



The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area



**TIDE TABLE
RESTAURANTS**

APRIL 22 – MAY 5, 2017

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P O Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume X • Issue#287

On the Hunt at McLeod Park



On Saturday, April 15th, children look for "hidden eggs" to collect so they can go claim their prizes!



Tasha & Dillon Lewis introduced their baby daughter Naomi to her first Easter egg hunt!

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FEATURE: OUR AMAZING BODY P. 8

Random Acts of Kindness Reinforce Community Spirit

Two Special Stories Submitted by Reader, Marlene Sonderfan

WHAT Would I Do Without...by Sarae Homick, Lot 40, ORA

The Everglades City / Chokoloskee area is really small in scope, but oh, so large in goodness. And you can probably top my simple story with one of our own. Just think about it: how do we get along without each other. For example, I slipped and fell and cracked my wrist on a rock. So, I walked, gently cradling my arm to my neighbor Ron saying, "I think I need to go to the emergency room" and passed out on his bench. I awoke surrounded by my neighbors and EMTs who were loading me into the ambulance. "Wow, I heard," She's lost her suntan."

"No, Kathy", I cried, "that's not my purse. It's the wrong color." (My vision was really distorted). Kathy, dear girl and neighbor, followed the ambulance to SR951 & Physicians Regional, where X-rays were taken and a splint put on. In the ambulance, I learned all about how to eat right and live longer. [Aside: I'm 84.]

After the surgery to put everything back in place the ORA neighbors continued to rally around me, trimming my nails, bringing food, treats, doing my laundry, washing my dishes, taking me to the doctor, helping me shower, changing my sheets, etc. All this while it's that time of year when folks are packing up to go north. You can't know how grateful I am for the help these neighbors supplied! This is Eastertime--do people respond more easily during Holy Week? Maybe it was that special sermon I heard on Palm Sunday that brought it home. At any rate, I'm healing, thanks to a good surgeon, good neighbors, good faith--can't do without any of these things. And really, isn't that why we are here?



With A Little Help from a New Friend

On April 3rd two visitors from South Carolina came to our area and proceeded to set out on a five-day camping experience on Pavillion Key. They packed up their small Jon Boat and headed out towards the island. Being it was a 5-day trip, their boat was plenty packed, over packed in fact. So much so that they were in a bit of trouble until Chris Townsend of Chokoloskee saw them struggling. Chris immediately headed towards them and took them onto his boat, and eventually back to ORA where they could unwind and relax.

The two gentlemen from South Carolina stayed at ORA for 4 more days and couldn't go out fishing in their damaged boat. However, Chris took them out fishing and showed them a good time so their vacation would not be a total bust.























And we are sure it wasn't a bust because Chris showed them what are community is like...and that is we are small but we have big hearts.

Thank you to Chris and thank you to the ORA Community for showing your kindness and reaching out to people in need. You made all of us proud and are good role models for all of us! Want to feel great? Try a Random Act of Kindness!

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

APRIL 23 – MAY 27, 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>
23 	24  Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church, 7 pm	25 	26 <small>new moon</small> ○  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 Congressional Aide, 3:30 City Hall FME Mtg. 3:30 City Hall	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 <small>full moon</small> ●  Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am	11 	12 	13 
14 Mother's Day	15 Hour of Prayer Everglades Comm. Church, 7 pm	16	17 Ladies Coffee Island Cafe, 8 am	18	19	<u>RAPPER 20</u>
21	22  Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm	23 	24  Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am	25 <small>new moon</small> ○ 	26 	27 

May 14: Mother's Day
May 26: Graduation

May 15: Close of Stone Crab Season
May 29: Memorial Day

May 18: Awards Night
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: Closed for summer
LITTLE GATOR CLINIC: Not seeing patients at this time
FOOD PANTRY: Wed., 12 n to 2 pm, Community Church
EVERGLADES AL-ANON: Closed for the Summer
VETERANS SUPPORT: 1st & 3rd Thurs., 10 am, Com. Church
SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily, 11 am to 5 pm
PANCAKE FLY-IN: Closed for the summer

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 CLOSING MAY 15TH!! *****

What's Happening In and Around Town

MUSEUM BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE TAMAMI 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) 659-0008.

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 information, call Dottie: (239) 695-3781.

BECOME A MULLET RAPPER CONTRIBUTOR!!

