



# The MULLET RAPPER

## What's Happening in the Everglades

### MAY 6 – MAY 19, 2017



**TIDE TABLE  
RESTAURANTS**

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### Now, This is What Work Ethic & Commitment Look Like!



What do you do on your 88th birthday? Well, you go to work! That is exactly what Wanda Grimm did to celebrate her special day! Pictured alongside her son, Howie, Wanda is busy preparing stone crabs so the rest of us can enjoy them!

We wish Wanda a very happy birthday this year and many more to come. Maybe next year she can take a day off? Nah...only if it falls on the day the store is closed. That is just the way it is when you are a hard working woman like Wanda Grimm.

### HAPPY 88TH BIRTHDAY WANDA GRIMM!!

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### TWO BIG CELEBRATIONS IN ONE LITTLE TOWN!

On Saturday, April 29th we celebrated two big birthdays...the Tamiami Trail was opened 89 years ago, and the Everglades Museum turned 19! The day started early as a caravan of antique cars made their way from their meeting point in Carnestown to McLeod Park. What a sight to see as they drove in, seemingly all in perfect condition. It almost could give you a glimpse of what it may have looked like way back when.



The "Ole Timers" presentation included music and discussion about the history of our area and how the trail changed the way travelers navigate and explore the state.



Best of all, we got to visit with some of our area's most beloved residents. Below left, Mama Dot Weeks visits with Helen Bryan. Below right, Park Ranger Henry Gonzalez discusses the Bay City Walking Dredge used during the Tamiami Trail's construction.



If you have news, photos, announcements, or articles ... email mulletrapper@gmail.com or call us at: 954-662-7003.

**MAY 7 – JUNE 10, 2017**

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
7	8 Hr of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm	9	10 full moon ☉ Ladies Coffee Island Cafe, 8 am	11 Lions Club Oyster House 6 pm	12	13 Fish Fry, 5 PM McLeod Pk, see p. 3
14 Mother's Day	15 Hr of Prayer Chok Church Of God, 7 pm	16	17 Ladies Coffee Island Cafe, 8 am	18 Awards Night 5 pm, see p. 3	19	<u>RAPPER 20</u>
21	22 Hr of Prayer Holy Fam Catholic Church, 7 pm	23	24 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am	24 new moon ●	26 Graduation 7 pm, see p. 3	27
28	29 Hr of Prayer Evg Comm. Church, 7 pm Memorial Day	30	31 Ladies Coffee Island Cafe, 8 am	June 1	2	<u>RAPPER 3</u>
4	5 Hr of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm	6	7 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am	8	9 full moon ☉	10

June 14: Flag Day  
September 1: Snook Season Re-opens

June 18: Father's Day  
September 4: Labor Day

July 1: Independence Day Celebration  
October 15: Stone Crab Season Opens

THRIFT SHOP: Tues., Sat., 11 am–3 pm  
LIONS CLUB: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of Month, Oyster House, 6 pm  
DR DEMARTINO: Marco Island office information on p.3.  
DR MARTIN: Mon. & Wed 10-n, 3 – 6 pm, call 813-787-9738  
AA: Wed., 5:00 pm, Community Church  
WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP HR: Tues. 9:30-10:30 am, Copeland Baptist  
MUSEUM: Mon – Sat., 9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
CARNESTOWN Recycle and Trash: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, 9 am to 3:30 pm

SKATING RINK: Fri, Sat., 7-10 pm  
REACH OUT: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 9:30 am, City Hall  
LITTLE GATOR CLINIC: Not seeing patients at this time  
FOOD PANTRY: Wed., 12 n to 2 pm, Community Church  
VETERANS SUPPORT: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs., 10 am, Com. Church  
SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily, 11 am to 5 pm  
PANCAKE FLY-IN: Closed for the summer

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday (4:30 pm) Other Tuesdays (10-11 am)  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Mon–Thurs (9 am to 2 pm); Fri-Sat (9 am to 3 pm)  
COLLIER COUNTY: 239-252-8999

**POST OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS & HOURS:**

Everglades City (239) 695-2174  
Chokoloskee (239) 695-4468  
Ochopee (239) 695-2099

Mon-Fri: 9:30 am to 1 pm and 2 to 4:30 pm; Sat: outside pick-up 3:45 pm  
Mon-Fri: 9:30 am to 1 pm and 2 to 4:30 pm; Sat: outside pick-up 3:30 pm  
Mon-Fri: 8 to 10 am; 12 noon to 4 pm; Sat: Open for service 10 to 11:30 am

SHERIFF: 239-252-9300 CITY HALL: 239-695-378 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

# What's Happening

In and Around Town

## FISH FRY Saturday, May 13, 5 PM



Please come out and join us for a fish fry to thank all of our wonderful first responders that do so much for our community! This is one way we can demonstrate our appreciation for all of their hard work and dedication. Everyone is invited to attend!

