

# The MULLET RAPPER

## What's Happening in the Everglades & 10,000 Islands

TIDE TABLE &  
RESTAURANTS  
PAGE 11

### SEPTEMBER 9 – SEPTEMBER 22, 2017



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P O Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume X • Issue #296

Everglades City Radio Station to  
Cover Area News, Events & More



Everglades City's radio station, **WBGY 88.1 FM**, has joined with Marco Radio to broadcast local programs, weather, music, news and more, to listeners in Everglades City, Chokoloskee, Copeland, Marco Island and the areas in between.

WBGY has relocated its antenna to maximize signal strength and has added a special direct connection to the National Weather Service in Miami so they can break in with severe weather updates faster than most stations.

If groups or organizations in and around Everglades City would like to submit their organization's news and invitations or public events for broadcast on the station (for free!) please email [VOImarconaples@aol.com](mailto:VOImarconaples@aol.com).

The station will broadcast many of the Lely and Marco island football games this Fall and plans to broadcast Lely, Marco Island and Everglades City boys basketball this Winter.

The info is also broadcast on the station's website at [98.1fmmarcoisland.com](http://98.1fmmarcoisland.com) and on the " MARCO ISLAND APP " free on any smart phone.

You can also call the station at 239-465-0259. Thank you for listening!

## Mayor Sammy Hamilton Resigns After 22 Years Howell "Howie" Grimm Appointed as Pro Tem Mayor Now, What's Next?

After serving as mayor for over 22 years, Sammy Hamilton has resigned as Mayor of Everglades City. In a 5-page resignation letter, Mayor Hamilton cites friction with some of the City Council members because of disagreements on how to resolve the city's ongoing waste water plant problem and other issues. Rather than continue fighting within the city, Mr. Hamilton stated that he felt it was better for the city for him to step aside.



**Top left: Hamilton surveys damage after Hurricane Wilma. Top right: Mayor Hamilton greets the crowd at the city's annual seafood festival**

Sammy Hamilton was known as an outspoken but effective politician for Everglades City. In his 22-year stint, he was able to maintain the city's tradition while making numerous improvements. During his tenure, his ability to network within the State government enabled the city to secure grants for road improvements after Hurricane Wilma, restore City Hall, and build a much-needed, multi-million-dollar water plant. Mr. Hamilton also helped the city through a tough transition during the early stages of the net ban that gutted income for many local fishermen.

Mr. Hamilton also was effective in limiting density and enforcing building height restrictions so that over-development would not ruin the small town charm the city is known for. Of course, his outspoken nature ruffled some feathers over the years, but support by local voters was unquestioned. In the last election, Hamilton ran unopposed and would have served through 2019.

Next, the city must appoint a mayor pro tempore (pro tem) from one of 5 council members until a city election can be held in November to elect a mayor to serve out the remaining two years on the current term. The deputy mayor pro tempore, or deputy mayor pro tem, assumes mayoral duties in the event of a mayor's absence due to death, physical incapacity, impeachment or resignation. The Latin term "pro tempore" means "for the time being," so the assignment is temporary. **The Pro Tem mayor appointed at the Sept. 5th meeting was Howell Grimm, Jr.**

In November, the voters will have to choose 3 seats for the city council and elect a new mayor - which is sure to interest citizens looking for solutions to some of the city's current issues. Current council members are; Elaine Middelstaedt, McBeth Collins, Johnny Potter, Parker Oglesby, and Howell "Howie" Grimm, Jr. The council members whose terms will expire in November are Howell Grimm, Jr., Elaine Middelstaedt and Johnny Potter. Because Howell Grimm was appointed as Mayor, he is technically no longer a council member and there are now 4 seats on the council until the November elections.

**A new budget for Everglades City has been proposed. See page 8 for a complete summary.**

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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.**



SEPT 10 – OCT 14, 2017



<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
10 Everglades Bike Ride Cancelled, see p. 3	11 ESHP Mtg. City Hall, 8:30 am	12	13 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am City Budget Workshop, 7 pm	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 new moon ● Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am City Council Mtg 5:30 pm City Hall	21	22	<u>SEPT 23 RAPPER</u>
24	25	26	27 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am	28	29	30 Blessing of the Fleet, see p. 3
October 1	2 ESHP Mtg, City Hall, 8:30 am	3 FME Mtg. City Hall 3:30 pm City Council Mtg, 7 pm City Hall	4 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am	full moon 5 ○	6	<u>OCT 7 RAPPER</u>
8 Fakatchee Bike Ride, see p. 3	9	10 Lions Club Mtg Oyster House, 6pm	11 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am	12	13	14 Fishing Tourney, see p.3