Send us your photos, articles, news items or recipes and become a part of our team. Contact us by email: MulletRapper@gmail.com or call us: (954) 662 7003

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

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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

As the Wildfire season continues to threaten many areas of Florida, Collier County remains under immediate threat of new fires each day. There are currently 105 active wildfires throughout Florida with one of the largest right here in the eastern portions of the Fire District. The Cowbell fire has burned more than 10,000 acres with no expectation of containment anytime in the near future.

The fire is currently located about 11 miles east of State Road 29, north of Interstate 75. Because the fire is on Federal land, neither State or District assets are actively involved in containment efforts. Just last week, I met with Florida Forest Service officials in Tallahassee to discuss the fire in preparation of any firefighting efforts that may be necessary if the incident moves east to State lands.


Fire District staff is closely monitoring the situation and attending daily briefings with Federal officials in the event that local assets are requested. Also while in Tallahassee, I had the honor of accompanying our Florida Forest Service partners as the Governor proclaimed Wildfire Awareness Week and announced his Wildfire Executive Order in regards to the State's on-going wildfires.

The Order will allow Forestry officials direct access to Florida National Guard assets, specifically wildfire aircraft. This will additionally allow local resources to apply for Federal reimbursement more easily in the event future fires threaten our community.

Additionally last week, the Collier County Board of Commissioners presented a proclamation to all local first responders for their efforts during the recent Lee Williams Road wildfire occurring in our District. I would like to reiterate my thanks to our local Forestry firefighters, Collier County's fire rescue agencies, Bureau of Emergency Services, the Sheriff's Office, and all who supported efforts to control the largest urban interface wildfire to affect our community in the last 10 years.



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4/08/17 Crossword Solution

1	S	2	T	3	A	4	F	5	F	6	O	7	G	8	Y
9	C	10	A	11	H	12	A	13	I	14	R	15	Y		
16	R	17	O	18	O	19	M	20	S	21	C	22	L	23	B
24	U	25	N	26	E	27	A	28	T	29	E	30	S	31	U
32	B	33	E	34	N	35	S	36	S	37	Y				
38		39	S	40	T	41	E	42	A	43	L				
44	B	45	S	46	A	47	V	48	C	49	R				
50	U	51	P	52	L	53	A	54	T	55	E	56	A	57	O
58	S	59	W	60	O	61	O	62	N	63	R	64	U	65	R
66		67	H	68	O	69	U	70	N	71	D	72	T	73	I
74	F	75	O	76	N	77	D	78	A	79	L	80	O	81	O
82		83		84		85		86		87	L	88	O	89	M
90	S														

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My Little Slice of Paradise
by Kathy Brock

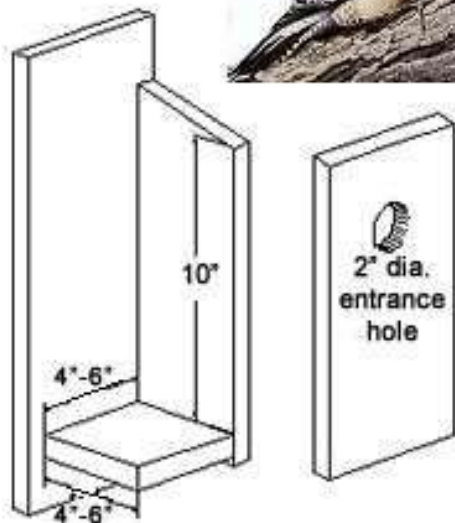
Spring is in the air. If you look closely, you can see that the spring-nesting birds have changed their behaviors...they are lazar focused on breeding. We are fortunate to have many types of birds in the Everglades area. Out in the rookeries, the pelicans, anhinga's, egrets, cormorants and frigate birds are nesting. Closer to home,



there are nesting birds in our trees and hedges.

Woodpeckers bore into trees (and sometimes power poles) to build their nest cavities. They prefer decaying dead trees, and it is often difficult for them to find suitable building locations in developed areas...which is why they tend to gravitate to the power poles.

One thing that you can do to help is offer-up a nest box. Woodpecker nest boxes can be built in a number of ways. You can build a box from rough cedar or you can ream out a stump from an old palm or softer wood type tree.



When constructing the box, it may be recommended to create one or two ventilation openings in the floor and under the roof to improve ventilation inside the box to protect the eggs and nestlings from overheating on hot summer days. Although some experts disagree with the idea that ventilation openings are needed at all, it will not harm the birds as long as the openings do not allow water in the cavity.

