

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

**TIDE TABLE
RESTAURANTS**

SEPT. 24 – OCT. 7, 2016

**ONLY
25¢**

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P O Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume X • Issue #272

Glades Restoration Approved in 94-3 Senate Vote

Everglades restoration took a step forward September 15th when the U.S. Senate passed a massive waterworks bill that includes a plan aimed at fixing the overlooked heart of the vast wetlands.

In 94-3 vote, senators approved the Water Resources Development Act, which includes about \$2 billion for the Central Everglades Planning Project. The project, launched in 2011, got a big assist in the spring when Sen. Jim Inhofe vowed to throw his weight behind it. The powerful chairman of the Environmental and Public Works Committee, remembered for being the only no vote opposing the original comprehensive restoration plan in 2000, said he changed his mind after Sen. Marco Rubio convinced him the work was necessary.

The vote comes after a brutal winter for the region. Record rain forced the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to repeatedly release dirty water from Lake Okeechobee into coastal estuaries, triggering a massive algae bloom along the Treasure Coast.

CAPTAIN GARY THOMPSON RELISHES TEACHING, SPENDING TIME WITH HIS GRANDSON

But Some Lessons Are Tough, Especially When You Are Only Five



Captain Gary Thompson is known around these parts as the fishing guide who always has a smile on his face and a great local story to tell. At home, he is known as “Papa” to his grandson, Rhiley. This April, at the ripe old age of 5, Rhiley asked his Papa if he could use the \$150 dollars he had saved up from his allowance, to buy some crab traps.

Captain Gary agreed and chipped in his half so that he could purchase his grandson 5 traps, line and marker buoys. Of course, no fisherman is fully equipped without the plastic crabbing boots we are accustomed to seeing - so those were a part of the package too. As soon as Gary had time in his schedule in August, he took his grandson to set the traps...one by one.

Waiting is always the hardest part, especially at 5, but wait they did. When Captain Gary felt the time was right, he and his grandson set out to pull the traps for the first time. Success! Every trap was filled with the target crabs, enough for the entire family and some friends (and more!). Gary even mentioned the haul to his friend Carlos who asked if he could have some after the next pull.

Off they went to pull the traps for the second time...and when they arrived at the location, no traps. Seems someone helped themselves to this young fisherman's traps, buoys, line, traps all gone. Captain Gary explained to his grandson that they had been stolen, and his grandson asked if they couldn't just pull the traps nearby?

This is where life's lessons, although difficult, are most poignant. Captain Gary explained that if they pulled someone else's traps, they would feel as bad as his grandson did at the discovery of theirs being pilfered. His grandson surely didn't want that so home they went – heavy hearted and empty handed.

Today, Gary and his Grandson are saving up to buy some more traps so they can continue what they started, and hopefully this time, the traps will be left alone so he and his grandson can enjoy some fishing time together. To Captain Gary, the glass is always half full, so there was no bitterness when he told me about this experience. He really took the experience as an opportunity to teach his grandson.

Unfortunately, this lesson was supposed to be about crabbing but instead became a lesson in honesty. But the way Captain Gary sees it, honesty is everything...so he found a way to turn this lemon into lemonade.



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FEATURE: MANATEES P. 9



Have news, photos, announcements, or articles? Email mulletrapper@gmail.com or call or text 954-662-7003.

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2016

 Indicates prime fishing time!

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
25	26 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church 7 pm	27 	28  Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am	29 	30  new moon ○	Oct. 1  Blessing of the Fleet, See p. 3
2 	3  Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God, 7 pm	4 City Council Mtg. 5:30pm FME Mtg, 3:30pm Congress. Aide Visit, 3:30pm	5 Ladies Coffee City Seafood, 8 am	6	7	<u>RAPPER 8</u>
9	10 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church, 7 pm OFCD mtg., see p. 3	11 Safe Community McLeod Pk, 6pm, see p.3	12 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am	13  Lions Club Oyster House, 6pm	14 	15  Stone Crab Season Open! Artist Reception, see p. 3
16 full moon ● 	17  Hour of Prayer Everglades Comm. Church, 7 pm	18 	19  Ladies Coffee City Seafood, 8 am	20	21	<u>RAPPER 22</u>
23	24 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church 7 pm	25	26 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am	27 	28 	29  Halloween Party McLeod Pk, 8 pm

Nov. 6: Daylight Savings
Nov. 18: History Talk

Nov. 8: General Election
Nov. 19: Art-in-Glades

Nov. 11: Veteran's Day
Nov. 24: Thanksgiving

THRIFT SHOP: Sat, 11 am–3 pm
LIONS CLUB: 2nd Thursday of Month, Oyster House, 6 pm
DR DEMARTINO: *Closed for the Summer Season*
DR MARTIN: Mon & Wed, 10 am–2 pm & 3–6 pm; Com. Center
AA: Wed, 5:00 pm, Community Church
HEALTHY EATING: Schedule to be announced
MUSEUM: Mon – Sat, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
CARNESTOWN Recycle and Trash: 2nd Saturday, 9 am to 3:30 pm