October 15: Stone Crab Season Opens  
November 11: Artist Reception @ Museum

October 28: Halloween Celebration  
November 17: Historical Talk

November 10: Veteran's Day  
November 18: Art-in-the-Glades

THRIFT SHOP: Sat., 11 am–3 pm  
LIONS CLUB: 2nd Tuesday 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  
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., 5:30-8:30 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

POST OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS & HOURS:

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Chokoloskee (239) 695-4468  
Ochopee (239) 695-2099

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Mon-Fri: 8 to 10 am; 12 noon to 4 pm; Sat: Open for service 10 to 11:30 am

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

# What's Happening

## In and Around Town



### CYCLE TOURS THROUGH EVERGLADES September 10th Ride Cancelled

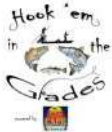
Due to Hurricane Irma, the ride on September 10 has been cancelled. Our next ride is on Oct. 8 at Janes Scenic Drive, meeting at Fakahatchee headquarters. For information, and starting times, please visit our website <https://evergladesrogg.org/events> or call Patty Huff at 239-695-2397.



### BLESSING OF THE FLEET September 30th

Come and celebrate our crabbers on September 30th at the annual "Blessing of the Fleet." The fun-for-the-entire-family day will be held at the Rod & Gun Club from 10 am to 1 pm. The day features, contests for kids, music and the traditional guava coconut cake contest! For info call Tod: 239-260-4577.

### HOOK 'EM FISHING TOURNAMENT Proceeds Benefit E-City Athletics October 14th



Save the date as on Oct. 14 the athletic department is excited to announce the inaugural Hook' em in the Glades family friendly fishing tournament. This tournament is powered by Island Café. To participate please visit [www.hookemintheglades.com](http://www.hookemintheglades.com) to register, or call our Athletic Director, Coach Jill Whitcomb at 239-377-9800.

### 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 year's 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](mailto:mulletrapper@gmail.com) or by phone at 954-662-7003. **Thank you!**

### PAULINE REEVES GALLERY "A HEART FOR ALLIGATORS"

September 1st—November 11th

The Museum of the Everglades is proud to present "A Heart for Alligators – a retrospective of the art of Jurg 'George' Furrer," who passed away in 2014. A popular illustrator and syndicated cartoonist in his home country of Switzerland, George was a familiar face in Everglades City for many years, visiting on an annual basis and making many lifelong friendships. George brought his appreciation for the region's unique flora and fauna home with him, incorporating many of the things he experienced here into his art. In 1994 he published a book of cartoons with Everglades themes: "Ein Herz fur Alligatoren" ("A Heart for Alligators") from which this exhibit takes its name.



## 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 239-695-0595 or 239-595-4203 to set an appointment. Email: [nfn19842@naples.net](mailto: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- OCT. 12TH

The Ronald McDonald Caremobile Dental Bus will be in Everglades City on October 12 from 9 am to 4 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 SCHULD

Southwest Florida has experienced significant rainfall over the last week. Many streets remain flooded and present curious on-lookers with undetected hazards. I urge residents to refrain from exploring flooded areas that harbor such hazards as sewage, snakes, rodents, bacteria and sharp objects that may be submerged. Swift moving water in run-offs and storm drains can sweep objects under or pull you down the drain very quickly. Standing water can also cause septic tanks to leak and overflow creating health hazards.

In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, we're all ready to give our fellow Americans on the Gulf Coast a helping hand. It's heartbreaking to see people lose their lives, homes, and businesses to the ongoing flooding in Texas. Allow me to caution you, scammers are busy with new tricks and scams to get your money and keep help from getting to those who need it most. Make sure you fully research any organization advertising to manage your donations. The Federal Trade Commission is a reliable resource to learn more about protecting your donation.

August 31st was International Overdose Awareness Day (IOAD) which is a global event held year and aims to raise awareness of overdose and reduce the stigma of a drug-related death. It also acknowledges the grief felt by families and friends remembering those who have met with death or permanent injury as a result of drug overdose. Please visit their website to obtain useful information, resources and a list of events: [www.overdoseday.com](http://www.overdoseday.com).

### Donations Pour in for Texas Hurricane Relief Efforts

When disaster strikes, Americans get motivated. As the impact of Hurricane Harvey became visible to the world, relief efforts took shape.

Organizations like the Red Cross are constants. But individual efforts have also been making headlines. None were as startling as JJ Watt, the defensive lineman for the Houston Texans. He originally targeted a \$200,000 goal for donations, but his target goal was soon laughable as donations started pouring in to the beloved players foundation. To date, The JJ Watt Foundation has collected over \$20 million in relief donations and countless donations of supplies.


