
Everglades City, FL 34139 Fax: (239) 659-3344
Email: wincar209@gmail.com

Sweet Mayberry's Café and Gifts

Open
Monday through Saturday
9 am – 5 pm

207 W. Broadway (239) 695-0092
Salads, wraps, and pressed sandwiches
Gourmet Coffee, Organic Hot Teas, Italian Gelato

ADVERTISE IN THE RAPPER!



for more information
email us
mulletrapper@gmail.com

RIGHT CHOICE SUPERMARKET

- Shirts / Caps
- Camping Supplies
- Batteries
- Beer / Wine
- ICE
- Medicine
- Groceries
- Meats
- Produce
- Fresh Cut Flowers



104 S. Buckner Ave, Everglades City (239) 695-4535
www.rightchoicesupermarket.com



JOIN THE PARADE!

Donate to the Celebration!
Everglades City Fireworks Fund
PO Box 110
Everglades City FL 34139
Or contact Dottie at 695-3781.

EvergladesAreaTours.com



Guided Eco Adventures
Bioluminescence Tours
Kayak Eco Tours • Manatee Tours
Everglades National Park

239.695.3633



Snook • Redfish • Tarpon • Trout

Captain Mike Merritt
Native Florida Guide/USCG Master
Individual & Corporate Charters
cell 561-252-4324
office 561-795-3437
email: snookfishing1@juno.com
website: everglade-angler.com
13009 Collecting Canal Road
Loxahatchee, Florida 33470

SERVING EVERGLADES CITY SINCE 1998



4735 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, (239) 417-5000

Capt. Bill Lindsay

SNOOK TARPON & REDFISH

IN EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

FLY • PLUG • SPIN
239-695-0314
WWW.CHOKOLOSKEEFISHING.COM
CHOKOLOSKEE, FLORIDA



Fish Florida's
"Last Frontier" with
Captain John Hand,
Guide and Master
Fly Casting
Instructor.

(239) 842-7778 www.redfishlanding.com

SCHOOL NEWS

Everglades City School

phone: 239-377-9800 or 239-695-2561

www.evg.collierschools.com

IMPORTANT DATES EVERGLADES CITY SCHOOL

April 25: Kindergarten Registration Begins
 May 7: Athletic Sports Banquet
 June 3: Graduation
 June 7: Last Day for Students



"Small Town Taylor"

By Taylor Mayberry

I love Earth! Don't you? But in order to keep our Earth we have to clean it up sometimes, and that's what I did on Saturday. My grandma picked my cousin, Trenton and I up early from my house and drove us to Lake Trafford. It was so early, it was still dark out and I could barely open my eyes.




Look at all the garbage the group was able to pick up!
Great job done by all!

My grandma took us to Lake Trafford so we could participate in "Keep Collier Beautiful."

We got a group of people together and got trash bags. Then we all got one or two trash bags each and a pair of gloves and started picking up garbage at lake Trafford. We picked up nine big garbage bags full of trash!

After the clean up my cousin Trenton and I went to the pool. We swam, played basketball, and ate lunch. It was very fun! I felt really good and happy after I helped pick up the garbage. Let's all work together to keep our Earth clean and healthy!

With lots of love,
 Taylor

Taylor Mayberry is 10 years old, in the 4th grade, and attends Everglades City School

A Message from the Principal



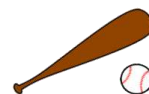
Community Shines

It was a great pleasure to host our Superintendent, Dr. Kamela Patton, and School Board Members as this month's school board meeting that was held at our school on April 12th. It has become a tradition each year for our community to welcome our guests with a dinner prior to the start of the meeting. This year was another fabulous event as many local restaurants, parents and community members shared their special dishes and desserts. Many thanks to everyone that contributed to this beautiful meal. Our preparation and planning for this treat was spearheaded by Candi Hendrickson along with numerous staff members. Once again, our guests raved about the hospitality and kindness of our community.

One of our super seniors will be honored in a future issue of the local magazine *eBella*. Tawny Wood will be featured in an article regarding her plans for continuing her education after graduation. Tawny is an amazing young lady who we are so proud of! She displays exceptional performance in the classroom while playing volleyball and softball. She is a competitive and talented young lady that will be greatly missed next year but I know she will be successful in any endeavor she will undertake.

