

The MULLET RAPPER



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

Area Information ♦ Tides ♦ Events ♦ Attractions

25¢

MARCH 21, 2020 - APRIL 3, 2020

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P. O. Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139

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A Note To Readers

Covid-19 (the “corona virus”) is an evolving situation. There may be cancellations of events and closures as things change and additional precautions are implemented after our publication date.

Please contact any businesses or government centers to confirm that they are open or closed during this uncertain time.

Below is a list of websites and phone numbers that you may need in the coming weeks:

Collier County Gov. Center: 239-252-8999.

Collier Schools: www.collierschools.com
Collier County Health Dept: 239-252-7300

Greater Naples Fire: 239-348-7540

Everglades City Hall: 239-695-3781

The White House: www.whitehouse.gov

World Health Organization (WHO): www.who.int

If you are experiencing a dry cough with a fever, or you believe you may have the virus, please contact your doctor and isolate yourself from others to minimize community spread.

Please be considerate of others and especially careful around the elderly and those with an underlying health condition. *When in doubt, take the cautious route!*

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FEATURE: SAWFISH NEWS, P. 4

Josh Grimm, Son of Mayor Howie Grimm, Awarded Greater Naples Fire District's Firefighter of the Year!



Greater Naples Fire District has named Josh Grimm as the 2019 firefighter of the year (pictured second to left).

Josh Grimm is the son of current Everglades City Mayor Howie Grimm and a graduate of Everglades City School.

Josh has been a firefighter with the Greater Naples Fire District for 20 years. He is married to his wife Kelly and they have two sons.

Thank you to Josh, and to all first responders, who put their lives on the line everyday to save the lives of others. Firefighters and first responders like Josh face multiple risks and hazards each and every time they go on a call. Without them, our communities would not be as safe and many lives would be lost.

Next time you see a first responder, thank them for all that they do for us. They are our every day heroes!

For more information about Greater Naples Fire District, go to their website at www.greaternaplesfire.org. You can also find them on Facebook at [facebook.com/greaternaplesfire/](https://www.facebook.com/greaternaplesfire/).

FOR AREA INFORMATION, EVENTS, ETC SCAN THE CODE



Former Everglades City School Principal Jim Ragusa Chosen as Principal of the Year!

Beloved former principal of Everglades City School (EVG), Jim Ragusa, was named as the principal of the year for Collier County Schools after only his first year at Palmetto Ridge High School.

Mr. Ragusa was appointed as principal of EVG in 2015. However it was in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma that his leadership and commitment to the students and community became evident to all.

Immediately following the devastating flooding brought by Irma's storm-surge, Ragusa transformed the school cafeteria into a supply distribution center for local residents.

His help did not stop there. He searched for emergency funding, he distributed food, he cooked meals and distributed meals with some of his staff from the school.

When school reopened, he greeted the kids with what they needed...hugs and stability.

In 2018, Ragusa began implementing the “Leader in Me” program for students, based on Franklin Covey's 7-Habits of Highly Effective People.

By the end of the 2019 school year, Ragusa had transformed the school. The school became an “A-rated” school for the first time in its history. Shortly after the great news about the school's new rating, Ragusa got word he was being transferred to Pine Ridge High School.

To the residents of Everglades City, it is no surprise to hear that Jim Ragusa is now being recognized as not only a great person, but as an excellent leader and educator.

Congratulations Jim Ragusa, Principal of the Year for Collier County Schools! We thank you for the service you provided to our community and to our school, and we wish you continued success as you help mold our next generation of leaders. We will be forever grateful!

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT CANCELLATION NOTICE
 Due to precautionary measures being taken to limit community spread of the Coronavirus, many events are being postponed or canceled. We are attempting to update the calendar accordingly. However, we recommend that you contact the event holders directly to verify details of any events you are interested in!
 Please note that park visitor centers are closed but the parks are still open!

Pancake Fly-in

March 21, 10 am to noon

Free Breakfast, Pancakes, Sausage & Beverage!


Fly-ins and walk-ups welcomed!

Next fly-in: **April 18th.** We hope to see you at the EC Airpark!

ART-IN-THE-GLADES

March 28 Cancelled,

April 25, 10 am to 1 pm



Due to an abundance of caution, the Art-in-the-Glades event on March 28th has been cancelled. As of now, we are still planning on holding another event in April.

On April 25th, come to McLeod Park in historic Everglades City and enjoy art and other crafts. The booths will be set up under the pavilion at the park.

Museum Birthday

Tamiami Trail Anniversary

April 25th, 10 am to 2 pm

Join us for a classic cars display, live music, birthday cake and our 2nd Annual Laundry Cart Races at the Museum of the Everglades. For information about the event please call 239-252-5026.

Mother's Day is May 10th

Father's Day is June 21

Show your mom & dad how important they are to you by honoring them on these special days! Mark it on your calendar so you don't forget!

Fresh Veggies Tuesday—Sunday
Everglades City by the Post Office
 Shop locally. Farm Fresh!



Fresh vegetables are available by the post office direct from the farms of Immokalee!

Stop in and get some for your family! New supplies come in each day.

Based on recommendations from Federal, State and Local authorities

THE EVERGLADES AREA VISITOR CENTER IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Area information can be obtained at City Hall: 102 Copeland Avenue

Stay Safe. We Will Reopen As Soon As Possible!



