



# The MULLET RAPPER

## What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

25¢

**TIDE TABLE  
RESTAURANTS**

**MARCH 25 – APRIL 7, 2017**

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P O Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume X • Issue #285

### Firefighter's Efforts Eventually Contain Area Fires

The photo to the right was submitted by Gerald Colson of a burnt-out truck on his brother's property in the Strand. Just days after the fires were contained, new growth was already visible throughout the area!



Thank you to all of the fire-fighters who risk their lives to keep us safe. We recognize your efforts and are thankful for everything you do for us!

### College Project Connects Student to Everglades Area She's Needs Your Help

Recently, a student from Bethany Lutheran College in Minnesota reached out to us via the (old-fashioned) mail to help her complete a project assigned by one of her professors.

For this project, she needs to get answers to numerous questions about our area. She is asking for area locals to contact her to help with research. Anyone who has lived in the area can help with subjects like; growing up in the area, history about the area, favorite foods, restaurants, etc. **Please contact Rebecca to help: [Rebecca.Wiseman@blc.edu](mailto:Rebecca.Wiseman@blc.edu).**

### Riders in the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Key West Bike Ride Get Needed Rest at Area Churches... Then Peddle on to Homestead

Fifty-three participants took on the 300-mile route beginning Saturday, March 17 during the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Key West Bike Ride and Run. This beautiful trip traverses through the Everglades from Fort Myers to Key West and includes a stopover in Everglades City after the first 82-mile leg, where the riders (and some runners) rest at area churches (Everglades Community Church & Holy Family Catholic Church).

Our own Patty Huff was the guest speaker during their EC stopover sharing her love and knowledge of the Everglades area. Patty provided an update on the proposed River of Grass Greenway designed as a separated multi-use pathway from Naples to Miami for future hikers and riders to enjoy the beauty of Florida without having to navigate through traffic on busy South Florida roads.



Sunday, the riders took off for their second stopover planned for Homestead, and on Monday, another beautiful ride to Key Largo, and then leaving Tuesday to ride to Marathon, then finishing the tour in Key West on Wednesday (I am tired just writing about it!).

Fortunately for the riders, the route is almost entirely flat except for the 47 bridges they will have to cross, one of which is 7-miles long! We are glad they were able to visit our beautiful little area and look forward to greeting them again next year. Thank you to our local hosts for welcoming the group. Thank you to End of the Earth Cycling who helps organize the event. The proceeds of the ride help AfricaHOPE which provides desperately needed resources to the people in Kenya.



Center-left, the group is excited and ready to go. Center-right, Patty Huff joins the group for a short leg. Bottom, some of the riders and supporters meet before leaving.

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**Have news, photos, announcements, or articles? Email [mulletrapper@gmail.com](mailto:mulletrapper@gmail.com) or call or text 954-662-7003.**

# MARCH 26- APRIL 29, 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 	27 <small>new moon</small> ○  Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church, 7 pm	28 	29  Ladies Coffee City Seafood, 8 am	30 	31	April 1 Don't get fooled!
2 Bike Ride, see p. 3	3 Hour of Prayer Everglades Comm. Church, 7 pm ESHM Meeting at 8:30 in City Hall	4	5 Ladies Coffee, Havana Cafe, 8 am	6 Book Club, see p.10	7	<b>RAPPER 8</b>  FOF Dinner Mtg., see p. 10
9 	10  Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm	11 <small>full moon</small> ● 	12  Ladies Coffee Island Cafe, 8 am	13  Maundy Thursday Ev.Comm Church, 7 pm service	14  Good Friday Holy Family 3 pm-service Ev.Comm Church, 7 pm service	15
16 Easter Sunrise Service 7 am, see p 11	17 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God, 7 pm	18 Income Tax Filing Day	19 Ladies Coffee, City Seafood, 8 am	20	21	<b>RAPPER 22</b> Pancake Fly-in, see p. 3
23 	24  Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church, 7 pm	25 	26 <small>new moon</small> ○  Ladies Coffee Island Cafe, 8 am	27 	28 	29  Museum B-Day Details to come...

May 4: National Day of Prayer

May 14: Mother's Day

May 15: Close of Stone Crab Season

May 29: Memorial Day

June 1: Last Day of School

July 1: Independence Day Celebration

THRIFT SHOP: Tues., Thurs., Sat., 11 am-3 pm  
LIONS CLUB: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of Month, Oyster House, 6 pm  
DR DEMARTINO: Friday's 2 to 5 pm  
DR MARTIN: Mon. & Wed 10-n, 3 - 6 pm, call 813-787-9738  
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: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, 9 am to 3:30 pm

SKATING RINK: Fri, Sat., 7-10 pm  
REACH OUT: 3<sup>rd</sup> 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: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs., 10 am, Com. Church  
SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily, 11 am to 5 pm  
PANCAKE FLY-IN: 4/22, 10 am

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: 1<sup>st</sup> 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)  
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Mon-Fri: 8 to 10 am; 12 noon to 4 pm; Sat: Open for service 10 to 11:30 am

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**\*\*\* STONE CRAB SEASON IS STILL OPEN!! \*\*\***

# What's Happening

In and Around Town

## ENJOY THE RIDE!

April 2, 7:30 a.m.