We are approaching our end-of-the-year Athletic Sports Banquet on Saturday, May 7th. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. For more information regarding tickets and specifics about the event please call Angela Nicholson at the school.

IT IS ALWAYS A GREAT DAY TO BE A GATOR!
 ~Jim Ragusa, Principal



EVERGLADES CITY SCHOOL HOME SPORTS SCHEDULE

No Games...End of Athletic Calendar

Visit the school website <http://www.collierschools.com/evg> for school information.



The new Everglades Area Directory is now available for sale at City Hall, Right Choice Supermarket, & the Reach Out Thrift Shop

To secure your copy call Marya at (239)695-2905.



BREAKFAST, LUNCH, & DINNER
Your Favorite Foods with a Local Flavor



305 Collier Avenue, Everglades City, FL
695-0003

City Seafood

702 Begonia Street, Everglades City
OPEN ALL YEAR ...

We are one of the most affordable restaurants with one of the most beautiful waterfront locations.

BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER

Book a private party –
Phone Richard or Candice at 695-4700

STONE CRAB CLAWS
FRESH
FROM OUR BOATS



BIG CYPRESS GALLERY

Fine Art Photography & Swamp Lodging



239-695-2428

23 miles east of Everglades City
52388 Tamiami Trail East, MM 54.5
Ochopee, FL 34141

Open 7 days a week 10 am to 5 pm
www.clydebutcher.com



EVERGLADES COMMUNITY CHURCH

The Friendly Church on the Circle

Non-Denominational

101 South Copeland Avenue

P.O. Box 177, Everglades City, FL 34139

239-695-4787

The Rev. Dr. Bob N. Wallace, Pastor

Sunday Worship Service 11:00 A.M.

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

www.evergladescommunitychurch.com

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK BOAT TOURS

Sole Authorized Concession on Gulf Coast
Open 365 days



Mangrove Wilderness

10,000 Island Tours

Canoe Rentals • Gift Shop

Located at the Ranger Station

½ mile South of Traffic Circle

Everglades City, Florida

1-866-NAT-PARK



www.evergladesnationalparkboatoursgulfcoast.com

MUSEUM OF THE EVERGLADES



105 West Broadway,
Everglades City

OPEN: Monday – Saturday

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

(239) 695-0008

www.evergladesmuseum.org

NOW SERVING EVERGLADES CITY



S.W. FLA's Pest Authority
since 1990

CALL (239) 455-4300



Get Rid of Roaches!

CollierPestControl.com 3899 Mannix Dr #412



Discover the
Mystery and Magic
of the Everglades

With TripAdvisor's #1-rated
Eco Tour provider

- Guided kayak trips
- Canoe and kayak rentals
- Airboat and swamp buggy rides, and more

Located at the historic Ivey House
107 Camellia St.
Everglades City, FL 34139

1.877.567.0679 | 239.695.3299
evergladesadventures.com

"DIAMONDS" SPARKLE AT ANNUAL EVENT!

by Helen Bryan

Diamonds of the Everglades Tea, held annually since 2001 and sponsored by Reach Out Everglades and COPS, was held April 14th at Everglades Community Church Fellowship Hall.



34 Diamonds Attended This Year's Event

Music was provided by "Mitch" Mitchell, Pastor Lynnette Morris of Chokoloskee Church of God was Speaker. Hope Bowdey (94) of Chokoloskee was crowned Queen of The Diamond Tea with Helen Hanson (89) runner-up. President Anne Mitchell of Reach Out Everglades and her five Hostesses, Connie, Jerry, Mimi, Kathy and Stevie presented a beautiful Tea.

It was another fun day for about 34 Diamonds on the Everglades.



Hope Bowdey of Chokoloskee is crowned "Queen of Diamond Tea"

BECOME A CONTRIBUTOR!

If you are interested in submitting articles, photos or events to be considered for publication in *The Mullet Rapper*, please email to: mulletrapper@gmail.com two weeks prior to publication.



