



# The MULLET RAPPER

TIDE TABLE &  
RESTAURANTS  
PAGE 11

## What's Happening in the Everglades JULY 29 – AUGUST 11, 2017

ONLY  
25¢

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P O Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume X • Issue #294

### Clyde Butcher Doing Better News from Niki Butcher's Blog

Since Clyde Butcher's stroke in May he has not been able to venture into nature as he usually would. He is working hard to fully recover and is walking again with the aid of a walker; a special one Niki refers to as the "off road walker". Clyde is photographing again with his digital Sony camera. It is smaller and more manageable for him at this stage of his recovery and it gets him back to doing what he loves to do.

Clyde is working on regaining his balance and the complete use of both hands so that daily tasks and things like using a computer mouse are easier for him. Because everything he does requires more concentration now, it is quite tiring.



However, Clyde is a trooper and he is 100% devoted to a complete recovery so he does his exercises and one hour a day in the pool. And as Niki puts it, she is benefiting from the extra exercise too so they are actually "enjoying" doing these things together. We wish Clyde a complete and speedy recovery and are pleased he is making such great progress!

Above: Clyde & Niki enjoy the pool together

### ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS...*THE EVERGLADES ECHO* Reba "Rusty" Wells Rupsis Brought Back the Town Newspaper

The first newspaper in Everglades City was the *Collier County News* first published on July 25, 1923 by The Barron Collier Corporation. The first editor of the paper was Daniel W. McLeod, an area abstractor, the county's first tax accessor, and the Mayor of Everglades City for over 30 years.

When the county seat moved to Naples in 1962, the paper went with it, and was soon renamed the *Naples Daily News*. Everglades City became a city without its own newspaper until 1979 when Reba "Rusty" Wells Rupsis published her first edition of *The Everglades Echo*.



Reba was the sole proprietor, editor, publisher, reporter, photographer, and as she would say, "even the janitor" for the paper.

For nine years, she published *The Echo* writing stories on area news, births, weddings, deaths and more, growing the paper to a full eight pages.

Back in the 1970's & 80's, the only way to publish such a paper was to send columns, ads and any other content to a typesetter, and then to painstakingly "paste it up" to boards (see photo, left).

When I first started my career in advertising, this was the way it was done too. Fortunately, I was more on the tail end of this method and word processing, fax machines and computers eventually made this practice obsolete by the mid-1990's.

Needless to say, the amount of time and patience it would take a single person to do all of this work, about 8 times the work it is today, is incredible. This is probably why Reba sold the paper after nine years to Tuff's Publishing, and published her last edition in September of 1988. The grind of the paper wore her out.

Reba "Rusty" Wells Rupsis was born in Albany Kentucky and in between there and Everglades City she lived in Nevada, California, Clewiston, and Labelle (both in Florida). When she came to Everglades City, the small town suited her just fine. She loved the idea of starting her own business outside of the work she did with her husband. She enjoyed being the publisher of town's paper, but was equally happy to sell it to the Tuff's at the age of 74.

The Tuff's published *The Echo* for several years before discontinuing it themselves, but soon after, Patty Huff picked up where Reba left off and started her own version, Snook Publication's, *What's Happening in the Everglades Area*. The name was eventually changed to the *Mullet Rapper*, and is the name we still use today. Patty served as editor and publisher for fifteen years before passing the torch on to me in April of 2016.

Today, I have the great fortune of having a lightning fast laptop computer, great software (Microsoft Publisher) and Google... and several others who help on a regular basis (see contributors on page 12). Gone are the days of trudging to the library, developing film and rotary phones. Today, you simply "Google it" and the information you are most likely looking for (like this bit of history on Reba) is magically on your screen. Of course, it does take many hours of dedication and work, but the process is much more streamlined thanks to these technological advancements.

It is with great pride that I am able to carry on a tradition that was re-started almost 30 years ago by a 65 year old woman with passion, drive and a vision. Hopefully, there will be someone else ready to take over when I am ready to pass the torch the same way the Tuff's were for Reba and I was for Patty Huff.

Thank you, Reba "Rusty" Wells Rupsis for having the drive and willingness to fill a void that was created when the county seat and town newspaper moved to Naples many years ago. Reba passed away in 2002 at the age of 88, but her legacy lives on in the pages of today's *Mullet Rapper*.

*Thank you Rusty!*

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



**JULY 30 – SEPTEMBER 2, 2017**



<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
30	31 Hr. of Prayer Copeland Baptist ,7 pm VBS, see p.3	AUG 1 City Council, 5:30 VBS, see p.3	2 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am VBS, see p.3	3 VBS, see p.3	4 No Sales Tax, see p. 5 VBS, see p.3	5 No Sales Tax, see p. 5
6 No Sales Tax, see p. 5	7 Hr. of Prayer Chok. Church Of God ,7 pm	8	9 full moon ☉ Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am	10	11 Meteor Shower, See p. 10	AUG 12 RAPPER Meteor Shower, See p. 10
13 Meteor Shower, See p. 10	14 Hr. of Prayer Holy Fam. Catholic Church, 7 pm	15	16 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am School Opens	17	18	19
20	21 Hr. of Prayer Evg Comm. Church, 7 pm Solar Eclipse, see p. 10	22	23 new moon ● Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am	24	25	AUG 26 RAPPER
27	28 Hr. of Prayer Copeland Baptist ,7 pm	29	30 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am	31	SEPT 1  OPEN! See p. 3	2