SKATING RINK: Fri, Sat, 7–10 pm
REACH OUT: 3rd Tuesday, 9:30 am, City Hall
LITTLE GATOR CLINIC: *Closed for the Summer Season*
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: *Closed for the Summer 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)
Chokoloskee (239-695-4468)
Ochopee (239-695-2099)

Mon-Fri: 9:30 am to 1 pm and 2 to 4:30 pm; Sat: outside pick-up 3:45 pm
Mon-Fri: 9:30 am to 1 pm and 2 to 4:30 pm; Sat: outside pick-up 3:30 pm
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

Upcoming Events in Town



October 1, 2016

Family fun day at the Rod & Gun Club, 10am-1pm, for the annual blessing of the stone crab boats: 10:00am arts & crafts, plus fun contests, 12 noon: blessing the fleet. For info, phone 695-2905.

Come Out and Support Our Crabbers!

Meetings Tuesday, October 4th

FME Meeting, City Hall 3:30 p.m.
 Congressional Aide Visit, 3:30 p.m.
 City Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

**October 11, 2016 6:00 pm
 8:00 pm, McLeod Park**

Celebrate your safe community with the Collier County Sheriff's Office! We are celebrating the fight against crime by hosting a free event and activities that bring neighborhoods, communities, businesses, and law enforcement together.

Saturday, October 15

Reception for artist, Greg Dupignac, at the Museum of the Everglades, 1 to 3 p.m.

Wings Across the Glades

September 1st – October 31st
 Museum of the Everglades

**BECOME A RAPPER
 CONTRIBUTOR!**

Please send us your articles, news, area events, recipes, and photos of the day's big catch. Become a contributor to our community paper. The deadline for submissions is Saturday, a week before publication. Publication dates are posted in the calendar of each issue of the Rapper.

Send to: mulletrapper@gmail.com,
 or call 954-662-7003.

**Keep Collier Beautiful –
 Coastal Cleanup**

We are seeking volunteers for the annual effort to keep our coastal areas clean. Interested individuals contact us for more information, call: 239-580-8319.

Notice Board



Al-Anon Is Here to Help

Heavy drinkers commonly say that their drinking is not as serious a problem as some people may think. People who are close to them also have a tendency to minimize how seriously the drinker's alcohol abuse has affected them. They are trying to keep things as normal as possible under conditions that are sometimes unbearable. These questions can help you decide if you could benefit from visiting a few Al-Anon meetings.

1. Do you worry about how much someone else drinks?
2. Do you have a money problem because of someone's drinking?
3. Do you tell lies to cover up for someone else's drinking?
4. Do you feel that if the drinker cared about you, he or she would stop drinking to please you?
5. Are plans frequently upset or canceled because of the drinker?
6. Do you make threats, such as, "If you don't stop drinking, I'll leave you!"?
7. Are you afraid to upset someone for fear it will set off a drinking bout?
8. Have you been hurt or embarrassed by a drinker's behavior?
9. Do you search for hidden alcohol?
10. Have you refused social invitations out of fear or anxiety?
11. Do you feel like a failure because you can't control someone else's drinking?
12. Do you think that if the drinker stopped drinking, your other problems would be solved?

If you answered "YES" to one or more of these questions, Al-Anon or Alateen may be helpful. For meeting information call: 239-263-5907 for Collier County or 1-888-4AL-ANON or visit: al-anon.org

**Updated Tamiami Trail
 Map / Brochure Published**

A new "Amenities along the Tamiami Trail" brochure has just been published and is now available at various businesses around town and along US41. This light-weight glossy brochure includes a map and provides both hikers and cyclists who are traveling between Naples and Miami - a valuable source of information regarding existing facilities, off-road trails in the parks, water/food and accommodations. You may also find a copy online at www.evergladesROGG.org.

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 09/06/16: Vehicle Accident, 54 Mile Marker I-75
- 09/09/16: Downed Power Line, Everglades City
- 09/09/16: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 09/09/16: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 09/09/16: Emergency Medical, Plantation
- 09/09/16: Vehicle Accident, 77 Mile Marker I-75
- 09/10/16: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee
- 09/10/16: Vehicle Accident, 59 Mile Marker I-75
- 09/10/16: Emergency Medical, 73 MM I-75
- 09/11/16: Smoke Alarm, Chokoloskee Island
- 09/11/16: Vehicle Accident, Ochopee
- 09/12/16: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 09/16/16: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 09/16/16: Vehicle Accident, 57 MM I-75
- 09/16/16: Vehicle Fire, 74 Mile Marker I-75
- 09/16/16: Vehicle Accident, 54 MM I-75
- 09/17/16: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 09/17/16: Vehicle Accident, 80 MM I-75
- 09/17/16: Grass Fire, 78 Mile Marker I-75
- 09/17/16: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 09/17/16: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee
- 09/18/16: Emergency Medical, Chokoloskee
- 09/18/16: Emergency Medical, Copeland
- 09/18/16: Emergency Medical, Everglades City
- 09/18/16: Vehicle Accident, SR 29 and I-75
- 09/19/16: Emergency Medical, Copeland

The Ochopee Fire Control District Advisory Committee will meet at 4 p.m. on **Monday, October 10th**, at the Port of the Islands Fire Station, located at 525 Newport Drive #C in Naples.