No matter what you choose, using a hinged roof will make it much easier to clean after the nesting season is completed. Assemble the box with corrosion resistant screws so they do not rust out in our salt-air environment. Red-bellied Woodpecker prefer circular entrance holes approximately 2 inches in diameter.

Fill the box to the top with wood shavings or animal bedding purchased at the pet store. Please do not use sawdust, it tends to stay damp and cause mold to build up. Packing the nest box with wood shavings / chips will also discourage starlings and sparrows from nesting in the box, and the process of excavating the nest box (or any cavity) is a natural part of a woodpecker's mating behavior. The red-bellied woodpeckers are quite animated during this process and it is very entertaining to watch as they meet at the nest and go through "ceremonial tapping" and greetings.

A suitable Red-bellied Woodpecker nest box dimensions are from 4 x 4 x 10 to 7.5 x 9.5 x 16 inches (width x depth x height) The depth of natural cavities constructed by the birds is 10-12 inches. We have put partially carved out natural cavities in the yard with a 2 inch hole and a roof, and the woodpeckers will happily finish the job.

Mount the house on a post or a tree in a location that makes it possible for you to watch them. When the chicks hatch, it is very enjoyable watching the parents bring food back to the box. Both woodpecker parents participate in the nest building and rearing of the young. Enjoy!

SCHOOL NEWS

A Message from the Principal
by James Ragusa



Busy Spring Days! We are into the final quarter of school which is always a busy time. Our seniors have only a short time left with us before they become alumni at the end of May. As we approach the conclusion of this year we would like to share some important dates for our school community:

April 29:	Prom Night
May 18:	Awards Night, Cafeteria, 5 pm
May 26:	Early Dismissal
May 26:	Graduation in Gym, 7 pm
May 29:	No School
May 31:	Early Dismissal

As you can see, a number of events will occur over the next few weeks. If you would specific information regarding the events please call the school at 377-9800.

IT IS ALWAYS A GREAT DAY TO BE A GATOR!

Here are Some Tips to Help Your Kids Stay on Track During Summer Break
(Excerpts from ChildMind.org)

With summer break right around the corner, here are some tips to making the summer break more rewarding for everyone!

Maintain your schedule: While you may never be able to duplicate the structure school provides, it helps to maintain the school year's daily schedule, right down to meal times and bedtime, as much as possible.

Make plans: Try to schedule as many activities as possible, as early as possible, and keep your kids posted. This can mean anything from "we're going to Aunt Mary's Thursday at 5pm for dinner" to having a set routine that every day, weather permitting, you'll be going to the playground or pool or camp.

Get outdoors: Home can become a safe cocoon, especially for children who have trouble with social interactions or limited relationships. But no child should spend hours in front of a screen. Even if camp isn't in the cards, try to find something your child enjoys—riding a bike or scooter, playing tag, or splashing at the community pool, water park, or beach—and do it.

Maintain—or create—a behavioral system: Children and teens, especially, may act like they want to be in charge, but the truth is they feel safer knowing exactly what you expect of them and the rewards that result from good behavior.

Everglades City School: 239-377-9800 or 239-695-2561
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Visit: <http://www.evgathletics.com/main/calendar>

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Mother's Day is May 14th!
Surprise Her with a Homegrown Gift

Before you know it, Mother's Day will be upon us. Instead of waiting until the last minute or fighting the crowds at a mall, look local for a great gift ideas.



Every mom could use some luxury. Everglades Salt Scrubs offers great, local artisan made, bath salts and scrubs in numerous, relaxing aromas. Gift baskets range from \$15 to \$65. It is best to pre-order at least 4 days in

advance, preferably 7 days. For information or to pre-order, call or text (239) 719-0548.

Stone crab season closes May 15th. Surprise mom with some delicious stone-crab claws from one of our crab houses. Don't forget the mustard sauce too!



You can also find some good items at our local gift shops. No matter what you decide, make it a great day for the special mom in your life.

#####

Help keep nesting water birds safe:
Give them space

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Audubon Florida are reminding beachgoers and boaters to give nesting water birds and their young space to help keep them safe this nesting season.

Wading birds, such as herons and egrets, as well as pelicans are also nesting now on islands around the state. These birds can be easily disturbed if people approach too closely. Such disturbance can cause birds to abandon their nesting sites, exposing eggs and chicks to predators, sun exposure and other harm.

