



The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area



**TIDE TABLE
RESTAURANTS**

FEB. 25 – MARCH 10, 2017

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P O Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume X • Issue #283

Don't Miss These Two Great Events, Saturday, Feb. 25th!
(Wow...so much to do, so little time!)

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Festival



Enjoy the festivities starting at 9:00 on the museum with **Art-in-the-Glades**. There will be great music by Cindy Hackney, food and fun to celebrate the life of the Grand

Dame of the Everglades.

~~~~~

### Saturday, February 25th

#### Attention Bargain Hunters!

Outdoor Resorts (ORA) will hold their annual community-wide bazaar starting at 9:00 am. Also at 9:00 am, Port of the Islands is holding their community-wide garage sale. See



complete details on page 10.

~~~~~

SNOOK SEASON OPENS MARCH 1ST.

Read the article on page 9 by Captain Mike Merritt for great tips on where to fish and what to fish with!

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FEATURE: DR. MARTIN, PAGE 8

Glorious Weather During Seafood Festival Weekend Makes Everyone Smile!

We always anticipate a great seafood festival...but sometimes the weather doesn't cooperate. This year, the stars were perfectly aligned and Mother Nature blessed us with picture-perfect weather. It was absolutely gorgeous!

Over 50,000 people visited the area for the festival according to Collier County officials, and judging from the smiles seen in the crowds, everyone had a great time. The festival was very well organized as usual, and the booths were well received. I was particularly happy to see my favorite, the Kettle Corn folks. I reminded them again how they are a mainstay to the event...and how my freezer wouldn't be the same without cramming 4 or 5 bags into it for future snacking! Thank you to everyone who helped organize the event, and thank you to everyone who attended. We look forward to an equally perfect Seafood Festival in 2018.






















Everything is perfect! From the opening ceremony to the big stage, foods, adorable kids-in-wagons and the mounted police - the entire weekend was amazing!

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

FEBRUARY 26- MARCH 18, 2017

 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>
26 <small>new moon</small> ☉ 	27  Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church, 7 pm	28 	March 1  Ladies Coffee City Seafood, 8 am Snook Season Open!	2 Congress. Aide City Hall 3:30 pm FME Meeting City Hall 3:30 pm	3 Author's Hour, see p. 10	4 Turkey Shoot, see p. 3 Artist Reception, see p. 3
5 Turkey Shoot, see p. 3	6 Hour of Prayer Everglades Comm. Church, 7 pm	7 CCSO, City Hall, 4:30 pm City Council Mtg. 5:30 pm	8 Ladies Coffee, Havana Café, 8 am	9  Lions Club Mtg., 6pm Oyster House	10  Movie Night, see p. 10	<u>RAPPER</u> 11 
12 <small>full moon</small> ● 	13  Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm	14 	15  Ladies Coffee Island Cafe, 8 am	16 Book Club, see p. 10	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day 	18 Pancake Fly-in, see p.3 Star Gazing, p.3 IslandFest, see p.10
19	20 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God, 7 pm	21 Reach-Out Mtg, 9:30 am	22 Ladies Coffee, Sw. Mayberry's, 8 am	23	24 	<u>RAPPER</u> 25  Art-in-Glades, p.3 Star Gazing, p. 10
26 	27 <small>new moon</small> ☉  Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church, 7 pm	28 	29  Ladies Coffee City Seafood, 8 am	30 	30	April 1 Don't get fooled!

April 2: Everglades Bike Ride

April 14: Good Friday

April 16: Easter Sunday

April 18: Income Tax Filing Day

April 22: Pancake Fly-in

THRIFT SHOP: Tues., Thurs., Sat., 11 am–3 pm
LIONS CLUB: 2nd Thursday of Month, Oyster House, 6 pm
DR DEMARTINO: Friday's 2 to 5 pm
DR MARTIN: *Not taking appointments at this time*
AA: Wed., 5:00 pm, Community Church
WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP HR: Tues. 9:30-10:30 am, Copeland Baptist
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: Not seeing patients at this time
FOOD PANTRY: Wed., 12 n to 2 pm, Community Church
EVERGLADES AL-ANON: Thurs., 12noon, City Hall
VETERANS SUPPORT: 1st & 3rd Thurs., 10 am, Com. Church
SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily, 11 am to 5 pm
PANCAKE FLY-IN: 3/18, 4/22, 10 am

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)
COLLIER COUNTY: 239-252-8999

POST OFFICE HOURS:

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*****SNOOK SEASON OPENS MARCH 1ST*****

What's Happening

In and Around Town

TURKEY SHOOT LIONS CLUB FUNDRAISER

Saturday & Sunday, March 4th & 5th



Please join us for the Turkey Shoot which will be held at Altair Gun Club on SR 29. This fundraiser supports the Everglades Lions "Pass It On" program created to help with addiction treatment and prevention.

A special thank you to the following sponsors that always support this event: Oyster House Restaurant, Speedy's Airboats, Capt. Jack's Airboats, Grimm's Seafood, Hamilton's Seafood, Triad Seafood Restaurant, City Seafood Restaurant, Havana Café, Camellia Street Grill, Island Café, Win-Car Hardware, Outdoor Resorts Marina, Smallwood Store and Museum.

ARTIST RECEPTION March 4th, 1 to 3 pm

The Museum of the Everglades is proud to present the exhibit "Mysterious Everglades" featuring the wonderful photographic work of Toronto native Barbara Simpson. The exhibit will be shown in the Pauline Reeves Gallery of the museum during the month of March 2017. The Artist's Reception is open to the public will be hosted by the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades. Refreshments will be served at this event.