DOCTOR'S CLINIC

Dr. Kirk DeMartino will continue to see patients in his Marco Island Office. Please call (239) 642-5552 for an appointment.

**SPORTS & FAMILY
 MEDICAL CARE**



Dr. John Martin is in the office at the Everglades Community Center on Mondays & Wednesdays 10 am to noon, then 2 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 during the rainy summer months. Bring your items in on Saturday during our regular hours.*

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SCHOOL NEWS

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www.evg.collierschools.com



Small Town Taylor

by Taylor Mayberry

I have the coolest teacher ever! She's always letting us do fun stuff like make breadsticks and salad in class using the vegetables we grew in our class garden. She even lets us have pets in our classroom like fish and quail. But let me tell you something that she recently did that was very cool.

On my recent trip down to Key Largo I caught a huge 27 inch redfish. I wanted to take a picture and text it to my teacher Mrs. Whitcomb because she's a lot like me. She loves fishing just as much as I do. That night my dad told me that Mrs. Whitcomb wanted me to bring my fish in so we could do a lesson in class on learning how to cook a redfish.



I was so excited and really wanted to do that so I asked my Daddy if he could bring the fish in to cook it for our class and he said yes. My Daddy and Mommy brought in the grill, fryer, seasonings, Italian dressing, pans, and of course the redfish, and set it up outside in the courtyard by the cafeteria. The class sat at the picnic tables while we

watched my Dad teach us how to cook the redfish. Mrs. Whitcomb called him Chef Robby.

When he started cooking and poured the Italian dressing on the fish it started to smell super delicious. He grilled half of the fish and fried the other half. The whole class got a piece of fried and grilled fish. Everyone enjoyed it and it was very good. Kati Collins even tried it and liked it and that says a lot because she doesn't like to see animals hurt. She has a big heart.

I'm so glad that we all got to learn how to cook a redfish together and everyone liked my Dad's cooking. That was probably one of the best days I ever had in Mrs. Whitcomb's class.

With lots of love,



Taylor

Taylor Mayberry is 10 years old and in the 5th grade attending Everglades City School.

What to Consider When Your Child Wants to Join the Team, Club, Or...

Parents often worry that extracurricular activities will *inhibit* their children's performance in school. However, numerous studies have shown that students who participate in extracurricular activities actually excel in academic performance more often than children who do not. The National Center for Education Statistics states, "Extracurricular activities provide a channel for reinforcing the lessons learned in the classroom, offering students the opportunity to apply academic skills in a real-world context, and are thus considered part of a well-rounded education."

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, students who participate in extracurricular activities have a 15 percent higher classroom attendance rate than students who are not involved in additional activities. Sports and clubs encourage students to attend all meetings and practices and often limit



participation if too many are missed. Students soon recognize that attendance is vital to their success. Therefore, they are more apt to take their academic attendance just as seriously.

Students who do not miss classes are more likely to have a higher grade point average. This goes hand in hand with extracurricular activities, because the majority of sports, arts and academic clubs require a good GPA for participation.

The social component of extracurricular activities instills a sense of community, responsibility and involvement. Students who participate in extracurricular activities develop skills that will help them well beyond who excel in sports, master a skill such as playing an instrument or invent a formula in a physics or math club are more likely to also receive more scholarship opportunities. This incentive makes students more aware of their performance in and out of the classroom, making them pay greater attention to their studies and their grades. In addition, teachers, coaches and instructors are more willing to write recommendation letters for students who show dedication and perseverance beyond classroom participation. College scouts are looking for high achievers, and these students are often given opportunities to continue their extracurricular activities in college.

Visit: <http://www.evgathletics.com/main/calendar> for a calendar of E-City school athletic events

IMPORTANT DATES

EVERGLADES CITY SCHOOL

Oct 3: No School for Students
 Oct 12-14: No School for Students

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

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SOLUTION TO 9/10/16 PUZZLE

1	R	2	O	3	V	E	R	4	T	5	E	6	A	7	S
7	I	V	E									8	U	9	G
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14	E	L	S	E			15	C			16	B	I	T	E
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GLADES DAZE

by Patty Huff

In the Everglades we see fewer tourists during September, our hurricane season, but this year I was fortunate to have my sister Diane visit from Nashville a few weeks ago. She did get a few mosquito bites but always applied repellent when we ventured out into the woods. This is a great time of year to come, fewer crowds and cool afternoon showers. We were able to get out and experience our natural wonders early in the mornings and finish late in the day to enjoy the thunder storms on my porch (usually with Diane's special cocktail drink). Ah, life is good here!

Although Diane had been here before, she had never experienced kayaking in the Everglades so one day we explored the rivers and tunnels with Tod Dahlke who owns *Tour the Glades Private Wildlife Tours*. Tod loves this area and is full of information about the history, the culture and the natural environment which kept us entertained as we paddled through the mangroves.