My Little Slice of Paradise

by Kathy Brock

Great Horned Owl Raises Two Owlets in E City

April is known as one of the prime months for bird watching in our area primarily because this is the month most migratory birds start to make their way home, and we are a prime stopover location to "fuel up" on bugs and berries (and fish) before the long journey. We are also home to many wonderful resident birds and April is prime breeding time. The great horned owl is one of those residents, and this year, they took over an osprey nest at the electrical station by Camilla Street. The last few years their nest of choice was over by Rod & Gun on the top of the power pole where you really couldn't see them to enjoy them.



This year "mom" decided to give us a thrill (or at least me a thrill) and chose a location that was safe for the young...and visible to all of us. She did wonders for tourism in the area. I spoke to several bird watchers in town that were giddy to see them. Owlets are particularly cute as they are born with white downy feather...almost cotton-like. They slowly make the transformation to "real feathers" and finally sprout the "ears or horns" they are known for.



Great Horned owls are quite ferocious predators. They are capable of taking prey as large as Osprey, Falcons and other owls. They also dine on frogs, rodents (yay!) and scorpions. They capture prey with their feet, and grasp with their talons. Their grip is so strong it is said that they can actually sever the spine of some prey with the grip.

Often, you can locate the owl by listening for other birds that harass them...crows are notorious for this. They will harass the owls for hours on end to try to drive them away from their nests (remember...owls do like to dine on the young of other birds).

Females are larger in size than males, but the "hoot" of the male is audibly lower than the female. If you listen carefully after dusk, you can hear the two of them communicating- and there are two distinctly different "hoots".

The owls are virtually silent when they fly. Their extremely thick feathers and wing shape makes them like stealth bombers in flight. Their large eyes enable them to see at night, and they are nocturnal in nature, which makes their nesting site a real treat as it is not too often we can watch them in daylight hours.

Great Horned Owls can live into their mid twenties and are monogamous. They will stay with their mate for many years, even throughout their lifespan. They will add a few sticks here and there to a nest, but they "acquire" a nest site by taking one over from other large birds like; osprey, falcons and hawks.

Our resident's owlets are growing fast and could be fledged by publication...but you may still be able to see them in the large Australian Pine behind the nest. Enjoy!

Photos by Tim Brock

Fishing the Ten Thousand Islands in May

by Captain Mike Merritt

May is a great month here in the Islands! Things have stabilized as far as weather patterns and the fishing is red hot. The Snook fishing is really good with a lot of big Snook being caught. There seems to be a lot of really fat Snook this year. I have caught some Snook that were in the 34-36" range that had the girth of 20lb. fish. These fish are being caught on the outside.

Fish the outgoing or the first half of the incoming tide for best results. Live bait, lures and jigs are all producing fish. The Snook are getting ready to spawn and they are feeding aggressively.



Captain Merritt Lands a Nice Snook!

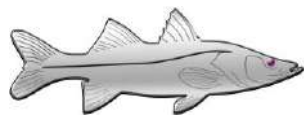
Redfish are scattered but we are still catching slot size fish. The bigger Reds are not here yet but the largest ones I am catching are in the back country. Fish a scented tail on a 1/4oz. jig head to cover more area. Big Sea Trout are still biting but will become scarce as the water heats up. A popping cork with a DOA Shrimp has been the best. Fishing the grass flats for best results on these. Tarpon fishing should continue all month with fish being caught all throughout the Islands. White buck tail jigs work great.

Large diving lures and DOA Baitbuster Mullet both work. Permit fishing will get better this month also. Be prepared as you plan your day. It will be hot and it may rain so plan wisely. Enjoy the great month of May! Good luck fishing.

Capt. Merritt at (561) 795 3437 or email: snookfishing1@juno.com
www.everglade-angler.com

SNOOK RULES!!!

1. Slot limit 28 to 33 inches
2. One fish per person per day
3. Valid fishing license with current Snook stamp



Open season:

March – April & September- November



Living Gulf Coast

by Charles Sobczak

Fish Crow (*Corvusossifragus*) Other names: crow / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=LC / Life span: to 14 years / Length: 14-16 in. (36-40 cm) / Wingspan: 33 in. (84 cm) / Weight: 7-12 oz (190-340 g) / Nests: along the coast / Found: SC, ChC, LC, CC, coastal, near coast / Months found: **JFMAMJJASOND** (lower case indicates breeding and nesting season).

The fish crow, although slightly smaller, is all but impossible to discern from the American crow. The American crow is almost never found along the coastline, however, so the chances are that any crow you see along the coast is a fish crow. One distinctive difference between the two birds is the call; the fish crow is famous for its nearly constant *cah, uh-uh*.