The 10th Annual Everglades Bike Ride will be held on Sunday, April 2, and cyclists will have an opportunity to experience the ride of their choice, at their own pace. There is a 15-mile route, a 27-mile route and a 62-mile paved route to choose from.



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.

To register online or for more information: [www.evergladesrogg.org](http://www.evergladesrogg.org), or call Patricia Huff @ (239) 695-2397.

## PANCAKE FLY-IN

April 22<sup>th</sup>



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.

## JOIN THE PARADE!



The city is already planning for the Independence Day Celebration which will be held on **Saturday, July 1st**.

The parade will not be complete without your participation so please plan on decorating your golf cart, swamp buggy or whatever you can think of to join in on the fun.

Donations are appreciated and help fund the day's event that includes the amazing fireworks, the parade, and celebration at McLeod Park that features the best dressed kids contest & 50/50 drawing! 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 239-695-3781.**



## NOBODY'S PERFECT!

There were two errors (that we know of!) in the last printed edition of the Mullet Rapper and we would like to apologize!

We called Sherri Parsons "Sandy" when trying to thank her for her efforts during the ORA Community sale. We are sorry Sherri Parsons!

We also left out the tide table on page 11, but did slip one into the paper so it did not evoke a fishermen's revolt!

We do make every effort for perfection but sometimes fall short. Thank you for your understanding!

## 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: (239) 642-5552.



### NATURAL MEDICINE

Dr. John Martin is seeing patients at 203 Buckner Avenue in E-City, on Mon. & Wed. 10:00-12:00 & 3:00-6:00. Call Dr. Martin: 813-787-9738

### ~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](mailto:nfn19842@naples.net) for more info.

### 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!*

### BECOME A MULLET RAPPER CONTRIBUTOR!

Contribute to our local paper by submitting articles, photos, news and recipes. Simply email us your contribution and we will make every effort to include it in the next issue. Send all information to: [MulletRapper@gmail.com](mailto:MulletRapper@gmail.com)!

## A Message from Fire Chief Kingman Schuldt



The past week has been historic for the Greater Naples Fire District with the impact of the Lee Williams Road wildfire that consumed 7,230 acres of the Picayune Strand State Forest and interface areas adjacent to our homes and businesses. The incident began on Sunday, March 5, 2017 around 2:00 PM. The fire spread quickly due to heavy wind conditions, low humidity and a very dry forest floor.

Structural and wildland firefighters from across the State responded to the area to support in the firefight. By mid-week there was in excess of 125 Florida Forest Service Firefighters and 100 structural firefighters assisting the Greater Naples Fire Rescue Firefighters to protect homes and the urban-interface areas of our community.

Unfortunately, there were four homes lost as a result of the fast-moving fire. On a more positive note, the Florida Forest Service estimated some 1,700 homes were protected and saved from the fire. Our partnering fire agencies of Collier County performed remarkably; with kudos extended to the Cities of Marco Island and Naples fire departments, and the North Collier and Immokolee fire districts. Collier County Emergency Management provided exemplary support including equipment and use of the County's state of the art Emergency Operations Center. The Collier County Sheriff's Office was of great assistance with traffic control and security as our crews travelled and worked in and around many busy roadways and remote areas of the community.

There were many additional local supporting agencies that stepped up to assist in the State's largest wildfire event in more than 10 years. On behalf of every member of the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District allow me to thank the community for its support, assistance, and patience during this horrific event. Also, know that I am extremely proud of our professional firefighters in Greater Naples and other fire agencies of Collier County. And finally, I am thankful there were no lives lost, but will not forget those whose homes fell victim to this wildfire.

Governor Scott visited on Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> and he took time to meet some of the Greater Naples Firefighters.

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**SCHOOL NEWS**

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www.evgcollierschools.com

**IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES**

Apr. 14, 17	No School
May 11:	Awards Night
May 26:	Early Dismissal
May 29:	No School
May 31:	Early Dismissal

**Small Town Taylor**

by Taylor Mayberry

I love spending time with my family, especially my Grandma! My Grandma is so much fun and adventurous. My sister and I got to spend the day with her during our spring break. It was just the three of us and it was the perfect day.

First, she cooked us an egg in the hole for breakfast. Then she took us to the Big Cypress Visitor Center. At the visitors center they have a case that shows what a real gator's nest looks like. It looks like a pile of dirt, sticks and grass. Gators lay about 30-60 eggs in a clutch. What I learned at the visitors' center, that I thought was really cool, is they can tell the sex of the baby alligator by the temperature of the egg. That would be so cool if we could do this with humans because then I would know if My Aunt Na was having a baby boy or girl!

When we were there I got to shop with my birthday money I saved. I got a vest with a hat, coloring book, and a 7-in-1 survival kit, and my sister also got a survival kit. I bought it all with the money I saved from my birthday money.

