



The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area



**TIDE TABLE
RESTAURANTS**

APRIL 8 – APRIL 21, 2017

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P O Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume X • Issue #286

FROGG Bike Ride Enjoys Biggest Turnout Ever!

The Bike Ride on April 2nd organized by Patty Huff on behalf of the Friends of The River of Grass Greenway was a huge success. There were more riders than ever before!



Thank you to the community for their support and to all of the volunteers who made this event possible.

The event raised funds for our local parks as well as awareness to our unique ecosystem. It also reinforced the value of building and maintaining safe biking paths for riders in our beautiful State.

Community Easter Egg Hunt at McLeod Park Saturday, April 15, 11 am

All kids are invited to hunt eggs divided into age appropriate groups. There will be treats to eat afterwards. Kids should bring a basket or other container to hold the eggs they find on the hunt.



Easter Sunrise Service Sunday, April 16, 7 am

The community Easter Sunrise Service at Everglades National Park. All local clergy will lead the service. Special music, coffee and donuts following the service. The service is sponsored by our local churches.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES Everglades Community Church

- April 9** Palm Sunday Worship 11 am (Palm Crosses will be given to attendees)
- April 13** Maundy Thursday Communion Service 7 pm
- April 14** Good Friday Service 7 pm
- April 16** Sunrise Svc-ENP, 7 am
- April 16** Easter Service, 11 am

Holy Family Catholic Church

- April 14** Good Friday Service 3 pm
- April 16** Sunday Mass 10:30 am



Gary Thompson, Sr. Passes Away Submitted by Gary's Family

Gary S. Thompson, Sr. passed away, in the arms of his wife Sherri of 40 years, on March 24th at the age of 57. Gary grew up as a 4th generation native of Everglades City,



where he loved the outdoors and always wanted to be out on the water.

Gary was a fishing guide for 30+ years, and touched the lives of everyone he came into contact with. After only two minutes he was the kind of person that would become your friend. Gary is known as the guy who always had a smile on his face and the time to help anyone in need.

Gary was a special kind of person. He never showed his sadness and always had a positive attitude. He was always willing to listen if you needed someone to talk to.

Gary was a great man with a big heart, and bigger smile. He was loved dearly by his family and friends and will be dearly missed by them and everyone in the community.

If Gary could give you one last piece of advice, he would say to love unconditionally, do not hold grudges, never walk away mad because tomorrow is not promised so make the best of today so that you have no regrets, and know that you are right with God.

Remember Gary as the man who always made the most of life and always had a smile on his face. We know that Gary is in heaven fishing with his family and friends. One day we will all be together again, and when that day comes, he will be waiting with that big smile on his face.

In lieu of flowers, please send native flowering plants that can be planted in his memorial garden or make donations to: 240 McBeth Way, Copeland, FL 34137.

(Please see tribute on page 9)

#####

College Student's Project: Learn About the Everglades Area the Old-Fashioned Way

And, She Will Need Your Help

A student from Bethany Lutheran College in Minnesota needs to get answers to numerous questions about our area. Rebecca is asking for area residents to contact her to help with her research. She cannot use the internet for this project and must rely on interviews.


Please contact Rebecca to help her finish her college project on time: Rebecca.Wiseman@blc.edu.





















RAPPER TABLE OF CONTENTS

Calendar	p. 2	Living Gulf	p. 9
Events, etc.	p. 3	Mike Merritt	p. 9
Taylor	p. 5	Local & Park News	p.10
Principal	p. 5	Obituaries	p.11
Recipe	p. 7	Restaurants	p.11
Crossword	p. 7	Tide Table	p.11
Tax Guy	p. 7	Classifieds	p.12
Dr. Martin	p. 8	**NOTICE**	p.13

FEATURE: OUR AMAZING BODIES P. 8

If you have news, photos, announcements, or articles ... email mulletrapper@gmail.com or phone 954-662-7003.

APRIL 9 – MAY 13, 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>
9 	10  Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm	11 full moon ● 	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 Easter egg hunt, McLeod Park, 11 am
16 Easter Sunrise Service 7 am, see p. 1	17 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God, 7 pm	18 Income Tax Filing Day	19 Ladies Coffee Island Cafe, 8 am	20	21	<u>RAPPER 22</u> Pancake Fly-in, see p. 3
23 	24  Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church, 7 pm	25 	26 new moon ○  Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am	27 	28 	29  Museum B-Day FME Anniversary See p. 3
30	May 1 Hour of Prayer Everglades Comm. Church, 7 pm	2	3 Ladies Coffee Island Cafe, 8 am	4 National Day of Prayer	5	<u>RAPPER 6</u>
7 	8  Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm	9 	10 full moon ●  Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am	11 	12 	13 

May 14: Mother's Day

May 15: Close of Stone Crab Season

May 18: Awards Night

May 26: Graduation

May 29: Memorial Day

July 1: Independence Day Celebration

THRIFT SHOP: Tues., 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: 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: 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: 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 PHONE NUMBERS & HOURS:

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

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

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

What's Happening

In and Around Town



PANCAKE FLY-IN April 22th

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.