A Message from Fire Chief Kingman Schultz

On Sunday, March 8th, we sprung into action and moved our clocks forward one hour for Daylight Saving Time. I hope you took the opportunity to check and change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.



Working SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery

"Dedicated To Life Safety"

According to the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission there are three life-saving steps you and your family can take to make sure everyone is safe in the home:

Check your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms monthly. If you do not have smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, now is the time to get them for your home. A smoke alarm should be on every level of your home, inside each bedroom, and outside sleeping areas. Carbon monoxide alarms should also be placed on every level of your home, and outside sleeping areas.

Batteries should be replaced in alarms, unless the alarms have sealed 10-year batteries. Also, alarms should be replaced if they are more than 10 years old.

Practice a fire escape plan: Make sure there are two ways out of your home from each room and clear a path to the outside from each exit. Once out, stay out!

Did you know the days directly after we "spring forward" and "fall back" both see an increase in fatal traffic accidents, which has been verified to be significant at about the 8% level. There is no corresponding decrease to balance it out.

Several studies have shown that workplace accidents and heart attacks are both more common in the week after the time change, too. Daylight Saving Time actually causes more deaths, rather than reducing them.

These issues really come down to an increase in fatigue and a change of our biological clocks as the actual time is adjusted from what we have become accustomed to. Fatigue has always been a contributing factor to injuries throughout the year. The change in clocks can accelerate that for a brief period of time for each of us until we get used to the change.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

FREE DENTAL, BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INFORMATION FOR ALL

Next Visit: April 21, 2020

The Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida's Health & Smiles Mobile Dental Bus will be in Everglades City on **April 21**, from 8 am to 4 pm, at the **Everglades Community Center (by Thrift Shop)** parking lot, providing free dental checks, blood pressure screenings and behavioral health information if requested. For more info or to schedule an appointment: call 239-202-7005.

THE FOOD BANK IS OPEN !

Wed. noon to 2pm

Everglades Community Pantry, a proud partner agency of the **Harry Chapin Food Bank**, is open every Wednesday from noon to 2 in Jinkins Fellowship Hall at Everglades Community Church in Everglades City. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

E-CITY THRIFT SHOP

Closed Until Further Notice

Due to the need to take precautions to avoid the spread of the coronavirus, the Everglades City Thrift Store will be closed until further notice. We apologize for the inconvenience.



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**SAWFISH NEWS by Tonya Wiley, Havenworth Coastal Conservation
 U.S. Sawfish Recovery Team to Host Public Workshop**

The goal of the Endangered Species Act is to protect and recover listed species until the point they no longer need the protections afforded by the Act. After the smalltooth sawfish was listed as an Endangered species in 2003, NOAA Fisheries convened the Smalltooth Sawfish Recovery Team to develop a plan to recover the U.S. population. The team worked several years to build additional knowledge of the species and to identify the most severe threats to the population in the United States. These efforts were published in the 2009 Recovery Plan which recommends specific steps to recover the population, focusing on (1) educating the public to minimize human interactions with sawfish and any associated injury and mortality, (2) protecting and/or restoring important sawfish habitats, and (3) ensuring sawfish abundance and distribution increase.

After the plan was published, the team morphed into a recovery implementation team*. Comprised of partners from federal and state governments, non-government organizations, universities, and the fishing industry, the team is working to implement the recovery plan by protecting the remaining sawfish population in the U.S. while simultaneously trying to increase its abundance. The team meets annually to review what was learned through research in the previous year and set goals for the upcoming year. The sawfish team has been an excellent example of collaboration and dedication by multiple partners for the good of the species, and the sawfish population is already showing some positive signs of recovery. Continued oversight of management and protections of the species and its habitats will ensure that sawfish numbers increase, and their range expands.

To provide the public with information about ongoing sawfish management and research efforts and to foster support for this endangered species, the U.S. Smalltooth Sawfish Recovery Implementation Team is excited to announce their website and social media accounts. Visit www.SawfishRecovery.org to meet the team members, learn about the biology of sawfish and the causes of the population decline, and review the recommended sawfish releasing and viewing guidelines. From the website you can also provide details of your sawfish captures or sightings, which are used to track recovery and guide future research. Follow the team on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for regular updates on management, research, and outreach efforts.

In collaboration with the Florida Guides Association, several members of the team will be hosting a public workshop the evening of April 7, 2020 at Port of the Islands Resort in Naples, Florida. The event is free and open to the public. Doors open at 5:30 for meet and greet with team members, followed by informational presentations at 6, then an informal Q&A session until 8:30. The on-site Angler's Cove Restaurant and Bar will offer food and drink for purchase during the event.

Find the U.S. Sawfish Recovery Implementation Team:
Web: www.SawfishRecovery.org, **Facebook:** U.S. Sawfish Recovery
Twitter: @SawfishRecovery, **Instagram:** [u.s.sawfishrecovery](https://www.instagram.com/u.s.sawfishrecovery)
Phone: 1-844-4SAWFISH



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**Killing Them With Kindness
Please STOP Feeding Pelicans Filleted Fish!**
By Kathy Brock



They waddle, they are cute and they beg like puppies as you filet the fish you just caught. Even though they are begging you to give them that fish you just fileted, *please don't do it.*

On Saturday March 15th, I could see a young brown pelican struggling in the Barron River. I yelled for Tim to come and save the day...and he did!

