

The MULLET RAPPER

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

TIDE TABLE &
RESTAURANTS
PAGE 11

NOVEMBER 18 - DECEMBER 1, 2017



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P O Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume X • Issue #299

THANKS FOR GIVING

From the very first days following the storm, The **1st Baptist Church of Everglades City** sprang into action to help. They opened the doors of the church to the community and emergency workers by providing space for nurses to give us tetanus shots, encouragement, and provide relief information and much more.

Even though their own homes and house of worship were flooded too, they continued to hold services throughout the ordeal. In an earlier edition of the Mullet Rapper, we incorrectly said they were "closed for repairs"! Well, they are going through repairs, but *they have never closed the doors*. We apologize for that misstatement and thank 1st Baptist for their amazing support.

WONDER WOMAN LIVES HERE

Dottie Joiner, our City Clerk, is our very own "Wonder Woman." What hasn't Dottie done for the city? Does she ever sleep? She is the glue that holds us together for sure.

Dottie works day and night, weekdays and weekends doing whatever is necessary to keep the city moving forward. In the days following the storm, there was Dottie, working, organizing and keeping everything moving. She was, and is a very special person. Thanks, Dottie. We appreciate everything that you do for us.

1st Baptist Church and Dottie represent the true spirit of Thanksgiving. We are thankful for everything that you have done for our city and for our people. **We wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving!**

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FEATURE: GRATITUDE P. 8

The Mullet Rapper Hosts A TOWN HALL MEETING



Hear What the Candidates Think About Our Communities' Most Important Questions in This Town Hall Forum

**When: Monday, November 20th,
7 to 9 PM**

**Where: Everglades City School
Cafeteria**

Everyone is invited to attend this Town Hall meeting where candidates will have the opportunity to answer questions about the pressing issues in Everglades City. Questions will be prepared prior to the meeting from interactions we are having with citizens to discover what issues that they are most concerned about. Candidates will have a fixed amount of time to address each question. Questions will not be given to the candidates prior to the meeting.

All candidates have been invited, are encouraged, to participate in this Town Hall meeting. When the meeting is completed citizens will have an opportunity to mingle with the candidates one on one. Beverages and snacks will be served.

There are three (3) city council seats to fill this in election and six (6) candidates vying for the openings; incumbent candidates Elaine Middelstaedt and Johnny Potter, and candidates Wayne Krystopa, Tim Smith, Jr., Vicky Wells and Joe West (see ballot on p. 10).

This election will also fill the remaining two years left on the term vacated by Sammy Hamilton. Current Pro-Tem Mayor Howell "Howie" Grimm is being challenged by longtime resident Billy Snyder. This is a very important time for our city, we invite you to attend and hope to see you there!



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS FOR THE COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP!



December 9th & 10th
(Consider it Your Christmas Gift to the Area)

Come out on December 9 & 10 and join us in the big Community Clean-up effort for our little area. We need volunteers!

Now that the large debris has been picked up by the big equipment, there is quite a bit of small debris still littering our streets, swales and medians. The truth is, unless we get outside and start picking it up, it will be there for a long time as a sad reminder of Irma and the storm surge she brought with her in September.

On Saturday and Sunday morning we will meet **at 8 a.m.** where you will be given gloves and trash bags. Then, we will go out into the community and pick up the leftover debris. All volunteers will be entered into the day's raffle where you can win prizes provided by area businesses. We will have plenty of water, snacks and sandwiches for lunch.

If you would like to volunteer or donate any supplies or prizes, please contact the *Mullet Rapper* by email at mulletrapper@gmail.com or by calling us at 954-662-7003. We hope to see you there...we need you!

EVERGLADES CITY BRANCH LIBRARY TEMPORARILY RELOCATED

The Everglades City Branch Library has been temporarily relocated to 205 N. Buckner Avenue. This location has a computer available to access the Collier County Public Library's catalog system and a laptop computer for public usage.

Residents will be able to place requests for library materials and have them delivered to this location. Delivery of magazines and newspapers has resumed to this temporary location as well.



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

NOV. 19 – DEC. 23, 2017

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
19 Old Florida Festival, see p. 3	20 Town Hall Meeting, see p. 1	21	22 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am No School	23 Thanksgiving No School	24 No School	25
26 Community Luncheon @ School, see p.3	27	28 Voting Day! Temp. City Hall 7 am to 7 pm Bring Photo ID	29 Ladies Coffee City Seafood, 8 am	30	December 1	DEC 2 <u>RAPPER</u>
3 full moon ○	4 ESHP Meeting 8:30 a.m.	5 City Council Mtg, 7 pm City Hall	6 Ladies Coffee Havana Café, 8 am No School	7	8 Lions Club Holiday Potluck @ Liz West house, 6pm	9 Art-in-the- Glades, see p.3 Community Cleanup, see p. 1
10 Community Cleanup, see p. 1 Bike Ride, see p. 9	11 FME Luncheon, see p. 3	12	13 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am	14 Dental Bus, see p. 3	15	DEC 16 <u>RAPPER</u> Fakahatchee Dinner, see p. 3
17 new moon ●	18	19	20 Ladies Coffee City Seafood, 8 am	21	22	23

December 25: Christmas

January 1: New Year's Day

February 9-11: Seafood Festival

THRIFT SHOP: Closed until further notice
 LIONS CLUB: 2nd Thursday of month, , 6 pm
 DR DEMARTINO: Marco Island office information on p.3.
 DR MARTIN: Call for appointment: 813-787-9738
 AA: Wed., 5:00 pm, temporary City Hall bldg.
 MUSEUM: Closed until further notice
 CARNESTOWN Recycle and Trash: 2nd Saturday, 9 am to 3:30 pm

SKATING RINK: Closed until further notice
 REACH OUT: 3rd Tuesday, 9:30 am, location TBA
 LITTLE GATOR CLINIC: Not seeing patients at this time
 VETERANS SUPPORT: 2nd & 4th Wed. of month, noon—2 pm
 COMMUNITY CHURCH FOOD PANTRY: See p. 3
 SMALLWOOD STORE: 10 am to 5 pm
 PANCAKE FLY-IN: Opening soon!