In fact, so many supplies came in that they have had to suspend that portion of their relief effort! Kudos to JJ Watt and to all of those who have contributed to the relief effort to date. Remember, recovery will take a very long time, so do not forget about them in the coming months when the news about this tragedy disappears!



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8/26/17 Puzzle Solution

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	
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Small Town Taylor by Taylor Mayberry "Happy to be Back to School"

I am glad that school has started and that my cousin Trenton and dog, Captain are back. I am also excited for the games to start for volleyball.

The next home game is September 14th at 5 PM for JV and 6 PM for varsity and on September 15th at the same times. Another good thing about middle school as I get a locker. I have already decorated my locker with a stand, magnets, a wall shelf, a mirror, and a dry erase board. It is also fun having extra time to ourselves. The only thing that I dislike about the sixth grade is not having art with Mr. Tribble anymore.

Now that I am in middle school and have so much going on I am going to be writing for the Mullet Rapper once a month because I am so busy. I love school and seeing all my friends it is going to be a good school year!

Love, Taylor

Taylor Mayberry is 11 years old and attends 6th grade at Everglades City School.



A Message from the Principal by Principal James Ragusa "Off and Running!"

It has been a great two weeks and a very busy time for our student athletes. The Lady Gators Volleyball team has a great group of young ladies competing and working hard to improve each day. It is wonderful to see so many of our middle school students participating on our JV team. They are led by a new coach, Jason Foures, and he reports the young ladies are improving each day. Thanks to him and Coach Welch for the countless hours they spend with these athletes!

Many of you have probably seen our cross country teams running in the early morning or afternoon. You have to take your hat off to these athletes as they run mile after mile in the heat and humidity to improve their times. Most of the meets occur on weekends so our coaches, Mrs. Wells and Ms. Walker, are traveling with the students on a number of Saturdays to provide the runners an opportunity to compete with other teams from all over Southwest Florida. These meets are always fun with athletes cheering each other on.

We are excited to be working with the Museum of the Everglades and their manager Mr. Thomas Lockyear. He has met with teachers during our opening week and we are planning on coordinating classroom projects and lessons with the museum to build meaningful connections to our local history. I would like to thank him for his enthusiasm about working with our students and teachers.

Our "Hook'em in The Glades" fishing tournament is quickly approaching on October 14th. For more information please visit our web site or call the school at 377-9800.

IT IS ALWAYS A GREAT DAY TO BE A GATOR!

Editors Note: For more information on the tournament, please see page 3. This tournament is powered by Island Cafe. To participate please visit www.hookemintheglades.com to register, or call our Athletic Director, Coach Jill Whitcomb at 239-377-9800.

Volleyball Home Schedule:

- 9/14 SFCA @ EVG 5:00 & 6:00pm
9/15 Canterbury @ EVG 5:00 & 6:00pm
9/18 FBA @ EVG 5:00 & 6:30pm
9/28 Ahfachkee @ EVG JV only 4pm
10/3 Marco @ EVG 5pm Varsity only
10/5 Moore Haven @ EVG 5:00 & 6:30pm
10/10 Ahfachkee @ EVG 4pm Varsity only SENIOR NIGHT after the game
10/16 Volleyball District Quarter Finals @ the higher seeds school (TBA)



\*As always, games are subject to changes, so please check the school's athletic events website for up-to-date information, including any schedule changes!


www.collierschools.com/evg

Please note that you can purchase cool Gator gear for the new school year! Ask Coach Whitcomb about it.

ATTENTION READERS! 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.



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**My Little Slice of Paradise**  
By Kathy Brock

The 2-week publication cycle for the Mullet Rapper sometimes makes us a bit late...or a bit early for news. As I am writing this, Hurricane Irma is a category 5 storm and appears to be headed straight towards Florida. I remember the days before Hurricane Andrew in 1992 when we all knew the storm was powerful, but we did not know with certainty where it would go.

A few days before Andrew, Tim & I went to a Miami Dolphins preseason game, and at that game I mentioned to friends there that we should look around because things may not be the same during the next home game. Unfortunately, I was right. It is such an ominous feeling, knowing that something terrible may be about to happen and there is really nothing you can do about it but prepare as best you can.

As a native south Floridian, I have been through the drill many times. Everything loose is brought in or tied down, including potted plants, outside furniture, boats, and yard ornaments.



What this has taught me is to have less of all of it, especially as I get older.

If you have things you won't want to move or cannot, it may be a

good idea not to have it, because by the time you read this article it may not be where you left it, it just may be in your neighbor's window!

A big part of hurricane preparation is doing the neighborly thing. If you leave things outside they can potentially become deadly projectiles in a storm. In our area if it is not blown away, chances are it will float away. When Wilma went through in 2005, our neighbor's boat in Chokoloskee was in ORA after the storm. Our other neighbor's manufactured home was gone, his Christmas ornaments were in our yard along with other people's clothing, checkbooks and household items. It was unbelievably sad.