"Florida is renowned for its diverse and spectacular bird life," said FWC Chairman Brian Yablonski. "We want to ensure these birds are here for future generations to enjoy."

Recipes for Good Eating

by Kathy Brock



Delicious Homemade Applesauce

- 4 cups peeled & sliced apples
- 1/2 cup sugar (white or brown can be used)
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 cup apple cider or water
- 1/2 cup golden raisins

Put all of the ingredients in a sauce pan and bring to a boil. Lower the temperature to simmer and cover for 15 minutes stirring occasionally. Remove from the heat and add the raisins (optional). May be served warm with a scoop of vanilla ice cream (yummy) or cold. You can also try this on pancakes. This was one of our family favorites! Cover in the refrigerator. May be kept for one week. Enjoy!

Rapper Crossword

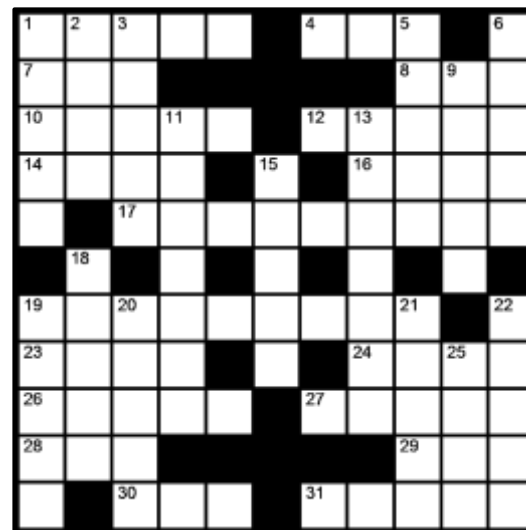
(Solution in next issue or visit www.mulletrapper.com/xword)

Across

- 1. Indian warrior
- 4. Weep convulsively
- 7. Type of tennis shot
- 8. Had dinner
- 10. Entertain
- 12. Spanish table
- 14. Flat-topped land formation
- 16. At that moment
- 17. Neither here or there
- 19. What you are being when you have a plan
- 23. Hood
- 24. You hope to find one at the store
- 26. Actors try out for them
- 27. This can spark a fire in the Glades
- 28. Ginger or Pale
- 29. They go with Outs
- 30. Scoundrel
- 31. Washer cycle

Down

- 1. Reproach
- 2. Eternal City
- 3. Misuse
- 5. Immerse in water
- 6. New Hampshire city
- 9. Not here
- 11. Recover



4/22/17

(Down Continued)

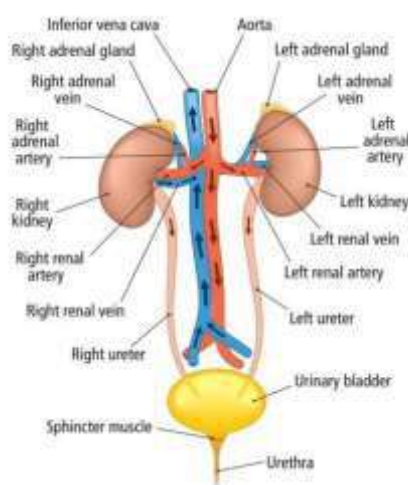
- 13. Belief that there is no God
- 15. Intense nervous anticipation
- 18. Male name
- 19. Leather ceiling loop for vehicle passengers
- 20. Some are 12 inches
- 21. Small fishing house
- 22. A section of a poem
- 25. Insert for glasses

OUR AMAZING BODIES – by Doctor John Martin

The Urinary System

The Urinary Tract consists of paired kidneys, and ureters and a single urinary bladder, and a urethra. The kidneys and ureters are retroperitoneal (behind the visceral lining or sac in which most of the internal organs reside, and in front of the muscles of the back). The urinary tract is a pathway for the elimination of metabolic toxic bi-product substances and other non-essential molecules collected in the kidneys from the blood and dissolved in a minute amount of water, resulting in the production of urine. The kidneys filter approximately 120-140 liters of blood per day (or 1300 ml per minute), containing approximately 20% of one's total blood volume at any given moment. The fibromuscular bladder can contain from 50-1000 ml of urine, but usually empties at about 500 ml or less. Under normal circumstances the trigone cells of the bladder can actually stretch as it fills. As a youngster grows older (usually by 2 years old) he/she gains more voluntary control of relieving himself/herself. The urinary tract contains smooth muscle (under Sympathetic AND Parasympathetic autonomic nervous control) along most of its length, but is under voluntary control only at the distant exit end. The kidneys are encapsulated in supportive and protective perirenal fat and fascia and do not communicate (connect directly) with each other left to right.