MOVIE NIGHT March 10, 5 pm

See page 10 for details about this event.

GUIDED CANOE TRIPS Now through March 27th

Collier-Seminole State Park - Day trips every Thursday - Monday from 9:30AM-12:30PM, \$25. Moonlight Trips (\$35 per person) are offered March 10th and 11th from 8:30PM - 10:30PM. Space is limited, so call for reservations, (239) 394-3397.

STAR GAZING PARTY March 18th

Collier-Seminole State Park March 18th, 2017 at 8:30 PM. Bring your chairs and enjoy a relaxing night under the stars at Collier-Seminole State Park.

PANCAKE FLY-IN March 18th



Start the day with a breakfast "fly-in" at Everglades Airpark from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Enjoy great pancakes and sausages provided by Wings 10,000 Islands Aero Tours - call 239-695-3296.



ART-IN-THE-GLADES

Saturday, March 25th

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at McLeod Park. There is no fee to host a booth for this event. For more information please call Marya at: 239-695-2905.

Community services



DOCTOR'S CLINIC

Dr. Kirk DeMartino is currently seeing patients in Everglades City on Fridays from 2 to 5 pm. You may also call his Marco Island office to schedule an appointment at: (239) 642-5552.

~INCOME TAX SERVICE~ MIKE "THE TAX GUY"

Local professional, personal & business tax services in Everglades City. Call 695-0595 or 239-595-4203 to set an appointment. Email: nfn19842@naples.net for more info.

H & R BLOCK INCOME TAX PICKUP SERVICE

H & R Block of Marco Island is running a new service this year. Twice a month Michele Huss - Owner/Tax Professional will meet with you and pick up and deliver your Tax Documentation. "We know how busy you are this time of season and hope to alleviate some of this stress. This is especially useful for boat captains and hospitality staff." Please call us for details (239) 394-5058.

THRIFT SHOP

Open 3 Days A Week

Open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 11 am to 3 pm, located behind the fire station. *Please do not leave items on the porch. Please bring them in during operating hours. All donations are appreciated!*

PUBLIC NOTICE

Important Information About the Drinking Water From Everglades City Drinking Water Plant

SITUATION: The Everglades City public drinking water system failed to perform monitoring for the Volatile Organic Contaminants Group and the Primary Inorganic Contaminants of Nitrate, and Nitrite during the 2016 calendar year. Rules 62-550.515 and 62-550.512 of the Florida Administrative Code required this water system to perform this monitoring during the 2016 calendar year.

HEALTH EFFECTS: *We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During the 2016 calendar year, we did not perform monitoring for the Primary Inorganic Contaminants of Nitrate, and Nitrite, and the Volatile Organic Contaminants Group, and therefore, cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water (with respect to contaminants) during that time.*

WHAT IS BEING DONE? Although the Everglades City water system failed to perform monitoring for the aforementioned contaminants, it did collect samples for these parameters on January 9, 2017. The laboratory analyses result for the samples collected on January 9, 2017, indicated that all contaminants were meeting drinking water standards.

WHAT SHOULD CUSTOMERS DO? Since the laboratory analyses results for the samples collected on January 9, 2017 indicated that all contaminants were meeting drinking water standards, **CUSTOMERS/CONSUMERS OF WATER FROM THIS WATER SYSTEM NEED NOT TAKE ANY ACTION AT THIS TIME.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For more information, please contact Tim Stevens at 239-695-2503 or contact Patty Baron of the Department of Environmental Protection at 239-344-5615.

Please share this information with all of the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly.

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2/11/17 Crossword Solution

1	R	O	O	F	S	5	S	6	P				
7	V	A	P	O	R	8	N	A	S	A	L		
11	V	I	P	E	R	12	L	A	N	E			
13	R	E	U	S	E	14	C	O	N	G	A		
	M		Z			15	M	E	S	S			
16	R			17	P	E	A	C	E		E		
19	A	20	M	21	M	O		A		22	R		
23	F	E	A	S	T		24	S	K	I	P	S	
27	T	A	R	T			28	B	I	N	G	O	
29	S	T	E	A	K			30	N	O	I	S	E
	Y		L					31	R	O	W	D	Y

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SCHOOL NEWS

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

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES
Mar 13-17, 20: No School
Apr. 14, 17 No School



Small Town Taylor by Taylor Mayberry

Guess what? It's softball season and even though I'm not old enough to be on our school's softball team yet, Mrs. Whitcomb set up a pitching clinic with Coach Lori and let a few of us that aren't on the team yet go practice with the softball team. Coach Lori coached our USA Olympic team pitcher! So, she is really good! She is teaching a lot of us how to pitch. I am learning how to pitch because Coach Lori says, "you need just the right pitch for a good game changer". One pitch can change the whole game.

So, the first thing Coach taught us was the snap. The snap is when you bring your arm back, cock your wrist and then swing your arm to snap the ball at the batter. The next thing she taught us was the slingshot. The sling shot is where you pull your wrist back and cock it. Then you swing your arm around backwards one time and let go of the ball at your waist and then follow through. She taught us a few different types of pitches but I forgot the names of all of them. Coach Lori is very nice and determined. She has a cute dog named Luigi that follows her around and listens to whatever she tells him to do. She's coming back this Tuesday and I am so excited to go back to the ball field to learn more. I can't wait until I get to play on the team next year!