## AWARDS NIGHT! Thursday, May 18, 5 PM



Come and help us celebrate our student's accomplishments on awards night. The event will be held in the school cafeteria and is open to all who would like to attend!

## GRADUATION! Friday, May 26, 7 PM



Our graduating class will be celebrated in the gymnasium this year. Please come out to honor our students that worked so hard to achieve their high school diploma so they can move on to their next chapter in life. The festivities start at 7 PM sharp so please arrive be seated a bit early so you can enjoy the entire evening.



## 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

May 2017



The Friends of the Museum are 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 postgraduate classes.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES



### DOCTOR'S CLINIC

Dr. Kirk DeMartino is seeing patients in his Marco Island Office. You may call his 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



### ~ ACCOUNTING SERVICES ~ MIKE "THE TAX GUY"

Local and 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!



### BECOME A CONTRIBUTOR!

Join the Mullet Rapper team and start contributing to our community paper. Send us any news, photos, recipes, and articles by the Saturday before publication so we can include it in the paper. We thank you for your support!

## Being Prepared is Key to Surviving a Fire in the Home

If a fire started in your home in the middle of the night, would your family be prepared? If you are not, now is the time to make a plan.

Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors. Also, mark the location of each smoke alarm.

Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Current building codes require interconnected smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.

Everyone in the household must understand the escape plan. When you walk through your plan, check to make sure the escape routes are clear and doors and windows can be opened easily.

Choose an outside meeting place (i.e. neighbor's house, a light post, or stop sign) a safe distance in front of your home where everyone can meet after they've escaped. Make sure to mark the location of the meeting place on your escape plan.

Have everyone memorize the emergency phone number of the fire department. That way any member of the household can call from a neighbor's home or a cellular phone once safely outside.

If there are infants, older adults, or family members with mobility limitations, make sure that someone is assigned to assist them in the fire drill and in the event of an emergency. Assign a backup person too, in case the designee is not home during the emergency.

If windows or doors in your home have security bars make sure that the bars have emergency release devices inside so that they can be opened immediately in an emergency. If you have hurricane shutters, never leave them down and locked while you are in the home after the threat of a storm has passed. This is a serious fire trap!

Tell guests or visitors to your home about your family's fire escape plan. When staying overnight at other people's homes, ask about their escape plan. If they don't have a plan in place, offer to help them make one.

Be fully prepared for a real fire: when a smoke alarm sounds, get out immediately. Once you're out, stay out! Under no circumstances should you ever go back into a burning building.





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Liza Wells, Sales Associate  
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Visit the Everglades City Museum Located at:  
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7	L	O	B							8	A	9	T	E	
10	A	M	U	11	S	E		12	L	13	A	T	H	E	
14	M	E	S	A		15	F		16	T	H	E	N		
	E		17	E	L	S	E	W	H	E	R	E			
	18	A		V	V	E	E								
19	S	20	T	R	A	T	E	G	21	I	C	22	V		
23	T	H	U	G		R		24	S	25	A	L	E		
26	R	O	L	E	S		27	E	M	B	E	R			
28	A	L	E					29	I	N	S				
P		30	R	A	T			31	R	I	N	S	E		

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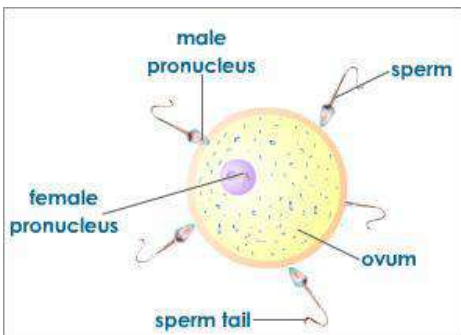
# Our Amazing Bodies

by Dr. John Martin

The Human Reproductive System – Part I

You are very special! You are you. You could have been any of 400,000 other individuals! It's interesting to note 400,000 is the approximate number of original female germ cells that a healthy potential mother contributes to the mix. Only about 400 or so mature to single eggs (oogenesis), and one is offered up about every 28 days throughout a woman's reproductive career. Should the timing be right, several hundred of the original 50 million or so mature sperm (20-150 million per ml, and 2-5 ml per event) will meet up with, but only one will join the single ovulated egg (fertilization). Add variations that can occur in genetic divisions and re-combinations, you could have trillions of similarities and differences with your siblings. With all those possibilities, there's still only a 50/50 chance that a new baby is male or female. That said, let's see where all this comes from.