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: TEMPORARY HOURS DURING REMODELING
 Everglades City (239) 695-2174 (no phone now) Mon-Sat: 10 am to 3 pm-Truck in circle by City Hall
 Chokoloskee (239) 695-4468 (no phone now) Mon-Sat: 10 am to 3 pm– Truck in front of Chok. Church of God
 Ochopee (239) 695-2099 Mon-Fri: 8 to 10 am, noon to 4 pm; Sat: 10 am to 2 pm

SHERIFF: 239-252-9300 CITY HALL: 239-695-3781 PUBLIC LIBRARY: 239-695-2511 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

OLD FLORIDA FESTIVAL November 18 & 19

The Collier County Museums and the Friends of the Collier County Museums are pleased to present the **28th Annual Old Florida Festival Nov. 18 and 19, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.** at the Collier Museum at the Government Center, 3331 Tamiami Trail E, Naples, Florida.

“THANKSGIVING” LUNCH November 26th, 1 to 3 pm Everglades City School Cafeteria Hosted by Genny Bowan



Everyone is invited to come to enjoy this delicious, chef prepared meal...featuring all of the delicacies of Thanksgiving hosted and paid for by Genny Bowan. Genny is from Hartford, Wisconsin and winters in Ft. Myers.

Genny wanted to do something nice for our community so she is hosting this lunch for *everyone*. It is so generous for her to do this,! *Thank you Genny!*



FME ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCHEON

December 11, 11:30 am

The FME annual meeting and luncheon will be held on December 11, at 11:30 am at Everglades Isles (803 Collier Avenue, Everglades City). If you would like to attend, please RSVP by email to: fme_98@hotmail.com. We hope to see you there!

FRIENDS OF FAKAHATCHEE WELCOME BACK LUNCH December 16th



The Welcome Back lunch will be held at the Naples Botanical Garden on Saturday, December 16th, featuring speaker Nick Ewy formerly employed at the American Orchid Society Botanical Garden in Delray Beach, and also worked as lead horticulturist at the International Polo Club in Wellington. In July 2013, Nick joined the Naples Botanical Garden as Associate Director of Horticulture.

For information call: 239-695-1023 or visit the website at orchidswamp.org and click the “tours and events” tab. We hope to see you there!

FOOD BANK REOPENED!

Wednesday's 11 am to 1 pm

The Harry Chapin Food Bank is resuming weekly food distribution in November and December every Wednesday from 11AM to 1PM in the parking lot in front of River Wilderness Waterfront Villas, 210 Collier Avenue, across from the Marathon Service Station. This is a temporary arrangement until Jinkins Fellowship Hall at Community Church has been repaired.

EVERGLADES CITY SEAFOOD FESTIVAL, FEB 9-11

The annual Everglades City Seafood Festival will go on as planned and take place February 9, 10 & 11. The three days of fun will feature foods, carnival rides, arts & crafts and the (almost) famous collectible Budweiser mugs. Great country music will be performed by local artists and national headliners!

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 can see patients in E-City. Call to make an appointment: 813-787-9738.



~ ACCOUNTING SERVICES ~ MIKE “THE TAX GUY”

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



THRIFT SHOP

Sorry...the thrift shop is currently closed for repairs! We are working hard to reopen as soon as possible! Thanks for your patience while we make repairs.



FREE DENTAL SCREENINGS ALL AGES- DEC. 14 9 am to 4 pm

The Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida's Health & Smiles Mobil Dental Bus is scheduled to be in Everglades City on **December 14** 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 239-986-7323.

A MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF KINGMAN SCHULDT



Three years ago on November 4, 2014, 149 founding members of Greater Naples Fire Rescue District ventured into new and uncharted territory. Today the Fire

District has grown to be the largest in the State, **protecting more than 160,000 residents in some 1,516 square miles.** The District currently employs 221 members who are challenged to meet the increasing demands of a growing community. The expansion of services to the Isles of Capri and Ochopee fire districts brought even more new challenges and opportunities. During this short three-year period the District has expanded services to include Advanced Life Support Paramedic services, marine operations staffing two fire boats, and provides Fire Marshal services for the Collier County Government.



This year has possibly been the most challenging for the Fire District as well as the residents of Collier County due to the effects of two major wildfires and a hurricane that taxed resources, personnel, and financial capabilities. Through it all your Fire District proudly served the community and stands ready for what the next year will bring. It is an exciting time for the Fire District with many new programs and services in our future, including the establishment of the Greater Naples Fire Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) established to support firefighters and their families during times of need.


I am certain I may speak for the entire organization when I say how thankful we are for the many accomplishment of the District in such a short three-year period. For these would have never been possible without the support of the Board of Fire Commissioners, and of course the community we so proudly serve.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS To Help With Home Renovations

There are still many residents who need help repairing and removing debris from their homes and yards. If you would like to help, please contact Karen Cochran at City Hall: 239-695-3781. *Thank you!*

Due to the effects of Hurricane Irma, many area businesses are remodeling, but they are re-opening daily. Please call to verify hours!