MUSEUM BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE TAMIAMI TRAIL April 29th

We hope you will join us on Saturday April 29 from 10 am to 3 pm as we celebrate the many accomplishments and continued efforts to preserve the traditions of family and community life in this unique cherished corner of the world.

Also, on April 29 we will be celebrating the Anniversary of the Opening of the Tamiami Trail. Can you even imagine life in Everglades City had Collier's ambitious dream not come to fruition? While it is a coincidence that the Founding of the Friends of the Museum and the Opening of the Tamiami Trail happened 70 years apart these accomplishments have been instrumental to our town's quality of life, infrastructure and notoriety throughout the world. For information: (239) 695-0008.

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. This year's theme is "The Star-Spangled Banner".

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.**

PAULINE REEVES GALLERY "Everglades Found", a Photographic Exhibit by Elizabeth Smith



April & May 2017
The Friends of the Museum our proud to welcome Elizabeth Smith to the Pauline Reeves Gallery. Examples of her quick plein-air sketches and her more intensive watercolor paintings will be on display during the months of April and May. According to her Biography, Elizabeth spent her early years in the woods and waters of Iowa.

Elizabeth's personal style is self-taught and shaped by ten years in the graphic arts, then by private studies and workshops. Recently she went back to school to complete her art degree and to take post graduate classes.

Community services



DOCTOR'S CLINIC

Dr. Kirk DeMartino is not seeing patients in Everglades City at this time. You may call his Marco Island office to schedule an appointment to see him there: (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: 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 for more info.

THRIFT SHOP

Open 2 Days A Week

Open Tuesday 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!*

A Message from Fire Chief Kingman Schuldt



Did you know that during the last week of March, the Florida Forest Service responded to 133 new wildfires that impacted several Florida communities and burned nearly 10,500 acres? With events like the Lee Williams wildfire that impacted Collier County, it is a good reminder to residents that they too play a critical role in protecting not only Florida's wildlife and natural habitats, but the lives of our firefighters and first responders.

April typically marks the peak of Wildfire Season, and as a result the Fire District held a Wildfire Rodeo on Saturday, April 1st. The community was invited and joined us to learn more about wildfire safety, to look at some of our wildfire trucks and equipment, and to meet the firefighters who work to keep homes safe during events such as the recent wildfires. Families brought the kids out to enjoy a fun-filled day with our firefighters. It was a great success! Stay alert in April and practice fire safety for your sake and others.

Here are a few safety tips to keep your home safe from wildfires:

- Maintain 30 feet of defensible space around your home
- Keep your rain gutters free of debris including leaves and pine needles
- Remove dry and dead vegetation from around your home and the roof top
- Remove flammable items such as paint cans, tires and grills from around or under your home
- Trim trees that overhang onto your home
- Prune trees with hanging branches six to 10 feet from the ground
- Replace mulch with hardscaping gravel or stone
- Cover exterior attic vents and enclose under-eaves with 1/8" wire mesh to prevent embers from entering concealed spaces



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Visit the Everglades City
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3/25/17 Crossword Solution

1	B		2	H	3	A	4	H	A		5	C	Z	A	6	R
7	E	X	I	L	E							O				E
	N		8	F	I	R	E	P	L	9	A	10	C	E		
11	C	12	H	I	V	E				13	T	R	O	D		
14	H	O	S	E						15	P	A	S	T	R	Y
16	R	E	17	A	I	L				19	M	I	S	21	T	
22	U	S	E	S						23	L	I	N	E	R	
24	S	T	A	I	R	C	A	S	E							
										25	V	E	R	S	E	
26	S	W	A	N						27	C	A	R	T		S

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SCHOOL NEWS

Everglades City School: 239-377-9800 or 239-695-2561
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Small Town Taylor by Taylor Mayberry

I love being in the afterschool program! It's more fun than going home to do my homework and play by myself. I get to do my homework and spend more time with my friends. It is so much fun and the teachers are amazing. They help us with our homework, we do fun crafts, and they even let us play outside. My favorite part is the crafts because the teacher Miss Liz is so much fun. She always has exciting stuff planned for us like freeze dance, making bugs with popsicle sticks and puff balls, and even slime making!

Today when we were doing our craft we got to go to the mulberry tree and get one of the leaves so that it would look like a Caterpillar on the leaf. Our other teacher Mr. Ramero also makes up cool games. There was a very fun one where you had to pick a color cone to go to and someone would call a color without looking then whoever was at that color would be out of the game. The last kid standing at a cone wins.

If we get our homework done at the afterschool program later in the day we get to go and play with our friends. Sometimes we hang out by the blue bench at the top of the hill and tell each other funny jokes. Another thing we do is pick mulberries by the mulberry tree. We wash them before we eat them though. I'm glad I get to be in the after-school program with Miss Liz, Mr. Ramero and my friends.

With lots of love, Taylor

Color Your Easter Eggs 100% Naturally!

(This is a great project to do with the kids!)

With Easter coming up, it is great to work on a project with your kids to create memories. Instead of buying synthetic food coloring, you can use different vegetables or herbs to color your eggs. You can also use brown eggs and white ones to vary the colors. When the holiday is over, eat the eggs! It's all natural!