The fish crow is unique in that it is one of very few birds endemic to North America. It does not have the range of the American crow, extending only as far north as Rhode Island, while the American crow's range extends all the way to the Northwest Territories. The American crow far outnumbers the fish crow. Unlike its cousin, however, the fish crow does not appear to be as vulnerable to the West Nile virus, which in some regions has decimated American crow populations.

A highly adaptable bird, the fish crow feeds on garbage, eggs, insects, carrion, ticks from livestock, various berries, and some fruit. Like all crows, jays, and ravens, the fish crow appears to be



A Fish Crow Raids A Nest. Photo by Sara Pinkard

capable of learned behaviors. The fish crow, for example, has learned to pick up a mollusk, fly high above a rock pile or highway and release it, breaking the shellfish open so the bird can feed on it. While not quite at the same level as the tool-using green heron, it is a fascinating example of avian intelligence.

Huge flocks of fish crows, called *murders*, roost on islands in and around St. Petersburg and Tampa where they number in the thousands. The fish crow has adapted well to the habits of *Homo sapiens* and because of that is expanding its range throughout Florida.

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

Burmese Python

by Trenton Mayberry

There is a growing population of huge pythons in the Everglades, the area of wetlands in the southern part of Florida. "The pythons appear to be wiping out many raccoons, opossums, bobcats, and other mammals." This is happening in areas where pythons exist.



Photo courtesy NPS.gov

Other large, nonnative snakes live there, too. Burmese pythons can grow to be 26 feet long and can weigh more than 200 pounds. They eat other animals. They can even eat alligators. These pythons are originally from Southeast Asia. Yet, thousands of Burmese pythons are believed to be in the Everglades. How did the animals get there? Many of the snakes were pets. When they got too big, they were turned loose by their owners. Others may have escaped from pet shops during Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

The snakes do well in the Everglades because they like the warm, damp climate. Scientists fear the pythons could change the food chain in the Everglades. This could upset the environmental balance in ways that are difficult to predict. "Scientists point to what happened on the island of Guam...The brown tree snake got on the island." Then it took over and killed off some birds, bats and lizards. This led to the decline of native trees, fish-eating birds and certain plants. Leaders are taking steps to control the python population.

Florida banned selling the creatures in 2010. Nobody is allowed to own them as pets. In January 2012 a federal law was put in place. It says that the snakes cannot be brought into the country. U.S. leader Ken Salazar said the study shows that such rules are needed.

Source: www.myfwc.com

Trenton Mayberry is a student at Everglades City School and is in 6th grade.



March Juvenile Smalltooth Sawfish Abundance Survey

By Andrea Kroetz NOAA Fisheries Panama City Laboratory Panama City, FL

In March, the NOAA Smalltooth Sawfish Abundance Survey was stationed in Everglades City, sampling coastal areas from Crate Key to Hog Key.

Seven new young-of-the-year smalltooth sawfish were tagged on this trip; captures occurred off of Chokoloskee Island in Chokoloskee Bay. Five females (total length ranged from 30 to 35 inches) and two males (total lengths 39 and 41 inches) were tagged and released in excellent condition. The team also captured a juvenile female bull shark (34 inches total length) that was originally tagged by Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, FL.



Researchers prepare to release a female young-of-the-year smalltooth sawfish (29 inches) at Chokoloskee Bay in the Everglades National Park on March 22, 2016.

Smalltooth sawfish were listed as endangered in 2003 under Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act. Remember, it is illegal to "take" (harass, harm, pursue, target, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap or capture) this animal. The current core population is limited to waters off the coast of

southwest Florida and incidental encounters between smalltooth sawfish and fishermen do occur. If you accidentally hook or net a smalltooth sawfish, please do not remove the animal from the water. Cut the line or gear as close to the animal as possible and release the animal immediately. Please exercise caution and never remove the saw.

If you see or accidentally catch a smalltooth sawfish, please contact the International Sawfish Encounter Database at 352-392-2360 or the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 941-255-7403. You can also email: Sawfish@MyFWC.com. All input and cooperation from the public is greatly valued and helps guide our field expeditions.