A year or so after Andrew, Ken Dampier took us on a trip down to Lostman's. I remember seeing all green as we traveled through the Wilderness Waterway until we saw where Andrew cut through. It was a clear-cut swath of barren islands, no trees. It was as if a huge power-mower went through and cut everything down...it sent chills down my spine.

This is the same kind of feeling I had while watching the weather channel today. They show Irma hitting somewhere in Florida, *maybe*. They are saying there is not much in its way to slow it down. Our best hope is that the cold front from Canada gets south quick to deflect it into the Atlantic so that it becomes someone else's problem... which is still a problem.

Hopefully, we are all exhaling a big sigh of relief by the time you are reading this article...Hopefully, this is just another example of me being me...cautious and nervous, over-preparing for what may not even happen at all...we hope.

*Stay safe everyone!*  
~The Mullet Rapper~

**Recipes for Good Eating**  
Originally from Delish.com  
*1 pan Chicken & Rice*

**INGREDIENTS**

- nonstick cooking spray
- 2 c. white rice, 1 onion, chopped
- 2 c. chicken broth, 2 cans cream of mushroom soup
- kosher salt, Freshly ground black pepper
- 3 large bone in, skin on chicken thighs or chicken breasts
- 2 tbsp. butter, melted, 2 tsp. thyme
- 1 garlic clove, finely minced, 1 tbsp. Chopped parsley

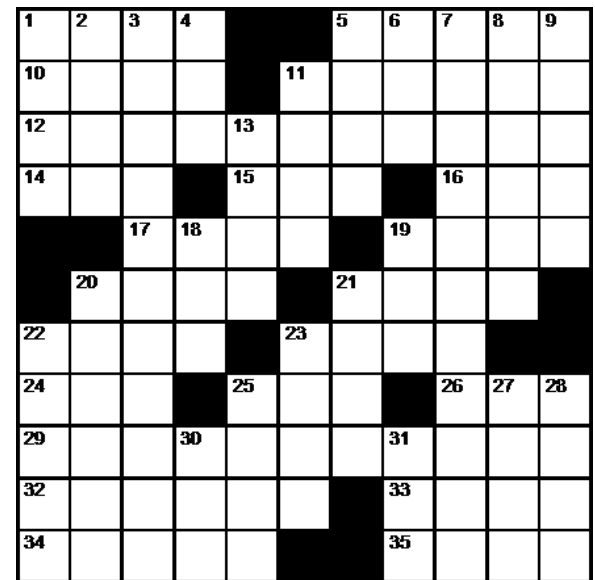
**DIRECTIONS**

Preheat oven to 350° and grease a 9"-x-13" baking pan with nonstick cooking spray. Place rice and onion into baking pan. Pour in the broth and soup and stir to combine. Season with salt and pepper. Place chicken in rice mixture. Brush chicken with butter and sprinkle with thyme and garlic. Season with salt and pepper again. Cover dish with foil and bake for 1 hour. Uncover and bake for 30 minutes more, until the rice is cooked and the chicken is golden. Top with the parsley and serve hot.

**MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD**

**Across**

- 1 "Summertime" singer --- Fitzgerald
- 5 Really want
- 10 Little Bo \_ \_ \_ \_
- 11 Diddy record label
- 12 Permanently joined
- 14 Comic Bill's nickname
- 15 Baby weight units
- 16 It's boring to be stuck in one
- 17 Soothing succulent
- 19 Very first recording
- 20 Wintery white stuff
- 21 Bee home
- 22 Some does' degrees
- 23 Bond's M
- 24 To be unwell
- 25 Pony ---, for small beer perhaps
- 26 DOJ enforcer
- 29 Interrogation aid
- 32 Starts an answer to "What's in the paper today?"
- 33 Goat's milk cheese
- 34 Bird homes



9/06/17

**Down**

- 1 Huge in scope
- 2 Former "Tonight Show" host
- 3 Ever-decreasing
- 4 Copy
- 5 Elevator chambers
- 6 Vitamin abbreviation
- 7 Cut short
- 8 Sound level
- 9 See \_ \_ \_ \_ eye (agree)
- 11 Famous pig
- 13 Used to move 20
- 18 \_ \_ Almos
- 19 Performed
- 20 Sunni counterparts
- 21 Very large
- 22 Former Alaska Gov. Sarah
- 23 NY football team
- 25 Florida islands
- 27 Schlep
- 28 Italian monks
- 30 "Who ---?" (Saints' chant)
- 31 Corp's money mgr.