Naturally-Dyed Easter Eggs Per Cup Of Water Use:

- 1 cup chopped purple cabbage — makes blue on white eggs, green on brown eggs
- 1 cup red onion skins — makes lavender or red eggs
- 1 cup yellow onion skins — makes orange on white eggs, rusty red on brown eggs
- 1 cup shredded beets — makes pink on white eggs, maroon on brown eggs
- 2 tablespoons ground turmeric — makes yellow eggs
- 1 bag Red Zinger tea — makes lavender eggs
- Add 1 tablespoon white vinegar to every cup of strained dye liquid
- For every dozen eggs, plan on using at least 4 cups of dye liquid

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



A Message from The Principal "Special Memories"

Many activities occur throughout the year that support the learning that takes place in the classrooms and athletic fields. Many of us recall fondly a special field trip during our years in school and this tradition carries on each year for the students at Everglades City School. Many trips enhance learning and develop a sense of appreciation for the many tremendous experiences that make our area such a wonderful place to live. We work to provide varied experiences and opportunities for as many students as possible over the course of every school year.

Our high school students had an amazing experience at the Gulfshore Playhouse where they enjoyed a play by Shakespeare. Another trip in March had students visiting the Baker Museum in Naples. Seventh grade students will have a tour of Florida Gulf Coast University in May.



They will have a tour of campus, visit a dorm room, and meet with an admissions representative in a classroom.

A favorite destination of our students, the CMON Museum in Naples, is scheduled for our pre-k, kindergarten, and first grade students in the months ahead.

These are just a few of the trips we are able to enjoy due to support from our School Advisory Council and the funds we raise from the Seafood Festival each



year. Thanks to our families and community for making these special memories for our students.

IT IS ALWAYS A GREAT DAY TO BE A GATOR!!!

~Principal James Ragusa

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Apr. 14, 17 | No School |
| May 18: | Awards Night in Cafeteria, 5pm |
| May 26: | Early Dismissal, |
| May 26 | Graduation 7pm in Gym |
| May 29: | No School |
| May 31: | Early Dismissal |
| June 1: | Last Day of School |

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Taxing Things

by Mike the Tax Guy

“The Sharing Economy”

If taxpayers use one of the many online platforms to rent a spare bedroom, provide car rides or a number of other goods or services, they may be involved in the sharing economy.

A few key points on the sharing economy:

- **Taxes.** Sharing economy activity is generally taxable. It does not matter whether it is only part time or a sideline business, if payments are in cash or if an information return like a Form 1099 or Form W2 is issued. The activity is taxable.
- **Deductions.** There are some simplified options available for deducting many business expenses. For example, a taxpayer who uses their car for business often qualifies to claim the standard mileage rate, which was 54 cents per mile for 2016.
- **Rentals.** If a taxpayer rents out his home, apartment or other dwelling but also lives in it during the year, special rules generally apply. See Publication 527, Residential Rental Property (Including Rental of Vacation Homes).
- **Estimated Payments.** The U.S. tax system is pay-as-you-go. This means that taxpayers involved in the sharing economy often need to make estimated tax payments during the year to cover their tax obligation. These payments are due on April 15, June 15, Sept. 15 and Jan. 15. The easiest way to make estimated tax payments is through IRS Direct Pay.
- **Withholding.** Taxpayers involved in the sharing economy who are employees at another job can often avoid making estimated tax payments by having more tax withheld from their paychecks.

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

Yummy Stone Crab Soup

A Variation of the Recipe Originally Posted on the Blog “Delicious Mischief”

- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 carrots, peeled and sliced, 1 green bell pepper, chopped
- 2 celery stalks, chopped, 1 onion, chopped
- 1 large garlic clove, minced
- ¼ cup dry white wine or cooking sherry (optional)
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme, ¼ teaspoon dried rosemary
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 cup tomato juice (or V8, or Bloody Mary mix if you like spicy)
- 1 cup canned peeled tomatoes
- ½ cup canned crushed tomatoes
- 1 pound white potatoes, peeled and cut into 2-inch chunks
- 1 pound Florida stone crab meat, cut in chunks
- Crystal hot sauce (if desired) – I put the crystal on the table, not in the recipe
- Salt and black pepper to taste



Heat the olive oil in a large pot or kettle and sauté the carrots, bell pepper, celery and onion until soft and translucent, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and cook for another minute. Add the white wine and stir until it evaporates (optional). Add the herbs and tomato products, then the potato chunks. Cover and simmer until the potatoes are tender, about 30-40 minutes, stir occasionally. Add the stone crab meat, which will shred and incorporate into the soup. Add the Crystal hot sauce. Season to taste with salt and black pepper. Remove the bay leaves. Garnish with a whole, shelled claw(s), oyster crackers and a sprig of parsley for color.