Then we went back to Grandma and Pop Pop's house and we rode the 4-wheeler. After we rode the Honda, I went inside and colored in my coloring book and then we ate dinner. We had lasagna for dinner! I always have a lot of fun spending time with my Grandma! Grandmas are the best!

*Lots of Love, Taylor***A Message from the Principal**

**Books, Books, Books!!** As I am writing this article, our students are enjoying a week off and they were able to head off with new books purchased at our Book Fair. We celebrated literacy prior to spring break with an exceptional book fair!

This significant undertaking by our Media Specialist, Mrs. Owen, will provide additional materials for our media center. In addition, this good fortune extends to numerous classrooms. Teachers submitted a "Wish List" of books for their classrooms. Due to the generosity of community members, civic groups and families who support our students, every teacher's list was fulfilled! A special thanks to Mrs. Owens for her dedication to our students. We also wish to thank the generous sponsors listed below:

**GOLD Sponsors:** Speedy's Airboat Tours, Mr. & Mrs. Cabell, Island Café, Lions Club

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**BRONZE Sponsors:** Everglades City Book Club, Everglades City Bridge Club, Rock Can Handy Man, LLC, Dr. Adkins & Officer Eddie Adkins, Melissa Owen

**It is Always a Great Day to be a Gator!**

~Jim Ragusa, Principal

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

**My Little Slice of Paradise**

by Kathy Brock

**The Psychology of The Honor System**

There is nothing that feels quite as homey as an old-time fruit and vegetable stand on the side of the road with nothing more than a box for donations...honor payments to be precise. Many of you may have been through Labelle where Curtis' Honey Store stays open for business with nobody manning the till. Shoppers pay on the honor system, and enough of them do to justify keeping the doors open...or so you would think.

I recall traveling with my parents up the east coast to visit relatives in Rhode Island and stopping at numerous such stands on our way back home. We would get peaches by the basket, weighing them ourselves, and then calculating how much it should cost. My father would always "round up" explaining that the person leaving the goods trusted us so we must therefore demonstrate our trustworthiness by paying everything that is owed, and even more if we didn't have proper change.

Obviously, this "system" can easily fail, and often does, especially in larger towns and metropolitan areas where there are countless people from all walks of life.

But even in small places like the Everglades area where this system is used in the community, the results may surprise you. The Mullet Rapper is sold throughout the community on the honor system, and since taking it over in 2016, I have kept track of the percentage of payments versus the printed and distributed copies. Our local area is on track with what Paul Zak, an economist and brain researcher at Claremont Graduate University, has discovered in his own research on this subject.

In his book titled "The Moral Molecule" Zak credits the peptide oxytocin for the "good feeling" we get when we are trusted, and it is that feeling that helps propel us to do the right thing (among other factors like how we were raised). This sounds great, but don't give up your day job yet to put up unmanned kiosks all over town. You see, this good feeling is apparently not enough, and this is what has driven the design of the modern-day vending machine where payment is made before the product is dispensed.

In over two decades of research, Zak has found that only about 25% are consistently honest in the way they behave. Another 25% are mostly honest, 25% are flat-out dishonest, and the remaining 25% are erratic. What does this tell us? It tells us that the old adage "when the cat's away, the mice will play" is true. Many people are simply not personally motivated to comply, they will only do so when monitored.

How does our community compare? Well, we are...very average. Regularly, only 25% of the people will pay 25 cents for the paper that costs 60 cents to print! Which means 75% take the paper without paying. There are multiple factors that may contribute to our very average performance. Could it be that the cost is not evident enough? Maybe there is a shortage of quarters in the community? Whatever the reason, the bottom line is, as humans, we are perfectly imperfect (note the OOPS column on page 3!). This is simply the way it is.

Me, I will go along with the assumption that it is a quarter shortage. That sounds about right.

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## Taxing Things

by Mike the Tax Guy

### IRS Offers IRA Tax Tips for the 2016 Tax Year (Filing Day is April 18<sup>th</sup>)

Taxpayers often have questions about Individual Retirement Arrangements. Common questions include: When can a person contribute, how does an IRA impact taxes, and what are other common rules.

- Taxpayers must be under age 70½ at the end of the tax year to contribute to a traditional IRA. There is no age limit to contribute to a Roth IRA.
- A taxpayer must have taxable compensation to contribute to an IRA. This includes income from wages and salaries and net self-employment income. For a joint tax return, only one spouse needs to have compensation.
- Taxpayers may contribute to an IRA at any time during the year.
- Generally, the most a taxpayer can contribute to their IRA is the smaller of either their taxable income for the year or \$5,500. If the taxpayer is 50 or older the maximum amount increases to \$6,500. If a person contributes more than these limits, an additional tax will apply.
- Taxability Rules. Normally taxpayers don't pay income tax on funds in a traditional IRA until they start taking distributions from it. Qualified distributions from a Roth IRA are tax-free.
- Rollovers of Retirement Plan and IRA Distributions. When taxpayers roll over a retirement plan distribution, they generally don't pay tax on it until they withdraw it from the new plan. If they don't roll over their distribution, it will be taxable (other than qualified Roth distributions and any amounts already taxed). The payment may also be subject to additional tax.