The following is the 2017-2018 proposed budget summary for the City of Everglades City submitted for publication in the Mullet Rapper by City Clerk, Dotty Smallwood.

## BUDGET SUMMARY

CITY OF EVERGLADES CITY- FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018

THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF EVERGLADES CITY ARE 3% LESS THAN LAST YEAR'S TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES.

Millage per \$1,000

General Fund

3.9462

	GENERAL FUND	DEBT SERVICE FUND	TOTAL BUDGET
<b>CASH BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD</b>			
<b>ESTIMATED REVENUES:</b>	\$ 1,010,529.00		\$ 1,010,529.00
Taxes: Millage 3.9462			
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 373,925.00		\$ 373,925.00
Gas Tax	\$ 40,505.00		\$ 40,505.00
Franchise Fees	\$ 53,414.00		\$ 53,414.00
State Communication Taxes	\$ 32,224.00		\$ 32,224.00
Utility Service Taxes	\$ 142,620.00		\$ 142,620.00
License and Permits	\$ 46,618.00		\$ 46,618.00
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$ 1,011,850.00		\$ 1,011,850.00
Charges for Services	\$ 714,882.00	\$ 142,708.00	\$ 857,590.00
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$ 178,526.00		\$ 178,526.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<u>\$ 3,605,093.00</u>	<u>\$ 142,708.00</u>	<u>\$ 3,747,801.00</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES</b>			
General Government Services (F&A)	\$ 389,109.00		\$ 389,109.00
Legal Council	\$ 13,100.00		\$ 13,100.00
Public Safety (Plan,Zon,Code Enfor,Prof Inspections	\$ 91,275.00		\$ 91,275.00
Utility Project and Restore Expenses	\$ 2,700.00		\$ 2,700.00
Physical Environment (Mosquito Control)	\$ 43,375.00		\$ 43,375.00
Transportation (Road & Streets)	\$ 171,831.00		\$ 171,831.00
Culture and Recreation (Parks & Rec)	\$ 82,490.00		\$ 82,490.00
Water Service Charges	\$ 378,596.00	\$ 66,628.00	\$ 445,224.00
Sewer Service Charges	\$ 625,837.00	\$ 76,080.00	\$ 701,917.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES</b>	<u>\$ 1,798,313.00</u>	<u>\$ 142,708.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,941,021.00</u>
Contingency	\$ 1,806,780.00		\$ 1,806,780.00
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATED EXPENDITURES AND RESERVES</b>	<u>\$ 3,605,093.00</u>	<u>\$ 142,708.00</u>	<u>\$ 3,747,801.00</u>

THE TENTATIVE, ADOPTED AND/OR FINAL BUDGETS ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED TAXING AUTHORITY AS PUBLIC RECORD





## Living Gulf Coast

by Charles Sobczak

**Marsh Rabbit** (*Sylvilagus palustris*) Other names: marsh hare / Status: FL=stable statewide but endangered in the Lower Keys, IUCN=LC / Length: 17 in (43 cm) / Height: n/a / Weight: 2.2-2.6 lb (1-1.2 kg) / Life span: to 7 years / Reproduces: in abandoned burrows of gopher tortoises and armadillos or in dense thickets / Found: AC, coastal, near coast, mainland / Reproduces: year round / Months found: **JFMAMJJASOND**, marsh rabbits can breed all year round.

One of the most peculiar habits of the marsh rabbit is its tendency to let go with a strange, lizard-like squeal when startled. It is a bizarre sound coming from such an adorable little rabbit and when first encountered can readily surprise the unsuspecting naturalist.



Commonly seen eating grass and other vegetation along trails and roadways, the marsh rabbit is the bread and butter of many of Florida's predators, especially bobcats, hawks, and owls. Although a member of the cottontail family, the marsh rabbit does not have a fluffy white tail. It has smaller ears than the cottontail and prefers wetter environments. The marsh rabbit will actually swim across tidal passes to inhabit other barrier islands. It ranges all the way north to Virginia and west to Alabama.

The marsh rabbit is a strict herbivore and eats a wide variety of vegetation. It is a game animal in Florida, as it is in most of its range. Because a subspecies, *Sylvilagus palustris hefneri* (named after Hugh Hefner of *Playboy* fame), located in the lower Florida Keys, is endangered, the marsh rabbit is not hunted south of the Everglades.

It would be easy to think that the marsh rabbit is also prone to roadkill, but in fact it is rare to see one hit by an automobile. Like the white-tailed deer, the marsh rabbit appears to be adapting to the automobile. Its primary cause of mortality is predation, including being taken by alligators when swimming.