*Lots of Love,
Taylor*

Local Students Head Up Everglades City Beautification Project

Reported by Tod Dahlke

Everglades City School students Blake Dahlke and Kimberly Valle are heading up the Community Beautification Project and have completed the first phase of their project. They are working with Ernest Hamilton Fish House on Camellia Street to create a new landscape design at the location's main entrance. Blake & Kimberly have been working alongside Danya Fendrick owner of Urban Green Studio on the project. Mrs. Fredrick is a weekend resident of Everglades City and her company specializes in landscape design, land planning and urban design. She has been working with Blake & Kimberly on creating a new design concept for the area and has taken them from the brainstorm phase to their recent pitch meeting. The three of them recently met with Randy Montero and Haava Blakemore to present the design plan and get their approval. Ernest Hamilton Fish House is the major supplier of stone crab for Joe's Stone Crab. Joe's Stone crab of Miami Beach is almost 100 years old and is the THIRD highest grossing restaurant in the United States with reported earnings of \$36.1 Million in 2014. Joe's Stone Crab also has locations in Chicago, Las Vegas & Washington DC.

The staff at Ernest Hamilton were very pleased with our student's design and gave them the green light to begin the next phase of the project. The school's student government which is overseen by Ms. Carry Walker will begin the ground breaking and implementation of the design in mid-March. Project completion is scheduled for the first part of April.



A Message from the Principal

Thank you to our Betterment Association and Mayor! We are excited to report that the school's fundraiser of selling water and soft drinks during the Seafood Festival exceeded last year's total. A special thank you is in order for the Betterment Association for providing us with this opportunity! I would like to also thank the Mayor and City Council for their continued support of the school. We are truly a unique community that is always working to take care of our children so they have opportunities that will assist them in attaining their dreams.

One group of people also must be acknowledged for their assistance. Our staff dedicated hundreds of hours working the weekend of the Festival. It would not be possible to have this success without their commitment. We are grateful that President's Day weekend follows the Festival as there are numerous members of our team that worked without time off during that two-week period.

We will utilize these funds to provide numerous opportunities and experiences for our children. Students had the opportunity to work at the Festival to cover the expenses for events they might have otherwise not been able to participate in. Our seniors will be able to attend "Grad Night" at Universal Studios and they also can invite a guest to attend with them. The cost of the school's prom could also be earned by working the weekend of the Festival. Funds will also be provided to support our Homecoming, Academic Awards Night, field trips and Graduation to name a few. Thanks to all of you that supported this effort as the experience that our students gained will stay with them forever.

IT IS ALWAYS A GREAT DAY TO BE A GATOR!

~Jim Ragusa, Principal

A Sneak Peek at Our Cheerleader's Yearbook Photo

The Mullet Rapper was able to get a hold of this year's yearbook photo for the cheerleaders...before it is published! Thanks to our investigative reporter and photo-journalist, Helen, we can share this great group photo of the beautiful girls that make up this year's team.

We are very proud of our cheering Gator-girls and think this year's group is simply stunning! Go Gators!



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Recipes for Good Eating

Submitted by Bonnie Woodward

Local Author Shares Her Adventures in New Book, "Fishing Like a Girl"

Adventuring near the salty waters of the Gulf of Mexico gets a feminine twist in *Fishing Like a Girl*, local author Judy Weston's account of her journeys exploring and fishing the Ten Thousand Islands region of Everglades National Park.

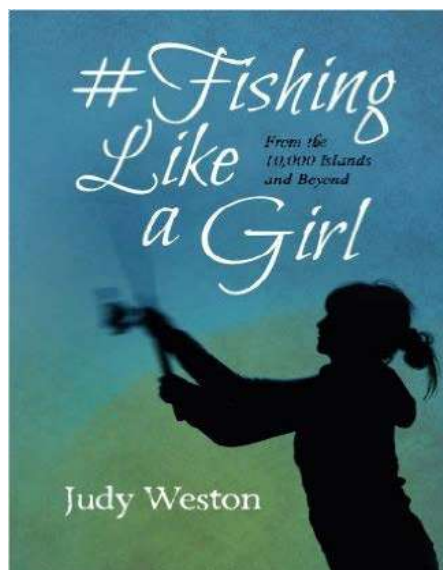
The accomplished photojournalist whose work has garnered many awards for photography and photo editing from the National Press Photographers Association initially took up fishing because of her husband's passion for it.

But once she found her sea legs, untangled her line from the tree branches from overhead, and dove into the sport, she was hooked.

Weston writes of her adventures in the wild waterways of Chokoloskee Bay, Lostmans River, and a myriad of other stunning untamed places, recounting these experiences with a sense of wonder and immediacy, offering readers the chance to step into the natural world and see for themselves the glories of fish, fowl, and forest.

Peppering the text with thoughtful reflections on conservation and stewardship, Weston demonstrates how women are not only accomplished participants in the world of sport fishing but also vital voices in the conversation.

Fishing Like a Girl is available on Amazon.com and at the Chokoloskee Marina next to ORA.



Bonnie's Potatoes

- 1 32-oz. (2-lb.) Bag frozen shredded hash browns
- 1/2 c. Melted butter/margarine
- 1 tsp. Salt
- 1/2 tsp. Pepper
- 1/2 c. Chopped onion
- 1/2 c. Chopped green pepper
- 2 cans creamed soup (I like cream of chicken & cream of mushroom)
- 2 c. Shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 16 oz. Sour cream
- Potato chips or corn flakes or parsley or paprika for topping (see below).



