



The MULLET RAPPER

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

APRIL 7, 2018 - APRIL 20, 2018

TIDE TABLE &
RESTAURANTS
PAGE 11

ONLY
25¢

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P O Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume X • Issue # 309

Taxing Things by Mike Klein Tax Day is April 17th. If You're Not Ready, You Can File an Extension!



Due to the devastating effects of Hurricane Irma many folks in Everglades City are still not prepared to file their 2017 Income

Tax return. Lost records, disrupted postal service, employee records availability, and job related losses, among other difficulties; have contributed in one way or another to a very burdensome tax filing season. If you have not yet filed you can file for an automatic extension of time.

There are three ways to request an automatic extension of time to file a U.S. individual income tax return.

- ▶ You can pay all or part of your estimated income tax due and indicate that the payment is for an extension using Direct Pay, the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System, or using a credit or debit card.
- ▶ You can file Form 4868 electronically by accessing IRS e-file using your home computer or by using a tax professional who uses e-file.
- ▶ You can file a paper Form 4868 and enclose payment of your estimate of tax due.

You must file the extension by the regular tax due date April 17th. Under the extension your 2017 income tax filing date will be October 15, 2018.

Any Everglades City and local area residents needing assistance filing for an extension may contact Mike at 239-695-0595.

The Big Egg Hunt! Area Kids Have Fun Finding 1200 Hidden Easter Eggs Kinston Robinson of Chokoloskee Wins the Hunt by finding 93!



Fun, food, candy and prizes galore! About 1200 eggs were hidden this year for area kids in the 4th annual Easter Egg hunt, and the kids showed their excellent "hunting" skills.

Delicious cupcakes and treats were brought in by 1st Baptist Church of Everglades, and the Easter eggs were provided by Chokoloskee Church of God.

Thank you to the area churches, and to everyone who came out and participated in this very enjoyable day for the kids and adults for the 4th year in a row. We are already looking forward to next year!

Perfect Weather Highlights Heavenly Sunrise Service Overlooking Chokoloskee Bay



The parking lot was filled to capacity at Everglades National Park for the annual Sunrise Service. The moon setting over the bay to the west, and the sunrise to the east, provided a picture perfect morning for the Easter services sponsored by our area churches. Excellent music, uplifting sermons and reflection on the past year was the theme on this Easter Sunday.

After the service, the fellowship continued as worshipers enjoyed coffee and donuts together.

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FEATURE: LIVING WITH ALLIGATORS, P. 10

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

APRIL 8, 2018 – MAY 12, 2018

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
8 Bear Island Bike Ride, see p. 3	9	10 Collier School Board Mtg, EVG, 4:30 pm	11 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am	12 Lions Club, Havana Café, 6 pm	13	14 Community Cleanup, see p. 3
15 full moon ○	16	17 P & Z Meeting, City Hall, 7:30 pm History Talk, see p. 10	18 Ladies Coffee Island Café 8 am	19	20	21 <u>RAPPER</u> FBA Meeting, see p. 10 Pancake Fly- in, see p. 3
22	23	24	25 Ladies Coffee City Seafood, 8 am	26	27	28 Tamiami Trail & Museum B-day see, p. 8 Art-in-Glades, see p. 3
29 new moon ●	30 Medical / Dental Screening, see p.3	May 1 City Council Mtg., City Hall, 7:00 pm	2 Ladies Coffee Island Café 8 am FME Mtg, 4 pm	3 National Day of Prayer	4	5 <u>RAPPER</u>
6	7 ESHP Mtg, 8:30 am	8	9 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am	10	11	12 First Responders Fish Fry

May 15: Stone Crab Season Closes

May 25: Graduation

May 28: Memorial Day

June 30: Independence Day Celebration

September 29: Blessing of the Fleet

THRIFT SHOP: Reopened on March 24, 11 am to 3, see p.3.
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, Evg. Comm. Church, Fellowship Hall
MUSEUM: Open Monday-Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm. 239-695-0008
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: 4/21 at 10 to 12, E-City Airport

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-Fri: 9:30 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 4:30 pm, Sat: 10 am to noon.
Chokoloskee (239) 695-4468 Mon-Sat: 10 am to 3 pm- PO is reopened. Stamps, mail, & weighing.
Ochopee (239) 695-2099 Mon-Fri: 8 am to 10 am, noon to 4 pm; Sat: 10 am to 11:30 am

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



BEAR ISLAND BIKE RIDE!

April 8th, 9 am to 2 pm

Call for Availability

Join us for a leisurely bike ride in the NW portion of Big Cypress.

The Bear Island area is a fantastic place to observe a variety of plants and animals in prime panther habitat. You must bring your own fat tire bike - hybrid or mountain bike.