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11/4/17 Puzzle Solution

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School Schedule:

November 23-25: No School. Fall break
November 29: Interim reports
December 21: Early dismissal



**A Message From Principal James Ragusa
 Gators Meeting the Challenge!**

For the second consecutive year the Lady Gators Cross Country team was represented at the regional meet in Lakeland, Florida. Congratulations to Ashlyn Goff for qualifying again this year despite the many challenges caused by Hurricane Irma! We are so proud of Ashlyn and all the fall sport athletes who fought through the loss of practice time and the other hardships that they faced in the aftermath of the storm.



The cross country coaches, Coach Liza Wells and Coach Carey Walker, did an excellent job modifying their practice and meet schedules

this fall. Our volleyball coaches, Coach Becky Welch and Jason Fournes, also did exceptional work to practice at a Manatee Middle School while finishing their season traveling away to every game and in some cases playing two games an evening to make up for missed games while school was not in session.

I would like to personally thank our Athletic Director, Coach Whitcomb, for the tremendous work she put in to ensure our coaches and athletes could compete this fall. She truly has faced quite a challenge modifying schedules, locating practice facilities, and making sure that students were always provided dinner at each game during this challenging season.

We have begun practice for basketball season and the ladies and men's teams will see their first athletic contests after we return from Thanksgiving break.

The work to repair the flooded buildings on campus is continuing and we should have projected completion dates very soon. As additional information about the facility is provided I will be sure to share that with our readers.

IT IS ALWAYS A GREAT DAY TO BE A GATOR!

~Jim Ragusa

Sports Events / Schedule

→ November 28: Boys and Girls basketball games will begin. Stay tuned for the full schedule!

Website: www.collierschools.com/evg

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



**A Message of Thanks
 by Coach Jill Whitcomb**

Jennifer Lines, Head Basketball Coach at First Baptist Academy, reached out to Everglades City School immediately following the hurricane to see how she and her team could help our school and girls basketball team.

When she learned that we had lost our gym and would have to practice outside on the community basketball courts, she wanted to help. She and her team wanted to help lift the financial burden of having to purchase two pairs of basketball shoes from our student athletes' families. She and her team raised enough money to purchase a pair of basketball shoes to practice outside and a pair to play games inside at a gym. When she received the shoes, we invited her team down to Everglades City to present the shoes to our players. Speedy's Airboat tours offered to take both teams on an Airboat ride to celebrate this generous act of kindness and generosity. The girls mixed up and had a fantastic ride sharing experiences and fellowship.



Not only did the girls' basketball team offer to help, but also another member of First Baptist Academy. Erin Bruck did a coin drive with the students at FBA to raise money for the boys basketball team to purchase a pair of indoor basketball shoes. After two weeks of collecting, FBA collected enough money to buy each player on the boys basketball teams a pair of game shoes. There will be a special recognition ceremony on November 30th when we play FBA at their gym.

Above: FBA & Everglades City School Girls Basketball Teams Return From Their Airboat Rides!

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 EVERY WEEKEND THROUGH MARCH 31
 9 AM—1 PM
 1181 HAMILTON LANE
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 VENDORS WELCOMED

Dear Readers, Please check with our local businesses to confirm their hours of operation as many have been impacted by the hurricane. Some are currently closed for repairs, but they are re-opening every day...
 October 15th marked the re-opening of stone crab season! We may look a little different, but we are open for business!

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My Little Slice of Paradise

By Kathy Brock

Getting involved often means you need to step out of your comfort zone.

In the days after the storm, I found it very difficult to see what had happened, and what was happening, to our community. I love this place. It is where my heart has been ever since we closed on our first home here in March 1993. The devastation from the hurricane has pushed me to get more involved in the community to do something, anything to help – even if only a little bit. Every little bit helps collectively...a whole lot.

When I drove around the community to survey the damage, it was obvious to me that I would have to do more if I expected to see the recovery happen faster. This situation was (and still is) too daunting, too large for the local municipalities (Everglades City/Collier County) to get it all done. It is unrealistic to think that it is all going to just happen because we want it to.

What this has reinforced for me is that community involvement is a requirement. Not by everyone, but by those who may have the time, temperament, and resources to get stuff done. Honestly, how much can we expect from the City of Everglades City? We have one of the smallest City staffs in the entire state. We have two people out in the field (Gordon & Lloyd) and Wonder Woman (Dottie, see page 1).

If everything is left for them to do, it is an almost impossible task. We need people to help pick up the slack, roll up their sleeves and do things that need to be done. If you see a stop sign missing a bolt, get a bolt and put it in. If you see garbage, pick it up. If a neighbor's car is stuck in the mud, help them get it out... The city is not here to do everything for us...even if they wanted to, they simply cannot.

Think about it for a minute. Do you believe that the City of Everglades City can bear the burden of the expenses caused by Hurricane Irma on its own? The answer to that is that no cities, even large ones, can afford to provide all of the services needed to recover after a catastrophic event... and Irma was "the big one" for us.

The only thing the local municipalities can do is to wait for assistance from the state and federal governments...and that means "red tape" and time. And, even once this "hoped for" assistance comes, there is no guarantee it will cover everything. In fact, if similar situations in other places are any indication, it will not. Which brings it back to "us". "We the people" of Everglades City, Chokoloskee, and Plantation Island. We have to pull together and help each other out. If we don't, we will still be lamenting the day Irma hit 2, 3, or maybe even 10 years from now.