In a large bowl, mix together all of the ingredients, except the potato chips (topping). Mix well. Pour into a 9 x 13 pan. Top with any of the above toppings. I prefer the crushed potato chips and give it a pretty good layer of them. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 1/2 hours. Makes 10 servings

Rapper Crossword

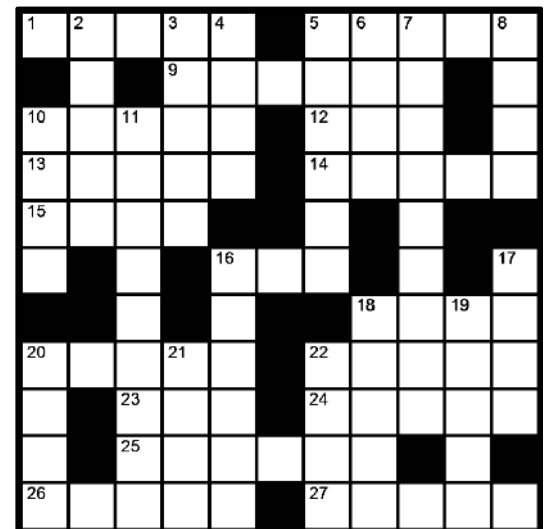
(Solution in next issue or visit www.mulletrapper.com/xword)

Across

- 1. Changes from solid to liquid
- 5. Saddam Hussein was one
- 9. Guy who is cool under pressure
- 10. Smell
- 12. Hog
- 13. Frogman
- 14. Grown-up
- 15. White-tailed ones live in Everglades
- 16. Place
- 18. Miss Muffet had some
- 20. This plural
- 22. Low in price
- 23. A red one may bite you
- 24. Long raised strip
- 25. Knocking sound
- 26. Short and fat
- 27. Facial hair

Down

- 2. Mysterious
- 3. You need it when baking
- 4. Surgery leaves one
- 5. Collision
- 6. Police action
- 7. Pained
- 8. Is not contraction
- 10. Totals



2/25/17

(Down Continued)

- 11. Eavesdropping result
- 16. Pleasing to the eye
- 17. What one does on a keyboard
- 18. Type of bread
- 19. Like a beaver
- 20. A hunter may set one
- 21. Problem with panty hose
- 22. Ours are blue or stone

Our Amazing Bodies The Immune System, Part I

by Dr. John Martin

The human Immune System includes specific structures and special accessory tissues and organs. The immune System is a functional system rather than an organ system in an anatomical sense. Its "structures" are a diverse array of molecules plus trillions of immune cells (especially lymphocytes) that inhabit lymphoid tissues and circulate in body fluids. As research continues, more emphasis is placed upon maintaining a healthy gut flora (aka "microbiota") to not interfere with or over burden one's immune system. The bottom line is that what you eat is vital to your overall wellness. We'll get back to that.

The lymph system is a major (structural) part of the immune system. The lymph vessels somewhat parallel the circulatory system and eventually injects into it. The lymph vessels perform not unlike the grease trap and plumbing in a restaurant, taking care of the really bad stuff. However, different from the circulatory system, the lymph is directed and flows only towards the heart. Lymph is the fluid substance that occupies a certain volume of blood serum, interstitial space (the space between the cells), and participates in a big way in the inflammatory response. Lymph vessels are absent from bones, teeth, and the Central Nervous System. Here, the cerebral spinal fluid serves a similar function.

The lymph vessels drain major regions of the body, run the lymph and its contents through a series of lymph "nodes" in the neck, under the arms and either side of the groin. And then collects in ever larger ducts and then each terminal duct empties into the venous blood at the junction of the internal jugular vein and subclavian vein on its own side of the body. A swollen and/or tender lymph node is a sign that those entities are working overtime. The Thymus (more active in the pre-born and new-born child, and the Spleen are other lymphoid organs. Other contributing structures include M.A.L.T. (Mucosa Associated Lymphoid Tissue): the tonsils, Peyer's Patches (in the intestines), and the appendix.

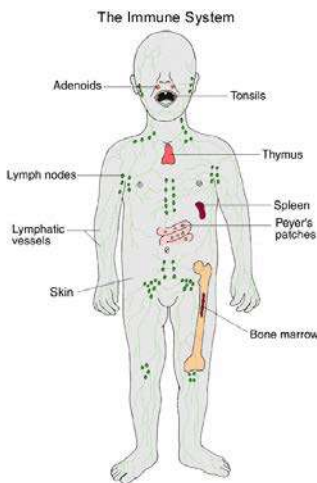
The sequence of the immune response is usually matched in degree to the level of threat to the body's well-being. There are Innate Defenses. These include the Surface Barriers, the Skin and Mucosae. And Internal Innate Defenses: Cells and Chemicals. The second level of response includes Adaptive Defenses. These involve: Antigens, Cells of the Adaptive response (mostly White Blood Cells), and Humoral response (Chemicals).

In the interest of space, we will briefly review the Inflammatory response, and differentiate between the Cellular and Humoral (Chemical) response(s).

All blood cells are formed in bone marrow. Red blood cells lose their nuclei and become true corpuscles. White blood cells (leukocytes) differentiate as needed into lymphocytes, eosinophils, monocytes, neutrophils, macrophages, phagocytes, and basophils.