It is a 14 mile round trip ride on a hard rock road. (Not suitable for road bikes.) Please bring snacks and lunch that can fit in your backpack, plenty of water, sunscreen, hat, sunglasses and dress for the weather. Limit 12 people, min. age 15, Meet Ranger Lisa at the Bear Island Entrance on HWY 29.

Directions if coming via I-75:

Exit HWY 75 at exit #80 onto SR 29 going north.

Travel north from HWY 75 on SR 29 toward Immokalee 4 miles. Watch for the Bike Ride sign on the right side of the road and turn in to the right. Come in through the panther fencing to the parking area.

This ride is full. Please contact Dayna at (239) 777-5806 to see if there are any last minute cancellations.

Reservations are Required

HISTORY TALK ABOUT


BARRON COLLIER,

April 17th, 10:00 AM

See more on page 10.

PANCAKE FLY-IN BREAKFAST


April 21st , 10 am to noon



The pancake fly-in is hosting the final breakfast! Please join us on April 21 to meet and enjoy a free pancake breakfast with sausage and coffee. Of course, fly-ins are encouraged, and we welcome walk-ins as well! This is the last fly-in of the season so we hope to see you there!

ART-IN-THE-GLADES

April 28th, 10:00 am



We are planning our big celebration for the Tamiami Trail 90th Anniversary and hope that you will join us as a vendor on Saturday, April 28, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. (see page 8 for more details).

We will be under the pavilion in McLeod Park and want to plan the space well in advance. Please confirm if you plan on attending and would like a booth. Please call Marya Repko @ (239) 695-2905.



April 28th

3 Events in 1 Day!

- ▶ The Tamiami Trail 90th Anniversary
- ▶ Museum of the Everglades' 20th Birthday
- ▶ Art-in-the-Glades

Don't miss one minute of this huge celebration in Everglades City. See more details on page 8.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

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

April 30th , 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 **April 30th** from 9 am to 4 pm, in the Fire Station parking lot, providing free dental, diabetes, blood pressure and behavioral health screenings. For more information or to make an appointment call 239-986-7323.

THE FOOD BANK IS OPEN!

Wednesdays 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 of Everglades Community Church. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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 Everglades City. Call to make an appt. or leave a message: 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



The thrift shop is open! Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday from 11 am to 1 pm. Please do not leave donations on the porch outside where they can get wet or damaged! Please do not drop off damaged items.

Volunteer For Our



April 14th, 8 am to 11 am

Keep Collier Beautiful, Inc. is organizing a county-wide clean up taking place on April 14th from 8 am to 11 am.

The Everglades Lions Club is sponsoring the cleanup in Everglades City, Chokoloskee, and Plantation Island.

Please come out and help us pick up any of the leftover trash from the storm and the reconstruction taking place throughout our communities.

We need volunteers on land and by boat!

Volunteers will receive T-shirts, gloves and trash bags and lots of love from their fellow volunteers.

There are many areas of our community that still need quite a bit of attention, so please tell your friends to come too! If you are aware of areas that need our attention, please write it down and bring it with you so that we can be sure to get it done!

To sign up, please contact Tony Pernas. You may email him at tpernas@bellsouth.net to confirm your intention to participate in the clean up. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Let's Team Up to Clean Up!

Collier County Receives Outstanding Achievement Award

Collier County's Bureau of Emergency Services-Emergency Management Division brought home an Outstanding Achievement Award from the 2018 National Hurricane Conference held March 26 - 29, 2018, in Orlando.

The award is in recognition of outstanding work in maintaining the community safety through innovative and extended preparedness efforts and sound leadership exemplified through its response to Hurricane Irma in September 2017.

"This recognition is testimony to the excellence of leadership and dedication—from the Board of County Commissions, to the first responders and all county and partner agency personnel—that kept our residents safe throughout the storm, and allowed the county to quickly recover from the devastation," said Dan Summers, Bureau of Emergency Services Director.

For more information, contact public information coordinator Margie Hapke at (239) 252-2679 .

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14	E	T	A		15	C	A	N		16	E	R	A			
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A Message from Principal Ragusa



A Fresh Start to Spring

Spring has truly arrived early this year. We are happy to report that the repairs of our art and music rooms are completed and the gym is almost done! It has been a challenging time for teachers and students who utilized these buildings as they have relocated to other areas

of the building. We appreciate how they adapted and strived to make the best of this situation.

Some other exciting improvements are also ongoing. A large new steel building is being built at our baseball facility. This will house all the equipment used to maintain the field as well as provide a new storage space for our baseball equipment. As this concludes, the batting cage will also be redone as the team has had to work without one during this process.

The softball field will also be receiving much needed attention this summer. Soil, irrigation and new turf will be installed to provide beautiful new field with other improvements. The Lady Gators are really making tremendous strides and we look forward to having this available for them for the 2019 season.

Graduation is right around the corner! Please mark the date as we will celebrated the Class of 2018 with our school community on May 25th at 7:00pm in the gym. This class has been through a year like no other class in recent memory and we invite you to share our pride in them for the great perseverance they have shown in reaching this milestone.