The male reproductive organs consist of the testes (testicles), a series of ducts, and a number of glands. The testes produce the male germ cells, the sperm, and secrete the hormone testosterone. The testes are positioned outside the body to facilitate sperm development (spermatogenesis) which requires a slightly lower temperature (35 degrees C. or 95 degrees F.) than body temperature (98.6°F.). The testes are suspended in a sac of skin and thin fibromuscular tissue (the scrotum). Temperature needs can be met by tightening or loosening the muscular tissue moving the sperm forming testes closer or away from the core of the warmer body. Mature sperm is stored in the epididymis, and with stimulation sperm cells are moved into and through the ductus (vas) deferens by rhythmic contractions of the smooth muscle. Sperm pass through to enter the prostatic urethra. There the nutrient-rich secretions of the prostate and the seminal vesicles are added to the population of sperm, forming semen. The testicular artery and vein and some nerves and lymphatics join the ductus deferens just before entering the deep ring (intra-abdominal orifice) of the inguinal canal. The collection of these merge with connective tissue and become the coverings of the spermatic cord and testes. In a vasectomy procedure, the ductus deferens is identified within the cord and it alone is divided.



The primary female reproductive organ is the ovary. It produces the female germ cells (ova), and secretes the hormones estrogen and progesterone. Each ovary, like the testes arises on the posterior abdominal wall (adjacent to the kidneys) during early fetal development. It also descends along the wall like the testis, but is interrupted

in its journey by a strong ligament and is retained in the pelvis. The uterus serves as a site for implantation and nourishment of the embryo/fetus. The uterine tubes provide a conduit for the freshly fertilized or unfertilized ovum in route to the uterus. The vagina, a fibromuscular sheath, receives the semen from the penis and transmits it to the uterus and acts as a birth canal from the uterus to the outside for the newborn.

The female external genitals collectively constitute the vulva. They are located within the perineum. The labia majora are the fat-filled folds of skin largely obstructing the cavity /space between them (vestibule) that contains the urethral and vaginal orifices.

Next time, Part II - Spermatogenesis, Oogenesis, and Fertilization  
Then, Part III - Embryonic Development, the Breasts and Intro to Genetics

# EVERGLADES CITY SCHOOL NEWS

239-377-9800 or 239-695-2561 www.evgschools.com



## A Message from the Principal

by James Ragusa

**Save the Date!** The month of May brings celebrations and signals another school year is coming to a close. For our seniors, the end of this school year brings their great accomplishment of graduating high school and moving on to the next chapter in their lives. This year we have one of our larger classes as sixteen students are slated to walk across the stage and receive their diploma.

A change in venue will be utilized for this year's graduation. While it is new to those of us only at the school for the last few years, it will be familiar to many as the gym will be utilized for our graduation ceremony. Last year we had a standing room only crowd as families and community members joined us in the cafeteria to celebrate the class of 2016. To accommodate all of the guests we anticipate it became a necessity to move into the gym. We will have the capacity to comfortably seat everyone who wishes to attend this year. My understanding is that the gym was the location of the ceremony in years past so a bit of nostalgia will be in the air for many of our former graduates as they celebrate this wonderful event.

Don't forget to save the date as our graduation will be held at 7:00 pm on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Doors to the gym will open at 5:30 pm. Please don't hesitate to call the school at 377-9800 if you have any questions. A reception will continue to be held after the event in our cafeteria so we can celebrate the class of 2017!

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

#####



## Small Town Taylor

by Taylor Mayberry

I had the best day at school. We played kickball with the teachers! Mrs. West is the best kickball player! She is a very strong kicker and it's so much fun to watch her celebrate when she makes it to home plate. Then we went home for the weekend. When we got home my mom had a surprise. She got the ingredients to make slime! We made three different colored slimes. I had yellow, teal and blue. I added glitter to my teal and yellow one. All we used was glue, water, borax, food coloring and last, but not least, glitter.

It is cool and really fun to play with. The more Borax water that you add the harder the slime gets. So, I added extra Borax to the blue to make it a putty instead of slime. You need specific ingredients to make it. You need:

- 1. Glue, 2. Water, 3. Borax

Or you could use:

- 1. Glue, 2. Water, 3. Baking soda, 4. Liquid corn starch

Glitter and food coloring are optional. There are many different ways to make it. If you want something fun to make then make some slime!


With lots of love, Taylor

Taylor Mayberry is 11 years old and attends Everglades City School

Visit: <http://www.evgschools.com/main/calendar>  
For a calendar of Everglades City School athletic events



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**Taxing Things**

By Mike "The Tax Guy"

**IRS Promotes Specialized Online Services During Small Business Week**

Here are just a few among dozens of useful IRS products in the spotlight from this year's National Small Business Week:

**Sharing Economy Tax Center.** Provides fast answers to tax questions, as well as links and forms for the sharing economy. People who use one of the many online platforms to engage in this type of business, such as renting a spare bedroom, providing car rides or providing many other goods or services, are involved in the sharing economy. Topics include filing requirements, rules for home rentals and business expenses.