September 4: Labor Day  
September 10: Everglades Bike Ride

September 7: Mobile Dentist  
September 30: Blessing of the Fleet

September 9: Museum Reception  
October 15: Stone Crab Season Opens

THRIFT SHOP: Sat., 11 am–3 pm  
LIONS CLUB: Meetings resume in September  
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  
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  
VETERANS SUPPORT: 2nd & 4<sup>th</sup> Wed. of month, noon—2 pm  
COMMUNITY CHURCH FOOD PANTRY: Wednesday noon—2 pm  
SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily, 11 am to 5 pm  
PANCAKE FLY-IN: Closed for the summer

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: Tuesdays, 2 to 5 pm  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Mon–Thurs (9 am to 2 pm); Fri-Sat (9 am to 3 pm)  
COLLIER COUNTY: 239-252-8999

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Ochopee (239) 695-2099

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# What's Happening

In and Around Town



### VACATION BIBLE STUDY July 31 – August 4th 6:30 to 8:30 PM

The Chokoloskee Church of God is holding its annual Vacation Bible School on evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. If you would like your child to attend or if you need more information, please contact Hazel at 239-695-4566.

### SNOOK SEASON SET TO OPEN SEPTEMBER 1st



The recreational harvest season for snook reopens September 1 in the Gulf of Mexico and adjacent federal waters, including Everglades National Park and Monroe County, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission reports. The season will remain open through November 30th

Anglers may keep one snook per day that is between 28 to 33 inches in length. The snook is measured from the most forward point of the head with the mouth closed to the farthest tip of the tail with the tail compressed or squeezed while the fish is lying on its side. A snook permit and a saltwater fishing license are required unless exempt from the license requirements. Only hook-and-line gear is allowed when targeting or harvesting snook, according to a news release. It is illegal to buy or sell snook.

### 2nd ANNUAL E-CITY ORCHID & PLANT SALE FUNDRAISER December 2, 9 am to 3 pm



The *Mullet Rapper* will host the 2nd Annual Everglades City Orchid & Plant Sale benefiting Everglades City School's athletic department on

Saturday, December 2nd. The event will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at McLeod Park. In addition to orchids and tropical plants, this years event will also feature art, crafts and gift items with a local flair.

Anyone who would like to volunteer for the event should contact the Mullet Rapper to sign up. Contact Kathy Brock for more information: at mulletrapper@gmail.com or by phone at 954-662-7003. *Thank you!*

### GOLIATH GROUPE WORKSHOPS COMING TO NAPLES, OCTOBER 18TH



The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) needs your input on goliath grouper management, including the possibility of a limited harvest in Florida state waters.

The FWC is hosting several goliath grouper public workshops throughout the state in August and October. Share your input and learn more about the current status of goliath grouper by attending one of these workshops. Additional details and updates to these meetings will be posted at MyFWC.com/ Fishing (click on "Saltwater Fishing," "Rulemaking" and "Workshops.").

You can attend in person: Naples, Collier County Public Library - South Regional, 8065 Lely Cultural Parkway. For more information, contact: Amanda.Nalley@MyFWC.com.

## 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

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

### THRIFT SHOP

#### Open 1 Day A Week



Open 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!

### FREE DENTAL SCREENINGS ALL AGES- SEPT. 7



The *Ronald McDonald Caremobile Dental Bus* will be in Everglades City on September 7th

from 9 am to 2 pm, in the Fire Station parking lot, providing free dental health screenings. You can also schedule an appointment for cleanings, fillings, extractions and x-rays. For more information or to make an appointment call 239-658-3013.



### A MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF KINGMAN SCHULDT

With summer fun in full swing, it is a great time to reinforce water safety/drowning prevention for the children. It's silent, happens quickly and is 100% preventable: did you know that Florida has the highest overall unintentional drowning death rate for 1-4 year old's, three times the national average. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission shows there were 346 reported fatal child drownings in pools and spas in 2014 involving children younger than 15. Of the 346 reported fatal child drownings in 2014, 252 involved children younger than 5. By no means has Collier County been spared this preventable tragedy. According to the Bureau of Vital Statistics, drowning is the leading cause of death of children ages one to four in Collier County.

The NCH Safe & Healthy Children's Coalition recognizes that multiple layers of protection are necessary to prevent drowning. The Coalition stresses that NO single device or solution can prevent child drownings. Parents, caregivers, aquatic facility owners, managers and operators should use "layers of protection" to provide a system of increased security to prevent unauthorized access to bodies of water, especially important for children. This means that multiple strategies or devices are used constantly and simultaneously.

Layers include various types of barriers, including supervision, fences, pool covers, alarms, education, and more. Some layers aid in preventing access to the water, such as fences or pool safety covers. Other types of layers, such as alarms, will alert adults immediately if the barriers have been crossed. And finally, some layers are intended to minimize injury should a child gain access to the water, such as swim instruction, proper rescue techniques, and knowing CPR.

The Coalition asks the community to share the following four messages to help prevent the loss of another child!

- >Supervise – Never take your eyes off children in and around water.
- >Use Barriers – Fences, self-closing/self-latching gates and secured doors with alarms can prevent young children from wandering into the pool. Check for broken or missing drain covers.
- >Learn to Swim – To stay safer in the water, all family members should learn to swim well.
- >Know How to Respond – Get training in basic water rescue skills, first aid and CPR. Have rescue equipment and a phone by the pool.