Blood is delivered through the renal arteries to each kidney in different sections of the kidney which service different organs (e.g. right: suprarenal gland, liver, duodenum, transverse colon, left: spleen, stomach, pancreas, jejunum), yet in a similar fashion. Each kidney has a layered tissue structure consisting of cortex, medulla, and renal pelvis. The functional unit of the kidney is the nephron. The million or so nephrons per kidney do not just extract water from the blood. On the contrary, the kidneys are in the water conservation business. Only about 0.7% of the water passing through the nephron is directed for elimination. The circulatory pattern among the uniferous tubules is a vital feature in the preservation of body water and the maintenance of chemical neutrality throughout the body.



As the blood enters the nephron unit the CPT design presents an exponentially increased surface area through which is absorbed 85% of the vitamins, amino acids, small proteins, glucose, sodium chloride, and water that came in with the plasma filtrate. The next section of the nephron unit straightens and descends to become the Loop of Henley. Here the tubule expels salts and absorbs large amounts of water. Further along, into the CDT, the (convoluted again) tubule becomes less permeable to water, but not to minerals. Permeability of the collecting tubule varies with the presence of anti-diuretic hormone (ADH, vasopressin) secreted from the posterior pituitary (strongly influencing a person's thirst). Other hormones (e.g. renin/angiotensin) elicit the uptake of water in response to respiratory changes and blood pressure needs.

As urine collects in the bladder certain stretch receptors and spinal nerve reflexes interact to facilitate a more timely and private elimination opportunity. Enuresis, or nighttime bed wetting, can often be remedied by relieving chronic spinal nerve pressure at L5. The urethra is relatively longer in the male. Therefore, incidence of urethritis is more common in men, cystitis ("bladder infection") is more common in women. Certain dietary habits severely affect the urinary system, including consumption of "soft drinks" or "soda's". The incidence of calculi or "kidney stones" can develop by by intake of excess Phosphorus. Two common sources are diets heavy in red meat and colas. As the body excretes the excess Phosphorus (Phosphorus and Calcium having a close and important relationship, with little tolerance for variations in concentrations of the chemicals in the blood stream due to impact upon pH and other factors) the kidneys act to hold back the Calcium and can build stones (frequently slow to expel from the distal ureter(s)). A plethora of degenerative disease processes occur medications readily upset the natural biome of the intestinal tract and severely impact the designed functionality of the urinary system.

Next time, *The Human Reproductive System*.

Large Crowd Attends Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday

The weather was spectacular for the sunrise service held at Everglades National Park on Easter Sunday. Worshipers brought their chairs and listened intently to the sermon with a backdrop of beautiful Chokoloskee Bay. Attendees enjoyed music during the service and the refreshments that were served afterwards.



The crowd listens to the service



Rev. Joe Brown from Copeland Baptist Church Delivers a Sermon



Mitch Mitchell & Snooker Joe Provide Music at the Sunrise Service



Living Gulf Coast
by Charles Sobczak

Bull Shark (*Carcharhinus leucas*) Other names: cub shark, Zambezi shark, river whaler, tiburón / Status: FL=stable to slightly declining, IUCN=NT / Life span: to 32 years / Length: 3-11 ft (91-350 cm) / Weight: 50-350 lb (22.6-159 kg); Florida record: 517 lb, IGFA: 636 lb 14 oz / Reproduces: in the inshore waters / Found: In the coastal bays and estuaries of Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee and Collier Counties.

In recent years, the bull shark has replaced both the great white and the tiger shark as the most dangerous shark in the ocean. The reason is simple. The other two sharks prefer deeper, offshore waters while the bull shark spends most of its life in shallow, nearshore waters. It is the only saltwater species capable of living in both salt and freshwater environments. This adaptation has given it access to brackish and freshwater environments that would kill any of the other large shark species. It transitions from saltwater to freshwater through a complex osmotic system. The scientific term for this ability is euryhaline—the ability to tolerate wide ranges of salinity. The American and Indo-Pacific crocodiles have this same ability.



The bull shark inhabits all the tropical and subtropical oceans worldwide. It has also been reported some 2,200 miles up the Amazon River in Iquitos, Peru, and has been observed attacking juvenile hippos hundreds of miles up the Zambezi River in Africa.