**Mike "the tax guy" is a local tax expert that provides tax services to individuals and businesses in the Everglades area.**

**To contact Mike: Call 695-0595 or 239-595-4203 to set an appointment.**

# Recipes for Good Eating

Submitted by Bonnie Woodward

## Bonnie's Amazing Peach Pie

For the easiest & best peach pie, you'll ever eat:



Preheat oven to 350 degrees

Buy a frozen deep crust pie crust

Buy 10 fresh peaches

Scald the peaches in boiling water for 15 minutes. Let the peaches cool.

After they have cooled, peel off the skins (which should slide off easily)

Mix together: 1 C. sugar, 1/4 C. butter, 1/3 C. flour, and a splash of almond flavoring until crumbly.

Quarter the peaches and lay one row in the frozen pie crust, followed by some of the sugar mixture. Keep repeating until peaches & mixture are used up.

Bake at 350 degrees for 1 1/2 hours.

Make sure you line a jelly roll pan with tin foil. Place the pie on the pan for baking. This pie produces a lot of wonderful syrup and is fantastic served slightly warm.

## Rapper Crossword

(Solution in next issue or visit [www.mulletrapper.com/xword](http://www.mulletrapper.com/xword))

### Across

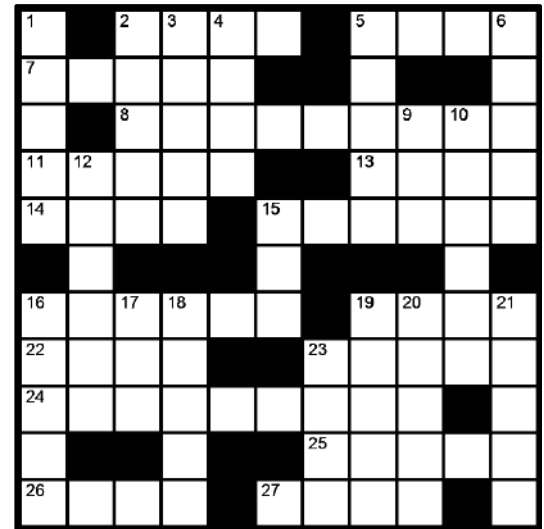
2. Funny!
5. Former Russian Ruler
7. Banish
8. Hearth
11. Perennial herb
13. Trampled
14. They get runs in them
15. Sweet baked food made of dough
16. Sell directly to the consumer
19. Cloud
22. Employs
23. Large ocean vessel
24. Flight of steps
25. Part of a poem
26. Graceful water bird
27. Donkeys pull them

### Down

1. Judiciary seat
2. Old name for quality stereos
3. Not dead
4. In this place
5. Young horses
6. Riverbanks may be this
9. Picasso made it
10. Mortal remains

### (Down Continued)

12. True-blue
15. Friend
16. Tricks
17. Often iced beverage
18. Oriental
19. Tightwad
20. Slow and apathetic
21. They make up a forest
23. Volcanic product



3/25/17

## OUR AMAZING BODIES – by Doctor John Martin

### The Integumentary System

In a previous article, we discussed the attributes of the Immune System, including Innate Defenses. One of those Innate Defenses is our skin. The skin on the human body is the first line of “barrier” defense or immunity the body offers to potential environmental threats. The skin acts as a barrier against bacterial infection and as a structure to prevent water loss. About 1.2 square meters (or 15-20 square feet) of skin covers the human body. Weighing in at about 9 to 11 pounds it represents an average of 7% of body weight. As such, it is the largest organ in (or “on”) the body. About 50,000 skin cells are sloughed off every minute. That amounts to about 40 pounds of dead cells during a lifetime.

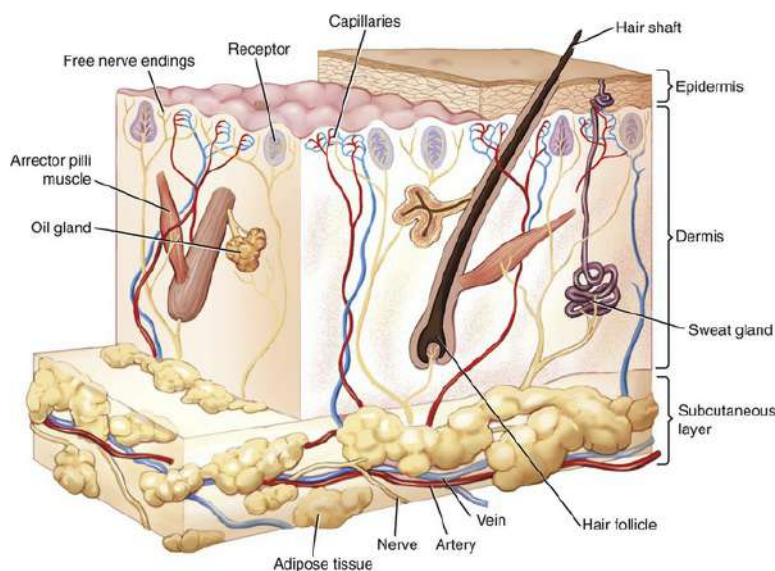
Functions of the skin include: chemical and physical protection, regulation of body temperature, cutaneous stimulation, metabolic functions, it acts as a blood reservoir, and an excretion organ. The epidermis is the outer layer made up of epithelial cells (epi = “upon”). And the dermis lies just below the epidermis making up the bulk of the skin. Only the dermis is vascularized (veins bringing blood to it). The epidermis receives its nutrition from fluids in the dermis. Just below the dermis is the hypodermis (aka, superficial fascia) holding the skin to the muscles underneath. Whereas the epidermis is composed of mostly dead cells, developing from four differentiating cell types (or Strata) from deep outward toward the surface, the dermis is a tough, leathery fibrous connective tissue and contains the appendages of the skin. The appendages include: eccrine sweat glands, arrector pili muscles, subcutaneous (oil) glands, hair follicles, and hair roots.