IT IS ALWAYS A GREAT DAY TO BE A GATOR!

School Schedule:

- April 10.....School Board Meeting, 4:30
 - April 19.....SAC Meeting, 6:00 pm
 - April 25.....Kindergarten Registration Begins
 - May 25.....Early Dismissal
 - May 25.....Graduation, 7:00 pm, School Gym
 - May 28.....Memorial Day, No School
 - May 30 & 31.....Early Dismissal
 - May 31.....Last Day of School
- For school information, visit <http://www.collierschools.com/EVG>

Mullet Rapper Donations to Date

~\$1571 so far in 2018!!!!

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 the Everglades City School Athletic Department! When you see the coin receptacle, please put your quarter (or more) into the slot!

Every time you buy the paper you are helping students achieve their goals. Athletic accomplishments help students receive grants and scholarships and being involved in sports is also shown to help keep students more focused and on track with their studies!

When You Buy the Print Edition of the Mullet Rapper, It Helps a Kid!



Collier County Superintendent Honored as 2017 Lavan Dukes District Leader of the Year

At a meeting of the State Board of Education on March 27th, Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart named Collier County Superintendent Dr. Kamela Patton the 2017 Lavan Dukes District Data Leader of the Year. As a result of Dr. Patton's leadership over the last six years, Collier County Public Schools has made tremendous progress through a data-driven focus on continuous improvement.



"Dr. Kamela Patton's techniques are a great example of the way data can be used to help teachers and administrators provide students with the best education experience possible, and Collier County students are benefitting greatly," said Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart. "What I appreciate most is the fact that she has opened her doors and offered other districts the opportunity to learn about the student-focused strategies that have worked in Collier County so they too can help students reach their full potential. It is truly an honor to recognize Dr. Patton today, and I look forward to witnessing her ongoing success."

Of the 67 school districts, Collier's district grades ranking has risen to 5th in 2017 from 33rd in 2011. Through strategic and systematic monitoring to ensure students' needs are met, the "A"-rated district has also experienced a 15.7 percent increase in its high school graduation rate, from 72.5 percent in 2010-11 to 88.2 percent in 2016-17.

Upon her arrival, Dr. Patton introduced "Data Dialogues," which are collaborative and targeted conversations between school and district leaders that have resulted in tremendous gains. Three times per year, following state and local benchmark assessments, school leaders analyze and reflect upon data. This allows school leaders, teachers, students and parents to review the data and determine the best approaches to maximize student impact.

During her tenure, Dr. Patton has implemented the Naviance College and Career Readiness platform for grades 6-12, which includes a Family Connection platform that helps students research colleges, scholarships, careers and more. In addition, she has implemented recruitment, retention and professional development systems to create a strong administrator pool for those aspiring to be instructional leaders.

The Lavan Dukes District Data Leader of the Year Program highlights the critical role district superintendents play in supporting and encouraging the use of data to improve students' college and career readiness. The award is named after Lavan Dukes to honor longtime Department of Education employee Garnet Lavan Dukes for his numerous contributions to public education on both the state and national levels.

Sign Up For Collier Parks Summer Camp –Do it Online Today!

The school year is almost over, so now is the time to make plans for summer activities. Camp Collier offers a fun lively environment where children can play, connect and discover. Each week is a different theme. Children have the opportunity to attend weekly or enjoy the entire summer. Campers will take nature walks, play games, make arts and crafts, participate in different sports, host guests from the community, as well as take weekly swim and field trips!

You can register (only) online through April 15th. Then, starting April 16th, you may register online or in person at any Collier County park. The full summer is \$66 per week per child. There are also affordable plans for single weeks or whatever plan suits your needs.

To sign up online, go to www.collierparks.com and click the "register online here" button shown to the left about midway down the page.

The nine-week activity schedule starts on June 1st and runs through August 3rd. Each week is a different experience so your kids are bound to find something they love to do. Programs are available for children as young as 5, but they must turn 5 by September 1st to qualify for the program. Space is limited so register early to get your spot.



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My Little Slice of Paradise

by Kathy Brock

For the Mockingbird, this is Shangri-La

Springtime means baby birds. Almost every bird around us now is either nest-building, brooding eggs or raising babies. We are fortunate to have a nest of mockingbirds in our backyard to watch as they grow.

The parents picked a perfect nesting spot, deep inside of a Vanda orchid basket. It is the perfect little woven nest. A week and a half ago, we saw 3 little bluish and brown speckled eggs. The female broods the eggs for approximately 10 days.



They hatched on March 24th, and on the morning of the 30th we took the photo (left) of the 6-day old babies.

The adult pair share in the feeding and guarding of the chicks. Both forage and bring food back and forth the entire day. They are monogamous and will stay with each other throughout their lifetime.