For additional information on prevention visit :<http://www.safehealthychildren.org>.



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Visit the Everglades City Museum Located at:  
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7/15/17 Puzzle Solution

1	S		2	C		3	C	4	R	5	O	6	W	7	D
8	B	U	9	S	H			10	O	N	A	I	R		
11	R	E	P	E	R	T	O	I	R	E					
12	I	D	E	A				13	M	O	N	T	H		
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**Small Town Taylor**  
by Taylor Mayberry

I was recently out of America! I was in the Cayman Islands. I was there for a week with my mom, sister, dad and me. We got to go to the Turtle Center, Stingray City, and a place called Hell.

The place called Hell in the grand Cayman is a place where there is a bunch of limestone that has been sitting in hot salt water for a long time and the rocks are tall, dark, and scary. At the turtle farm, I got to swim with turtles in a lagoon. I touched like 100 and even got to hold some baby turtles in a wading pool.



I also learned a very good fact about baby sea turtles. Did you know it takes 10 days for a baby sea turtle to crawl out of the sand on to the shore after it hatches? Then we went to a big shark tank and watched them eat! One was stubborn and wouldn't eat.

We went on a big boat out to Stingray City with a funny man named Captain Mario and I got to hold and kiss a stingray! We also had some days where we sat at the beach and swam all day! The water was very clear so

my whole family was looking for shells. We found a very pretty one but we couldn't keep it because it was a Queen Conch and there was a living animal inside.

I had lots of fun in the Cayman Islands with my family. It was one of the best trips of my life.

Taylor Mayberry is 11 years old and attends Everglades City School



**A Message from the Principal**  
by James Ragusa

**Summer News!** Students are in the midst of enjoying their summer break but it is still busy on campus with projects to improve our facility. New HVAC systems are being installed in five buildings across our campus along with other renovations to our athletic training room have been ongoing since the week after students left in June.

The first day of school is quickly approaching as we look forward to the return of students on Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. Teachers return one week earlier to prepare for the year ahead. Students and families will be able to pick up their schedules and meet their teachers on August 11<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. We have a few new members on our staff and I will share more information about the great additions to our team in the next issue.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize our cheerleaders and their sponsor, Becca Finer, for their participation in this year's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration! A special thanks goes out to Ms. Finer and the cheerleaders for being such excellent representatives of the school and sharing their pride in our country.

We will have a number of parent openings on our School Advisory Council (SAC) this year. Please call the school (239-377-9800) if you have a desire to be on the ballot and serve as a member of the SAC. This is a great opportunity to support our school and students and we encourage all parents to participate. Have a great summer recess!

**IT IS ALWAYS A GREAT DAY TO BE A GATOR!**  
~Jim Ragusa



**DATES TO MARK DOWN FOR THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR**

- August 11: 4:00—6:00 PM—Meet & Greet the Teachers, Pick Up Schedules
- August 16: First Day of School
- September 4: Labor Day, No School
- September 20: Early Dismissal Day
- September 21: Rosh Hashana, No School
- October 16 & 17: No School for Students
- October 20: Report Cards!
- November 22, 23, 24: Fall Break, No School (Thanksgiving)
- December 20, 21: Early Dismissal, Testing Days
- December 22-29: Winter Break



**Don't Forget!**  
Florida Back to School Sales Tax Relief Weekend is August 4th—6th  
No sales tax on school supplies, clothes, shoes and more. To learn more visit:  
[www.TaxFreeWeekend.com](http://www.TaxFreeWeekend.com)


ATTENTION READERS!

Beginning with the September 9th issue, 100% of the proceeds from the sales of the print edition of the Mullet Rapper, sold in all Everglades City and Chokoloskee locations, will be donated to the Everglades City School athletic department. We look forward to this and many other future partnerships and events to help our school and our community.

~The Mullet Rapper~



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**My Little Slice of Paradise**

By Kathy Brock

*“What the heck is that?”*

“What the heck is that?” That is typically the remark when you see one of these beetles for the first time. That was my comment the first time I saw one in Everglades City. The scientific name is *Pyrophorus*, but they are more commonly called “headlight beetles” or “fire beetles.”

Fire beetles are technically in the same family as fireflies and they are a type of click beetle. They have 3 points of bioluminescence; two that look like eyes (but they are not) and another on the underside of their abdomen that is visible only when they are in flight.

Their bioluminescence is different from the firefly because they remain glowing constantly, whereas a firefly will flash. They can also intensify their “glow” when threatened or touched by a predator, something that a firefly cannot do.

The *Pyrophorus* is found throughout subtropical America and in Texas and Florida, so we do have them in Everglades City. The adult beetles will feed on plant material, fruit, pollen and sometimes small insects, such as aphids or scale (Great, I need more of them at my house!).

The eggs and larvae of the *Pyrophorus* are also bioluminescent. The female *Pyrophorus* will deposit her eggs in or on the soil. The larvae is believed to grow very slowly and pupate after an uncertain amount of time... perhaps several years after hatching. This is a fact that is not confirmed. The larvae will feed on other insects, plant material and the larvae of other beetles.

It is in the summertime that you will see the greenish-glowing beetles in our area. It is believed the “glow” helps attract other insects at night that the beetles will feed upon. The first time I saw one it was walking on one of our sidewalks...we took a video we were so amazed by how bright the glow was. Since then, I have seen them (several at a time) in areca palms, shrubs and on the ground.