The epidermis cell types include cells of tough outer protection (keratinocytes), coloration (melanocytes), ingesting (dendritic cells), and tactile cells (sensory cells of touch). From the surface (or outside in) the strata are stratum corneum, stratum granulosum, stratum spinosum, and stratum basale.

We find actively mitotic stem cells in the deepest basal layer (stratum basale). Some of these newly formed cells become part of the more superficial layers. There are scattered within the stratum basale a number of sensory nerve ending tactile cells, and dendritic cells. The stem

cells formed here move upward toward the surface and differentiate into flattened and tough surface epidermal cells. Following transformation through additional strata, the surface forms a 20-30 cell layer of dead cells, basically membranous sacs filled with keratin. A “callus” is developed when excess epidermis is formed at a point of prolonged irritation, resulting in extra layers of this tough protective layer at the surface.

The dermis is replete with thick bundles of connective tissue, blood and lymphatic vessels, sensory receptors and related nerves, and glands. Sweat glands help stabilize body temperature by excreting in response to excessive body heat. Sebaceous glands associated with hair follicles excrete an oily substance (sebum) that resists dehydration. Hair arises from an ingrowth of epidermal (follicle) cells that pushed down into the dermis during development. The base or bottom of the follicle is the hair bulb. The follicle consists of a hair shaft (with a central medulla, outer cortex, and outermost cortex) surrounded by layers of cells making up root sheaths. Non-striated arrector pili muscles attach to the hair follicle and to the upper parts of the dermis. They straighten the hair in response to a sympathetic (e.g. chill or fear) stimulus.



Hair is an important part of our body image. Serving to keep most other animals warm, our much less luxurious human hair is much less important that way. Human hair acts more like a protective structure. Millions of hairs over the human body in varying degrees of density, serve more to detect insects on our skin (before they try to bite us), and guards the head against physical trauma, heat loss and sunlight. Eyelashes shield the eyes, and hairs in the nose filter out insects and dust and lint from the air we inhale.

Nails are scale-like modifications of the epidermis that form a clear protective covering on the dorsal surface of the distal part of a finger or toe. Nails contain “hard” keratin. The thickened proximal (closer in position to the body vs. distal = further from the body) nail bed called the nail matrix is responsible for the nail growth. Nails can exhibit signs of nutritional imbalances and physical changes from disease assisting in diagnostic efforts.

Sweat glands are distributed over almost the entire skin surface, about 3 million per person. Eccrine sweat gland excretion, commonly called “sweat” is a hypotonic filtrate of the blood that passes through the secretory cells of the sweat glands and is released by exocytosis. It is 99% water with some salts (mostly Sodium Chloride) and some anti-bodies, and some toxin metabolites. Mixed with staphylococcus bacteria on the skin surface sweat generally produces (an unpleasant) body odor. Sweating occurs to moisten the body surface, evaporation of which tends to cool or moderate overall body temperature.

Burns on the human body generally effect the skin the most. A burn is tissue damage inflicted by intense heat, electricity, radiation, or certain chemicals, all of which denature cell protein and kill cells in the affected areas. In especially severe burns, the resultant loss of body fluids and electrolytes leads to dehydration and electrolyte imbalance, and then renal failure and circulatory shock. Burns are classified as to their severity first- second-, or third-degree. Sunburn is usually first-degree burn.

Skin cancer - One in five Americans develops skin cancer at some point. Most tumors are benign and do not spread. Others are very aggressive and metastasize (spread to other tissues and organs). Repeated exposure to the UV of sunlight is one of the most important risk factors for skin cancer. Three common types of skin cancer prominent in Florida are Basal Cell Carcinoma, Squamous Cell Carcinoma, and Melanoma. Melanoma is the most dangerous as it is most aggressive and is resistant to chemotherapy.

