



The MULLET RAPPER

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

MAY 5, 2018 - MAY 18, 2018

TIDE TABLE &
RESTAURANTS
PAGE 11



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P O Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume X • Issue # 311

TAMIAMI TRAIL & MUSEUM ANNIVERSARY EVENTS A HUGE SUCCESS!

by Marya Repko

As you can see from all the photos on the right, we had a great celebration for the Tamiami Trail 90th Anniversary in Everglades City on April 28th in glorious, cool weather. The crowd was impressive and the Museum, which was celebrating its 20th Birthday, counted at least 2,000 visitors coming through the front door!

We heard an excellent presentation by guest speaker, and Sierra Club environmentalist, Jon Ullman, welcomed Barron Gift Collier III ("Barry") who read his grandfather's speech plus another of Collier's grandsons, Terry, who sang the National Anthem during the Opening Ceremony and joined Mitch Mitchell during the formal tea at the Rod & Gun Club.

From the start at 10:00 a.m. in McLeod Park with music from the Naples Dixieland Jazz Band, which got toes tapping, to the parade, the Marco Island Historical Re-Enactors, the Old-Timers recalling their lives here, and finally the tea --- it was a great day! All credit to the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades (www.evergladesmuseum.org) for organizing the event.

We look forward to 2023, the 95th Anniversary, which will also be the **100th anniversary** for the founding of Collier County. Mark your calendar for April 29, 2023 so you don't miss out on one minute of the excitement!



Above Mitch Mitchell, & Terry Collier. left sing together at the Afternoon Tea at the Historic Rod & Gun Club. Right, Helen Bryan & Carolyn Thompson enjoy time together for tea & cake.



Above the parade moves in front of Everglades City Hall as the crowd looks on. Right, Marco Island Historical Society reenactors portray Deaconess Harriet Bedell & Tommie Barfield. Below left, Collier descendants Barry, Dana, Maria & Terry. Right, Museum of the Everglades celebrates their 20th anniversary with "old timers" speakers, reenactments and historical talks.

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FEATURE: SAWFISH, P. 8



FREE COMMUNITY FISH FRY, MAY 12TH! SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 11!!

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

MAY 6, 2018 – JUNE 9, 2018

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
6 Meteor Shower, see p. 8	7 ESHP Mtg, 8:30 am	8	9 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am FME Board Mtg, 4 pm museum	10 Lions Club Mtg, 6 pm	11	12 First Responders Fish Fry, McLeod Pk., see p. 11
13 Mother's Day	14 Get Some Stone Crabs... While They Last	15 ● new moon Stone Crab Season Closes ☹️ P & Z Mtg. 7 pm	16 Ladies Coffee Island Café 8 am	17 School Awards Night, 5 to 7 pm	18 Gym Grand Opening, see p. 5	19 <u>RAPPER</u>
20	21	22 Reach Out Mtg, 4 pm Dental Bus, see p. 3	23 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am	24	25 Graduation! See p. 5	26
27	28 Memorial Day No School	29 ○ full moon	30 Ladies Coffee Island Café 8 am	31	June 1	2 <u>RAPPER</u>
3	4	5	6 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am	7	8	9

June 17: Father's Day

June 30: Independence Day Celebration

July 4: Independence Day (National)

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, 4 pm, City Hall
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: Closed for summer.

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

POST OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS & HOURS:
Everglades City (239) 695-2174 Mon-Fri: 9:30 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 4:30 pm
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**MAY 13TH IS MOTHER'S DAY!
WHAT'S THE BEST GIFT?
STONE CRABS, OF COURSE!**

May 13th is Mother's Day and that means it is time to show mom how much you appreciate her. One great gift idea is to treat her to a stone crab dinner! You can buy the delicious claws at any of our local seafood markets, or you can take her to any of our area restaurants.

The timing is perfect because the claw season closes on May 15th so you can get them good and fresh! She will surely enjoy them on her special day with her favorite mustard sauce (or dipped in butter if that is her preference).

The most important thing is to let your mom know how much she is appreciated on this Mother's Day!

**BE A PART OF THE ANNUAL
INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION!**



The planning has already started for the annual Independence Day Celebration in Everglades City that will take place on Saturday, June 30th.

The parade will not be complete without your participation so please plan on decorating your golf cart, swamp buggy or whatever you can think of to join in on the fun.