Like all sharks, the bull shark seldom attacks people. There are confirmed fatalities in Florida attributed to bull sharks, but these are extremely rare. Your chances of getting hit by lightning are 1,000 times

greater, and your chances of dying in an automobile accident are more than 10,000 times greater. When these rare attacks do occur, the bull shark bites but typically does not eat the victim. Only the tiger shark and oceanic white-tip have been verified to eat human flesh. The trouble is with the bull-shark bite itself, which is generally so devastating that without immediate medical attention, the victim bleeds to death.

Worldwide, 100 million sharks are killed every year, most for their fins. These make their way to China where they are the main ingredient in shark-fin soup. This single dish is responsible for one of the most ruthless slaughters of wildlife in the history of mankind. After the fins are removed with a finning knife, the live sharks are tossed back into the sea to drown. Annually, 10 people a year are killed by sharks. The ratio of mortality between people killing sharks and sharks killing people stands today at 10 million to one. This is not a sustainable or an honorable equation. Shark finning, like whale hunting, should be banned worldwide.

Sharks, whales, and dolphins are the ocean's top predators. They serve a vital role in the food chain by removing the sick, aged, and weak from the species they target. Sharks cull the oceans of diseased or infirm animals helping to keep gene pools healthy. Without them the entire marine ecosystem is at risk.

The bull shark is a carnivore. It eats fish, other sharks, rays, and sea mammals including bottle-nosed and spotted dolphins, seabirds, mollusks, and crustaceans. It is sometimes killed by dolphins and killer whales, but a mature bull shark has few wild predators willing to take it on. In the Zambezi River, the Nile crocodile has been known to attack and eat the bull shark.

In the waters along the southwest Florida coast, the bull shark is common. It can be found in the passes, in the back bays and up the way up the coastal rivers. It roams all the way up the Caloosahatchee River, and in all probability, there are bull sharks living in Lake Okeechobee. After all, one was found living in Lake Michigan, having swum there via the Mississippi and the Chicago River.

Tarpon fishermen working off the beaches frequently encounter the bull shark, which is known to feed on exhausted, hooked tarpon. A large shark can generally eat a full-grown tarpon in three or four bites. If you happen to see one being caught off one of a local fishing pier or from the beach, consider yourself blessed. This is a magnificent animal and nowhere near as dangerous as the person who reeled it in.

Charles Sobczak is a writer and nature photographer that lives on Sanibel Island



Fishing the 10,000 Islands
With
Capt. Mike Merritt

Well with the winds continuing to blow the fishing has been somewhat challenging. There have been plenty of fish to catch, but you have to choose your area based on what the winds give you. Big Seatrout have continued to bite on the flats. Redfish have been less abundant and there are plenty of undersized fish when you do find them.



Small baits have just shown up and you can see the Pelicans feeding everywhere. This is a good sign that things are changing. With this influx of baits the fishing should get even better. Summer is on the way so enjoy these last cool mornings and days.



Snook fishing has been good and fish are being caught on the outside and the back country. The good tide days are the key to a good Snook bite. Tarpon are the toughest right now. The winds and dropping water temperatures have made this a real challenge. One week they are here and the next they are gone. Just enough fish around to keep you looking.

May is on the way and lighter winds should be the norm. Fishing on the outside will be better then. Whatever you decide remember this is the last month of Snook season. So if you want to have a Snook dinner it's now or wait till September.

PARK NEWS

Monroe Station Fire Update

The wheels of justice do not move quickly but the federal government has started the process to prosecute the South Florida man that burned down the Historic Monroe Station on the night of April 9, 2016. The fire was caused by a “stunt gone wrong” when three men climbed atop of the boarded-up station to stage some pyrotechnics and film it for promotional purposes.



The Monroe Station Circa 1920

The fire quickly got out of control so the trio left, but the leader soon turned himself in to police. "We know where they are and their intention is to face justice... so we did not have to put the person in jail while we investigated further. (The leader) came and turned himself in. This individual absolutely showed remorse, they live in South Florida, they have connections here, they have employment here, they're not going anywhere. And definitely their intention is not to do anything like this again, so it's not like they're dangerous to society," said Big Cypress Spokesperson David Fireman.



The National Park Service is still working with the U.S Attorney's office to determine how to charge the three, but arson will not be on the table, he said. One of the reasons for the delay is that the park service is trying to determine the magnitude of the building's loss. Though long-since abandoned, the park was intending to restore it.