After an hour or so of kayaking, we stopped along a shoreline where Tod served us a delicious snack of fresh fruit and chocolate before starting our journey back, just in time to catch the afternoon pontoon boat ride with the Everglades National Park Boat Tours at the Gulf Coast Visitor Center.

Every time I take this tour boat ride, I enjoy it. Daniel was our guide who provided more information about the glades, the birds, the flora and history. Be sure to take your guests on this family excursion; fun for all ages.

This was a great day and it is all available in our own back yard! Tod can be reached at (239) 260-4577; email: TourTheEverglades@gmail.com; website www.tourtheeverglades.com.

The Everglades National Park Boat Tours are the authorized National Park Concession and operated by Sammy Hamilton. Reservations can be made by phone (239) 695-2591; email: boattours@enpbt.com; or website <http://www.evergladesnationalparkboat-toursgulfcoast.com/>.



Recipes for Good Eating

Black Beans & Rice with Chorizos

by Barbara Shands

Ingredients:

- 1 package of yellow (Saffron) rice
- 1 15-oz can of black beans
- ½ onion, diced
- ½ lb. chorizos
- ½ avocado, sliced



Make rice according to directions. Sauté chorizos in shallow saucepan until browned. Remove chorizos and set aside. Discard ½ of oil in pan and reserve other ½. Sauté onion in reserved oil from chorizos; once soft, add black beans. Spoon rice and black beans into bowls. Top with chorizos and garnish with avocados.

Note: Chokoloskee avocados (alligator pears) are ready to pick now and they are the best!

Rapper Crossword

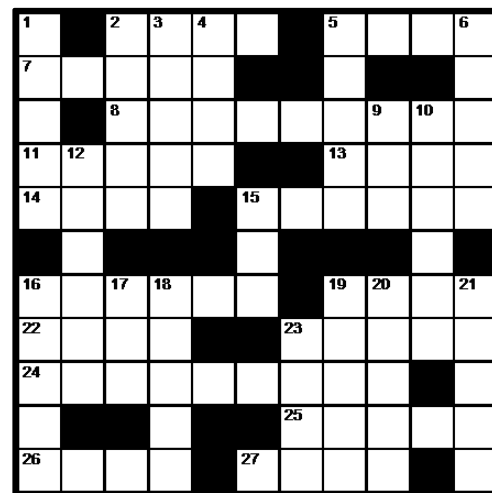
(Solution in next issue or visit www.mulletrapper.com/xword)

Across

- 2. Alter
- 5. Partly open
- 7. Rubbish
- 8. Spacecraft
- 11. Coral island
- 13. Spanish, Broad-topped hill
- 14. Decoy
- 15. Weird
- 16. On board
- 19. Concern
- 22. Sphere
- 23. Pilsner
- 24. Underscore
- 25. Nova Scotia cape
- 26. Way out
- 27. Waist band

Down

- 1. Pilfer
- 2. Shield
- 3. Edible fruit
- 4. True
- 5. Passageway
- 6. Refund



(Down Continued)

- 9. Weeding implement
- 10. Not pure
- 12. Muslim headdress
- 15. Fish
- 16. Misuse
- 17. Advanced in years
- 18. Wide-awake
- 19. Artificial waterway
- 20. Representative
- 21. Mistake
- 23. Blood-sucking insects

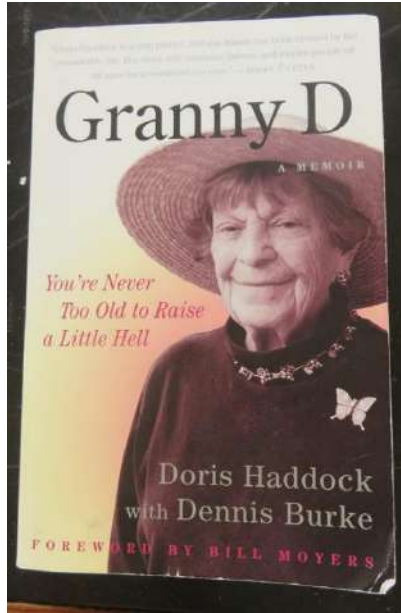
9/24/16

Off the Shelf - Book Review

"Granny D"

by Doris Haddock and Dennis Burke
reviewed by Patty Huff

Inspirational, entertaining, informative, enlightening and funny are just a few of the adjectives to describe this autobiography of Doris Haddock who, at the age of 90, completed a walk across America. Her journey started in 1998 and took her from Pasadena, California, to Washington, D.C., finishing in 14 months and a total distance of 3,200 miles. Quite a feat for anyone! Doris was motivated to take this hike to "clean up" American politics by bringing attention to the amount of corporate funds being donated to politicians when running for office. She was pushing for campaign finance reform. It started out as a one-woman's mission but soon became a national phenomenon as she gathered attention and endorsement. Both Democrats and Republicans rallied in her support by passing the McCain-Feingold Campaign Finance Reform Act in 2002.