The pelican was trying to dislodge a large fileted fish someone either gave him or tossed in the river. The head of the redfish was so large it was lodged in his throat. Tim was able to capture the bird and dislodge the fish from his throat. Without the help, the bird would have died from starvation.

By installing a large PVC pipe from the dock station to below the water's surface, these types of situations can be avoided. In many boating communities they are a requirement—because they save birds' lives.

If you must feed the birds (and we are not supposed to do it at all), please do not give them large heads or the bony carcass. Pelicans cannot pass large bones, and the heads can get lodged in their throats. The only parts safe for them are the skin or small bits and pieces of innards.

Pelicans feed on small fish that average 10 inches or less. Their digestive systems are not equipped to process bones from a fish carcass, Those bones can puncture their digestive tract causing injury or death.

Adventures of The Saltwater Cowboy – “Purple Fade”
By Jon Edward Edwards

Dusk brought a slight Southwest wind, dry and fresh. Tall enough was the mangrove island in front of me to block all signs of development along the beach from Tigertail to Caxambas pass, creating an illusion of wilderness. Trolling along the mangrove bank it was Magic Hour, my favorite time to fish. Thru my fancy earbuds, that I paid way too much for, came the lyric, “out on the road today I saw a dead head sticker on a Cadillac...”

A big center console came by at a good clip. As it pushed its own wake it scooped up bottoms of twilight, mixing bits of red into a purple fade on the Big Marco River. Ascending one side and down the other, I rode the wake standing on the forward deck, sea legs working fine.

Light fading, I could barely see the lure move along the surface of the water as I twitched the rod tip back and forth. Twitch... twitch... twitch.

Quiet, it was real quiet. Twitch..... “a little voice inside my head said don't go back, you can never go back.”

Taxing Things by Mike the Tax Guy
Guard personal, financial and tax information

The Internal Revenue Service today reminded taxpayers to remain vigilant with their personal information.

The IRS doesn't initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text messages or social media channels to request personal or financial information. People should be alert to scammers posing as the IRS to steal personal information.

◆ **Protect personal information.** Treat personal information like cash – don't hand it out to just anyone. Social Security numbers, credit card numbers, bank and even utility account numbers can be used to help steal a person's money or open new accounts.

◆ **Avoid phishing scams.** The easiest way for criminals to steal sensitive data is simply to ask for it. IRS urges people to learn to recognize phishing emails, calls or texts that pose as familiar organizations such as banks, credit card companies or even the IRS. Keep sensitive data safe and:

◆ **Be aware that an unsolicited email** with a request to download an attachment or click on a URL could appear to come from someone that you know like a friend, work colleague or tax professional if their email has been spoofed or compromised.

◆ **Don't assume internet advertisements, pop-up ads or emails are from reputable companies.**

Never download “security” software from a pop-up ad. A pervasive ploy is a pop-up ad that indicates it has detected a virus on the computer. **Don't fall for it.** The download most likely will install some type of malware. Reputable security software companies do not advertise in this manner.

◆ **Safeguard personal data.** Provide a Social Security number only when necessary. Only offer personal information or conduct financial transactions on sites that have been verified as reputable, encrypted websites.

Mullet Rapper Donations to Everglades City School

~\$8100 to Date and Counting*...

Thank you to everyone who buys the Mullet Rapper every two weeks. Remember, the Mullet Rapper donates 100% of the proceeds from the sale of the print edition of the paper to Everglades City School to help students in need.

When you see the coin receptacle, please put your quarter (or more) into the slot! Remember, When You Buy the Print Edition of the Mullet Rapper, It Helps Everglades City School Students!

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**EVERGLADES
BOOK CLUB**

Everyone is welcome to join in on the conversation, coffee and comradery.
This year's last two titles are excellent so we anticipate a lively discussion at each meeting. We hope to see you there!
All meetings start at 9:30 am. If you have any questions, please email Diann Lock at: DLock333@yahoo.com.
We look forward to seeing you there!

Book Club Schedule

March 19th CANCELLED
Educated by Tara Westover
hosted by Linda Williams

April 16th
Beneath a Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan
hosted by Diann Lock




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Solution to March 20, 2020 Puzzle

1	E	2	L	3	A	4	M			5	S	6	O	7	W	
8	D	O	N	U	T					10	F	O	C	I		
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24	S	T	E	E	R	E	D			26	S	27	R	28	I	
	29	I	S	R	A	E	L	I	T	E	S					
	31	C	O	I	N					32	E	M	A	I	L	
	33	A	N	C						34	A	N	N	E		



My Little Slice of Paradise
by Kathy Brock
Four Years. It Has Gone By in a Blink

Wow. I am writing this article on March 17th. St. Patrick's Day. The day my father passed away in 2016.

It does not seem possible that it was four years ago. The sting is still there. I still think about him all of the time. It still hurts when I do.

The year following his death Hurricane Irma hit us hard. One of my first thoughts was that I was glad that my dad did not see the devastation. I knew he would have been heartbroken to see our little home that he lived in and loved, an original Collier house, flooded and ruined. He would have hated seeing the area such a mess, and he would have been worried about what happened to the wildlife...just like I was.

I knew one of the first things he would do would be to prop-up the trees in the yard. I know this because that is exactly what he did after Hurricane Donna, Hurricane Andrew and Hurricane Wilma. I recall him telling me that if you do it right away, you can give the trees a better chance to survive. He'd also caution that you won't know for at least a full year, if not two, whether the trees will survive...but we must give them a fighting chance.