"Assessing the value of a historic building is a complicated process," Fireman said. Even though it was altered and empty, "we intended to repair and rehabilitate it," he said. "Oftentimes, the value of those things is almost intangible, but we are trying to ascertain it and we're still working on that with historians, architects and other folks."

As for the future now, it's uncertain. "Right now, we're just stabilizing the site," Fireman says. "For us in the Park Service it's too early to tell. I think there are a lot of different ideas out there, but the long-term planning process takes years."



Enjoy These FREE Park Activities*

Park Rx Day, April 23

Park Rx Day is a day for people everywhere to give themselves the gift of good health, with a walk in the park, and to celebrate the growing Park Rx movement that has doctors prescribing time in parks to their patients to improve their health.

Self-guided activities include:

The Tamiami Trail Triathlon, the South Florida National Parks Centennial Triathlon, walking the trails, biking at Shark Valley, or paddling at the Gulf Coast or Flamingo. For more information, please call: (305) 242-7700

Shark Valley Bike Ride, May 6

Explore the subtleties of the wetlands as the morning light wakes up its inhabitants, birds, turtles and alligators sunning themselves along your path. Spider webs covered in the morning dew glistening in the sun. Join a Park Ranger or Volunteer for a 15-mile bike ride out into the Shark River Slough. Bring your own bicycle or rent one from the concession for \$18.00. Meet on the back side of the visitor center by the benches.

Where: Shark Valley
Time: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Contact Phone Number: 305-221-8776

*Participation in the activities is free. Equipment rentals are optional.



STAR TREKKER REPORT

Reported by Chris Herlovich

April 29 - International Astronomy Day. Astronomy Day is an annual event intended to provide a means of interaction between the general public and various astronomy enthusiasts, groups and professionals. You can find out about special local events by contacting your local astronomy club or planetarium. You can also find more about Astronomy Day by checking the Web site for the Astronomical League.

May 6, 7 - Eta Aquarids Meteor Shower. The Eta Aquarids is an above average shower, capable of producing up to 60 meteors per hour at its peak. Most of the activity is seen in the Southern Hemisphere. It is produced by dust particles left behind by comet Halley, which has been known and observed since ancient times. The shower runs annually from April 19 to May 28. It peaks this year on the night of May 6 and the morning of the May 7.

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.



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–7:00 pm; Sun-Thur

6:00 am–9:00 pm; Fri & Sat

Havana Café (695-2214):

Closed for Summer

Island Café (695-0003):

6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily

Ivey House (695-3299):

6:30 – 9:30 am; daily

Joanie's Blue Crab Café (695-2682):

11:00 am – 5:00 pm; Fri thru Tues

closed Wed and Thurs

Oyster House Restaurant (695-2073):

11:00 am – 9 pm; Sun thru Thurs

11:00 am – 10:00 pm; Fri, Sat

Rod & Gun (695-2101):

11:30 am - 8:00 pm; daily

Subway at Gator Express (695-3937):

Closed. Visit Subway on 29 & 41

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):

Sunday 10:30-5

Friday & Sat. 10:30 - 7, Sun. 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 – 6:00 pm, Mon thru Sat

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

Temporarily Closed

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

Closed Until December 3, 2017

St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples

Phone: 239-417-2084

San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl.