The Smalltooth Sawfish Abundance Survey field team will be in Everglades City, sampling areas surrounding Chokoloskee Island up to Then Thousand Island National Wildlife Refuge from June 19-June 24, 2016.

This research follows permits EVER-2016-SCI-0016 and ESA-17787. Funding is provided through the NOAA Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Photo courtesy: John Carlson NOAA Fisheries

PARK NEWS

Everglades National Park

2016
National Park Service
CENTENNIAL

Everglades National Park will waive fees April 16 through April 24 at the main park entrance station near Homestead, and at the entrance station at Shark Valley. The main park entrance is located at 4001 State Road 9336, Homestead, Florida. Shark Valley is located at 36000 SW 8th Street, Miami, Florida (on Highway 41, 25 miles west of the Florida Turnpike). The normal entrance fee is \$20 per car. The entrance fee waiver does not include user fees for camping, boat launches, transportation, or special tours. Click here to plan your visit to Everglades National Park: <http://www.nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/index.htm>

EVERGLADES / BIG CYPRES Tamiami Trail Triathlon

As we celebrate 100 years of the National Park Service in 2016, we encourage everyone to take the challenge to the next level! The Centennial Triathlon Challenge is 100 miles for 100 years! Complete 100 miles of hiking, biking and paddling in at least two of the four National Park units in south Florida during 2016. The miles don't need to be done all at once but do need to be completed in 2016.

Paddle: Starts at the Gulf Coast Visitor Center in Everglades City. Canoes will be provided or bring your own. Visit website: <http://www.nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/gcdirections.htm>

Hike: Drive to the Big Cypress Oasis Visitor Center in Ochopee. <http://www.nps.gov/bicy/planyourvisit/directions.htm>

Bike: Drive to the final segment, being held at the Shark Valley Visitor Center. (\$20.00 entrance fee per vehicle) <http://www.nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/svdirections.htm>

For more information about the Tamiami Trail Triathlon:

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

Big Cypress Preserve:

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



Museum Birthday!

88th Anniversary of Tamiami Trail & 18th Birthday of Museum of the Everglades Saturday April 23

The day's schedule of events includes:

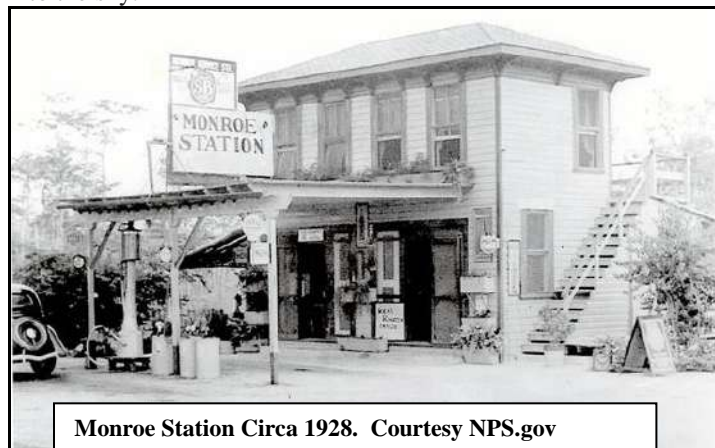
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Historic walking tour of Everglades City led by the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades.

12:00 p.m. Lunch complete with birthday cake and live music sponsored by the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. "Everglades Area Memories" panel discussion in the Carol Moseman Lecture Hall featuring residents of the Everglades Area telling personal accounts of living in Everglades City during its heyday.

Historic Monroe Station Destroyed by Fire

On April 9, 2016 at approximately 11:45 p.m. firefighters and law enforcement personnel from Collier County and Big Cypress National Preserve responded to a fire at the Monroe Station within the national preserve. The historic structure, located at the junction of Tamiami Trail and Loop Road, was consumed by fire and burnt to the ground. Ochopee Fire District Assistant Chief Caleb Morris stated that when he arrived on scene Monroe Station was completely engulfed in flames and sending up large embers into the sky.