We will always remember that day, but we do not need to be reminded of it by simply looking down the street. The area needs our help which is why we are organizing the community clean up weekend. One look at the median on Copeland Avenue should show you why. We have downed trees, trash and glass everywhere. Going barefoot is out for quite a while. Letting your dog run in the medians is not a good idea. And, eventually you will need tires because there are nails everywhere and they are currently being picked up by our tires...instead of our hands.

We all had damage, some much more than others. So for those of you who can spare a day, please consider giving back to the community that provides one of the most unique living experiences in the State...and the Country. Our little slice of paradise needs you to help make it look a little more like paradise again. Please join our cause on December 9th & 10th. Contact me for details at 954-662-7003 or by email at mulletrapper@gmail.com



Recipes for Good Eating

by Bonnie Woodward

Linda's Frozen Cranberry Salad FAST, EASY & Perfect as a Thanksgiving Treat!

Ingredients

- 1 large can crushed pineapple
- 1 large can whole cranberry sauce
- 1 cup sour cream
- ¼ cup chopped pecans



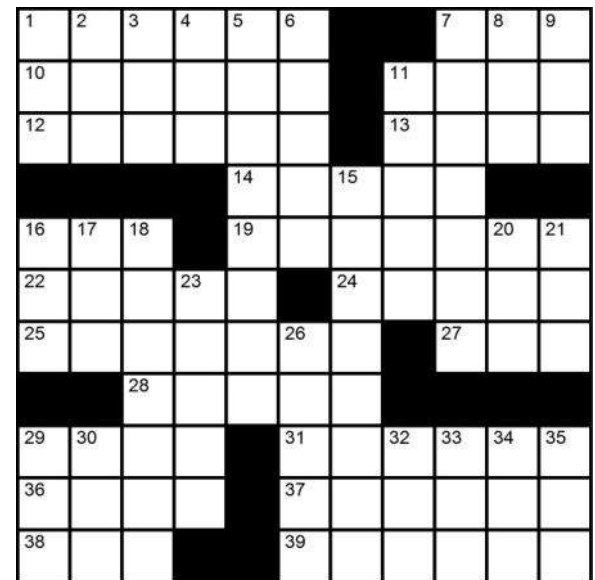
Directions: Mix all ingredients together until fully blended. Spread into a square pan and freeze for at least 4 hours. Cut into squares to serve.

This dish is served frozen over some crisp iceberg lettuce leaves and some sliced pineapple as a garnish. Delish!

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 For some time
- 7 Convert hide into leather
- 10 One who tracks leads
- 11 Harbor
- 12 Quaint love letter opener
- 13 One of 12 in a foot
- 14 Coke, Pepsi, 7-up
- 16 LA summer setting
- 19 Holy threesome
- 22 Users try this
- 24 Salk's conquest
- 25 Type of show, such as Anne Hathaway's "Grounded"
- 27 Hill VIP
- 28 Same here!
- 29 Once _____ a time
- 31 Alters formally
- 36 Niagara has a Maid of this
- 37 DeNiro film _____ Bull
- 38 Big Apple aria spot
- 39 Pull into



11/18/17

Down

- 1 Automated teller
- 2 Sardonic
- 3 Ate
- 4 Rocks
- 5 Tiniest amount
- 6 Mistake
- 7 Oft-removed throat tissues
- 8 Curve
- 9 Utmost degree
- 11 It has 88 keys when full-size
- 15 Foreign dignitary
- 16 In favor of

Down Continued

- 17 Lair
- 18 Beyond all others
- 20 Railroad cross-member
- 21 Way over there, poetically
- 23 Representative
- 26 A lion does it
- 29 Now let me think sound...
- 30 Apple is a popular one
- 32 Self-esteem
- 33 Pinch
- 34 Genetic footprint
- 35 USMC noncom



When the World You Know Disappears: How People Overcome Major Loss: Part IV-Gratitude

by Author & Therapist Neil Rosenthal

What are you grateful for? It's a funny subject to be asking you about. If you lost your home in the hurricane—or just about everything you own—why in the world would you choose to focus on what you're grateful for when you have so much to be ungrateful for?

The answer, in a nutshell, is about how you wish to view your future. If you permit yourself to feel bitter, cynical, angry, hopeless or defeated—or if you were to take the Irma Hurricane personally and interpret your loss as a sign from above or as punishment of past deeds—it would be appropriate for you to curse the sky and to damn the fates.

But if you wish to come out of the hurricane with your spirit intact, if you wish to look toward the future with a sense of hope and optimism, then you have no real choice. You have to look at that part of your cup that's half full—where you feel hopeful, blessed, abundant and grateful, and figure out how you are going to make lemonade from your destroyed world.

If you can focus your energies toward how you want to rebuild your life, what you have to look forward to, and if you stay conscious of the fact that you still have your life, you still may have love, your health and your future—you'll be okay. That's where gratitude fits in.

Yes, the hurricane stings. You lost things that were no-doubt priceless to you. But broken hearted or not, you aren't dead yet, and I am suggesting that you not let that hurricane defeat your spirit or sour you.

So yes, you may be completely bummed out by losing everything you owned, or things precious to you, or just the pain of cleanup and replacing things. But despite your personal trial by wind, there is a future to look forward to. New self-expressions, new experiences, new opportunities, different challenges. And in the midst of a major life upheaval and disruption, there is still so much that you have to be grateful for that it is staggering.