**Author's Note:** For anyone living or vacationing on Sanibel Island this summer, 2017, it is all but impossible not to make note of the fact that the current Marsh Rabbit population is at a peak. These population explosions, which run in various cycles, ultimately fall due to the increase of predators, which on Sanibel include bobcats and the recently arrived coyotes. After heavy predation the rabbit population will likely tumble, then, as a result of having fewer rabbits to prey upon, will soon thereafter cause the bobcat and coyote population to plummet, resulting in an increase in the rabbit population. Some believe this is a seven year cycle while others contend it is more of a ten year cycle. Either way, Sanibel could currently be called "Bunny Island" which has a nice ring to it.

Charles Sobczak is a writer & photographer from Sanibel Island



## TAXING THINGS by Mike the Tax Guy INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE UPDATES

### Moving Expenses

Taxpayers may be able to deduct certain expenses of moving to a new home because they started or changed job locations.

Home means the taxpayer's main home. Eligible taxpayers can deduct the reasonable expenses of moving household goods and personal effects and of traveling from the former home to the new home.

Reasonable expenses may include the cost of lodging while traveling to the new home. The unreimbursed cost of packing, shipping, storing and insuring household goods in transit may also be deductible.

**The move must closely relate to the start of work.** Generally, taxpayers can consider moving expenses within one year of the date they start work at a new job location.

**The distance test.** A new main job location must be at least 50 miles farther from the employee's former home than the previous job location. For example, if the old job was three miles from the old home, the new job must be at least 53 miles from the old home. A first job must be at least 50 miles from the employee's former home.

**The time test.** After the move, the employee must work full-time at the new job for at least 39 weeks in the first year. Those self-employed must work full-time at least 78 weeks during the first two years at the new job site.

### IRS Waives Diesel Fuel Penalty

In response to shortages of undyed diesel fuel caused by Hurricane Harvey, IRS will not impose a penalty when dyed diesel fuel is sold for use or used on the highway.

### Beware of Fake Charity Scams Relating to Hurricane Harvey

Fake charity scams proliferate after disasters; be sure to seek out recognized charitable groups before donating.



### 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:** 28" to 33" slot, 1/day. Permit + saltwater license required.
- \*Please refer to the official regulations for your guidance at: <http://myfwc.com/media/4219696/QuickChart.pdf>*



## Local & Area News

### Former FEMA Head Gives His Advice on Building or Rebuilding in Flood-Prone Areas

By Ledyard King of USA Today

Craig Fugate, the easygoing Floridian who won broad praise for leading the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under President Barack Obama, has some sharp opinions on what to do in the wake of Hurricane Harvey.

Here is an edited transcript of that conversation:

**Q: What's life like since you left FEMA in January?**

A: I'm doing a lot of advising, teaching and working with companies. I'm more focused on the resiliency (to disasters) and how to better prepare emergency managers and less about what will be a huge operation as this recovery (from Harvey) and all the private sector businesses. I'm already receiving calls from them. I'm like, "I'm not interested. Y'all have a nice day."

**Q: Do you miss your old job?**

A: If you're an emergency manager, you always tend to want to be in the thick of it. But my place is not there. That's (new FEMA Administrator) Brock's (Long) shop. It's his show and his team now. I can look back, and I can see things that we had started in our administration that they're doing now. I can see echoes of that. But I've tried to move on.

**Q: How does Harvey affect the national debate in Congress about reforming the National Flood Insurance Program, which was already drowning in debt before the storm?**

A: It may be the catalyst to get people to say, "Hey we need to stop growing the problem and figure out what we do with the existing policy holders." They were moving towards consensus before Harvey. Will they be able to get bipartisan agreement to move something through the House and the Senate, or do they need to do a short-term reauthorization to give them more time? And has Harvey introduced any new issues, because if they have to go back and get substantial borrowing authority, that's going to bring back on the fiscal conservative side the concern that this program is not actuarially sound, that it needs to be moved from one of subsidy to more where it pays for itself.

**Q: What would you like to see?**

A: My simple suggestion is stop growing the problem. Why are we writing flood insurance (policies) for new construction in flood zones? Think about it: If you're going to build a new structure in the flood zone, the private sector can insure it. And if they can't insure it, then why is the public subsidizing that risk?

**Q: So you think this is a problem we've exacerbated by rebuilding in flood-prone areas?**

A: Why do we have to focus so much on building the capability to respond to these huge disasters when the fact is we're building and designing in a way that produces the disasters. Quit calling them natural disasters. They're just a disaster. They're only a disaster from a hazard like Harvey based upon how and where we built.

**Q: Why have you been critical of groups representing homebuilders and Realtors for resisting such changes?**

A: They're the biggest opponents to significant reform because it affects their ability to make money on transactions of building and selling homes that are high risk.