The greenish glow is hard to miss it looks like something you would expect to see in a science fiction movie.

From everything I have read, they are harmless to humans (and pets) and only a threat to the other bugs that they eat. They are one of the many living things you will find in our little 10,000 islands paradise.

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**Recipes for Good Eating**

by Kathy Brock  
*Stuffed Zucchini*

**Ingredients:**

- 1 pound Italian sausage
- 4 medium to large zucchini
- 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 cup Italian bread crumbs
- 1– 32 ounce jar of spaghetti sauce
- 1/2 cup parmesan cheese
- 1 clove garlic diced

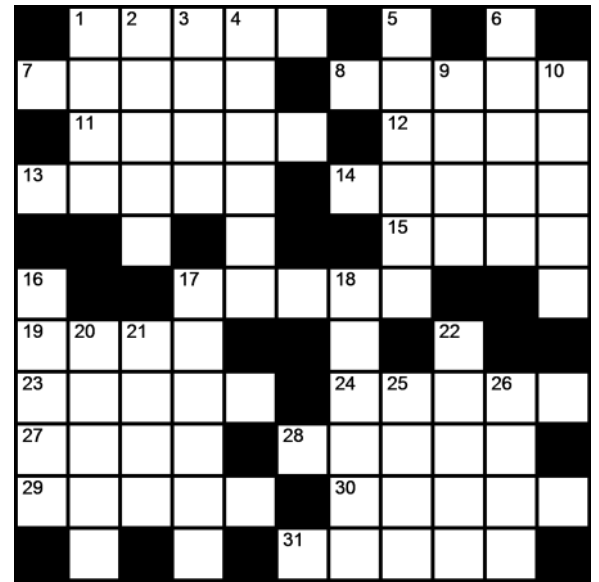


**Preheat oven to 350°**

**Directions:** Cut each zucchini in half and scoop out the seeds with a spoon or melon baller to make a depression in each. Put the seeds in a bowl. De-skin the Italian sausage and put into the bowl with the zucchini. Add the bread crumbs, diced garlic and parmesan cheese and blend together with a fork (or with your hands if that is easier). Scoop a generous amount into each zucchini boat. Pour some of the spaghetti sauce over each zucchini, cover with foil and bake for 40 minutes until the zucchini are tender and sausage mix is well done. Top with mozzarella cheese and put back into the oven for 10 minutes uncovered until the cheese is melted. If you like the cheese browned, you can use the broiler but keep an eye on it so they do not burn. This can be served as the main course or as a delicious side dish. Enjoy!



**MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD**



7/29/17

**Across**

- 1. Many were flying July 4th
- 7. Spanish wine
- 8. Appraise
- 11. Frightening
- 12. Squirrels have a bushy one
- 13. Surly person
- 14. Generators make it
- 15. To (Archaic)
- 17. Theatrical performer
- 19. Contributes
- 23. Get to
- 24. Emotional episode
- 27. Make weary
- 28. Time off
- 29. Fragrance
- 30. Lands
- 31. Group of ships

**Down**

- 1. What people do in Everglades City
- 2. Clergyman's replacement
- 3. Slightly open
- 4. Strongly pungent bulb
- 5. French wine chateau
- 6. Like a library
- 9. Something you mow
- 10. One of the Blues Bros.

**Down Continued**

- 16. They were decorated in E-City parade
- 17. Raise up
- 18. Trying experience
- 20. They often do this to planes in winter
- 21. Challenge
- 22. Former GB Packer quarterback







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

It's Hot! So, whether your fishing artificial or bait, it's better early and late.

Of course, the tide is still going to be your biggest factor besides the heat. Knowing this you can still catch fish in the heat of the day. When the water is moving it will spark a feed as the bait moves. Redfish are spread out throughout the islands and there are a lot of 18-23" fish being caught.

If you're using bait then shrimp or small live baits are best. If you're using artificials then scented jigs are best when fished slow. Snook fishing in the islands can be tough when it gets this hot. The bite can be a very short window on these days but the better the tide the longer the window. Top water lures can bring some big strikes in the early morning. Jigs and sub surface lures will produce after this.



Fishing with live bait should not be a problem as there are Threadfin Herring and Finger Mullet everywhere. Free lined, under a cork, or with a knocker rig will depend on several factors such as water

depth, current and structure. Sometimes just changing the way you hook the bait so it swims differently can make a difference.

This is also true in lure action. When Snook fishing changing lures and actions is always a good idea if things get slow. The Snook seem to be holding tight to the shorelines as they gorge on the finger mullet, so accurate casting will be a big help. As the month progresses things should really heat up as far as the Redfish bite goes. These guys will be spread out everywhere. Of course, there are other fish around but these guys will really steal the show this month. So, get in on the action! Good luck fishing this month.