On almost auto-pilot Tim and I propped up the trees in our yard, five of them were toppled over. Four of them survived and are now back to thriving. One, a mango tree, did not survive but we have replaced it.

There are so many actions that I take, so many things that I do that are directly passed down to me from my parents.

I find myself doing things in the kitchen exactly like my mother would. I often think how ironic it is that I fought against some of her "isms" that I routinely practice today. It's strange how smart your parents seem to get the older you get!

What it also shows us is leadership matters. What we see our parents do and leaders do when we are children have a profound impact on us as adults. Things you completely resist as a youngster often become the roadmap to our behavior as adults. There are so many things about my behavior that is directly correlated to what I was exposed to as a child.

My parents loved the outdoors. We had a boat. I really cannot remember not having a boat. We fished. We watched birds. We played cards. It is not shocking that I do all of those things to this very day.

What does it tell me? Why is this important? It shows us that what we expose our kids to, good *and bad*, will have a direct impact on their lives.

It shows us that what our leaders does plant seeds in the minds of the next generation to follow. It shines a spotlight on why leading by example is happening even if you are not intentionally doing that.

Which brings me to this...as we navigate through the coronavirus, what do we want to show the next generation? Do we behave selfishly or do we choose what's best for the "greater good". Do we listen to the recommendations or do we choose to ignore them? The children are watching and listening. How we react right now is teaching them *it is the way to react to these situations.*

I am so thankful that I received the right messages from my parents. *Thank you mom and dad.* I miss you each and every day, but you are here with me in my head still guiding me to be a better version of myself.

The Island Kitchen
Yummy Dinner Bread
By Kathy Brock

- 2 cups warm water (110 degrees F/45 degrees C)
- 5 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- (for white bread use 7 cups all purpose flour)
- 1 tablespoon active dry yeast
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup honey
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil

Directions: Dissolve yeast in warm water. Add honey, and stir well. Mix in whole wheat flour, salt, and vegetable oil. Work all-purpose flour in gradually. Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface, and knead for at least 10 to 15 minutes. When dough is smooth and elastic, place it in a well oiled bowl. Turn it several times in the bowl to coat the surface of the dough, and cover with a damp cloth. Let rise in a warm place until doubled in bulk, about 45 minutes.
Punch down the dough. Shape into two loaves, and place into two well greased 9 x 5 inch loaf pans. Allow to rise until dough is 1 to 1 1/2 inches above pans. Bake at 375 degrees F (190 degrees C) for 25 to 30 minutes.

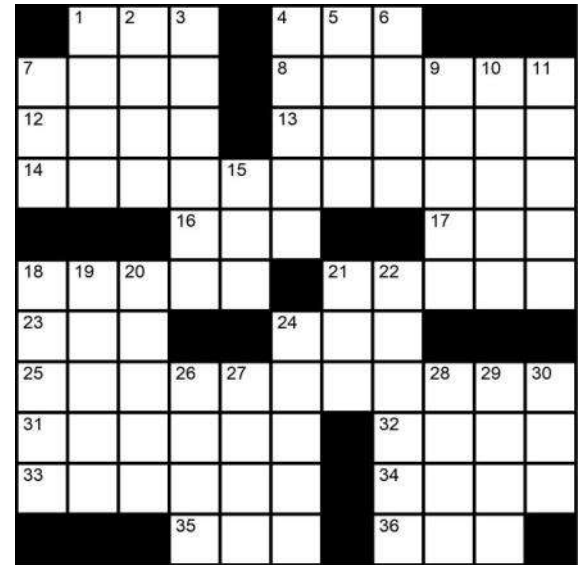
MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 L runners
- 4 Viper
- 7 "Chinatown" film genre
- 8 Hits it off
- 12 All time
- 13 Auto garage service
- 14 Concept in economic theory
- 16 Sound from a puppy
- 17 Cutting tool
- 18 Enjoy with relish
- 21 Consumers
- 23 "Halt! --- fire!"
- 24 Powdery residue
- 25 British News contributor
- 31 Skilled with
- 32 Computer image
- 33 Work hard towards a goal
- 34 Temperate
- 35 Sailor
- 36 Shareable computer file

Down

- 1 Sheltered inlet
- 2 Cake layer
- 3 Gully
- 4 Be a brat
- 5 Run-down part of a city
- 6 Engine knock



3/21/20

- 7--- Percé (Northwest Native American)
- 9 Discontinue
- 10 "Harold & --- go to White Castle" (2004 movie)
- 11 Ejects forcefully
- 15 Respectful form of address
- 18 Vocal music
- 19 Very funny
- 20 Forceful exertion
- 21 Country with 331 million

- 22 Bubba Gump of-fering
- 24 Not before
- 26 Prepare for publication
- 27 Volcanic flow
- 28 Sour
- 29 Woods milieu
- 30 Conclusion





Poetry Street
By Katherine S. Tullie

With all the turmoil swirling around us every day, it sometimes seems overwhelming. What should we do? Tap into our own inner strength and positive energy and move forward. That is the theme of my poem called "Carry On."