**Self-Employed Individuals Tax Center.** Taxpayers will find the Self-Employed Individuals Tax Center to be a great resource for sole proprietors and others who are in business for themselves. In addition to many other subjects, taxpayers will find information on:

- ⇒ How to Make Quarterly Payments.
- ⇒ Requirements for Information Returns.
- ⇒ How to File an Annual Return.
- ⇒ Business Structures.
- ⇒ Qualified Joint Ventures

**Small Business and Self-Employed Tax Center.** This web-based information center features links to a wealth of useful tools, including Small Business Taxes: The Virtual Workshop, and common IRS forms with instructions. The IRS Tax Calendar for businesses and Self-Employed is a convenient, at-a-glance resource designed to show key tax dates for businesses. Download the Calendar Connector tool to get the dates even when offline.

#####

**Tax Scams on the Rise**

**Note that the IRS will never:**

- Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. Generally, the IRS will first mail you a bill if you owe any taxes.
  - Threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.
  - Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
  - Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Remember: Scammers Change Tactics -- Aggressive and threatening phone calls by criminals impersonating IRS agents remain a major threat to taxpayers, but variations of the IRS impersonation scam continue year-round and they tend to peak when scammers find prime opportunities to strike.

**Recipes for Good Eating**

submitted by Bonnie Woodward

**Tasty Pizza Dip**

**Ingredients:**

- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- ½ cup pizza sauce
- 2 tablespoons diced green pepper
- 2 tablespoons diced red peppers
- 2 scallions sliced
- 10 slices of pepperoni



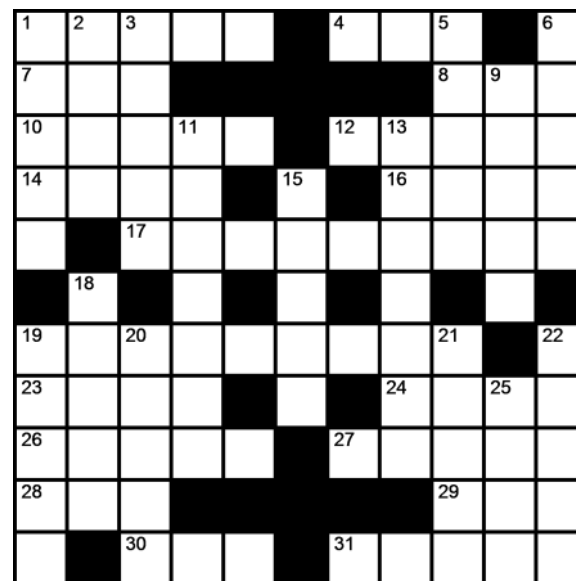
**Directions:**

Heat oven to 350°. Beat together the cream cheese and Italian seasoning. Spread mixture on the bottom of a 9" pie plate. Top with 1 cup mozzarella, ½ cup pizza sauce, and half of the scallions and peppers. Do a second layer of the mozzarella, pizza sauce and the rest of the scallions and peppers. Top with pepperoni. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes. Serve warm with Frito scoops or pita chips.

**MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD**

**Across**

- 1. Tycoon
- 4. Call for help
- 7. Land of the Free
- 8. Apex
- 10. Type of wave
- 12. Pickling solution
- 14. Practice boxing
- 16. Otherwise
- 17. It accumulates in retention ponds
- 19. Flexible armor
- 23. City in Peru
- 24. Nil
- 26. Lacking companions
- 27. Beelzebub
- 28. One of 10 in bowling
- 29. Finish
- 30. One type is Sloe
- 31. Dark



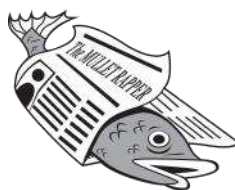
5/06/17

**Down**

- 1. Rupture
- 2. Without delay
- 3. Remote detection system
- 5. Pole for walking on
- 6. Nazi architect
- 9. First stage
- 11. Inhabitant of one Arab country

**Down Continued**

- 13. Grasp clearly
- 15. Hostile person
- 18. Type of pepper
- 19. Shows approval
- 20. In association with
- 21. Lock component
- 22. Covered with fungus
- 25. Icy sports floor







## My Little Slice of Paradise

by Kathy Brock

The Amazing Monarch Butterfly

When you get outside and enjoy nature the possibilities are endless. One year for our anniversary, Tim & I took a trip to Mexico to see where all of the migrating monarch butterflies go to roost or “over winter”. It is hard to even imagine that a butterfly would migrate. But this is exactly what most “6<sup>th</sup> generation, monarch butterflies do each year.