Rapper Crossword

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

Across

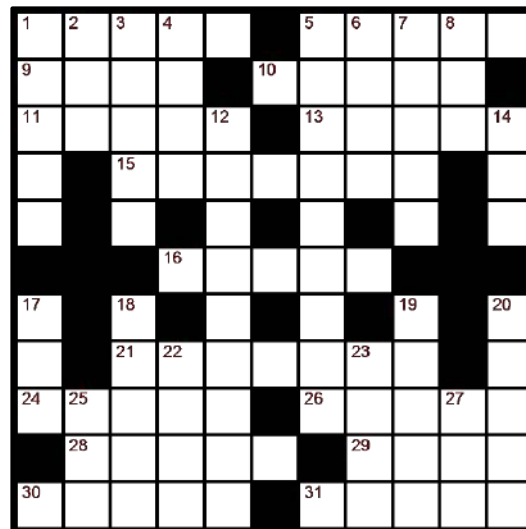
- 1. Workers
- 5. Misty
- 9. Coke is one
- 10. The Skunk Ape is this
- 11. Living spaces
- 13. Advance up stairs
- 15. Most tidy
- 16. Take illegally
- 17. Highland
- 21. Highland
- 24. Go gaga over
- 26. Rustic
- 28. Baying dog
- 29. Cars have a spare one
- 30. Peter and Jane (actors)
- 31. Hangs over

Down

- 1. A type of brush
- 2. As well
- 3. Solitary
- 4. Renown
- 5. An act avoiding a loss of dignity
- 6. Olive and canola
- 7. Breakfast side
- 8. You work out in it
- 12. Heavy winds out west

(Down Continued)

- 14. Obtain by paying
- 17. School transport
- 18. Eating implement
- 19. Type of cabinet
- 20. Actors seek them
- 22. Flashy
- 23. Car
- 25. British band with “The”
- 27. Provide with weapons



4/8/17

OUR AMAZING BODIES – by Doctor John Martin

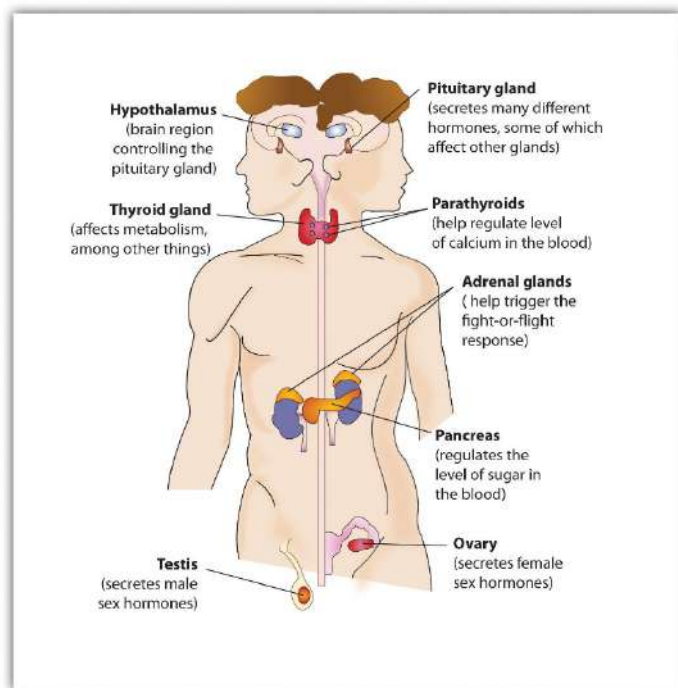
The Endocrine System

Similar to the Immune System, the Endocrine System is scattered throughout the body anatomically, and is designed to serve the entire body. Endocrine glands include: Hypophysis (aka Pituitary), Pineal, Thyroid, Parathyroid, Thymus, Adrenal, Pancreas, Ovary, and Testes. Endocrine tissues include: Hypothalamus, Heart, Kidney(s), Gastrointestinal tract, and Placenta. Endocrine glands and tissues are discreet masses of secretory cells and their supporting tissue and neighboring capillaries into which the cells secrete their hormones. Hormones are chemical agents usually effective among cells (target organs) some distance from their source. In concert with the nervous system, endocrine organs/tissues integrate and harmonize the activities of varied, and sometimes seemingly unrelated, organs by negative and positive feedback control mechanisms, resulting in growth, reproduction and related activity, and metabolic stability (aka homeostasis that is needed for a balanced internal environment).

The Hypophysis or more commonly called the Pituitary is the “*master gland*”. It is special enough to have its own protective skull-within-a-skull, right smack in the middle of the head, between and behind the eyes in the sphenoid bone. This extra bony structure is called the sella turcica (or “Turkish saddle”). The Pituitary initiates numerous hormonal activities that in turn, impact numerous bodily functions.

The adenohypophysis is the anterior portion of the pituitary. The neurohypophysis is the posterior pituitary. Various hormones are secreted into a dense network of capillaries located throughout the two small portions (or lobes, about the size of four peas) of pituitary tissue.

The Anterior Pituitary secretes hormones effecting the ovaries, testes, thyroid, adrenal, bone, and the breast. The Posterior Pituitary secretes hormones effecting the breast and the kidneys. The anterior lobe of the pituitary is stimulated by hormones from the hypothalamus and its specialized nerve cells in the brain. The posterior lobe of the pituitary is stimulated more by neural fibers direct from the hypothalamus. So directly, or indirectly, this specially protected “*master gland*” lives up to its name and reputation, especially when it concerns growth, reproduction, and metabolism.