When things get you down
You must carry on
Go for your inner strength each day
Tap into your positive energy, I say
Strength comes from within
your heart and soul
No matter what we face
or whatever the goal
When life throws you a curve ball
You must try to stand ten feet tall
Comfort comes from within
and from without
Call on a friend or family member
to help you out
Someone to talk to
about what gets you down
Can help to turn that frown upside down
We all need hope from time to time
in our lives
Especially when
we are on a downward dive
By talking out your concerns
you can learn more insight
Hopefully to move forward
to do what is right
Life is a funny thing
It may knock you down or make you sing
Wherever you are
try to avoid the daily strife
No matter what comes into your life
Let's all carry on



Look for
PoetryStreet on Twitter
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Bicycling for Health By Patty Huff

We live in the Everglades – we play and bicycle outdoors – one of the ways to stay healthy in these trying times!

Last Sunday the Friends of the River of Grass Greenway (FROGG) organized a bike tour through the Bear Island unit of Big Cypress National Preserve at the east side SR29 access, located just 4 miles north of I-75. We



parked inside the unlocked gate, taking care not to block the private driveway. Since it is turkey season, we wore bright clothing for high visibility. Bear Island has 38,000 acres and most of the trails are lime-rock. The first 7 miles on the Bear Island and Perocchi Grade Trails traverse a variety of habitats, ranging from Cypress wetlands, through Oak hammocks, to open grasslands, where we spotted a deer.



This brought us to the Turner River Road access and Ranger Station, where we decided to continue along a more challenging ORV trail, the Ridge Trail with its gullies and sand. Being the dry season, the sandy spots were pretty soft and required aggressive pedaling to get through upright.

From this trail we biked the Hardrock Trail back to the Bear Island Grade to return to our cars, a total of 20 miles out in the wilderness with lots of fresh air. In addition to getting good exercise, we were able to see gators and turtles in the ponds along this route.

The map of our bike ride and the designated trails for all units of the preserve is available at: <https://www.nps.gov/bicy/planyourvisit/upload/20120716-BIU-Map.pdf>.

For more information about bicycling during this time, please read: <https://www.bicycling.com/news/>

Everglades National Park Gulf Coast Entrance

No Entry Fee for National Parks Week:
April 18-April 26, 2020

There is a is no better place to get away from it all than to go on a fishing or boating excursion into the pristine Everglades and 10,000 Islands.

The park entry fee will be waived during April 18-to April 26. During this time you can enter the park for no charge. You do need to have proper permitting for fishing and evidence that you passed the boater safety class (free online, see visitevergladescity.com and click on parks, then Everglades Nat'l Park.

Museum Events April 2020

◆ **Thursday, April 16th** – Dynamite, Dredges, & Determination: Building the Tamiami Trail

◆ **Saturday, April 25th** 10am-2pm Tamiami Trail Celebration/MoE Birthday Party Saturday – Join us for classic cars, live music, birthday cake and our 2nd Annual Laundry Cart Races!

Birdwatcher's Bucket List The White-Crowned Pigeon

There are several species of native birds on the



bucket lists of birdwatchers who come to this area. One is the elusive and beautiful white-crowned pigeon.

The Everglades is in the very northern range of this bird that is in greater numbers in the Caribbean Islands. They nest in red mangroves but eat fruits from hardwoods and other trees.

They have been spotted in Everglades City eating berries on banyan trees.

Their numbers are decreasing due to deforestation and loss of habitat. They are also hunted in parts of the Caribbean.

To spot them, look for the slate grey body and white head. They are similar in size and body to a common pigeon. They prefer to stay high in the trees and are known to hang upside-down to eat berries. If you see one consider yourself lucky...they are here but they are scarce. Good luck!

**Living Gulf Coast by Charles Sobczak
The Magnificent Frigatebird**



Magnificent Frigatebird (*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 frigatebird 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 frigatebird resembles a kite or large black bat soaring high overhead.

The frigatebird is kleptoparasitic, a feeding characteristic most often found in insects but also observed in certain birds. This means that the frigatebird 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 frigatebird survives on squid, jellyfish, fish, and even young sea turtles. A truly spectacular flyer, the frigatebird 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 frigatebird a welcome sight for anglers searching for the pelagic fishes of the Gulf Stream (dolphin, wahoo, marlin, and tuna) because the frigatebird tends to follow these fish in hopes of feeding on their by-catch or capturing the flying fish fleeing before them.



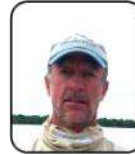
The male frigatebird has a large red pouch that it inflates during breeding season. The chicks of the frigatebird are pure white and extremely vulnerable to predation. They remain with the mother for more than a year after hatching, and because of the risk of being killed by other nesting frigatebirds,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

this lengthy upbringing, the female frigatebird mates once every other year. The frigatebird 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 frigatebird is more closely related to the penguin than to the pelican family where most scientific literature still places it. Most predation to the frigatebird comes at the nesting site. It has no known predators once this large bird is at sea.

Photos by Judd Patterson

Charles Sobczak is a nature writer and photographer from Sanibel Island. He has published several books including The Living Gulf Coast, Alligators, Sharks & Panthers and other interesting titles.

**Fishing the 10,000 Islands
with
Captain Mike Merritt**



April in the Ten Thousand Islands is a great time of year. The waters have warmed back up and the Snook have moved in. There are also Tarpon more abundantly as the weather is a little more stable. Redfish are still abundant and Seatrout are biting.