I will say that this pair has it pretty easy. In our yard, we have 5 bird baths, so fresh water is no effort at all for them. It is there whenever they want it.

The tomato garden provides a quick meal at any time. The adults love the tomatoes and eat them throughout the day. The rotting tomatoes attract insects, and that is what the parents feed the chicks. They need not leave the immediate area for food or water, it's right in front of them.

The adults guard the nest and their food sources pretty much the entire day. When we let the dogs out, they dive-bomb the dogs to try to drive them away from the nest. If we walk too close, they let us know they are not happy. That is about the extent of this pairs daily grind.

I imagine the male was quite proud of himself when he landed this spot. In fact, he must be quite a stud. First, he "won" the territory. The territory fighting was going on all February. Then he got the "girl". The guy with the waterfront digs landed the pretty girl. He is the envy of the rest of the mockingbird world around here. He is lucky and he knows it.

That is true for most of the local nature. How fortunate to be the offspring of an Everglades City mockingbird, flycatcher or cardinal. They could be from Maine and imprinted to migrate to Florida or Texas each winter. Those poor birds have to fly almost 1600 miles to escape bad weather, then return home for a roundtrip total of 3200 miles! Our local mockingbirds get to fly around here all year...no migration necessary!

Being born in SW Florida must be like a winning the lottery when you are a bird. Of course there are perils. We have the big, bad Great Horned Owls that are training their baby right now. That pair raised the owlet on the light post by the fire station. I imagine the owlet is pretty hungry so the mockingbirds do have some daily stress.

The Everglades area also has its share of snakes, raccoons, opossums, hawks and insects. I guess each is a potential threat to our mockingbird family...so my suggestion that life was too easy for them isn't quite accurate.

BUT, let's face it. Whether you are a bird, other creature or a human, being here is really special. Beautiful sunrises, beautiful sunsets and all that nature has to offer. We too can go out and forage...and come back with a fish for dinner! The more I think about it, I think we won the lottery. I got the guy, and the waterfront home. That's me. The really lucky one!



Recipes for Good Eating

by Kathy Brock

Super Easy, Fresh Pickled Beets

Ingredients:

- 4 cups cooked & sliced fresh beets, about 4 beets
- 1/8 cup sugar (or to taste)
- 1 large, sweet onion sliced
- 32 ounces Kraft Zesty Italian Dressing (enough to cover all of the beets & onions)

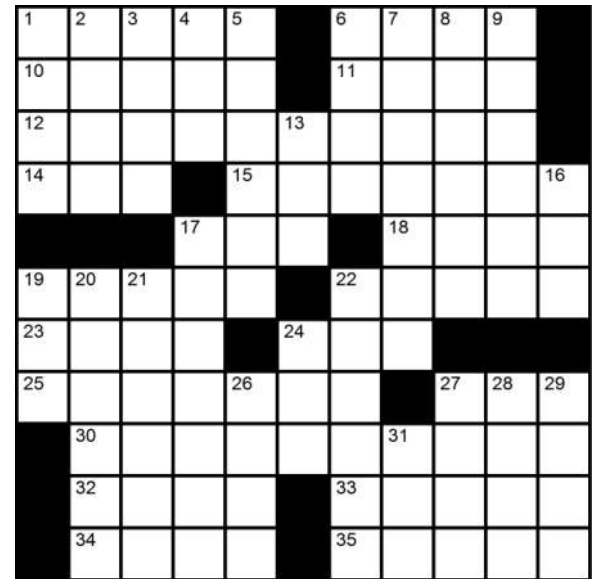


Directions:

Peel and slice fresh raw beets and place in large saucepan. Cover with water and bring to a boil. Turn down heat to a slow boil and let cook until tender. Cool and drain and set aside.

Mix Zesty Italian dressing & sugar together. If you like it a bit more tart, you can add additional apple cider vinegar to your taste. In a large glass container that seals, add a layer of beets then onion and do this until the container is full. Pour liquid mixture over the beets and onions and put in the refrigerator for a week or longer. The longer it sits the better it gets. Our family loves the pickled onions so you may want to add extras if you are "onion people" too. By the way, the greens of beets can be prepared like spinach and served with a little butter, salt and pepper!