*Next time – the Endocrine System.*





## Living Gulf Coast

by Charles Sobczak

**Cattle Egret** (*Bubulcus ibis*) Other names: buff-backed heron, cowbird / Status: FL=population dramatically increasing, IUCN=LC / Life span: to 17 years / Length: 19-21 in. (48-53 cm) / Wingspan: 36-38 in. (91-97 cm) / Weight: 11.9 oz. (.33 kg) / Nests along with other herons and egrets in large rookeries / Found: Throughout Southwest Florida

Although this small white bird that is roughly the same size as the snowy egret, it is easy to distinguish it from them. It has yellow legs, not just yellow feet, and a solid yellow beak. The cattle egret is also quite a bit stockier, with a larger head, a thicker neck, and shorter legs than the snowy. It feeds almost exclusively inland and is rarely seen along the beaches or mangroves. It's not uncommon to see a cattle egret saunter along beside roadways and highways any time of the day. During breeding season, it displays patches of buff orange on its crown, nape, and lower neck.



The cattle egret has one of the most fascinating stories of any bird living in Florida. Originally a native of Africa, then spreading to Europe and Asia, the cattle egret first appeared in the New World in 1877 on the northeastern tip

of South America in Venezuela. There was some speculation that a flock actually rode across the Atlantic in the eye of a major hurricane and broke away from the storm near the Lesser Antilles. Seeing this bird in Southwest Florida today represents the only "natural" migration of a major bird or animal most of us will ever witness.

After stabilizing its small immigrant population in South America, the cattle egret began expanding its range. It reached Florida in 1941, long after the devastating plume hunts that took a heavy toll on the snowy egret, and began nesting here in 1953. Over the past 50-plus years the cattle egret has steadily increased its range throughout the United States and is now pressing into southern Canada. It nests in all the lower 48 states. It nests and roosts in large rookeries with other herons and egrets.

The cattle egret is an opportunistic feeder. In Africa, it is often found on the backs of large ungulates such as water buffalo and rhinoceros where it forages behind them, but in the Americas, it has adapted to cattle, horses, deer, and sometimes follows behind tractors or along the edge of grass fires where it feeds on fleeing insects. It also eats mice, warblers, lizards, grubs, frogs, and snakes. Because it prefers open pasture, the cattle egret is readily preyed upon by red-tailed hawks, crested caracaras, bald eagles, and red foxes and may be, by being an easy target, inadvertently aiding in raptor recovery. Because of its tendency to forage in urban settings, the cattle egret is vulnerable to automobile fatalities.

In the past five decades, the cattle egret has become the most common heron in the Sunshine State, and unlike so many of its foreign counterparts, it is not an introduced species. It has adapted well to both agricultural and urban settings and is currently thriving. Look for cattle egrets in open fields foraging next to domesticated cattle, along the edges of commercial parking lots and in urban, suburban and most other Florida habitats.



## Fishing the 10,000 Islands

by Capt. Mike Merritt

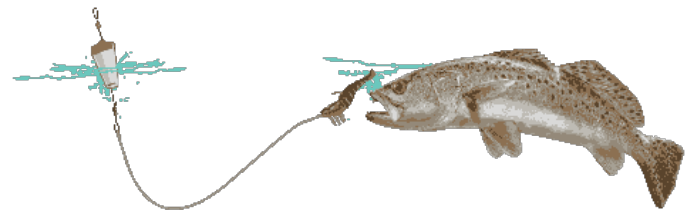
### Springtime in the 10,000 Islands

Late season cold fronts and west winds have combined to make fishing difficult. We've had super low tides and north winds to blow all the water out of the back country to make boating difficult. But despite these difficulties the fish are willing. The days that we have had good weather and low winds the fish are biting both on the outside and in the back country. As soon as the water starts to clear up we have been catching slot size Snook and good size Redfish. Sea Trout on the grass flats have been very cooperative and we are catching fish over 20" on a regular basis.



The best techniques depend on what you are after and where you are fishing. The Trout are biting on the flats best using a popping cork and shrimp or a DOA Shrimp under the same cork. Snook and Reds on the outside are biting on jigs. Tip your jig with shrimp to get more Redfish bites. Working your jig as slow as possible along the bottom will increase strikes right now. The fish in the back country are along the mangroves and casting up under the edges is critical.

Accurate casting can mean the difference between catching or just fishing. I see this when fishing with clients all the time. The ones that can cast best catch the most fish. When my kids were learning to cast, I would put a 5-gallon bucket on the driveway and have them practice casting into the bucket. It paid off in a short amount of time.



As I mentioned in my last article, it is a great time to catch a Snook, Red, and Trout slam. Hopefully the weather evens out and the fish can find a pattern so we can figure them out each day. Things are only going to get better so get in on the upside!

~Good luck fishing! Capt. Mike Merritt

## LOCAL NEWS

### TURKEY SHOOT FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

Submitted by Gerianne Freiberger

The Everglades Lions Club Turkey Shoot, held on March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, was another great success! Turkey Shoots are all about luck. Ten shooters sign up for a shoot, ranging from \$2 to \$50 each. Each shooter then shoots one shotgun shot at a target 25 feet away. The closest BB to the center of the target wins half of the pot, the other half going to the Club.



You can never tell who might win. Anyone from a young shooter aged 8 to experienced shooters aged 78 have a chance at winning! Pictured left, are two winners of the \$50-dollar prize, Dave and Barry.