The Thyroid is located in the neck region and kind of wraps around the windpipe just below what we call the “Adam’s Apple”. The Parathyroid consists of four small batches of specialized cells behind the Thyroid. The Thyroid is best known for its impact upon the rate of metabolism. Also, an overactive Thyroid manifest in weight loss, nervousness, and bulging eye balls. More common, an under active Thyroid (hypothyroidism) allows for weight gain, hair loss, fatigue, and an impaired immunity. Perhaps the most important function of the Parathyroid is the regulation of blood serum *Calcium levels*. Proper amounts of available Calcium are important, of course, for bone growth and repair, but it is also required for nerves, normal muscle activity, and blood clotting. Reduced Parathyroid function lowers *Calcium levels* and can lead to muscle stiffness, cramps, spasms, and convulsions.

The Pancreas secretes hormones (e.g. *insulin*), and digestive enzymes (e.g. *amylase*) into the hepatic (liver) circulation and intestinal tract, respectively. *Insulin* increases the uptake of blood sugar by various types of tissues when and where it’s needed. The high consumption of sugar as in the Standard American Diet (S.A.D.) is reflected in the high incidence of a host of diseases, most notably Diabetes in North America. As the pancreas tries to meet the excessive intake of cane sugar and high fructose corn syrup added to most foods in the U.S., as a sweetener or as a preservative, the cells lose their ability to perform sufficient to meet the unnatural demand. A grand cascade of degenerative symptoms then may develop, especially to the central nervous system, immunity, and circulation.

The Adrenal Glands (aka suprarenal glands, because they lie above or atop the kidneys) exhibit very different layers of differentiated cells – the outer portion is called the *Cortex*, and the inner portion is called the *Medulla*. Hormones from the cortex are secreted from three different layers. Hormonal secretions from these three layers include: aldosterone (helping regulate electrolyte balance), cortisol (influencing carbohydrate metabolism), and low levels of sex hormones. The medulla has another dense network of capillaries and specialized cells that synthesize and secrete epinephrine (80%) and norepinephrine (20%). These are the hormones that we understand prepare us for the “*Fight or Flight*” Syndrome (in response to life-threatening situations). During such conditions, these neurotransmitter-like hormones serve to increase alertness in the brain, increase blood flow to the muscles, increase blood pressure for the moment, decrease circulation to joints and other body parts not immediately needed for response (conserving even more blood for the muscles), decrease in digestion, increased blood sugar and metabolic rate, faster heart rate, and increased respiration for deeper breathing.

The Pineal gland is a very small gland tiny outcropping of the brain deep behind the upper brain stem, tucked underneath the cerebrum and in front of the cerebellum, that is stimulated and inhibited by varying amounts of sunlight. The Pineal’s main hormonal secretion is *melatonin*. That said, we know the Pineal influences our sleep and sleep patterns. Recent research indicates the Pineal may also play a major role in protective antioxidant and detoxification in cells.

Various other specialized cells in the heart, kidneys, intestine, adipose (fat cells), and even the skin secrete numerous hormones helping to regulate digestive processes, blood pressure, appetite, red blood cells synthesis, metabolism, and immunity.

More detail about the hormonal activity of the Testes, Ovaries, and Placenta will be addressed next time in *The Reproductive System*.



Living Gulf Coast

by Charles Sobczak

Florida Panther (*Felis concolor coryi*) Other names: puma, mountain lion, cougar, catamount / Status: FL=endangered, IUCN=CR (critically endangered) / Length: with tail, 8 ft (2.4 m) / Height: at shoulder, 2-2.5 ft (60-76 cm) / Weight: 75-160 lb (34-73 kg) / Life span: to 10 years / Reproduces: in Southwest Florida / Found: all counties, near coast,

mainland / Months found (it breeds in July and August) **jfmamjJASond.**

The Florida panther is the largest feline carnivore in North America. The last remnant population of the Eastern subspecies has managed to survive in the southern portion of Florida, including Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Glades, Hendry, Monroe, Palm Beach, Brevard, and Miami-Dade counties. Although several cats have been authenticated as far north as Polk County, there appears to be no substantial breeding population north of the Caloosahatchee River and Lake Okeechobee. There are an estimated 120 to 150 panthers living in Florida.

As the Latin name (*coryi*) implies, the Florida panther was once considered a viable subspecies of the much more successful North American cougar. Recent genetic studies of mitochondrial DNA have disproved this status. There are now, according to *Mammal Species of the World*, only six recognized subspecies of puma, five of which are located in South America. The Florida panther, although still in desperate need of protection, is no longer considered a viable subspecies by the world's leading taxonomists. In fact, since the introduction of several Texas pumas for several years to prevent inbreeding, the genetically "pure" Florida panther no longer exists.



The panther in Florida survives largely on feral pigs, armadillos, raccoons, and white-tailed deer. The major cause of death to the Florida panther is the Florida panther. The extremely territorial male requires a tremendous range, of up to 200 square miles depending on available prey. Within that given range it may have two to five females with whom it breeds. When a male panther is born, his future is uncertain. When he matures, should he come across a dominant male in search of his own range, he will likely be seriously injured or killed.

The second leading cause of panther mortality is automobiles. This is also a byproduct of too many cats in too small of a range. As the male cat attempts to avoid the dominant male in any given range, it wanders farther afield, often placing itself in a suburban or urban environment where its chance of getting struck and killed by an automobile increases dramatically.