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD



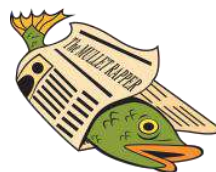
Across

- 1 Pass through Congress
- 6 Shot on the ice
- 10 --- Lama
- 11 Slay
- 12 Nonphysical
- 14 As well
- 15 Menu at the edge
- 17 Cyst
- 18 Trick
- 19 No later than
- 22 Outmoded
- 23 Sassy
- 24 --- Rio, Texas
- 25 Take a --- it (Go for it!)
- 27 Frequently
- 30 "On top of that ..."
- 32 Female first name Ms. Minnelli rejected
- 33 S American republic that's cold by the sound of it
- 34 Opposite of first
- 35 Irritably impatient

Down

- 1 Prepare for publication
- 2 "Small" prefix
- 3 Voice below a soprano
- 4 He came between J A G and G C
- 5 Hollywood town?
- 6 Kind of row
- 7 Type of arts?
- 8 Everyone except
- 9 Make happy
- 13 Cotton seed remover
- 16 Wine selection
- 17 See
- 19 Downs' partner
- 20 Mike ---, "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" director
- 21 Bits of information
- 22 Discover
- 24 "A little ___ will do ya"
- 26 Tiny insect
- 27 Elevating outfit?
- 28 Experienced
- 29 Small club, maybe
- 31 Much-used article

3/24/18





Living Gulf Coast
by Charles Sobczak

Cottonmouth (Agkistrodon piscivorus conanti)
VENOMOUS! Other names: water moccasin, swamp moccasin, black moccasin, viper / Status: FL = stable, IUCN = LC / Length: 34-52 in. (.86-1.3 m) / Weight: 2-4 lb (.90-1.8 kg) / Life span: to 10 years / Reproduces: ovoviviparous, giving live birth to 7-21 baby snakes in the summer or early fall / Found: All Counties, near coast, mainland / Months found: JFMamjjasoND (lower case indicates nesting season).



The longest known cottonmouth specimen was taken from the Dismal Swamp of Virginia and measured 74 inches.

The Florida average is half of that, at approximately 36 inches. Highly aquatic and an exceptional swimmer, the cottonmouth prefers the numerous swamps, marshes, and wetlands found throughout the Southwest Florida landscape. It is fairly commonly seen at the Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary and Big Cypress National Wildlife Preserve in Collier County and Myakka River State Park in Sarasota County.

In these black waters, the cottonmouth is a skilled predator, feeding on an array of animals. It has been known to feed on banded water snakes, mud snakes, fish, frogs, salamanders, sirens, lizards, turtles, baby alligators, birds, small mammals, insects, crayfish, snails, and even bats. Because its diet is so varied, it is sometimes referred to as being omni-carnivorous.



When approached, it is not as aggressive as the rattlesnake, and sadly, many similar-looking banded water snakes are killed every year in a lamentable example of mistaken identity. Fatal cottonmouth bites are far rarer than those of rattlesnakes, both because of the smaller size of the snake and the fact that the cottonmouth is generally found in wet environments avoided by humans.

The venom of a cottonmouth is similar in composition to that of a rattlesnake. It is rich with tissue-destructive enzymes and causes extensive bleeding. Immediate emergency medical attention is mandatory. It is preyed upon by kingsnakes, which are virtually immune to the cottonmouth's venom, great horned owls, opossums, alligators, snapping turtles, and great blue herons.

This article is an excerpt from *Living Sanibel*-by Charles Sobczak. Charles is a writer and photographer that resides in Sanibel. Photos: Kenny Krysko of University of Florida

SNOOK SEASON IS OPEN



Size Limit: 28" to 33" - 1 Per License Per Day



Fishing in the 10,000 Islands
with Capt. Mike Merritt

April should bring us some better weather and therefore some better fishing. We are all tired of the wind and not knowing what direction it will be every other day! More stable weather patterns should occur this month allowing the fish to get in steady feeding patterns. What this means for you is that you can fish the same areas more

than just one day in a row and expect good results.

If you're live bait fishing there should be plenty around this month. Snook, Reds and Seatrout all love Pilchards. You will be able to catch all 3 on the outside in the islands this month. If you can pick your days this month try an incoming tide in the morning and target the snook up close to the islands and points using live baits either on a cork or using a knocker rig. What you use will depend on the amount of current you have. I prefer using Owner light wire hooks. My clients lose less fish this way. Once hooked these allow for mistakes without losing the fish.

You may be able to sight fish this month for these same Snook. You will see them move in the shallows on the incoming tide. They are getting in position to feed on the bait that comes in with the tide. I like using a 3/8 oz. jig for this. In really shallow water I will sometimes go as light as a 1/8 oz. I use the DOA Cal Tails but there are a lot of good plastics out there. Accurate casting is the key, just remember to lead the fish and work the bait so it's in his path and if they are feeding you will get strikes.

The Seatrout have been biting good on the flats when you can fish them. This month should allow for more flats fishing. We are also catching some nice Seatrout in rock holes and even on some wrecks. The usual popping cork and shrimp will work. I am catching plenty on a jig right now too. This should continue all month.

Catching Reds this month will be the toughest challenge. There are still plenty around but it has not been consistent. There are Reds on the outside and also in the back country. We have been catching some nice size fish but we just have to work a little harder. Live bait, live shrimp or a jig tipped with shrimp have all been working. Incoming tide is definitely your best bet for these. Fishing out as far as 100 ft. from some of the shorelines will produce. Moving in closer as the tide rises all the way up to the roots. Once the tide gets up too high they will be harder to catch due to the fact they are in those roots feeding.