Each year at springtime, the first generation of monarchs are born. Depending on the temperature and some other factors, they will live anywhere from 2 to 4 weeks. They nectar (eat) and mate to create the next generation. This will happen 5 or 6 times throughout the summer until late summer or early fall when the last generation for the season, is born. This is a very special monarch because they will be driven to fly south for the winter...and that location is very precise into the central mountain range of Mexico or some to the coastal regions of Southern California where this generation will live through the winter until March, almost 6 months. The lifecycle works like this:

**January/February** – Monarchs huddle closely in the Oyamel trees of their sanctuary in Mexico and in areas along the southern California coastline. These special monarchs live about 4-5 months through the cold, long winter.

**March/April** – They become more active as the days get longer and warmer, They begin searching for a mate. Some may begin a northern journey. They find a mate and the eggs are laid. Then the long-living last (which is a 5th or 6th depending on different factors) generation dies ... the newly hatched eggs begin the first generation, Egg, Caterpillar, Chrysalis, Adult Butterfly and work their way north.

**May/June** – The 2nd generation is born – egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, adult butterfly, some continue to move northward.

**July/August** – The 3rd and 4th generation are born – egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, adult butterfly.

**September/October** – The 5th generation is born – egg, caterpillar, chrysalis, adult butterfly...but this generation does not mate or die.

**November/December** – The monarch’s inner compass directs it to migrate south and this generation will live 4-5 months in Mexico or Southern California. They begin awakening and mating in March of the next spring, and then lay their eggs! Withered and tattered from their migration and hibernation... they finally die.



The Caterpillar Transforms to a Chrysalis



The Chrysalis Stage is From 10 to 14 Days



The Butterfly Emerges from the Chrysalis

The cycles goes on as the new baby caterpillars are born each spring and the cycle continues throughout the year into the next spring. When I first learned about the migration, I knew I must see it for myself. So, we booked a tour with a science group out of the University of San Diego that takes only a dozen or so people on each trip...and we headed to Mexico. Our journey took us to Rio de Bravo where we stayed for 2 nights to acclimate to the high altitude. Of course, I thought this was ridiculous and unnecessary!

When we arrived, I was so excited I started running up the mountain path to see them up close - ignoring the warnings about potential altitude sickness. My excitement soon turned to pounding headache and the onset of...altitude sickness! Ignoring the symptoms as best I could, we climbed up the rest of the way at a normal pace. When we arrived at the final location, it was almost surreal. The trees were literally orange, millions of butterflies clustered together hanging all over the trees and one on top of the other.

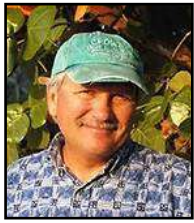
They told us we would come back in the morning to see the “burst” (photo to the left). The next morning, we arrived back at the location to understand just what this “burst” is. The butterflies seem to all take off at the same time, and when they do, it is one of the most amazing sights. There are so many, you can literally hear them flying. Butterflies everywhere! Littering the sky, flying all about going out in search of food. When you go out into the town everywhere you look there are monarch butterflies. This is truly one of earth’s great wonders. A butterfly will migrate from Canada to Mexico, and to the exact place in Mexico its ancestors flew to. Unbelievable. No GPS needed!



After we saw the monarchs, the group headed to another sight. We loaded into an old VW van and headed up a steep, extremely narrow road, until the van stopped. The driver said we were overloaded and we all had to get out and walk up the rest of the way (not kidding). At the top was a beautiful statue of the Virgin Mary and a panoramic view of the town. As you looked towards the butterflies, you could see green trees and then orange - where the butterflies are clustered. As beautiful as it was, nothing can top seeing the butterflies up close and personal. To me, nowhere I have been since even comes close to this. It is by far the most amazing thing I have ever seen.

We have monarch butterflies here. However, ours stay here all year and simply continue the cycle without a prolonged hibernation period. The monarchs everywhere lay their eggs on only one plant, the milkweed. If you want monarchs, plant milkweed and they will come. They lay their eggs on the milkweed, the caterpillars hatch from the eggs and then they go through a metamorphosis into a chrysalis. From there, the butterfly emerges to start the process all over again. Amazing. Unbelievable. Put it on the bucket list!





**Living Gulf Coast**  
by Charles Sobczak

**Florida Box Turtle** (*Terrapene carolina bauri*) Other names: box turtle / Status: FL=species of special concern, IUCN=LC / Length: 6.5 in. (16.5 cm) / Weight: 5 lb (2.3 kg) / Life span: to more than 100 years / Reproduces: lays up to 3 clutches of 4-6 eggs each on land / Found: AC, coastal, near coast, inland / Months found:

jfmAMJJASOnd.



The Florida box turtle is semi-aquatic, at home in both terrestrial and aquatic habitats. In fresh water it prefers to remain in the shallows and does not appear to be a good swimmer. It has a life expectancy of more than 100 years, making it the longest-living organism in this book. Because the only other contender for this distinction is the loggerhead turtle, whose actual lifespan has yet to be verified, the lowly Florida box turtle may well be the longest living animal in my book, *The Living Gulf Coast*.