This book is not all about politics; what I related to were the experiences and connection with the average American workers she met along her journey. Granny D completed her walk the same year that Steve and I began our bike trip across America. She traveled on back roads through small towns, just as we had done. Whether you are biking or hiking long distances across this country, you tend to stop and talk more to the locals, the farmers, the business owners, and people on the street. We learn so much, as Doris did, about the communities in small town America. You will discover this as you read her accounts of meeting folks along the way.

I picked up a copy of *Granny D* at a second hand bookstore while biking and visiting my grandkids in California this summer. I was telling my grandson Liam about her story and her age; he asked if she was still alive so I said let's "google" her and find out. Doris Haddock died on March 9, 2010, six weeks after her 100th birthday. She was quite a gal! Sometimes when I think I am too old to be biking around America in different states every summer at the age of 70, I realize that I am 20 years younger than Granny D was when she walked across this country. My grandson now calls me Granny P.

Be inspired; read about the "young" Doris Haddock. You can order this book at amazon.com as well as the authors' second book "*Granny D's American Century*".



Living Gulf Coast

by Charles Sobczak



Lettered Olive (*Oliva sayana*) Other names: olives, golden olive / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=NE / Life span: n/a / Length: 2-2.5 in. (5-6.5 cm) / Weight: n/a / Reproduces in the nearshore waters / Found:

Throughout the beaches of Southwest Florida / Status: uncommon.

The best location to find a living lettered or golden olive is along the beaches and near the sandy bottoms of the passes and shoals. Named for its dark surface markings that vaguely resemble blurry cuneiform writing, this shell is a highly prized find. Although it might appear that the olives you find at a shell shop have been mechanically polished, this process is done by the shellfish itself. When moving, the fleshy mantle of the live animals extends around the outside of the shell to protect it. This constant rubbing of the outer surface, coupled with the tiny fragments of sand and grit between the shell and the living organism, serve to polish the shell over time.



The far more uncommon golden olive, which is a color variant of the lettered olive, can also be found along the surf line. If the water is calm enough, you can track either of them by following their trail through the soft sand. It is in this surf zone where they feed on coquinas, small clams and other shellfish. Olives, like many gastropods, are carnivores. Because they are so attractive, the Calusa as well as many Native American tribes, used lettered olives to make jewelry and other decorative objects. A handful of birds are able to take and eat olives as are stingrays, sharks and other predatory gastropods.

Apple Murex (*Chicoreus pomum*) Other names: none / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=NE / Life span: to 5 years / Length: 2-4.5 in. (5-11.5 cm) / Weight: n/a / Spawns in the nearshore waters / Found: Along the beaches of Southwest Florida / Status: common.



Ranging from North Carolina to Brazil, the apple murex is one of the most abundant murex shells found in Florida and the West Indies. It feeds predominately on the common Eastern oyster, boring almost perfectly round holes into its shells. Given a thick enough oyster, this slow drilling may take the apple murex weeks to complete but this pales in comparison with some species of South Pacific drills. Scientists have now determined that some small drills, dining on much larger and thicker clams and oysters, may take up to eight months to drill through the shell and into the soft, edible parts of the animal! Imagine waiting more than six months, without appetizers, for your dinner.

Although this is a fairly common shell to find washed up along the beach, it is nowhere near as easy to find alive. Look for it beyond the surf zone, preferably with a mask and snorkel, in water from three to ten feet. Finding one will probably be more related to water clarity than to any other factor.

The apple murex is preyed upon by other carnivorous gastropods, including other murex species. It is also eaten by rays and sharks.

Photos by Blake Sobczak



My Little Slice of Paradise

by Kathy Brock

There was a story repeated in my home as a child about a trip to Biscayne Bay that my parents made in the late 1940's. Shortly after World War II, my parents met in Rhode Island, married and then moved to South Florida. Dade county was sparsely populated at that time, so they chose an apartment near Biscayne Bay.

As the story was told, the Beaches were not crowded at that time, and in Biscayne Bay, one could readily find spiny lobsters, conch, and the fish were abundant. Being avid fisher-people, my folks would head to Biscayne Bay after work to fish for the night's dinner.

After living in the area for a while, my mother built up enough courage to even swim in the Bay. You see, she was not a good swimmer and had a near drowning incident as a child that kept her land-side most of her life.



On a particularly hot day, mom decided to take a dip in the Bay. After a few minutes she came dashing out yelling for my father, "monster, monster"! My dad said he rushed over to see what the commotion was about, and he too saw the

"monster". But it was no monster, it was a West Indian Manatee grazing on the, then plentiful, sea grass beds in the Bay. I too grew up on the Southeast Coast of Florida. However, I was not afraid of the water, nor was I concerned with the manatee. I have always been fascinated by the manatee, attracted to its calm demeanor and sweet face. Tim and I even went diving with the manatees once in college in the central Florida springs, and it was there that I became hooked. Call me a manatee "hugger".

Manatees are mammals which means that they breathe air and nurse their young. Primarily solitary, they swim slowly about doing what they do best, eat. They can consume between 10 to 15 percent of their body weight daily in vegetation. Weighing in at 800 to 1200 pounds, that's a lot of vegetation! I mentioned that they swim slowly, but they can achieve some speed, an estimated 20 MPH in very short bursts. However, they lumber about most often between 3 to 6 MPH eating and resting, so that they can eat some more.