Donations are appreciated and help fund the day's event that includes the amazing fireworks, the parade, and celebration at McLeod Park that features contests for kids and a raffle!

To contribute to the celebration, please send a check to: Everglades City Fireworks Fund, PO Box 110, Everglades City FL 34139. For more info, call Dottie at 239-695-3781. Thank you for your participation!

**"Seven Model T's, One Elcar, and a Truck
- Trailbazing the Tamiami Trail" Exhibit
Museum of the Everglades
Now through May 31, 2018**

"Seven Model T's, One Elcar, and a Truck - Trailbazing the Tamiami Trail" tells the story of a group of men who drove across the Everglades in their automobiles back in 1923 - before there was a road.

Conceived as a publicity stunt to draw public support for the construction of the Tamiami Trail, this group of businessmen and entrepreneurs not only succeeded in reaching their intended goal, but ultimately convinced Barron Collier to finance the building of this highway across the state. The exhibit features a collection of images and artifacts that bring this fascinating chapter of South Florida history to life. Open daily 9 am to 4 pm.

**FREE DENTAL, BLOOD PRESSURE
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May 22nd, 9 am to 4 pm

The Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida's Health & Smiles Mobile Dental Bus is scheduled to be in Everglades City on **May 22nd** from 9 am to 4 pm, in the Fire Station parking lot, providing free dental, diabetes, blood pressure screenings and behavioral health information. For more information or an appt: call 239-986-7323.

**Clyde Butcher "America the Beautiful"
May 25th through August 15th**

Enjoy the amazing photography of black & white nature photographer, Clyde Butcher of the most beautiful National Parks in the United States. These iconic photos have been on museum display for 10 years and have now returned to their "home". For more information and the location of this gallery show, please see the article on page 10.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

**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 at 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. Appts: from 10 am to 6 pm. Call to confirm: 813-787-9738, see p.8.

**~ 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 3 pm. Please do not leave donations on the porch outside where they can get wet or damaged! Please do not drop off damaged items.

**All Kids Need Rules
for Being Home Alone**

Summer is almost here and that means school will be out soon. Some kids will go to camp and have supervision all day. Others may not, or there may be days that have supervision gaps in them.

Only a parent knows if a child is mature enough to handle the responsibility of staying home alone...No matter what their age, the Red Cross has 10 great recommendations to prepare your home and your kids to be home alone safely. Here is the plan:

Schedule a Practice Run. Let your children stay home alone for about 30 minutes. That way, you can get a better idea about how your sons or daughters will act while you're away.

Establish Ground Rules. Just because you'll be out of the house for a few hours does not mean your children should be able to ignore your house rules. Set up ground rules while you're away and make sure that your kids understand these rules before you depart.

Childproof Your Home. Store prescription medications, matches and other potentially dangerous household items in a place where your children cannot access them.

Install Home Safety Cameras. Home safety cameras are discreet, inexpensive and simple to install and allow parents to keep an eye on their kids from any location, at any time.

Build a Support System. Give your kids your cell phone numbers, along with the phone numbers of nearby family members and friends. With a support system in place, your kids can contact family members and friends for help if they are unable to reach you.

Teach Your Kids About Fire Safety. Spend some time teaching your kids how to respond if they smell smoke or hear a fire alarm. Also, ensure all smoke detectors are working properly before you leave your kids home alone.


Create an Emergency Plan. Develop an emergency plan that accounts for fires, injuries and other emergencies. Then, post this plan in your home and make sure your children know where to find it.

Check Out the Flashlights. A power outage can wreak havoc, even if the outage only lasts for a few minutes. Thus, you should always provide your children with flashlights that include new batteries and are easy to access.

Keep the Stove and Oven Off-Limits. There is no need for your children to use the oven or stove while you're gone. Give your kids money to order take-out or provide them with pre-made meals and snacks.

Offer Instant Access to Emergency Support. If your children are allowed to use smartphones or tablets, you can install the America Red Cross' free emergency apps, which offer emergency tools and preparedness information.

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A Message from Principal Ragusa



Midnight Masquerade

Prom season is upon us and the Class of 2018 had a wonderful evening on April 28th at The Rookery in Fiddlers Creek. We returned to The Rookery for the third consecutive year for this year's theme; "Midnight Masquerade". Our junior class sponsor,

Shana Secory, once again put on an amazing event with the help of our junior class. I cannot thank her enough for the many hours she puts into this event and making it such a special night for our students. The King this year was senior Davontae Detweiler and the Queen was Jasmine Lucas. Both students were all smiles and this was a great way for them to celebrate their last prom at Everglades City School.