Easily identified by its high, arching domed carapace with bright orange-yellow markings, the box turtle is commonly kept as a pet. Collecting this turtle for the pet industry was recently outlawed, however, and the species is now protected in Florida. Because of the box turtle's popularity, Florida has imposed a two-turtle possession limit.

The box turtle's diet consists of insects, carrion, dung, and toxic fungi. The box turtle cannot be eaten by humans or other mammals because of the build-up of toxicity in its flesh from eating poisonous mushrooms and other fungi. Because of that, the box turtle is seldom preyed upon as an adult. That may be why it is so brightly patterned, much like other toxic and poisonous species. Some juveniles and hatchlings are taken by fire ants, herons, and skunks.

**Striped Mud Turtle** (*Kinosternon baurii*) Other names: three-striped mud turtle / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=LC / Life span: to 50 years / Length: 5 in. (12 cm) / Weight: 0.35-0.50 lb (160-230 g) / Nests: Found throughout Southwest Florida in wetlands and marshes.



One of the smallest turtles in the world, the striped mud turtle is rarely longer than five inches. Only the narrow-bridged musk turtle from North and Central America is as tiny. The striped mud turtle can readily be identified by the three distinctive stripes running across the top of the carapace. Its docile disposition and small size make it a favorite of the turtle pet trade. The striped mud turtle is now protected in the Keys but is still captured from the wild throughout most of the state. Because of its small size, the mud turtle is seldom used as food.

An omnivore, the mud turtle feeds on aquatic vegetation but will also eat insects, aquatic animals, and carrion. It is easily caught with small, baited hooks. In the wild even adults can be taken by herons, skunks, raccoons, and alligators.

Charles Sobczak is a writer and nature photographer from Sanibel Island

Photo Credits: Easter Box Turtle, Kenny Krysko, UF, Striped Mud Turtle, Mark Kenderdine



**Fishing the 10,000 Islands With Capt. Mike Merritt**

Are the winds finally done? At the time I am writing this, they are still blowing. Hopefully May will bring some steady wind patterns and the fish can start acting normal.

May is generally a great month here in the islands. Fishing the outside should be the best bet for a big Snook. Try some top water action in the early morning, especially if it is a low incoming tide. There's nothing quite like a big Snook on top water to start the day! As the day heats up you will need to start fishing sub surface lures or jigs. Live bait is also a sure way to find the hungry fish. The incoming tide on the outside islands will be your best bet. There will still be some fish in the back country and the outgoing tide is usually the best back there.



If it's Tarpon you are after then May is a great choice. It will be much easier to spot these fish with lower winds. Look around the river mouths and offshore where the baits are running. Rolling fish will present you with a chance for a hook up. Large lipped lures or top water will produce but don't count out a jig. Of course bait will also produce action either live or dead.

Sea Trout are still active on the grass flats and a DOA under a popping cork is still working. A jig with the DOA shad tail is also producing action when fished slow enough to reach the grass.

Redfish are around in lesser numbers and a shrimp fished shallow under a cork is best. Fish tight to the shorelines on the incoming tide. Look for fish moving along as the tide rises along the oyster bars also. There are still some good Reds around as we just landed a couple of 28" fish and one 34" fish just a couple of days ago. Cut bait on the bottom can get the big one.

Offshore fishing should also become a little easier. Permit, Cobia, Goliath Grouper and even big Snook can be caught on the wrecks. At least it will be more pleasant to do this type of fishing this month. Just be aware of the afternoon storms that should be starting up soon!

Plan your day according to the weather and heat as summer starts. Have a great month of fishing!

## PARK NEWS

### Tourism to South Florida National Parks creates \$313.2 Million in Economic Benefits

*Report shows visitor spending supports 3,100 jobs in local economy*

Ochopee – A new National Park Service (NPS) report shows that 2.6 million visitors to South Florida National Parks spent \$216.7 million in communities near the park. That spending supported 3,100 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$313,258,300.

The South Florida area enjoys four National Park Service (NPS) units to tell the story of our shared heritage and critical natural resources. Everglades National Park, Biscayne National Park, Dry Tortugas National Park, and Big Cypress National Preserve offer recreation, shared cultural resources, a chance to be humbled by nature's scenic beauty.

In 2016, 1,102,147 visitors to Big Cypress National Preserve spent \$88,049,800 in communities near the park. That spending supported 1,255 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$126,017,400. Everglades National Park's 930,907 visitors spent \$91,321,400 while supporting 1,330 jobs for a cumulative impact of \$136,391,800. Dry Tortugas National Park's 73,661 visitors spent \$4,410,000 while supporting 54 jobs for a cumulative impact of \$4,869,200. Biscayne National Park's 514,709 visitors spent \$33,004,100 while supporting 461 jobs for a cumulative impact of \$45,979,900.