Phone: 239-394-5181

EVERGLADES CITY TIDES

LAT: 25.87° N LONG: 81.37°W

Check: www.weather.gov for conditions

4/22	Sat	12:05 AM	2.4	H
4/22	Sat	7:29 AM	0.1	L
4/22	Sat	1:02 PM	2.5	H
4/22	Sat	7:56 PM	0.5	L
4/23	Sun	12:59 AM	2.6	H
4/23	Sun	8:13 AM	0.1	L
4/23	Sun	1:34 PM	2.7	H
4/23	Sun	8:40 PM	0.2	L
4/24	Mon	1:48 AM	2.7	H
4/24	Mon	8:56 AM	0.1	L
4/24	Mon	2:03 PM	2.9	H
4/24	Mon	9:25 PM	0	L
4/25	Tue	2:34 AM	2.8	H
4/25	Tue	9:38 AM	0.2	L
4/25	Tue	2:32 PM	3	H
4/25	Tue	10:09 PM	-0.2	L
4/26	Wed	3:21 AM	2.8	H
4/26	Wed	10:20 AM	0.3	L
4/26	Wed	3:01 PM	3.2	H
4/26	Wed	10:55 PM	-0.4	L
4/27	Thu	4:11 AM	2.8	H
4/27	Thu	11:01 AM	0.4	L
4/27	Thu	3:32 PM	3.3	H
4/27	Thu	11:41 PM	-0.5	L
4/28	Fri	5:06 AM	2.7	H
4/28	Fri	11:43 AM	0.5	L
4/28	Fri	4:07 PM	3.3	H
4/29	Sat	12:30 AM	-0.5	L
4/29	Sat	6:08 AM	2.5	H
4/29	Sat	12:27 PM	0.6	L
4/29	Sat	4:49 PM	3.2	H
4/30	Sun	1:23 AM	-0.4	L
4/30	Sun	7:13 AM	2.4	H
4/30	Sun	1:17 PM	0.8	L
4/30	Sun	5:41 PM	3	H
5/1	Mon	2:20 AM	-0.3	L
5/1	Mon	8:21 AM	2.2	H
5/1	Mon	2:19 PM	0.9	L
5/1	Mon	6:55 PM	2.8	H
5/2	Tue	3:25 AM	-0.1	L
5/2	Tue	9:31 AM	2.2	H
5/2	Tue	3:41 PM	0.9	L
5/2	Tue	8:25 PM	2.6	H
5/3	Wed	4:33 AM	0	L
5/3	Wed	10:42 AM	2.2	H
5/3	Wed	5:06 PM	0.8	L
5/3	Wed	9:53 PM	2.4	H
5/4	Thu	5:39 AM	0.1	L
5/4	Thu	11:44 AM	2.3	H
5/4	Thu	6:19 PM	0.7	L
5/4	Thu	11:16 PM	2.4	H
5/5	Fri	6:37 AM	0.2	L
5/5	Fri	12:27 PM	2.4	H
5/5	Fri	7:18 PM	0.5	L
5/6	Sat	12:27 AM	2.4	H
5/6	Sat	7:29 AM	0.3	L
5/6	Sat	12:59 PM	2.6	H
5/6	Sat	8:08 PM	0.3	L

OBITUARY

**Danny Neal Mitchell
1949-2017**

Danny Neal Mitchell, 67, of Chokoloskee Island, passed away on April 8th, 2017 at Physicians Regional Hospital. Danny, born June 9, 1949 in Miami FL, son of William Neal Mitchell and Betty Mae Kepler is survived by twin brother Thomas Mitchell, (Angela Mitchell) and brother Terry Mitchell, and half-sister Sheila Wheeler (Dan Wheeler). Danny attended Everglades City High School and served in the Vietnam War.



Danny was a general building contractor for the Everglades City Area most of his life and built many of the existing homes and businesses in the area. After he retired he enjoyed his favorite job ever, being a fishing guide. Danny married his high school sweetheart, the love of his life of 45 years on March 28, 1972, Hazel Laverne Stokes. They resided in the Chokoloskee area the rest of his life. His hobbies were being right (LOL), and fishing. He would go every day of the week if he could have. Danny also loved to build things; he built fishing rods and worked on cars to pass the time as well. Danny was a World Champion Skeet Shooter and boxed when he served in the Army, he had an amazing left hook.

He is survived by wife Hazel Laverne Mitchell, daughter Dana Michelle Mitchell, and daughter Donna Marie Vanleeuwen (Matthew Vanleeuwen), and granddaughter Destany Marie Vanleeuwen, grandson Matthew David Vanleeuwen Jr. and many nieces, nephews and dear friends. Preceded in death by father William Neal Mitchell, sister Linda Sanders (Charlie Sanders), and his mother Betty Mae Kepler.

Danny passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family right by his side. He was an amazing husband who will be missed greatly by his loving wife. Danny and Hazel loved to fish and travel to experience new adventures of life. He was especially loved by his daughters Dana Michelle and Donna Marie. Both were Daddy's Little Girls and through his eyes they were almost perfect in every way.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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: 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 at 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

HOME CARE: Companionship, shopping & errands, light housekeeping, dog or cat sitting. Home checks & hurricane prep. References. 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.

Advertise Here and reach the Everglades and online reader community. Contact 954-662-7003 for more information.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR LEASE: Deep water commercial dock and lot on Barron River at 909 DuPont St. in Everglades City. Perfect for 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 or for an interview: 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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