You cannot afford to ignore the abundance you have in your life by focusing primarily on what pains you. Your task is to lessen your focus on the bummers, and to increase your focus on what is exciting, hopeful, regenerative and future-oriented. Part of that change in focus is to look closely at what you are grateful for, because as you start looking for the good, your focus is automatically taken off the bad.

Does any of this sound as if it would be good for you? If so, permit me to guide you about how to change your focus to one of feeling grateful for what you have, who you are, where you've been or where you're heading. Try this: review the people, events or experiences you've had this past year that you're grateful for, appreciative of or thankful for. Include both the big and the little things. Thank your hands, legs and feet for working so tirelessly to support you and for doing such a wonderful job. Remember the trees, flowers and plants that bring beauty into your life, and offer them your deepest appreciation.

Now reflect on the past 5 years of your life. What happened in this past 5 years that you can be thankful for? Whom did you meet? What did you experience? What happened to you that you're appreciative of? What opportunities presented themselves to you in the past 5 years? What teachings did you learn from, and what skills did you acquire? Remember to thank your friends, family, clients, customers, lovers, children and pets that have added so much depth, warmth, complexity and meaning to your life.

Perhaps there were some people or situations that you found difficult or upsetting at the time, but now you see they were just stepping stones to new opportunities for growth or change. Thank them, and offer them your highest appreciation.

Consider the past 20 years of your life. Whom have you known? Perhaps people you no longer see, or who are no longer alive. What has happened to you that you are thankful for? What people have given you loving, kind or caring attitudes or opportunities? What teachers have impacted you, and what have you learned or mastered? What experiences have occurred in that span of time? What opportunities have unfolded? How have you grown and what have you gained? How are you richer, deeper and wiser as a person? Think of the animals that have touched your life, living or dead, and thank them all. Gradually bring your consciousness into the present. What do you have to be thankful for and appreciative of today?

And could I invite you to look toward the future? You do no dishonor to the past by looking at the future you are interested in creating. Where would you like more abundance in your life? What do you wish to experience, build or achieve that you're willing to make happen? What new challenges are you interested in? New skills? New relationships—or new ways of being in a relationship? Are you interested in creating a different self-image? What changes do you want in your future that you're willing to work for?

Don't just assume that your future will happen on its own. Go out and make that future happen. What other real choice do you have?

"A high station in life is earned by the gallantry with which appalling experiences are survived with grace." ---Tennessee Williams

*Neil Rosenthal is a licensed marriage and family therapist in Colorado.
Contact him at 303-758-8777 or visit neilrosenthal.com.*

Park News

Backcountry Camping is Returning to Everglades National Park!

From Saturday, November 11, at 10:00 a.m., campers can obtain permits 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at Flamingo. Campers must self-register in person, obtaining permits at the fish cleaning station adjacent to the boat ramps of the Flamingo Marina, and no more than a day in advance of the start of a trip.

The Gulf Coast area is not issuing permits at this time. Any open sites north of, and including Broad River, are first come, first served. As a result of damage from Hurricane Irma, drive-in camping at Flamingo, and most other services in Flamingo, such as the Marina Store, fuel service, boat rentals, boat tours, and canoe/kayak rentals remain closed until further notice.



Florida Panther Update

The number of recorded panther deaths is down slightly from 2016, but the number remains distressingly high. So far in 2017, 26 panther deaths have been reported. Of those, 21 have been the result of vehicle collisions and 5 by other causes.

Panthers are most active at dawn and dusk and will venture on to roads during these times. Please pay close attention while driving to avoid a possible collision with a panther. Most of these accidents take place in Collier, Lee and Hendry county.

On a positive note, there have been 19 births reported in 2017. Of these, 11 of the births took place in Big Cypress and the other 8 on private ranch lands.

Florida Manatees on the Move – November is Manatee Awareness Month

Boaters must remember to watch out for manatees in November & December as they begin migrating to warmer waters in their annual winter migration.

Florida is home to more than 6,600 manatees. With the arrival of Manatee Awareness Month, boaters are asked to slow down and look out for these large aquatic mammals in waterways throughout the state.



Many seasonal manatee protection zones go into effect Nov. 15. Though some signs identifying manatee zones may have been damaged by Hurricane Irma, information on manatee zone locations is also available online. If you see

damaged waterway signs, report them at MyFWC.com/Boating by clicking on "Waterway Management," "Waterway Markers" and then "Damaged/Missing Waterway Markers."

"People's efforts to help Florida manatees are working. Let's celebrate the fact that conservation actions are making a difference and manatees are no longer endangered by thanking all the individuals and organizations that contributed to this milestone," said Carol Knox, who leads the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Imperiled Species Management Section.

"It's important though to remain vigilant," Knox said. "Let's keep up the efforts that are helping with manatee recovery."



Living Gulf Coast
by Charles Sobczak

Magnificent Frigate Bird (*Fregata magnificens*)

Other names: man-o'-war bird, pirate of the sea, hurricane bird / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=LC / Life span: to 19 years / Length 35-45 in. (89-116 cm) / Wingspan: 85-88 in. (217-224 cm) / Weight: 2.8-4.2 lb (1.3-1.9 kg) / Nests: in a large colony in Estero Bay in Lee County and in the Florida Keys / Found: Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Collier Counties, coastal / Months found: **JfmaMJASOND** (lower case indicates nesting season).

One of the most efficient flying birds in the world, the magnificent frigate bird rivals the albatross family in its ability to remain airborne for extended periods of time. Extremely light and with an enormous wingspan, it has the lowest wing-loading (weight to wingspan) of any bird in the world. Seemingly suspended in the breeze, the frigate bird resembles a kite or large black bat soaring high overhead.