"Big Cypress National Preserve welcomes visitors from across the country and around the world," said Superintendent Tamara Whittington. "We are delighted to share the story of this place and the experiences it provides. We also feature the preserve as a way to introduce our visitors to this part of the country and all that it offers." Everglades National Park Superintendent Pedro Ramos added, "National park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy, returning more than \$10 for every \$1 invested in the National Park Service, and it's a big factor in our local economy as well. We appreciate the partnership and support of our neighbors and are glad to be able to give back by helping to sustain local communities."

The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis was conducted by economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas of the U.S. Geological Survey and Lynne Koontz of the National Park Service. The report shows \$18.4 billion of direct spending by 331 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported 318,000 jobs nationally; 271,544 of those jobs are found in these gateway communities. The cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy was \$ 34.9 billion.

According to the 2016 report, most park visitor spending was for lodging (31.2 percent) followed by food and beverages (27.2 percent), gas and oil (11.7 percent), admissions and fees (10.2 percent), souvenirs and other expenses (9.7 percent), local transportation (7.4 percent), and camping fees (2.5%).

### WINK News Reports Two Tourists Spot Python Near Everglades City

According to a report on WINK News, two tourists spotted a large python along side SR 29 just north of Everglades City. The two got out of the car and attempted to grab the snake! The FWC asks anyone who comes into contact with or spots a python to contact them to report the location. However, they do not want you to touch or attempt to grab the snakes...please! Report your sighting to: 888-IVE-GOT1 (888- 483-4681).

## LOCAL NEWS

### Snook Closed in Gulf state and Federal Waters



Snook closed to all harvest in Gulf state, federal and inland waters, including all of Monroe County and Everglades National Park, as of May 1st. Seasonal harvest closures are designed to conserve Florida's valuable snook populations and help sustain and improve the fishery for the future.

Snook is open to harvest in Atlantic state, federal and inland waters, including Lake Okeechobee and the Kissimmee River, through May 31, closing June 1.

Both the Atlantic and Gulf will reopen for recreational snook harvest on September 1st.

Snook are one of the many reasons Florida is the Fishing Capital of the World. While snook may be caught and released during the closed season, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) encourages anglers to handle their catch carefully to help the fish survive upon release. Proper handling methods can help ensure the species' abundance for anglers today and generations to come. To learn more about fish handling, visit [MyFWC.com/Fishing](http://MyFWC.com/Fishing) and click on "Saltwater Fishing," "Recreational Regulations" and "Fish Handling."

Anglers can report their catch on the Snook & Gamefish Foundation's website at [SnookFoundation.org](http://SnookFoundation.org) by clicking on the "Angler Action Program" link in the bar at the top of the page. To get a copy of all current fishing regulations visit: [MyFWC.com/Fishing](http://MyFWC.com/Fishing) by clicking on "Saltwater Fishing" and "Recreational Regulations."

### Collier County Looking for Additional Advisory Committee Members

The Collier County Board of County Commissioners is seeking applications for positions on several advisory committees. Some with ties to the Everglades City area are:

**The Ochopee Fire Control District Advisory Committee** has a vacancy for a **representative from Everglades City** (applicants must be recommended by the Mayor of Everglades City). This five-member committee advises the Board of County Commissioners on the budget and operation of the Ochopee Fire Control District. Terms are two years.

**The Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Advisory Committee** has two vacancies. This committee's primary responsibility is to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners an active properties acquisition list with qualified purchase recommendations of environmentally sensitive lands consistent with the goals of the Conservation Collier Land Acquisition Program. Membership of the committee shall comprise broad and balanced representation including environmental and conservation interests, agricultural and business interests, educational interests, and general civic and citizen interests within the County. Members shall have expertise, knowledge or interest in ecology, conservation of natural resources, real estate or land acquisition, land appraisal, land management, eco-tourism or environmental education. Terms are three years.

To apply for an advisory committee vacancy, submit an application online at [Advisory Committee Application](http://AdvisoryCommitteeApplication). Residents may also receive a hard copy application by visiting [colliergov.net](http://colliergov.net) or by calling Wanda Rodriguez at (239) 252-8400. Please forward your completed hard copy application to the attention of Wanda Rodriguez, County Attorney's Office, 3299 Tamiami Trail E., Suite 800, Naples, Florida 34112-5746.