Raffle tickets are sold ahead of time and at the event. Grand prizes were a Remington 12-gauge shotgun, Bear Crossbow and \$400 Gift Card to Bass Pro. Door prizes were given away hourly, including fishing rods, lures, visors, gift certificates to local restaurants, among other goodies. "I was impressed by the level of safety" said one attendee. Two Club members serve as Safety Officers; all guns are open and unloaded, only one shooter is allowed in the shooting area at a time, one shotgun shell is provided to the shooter on the range.

Some Club members sell food and drinks; hamburgers, hot dogs, and smoked mullet dip. The smoked mullet dip is a local favorite. "We catch it, we smoke it, we make it" says Everglades Lions Club Treasurer, Tammie Pernas.

The Chokoloskee Church of God Youth Group helps out gathering targets and putting up new ones for the next shoot. This event has been held off and on by the Everglades Lions for many years. The shoots were originally held at the corner of US 41 and SR 29. The last three events have been held at the beautiful Altair Training Solutions site, just north of Everglades City, Florida. It's a perfect, safe, beautiful setting for this type of event.

The Everglades Lions Club would like to thank the generous sponsors: Oyster House Restaurant, Speedy's Airboats, Capt. Jack's Airboats, Grimm's Seafood, Hamilton's Seafood, Triad Seafood Restaurant, City Seafood Restaurant, Camellia Street Grill, Island Café, Win-Car Hardware, Outdoor Resorts Marina, Smallwood Store and Museum. The next Turkey Shoot is planned for November, 2017.

The Everglades Lions Club supports the traditional Lions Club services areas of vision, diabetes, hunger relief as well as local groups such as school fundraisers, summer camp and specific needs of individuals in the community. The Everglades Lions also help with drug and alcohol prevention and rehab.

Contact Club President, Vicky Wells, 239-695-2660, for more information. No turkeys were harmed during this event!



## STAR TREKKER REPORT

Reported by Chris Herlovich

**Lyrids Meteor Shower, April 21<sup>st</sup>:** The Lyrid Meteor Shower is usually active between April 16 and April 25 every year. It tends to peak around April 22 or April 23. The best time to watch it is after midnight and before dawn.

## Final Book Club Meeting Date & Location

Come join us for the last meeting of the season!  
**April 6: One Thousand White Women** by Jim Fergus  
 9:30 a.m. at the home of Diann Lock, 498 Collier Ave.



## VETERAN'S MONUMENT FOR THOSE WHO DIED SERVING OUR COUNTRY

### Did Someone Die During Military Service in Your Family?

Was anyone in your family killed serving in the armed forces? We should have a memorial monument to honor them. The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation is trying to find names of service men and women to list on a plaque for all to see. If you can help, phone Elaine at 695-2695 or email [ESHP@hotmail.com](mailto:ESHP@hotmail.com).



## PARK NEWS

### "Alien Invaders" Presentation to be Featured During April 8th Friends of Fakahatchee Dinner Meeting



Join the Friends of Fakahatchee for their annual dinner meeting April 8, at the Everglades Adventure Center in Everglades City. The event will get underway at 5 p.m. with a cash bar, followed by a buffet dinner. After a brief business meeting, naturalist Kevin Sandel of the Conservancy of Southwest Florida will discuss Florida's alien invaders.

Attendees will discover how so many exotic plants and animals have invaded Southwest Florida and the threats they pose to our native species. Sandel will describe the research techniques used by Conservancy biologists to study and track invaders like the Burmese python. The presentation will also explain what Floridians can do to help prevent future invasions.

The meeting is open to the public. Reservations at \$45 per person are required by 6 p.m. April 6<sup>th</sup>, available on the FOF website: [www.orchidswamp.org](http://www.orchidswamp.org). Don't miss this timely presentation--and the chance to bid farewell to your departing snowbird friends.

## Big Cypress National Preserve Drew More Than 1.1 Million Visits in 2016

"For four decades, families and visitors have traversed the Tamiami Trail through the Big Cypress National Preserve for a chance to explore the swamp, catch a glimpse of abundant wildlife, or learn more about the region's rich history and culture. We experienced steady visitation in 2016 due to the centennial *Find Your Park/Encuentra Tu Parque* campaign," said Superintendent Tamara Whittington. "We hosted 205 volunteers in 2016 at Big Cypress contributing nearly 40,000 volunteer hours in education, outreach, campground hosting, vegetation management, and visitor protection," said Whittington. "Volunteers and our communities help us preserve and protect this place for future generations to enjoy."

Overall, the National Park Service saw an increase of 7.7% visitation over 2015 with 330,971,689 recreation visits in 2016. Big Cypress National Preserve was one of 80 national park units out of 417 with over 1 million recreation visits. For more information about visitation, please go to the National Park Service Visitor Use Statistics web page at <https://irma.nps.gov/Stats/>.



**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-Saturday 10:30-6

Sunday 10:30-5

**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)**

Recovering from car accident. Get better soon!