Manatees must surface to breathe air, and do so every few minutes. They can go up to 20 minutes without surfacing for air, but become distressed if kept submerged too long. Manatees are migratory animals. They can be found as far west as Texas and as far north as Maine, but stick mostly further east and south between the Carolinas and Florida.

In the winter months, manatees migrate to Florida with the rest of the snowbirds (Did I mention that they are smart too?!). Any water temperature below 70⁰ forces them into warmer waters, which means that there is a higher concentration of the population in South Florida from November to March. Manatees are known to congregate around power plants where the effluent from the plants keeps waters very warm.

There is no way to determine the population of the species with 100% accuracy, but it is believed that there are a minimum of 6,250 left in the wild, which was the head count during the most recent census – so it is assumed that they missed a few. Rest assured there

are not too many more than that as that number is fairly close to other, recent census figures. Manatees are a threatened species meaning their numbers are low enough to have concern about their survival. They can live to as old as 65 (a current animal in captivity), but it is believed that 30 is more realistic in the wild.

Manatees breed infrequently, beginning the process upon sexual maturity at the age of 5. It is believed that they produce a single calf every two to five years, nursing the calf for approximately 2 years. After mating, the male has nothing to do with the mother and calf, there is no relationship between the two beyond the breeding period. The calf and mother stay together for the 2-year period, where mom shows her calf how to eat, where to look for food, and where and when to migrate south. Tagged animals return to the same area year after year, so it has been determined that manatees are creatures of habit and learned behaviors.

Manatees have few natural enemies and are not threatened by predation. They do suffer from other premature causes of death, mostly by man. Manatees are easily caught in netting, as their eyesight is poor and keeps them from seeing nets easily, the nets can prevent them from surfacing for air causing them to suffocate. Fishing line and hooks are also troublesome. More often, they are hit by boat propellers.

The reason the manatee is hit by boaters so often is a result of their preferred habitat being shallow water between 3 and 7-foot-deep, salt or fresh with vegetation available. This defines almost



all water surrounding the Everglades City area and the intercostal waterway on the east coast. It also makes it obvious why they have a hard time getting out of the way...they cannot go down (the water is too shallow), and they are

not fast animals as stated before, and these are areas frequently traveled by boaters who love to drive fast.

The State has posted speed limits in waters believed to be inhabited by manatee. This is often met with frustration, and sometimes disdain, by boaters. My husband and I are also boaters and can find it frustrating putting along in a manatee zone when we are try to reach our target lunching spot (read my column frequently enough and you will learn that we are frustrated fisher-people that often catch little...but eat great lunches over the water!). It is at these times that I remind myself that these beautiful, graceful, and docile animals are just trying to survive where their ancestors taught them to. If you see 5 manatees in our area, chances are that 3 or 4 of them are scarred from propellers like the one shown above.

So rather than getting frustrated, take the slow-down as an opportunity to really observe the natural beauty around us and be grateful that you are lucky enough to be here. Gratitude is a powerful thing. Even if you go out over and over again, it is so beautiful every time.

If you are very fortunate, you may see a manatee in the water, a roseate spoonbill fly overhead, and a sea turtle pop up too. Now that is a true grand slam - *on any day*. Add lunch, and we are approaching perfection!

Call 1-888-404-FWCC (3922), *FWC on your cell phone, or use VHF Channel 16 on your radio if you see an injured, dead, tagged, or orphaned manatee, or if you see a manatee being harassed.

PARK NEWS

\$15,000 Reward Offered for Information About Panther Shooting Death

The Humane Society of the United States, Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust and the Center for Biological Diversity are offering \$10,000 for information leading to an arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for illegally shooting an endangered Florida panther. This new amount, along with \$5,000 offered by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pushes the total reward being offered to \$15,000.



Investigators are searching for information about the shooting death of the panther, which was first reported on March 22 after a motorist spotted the dead animal on the edge of Immokalee Road, about one mile west of Camp Keais Road. FWC officers determined the panther died from a gunshot wound, with no evidence indicating a vehicle collision.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the FWC's 24-hour Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-3922. For those wishing to remain anonymous, please use Tip@MyFWC.com or go online to MyFWC.com/WildlifeAlert.

Friends of Fakahatchee Announce Fall 2016 Tours

The Friends of Fakahatchee have announced their fall 2016 schedule of five adventures to introduce visitors to Florida's largest state park, Fakahatchee Strand Preserve.

A two-hour Moonlit Tram Tour of the Fakahatchee starting at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, October 16 is the group's first offering of the season. The \$40 moonlit tours will also be offered Nov. 14 and Dec. 14. These tours sell out rapidly.

Daytime naturalist-led Ghost Rider Tram Tours from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. get underway Nov. 15 and are offered for \$25 per person each Tuesday through Dec. 20.

Original Fakahatchee Swamp Walks are scheduled on three Saturdays— Nov. 19, Dec. 3 and Dec. 10. Swamp walks begin at 9:30 a.m. and are \$80 for adults and \$60 for teens.