The four primary signs of inflammation are heat and redness, pain and swelling. With tissue irritation (e.g. trauma, toxicity, microbial invasion, other chemical irritation) a cascade of events occurs at the injury site something like this: a release of inflammatory chemicals (e.g. histamine, prostaglandins, kinins), a release of leukocytosis (White Blood Cell synthesis) inducing factor, arterioles dilate, increased capillary permeability, neutrophils, monocytes, and lymphocytes to area (chemotaxis), leukocytosis (increased numbers of white blood cells into bloodstream), leukocytes migrate to injured area, local hyperemia (increased blood flow to area - this results in redness and heat in area of injury).

Capillaries leak fluid, protein-rich fluid into tissue spaces, resulting in pain and swelling. Margination (leukocytes cling to capillary walls, diapedesis (leukocytes pass through capillary walls), leaked clotting proteins form interstitial clots that wall off area to prevent injury to surrounding tissue, phagocytosis of pathogens and dead tissue cells by neutrophils, and then macrophages (pus may form as area is cleared of debris). Temporary fibrin patch forms scaffolding for repair, possible temporary impairment of function of the involved tissue would be a fifth sign of inflammation. A degree of healing follows. More to come on Adaptive Response, and the healing process next time in **THE IMMUNE SYSTEM, Part II**.



Come Experience the Everglades!

The 10th Annual Everglades Bike Ride will be held on Sunday, **April 2**, and cyclists will once again have an opportunity of experiencing the ride of their choice, at their own



pace. There is a 15-mile route winding through historic Everglades City, a visit to the Everglades National Park Gulf Coast Visitors Center, and then across the mangrove-dappled causeway to Chokoloskee Island before returning to McLeod Park.

For cyclists wanting a more challenging ride, you can choose from two longer distance routes. The 27-mile off-pavement route includes Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park, an intimate encounter with nature through pristine cypress forest famous for its orchids and bromeliads. The 62-mile paved route takes cyclists 17 miles along US41 in Big Cypress National Preserve through the Everglades with scenes of cypress forests juxtaposed by stunning prairies, then a stretch along CR29 to view the wilds of Fakahatchee, a tour the historic fishing village of Everglades City, all topped off by a ride to beautiful Chokoloskee Island.

In addition to the bicycle ride, all participants will be provided a continental breakfast beginning at 7:30 am, free bike repairs compliments of *Bikes for Tykes* of Naples, SAG support for the ride, tour of the historic Smallwood Store Museum in Chokoloskee, a seafood lunch with a special treat of homemade desserts including calamondin cake.

Participants from our previous rides have named this event one of the best cycling experiences in south Florida. Although we cannot guarantee the wildlife you may see during your ride, it will certainly be fun with lots of camaraderie.

This event focuses on safety, environmental education and stewardship for those hiking, walking, or cycling through south Florida and the Everglades. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the south Florida National and State Parks. To register and for more information, visit this website www.evergladesrogg.org.

WHEN: April 2, 2017

WHAT: Everglades Bike Ride

CONTACT: Patricia Huff @

(239) 695-2397 or email:

snookcity@gmail.com

Living Gulf Coast by Charles Sobczak

American Crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) Other names: American croc, saltwater croc, salty, croc / Status: FL=threatened, IUCN=VU / Length: 9.8-13 ft (3-4 m) / Weight: 380-840 lb (173-382 kg) / Life span: to 70 years / Reproduces: Along the southern edge of Florida, mostly in Monroe County / Found: Lee

and Collier counties, coastal / Months found: (lower case indicated nesting season) **JFMamjjasOND**.

The crocodile is a rare sighting in Southwest Florida. Extremely vulnerable to cold temperatures, it seldom ranges as far north as Lee County, with the vast majority of the region's sparse population living along the southern coastal edge of Collier County, predominantly in the Ten Thousand Islands and Everglades National Park. Because this region represents the northern edge of its range, the Florida croc seldom grows as large as those found farther south. In South America, there have been official reports of 20-foot crocs. The longest croc skull ever measured was 28.6 inches (72.6 cm) and came from a mature male estimated to be at least 22 feet long. That animal would have weighed more than 3,000 pounds. A crocodile this size could eat a horse. Whole.



Sadly, because of over-harvesting and hunting, the American crocodile is in trouble throughout its range. Venezuela banned the taking of crocodiles in 1972. Other nations such as Costa Rica and Cuba have followed suit, and in these locales the croc is making a slow but steady recovery from the brink of extinction.

Ironically, a major reason for the recovery of the American crocodile in Florida, where its numbers are now estimated at more than 1,500, is the nuclear power plant at Turkey Point, built in 1972 south of Miami near Homestead. The power plant encompasses some 3,300 acres of wetlands through which a series of canals were dug to assist in cooling the water used to keep the reactor core from overheating. Shortly thereafter, a handful of American crocodiles discovered these canals, which teemed with fish that thrived in the artificially warmed waters.

Despite its size, the crocodile is far less aggressive than the alligator toward humans. Aside from an injured croc named Zulu that killed the man who shot him in 1925 on the outskirts of Miami, there has never been a confirmed attack by any crocodile in the U.S., though there have been several fatal attacks reported in Mexico and Central America. You should never approach a crocodile in the wild. If its nest is anywhere near, the female crocodile will kill in defense of its eggs. The croc, like the alligator, is capable of explosive charges that occur almost faster than the human eye can follow. In the water the croc can obtain speeds of 20 miles per hour and is capable of launching its 2,000-pound body completely out of the water with its powerful tail.