~Capt. Mike Merritt

**Fishing Regulations Snapshot  
Southwest Gulf Coast\***

**Cobia:** 33" at fork, 1/day/license. 6/vessel/day max

**Drum, Black:** 14-24" slot, 5/day/license 1 over 24" permitted per day

**Drum, Red:** 18-27" slot, 1/day/license

**Flounder:** 12", 10/day/license

**Grouper, Black:** 24" min., 4/day/license

**Grouper, Gag:** 24" min., 2/day/license (open June-Dec.)

**Grouper, Red:** 20" min., 2/day/license

**NOTE: 4 of any/combo grouper/day/license limit**

**Mangrove Snapper:** 10" min., 5/day/license

**Florida Pompano:** 11" at fork

**Seatrout:** 15-20" slot, 4/day/license. 1 over 20" permitted per day/vessel

**Snook:** Season closed until Sept. 1

**\*Please refer to the official regulations for your guidance at: <http://myfwc.com/media/4219696/QuickChart.pdf>**

**Diver Encounters Whale Shark off Coast of Marco Island  
by the Abandoned Air Force "L" Radio Tower**

By Kathy Brock

Last weekend (July 23) a lucky scuba diver off of the "L" Tower off the coast of Marco Island encountered a whale shark and was able to swim for about 20 minutes with plankton-eating behemoth. The shark was swimming around the abandoned Air Force Radio Tower and then eventually headed out to deeper waters.

While it swam about, dozens of other fish including amberjack and cobia, swam with him as if they knew he was no threat to them. Captain Bill D'Antuono was that lucky diver that day, and he said it was an experience of a lifetime...and happened just in time for Shark Week!

Whale sharks are the largest living non-cetacean (marine mammal) on the planet. The size of a whale shark can be up to 42 feet and over 47,000 pounds. There are reports of even larger whale sharks up to 59 feet long and well over 100,000 pounds, but these are unconfirmed sightings. Regardless, these are massive, gentle creatures that eat the smallest of prey.



Whale sharks have a mouth that is up to 5 foot wide and contains over 300 rows of tiny teeth and 10 "filter pads" they use for filter feeding (teeth shown left).

The whale shark is striking. Its slate grey body is spotted with light yellow spots and stripes that are unique to each individual. They are a spectacular sight to see.

Whale sharks feed on things like plankton, krill, fish eggs, crab larvae, small fish and squid. They thrust forward with their mouth open to force mass volumes of water in, then close the mouth to expel the water out through the gills. The 10 filter pads separate the water from the food in a type of cross-flow filtration that is extremely efficient and helps the animal obtain the vast amounts of nutrients it needs to maintain such a large body mass.

In the warm summer months (like now), it is more common for a whale shark



to travel closer to shore to feed. Sightings are considered very rare so Capt. Bill D'Antuono was very fortunate to be in the right place at the right time. More commonly, whale sharks are in the deeper waters of tropical seas.

It is estimated that whale sharks live to be about 70 years old and that they must reach the age of 30 to breed. A female that was caught (harpooned) off of China in 2007 was carrying over 300 pups. At birth, pups will be about 24 inches long with a lot of growing to do in their future.

Whale sharks are known to migrate and it is believed that they may do this for mating purposes. In the Yucatan in 2011, over 400 individuals congregated off the coast. This type of aggregation is most likely to occur between the months of May and August and is quite a spectacle to see.

Even though these animals are considered harmless to humans or at least not intending to harm humans, they are so incredibly large seeing one would have to take your breath away. Last year one was sighted on the east coast of Florida so more sightings are possible in southern Florida for sure.

There is a video online of the diver's encounter with the whale shark. Google "Diver captures whale shark swimming off the coast of Marco" to see the great video of this diver's experience.





## Living Gulf Coast

by Charles Sobczak

**Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake** (*Crotalus adamanteus*) **VENOMOUS!** Other names: rattler, rattlesnake, diamondback, water rattler / Status: FL = declining, IUCN = LC / Length: 3.5-7 ft (1-2.1 m) / Weight: 10-24 lb (4.5-10.8 kg) / Life span: to 20 years /

Nests: oviviparous, giving live birth to 7-21 baby snakes in the summer or early fall / Found: AC, near coast, mainland / Months found: **JFMamjasonD** (Rattlesnakes breed during the lower case months).

The largest rattlesnake in the world, this venomous pit viper is still common throughout Southwest Florida. Once found in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South and North Carolina, this snake has been relentlessly persecuted and hunted to extirpation throughout much of its historical range. Today it is reduced to remnant populations in southern Georgia, most of Florida, and parts of southern Alabama.

One reason for the decline of the diamondback throughout the Southeast is development. The rattlesnake prefers upland habitats such as longleaf and slash pine forests. These same habitats are coveted by developers since their dry, sandy soils can readily be turned into strip malls and subdivisions. As a result, the eastern diamondback rattlesnake is fast approaching threatened status because of the continued encroachment on its range.

Another cause of the snake's declining numbers is the popularity of commercial rattlesnake roundups in which patches of saw palmetto are burned to drive the rattlers out from their cover so they can be killed. Another method used in these roundups is to pour gasoline into gopher tortoise burrows (a popular den for diamondbacks and indigo snakes) killing the tortoises and dozens of other species that frequent these excavations. After such a roundup, the rattlesnakes are eaten and the hides sold for the production of snakeskin purses and boots. In a paper published in 2008 by the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, thousands of scientists united in strongly opposing these cruel and environmentally harmful roundups. Florida banned these destructive round ups years ago, but the practice is still common in Georgia and Texas.



Another disturbing by-product of roundups affects natural selection. The eastern diamondback has large, loud rattles located at the end of its tail that it uses to warn potential predators when they get within 18 to 25 feet of the animal. Rattlesnake hunters use this behavior to locate the snakes they kill. Over time only the snakes that *do not rattle* or *have little to no rattle* survive. This results in a form of unintentional selective breeding, allowing the silent snakes to survive and pass on that genetic tendency, leading to a population with no means of warning its predators (or humans) of an impending attack.