The frigate bird is kleptoparasite, a feeding characteristic most often found in insects but also observed in certain birds. This means that the frigate bird will often harass a gannet, anhinga, or booby into disgorging its catch, then snatch it away from the other bird in midair—hence the nickname, pirate of the sea.



On the open ocean the frigate bird survives on squid, jellyfish, fish, and even young sea turtles. A truly spectacular flyer, the frigate bird has been observed synchronizing its speed and aligning its direction perfectly to snatch flying fish while the fish is airborne! In the Florida Keys, this behavior makes the frigate bird a welcome sight for anglers searching for the pelagic fishes of the Gulf Stream (dolphin, wahoo, marlin, and tuna) because the frigate bird tends to follow these fish in hopes of feeding on their by-catch or capturing the flying fish fleeing before them.

The male frigate bird has a large red pouch that it inflates during breeding season. The chicks of the frigate bird are pure white and extremely vulnerable to predation. They remain with the mother for more than a year after hatching, and because of the risk of being killed by other nesting frigate birds, they are never left unattended. Because of this lengthy upbringing, the female frigate bird mates once every other year.



The frigate bird has been known to get swept up in major storms. In 1988 Hurricane Gilbert carried a flock deep into North America, leading to record sightings as far north as Ontario. Recent DNA testing has shown that the frigate bird is more closely related to the penguin than to the pelican family where most scientific literature still places it. Most predation to the frigate bird comes at the nesting site. It has no known predators once this large bird is at sea.

Charles Sobczak is a writer & photographer from Sanibel Island

Photos by Judd Patterson

ATTENTION RIDERS!
Everglades Bike Rides Resume

Please join our group as we cycle through the beautiful Everglades and enjoy the nature and comradery of our fellow riders.

The rides will take place the 2nd Sunday of each month, Each ride takes a trip through a unique part of the area where you can see the beautiful scenery like never before Please note some rides are “on road” and “off road” as indicated in the schedule below.

For more information, please email info@evergladesrogg.org or call Patty at: 239-695-2397. You can also review the schedule online at www.evergladesrogg.org/events.

EVERGLADES RIDE SCHEDULE

December 10 – Janes Scenic Drive in the Fakahatchee Strand (off-road). Meet at Fakahatchee Headquarters on Janes Scenic Drive

January 14 – Everglades City / Chokoloskee (on-road). Meet at McLeod Park, Everglades City

February 11 – Loop Road in the Big Cypress & ENP (off-road). Meet at west end of Loop Road

March 11 – Ave Maria (on-road). Meet at McLeod Park, Everglades City

April 8 – Bear Island in the Big Cypress (off-road). Meet at Bear Island (end of Turner River Road)

**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>*

Everglades City Sample Ballot Election Day is Nov. 28th



Below is a sample ballot for the upcoming local election. Please note that the polling location will be the temporary City Hall located at 205 Buckner Avenue N. (by the Community Center) from 7 am to 7 pm. Make sure to bring your photo ID to the polling location.

A		Collier County, Florida
11	INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTE, COMPLETELY FILL IN THE OVAL (●) NEXT TO YOUR CHOICE. USE A BLACK OR BLUE BALLPOINT PEN. IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE, DON'T HESITATE TO ASK FOR A NEW BALLOT. IF YOU ERASE OR MAKE OTHER MARKS, YOUR VOTE MAY NOT COUNT.	
21	INSTRUCCIONES PARA VOTAR, RELLENE COMPLETAMENTE EL ÓVALO (●) JUNTO A SU SELECCIÓN. USE UN BOLÍGRAFO DE TINTA NEGRA O AZUL. SI COMETE UN ERROR, POR FAVOR, PIDA OTRA BOLETA. SI BORRA ALGO O HACE OTRAS MARCAS, ES POSIBLE QUE NO SE CUENTE SU VOTO.	
	MAYOR (Vote for One)	
	ALCALDE (Vote por Uno)	
40	<input type="radio"/>	Howell Grimm Jr
41	<input type="radio"/>	Billy Snyder
42		
43	CITY COUNCIL (Vote for up to Three)	
	CONSEJAL DE LA CIUDAD (Vote por hasta Tres)	
	<input type="radio"/>	Wayne Krystopa
	<input type="radio"/>	Elaine H. Middelstaedt
	<input type="radio"/>	Johnnie Potter
	<input type="radio"/>	Tim Smith Sr
51	<input type="radio"/>	Vicky Wells
	<input type="radio"/>	Joseph "Joe" West

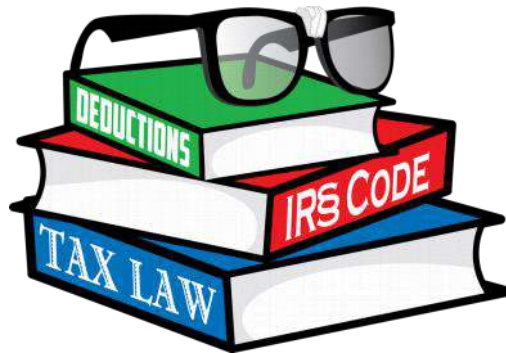
Taxing Things by Mike the Tax Guy LOST TAX RECORDS

Many Everglades City, Chokoloskee, and Plantation Island residents suffered loss of their federal income tax records due to the floods caused by Hurricane Irma. The resulting losses have compounded difficulties for those seeking relief in various forms. FEMA, SBA, Collier County, and many insurance companies require copies of tax returns to process aid or claims applications. For tax clients who may need a copy of their records contact Mike at 239-595-4203.