Of course, if it's Tarpon you are after this is a good month for them also. Rolling fish will be seen in the rivers, out off the deep points and offshore along the edges. Artificials work great on these fish and red and white lures are an old time favorite that still produce.

Offshore fishing is also heating up this month. Permit and Cobia are both offshore and you may see a couple or may just see hundreds. It's a great month to mix it up and catch a variety of fish. So get out and enjoy some great weather and some great fishing to go with it!

~Good Luck Fishing! Capt. Mike Merritt

Permit Season Closed on April 1st in Gulf Coast Waters Due to Updated Regulation for Spawning Season



The spawning season closure for permit inside the Special Permit Zone in south Florida started April 1. This closure includes all state and federal waters south of Cape Sable on the Gulf coast, and south of Cape Florida on the Atlantic coast including all

of the Florida Keys and Biscayne Bay.

The month of April was added to the existing May-through-July season closure at the February Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) meeting.

For visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and click on "Saltwater Fishing," "Recreational Regulations" and "Permit, Florida pompano, African pompano."

Local Interests

**~Learn About Barron Collier~
Talk at Preserve by Local Historian
April 17th, 10:00 am**

Learn about the amazing man who changed the face of southwest Florida at a free talk on Tuesday, April 17, at Naples Preserve.



Local historian Marya Repko will give an illustrated lecture at 10:00 a.m. about how Barron Collier “got sand in his shoes” and bought over a million acres before having a county named after him and forging a road through the Everglades.

But, that was not all Collier did. He owned a chain of hotels, a shipping line, a fleet of buses, and several newspapers. And, we forget that he was an important public figure in New York City during the

“Roaring Twenties”.

For information about Marya’s books, including “The Story of Barron Collier”, see her website www.ecity-publishing.com or call Marya at (239) 695-2905.

The talk will be held at the Hedges Family Eco Center in Naples Preserve, which is located at the corner of Fleischmann Boulevard and Tamiami Trail (US-41).

**Florida Bicycle Association Meeting
Scheduled on April 21st in Naples**



Florida Bicycle Association (FBA), the state-wide advocacy organization dedicated to bicycle safety and education, will have a meeting open to the public from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 21, in Naples. Agenda items include bicycle safety issues by

local advocacy organizations and a presentation about off-road cycling opportunities in Collier County. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information about FBA, visit website: www.floridabicycle.org. Location of Meeting: Collier County Regional Library (Rees Meeting Room), 650 Central Avenue, Naples, Florida. Disclaimer: “The Collier County Public Library does not sponsor or endorse this program”



**HOUSEHOLD TIPS by Marya Repko
Before You Go Back Home...**

If you are packing up to leave us for cooler climes, don't forget to:

- ▶ Safely deposit out-of-date prescriptions in the white metal box just inside the front door of City Hall
 - ▶ Donate unopened dry and canned foods to the Pantry at the Community Church
 - ▶ Donate clothing, books, and household items to the Thrift Shop
 - ▶ Shut off your water at the meter or main valve on your house
 - ▶ Unplug any unnecessary appliances
 - ▶ Close your drains to keep pests out when your traps dry out
 - ▶ Cover the toilet seat with plastic wrap so it doesn't dry out completely
- Have a great summer! And, don't forget to keep up with area news at www.mulletrapper.com!

~Please Help Support the Feral Felines ~

Please help our feral cats by donating so Barbara can continue to help them! Send donations to:
**Feral Felines, P O Box 564,
Chokoloskee, FL, 34138**

Living With Alligators a Reality (and Necessity) in Florida

The American alligator is a conservation success story. Florida has a healthy and stable alligator population, which is estimated at 1.3 million alligators of every size. They are an important part of Florida’s wetlands, but should be regarded with caution and respect.

Alligators become more active and visible during spring when temperatures rise and their metabolism increases. Although serious injuries caused by alligators are rare in Florida, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) recommends taking precautions when having fun in and around the water. Alligators inhabit all 67 counties in Florida and can be found anywhere there is standing water. Reduce the chances of conflicts with alligators by swimming only in designated swimming areas during daylight hours. Also keep pets on a leash and away from the water.

Because alligators control their body temperature by basking in the sun, they may be easily observed. However, the FWC urges people to keep their distance if they see one. And never feed alligators because it is dangerous and illegal.

The FWC places the highest priority on public safety and administers a Statewide Nuisance Alligator Program to address complaints concerning specific alligators. People concerned about an alligator should call the FWC’s toll-free Nuisance Alligator Hotline at [866-FWC-GATOR \(392-4286\)](tel:866-FWC-GATOR). SNAP uses contracted nuisance alligator trappers throughout the state to remove alligators 4 feet in length or greater that are believed to pose a threat to people, pets or property. The FWC also works diligently to keep Floridians and visitors informed, including providing advice about Living with Alligators at MyFWC.com/Alligator.