EATERIES & 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):**

9:00 am – 6:00 pm; daily

Supper Upstairs is closed  
until next season

**Glades Haven Deli (695-2091):**

6:00 am - 6:00 pm Sun-Thurs

6:00 am–9:00 pm; Fri & Sat

**Havana Café (695-2214):**

Closed for 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):**

Open Daily:

10:30 am–5 pm

**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

**1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church of Everglades City**

9:45 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship

6 pm Sunday, 7 pm Wed. Bible Study

**Holy Family Catholic Church**

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

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
5/7	Sun	1:23 AM	2.4	H
5/7	Sun	8:15 AM	0.3	L
5/7	Sun	1:27 PM	2.7	H
5/7	Sun	8:51 PM	0.2	L
5/8	Mon	2:07 AM	2.4	H
5/8	Mon	8:57 AM	0.4	L
5/8	Mon	1:54 PM	2.8	H
5/8	Mon	9:32 PM	0	L
5/9	Tue	2:44 AM	2.4	H
5/9	Tue	9:36 AM	0.5	L
5/9	Tue	2:20 PM	2.9	H
5/9	Tue	10:09 PM	0	L
5/10	Wed	3:19 AM	2.4	H
5/10	Wed	10:11 AM	0.6	L
5/10	Wed	2:47 PM	2.9	H
5/10	Wed	10:46 PM	-0.1	L
5/11	Thu	3:56 AM	2.4	H
5/11	Thu	10:45 AM	0.6	L
5/11	Thu	3:13 PM	3	H
5/11	Thu	11:22 PM	-0.2	L
5/12	Fri	4:35 AM	2.4	H
5/12	Fri	11:15 AM	0.7	L
5/12	Fri	3:38 PM	2.9	H
5/12	Fri	11:58 PM	-0.2	L
5/13	Sat	5:19 AM	2.3	H
5/13	Sat	11:44 AM	0.8	L
5/13	Sat	4:03 PM	2.9	H
5/14	Sun	12:36 AM	-0.1	L
5/14	Sun	6:09 AM	2.3	H
5/14	Sun	12:11 PM	0.8	L
5/14	Sun	4:29 PM	2.8	H
5/15	Mon	1:17 AM	-0.1	L
5/15	Mon	7:04 AM	2.2	H
5/15	Mon	12:41 PM	0.9	L
5/15	Mon	5:01 PM	2.7	H
5/16	Tue	2:02 AM	0	L
5/16	Tue	8:00 AM	2.2	H
5/16	Tue	1:22 PM	0.9	L
5/16	Tue	5:44 PM	2.5	H
5/17	Wed	2:55 AM	0.1	L
5/17	Wed	8:58 AM	2.2	H
5/17	Wed	2:39 PM	1	L
5/17	Wed	6:48 PM	2.4	H
5/18	Thu	3:54 AM	0.1	L
5/18	Thu	9:54 AM	2.3	H
5/18	Thu	4:22 PM	0.9	L
5/18	Thu	8:36 PM	2.3	H
5/19	Fri	4:55 AM	0.2	L
5/19	Fri	10:46 AM	2.4	H
5/19	Fri	5:37 PM	0.8	L
5/19	Fri	10:15 PM	2.2	H
5/20	Sat	5:51 AM	0.2	L
5/20	Sat	11:33 AM	2.5	H

**Coping with Loss on Mother's & Father's Day**

(excerpts from agingcare.com)

Mother's and Father's Day can be an emotional holiday for those who have lost their mothers and/or fathers. When dealing with a recent loss, the pervasive messages of the Day can be a bit overwhelming. If more time has passed, these holidays may inspire you to do something special to honor the memory of the parent who will always remain in your heart.

Regardless of the amount of time that has passed, there are several ways that you can remember your loved one on that special day:

**Set a Place**

On Mother's or Father's Day, set an extra place at the dinner table for them. You might include their photograph at the place setting as well. Keeping her seat at the table can help you feel as though they are still included in the family meal.

**Bring Flowers**

Bringing flowers to your mother's or father's gravesite is a lovely way to pay tribute to them.

**Visit Another**

Mother's or Father's Day can feel lonely if you can't visit or call your own parent. Consider visiting a senior in a nursing home or senior center who might not otherwise have any visitors on the Day.

**Donate Your Time**

They say charity begins at home, and many moms leave a legacy of giving. Keep their legacy alive by volunteering with a meaningful local organization on Mother's and Father's Day.

Missing them on Mother's and Father's Day is natural. However you decide to spend the day, experts agree that it's most important for you to listen to your heart and allow yourself to do as much or as little as you are able to do.



**EVERGLADES COMMUNITY CHURCH**

*The Friendly Church on the Circle*

**Non-Denominational**

101 South Copeland Avenue

P.O. Box 177, Everglades City, FL 34139

(239) 695-4787

The Rev. Dr. Bob N. Wallace, Pastor

Sunday Worship Service 11:00 A.M.

Sunday School October – April, 9:45 A.M.

www.ever-community-church.com

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: One bdrm apt available for rent in The Glades Building, corner of Broadway & Allen. Monthly, seasonal & yearly rates. Call : 239-302-8125 (cell) or 239-293-3033.

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 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

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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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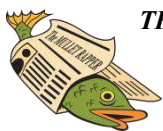
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