Requests for records from the IRS can also be processed for those who are not clients. Call to set up an appointment; you will need to provide specific information and a cell phone number for the IRS to send a secure text code.

Due to privacy concerns personal records are temporarily not available online while the system is being upgraded. Once the request is approved the IRS will mail your copy within 10 days.

DEDUCTING LOSSES FROM A DISASTER From IRS.gov



If you suffer damage to your home or personal property, you may be able to deduct the losses you incur on your federal income tax return. Here are 10 tips you should know about deducting casualty losses:

Casualty loss. You may be able to deduct losses based on the damage done to your property during a disaster. A casualty is a sudden, unexpected or unusual event. This may include natural disasters like hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and earthquakes. It can also include losses from fires, accidents, thefts or vandalism.

Normal wear and tear. A casualty loss does not include losses from normal wear and tear. It does not include progressive deterioration from age or termite damage. Covered by insurance. If you insured your property, you must file a timely claim for reimbursement of your loss. If you don't, you cannot deduct the loss as a casualty or theft. You must reduce your loss by the amount of the reimbursement you received or expect to receive.

When to deduct. As a general rule, you must deduct a casualty loss in the year it occurred. However, if you have a loss from a federally declared disaster area, you may have a choice of when to deduct the loss. You can choose to deduct the loss on your return for the year the loss occurred or on an amended return for the immediately preceding tax year. Claiming a disaster loss on the prior year's return may result in a lower tax for that year, often producing a refund.

Amount of loss. You figure the amount of your loss using the following steps: Determine your adjusted basis in the property before the casualty. For property you buy, your basis is usually its cost to you. For property you acquire in some other way, such as inheriting it or getting it as a gift, you must figure your basis in another way. For more see Publication 551, Basis of Assets.

Determine the decrease in fair market value, or FMV, of the property as a result of the casualty. FMV is the price for which you could sell your property to a willing buyer. The decrease in FMV is the difference between the property's FMV immediately before and immediately after the casualty.

Subtract any insurance or other reimbursement you received or expect to receive from the smaller of those two amounts.

\$100 rule. After you have figured your casualty loss on personal-use property, you must reduce that loss by \$100. This reduction applies to each casualty loss event during the year. It does not matter how many pieces of property are involved in an event.

10 percent rule. You must reduce the total of all your casualty or theft losses on personal-use property for the year by 10 percent of your adjusted gross income.

Future income. Do not consider the loss of future profits or income due to the casualty as you figure your loss.

Form 4684. Complete Form 4684, Casualties and Thefts, to report your casualty loss on your federal tax return. You claim the deductible amount on Schedule A, Itemized Deductions.

Business or income property. Some of the casualty loss rules for business or income property are different than the rules for property held for personal use.



EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP



Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands

(642-1025): Mon.- Wed. 5 -11 pm,
Thurs. to Sun noon - 11 pm;

Camellia Street Grille (695-2003):

Closed for Repairs

City Seafood (695-4700):

8:00 am – 6:00 pm; daily
Supper upstairs is

opening after Thanksgiving

Glades Haven Deli (695-2091):

Sorry, Closed for Repairs
Please Check Back!

Havana Café (695-2214):

7 am to 3 pm daily

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):

Due to hurricane damage
closed for repairs

Oyster House Restaurant (695-2073):

Sorry, Closed for Repairs
Please Check Back!

NEW! Right Choice Pizza (695-0102)

Local Delivery!

Closed for repairs.

Rod & Gun (695-2101):

Reopened! Call for hours

Sweet Mayberry's Café is Closed

We have enjoyed serving you.

Tastes of the Everglades (695-0075)

Closed, reopening soon!

Triad Seafood & Café (695-2662):

8 am to 5 pm

MARKETS

Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535):

Open 9 am to 7 pm Daily

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

Open for Business!

Fresh Produce

Chokoloskee, see p.5, E-City, Marathon Gas

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

Chokoloskee Church of God

Sunday: 11 am Worship, Wed. 7pm Hour of Prayer

Copeland Baptist Church

Sunday: 10 am School, 11 am Worship

Everglades Community Church

9:30 am Sunday Worship

1st Baptist Church of Everglades City

Sunday School 9:45 am, Worship 11 am

Evening Services: Sun. & Wed. 6 pm

Holy Family Catholic Church

Closed Until December 3, 2017

St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples

Phone: 239-417-2084

San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl.