**Q: You expect your former agency to get criticized no matter the response?**

A: People are going to beat FEMA up over their temporary housing program. They're going to beat FEMA up and go, "Why don't you have better solutions?" And nobody's asking the question, "Well, why the hell did you build so many vulnerable houses in the first place?" There's no credible way to provide temporary housing to this type of scenario. We've got to quit figuring out how to respond better — that's still important — but we got to figure out how do we start reducing the impacts of disasters, particularly since our past history has been a poor indicator of the future risk.

**Q: You think it was a mistake for President Donald Trump to rescind the 2015 executive order issued by Obama requiring federal agencies to develop new flood improvement standards?**

A: Maybe there will be an opportunity to come back and replace it with something that may be a little bit more narrow than the original (order) but still keeps the intent that we should not be building stuff back to past (standards). We have to build for future risk. (Building) 1 foot above base elevation, it's still flooded in Harvey. Couple more feet, we probably could have saved more critical infrastructure or at least minimized the damages.

## Sawfish News

by Tonya Wiley

Antique Sawfish Rostra Yield Valuable DNA, Museum and Private Collections Aid Scientists



This summer was very exciting for scientists studying the DNA of endangered sawfish. Kelcee Smith of Louisiana State University (LSU), and Annmarie Fearing and Nicole Phillips of The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) collected tissue samples from hundreds of old sawfish rostra (saws) held in public and private collections across the United States. During #SawSearch2017 (funded by

Save Our Seas Foundation and Haven Worth Consulting) samples were collected from 222 sawfish rostra in museums and homes along the eastern seaboard. The team travelled 2,405 miles, visited 10 states, to collect genetic samples from sawfish rostra which were originally collected during three centuries (1700s-1900s) and from several countries (USA, Mexico, Guatemala, Columbia, Nicaragua, Panama, Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname, French Guiana, Iran, Yemen, Madagascar, Java, Philippines, China, Papua New Guinea, Australia, India, Bangladesh, and New Guinea).

Sawfish are critically endangered, having suffered global declines in both range and abundance. Animal populations which undergo drastic declines in abundance are typically at risk of having reduced levels of genetic diversity and may be less 'fit', more susceptible to disease, and have a compromised ability to adapt to a changing environment. Very small populations also have an increased risk of inbreeding, which can lead to birth defects and unhealthy populations.

"The most direct way of quantifying any change in genetic diversity in sawfishes is to compare the levels of genetic diversity in contemporary populations to those from the past" explains Phillips. "Thankfully, old dried saws from sawfishes housed in public and private collections around the world contain the DNA of historic populations."

The long-term recovery of sawfishes is dependent upon populations being large and genetically diverse enough to adapt to changes in the environment, resist disease, and avoid inbreeding. If the levels of genetic diversity in contemporary populations are similar to those observed in historic sawfish populations, then the survival outlook for these animals may be good and recovery plans can focus on habitat restoration and protection. However, if the levels of genetic diversity in contemporary sawfish populations are substantially lower when compared to historic populations, then protecting the remaining genetic diversity should be a high priority for conservation and management plans.

To find sawfish rostra the researchers scour online databases, follow leads about sawfish rostra owned by the public, and contact curators at museums, educational centers, aquariums, universities, and other public institutions. Sawfish rostra are considered unique 'trophies' so many have been retained in both public and private collections. (Note: These antique rostra were collected prior to sawfish being listed under the Endangered Species Act. Now all sawfish species are protected in the US and the removal or sale of sawfish rostra is illegal.) "Sawfish saws are often preserved dry, meaning that viable DNA is still present in a 200 year old saw! This is pretty unique and we're trying to take advantage of the opportunity" says Smith.

Contact Tonya: [Tonya@HavenWorthConsulting.com](mailto:Tonya@HavenWorthConsulting.com)





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-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 - 5:00 pm Mon-Thurs  
6:00 am–9:00 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