How you decide to fish and where depends on your target species. But most days you can catch at least 3 of these 4 inshore species. Fishing a jig this month is a great way to catch Snook, Reds and Seatrout. I start throwing a little more top water lures in the early part of the day. Nothing like top water action! You may not get as much action but the hits on top are great.

A live shrimp under a cork will catch the Reds and Seatrout and you will still hook up with some Snook too. Soft plastics have come a long way and there are so many choices out there. Finding the right color pattern is just as important as style. Changing up with the water color you are fishing takes a little experience so keep on experimenting.

Also figuring out where to fish takes some experience. It seems this new bunch of fishermen is less interested in learning from experience and more interested in learning from watching others on the water.

Respect on the water is becoming a rare thing. Please respect others as our waters get more crowded all the time. Season is still going strong and there are lots of boaters out. Not all of them know what they are doing so it is up to us that do to watch out for their lack of knowledge.

Enjoy what we have here and respect all of it!
Good luck fishing!

Snook Season is Open

**Bag limit: 1 per day per fisherman, saltwater license and snook stamp required
Slot Size: Not less than 28", or more than 33"
Catch & Release is Never a Bad Idea!**

Fish With Captain Mike Merritt
Call: 561-252-4324
SnookFishing1@juno.com

Get Accurate 2020 Tides for Individual
Southwest Florida Rivers
& Fishing Hot Spots at:
www.visitevergladescity.com/tides/

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**LOCAL EXTRA
FWC TO BOATERS:**

SLOW DOWN TO SAVE MANATEES

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is reminding boaters and personal watercraft operators to slow down and keep a keen eye out for manatees as they enjoy Florida's waterways this spring.

During this time of year, manatees leave their winter refuges and are more likely to be found in rivers, canals and nearshore waters. The sunny spring weather also appeals to Florida's boaters, meaning that they are likely to cross paths with the state's official marine mammal.

"Spring is one of the best times to be out on the water but it's also a very active time for manatees," said Ron Mezich, who heads the FWC's Imperiled Species Management Section. "Boaters can make a big difference and avoid injuring or killing manatees by slowing down and being alert this spring."

Some of the same actions that keep manatees safe also keep people safe. Everyone on the water should be paying attention to surroundings and operating at safe speeds.

From April 1 through Nov. 15, seasonal manatee zones require boaters to slow down in certain areas to prevent manatees from being struck by motorboats or personal watercrafts. FWC law enforcement officers are on patrol in state waters to remind boaters of the seasonal manatee speed zones and take enforcement actions when appropriate.

Manatees can be difficult to detect when underwater, so it is important for operators of boats and personal watercrafts to be vigilant while out on the water. You can help protect manatees by following these simple guidelines:

- ◆Wear polarized sunglasses to help spot manatees.
- ◆Look for large circles on the water, also known as manatee footprints, indicating the presence of a manatee below.
- ◆Look for a snout sticking up out of the water.
- ◆Follow posted manatee zones while boating.

Report injured, distressed, sick or dead manatees to the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922) or dialing #FWC or *FWC on a cellphone.

Resources for boaters, educators and other interested members of the public are available at MyFWC.com/Manatee. Click the page's "Information & Guidelines" tab for helpful tips on respectfully viewing manatees, additional guidelines for boat and PWC operators, and information on what you can do to help these amazing aquatic mammals.

**STATE RECORD FISH REQUIRE
PROPER CERTIFICATION**

The huge fish you just caught. Could it be the new state record? And if it is, how do you certify it?

This is what that lucky angler will need to know: To properly certify a new Florida state record, an FWC biologist must identify the fish species, and an FWC employee—usually but not necessarily the same individual—must witness its weighing on a certified scale. Anglers can check the current state records at BigCatchFlorida.com by clicking on "State Record," and should notify the nearest FWC regional office if they believe they have caught a record fish. Contact information for FWC regional offices can be found at MyFWC.com/contact by clicking on "Contact an FWC office" then the "Regional Operations" tab.

Biologists urge anglers not to confuse the state record certification with the FWC's TrophyCatch program. TrophyCatch is a citizen-science program that partners with industry leaders, such as Bass Pro Shops, to offer rewards for the catch, documentation and release of largemouth bass weighing 8 pounds or more. Nathaniel Scott Kicklighter has just become the current leader for TrophyCatch's eighth season with a 14 pounds, 11 ounce bass from an unnamed Putnam County lake.

"It's important to note that while all that is needed to submit a fish for TrophyCatch is a photo of the entire fish on a scale with the weight clearly visible, that photo is not enough to certify a state record," said Allen Martin, FWC's North Central Regional Fisheries Administrator.

"A state record catch is an amazing angling accomplishment," said Martin. "However, if the fish isn't certified in person by an FWC biologist, the angler won't get credit for a new state record."

Fakahatchee Strand News

**Springtime is Beautiful in the Pristine
Fakahatchee Wilderness**

Spring temperatures make this the perfect time of year to experience a swamp walk or tram tour in Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park. The park, east of Naples, is Florida's largest and has been called "the Amazon of North America."

As of this writing, tours have been cancelled at all State and National parks. However, you can still enjoy the Fakahatchee by taking a drive on Jane's Scenic Drive, just north of Highway 41 on SR 29. When you enter Jane's Scenic Drive, stay to your right. This is a gravel road, but very navigable. The ride is beautiful by car, by foot and by bike. You can see many native plants, birds and animals. The moonrise over the area is fantastic as well. It is a great getaway inside of this beautiful area.