LIVING WITH ALLIGATORS

These amazing animals are important to Florida’s natural areas and found throughout the state.

A few simple rules to co-exist with alligators:

<p>NEVER feed an alligator</p>	<p>Keep pets away from water’s edge</p>
<p>Swim during the day and only in designated areas</p>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>if you see an alligator</p> </div>

Call FWC’s toll-free Nuisance Alligator Hotline at **866-FWC-GATOR (866-392-4286)** if you’re concerned about an alligator.



EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP



EVERGLADES CITY - BARRON RIVER TIDES
LAT: 25.87° N LONG: 81.37°W

Good News! 2017 Was a Great Breeding Year for Birds in the Everglades

Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands (642-1025): Monday - Wed 5 to 11 pm, Thurs to Sun Noon - 11 pm
Camellia Street Grille (695-2003): 11:00 am – 9:00 pm daily
City Seafood (695-4700): 9:00 am – 6:00 pm; daily Supper Upstairs is Closed
Glades Haven Deli (695-2091): Deli Closed for Repairs Live bait available at marina
Havana Café (695-2214): 7 am to 3 pm daily We are closing on April 15 for summer
Island Café (695-0003): 6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily
Ivey House (695-3299): 6:30 – 9:30 am; daily
Joanie's Blue Crab Café (695-2682): 11:00 am – 5:00 pm; Mon - Saturday Closed Sunday
Oyster House Restaurant (695-2073): Currently closed for repairs Please check back!
Rod & Gun (695-2101): 11:30 am - 8:00 pm; daily
Tastes of the Everglades (695-0075) 11 am to 4 pm
Triad Seafood & Café (695-2662): M-Th 10:30-6 pm, Fri & Sat 10:30-9 pm Sunday 10:30-9 pm
MARKETS
Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535): 9:00 am – 7:00 pm; daily
Grimm's Stone Crab (239-695-3222): 8 am to 5 pm M-Sat, Closed Sunday
Fresh Produce 1181 Hamilton Ln, Chok. Closed for Summer By E City Post Office, Closed for Summer
SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES
Chokoloskee Church of God Sunday: 10 am Sch., 11 am Worship Wed. 7 pm Hr. of Prayer
Copeland Baptist Church Sunday: 10 am School, 11 am Worship
Everglades Community Church 11:00 am Sunday Worship
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 Last Sunday Mass for Season, 3/8, 10:30 am
St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples Phone: 239-417-2084
San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl. 239-394-5181

4/7/18	Sat	3:42 AM	0.16	L
4/7/18	Sat	9:34 AM	1.82	H
4/7/18	Sat	3:44 PM	0.94	L
4/7/18	Sat	8:20 PM	2.2	H
4/8/18	Sun	4:52 AM	0.2	L
4/8/18	Sun	10:51 AM	1.85	H
4/8/18	Sun	5:19 PM	0.94	L
4/8/18	Sun	9:47 PM	2.15	H
4/9/18	Mon	5:55 AM	0.2	L
4/9/18	Mon	12:05 PM	1.96	H
4/9/18	Mon	6:27 PM	0.88	L
4/9/18	Mon	10:59 PM	2.2	H
4/10/18	Tue	6:50 AM	0.19	L
4/10/18	Tue	12:50 PM	2.11	H
4/10/18	Tue	7:20 PM	0.77	L
4/11/18	Wed	12:04 AM	2.3	H
4/11/18	Wed	7:38 AM	0.17	L
4/11/18	Wed	1:21 PM	2.27	H
4/11/18	Wed	8:03 PM	0.63	L
4/12/18	Thu	12:57 AM	2.43	H
4/12/18	Thu	8:20 AM	0.16	L
4/12/18	Thu	1:49 PM	2.42	H
4/12/18	Thu	8:41 PM	0.48	L
4/13/18	Fri	1:42 AM	2.56	H
4/13/18	Fri	8:58 AM	0.17	L
4/13/18	Fri	2:16 PM	2.56	H
4/13/18	Fri	9:17 PM	0.31	L
4/14/18	Sat	2:21 AM	2.66	H
4/14/18	Sat	9:33 AM	0.19	L
4/14/18	Sat	2:42 PM	2.68	H
4/14/18	Sat	9:54 PM	0.15	L
4/15/18	Sun	2:59 AM	2.71	H
4/15/18	Sun	10:08 AM	0.25	L
4/15/18	Sun	3:05 PM	2.77	H
4/15/18	Sun	10:32 PM	-0.01	L
4/16/18	Mon	3:38 AM	2.7	H
4/16/18	Mon	10:43 AM	0.32	L
4/16/18	Mon	3:27 PM	2.85	H
4/16/18	Mon	11:14 PM	-0.14	L
4/17/18	Tue	4:23 AM	2.62	H
4/17/18	Tue	11:18 AM	0.42	L
4/17/18	Tue	3:49 PM	2.9	H
4/17/18	Tue	11:58 PM	-0.23	L
4/18/18	Wed	5:16 AM	2.5	H
4/18/18	Wed	11:55 AM	0.54	L
4/18/18	Wed	4:15 PM	2.92	H
4/19/18	Thu	12:45 AM	-0.26	L
4/19/18	Thu	6:15 AM	2.33	H
4/19/18	Thu	12:33 PM	0.67	L
4/19/18	Thu	4:51 PM	2.89	H
4/20/18	Fri	1:38 AM	-0.24	L
4/20/18	Fri	7:23 AM	2.18	H
4/20/18	Fri	1:15 PM	0.79	L
4/20/18	Fri	5:36 PM	2.8	H
4/21/18	Sat	2:38 AM	-0.17	L
4/21/18	Sat	8:41 AM	2.07	H
4/21/18	Sat	2:13 PM	0.9	L
4/21/18	Sat	6:36 PM	2.66	H