**NEW! Right Choice Pizza (695-0102)  
Local Delivery!**

11 am to 9 pm Wed - Sat, 3 pm. - 8 pm Sun

**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 Sch., 11 am Worship, Wed. 7pm  
Hour of Prayer

**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

9/9	Sat	12:10 AM	0.3	L
9/9	Sat	4:56 AM	3	H
9/9	Sat	12:31 PM	0.2	L
9/9	Sat	5:30 PM	3	H
9/10	Sun	12:46 AM	0.5	L
9/10	Sun	5:27 AM	3	H
9/10	Sun	1:21 PM	0.2	L
9/10	Sun	6:32 PM	2.8	H
9/11	Mon	1:26 AM	0.7	L
9/11	Mon	6:05 AM	3	H
9/11	Mon	2:20 PM	0.2	L
9/11	Mon	7:46 PM	2.6	H
9/12	Tue	2:14 AM	0.8	L
9/12	Tue	6:56 AM	3	H
9/12	Tue	3:30 PM	0.2	L
9/12	Tue	9:09 PM	2.4	H
9/13	Wed	3:23 AM	1	L
9/13	Wed	8:12 AM	2.9	H
9/13	Wed	4:45 PM	0.2	L
9/13	Wed	10:39 PM	2.3	H
9/14	Thu	4:51 AM	1	L
9/14	Thu	9:45 AM	2.9	H
9/14	Thu	5:56 PM	0.2	L
9/15	Fri	12:06 AM	2.4	H
9/15	Fri	6:07 AM	1	L
9/15	Fri	11:09 AM	3	H
9/15	Fri	6:59 PM	0.1	L
9/16	Sat	1:05 AM	2.5	H
9/16	Sat	7:11 AM	0.9	L
9/16	Sat	12:18 PM	3.2	H
9/16	Sat	7:55 PM	0.1	L
9/17	Sun	1:43 AM	2.7	H
9/17	Sun	8:05 AM	0.7	L
9/17	Sun	1:14 PM	3.3	H
9/17	Sun	8:46 PM	0.1	L
9/18	Mon	2:14 AM	2.8	H
9/18	Mon	8:55 AM	0.6	L
9/18	Mon	2:02 PM	3.4	H
9/18	Mon	9:31 PM	0.1	L
9/19	Tue	2:42 AM	2.9	H
9/19	Tue	9:40 AM	0.4	L
9/19	Tue	2:45 PM	3.4	H
9/19	Tue	10:13 PM	0.2	L
9/20	Wed	3:10 AM	2.9	H
9/20	Wed	10:23 AM	0.3	L
9/20	Wed	3:26 PM	3.4	H
9/20	Wed	10:52 PM	0.3	L
9/21	Thu	3:38 AM	3	H
9/21	Thu	11:04 AM	0.2	L
9/21	Thu	4:06 PM	3.2	H
9/21	Thu	11:29 PM	0.4	L
9/22	Fri	4:07 AM	3	H
9/22	Fri	11:45 AM	0.2	L
9/22	Fri	4:47 PM	3.1	H
9/23	Sat	12:05 AM	0.5	L
9/23	Sat	4:37 AM	3	H
9/23	Sat	12:25 PM	0.2	L
9/23	Sat	5:32 PM	2.9	H

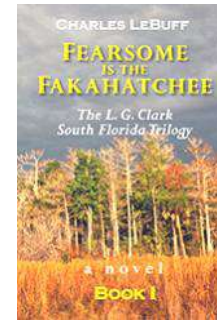


*Off the Shelf - Book Review*

**Fearsome is the Fakahatchee**

by Charles LeBuff

reviewed by Marya Repko



I'm so glad this book is finally in paper form. I tried to read it on my computer but that's not the same as relaxing on the porch and focusing on ink rather than on the screen that occupies so much of my time.

LeBuff is a prolific author whose work reflects his own colorful past. He has written about local history and nature, having lived in Southwest Florida since he was a child and been a wildlife ranger, conservationist, and Sanibel city councilor.

His style is easy-going in this novel but there is a bit of crude language and sexism in the dialog so, be warned, this is not a "cozy" book. However, there is also some good natural history in his descriptions of the environment before the dead body is discovered by biologists looking for orchids in our local state park, what the deputies refer to as the "Thickahatchee". By the way, did you know that male gators in mating season emit a smell of musk?

This is the first in a trilogy about Captain L.G. Clark, a Collier County Sheriff's crime investigator. The second episode *Lake Trafford Snipper* has been published and the third episode is in the works. I'm curious to read how L.G. finally resolves his love life but also want to learn more about our environment.

The book is available at the author's website [www.amber-publishing.com](http://www.amber-publishing.com) and has been recommended for purchase at Collier County Public Library.



**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.

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

**EXPERIENCED CAREGIVER:** Providing 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.

**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.

**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](http://www.CollierVotes.com). Questions? Contact us at: (239) 252-VOTE (8683) or [ElectionWorker@colliergov.net](mailto:ElectionWorker@colliergov.net).

***The MULLET RAPPER***

What's Happening in the Everglades & 10,000 Islands

**PUBLISHER**

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**PUBLISHER EMERITUS**

Patricia A. Huff, Snook Publications

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**PRODUCTION**

DEB Printing & Graphics, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

**PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT**

*We provide local news of interest to the extended communities of Everglades City, Chokoloskee, Plantation Island, Lee Cypress, Copeland, Jerome & Ochopee*  
**We strive to present the facts accurately with no political or social bias.**

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**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

25¢ per issue, \$40 annual by US Post, \$10 email

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