The eastern diamondback rattlesnake is a lethal adversary, and any encounter with one of these large snakes in the wild should be taken seriously. A mature snake has up to one-inch fangs that can readily penetrate clothing, shoes, and leather boots. A lethal dose of the venom has been estimated at between 100-150 mg (i.e. less than an aspirin); an adult snake averages three to five times that amount (400-850 mg). The bite is extremely painful and highly necrotizing. Untreated, death can occur within hours.

**Dusky Pigmy Rattlesnake** (*Sistrurus miliarius barbouri*) **VENOMOUS!** Other names: ground rattlesnake, pigmy rattler, hog-nosed rattler / Status: FL = stable, IUCN = LC / Length: 18-30 in. (45-76 cm) / Weight: 5-6.5 oz (141-185 g) / Life span: to 20 years / Reproduces: live birth of 5-7 baby snakes, generally born in the spring / Found: All Counties, coastal, near coast, inland / Months found: **JFMAMJJASOND**.



The smallest venomous snake found in Florida, the pigmy rattlesnake's bite is seldom fatal. The record length for this diminutive rattler is a mere 30 inches, more than a foot shorter than the average length of a mature coral snake. Because of its size, this pit viper delivers roughly 18 mg of venom, which, while extremely painful to the victim, is only a tenth of the amount delivered by an eastern diamondback rattlesnake. A handful of people have lost digits to these bites, but deaths are extremely rare. The same readily available anti-venom serum used for the eastern diamondback is used to treat pigmy rattler bites.

The pigmy rattlesnake is carnivorous, foraging primarily on green and brown anoles, cotton mice, and insects. It tends to strike its prey quickly, then withdraw and wait out the effects of its toxin. While most small rodents succumb quickly, some reptiles can escape, only to die 10 to 15 minutes later. This small pit viper is a fairly common sighting at Myakka River State Park, especially along the road in the fall when the first cold snaps leave the snake seeking the warmth of the pavement. Because it is so small, the pigmy is taken by a host of predators, including kingsnakes, opossums, great blue herons, and owls.

**Charles Sobczak is a writer from Sanibel Island**  
Photos: Diamondback, Kenny Krysko, Pigmy Rattler, Charles Sobczak

### Snake Bite First Aid Procedure



- >Call 911 or seek medical attention.
- >Keep the snake bit victim calm, keeping them still and quiet. Restrict movement, and keep the affected area at or below heart level to reduce the flow of venom.
- >Remove any rings or constricting items and clothing as the affected area may swell.
- >Allow the bite to bleed freely for 15 – 30 seconds before cleansing.
- >Create a loose splint to help restrict movement of the area.
- >Evacuate the victim immediately by hiking to a car, a helicopter, or medical staff.
- >Monitor the person's vital signs — temperature, pulse, rate of breathing, and blood pressure — if possible. Watch for any signs of shock (sweating, clammy skin, or shallow breathing), since the fear of having been bitten is often more dangerous than the bite.
- >Attempt to identify the snake or, only if can be done safely, bring in the dead snake. Do not waste time hunting for the snake, and do not risk another bite if it is not easy to kill the snake. After it has been killed, a snake can still bite for up to an hour, so be careful while transporting it.

## Local & Area News

### Star Trekker Report by Chris Herlovich

#### Look Up! The Perseid Meteor Shower Should be Amazing This Year! (August 11<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>)

No matter where you live worldwide, the 2017 Perseid meteor shower will probably produce the greatest number of meteors on the mornings of August 11, 12 and 13. In a dark, moonless sky, this shower often produces 50 or more meteors per hour. But this year, in 2017, we'll have to contend with the glaring light of a bright waning gibbous moon, which rises at mid-evening.

In Southwest Florida, the moonrise on August 11-13 is 10:13 pm, and later so we will have a good dark sky for a couple of hours. But a good number of these Perseid meteors are bright, so you should be able to see some Perseids, even with the moonlit glare. **The Everglades area is an official "Dark Sky" location** so viewing here could be excellent...IF we get some nice, cloudless nights! Enjoy!

#### Don't Look Up at The Eclipse! Here's Why (Monday August 21<sup>st</sup>)

The Solar Eclipse of 2017 is generating much excitement because it is a total eclipse meaning in the correct geographic location, the skies will go totally dark (mid-day) as the sun passes behind the Earth's shadow. In the Everglades area, it will not be a total eclipse, but 82% of the sun will be in the Earth's shadow. When an eclipse passes, you should never look directly into the sun.

Looking at the sun during an eclipse is more dangerous than looking at full sun because the darkness that accompanies an eclipse can override the natural tendency to squint and avert the eyes, increasing the amount of ultraviolet radiation landing on the retina and making it more likely that you'll sustain eye damage. Your eyes can sustain damage even if only a small sliver of the sun is visible. The cornea focuses sunlight on the retina and scorches it, and because the retina has no pain receptors, you don't know the damage has been done until it's too late.

### Spotted Seatrout Workshops Scheduled in Early August; FWC Needs Your Input



The FWC is hosting spotted seatrout public workshops throughout the state in late July and early August. Learn more about the current status of spotted seatrout and share your input on management of this fishery by attending one of these workshops.