Finally some really good news! After a decade of sub-par breeding numbers, 2017 turned out to be a very good year for the birds of the Everglades.

Shortly after Hurricane Irma, it was feared that breeding numbers would plummet due to high water in the 'Glades. However, this did not turn out to be true in all areas.

According to an article published in the Naples Daily News from data taken from South Florida Water Management Districts annual wading bird report, White Ibis, Wood Storks, Great Egrets, and other wading birds recorded some of the best numbers in over a decade.

It remains to be seen how long-lasting the increased higher breeding numbers will hold. It also is important to note that while the birds did well in the refuge of Everglades National Park and in a handful of water conservation areas immediately north of it, they still struggled in their ancient breeding grounds, in the disappearing shallow wetlands near the Big Corkscrew Swamp and coasts of southern Florida, according to the report.

"It's important not to read too much into one-year population jumps or drops," said Mark Cook, the water district's lead scientist, who helped put together the report. But last year's numbers compared to 10- and 20-year averages are a sign for hope, Cook said.

"It shows us ecologists that if we can get the water right in one year and see this kind of rebound then we can restore the system," he said. "I do not think it's too far-fetched to say we could recover a good portion of those birds that were historically here, with the right hydrological conditions. Even though the system is about half the size it was, I think it's possible."

Audubon has detailed records dating back to the late 19th century, so there is excellent knowledge of historic bird populations. "They're really the only group of organisms that we have good records from the early 20th century and even late 19th century," he said. "We know where they nested and how many of each species there were. So unlike everything else, we really know what we're aiming for."

Monitors counted 46,248 wading bird nests in the 2017 season, between December 2016 and July 2017. That's up from the 26,676 found in 2016 and above the 10-year annual average of 39,066.

It also marks the best year since 2009, the highwater mark for the population since restoration efforts began.

Explore Florida's largest state park!



The Friends of Fakahatchee lead guided swamp walks and tram tours of Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park each week during season. For complete details and required reservations, visit: www.orchidswamp.org
All proceeds benefit the Park

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.

GOLF CART TIRES: 4 newer golf cart tires with white rims for an EZGO golf cart. Purchased new in 2017 but the cart was ruined in the flood...we salvaged the tires. New they were \$60 each. Purchase all 4 for \$50. Call Kathy for info: 954-662-7003.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Electricians helper. Experience preferred, but not necessary. Must be reliable and honest. Call Herb @ 239-398-5093 .

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

FOR RENT: 2 office spaces and one 2 room restaurant space, in the Glades Building @ the S. E. corner of Broadway and Allen Ave. For information and rates call- (239) 293 3033.

FULL-TIME JOB: Cashier at Joanie's Blue Crab Café. Experience preferred. Must be reliable and honest. The restaurant is located at 39395 Tamiami Trail E, Ochopee, FL. Please call Joanie about this position at: 239-695-2682.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR LEASE: Deepwater 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. Call Bob Wells Real Estate @ 239-695-2660 for more information.

FOR RENT: Everglades City R.V. Hookups. Two sites, 30 and 50 amp service, water, no sewage. Rental available nightly and weekly. Rough boat ramp, 100 ft boat dock with water. Private and Secured. Contact Captain Wayne of Fishhuntcharters at 1-239-695-2445.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Become an election worker for the 2018 elections. 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 your application at www.CollierVotes.com. Call us if you have questions. By email at: ElectionWorker@colliergov.net. Or by phone: (239) 252-VOTE (8683).

FOR SALE: Two 5th wheel campers: 2008, 35', mint condition, \$17500. 2017, 35', with fireplace, kitchen. Mint condition, \$18,900. Both have 3 slide outs and many extras. Can deliver. Located in E-city. Call 317-696-2628.

The MULLET RAPPER

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

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We strive to present the facts accurately

with no political or social bias.

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

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