The Florida panther is Florida's state animal, a designation granted by the schoolchildren of the state in 1982. The irony is that Florida's incessant growth and its demand for more subdivisions, shopping malls, and asphalt put constant pressure on the ever-shrinking wild places the panther requires to survive. Scientists have calculated that to prevent further inbreeding, the state would need a resident population of approximately 240 panthers. Based on the panther's habitat needs, this equates to 8,000 to 12,000 square miles of range. With developers edging in from all directions, it is unlikely the panther will ever have sufficient range to maintain its population without genetic intervention from outside stock.

A male panther requires more than 5,000 calories a day to survive. A nursing female cat requires twice that. That translates to 3.8 pounds of meat a day for a male to survive and 8 pounds for a female with cubs.

It is estimated that a single panther can kill up to 50 deer a year and 10 times that number of raccoons. The panther has also been known to kill and eat immature alligators, snakes, and iguanas.

With proper management and continued importation of Texas cougars to keep the gene pool sufficiently varied, there is every reason to believe this remnant population of pumas will survive in the heartland of south Florida for years to come. Your chances of seeing one of these elusive animals in the wild are almost nil. One of the best places to see panthers in a semi-wild environment is at the Babcock Ranch in eastern Charlotte County, covered in the Charlotte County destination section of The Living Gulf Coast.

Photo by: Dick Fortune & Sara Lopez. Charles Sobczak is an author that lives on Sanibel Island, FL



A Tribute by Captain Mike Merritt

Instead of the regular monthly article I want to take this opportunity

to remember our good friend and fellow guide, Capt. Gary Thompson. Those of us that knew Gary or went to school with him, or are related to him, know that we just lost a great man. Gary was the kind of man that always had a smile for you and a good word. We are at a loss for words but wanted to convey to those that may have never met or knew him, that you missed out on a special kind of man.

Gary was a true fisherman from the beginning. It was in his blood and it was just natural that he should become one of the most well-known guides in the Everglades. His life touched countless people and even some of the clients that I have fished over the years say, "oh yea, I know Gary".



the trip of a lifetime and caught fish that they still speak about today. As a fishing guide that's what we do. We help families and

friends build lasting memories, and Gary did this as well as anyone could.

Gary did not know a stranger and could strike up a conversation with anyone. And he always had kind words to say about others. He was proud of his heritage and loved to share his experience and knowledge. His love for the Glades was apparent if you talked with him for very long. Gary represented what is the end of an era regarding guides in this area. Nothing against the newer guides that fish here, but the guys that are part of the old Florida are getting to be fewer, and there is a difference in what they can offer when it comes to experience. I considered Gary a good friend and was proud to have known him and to grow up with him.

He will be missed but will be remembered by us all. So, here's to you Gary. Thanks for being a part of our lives. Your Friend, Capt. Mike

#####

LOCAL NEWS

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN OWLET IN E-CITY

By Kathy Brock

Our famous avian residents, the Great Horned Owls, have successfully raised their one offspring! The baby has finally left the nest! However, this did not come easily nor was it without a few tense moments for those who were paying close attention.



Winter EC resident and professional nature photographer, Sandee Harraden, is often within eyeshot of the nest, and she would spend hours waiting for the perfect shot (like the one here)! On Wednesday March 26th she was lucky enough to be watching when the owlet flew from the nest, and then into a coconut palm where the parents were roosting. When the baby landed, it lost its footing a bit and ended up hanging upside down on the palm frond. Then, it made its way right-side-up by the coconuts (phew). However, as most “kids” do, they try things...so the baby then tried to fly into a royal palm nearby, and must have tired on the way and then fell to the ground.

That is when Sandee went into action! She kept nearby cats and dogs away from the grounded owlet and after about an hour the baby regained its strength and met up with its parents and safely flew away.

Thank you to Sandee for the amazing pictures of the owls this season and double thanks to her for helping the owlet when it needed it most! Hopefully next year they will nest there again so we can see some more of Sandee's amazing pictures!

If you are interested in Sandee's pictures, please contact her: SJHarraden@aol.com or online www.SanteeHarraden.com.

HOUSEHOLD TIPS

BY Marya Repko



Many of our friends will be leaving for the summer months. One thing that would be very unpleasant to return to next winter is a big mess caused by a water leak. Worse, the mess could be accompanied by a huge water bill. As you are preparing to leave don't forget to take the following precautions:

1. Turn off your water AT THE METER. If there is a leak between the meter and your home, you could face a huge bill.
2. Give canned and unopened dry foods to the Food Pantry behind Everglades Community Church. This way you don't return to old foods that you cannot use, nor can anyone else!

Blue Ribbon Pet in ORA!

(And more on the way!)

There is a true champion living in these parts...Aside from all of the amazing people we have in the Everglades area, there are some pretty fantastic pets too. Judy Jury, a winter resident of Chokoloskee and Outdoor Resorts (ORA), is the proud owner and handler of Elsa, the gorgeous boxer pictured.