Workshops will be from 6 to 8 p.m. local time. Here is the location of the workshop closest to the Everglades City area: **Aug. 3: Naples, South Regional Library, 8065 Lely Cultural Parkway.** If you cannot attend an in-person meeting, submit comments online by visiting [MyFWC.com/SaltwaterComments](http://MyFWC.com/SaltwaterComments).

## Obituaries / Death Notices

### Phyllis Hamilton Brown 1939 – 2017



**Phyllis Hamilton Brown**, beloved Wife of Harold "Jiggs" Brown. Loving Mother of Evelyn Brown, Penny Phillips and Joan Dudley Loving Mother-in-Law of James Phillips, III, Mema of Lola, Shana, Dylan, Shannon and Cole. Great Mema of Shauna, Savannah, Tyler, Aaliyah, Chole, Levi, Dylan, Jr, Jessica, Madison and Hayden. Sister of Trudy Raffield and Crystal Potter. Phyllis was preceded in death by one sister; Mary Nell Tabor and one grandson; Levi. A memorial service was held on July 18<sup>th</sup> at the Chokoloskee Church of God. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to the church in the memory of Phyllis Hamilton Brown.

### Ronald Joseph Gervais 1959 - 2017

**Ronald Joseph Gervais** passed away on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Ron is survived by his wife Tammy Gervais and beloved grandson Mason Brown of Naples, Mother Kathleen Coderre of Plainfield, CT, Brothers: Ken (Lori) Gervais of Cedar Park, TX, Larry (Terry) Gervais, Plainfield, CT, David (Jane) Gervais, Plainfield, CT, Allen (Rebecca) Gervais, Sterling, CT, Step daughters Deanna (Matt) Anderson, Everglades, FL, Dreann (Jason) Smallwood, Naples, FL, Danae Smallwood, New York, NY.

There are many grandchildren and many nephews and nieces that he loved dearly. In lieu of flowers the family requests that you make donations to Justin's Place Recovery Program in Naples, FL.

### Glenn (Bear) Greeman 1953-2017

**Glenn (Bear) Greeman** age 64, passed away on July 18, 2017 at the AVOW Hospice in Naples. He was born in San Diego, California and traveled the world with his family growing up being a military "brat". He joined the Navy himself, was a deep sea diver and requested to serve in Vietnam.

Glenn always lived by the ocean, it called to him. Whether in Louisiana on a shrimping boat, or out on an oil rig in the Gulf.

His second passion was riding his Harley, being loud and in the wind. Glenn was like an uncut diamond...rough on the outside, with many sparkling facets inside.

He is survived by his step-sister Millicent (Penny) Crane and brother-in-law Christopher Brandt of West Palm Beach, FL and his niece Emily Metz of Aurora, OH. He was preceded in death by his Father William Greeman (2013), Mother Susie Greeman (2002) and Step-Mother Hazel Greeman (2001). Memorial Service will be held on Saturday July 29, 2017 @ 11am at Everglades Community Church, Pastor Bob Wallace presiding. There will be food after the service, provided by the members of the church. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Everglades Community Church. **"Ride free brother...RIP"**

### Derrick Lamar Thompson 1954 - 2017



**Derrick Thompson, 63**, went home to be with Jesus on July 19, 2017.

He was living with his wife Merina at his mother Carolyn Thompson's home in Copeland, FL. Derrick was raised in Everglades City and graduated from Everglades City High School.

In 1974, he was in a near fatal car accident but made a remarkable recovery after years of surgeries and a strong will to live. Though he had numerous complications, he strived to live a productive life. He had a successful business in Naples called Gator Stripes for quite a few years.

Derrick is survived by his Canadian wife of 17 years, Merina; mother Carolyn Thompson and sister Jenny Thompson Houston (Loren "Bud") of Middlefield, Ohio and their children Jason, Ashlee and Tray and four grandsons.

Derrick was predeceased by his father Lamar Thompson, brothers Gary Sr. and Kim. His brother Gary had two children Gary Jr. and Trisia with nine children between them. His brother Kim had one daughter Tiffany.

Funeral and burial services will be Sunday, July 30, 2017 at Hodges Funeral Home at Naples Memorial Gardens 525 - 111 Ave NE, Naples FL 34108. Viewing at 10:00 and service at 11:00am. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to VITAS Healthcare 4980 Tamiami Trail North, Suite 102, Naples FL 34103.





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; Thurs-Sat  
12 noon - 5 pm Sunday

**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 - 4:00 pm Mon-Thurs  
6:00 am–8:00 pm; Fri, Sat, Sun

**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

**Sweet Mayberry's Café (695-0092):**

Closed until Further Notice

**Tastes of the Everglades (695-0075)**

Closed for the Summer

**Triad Seafood & Café (695-2662):**

Closed for Summer  
See you in October!

**Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535):**

9:00 am – 7:00 pm; daily

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

Closed for Summer

**Fresh Produce**

Next to Post Office– Closed for Summer

**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

**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](http://www.weather.gov) for conditions

7/29	Sat	2:39 AM	0.4	L
7/29	Sat	8:01 AM	2.6	H
7/29	Sat	3:23 PM	0.5	L
7/29	Sat	8:21 PM	2.3	H
7/30	Sun	3:32 AM	0.6	L
7/30	Sun	8:49 AM	2.6	H
7/30	Sun	4:34 PM	0.5	L
7/30	Sun	9:32 PM	2.1	H
7/31	Mon	4:33 AM	0.8	L
7/31	Mon	9:43 AM	2.6	H
7/31	Mon	5:42 PM	0.4	L
7/31	Mon	10:54 PM	2	H
8/1	Tue	5:37 AM	0.9	L
8/1	Tue	10:40 AM	2.7	H
8/1	Tue	6:42 PM	0.3	L
8/2	Wed	12:24 AM	2	H
8/2	Wed	6:37 AM	0.9	L
8/2	Wed	11:37 AM	2.8	H
8/2	Wed	7:35 PM	0.2	L
8/3	Thu	1:28 AM	2.1	H
8/3	Thu	7:30 AM	0.9	L
8/3	Thu	12:27 PM	2.9	H
8/3	Thu	8:22 PM	0.1	L
8/4	Fri	2:04 AM	2.2	H
8/4	Fri	8:15 AM	0.9	L
8/4	Fri	1:12 PM	3	H
8/4	Fri	9:04 PM	0	L
8/5	Sat	2:35 AM	2.3	H
8/5	Sat	8:56 AM	0.9	L
8/5	Sat	1:51 PM	3.1	H
8/5	Sat	9:43 PM	0	L
8/6	Sun	3:07 AM	2.4	H
8/6	Sun	9:34 AM	0.8	L
8/6	Sun	2:26 PM	3.2	H
8/6	Sun	10:20 PM	-0.1	L
8/7	Mon	3:39 AM	2.5	H
8/7	Mon	10:11 AM	0.7	L
8/7	Mon	2:59 PM	3.2	H
8/7	Mon	10:55 PM	-0.1	L
8/8	Tue	4:13 AM	2.6	H
8/8	Tue	10:47 AM	0.7	L
8/8	Tue	3:31 PM	3.2	H
8/8	Tue	11:29 PM	-0.1	L
8/9	Wed	4:47 AM	2.6	H
8/9	Wed	11:24 AM	0.6	L
8/9	Wed	4:03 PM	3.2	H
8/10	Thu	12:03 AM	0	L
8/10	Thu	5:22 AM	2.7	H
8/10	Thu	12:04 PM	0.5	L
8/10	Thu	4:40 PM	3.1	H
8/11	Fri	12:38 AM	0.1	L
8/11	Fri	5:57 AM	2.7	H
8/11	Fri	12:48 PM	0.5	L
8/11	Fri	5:26 PM	2.9	H
8/12	Sat	1:14 AM	0.2	L
8/12	Sat	6:32 AM	2.7	H
8/12	Sat	1:39 PM	0.4	L
8/12	Sat	6:24 PM	2.7	H

**Taxing Things**

by Mike "the Tax Guy"

*Phishing Schemes Targeting Pros*

The IRS, state tax agencies and the tax industry today warned tax professionals to beware of spear phishing emails, a common tactic used by cybercriminals to target practitioners.

Spear phishing emails, often tailored to individual practitioners, result in stolen taxpayer data and fraudulent tax returns filed in the names of individual and business clients.

The email, disguised as being from a trusted source, may seek to have victims voluntarily disclose sensitive information such as passwords. Or, it may encourage people to open a link or attachment that actually downloads malware onto the computer.

Here's an example of a spear phishing email that targeted a tax professional during the 2017 filing season:

The sender does their research, obtaining the name and email address of the tax pro. And, the email may be conversational but ungrammatical and is often oddly constructed: "hope your (sic) doing good (sic) and actively involved in the tax filing season." This is potentially a sign that English is a second language. Finally, the use of a hyperlink using a "tiny" URL is employed to mask the true destination – this is another red flag.

Understand that tax preparers are bound to protect taxpayer information. Taxpayer information is stored offsite and is not resident on any unsecure media. Social Security numbers are masked; files are encrypted and multiple passwords are required for access.

Never send any personal data by email; never click on any tax related links; contact your tax preparer first before responding to any IRS correspondence.



**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](http://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.

NEW! HELP WANTED: Full time cook. Joanie's Blue Crab Café. Please call Joanie: 239-695-2682.

CAREGIVER: Companionship, shopping & errands, light housekeeping, dog or cat sitting. Home checks & hurricane prep. References. Call Chris: 954-589-7220.

REDUCED! 2 stilt houses EC: NOW \$239,900 for 408 Buckner; NOW 339,900 for 309 S. Storter. GREAT shape! Call Steve 910-599-2698. Available dock.

FOR SALE: Crestline Tandem Bike. Green, new tires, new seat. 18 speed. Excellent condition. \$175. Call Craig: 239-777-2552, leave message.

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

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, \$1000 / 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.

NEW! FOR SALE: 2003 Action Craft 1720 SE Fly-Fisher Carbon Fiber / Kevlar Hull. Custom built and Loaded! 130 HP Yamaha, mint, \$22,000. Call Capt. Don @ 239 695-0413.

FOR SALE: Very clean Maytag washer. \$43. Call Don: 239-293-9305.

NEW JOB OPPORTUNITY: Become an election worker and help others exercise their right to vote, make a little extra money, and maybe develop some new friendships! **Qualifications:** Be a registered voter in Collier County. Be able to read and write English. Complete the orientation and training. You must be available to work a 12-14 hour shift. Get started today! Complete an application at www.CollierVotes.com. Questions? Contact us at: (239) 252-VOTE (8683) or ElectionWorker@colliergov.net.

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades

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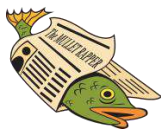
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