Monroe Station Circa 1928. Courtesy NPS.gov

The cause of the fire is currently undetermined and under investigation by both the Florida State Bureau of Fire and Arson; and, the National Park Service's Investigative Services Branch. If you have any information related to this incident please contact the Florida State's Arson Tip Line at [877-662-7766](tel:877-662-7766)

Monroe Station was one of six way stations constructed in the late 1920s in the remote reaches of Collier County along the Tamiami Trail. Monroe and the Royal Palm Station, located at the intersection of CR 92 and Tamiami Trail are the only two that remained near their original locations, three of the stations have been destroyed over time and one was moved a great distance from its original site and modified for other use. The purpose of the way stations was to provide gas, and other conveniences to travelers. Over the years Monroe Station had been modified by several lessees and was a well known way point for people along the road.

In 1988 the property, which was owned by the Collier Corporation, was transferred to the National Park Service, the business closed, the building was boarded up. In 2000 the structure was added to the National Register of Historic Places. Since 2005 the National Park Service had been seeking financial support for the stabilization and restoration of the structure. Next steps related to the site are undetermined at this time.

For more information on the history of the Tamiami Trail and Monroe Station visit -

<https://www.nps.gov/bicy/learn/historyculture/tamiami-trail-and-monroe-station.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):**
Closed for the Summer
- 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 - 8:00 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
May 1 New hours; 11am-5pm
- 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 (239-695-3222):**
8 am - 5 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**
Closed for Summer

TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

Lat: 25.87°N Long: 81.37°W

<http://TIDESANDCURRENTS.NOAA.GOV>

04/23 Sat	04:16AM	2.4	H
04/23 Sat	11:08AM	0.5	L
04/23 Sat	03:40PM	2.9	H
04/23 Sat	11:45PM	-0.1	L
04/24 Sun	04:57AM	2.4	H
04/24 Sun	11:35AM	0.6	L
04/24 Sun	04:01PM	2.8	H
04/25 Mon	12:22AM	-0.1	L
04/25 Mon	05:48AM	2.3	H
04/25 Mon	12:01PM	0.7	L
04/25 Mon	04:23PM	2.8	H
04/26 Tue	01:02AM	-0.1	L
04/26 Tue	06:38AM	2.2	H
04/26 Tue	12:28PM	0.8	L
04/26 Tue	04:51PM	2.7	H
04/27 Wed	01:47AM	0.0	L
04/27 Wed	07:38AM	2.1	H
04/27 Wed	01:02PM	0.8	L
04/27 Wed	05:29PM	2.6	H
04/28 Thu	02:41AM	0.0	L
04/28 Thu	08:42AM	2.1	H
04/28 Thu	01:57PM	0.9	L
04/28 Thu	06:22PM	2.5	H
04/29 Fri	03:43AM	0.1	L
04/29 Fri	09:46AM	2.1	H
04/29 Fri	03:46PM	0.9	L
04/29 Fri	07:44PM	2.4	H
04/30 Sat	04:49AM	0.1	L
04/30 Sat	10:47AM	2.2	H
04/30 Sat	05:17PM	0.8	L
04/30 Sat	09:49PM	2.3	H
05/01 Sun	05:50AM	0.1	L
05/01 Sun	11:38AM	2.4	H
05/01 Sun	06:24PM	0.6	L
05/01 Sun	11:17PM	2.4	H
05/02 Mon	06:46AM	0.1	L
05/02 Mon	12:21PM	2.6	H
05/02 Mon	07:20PM	0.4	L
05/03 Tue	12:25AM	2.5	H
05/03 Tue	07:37AM	0.1	L
05/03 Tue	12:58PM	2.8	H
05/03 Tue	08:11PM	0.2	L
05/04 Wed	01:24AM	2.7	H
05/04 Wed	08:26AM	0.2	L
05/04 Wed	01:32PM	3.0	H
05/04 Wed	09:00PM	-0.1	L
05/05 Thu	02:17AM	2.8	H
05/05 Thu	09:12AM	0.3	L
05/05 Thu	02:06PM	3.2	H
05/05 Thu	09:49PM	-0.3	L
05/06 Fri	03:08AM	2.8	H
05/06 Fri	09:58AM	0.4	L
05/06 Fri	02:40PM	3.3	H
05/06 Fri	10:37PM	-0.5	L
05/07 Sat	03:59AM	2.7	H
05/07 Sat	10:43AM	0.5	L
05/07 Sat	03:16PM	3.4	H
05/07 Sat	11:25PM	-0.5	L

OBITUARIES

Donald Richmond 86 winter resident of Chokoloskee, died March 28, 2016.