You can reach us by phone at (800) 362-8590. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park is perhaps the best example of a subtropical, strand swamp in the United States. The Fakahatchee Strand is a linear swamp forest, approximately twenty miles long by five miles wide and oriented from north to south.

**Big Cypress National Preserve
The Park is Open for Visitors**

The visitor center at Big Cypress is closed but you can still go into the preserve and enjoy the beautiful scenery.

One great way to do this is to take a drive on 836/Wagon Wheel Road. Wagon Wheel is just north of Hwy. 41 on SR 29. Here you can drive into the preserve, and follow a path that will take you back to Hwy. 41 by Turner River. There is a nice boardwalk there and alligators are known to hang out there too. Maps for this can be found at Everglades City Hall in the card racks (Big Cypress).



Havana Cafe

*Check Us Out on
TripAdvisor!*

We are closed for the summer. See you in Oct.




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Historic Chokoloskee, Florida Prepared by
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EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP

Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands

(642-1025): Closed Mon– Tue–Thurs, 5-11
Fri-Sun Noon - 11 pm

Camellia Street Grille (239-695-2003):

11:00 am – 9:00 pm, Mon to Sat

City Seafood (239-695-4700):

8:00 am – 10:00 am; breakfast
Noon-6pm Lunch & Dinner

Everglades Fishing Co. / Nely's Corner

Open Daily 6 am to 10 pm

203 Collier Avenue, (239-695-4222)

Havana Café (239-695-2214):

Closed for summer. See you in October!
See our ad on page 10!

Hole in the Wall Pizza (239-695-4444)

M-Th 11am-3pm, Fri & Sat 11 am-9 pm

Island Café (239-695-0003):

6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily

Ivey House (239-695-3299) (Private)

7:00 am – 9:00 am; daily (for guests only)

Joanie's Crab Café (239-695-2682):

Open Daily 10:30 am to 5 pm, Closed Wed.

Rod & Gun (239-695-2101):

11:30 am - 8:00 pm; daily

Triad Seafood & Café (239-695-2662):

Open M-Sat, 10:30 to 6pm, Sun. 10:30-5

MARKETS

Right Choice Market (239-695-4535):

Open 7 days, 9 am to 7 pm

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

Open 8-5, Mon—Sat. Closed Sunday.

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By the EC Post Office on Weekends

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

Chokoloskee Family Church

Sunday: 10 am Sch., 11 am Worship
Sun. 6 pm & Wed. 7 pm Bible Teaching

Copeland Baptist Church

Sunday: 10 am School, 11 am Worship

Everglades Community Church

Listen to service online:
www.ever-community-church.com

1st Baptist Church of Everglades City

9:45 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship
6 pm Sunday, 6 pm Wed. Bible Study

Holy Family Catholic Church

Mass at 10:30 am

St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples

Phone: 239-417-2084

San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl.

239-394-5181

BARRON RIVER TIDES

LAT: 25.87° N LONG: 81.37°W

More Tides On: www.visitevergladescity.com!

3/21/2020	Sat	1:37 AM	2.52	H
3/21/2020	Sat	9:06 AM	-0.04	L
3/21/2020	Sat	2:49 PM	2.23	H
3/21/2020	Sat	9:21 PM	0.48	L
3/22/2020	Sun	2:16 AM	2.6	H
3/22/2020	Sun	9:43 AM	-0.01	L
3/22/2020	Sun	3:04 PM	2.34	H
3/22/2020	Sun	9:56 PM	0.36	L
3/23/2020	Mon	2:51 AM	2.63	H
3/23/2020	Mon	10:16 AM	0.05	L
3/23/2020	Mon	3:24 PM	2.45	H
3/23/2020	Mon	10:30 PM	0.26	L
3/24/2020	Tue	3:25 AM	2.62	H
3/24/2020	Tue	10:48 AM	0.13	L
3/24/2020	Tue	3:47 PM	2.52	H
3/24/2020	Tue	11:04 PM	0.17	L
3/25/2020	Wed	3:59 AM	2.56	H
3/25/2020	Wed	11:18 AM	0.23	L
3/25/2020	Wed	4:11 PM	2.56	H
3/25/2020	Wed	11:39 PM	0.1	L
3/26/2020	Thu	4:36 AM	2.46	H
3/26/2020	Thu	11:45 AM	0.34	L
3/26/2020	Thu	4:32 PM	2.56	H
3/27/2020	Fri	12:14 AM	0.05	L
3/27/2020	Fri	5:16 AM	2.31	H
3/27/2020	Fri	12:09 PM	0.45	L
3/27/2020	Fri	4:49 PM	2.54	H
3/28/2020	Sat	12:52 AM	0.03	L
3/28/2020	Sat	6:01 AM	2.15	H
3/28/2020	Sat	12:27 PM	0.57	L
3/28/2020	Sat	5:05 PM	2.51	H
3/29/2020	Sun	1:34 AM	0.03	L
3/29/2020	Sun	6:54 AM	1.97	H
3/29/2020	Sun	12:42 PM	0.68	L
3/29/2020	Sun	5:28 PM	2.48	H
3/30/2020	Mon	2:25 AM	0.05	L
3/30/2020	Mon	8:06 AM	1.82	H
3/30/2020	Mon	1:01 PM	0.78	L
3/30/2020	Mon	6:01 PM	2.44	H
3/31/2020	Tue	3:32 AM	0.06	L
3/31/2020	Tue	9:33 AM	1.76	H
3/31/2020	Tue	1:27 PM	0.89	L
3/31/2020	Tue	6:48 PM	2.38	H
4/1/2020	Wed	4:46 AM	0.04	L
4/1/2020	Wed	10:59 AM	1.81	H
4/1/2020	Wed	2:13 PM	0.99	L
4/1/2020	Wed	8:06 PM	2.33	H
4/2/2020	Thu	5:53 AM	-0.02	L
4/2/2020	Thu	12:18 PM	1.95	H
4/2/2020	Thu	5:59 PM	0.97	L
4/2/2020	Thu	10:31 PM	2.39	H
4/3/2020	Fri	6:53 AM	-0.09	L
4/3/2020	Fri	1:05 PM	2.13	H
4/3/2020	Fri	7:05 PM	0.83	L
4/3/2020	Fri	11:55 PM	2.58	H