*Photo "Sanibel Croc" by Blake Sobczak
Charles Sobczak is an Author in Sanibel, FL*

Fishing the 10,000 Islands with Capt. Mike Merritt

With March, we have the opening of Snook season. For those that wish to have a Snook dinner you have a 2-month window to accomplish this. March is a great month historically for Snook to make their way back into the barrier islands. Snook will move from the back country to the outside. Fish will also

move in from offshore.

March is also known as the windy month! We seem to get a lot of westerly direction this month so it can make fishing the outside challenging. We are already catching Snook on the outside as the weather has been warmer than normal in February. We have landed fish up to 32" and they should continue to get bigger this month. Fishing along the edges of the islands, bars, points, downed trees and logs all offer Snook a place to ambush their prey. Just remember when Snook fishing that they are primarily an ambush predator.

Using artificial lures this month will enable you to cover more area to locate these fish. Jigs are probably my bait of choice this month for Snook. It allows me to work right along the bottom where these fish will be laying. Of course, we will start using some top-water lures early in the morning. And if you fish at night then a diving lure or a rattletrap will work.

Live bait should also be more plentiful this month and a live Pilchard is hard to beat to entice a Snook bite! Fish these differently depending on current, water depth, bottom structure and even size of bait. When in doubt just put one under a cork and see what happens. If you don't get any action, then rig one on a knocker rig. You will soon figure out the feeding pattern if there is one.

There will also still be fish in the back country so if the winds are strong S.W. just fish in the back. This is where you will want to fish a sub-surface lure like a mirror lure. Live bait will also work in the back country as the water has a high salt content this time of year.

Redfish have been fairly consistent in the islands and this should continue this month. We are also catching them in the back country. A live shrimp under a cork is hard to beat both places. Fish close to structure on the incoming tide. But you might find Reds roaming off the bank along the outside islands on the low incoming tide. Catch them as they come in preparing to get up into the mangrove roots on higher water to feed. Just rig a short leader of approx. 12" under a cork for these.

Seatrout have really been feeding strong on the grasses. I still prefer a popping cork rigged with a 1/2 oz. DOA shrimp about 18" under the cork. This can be lengthened as the tide comes up. We are catching Trout up to 20" pretty regularly now and these can be a blast for the kids on light tackle. With the DOA shrimp, it is quick and easy to get right back in the water without having to re bait your hook. The trout can be fast and furious on the incoming tide. But you will also catch them on the outgoing tide if you want to spend the incoming fishing for Snook and Reds.

If it's Tarpon you are after, then this month is usually the beginning of some good Tarpon fishing. Look for rolling fish offshore and on the outer edges of the trout flats. You may even be surprised while using the DOA shrimp on the flats to have a Tarpon eat your bait. These fish will hit artificial baits and single hook lures are an easy way to get a hook up. Depending on the hook strength will determine how much pressure you can put on these fish while fighting them.

Getting a slam is almost a sure thing if you fish the tide right. Good luck and good fishing! ~Capt. Mike Merritt

LOCAL NEWS

ATTENTION BARGAIN HUNTERS!



Saturday February 25th will be a true bargain hunter's bonanza! There are two huge community garage sales taking place in our area. Outdoor Resorts (ORA) will hold their annual community-wide bazaar starting at 9:00 am. Also at 9:00 am, Port of the Islands is holding their community-wide garage sale that stretches from Port of the Islands to across the street at Orchid Cove. You won't want to miss either...so plan to start early to find the best bargains!

STAR TREKKER REPORT

Reported by Chris Herlovich



Night Sky Viewing – March 25th

Big Cypress is an official "Dark Sky" area. What this means is there is very little or no ambient light to interfere with star gazing. In fact, Big Cypress has some of the darkest skies in all of Florida. You will not want to miss out on the last viewing date this season on **March 25th**. The viewing program starts at 7:00 p.m. More information can be found online by visiting:

<https://www.nps.gov/bicy/planyourvisit/astronomy-programs.htm>.

The program will be conducted at the southern end of Sea Grape Drive, where the Welcome Center is located (east of SR 29, between MM 73 and 74 on US41).

Book Club Meeting Dates



If anyone is interested in joining the book club, contact: Diann

Lock: dlock333@yahoo.com. Everyone is welcome!

UPCOMING READING SCHEDULE

Mar. 16 - "All the Light You Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr

Apr. 6 - "One Thousand White Women" by Jim Fergus



**The Next Movie Night!
March 10th, 5 pm**

Don't miss out on movie night which will be held on March 10th at Jinkins Hall. The movie being shown is *Gone Fishin'* starring Danny Glover and Joe Pesci. For those of you here long enough to remember, this movie was actually filmed in Everglades City, well, parts of it were! Just for nostalgia, it is worth checking out

the film as it is a bit zany and sometimes over the top, but funny in parts.

I remember when the film crews were in the city, seeing the hub-bub at Rod and Gun Club during some of the night scenes. It was a source of pride then and still is now, our little city under the big lights of Hollywood! Check out the film and have a few laughs with friends. For info, see www.evergladeshistorical.org or call 695-2905

MUSEUM NEWS

"Walking Tours of the City are a Great Way to Learn About the Area"



Sign up for a guided one-hour tour highlighting historic buildings around the streets of Everglades City. Tour fee is \$10 per person and is FREE to Friends of the Museum of the Everglades members. For more information and to schedule a tour, call (239) 695-0008.

AUTHOR'S HOUR

Meet Michael Calhoon Tucker, March 3rd at Noon

Michael Calhoon Tucker author of "The Crackers, the Legend of Jessie Calhoon" will be featured at the museum's Authors Hour. For more information contact the museum at 239-695-0008.