Elsa is going to have a “fun” summer. She is being bred and will give birth to her litter of pups in time for Judy to bring back one (or two!). Elsa is quite the stately female! She has brought home her fair share of awards and we are certain her offspring will be amongst the next generation of award winners. Might we see one in an upcoming Westminster show? Only time will tell. The Rapper is looking forward to seeing photos of her “brood” and will update our readers with all of the details. Good luck to Judy and Elsa!



STAR TREKKER REPORT

Reported by Chris Herlovich

Lyrids Meteor Shower, April 21st: 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.

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 ESHPhot@hotmail.com.



PARK NEWS

Will You Take the Challenge?



Earn a fabulous National Park Service Dry Wick Shirt! The challenge includes hiking (33+), biking (33+) and paddling (33+) for a total of 100 miles in the next year in at least two South Florida National Park Service units. To learn more this opportunity, pick up your *FREE South Florida National Parks Centennial Triathlon Challenge passport* at any of the following welcome/visitor center locations; Everglades N.P., Big Cypress N. Pres., Biscayne N.P. and Dry Tortugas N.P.

FIND YOUR PARK!



**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):

11:00 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):

Closed. Subway on 41 is open

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

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

4/8	Sat	1:32 AM	2.6	H
4/8	Sat	8:46 AM	0	L
4/8	Sat	2:09 PM	2.5	H
4/8	Sat	9:10 PM	0.2	L
4/9	Sun	2:15 AM	2.6	H
4/9	Sun	9:28 AM	0.1	L
4/9	Sun	2:32 PM	2.6	H
4/9	Sun	9:51 PM	0.1	L
4/10	Mon	2:54 AM	2.6	H
4/10	Mon	10:06 AM	0.2	L
4/10	Mon	2:57 PM	2.7	H
4/10	Mon	10:29 PM	0	L
4/11	Tue	3:30 AM	2.6	H
4/11	Tue	10:41 AM	0.3	L
4/11	Tue	3:22 PM	2.8	H
4/11	Tue	11:06 PM	-0.1	L
4/12	Wed	4:06 AM	2.5	H
4/12	Wed	11:14 AM	0.4	L
4/12	Wed	3:48 PM	2.8	H
4/12	Wed	11:42 PM	-0.1	L
4/13	Thu	4:45 AM	2.4	H
4/13	Thu	11:45 AM	0.5	L
4/13	Thu	4:14 PM	2.8	H
4/14	Fri	12:19 AM	-0.1	L
4/14	Fri	5:30 AM	2.3	H
4/14	Fri	12:12 PM	0.6	L
4/14	Fri	4:40 PM	2.7	H
4/15	Sat	12:59 AM	-0.1	L
4/15	Sat	6:20 AM	2.2	H
4/15	Sat	12:36 PM	0.7	L
4/15	Sat	5:07 PM	2.6	H
4/16	Sun	1:42 AM	0	L
4/16	Sun	7:19 AM	2.1	H
4/16	Sun	12:55 PM	0.8	L
4/16	Sun	5:38 PM	2.5	H
4/17	Mon	2:34 AM	0.1	L
4/17	Mon	8:23 AM	2	H
4/17	Mon	1:18 PM	0.9	L
4/17	Mon	6:21 PM	2.4	H
4/18	Tue	3:37 AM	0.1	L
4/18	Tue	9:31 AM	2	H
4/18	Tue	2:20 PM	1	L
4/18	Tue	7:40 PM	2.3	H
4/19	Wed	4:45 AM	0.2	L
4/19	Wed	10:41 AM	2	H
4/19	Wed	5:06 PM	0.9	L
4/19	Wed	9:40 PM	2.2	H
4/20	Thu	5:47 AM	0.2	L
4/20	Thu	11:40 AM	2.2	H
4/20	Thu	6:16 PM	0.8	L
4/20	Thu	11:01 PM	2.3	H
4/21	Fri	6:41 AM	0.1	L
4/21	Fri	12:25 PM	2.3	H
4/21	Fri	7:09 PM	0.7	L
4/22	Sat	12:05 AM	2.4	H
4/22	Sat	7:29 AM	0.1	L

Obituaries

Virginia Lee Hamilton, 90



Virginia Lee Hamilton, of
Theresa, Florida, passed
away March 19, 2017 at
Windsor Manor Nursing
Home with her loving family
by her side.

She was born in
Jacksonville, FL on November 16, 1926 to the
late Schiley Rhoden and Julia Dukes Rhoden.
Virginia was raised in Bradford County where
she later graduated from Bradford High
School. She married the love of her life, J.D.
Hamilton, and together they raised their
children in Everglades City, Florida. Virginia
enjoyed her longtime career as a Tax Clerk at
Collier County Tax Collector's Office where
she served for 20 years until retiring.

#####

Dorothy Ann Miller, 81

Dorothy Ann Miller of Everglades City,
passed away on March 22, 2017. She was born
in Everglades City on May
5, 1935 and graduated from
Everglades City High
School in 1953.



Dorothy married John
William "Bill" Miller on
February 1, 1985. She was
a member of the First
Baptist Church of Everglades and previously
a member of Community Church of
Everglades City.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her
parents Earl and Agnes Ivey, a sister, Marjorie
Davis, her first husband, James P. Wheeler,
and two daughters, Valerie Herlth and
Kimberly Rewis.