The Combination Tram Tour and Swamp Walk begins Thursday, Nov. 17 at 9:30 a.m. and is also offered on Dec. 1, 8, and 15, \$60 per person.

The Friends' newest offering is a 90-minute tour of the Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk on the Tamiami Trail. High-tech headsets allow participants to hear the naturalist without disturbing the tranquility of this national natural landmark site. The tours are offered on Wednesdays at 9 a.m. starting Nov. 16 for \$20 per person.

For directions, complete details and (required) reservations for all Fakahatchee adventures, call 239-695-1023.

Clyde Butcher Exhibit October 29 & 30

On Saturday, October 29 and Sunday, October 30, Clyde Butcher will exhibit -- for the first time -- all of his photographs of 33 National Parks that he has photographed over the past 50 years.

Big Cypress Gallery is located along the scenic Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41), 47 miles east of Naples and 36 miles west of Miami at Mile Marker 54.5, about half mile east of the Big Cypress National Preserve Oasis Visitor Center.

LOCAL NEWS

New Yard Waste Rules in Effect

Waste Management will now be responsible for picking up yard waste. Please take note of the following rules regarding yard waste pick up. Yard waste will be picked up on **Thursday's** and either bundled, bagged or put into containers as described below:

Bundles must be securely tied with twine:

Bundles must be less than 50 pounds

Bundles must be no longer than 4 feet

Branches must be less than 4 inches in diameter

32 Gallon Personal Containers:

Must not weigh over 50 pounds

Waste may not extend over 12 inches over top of container

Paper Waste Yard Bags Only – NO Plastic Bags:

Plastic will not be accepted

Paper is for leaves, grass and yard trimmings only



Gov. Scott Visits E-City for Suicide Prevention Month Event-Stops by Island Cafe

On Saturday September 11th Island Café donated 10% of their proceeds to promote suicide awareness and prevention. It was a busy day, even Governor Rick Scott stopped in to eat.



Carol Foss thanks everyone that stopped in to support the cause. She said, "Many of my family and friends know suicide prevention is something very close to my life and anything that can be done to help even one person - We did something! You never think about it until it stops you in your tracks and you lose someone in your own life to suicide!" *Photo by Sue Gentry*

STAR TREKKER REPORT

By Chris Herlovich



September 28 - Mercury at Greatest Western Elongation. The planet Mercury reaches greatest western elongation of 17.9 degrees from the Sun. This is the best time to view Mercury since it will be at its highest point above the horizon in the morning sky. Look for the planet low in the eastern sky just before sunrise.

October 7 - Draconids Meteor Shower. The Draconids is a minor meteor shower producing only about 10 meteors per hour. The shower runs annually from October 6-10 and peaks this year on the night of the 7th.

RESTAURANTS

- Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands**
(642-1025): Tuesday thru Sunday,
Noon - 9 pm; *closed Monday*
- Camellia Street Grill (695-2003):**
11 noon - 5pm; *Closed for Summer*
- City Seafood (695-4700):**
6:00 am - 6:00 pm; daily
Supper Upstairs 6-9 pm;
Thursday-Sunday
- 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):**
11 am-5 pm; Mon thru Sat
- Tastes of the Everglades (695-0075)**
11 am - 8 pm; daily
- Triad Seafood & Café (695-2662):**
Closed for the Summer

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

- Grimm's Stone Crab (239-695-3222):**
Closed until October 15

- Loco's Fresh Produce: (239-462-7050)**
Closed for the Summer

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**
11 am Sun Worship
- 1stBaptist Church of Everglades City**
9:45 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship
6 pm Sunday, 6 pm Wed Bible Study
- St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples**
8 am (Spanish) and 10 am (English)Mass
- San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl.**
8 am and 10:30 am Mass