PARK NEWS

Islandfest, March 18th, 10 am – 3 pm

Join us for Islandfest (formerly known as Calusa Days) to celebrate the 10,000 Islands and island life. Come discover how these fascinating islands have shaped many lives during this journey through history.



You can expect fun demonstrations, interesting activities, riveting storytelling, and thought provoking programs during this FREE afternoon of family fun at the **Gulf Coast Visitor Center**. For more information, contact the park service @ 239-695-3405.

PANTHER UPDATE



In 2016 there were a total of 42 deaths recorded and confirmed by FWC. Of the 42, 22 were confirmed male, the rest were either female or their gender was not known. The majority of these deaths were caused by vehicle accidents. Also in 2016, there were numerous births totaling eight female kittens and six males. So far in 2017, there have been two recorded deaths of panthers, both were hit by vehicles.

It is important to stay alert, particularly at dusk and dawn as these are the most active times of days for panthers. Panthers are often drawn to the roadside by prey that is attracted to the warm pavement or seeking other prey by the roadside.

If you see a panther, please report the sighting to Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC) by calling: 1-888-404-FWCC (3922).

"Smokey the Bear" Enjoys Picayune Festival



A rare glimpse of Smokey hard at work preventing forest fires! Smokey is riding "Montana" from M&H Stables in Naples. Visit their website: www.mhstables.com



**EATERIES, MARKETS
& AREA WORSHIP**



Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands

(642-1025): Tuesday thru Sunday,

Noon - 9 pm; closed Monday

Camellia Street Grille (695-2003):

12 noon - 9:00 pm; daily

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 - 9:00 pm; Daily

Havana Café (695-2214):

7:00 am to 3:00 pm; Sun thru Thurs

7:00 am to 8:00 pm; 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 - 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-4 pm; Tues thru Sat

Tastes of the Everglades (695-0075)

11 am - 8 pm; daily

Triad Seafood & Café (695-2662):

Monday-Thurs, Sunday 10:30-6

Friday & Saturday 10:30 - 7

Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535):

9:00 am - 7:00 pm; daily

Grimm's Stone Crab (239-695-3222):

8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Mon thru Sat

Loco's Fresh Produce: (239-462-7050)

Friday & Sat. by EC Post Office

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

Chokoloskee Church of God

Sunday: 10 am School, 11 am Worship

Copeland Baptist Church

Sunday: 10 am School, 11 am Worship

Everglades Community Church

11 am Sunday Worship, Sun. School 9:45 am

1st Baptist Church of Everglades City

9:45 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship

6 pm Sunday, 7 pm Wed. Bible Study

Holy Family Catholic Church

10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass

St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples

Phone: 239-417-2084

San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl.

Phone: 239-394-5181

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

2/25	Sat	1:20 AM	2.8	H
2/25	Sat	9:04 AM	-0.3	L
2/25	Sat	2:27 PM	2.3	H
2/25	Sat	9:08 PM	0.4	L
2/26	Sun	1:56 AM	2.8	H
2/26	Sun	9:41 AM	-0.3	L
2/26	Sun	2:57 PM	2.4	H
2/26	Sun	9:48 PM	0.2	L
2/27	Mon	2:33 AM	2.8	H
2/27	Mon	10:17 AM	-0.3	L
2/27	Mon	3:27 PM	2.5	H
2/27	Mon	10:28 PM	0.1	L
2/28	Tue	3:13 AM	2.8	H
2/28	Tue	10:53 AM	-0.2	L
2/28	Tue	3:57 PM	2.6	H
2/28	Tue	11:12 PM	0	L
3/1	Wed	4:00 AM	2.6	H
3/1	Wed	11:29 AM	0	L
3/1	Wed	4:28 PM	2.6	H
3/1	Wed	11:59 PM	-0.1	L
3/2	Thu	4:56 AM	2.4	H
3/2	Thu	12:07 PM	0.2	L
3/2	Thu	5:02 PM	2.6	H
3/3	Fri	12:53 AM	-0.1	L
3/3	Fri	6:04 AM	2.1	H
3/3	Fri	12:49 PM	0.4	L
3/3	Fri	5:42 PM	2.6	H
3/4	Sat	1:56 AM	-0.1	L
3/4	Sat	7:24 AM	1.9	H
3/4	Sat	1:41 PM	0.6	L
3/4	Sat	6:34 PM	2.6	H
3/5	Sun	3:09 AM	-0.1	L
3/5	Sun	8:54 AM	1.8	H
3/5	Sun	2:58 PM	0.7	L
3/5	Sun	7:47 PM	2.5	H
3/6	Mon	4:23 AM	-0.1	L
3/6	Mon	10:42 AM	1.8	H
3/6	Mon	4:26 PM	0.8	L
3/6	Mon	9:16 PM	2.5	H
3/7	Tue	5:31 AM	-0.2	L
3/7	Tue	12:14 PM	1.9	H
3/7	Tue	5:41 PM	0.8	L
3/7	Tue	10:37 PM	2.6	H
3/8	Wed	6:31 AM	-0.3	L
3/8	Wed	12:56 PM	2.1	H
3/8	Wed	6:43 PM	0.6	L
3/8	Wed	11:43 PM	2.7	H
3/9	Thu	7:24 AM	-0.3	L
3/9	Thu	1:24 PM	2.2	H
3/9	Thu	7:36 PM	0.5	L
3/10	Fri	12:36 AM	2.8	H
3/10	Fri	8:12 AM	-0.3	L
3/10	Fri	1:48 PM	2.3	H
3/10	Fri	8:24 PM	0.4	L
3/11	Sat	1:21 AM	2.8	H
3/11	Sat	8:55 AM	-0.3	L

Obituaries

Margaret J. Mannon, nee Van Huss, 80, of Belleville, Ill., and winter resident of Chokoloskee, FL (ORA) died Friday, Feb. 3, 2017 at her residence. She was 80.