Dorothy is survived by her husband Bill
Miller; son, James "Jimmy" (Lisa) Wheeler;
step-daughter, Patricia Kerley; niece, Patti
(Dan) Mahoney, grandchildren; James
(Michele) Wheeler, Jr., Dala Herlth, Devin
Rewis, Mason Wheeler, Dakota Wheeler,
Casandra Courtney, Rusty Kerley, and nine
great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers
memorial contributions may be made to First
Baptist Church of Everglades City.

#####

Philip G. Portz, 90

Portz, G. Philip, 90, formerly of Plantation
Island, died March 21st.

Phil was proud of his Navy Air Corps
service in World War II and of being a "Plank
Owner" as part of the 'commissioning crew'
of the aircraft carrier USS Midway.

Phil worked hard in the elevator business
for over 40 years and played hard at hunting,
boating, fishing, dancing, reading and
traveling.

Survivors are his wife, Barbara of 68
years, daughter Pam (Paul) Marovich, son Jeff
(Marla) Portz ,granddaughter Christina Portz,
and grandson Tyler(Mitzi) Marovich.

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: 2001 Cobia CC 194 Boat. 115 Yamaha 2-stroke, low hrs., well maintained. New 2015 Continental alum trailer tandem, never used boat cover, accessories. See at ORA lot 214. Call: 239-695-2160, inquire to Lot 205.

FOR SALE: Porch swing in metal A-frame with tan top canopy. Excellent condition. Located in Everglades City \$60. Contact Joan: (239) 272-6095

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, 1bed/1bath, furnished \$900/mo.+ utilities, long-term lease, avail. April 1; Call Dave at (612) 282-2443.

FOR SALE. Condo #418 in Captain's Table, 1bed/1bath, appliances, access to pool, and boat ramp. \$75k OBO. 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 RENT: Retail / office / commercial space for rent, prime location in E-City. Small & large space available. Ask about purchasing the commercial building! Call 629-201-9966

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

P.O. BOX 134

Everglades City, FL

34139

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

*****PUBLIC NOTICE*******STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE PERMIT**

The Department of Environmental Protection gives notice of its intent to issue a permit to City of Everglades City, Sammy Hamilton Jr, PO Box 110, Everglades City, Florida 34139, to upgrade the treatment process and permitted capacity of its domestic wastewater treatment facility. The facility is located at latitude 25°51'11"N, longitude 81°23'4" W on Copeland Avenue and Kumquat St, Everglades City in Collier County. The Department has assigned permit file number FLA027618-009 to the proposed project.

The intent to issue and application file are available for public inspection are available online and can be accessed through the Department's Information Portal at: <http://webapps.dep.state.fl.us/DepNexus/public/electronic-documents/FLA027618/facility!search> or during normal business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at the Department's South District Office, 2295 Victoria Ave, Suite 364, Ft. Myers, Florida 33901-3875, at phone number (239)344-5600.

The Department will issue the permit as drafted unless a timely petition for an administrative hearing is filed under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes, within fourteen days of receipt of notice. The procedures for petitioning for a hearing are set forth below.

A person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's proposed permitting decision may petition for an administrative proceeding (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes. The petition must contain the information set forth below and must be filed (received by the Clerk) in the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000.

Under Rule 62-110.106(4), Florida Administrative Code, a person may request an extension of the time for filing a petition for an administrative hearing. The request must be filed (received by the Clerk) in the Office of General Counsel before the end of the time period for filing a petition for an administrative hearing.

Petitions filed by any persons other than those entitled to written notice under Section 120.60(3), Florida Statutes, must be filed within fourteen days of publication of the notice or within fourteen days of receipt of the written notice, whichever occurs first. Section 120.60(3), Florida Statutes, however, also allows that any person who has asked the Department in writing for notice of agency action may file a petition within fourteen days of receipt of such notice, regardless of the date of publication.

The petitioner shall mail a copy of the petition to the applicant at the address indicated above at the time of filing. The failure of any person to file a petition or request for an extension of time within fourteen days of receipt of notice shall constitute a waiver of that person's right to request an administrative determination (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes. Any subsequent intervention (in a proceeding initiated by another party) will be only at the discretion of the presiding officer upon the filing of a motion in compliance with Rule 28-106.205, Florida Administrative Code.

A petition that disputes the material facts on which the Department's action is based must contain the following information, as indicated in Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code:

- (a) The name and address of each agency affected and each agency's file or identification number, if known;
- (b) The name, address, any e-mail address, any facsimile number, and telephone number of the petitioner, if the petitioner is not represented by an attorney or a qualified representative; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests will be affected by the determination;
- (c) A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the Department's decision;
- (d) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate;
- (e) A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the Department's proposed action;
- (f) A statement of the specific rules or statutes the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the Department's proposed action, including an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes; and
- (g) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action petitioner wishes the Department to take with respect to the Department's proposed action.

Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the filing of a petition means that the Department's final action may be different from the position taken by it in this notice. Persons whose substantial interests will be affected by any such final decision of the Department have the right to petition to become a party to the proceeding, in accordance with the requirements set forth above.

Mediation under Section 120.573, Florida Statutes, is not available for this proceeding.