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

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

TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

09/24 Sat	04:41AM	1.0	L
09/24 Sat	09:40AM	2.9	H
09/24 Sat	05:38PM	0.2	L
09/25 Sun	12:02AM	2.4	H
09/25 Sun	05:59AM	1.0	L
09/25 Sun	11:03AM	2.9	H
09/25 Sun	06:42PM	0.2	L
09/26 Mon	12:58AM	2.5	H
09/26 Mon	07:03AM	0.9	L
09/26 Mon	12:13PM	3.0	H
09/26 Mon	07:38PM	0.3	L
09/27 Tue	01:30AM	2.6	H
09/27 Tue	07:55AM	0.7	L
09/27 Tue	01:08PM	3.1	H
09/27 Tue	08:26PM	0.3	L
09/28 Wed	01:53AM	2.7	H
09/28 Wed	08:41AM	0.6	L
09/28 Wed	01:52PM	3.2	H
09/28 Wed	09:09PM	0.3	L
09/29 Thu	02:16AM	2.8	H
09/29 Thu	09:22AM	0.4	L
09/29 Thu	02:30PM	3.2	H
09/29 Thu	09:47PM	0.4	L
09/30 Fri	02:40AM	2.9	H
09/30 Fri	10:01AM	0.3	L
09/30 Fri	03:04PM	3.1	H
09/30 Fri	10:23PM	0.4	L
10/01 Sat	03:05AM	3.0	H
10/01 Sat	10:37AM	0.3	L
10/01 Sat	03:38PM	3.1	H
10/01 Sat	10:57PM	0.5	L
10/02 Sun	03:30AM	3.0	H
10/02 Sun	11:12AM	0.2	L
10/02 Sun	04:13PM	3.0	H
10/02 Sun	11:28PM	0.6	L
10/03 Mon	03:56AM	3.0	H
10/03 Mon	11:48AM	0.2	L
10/03 Mon	04:52PM	2.9	H
10/03 Mon	11:58PM	0.7	L
10/04 Tue	04:22AM	3.0	H
10/04 Tue	12:25PM	0.2	L
10/04 Tue	05:36PM	2.8	H
10/05 Wed	12:25AM	0.8	L
10/05 Wed	04:47AM	2.9	H
10/05 Wed	01:05PM	0.3	L
10/05 Wed	06:28PM	2.6	H
10/06 Thu	12:50AM	0.9	L
10/06 Thu	05:15AM	2.9	H
10/06 Thu	01:51PM	0.3	L
10/06 Thu	07:30PM	2.5	H
10/07 Fri	01:16AM	1.0	L
10/07 Fri	05:51AM	2.7	H
10/07 Fri	02:49PM	0.4	L
10/07 Fri	08:39PM	2.4	H
10/08 Sat	02:00AM	1.1	L
10/08 Sat	06:48AM	2.6	H
10/08 Sat	03:59PM	0.4	L
10/08 Sat	09:51PM	2.4	H
10/09 Sun	04:06AM	1.1	L
10/09 Sun	08:55AM	2.6	H

Birth Announcement

Naomi Lynn Lewis
Born September 7, 2016, 7:44 PM

Naomi Lynn Lewis entered the world at



7 pounds and 18 inches long on September 7th to proud parents Dillon and Tasha Lewis. Naomi is healthy, happy and the Lewis family is thrilled stating, "their family is now complete!"

A New Baby? Here's Some Tips to Help Smooth the Transition

A new baby brings so much joy. But they also bring more responsibility, increased expenses and the stress that goes with all of it. WebMD offers 25 tips to helping integrate a new baby into the family so that the transition is easier on the family:

1. Establish a parental plan
2. Postpone energy-draining projects
3. Plan for baby's arrival -- now
4. Stay flexible
5. Keep a log & stay on schedule
6. Rethink priorities - simplify
7. Farm out meals - accept help
8. Stay flexible
9. Keep a log & stay on schedule
10. Rethink priorities - simplify
11. Farm out meals - accept help
12. Try a little TLC - it always helps
13. Leverage the internet- research!
14. Stay connected to your partner
15. Beware the risks of comparing
16. Find the humor- we've all been there, this too shall pass
17. Sleep when baby sleeps
18. Don't be a super hero- delegate
19. Let it go -- without guilt!
20. Try a 'baby burrito' - swaddle!
21. Address baby's sleep issues sooner rather than later
22. Rotate night duty-if you can
23. Rethink your routine- modify!
24. Exercise with baby
25. Work out in short bursts
26. Spread your workouts throughout the day
27. Focus on yourself, try it when the house is quiet
28. Find places with child care & visit those to minimize your stress
29. Maintain perspective and enjoy the process. It will be over before you know it so enjoy every minute

RAPPER CLASSIFIEDS

NEW JOB LISTING: Attention USCG Captains! Everglades Area Tours is in search of part-time captains to a run a boat a couple of days a week during the winter season. (239) 695-3633.

FOR SALE: Fifth Wheel 2008 Durango LX, 37 feet, 4 slides, power awning, central vac., fireplace, cherry wood cabinets, lots more, call (239) 687-6512.

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 RENT: Cozy furnished 2/1 house. Seasonal at \$900/week or \$3,200/month. Call (508) 677-5136.

FOR SALE: 1999 Ford Van High-top. E-150, V6, good gas mileage, power steering, good tires. Couch converts to bed. 181K miles, \$2800. Call Jerry: (239) 280-7193.

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. (727) 480-1640.

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

PET PICS

Chelle Austin's adorable Yorkie-Poo, "Woo" is decked out in her best ruffles!



RAPPER CLASSIFIEDS

FOR LEASE: Deep water commercial dock and lot on Barron River. Premium sought-after location at 909 DuPont St. in Everglades City. Perfect for lucrative airboat business, eco tour business, commercial fishing or even a restaurant with chickee bar and tourist gift shop attraction. Contact: Rancho T Properties LLC, (727) 480-1640.

FOR SALE: 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, original Collier home. Vintage cottage style, large fenced yard, river view, huge screened porch, beautiful kitchen, oak floors, tin roof, deeded dock. Ready for you to move in today and start fishing. Call or text for appointment: (954) 662-7003.

CAREGIVER POSITION WANTED
Caring and compassionate certified CNA that resides in the Everglades City area is now available for in-home personal care. Services include; light cleaning, meal preparation, medications, shopping, errands, doctor's appointments, companionship and more. For more info, contact Pam: (239) 398-9785.

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

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

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