Phone: 239-394-5181

EVERGLADES CITY TIDES

LAT: 25.87° N LONG: 81.37°W

Check: www.weather.gov for conditions

11/18	Sat	1:25 AM	3.1	H
11/18	Sat	9:27 AM	-0.1	L
11/18	Sat	2:46 PM	2.7	H
11/18	Sat	9:32 PM	0.8	L
11/19	Sun	1:52 AM	3.1	H
11/19	Sun	10:04 AM	-0.1	L
11/19	Sun	3:22 PM	2.6	H
11/19	Sun	10:06 PM	0.8	L
11/20	Mon	2:18 AM	3.1	H
11/20	Mon	10:40 AM	-0.1	L
11/20	Mon	4:03 PM	2.6	H
11/20	Mon	10:39 PM	0.9	L
11/21	Tue	2:44 AM	3	H
11/21	Tue	11:18 AM	-0.1	L
11/21	Tue	4:49 PM	2.5	H
11/21	Tue	11:10 PM	0.9	L
11/22	Wed	3:12 AM	2.9	H
11/22	Wed	11:57 AM	0	L
11/22	Wed	5:41 PM	2.5	H
11/22	Wed	11:44 PM	1	L
11/23	Thu	3:45 AM	2.7	H
11/23	Thu	12:40 PM	0.1	L
11/23	Thu	6:35 PM	2.4	H
11/24	Fri	12:28 AM	1	L
11/24	Fri	4:28 AM	2.6	H
11/24	Fri	1:29 PM	0.2	L
11/24	Fri	7:30 PM	2.4	H
11/25	Sat	1:39 AM	1	L
11/25	Sat	5:38 AM	2.4	H
11/25	Sat	2:26 PM	0.3	L
11/25	Sat	8:24 PM	2.4	H
11/26	Sun	3:10 AM	0.9	L
11/26	Sun	7:38 AM	2.2	H
11/26	Sun	3:28 PM	0.4	L
11/26	Sun	9:16 PM	2.5	H
11/27	Mon	4:23 AM	0.8	L
11/27	Mon	9:06 AM	2.2	H
11/27	Mon	4:27 PM	0.4	L
11/27	Mon	10:03 PM	2.6	H
11/28	Tue	5:19 AM	0.6	L
11/28	Tue	10:21 AM	2.3	H
11/28	Tue	5:20 PM	0.5	L
11/28	Tue	10:45 PM	2.7	H
11/29	Wed	6:09 AM	0.4	L
11/29	Wed	11:25 AM	2.4	H
11/29	Wed	6:10 PM	0.5	L
11/29	Wed	11:22 PM	2.9	H
11/30	Thu	6:55 AM	0.1	L
11/30	Thu	12:20 PM	2.6	H
11/30	Thu	6:57 PM	0.6	L
11/30	Thu	11:57 PM	3.1	H
12/1	Fri	7:41 AM	-0.1	L
12/1	Fri	1:10 PM	2.7	H
12/1	Fri	7:43 PM	0.6	L
12/2	Sat	12:29 AM	3.3	H
12/2	Sat	8:27 AM	-0.3	L
12/2	Sat	1:58 PM	2.8	H
12/2	Sat	8:30 PM	0.7	L

Obituaries

Gerald David LaPlant
April 1944 - November 2017



Gerald David "Punk" LaPlant, age 73, passed away on Wednesday, November 1st in Buffalo, MN. He is loved and will be missed.

Gerry was the husband of Charlotte Marie LaPlant (nee Dalbec), married on June 15, 1963. They had been married for 54 years.

Gerry and Charlotte wintered in Everglades City where the family owns condos at the Captains table.

Gerry is survived by his wife, Charlotte; sons, David and Darrell; daughter, Deanna; and grandchildren, Kari, Kerstin, Kolleen and Killian LaPlant. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Margaret LaPlant; and brother, John "Jack" LaPlant. Services were held at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church on November 10 in Minnesota.

Bessie "Peggy" Lee Mason
April 1949 - November 2017



Bessie "Peggy" Lee Mason was born on April 16, 1949 in Jerome Florida to Lee "Papa" Mason and Mary Lucille Mason. Her formal education started at Dupont Elementary School in Everglades City.

She was full of life and loved to laugh. She had a seriousness about her that would definitely get your attention! She loved to cook and have a good time. She also loved living on "The Trail" and you could never get her to move even if you offered her a mansion.

Out of all of her siblings, her "partner in crime" was baby sister, Idella. They were life-long neighbors and best friends until the end.

Bessie was preceded in death by her Father & Mother, brothers, Clarence Johnson, Willie Lee Johnson, Robert Johnson Sr. and Lee Mason Jr. Sisters, Imogene Johnson Boykins and Mary Lucille Davis. She leaves to mourn sons, Samuel Durden, Darvis Ray Mason and Lynn Warren Jr, sister Idella, brothers, Perry Mason Sr., Tommy Burgess Jr., and Donzell Burgess, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, family and friends.



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.

PART TIME JOB: Pedego Electric Bikes sales associate. Sales experience preferred. Located in Naples. If you are interested and would like to apply, please email joe@pedegonaples.com or call 239-370-8640.

FOR SALE OR LEASE: 1700 SQ FT building in Everglades City. Repairs are underway. For more information, please call 239-253-3942 or 239-232-0443.

EXPERIENCED CAREGIVER: Providing companionship, shopping & errands, light housekeeping, dog or cat sitting. Home checks & other tasks. 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 RENT: Studio apartment. Includes water, electricity and garbage pick up. \$700/mo. annual lease. 1st, last, security to move in. Call 239-340-4770.

SCREENED PORCH REPAIR: Need repairs or rescreening? Call for a fast, free estimate: 814-777-5524.

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: RV Lots with docks. Please call Bob Wells Real Estate @ 239-695-2660 for more information.

FOR SALE: New Forest Wolf Pup Toy Hauler. Ltd Pkg. 13.5 K A/C, 14" alum wheels, 20 BTU furnace, 6 gallon gas/elec. DSI water heater, friction hinge door, high gloss seamless countertop, LED pancake lights, night shades, RV fridge, spare tire, stabilizer jacks, stereo with in and outside speakers, upgraded, hypoallergenic evergreen mattress, all hoses and propane tank. Brand new, never used. Brought from Indiana for someone in need of housing. Will sell "at cost", \$13,000. Can be seen in Everglades City. Call 812-327-7195.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Become an election worker. **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: ElectionWorker@colliergov.net or (239) 252-VOTE (8683).

The MULLET RAPPER

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

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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.

The views expressed in signed articles are not necessarily those of the editors or publisher.

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