A Strange Ending to a Beautiful Winter Season

It has been a beautiful winter season in the Everglades Area. The weather has been warm, the fishing has been great and everything seemed primed for a perfect ending—but the coronavirus had another plan.

Just as we were getting ready to enjoy the final weeks of March leading into Easter, the ugly virus reared its head forcing Federal, State and Local governments to cancel, postpone and reschedule events in an effort to stem the spread of the virus.

The effects were felt immediately as the visitor count slowed in the new visitor center, and area businesses reported a decline in visitation as well.

Havana Café announced that they will close for the season on Friday, March 20th as a precautionary measure.

Restaurant owner Dulce Valdes said that they could stay open until their traditional April 15th closing date, but they do not want to risk any employee's health.

Multiple season-end events are also being canceled or rescheduled for the same reasoning. It was initially expected that the closures would end sometime in March, but now it is looking like this could continue well into April.

Before you visit any store, restaurant or business in Collier County in the coming weeks, please call them first to verify their hours of operation. Many businesses are staying open during this time, but several have announced modified hours including Publix Supermarkets and Walmart.



EVERGLADES COMMUNITY CHURCH
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239-784-7318

The Rev. Dr. Bob N. Wallace, Pastor
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Sunday School Oct. 13th—March
www.ever-community-church.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

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FOR SALE: 3/2 Trailer in Chok. Isl. Pk. Partially furnished, leather sleeper sofa, 2 Q beds, tables. Remodeled after Irma. New central AC. Sleeps 6. Paid 30K, make reasonable offer, moving! Call/text: 907-888-4004, email: wwrmm@aol.com.

FOR SALE: Fisherman's Cove #1 Park model with large enclosed addition. Property includes boat dock. Asking \$99,000. For info call Karen at Glades Realty (239) 695-4299.

HOUSE KEEPING NEEDED: We need someone to clean and turn over Everglades City vacation rentals. Cleaning experience needed. Likely, multiple (4-5) cleanings every month. Call 727-480-1640.

FOR SALE: 2005 Shearwater 20', 150 HP Optimax w/400 hrs. GPS, JL audio, jack plate, runs perfect. \$15,500. 954-643-2469, ask for Jeff.

FOR SALE: Large Outdoor Resorts waterfront lot #149 w/ aluminum boat lift. Overlooks Chok Bay, new Trex deck, steps for kayak launch, custom landscape + ORA amenities. Call Jennifer brown at 239-494-7270 or Dan at 954-579-2364.

FOR SALE: Two canal lots side by side in Chokoloskee. For more information call 561-622-6011.

FOR SALE: V 16' awning elec. retractable . All hardware inclu. Like new \$450.00 OBO. Cash or PayPal. 703 217 7394.

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 at 239-695-2445.

FOR SALE: Canal front vacant lot on Lopez Ln, Chok. Quick & easy access to the Bay and Gulf w/no bridges! . Zoned for homes or mfg. homes. Asking \$99,000. Glades Realty 239-695-4299 www.GladesRealty.com.

RV PAD FOR RENT: In E-City RV park. Full hook-up, 30 amps, 25 x 35 pad, restroom, shower, laundry & rec. privileges, 55+. Wkly, Mthly. Call 269-214-8623 or 941-374-0277.

FOR SALE: Condo @ The Estuary. Corner unit, 2 BR 2 BA + den. Nicely furnished. Large double car garage. Boat ramp & pool onsite. Glades Realty, 239-695-4299, www.GladesRealty.com, \$274,000.

FOR SALE by Owner: 3/2 stilt home at 440 Riverside Drive on Tarpon Creek in Everglades City. Private dock, boat ramp. High & dry in move in condition. See the listing on Zillow. \$449K. Call 954-235-1913.

FOR SALE: 2005 Action Craft Flats Master Boat with 115 HP Yamaha and trailer. 17' fiberglass hull. In exc condition w/trolling motor, marine radio, baitwell, & more. Just serviced. Runs great. Priced below bk value at \$14,500 OBO. Tom (406) 595-1453.

BOAT FOR SALE: 2005 Trophy 18' cabin cruiser. 115 HP Mercury 4/stroke with less than 400 hrs. AM/FM/Marine radio. GPS, Bimini top, and trailer. The boat is located in Everglades City. \$12,500, OBO. For more information, please call 239-695-2006.

The MULLET RAPPER

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

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We encourage contrasting points of view

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

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