He was the son of the late Albert I. Richmond and Nellie B. Richmond.

Donald was born in New Bedford, Mass. where he lived for several years until moving with his parents to a dairy farm in North Dartmouth, leaving the farm to attend college at Norwich University. Upon graduation from Norwich with an Army commission he served during the Korean War. After leaving the Army he met and married Barbara Lawrence, moving to Andover, Mass.

Donald is survived by his beloved wife and best friend, Barbara, to whom he has been married for 60 years, daughter Laurie Barthold, wife of Thomas Barthold and son Peter Richmond, husband of Gail Richmond, four grandchildren, Faye Morrone, Ross Barthold, Ashley Richmond and Alison Richmond, a brother Charles Richmond, and a deceased sister Evelyn Gordon.

His Funeral Services were held on Friday, April 15 in Dartmouth, MA.

Gerri Fowler. Condolences to the family of Gerri Fowler who passed away on April 12. She was a cheerful face at the Thrift Shop and will be missed. No services are planned.

Sara Jane Horner, long time resident of Everglades City, passed away on April 3, 2016. Sara had been living in North Carolina to be near her cousin for the last four years. She is survived by her daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter who reside in Texas.



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

See the Rapper in full color!
Visit our website
www.evergladesmulletrapper.com



RAPPER CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: WATERFRONT Stilt Home - 2BR/2 1/2BTH - Large Great Room opening onto 40' screened porch with beautiful views - extra large pantry to cut down on those shopping trips - dock with boat cover. Bob Wells Real Estate (239) 695-2660.

FOR SALE: Unique Opportunity! Location, location, location. Susie's Station on Town's circle. Building is 3,000 +/- sq. ft. with large porch. Great potential. Call Karen Cochran @ Glades Realty (239) 695-4299.

FOR SALE: Homes, condos, vacant lots and boat slips. Glades Realty (239) 695-4299 or 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. 1.25 acre lot. Rent \$292/month ...first / last month rent required. Lovely property for your new home. Call (727) 480-1640.

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

FOR SALE: Mobile home & lot on Plantation Dr. \$99,000. Call 232-0074.

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

PET PICS



Crystal Potter's dog "Obi" relaxes in his bed in Chokoloskee



RAPPER CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED TO RENT: Apt. or room for annual rental. Single gentleman, non-smoker. Please call (239) 687-6512.

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

FOR RENT: Cozy furnished 2/1 house. Seasonal at \$900/week or \$3,200/month. 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 with gateway to 10,000 islands; Fisherman's Paradise \$240,000 OBO (239) 398-7990 www.FlexTeamRealty.com.

FURNITURE FOR SALE: Moving, must sell! All solid wood roll-top desk, queen headboard and large entertainment center. Items located in Naples and priced to sell. Contact Sherry: 239-455-1159

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

PUBLISHER EMERITUS

Patricia A. Huff, Snook Publications
PUBLISHER

Kathleen Brock, K Bee Marketing, Inc.
P O Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139
(239) 695-2397, mulletrapper@gmail.com

EDITORS

Kathy Brock & Patty Huff

PHOTOJOURNALIST

Helen Bryan

CONTRIBUTORS to this Issue

Helen Bryan, Taylor Mayberry, Trenton Mayberry
Elaine Midedelstaedt, Jim Ragusa, Charles Sobczak,
Marya Repko

PRODUCTION

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

© 2016, K Bee Marketing, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without prior permission.

www.evergladesmulletrapper.com

JOBS & SERVICES

City of Everglades City - Meter reader needed
Call 239-695-3781

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 239-695-2682.

Everglades Adventure Center - Breakfast cooks, waiters/waitresses needed. Contact Bill: 678-558-0002

Experienced Caregiver - Caretaker Available in Everglades City Area: In your home care by caring, educated, honest professional. References. Call or leave msg: (954) 589-7220

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Date: _____

Please make check payable to: K Bee Marketing, Inc., and mail to Kathy Brock, P O Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139

The MULLET RAPPER by post (\$40)

The MULLET RAPPER by email (\$10)

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

STREET / P.O.BOX: _____

ALTERNATE ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

MONTHS AT ALTERNATE ADDRESS

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

4/22/16