Margaret was a seamstress for Bridal Originals in Belleville and Collinsville, Ill., and she was a bookkeeper and office manager for

Belleville Suzuki from 1976 to 1986. She was also a member of St. Matthew United Methodist Church in Belleville, Ill., and the Hearts N Hands Quilting Guild. During her retirement, she spent the last 19 winters in Florida and was one of the beloved "Diamonds" who meet for tea and friendship at the annual Diamonds of the Everglades Tea.

Margaret was an award-winning quilter taking *Best in Show* and numerous other awards in multiple shows; search Margaret Mannon Quilts online.

Memorial Services were held on Monday Feb. 6, 2017 at St. Matthew United Methodist Church, in Belleville, IL. Condolences may be expressed online at www.kurrusfh.com.



Harold Gene Enquist, "Happy Harry"

passed away peacefully at Avow Hospice on Sunday, February 19, 2017. He lived life fully for 90 and 1/2 years. He served in the Navy during WWII and was proud to serve. He spent most of his working years self-employed in Hospitality.



Born and raised in Iowa, he managed and owned The Breeze House Restaurant in Ankeny, Iowa. He served as president of the Iowa Restaurant Association at that time. He was a long-time member of the Shriners. His love of flying eventually lead him to Florida and Everglades City where he loved fishing and giving airplane tours about the area. He ran the Bragwood Lodge and managed The Captain's Table Resort for many years. His great sense of humor lead him to paint his airplane and become known as "Happy Harry".

He is survived by his wife, Verna "Tootie" Enquist, their combined families including 5 daughters, 3 son-in-laws, 10 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, and two siblings and their spouses. Memorial services will be held at the Everglades Community Church on Saturday, March 11, 2017 at 11:00 am.

Become A Mullet Rapper Contributor!
Send us your photos, article, news and community event updates so that they may be included in an upcoming issue!
MulletRapper@gmail.com

RAPPER CLASSIFIEDS

RV HOOKUPS, Everglades City. Two Sites, 30 and 50 amps. Service, water, no sewage. Rent nightly or weekly. Rough boat ramp, 100 ft. dock. Private & secure. Contact Capt. Wayne of Fish Hunt Charters at 239-695-2445.

FOR SALE: 1 Bad/1 Bath Cabin in Glades Haven Resort w/ Deeded Boat Dock - \$119K - Hardwood floors, Home and Dock recently re-stained. Renee Hahn 239-287-2576. (MLS 2170003431)

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

FOR SALE: Waterfront 3br/2ba mobile home, 2 1/2 lots, dock and boat ramp, one lot off Halfway Creek, wood and vinyl floors, 10'x40' screened porch, shed. Furnished \$225,000 More info 239-340-4770.

MUST SELL Waterfront RV lot at the ORA Resort on Chokoloskee Island. Full hook-up, lot in a well maintained, secure park. No reasonable offer refused. Trades will be considered as well. Please call Terry (239) 774-6234.

KAYAKS FOR SALE: Two -14-foot Wilderness Systems Tarpon 140 kayaks, molded plastic, sits on top; included-2 paddles. \$300 ea. Trailer for both kayaks @ \$75.00 if you buy the kayaks. Contact Harriet: 239-860-2849.

FOR SALE: 2 stilt houses EC: \$249K, 5/4; \$349K, 4/3. Available dock, new appliances, paint, etc. Possible owner financing. Call Steve at 910-599-2698.

WANTED: Repairable or working 25-40 hp tiller outboard, 4 stroke, short shaft Honda, Mercury or Yamaha. Call 239-206-6884.

PET PICS

This adorable Yorkie enjoys the Seafood Festival with his "dog mom".



RAPPER CLASSIFIEDS

FOR LEASE: Deep water commercial dock and lot on Barron River at 909 DuPont St. in Everglades City. Perfect for airboat business, eco-tour business, commercial fishing or restaurant with chickee bar and tourist gift shop attraction, \$1500 / month. Contact: Rancho T Properties LLC. (727) 480-1640.

HOME FOR SALE: Beautifully restored, original corner lot Collier home. Two bdrm, 1.5 bath, garage, large fenced yard, river view, huge screened porch, beautiful kitchen cabinets and fixtures, oak floors, tin roof, deeded dock, partially furnished. Call or text for appt: (954) 662-7003. Possible financing.

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

HOUSE CLEANING AVAILABLE: Reliable, references. Jo Jo's. Please see our ad on page 4.

FOR SALE: RV Lots with docks. Please call Bob Wells Real Estate @ 239-695-2660 for more information.

MOVING, FOR SALE: 2004 Key West 17.2 with 90 HP 2 stroke Yamaha. Call 239-695-4498 and leave a message.

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

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PRODUCTION

Printing: DEB Printing & Graphics

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 or social bias.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

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The MULLET RAPPER

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Everglades City, FL
34139

"The Everglades is a test. If we pass it, we may get to keep the planet." ~ Marjory Stoneman Douglas