**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

**1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.MulletRapper.com)

**EVERGLADES CITY**

Lat: 25.87°N Long: 81.37°W

See [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) for weather  
and [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov) for storms

**TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER**

3/25	Sat	1:23 AM	2.6	H
3/25	Sat	8:53 AM	-0.1	L
3/25	Sat	2:18 PM	2.4	H
3/25	Sat	9:05 PM	0.4	L
3/26	Sun	2:05 AM	2.8	H
3/26	Sun	9:32 AM	-0.1	L
3/26	Sun	2:47 PM	2.6	H
3/26	Sun	9:47 PM	0.2	L
3/27	Mon	2:45 AM	2.9	H
3/27	Mon	10:11 AM	-0.1	L
3/27	Mon	3:15 PM	2.7	H
3/27	Mon	10:28 PM	0	L
3/28	Tue	3:27 AM	2.9	H
3/28	Tue	10:49 AM	0	L
3/28	Tue	3:42 PM	2.8	H
3/28	Tue	11:11 PM	-0.2	L
3/29	Wed	4:13 AM	2.8	H
3/29	Wed	11:27 AM	0.1	L
3/29	Wed	4:11 PM	2.9	H
3/29	Wed	11:56 PM	-0.3	L
3/30	Thu	5:04 AM	2.7	H
3/30	Thu	12:05 PM	0.2	L
3/30	Thu	4:41 PM	3	H
3/31	Fri	12:44 AM	-0.3	L
3/31	Fri	6:04 AM	2.5	H
3/31	Fri	12:45 PM	0.4	L
3/31	Fri	5:17 PM	2.9	H
4/1	Sat	1:37 AM	-0.3	L
4/1	Sat	7:12 AM	2.2	H
4/1	Sat	1:29 PM	0.6	L
4/1	Sat	6:02 PM	2.8	H
4/2	Sun	2:38 AM	-0.2	L
4/2	Sun	8:27 AM	2.1	H
4/2	Sun	2:26 PM	0.8	L
4/2	Sun	7:04 PM	2.7	H
4/3	Mon	3:47 AM	-0.1	L
4/3	Mon	9:50 AM	2	H
4/3	Mon	3:50 PM	0.9	L
4/3	Mon	8:33 PM	2.5	H
4/4	Tue	5:00 AM	-0.1	L
4/4	Tue	11:27 AM	2	H
4/4	Tue	5:19 PM	0.8	L
4/4	Tue	10:07 PM	2.5	H
4/5	Wed	6:08 AM	-0.1	L
4/5	Wed	12:43 PM	2.1	H
4/5	Wed	6:33 PM	0.7	L
4/5	Wed	11:31 PM	2.5	H
4/6	Thu	7:08 AM	-0.1	L
4/6	Thu	1:20 PM	2.3	H
4/6	Thu	7:34 PM	0.6	L
4/7	Fri	12:38 AM	2.6	H
4/7	Fri	8:00 AM	0	L
4/7	Fri	1:46 PM	2.4	H
4/7	Fri	8:25 PM	0.4	L
4/8	Sat	1:32 AM	2.6	H
4/8	Sat	8:46 AM	0	L



**HOLY WEEK**

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**



**Maundy Thursday  
Service**

**Communion, April 13<sup>th</sup> - 7 PM**



**GOOD  
FRIDAY  
SERVICE**

**Good Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> - 7 PM**



**EASTER  
SERVICES**

**April 16<sup>th</sup> - 11 AM**

**Everglades Community Church**

**101 S. Copeland Avenue**

**Everglades City, FL 34139**

**Everglades National Park 7 AM**



**(Please bring your own chair.)  
After the service, coffee and  
donuts will be served.**

**Everyone is Welcome!**

## 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 Bed/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 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. For information, call: (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.

**TRUCK FOR SALE:** 2004 Ford Ranger. 125K miles. New tires & brakes. Good condition. Some minor body work needed. Blue book value \$2100, asking \$1800. Call Chris: (954) 589-7220.

**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.

**FOR RENT.** Condo #320 in Captain's Table Villas, 1bed/1bath, fully furnished including washer/dryer, carport, use of pool & dock, \$900/mon plus utilities, long-term lease, available April 1. Call Dave at (612) 282-2443.

## 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.

**FOR SALE:** Corner lot, original Collier home. Two bdrm, 1.5 bath, garage, large fenced yard, river view, huge screened porch, beautifully renovated. Possible owner financing. Rental considered. Call or text: 954-662-7003 for appointment.

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

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

**FOR SALE.** Condo #418 in Captain's Table Villas, 1bed/1bath, appliances, carport, pool, \$75k or best offer. Call Dave at (612) 282-2443.

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

**FOR SALE:** Push pole, 18'6" long, graphite, mint condition. \$600. Contact Robert: (305) 898-9212.

### JOB OPPORTUNITY

**Full-time** position at Out Door Resorts (ORA) in Chokoloskee in the maintenance department. Please contact Mark to schedule an appointment for an interview: Please call: (239) 207-5848.

## The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

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*We strive to present the facts accurately with no political or social bias.*

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

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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*