Our high school academic awards night is quickly approaching on May 17th at 5pm in the cafeteria. Students will be recognized for their academic achievements and the scholarships some of them have earned. We look forward to this celebration.

Speaking of celebrations, on May 18th at 2pm in our gym we will be having an exciting grand opening event. All students, parents, and community members are welcome to attend. We plan on an intramural basketball game among two teams comprised of members of the boys and girls basketball teams. Please call the school if you would like more information.

IT IS ALWAYS A GREAT DAY TO BE A GATOR!

King & Queen for a Day!



Left, Prom King Davontae Detweiler & Prom Queen Jasmine Lucas enjoy a fabulous evening at The Rookery in Fiddler's Creek. Right, the "grand entrance" to the ballroom that greeted students to the evening of fun.

This is the third consecutive year the prom was held at Fiddler's Creek in Naples. Thank you to Junior Class Sponsor, Shana Secory, and the junior class for helping organize the event!



The students enjoy the evening dancing and mingling with friends during the 2018 Midnight Masquerade themed prom.

School Schedule:

- 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 info, visit <http://www.collierschools.com/EVG>

Mullet Rapper Donations to Date

~\$1800 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!



The Wait is Finally Over! The Renovated Gym is Open and it Looks Absolutely Amazing!

The finishing touches were complete just in time for the rededication ceremony on April 24th! School officials, the City Mayor, Senator Kathleen Passidomo, students and their parents all came out to see the beautifully renovated gym. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate this with us!



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My Little Slice of Paradise

by Kathy Brock
The Good, Bad & the Ugly

On April 28th we celebrated the 90th anniversary of the opening of the Tamiami Trail. The trail is the roadway that literally opened up southwest Florida to the rest of the state, country and world back in 1928. This amazing engineering feat was met with much fanfare back in the day, and rightfully so.

Back then, we, as a people, seemed to operate on autopilot. We forged ahead on what we wanted apparently without thinking about the consequences of what we were doing. You see this over and over throughout our history in one way, shape or form.

When the flappers of the "roaring 20's" fashion included plumes (feathers) from some of the Everglades' most majestic birds, the birds were hunted to brink of extinction before we put the brakes on.

When the Suwannee River was "straightened out" to make it easier to develop around it, we discovered that the natural curves of the terrain helped purify the water before it made it into the bays and estuaries...so we had to put it back the way it was before it was too late.

And, that brings us to the Trail. The amazing Tamiami Trail that is essentially responsible for our existence as a town...and that is the **Good** news. Ah, but there is **Bad** news.

What we have learned over time is that the Trail is also literally a dam across the state. The natural sheet flow of water in Florida from north to south exiting into areas of the Gulf were dammed up, stopping the natural flow of water that once flooded the plains that flowed freely into the Gulf.

What we now know is this is not a good thing...which brings us to the **Ugly**. We have learned that stopping the natural flow of water has consequences...for the wildlife and for us. It affects the quality of our water, and it affects the environment and the breeding cycles for many inhabitants of the Everglades.

After the Trail, we constructed State Road 84 many years later, in 1968...which cuts across the state from east to west. This was equally exciting from a convenience standpoint, but it was also equally damaging to the environment. This is easily seen when you make the drive, as we have for the last 25 years, almost every weekend. It is pretty obvious in spots that it is far drier on the one side versus the other...Of course it is! There is a dam (roadway) going through it!

It seems that little thought went into what the consequences may be back in the day. Did no one think it wouldn't have any effect? Maybe not. But today, we know that everything we do will have some sort of repercussion.

Didn't Newton say "for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction?" Yes he did... in 1686! Clearly, this is what he was talking about! He was telling us back then to be aware that everything we do will have a reaction...we just did not understand it...or *didn't want to*.

Today, we are paying the price to the tune of an ugly 6.5 billion dollars and counting. The only way to fix this is to build bridges to allow water to flow freely from north to south and from east to west. Both roadways impede the flow...but we knew this in 1968 during Alligator Alley's construction and just didn't pay attention, didn't care or both. So, now we must pay.

No matter the reasons, it demonstrates that ignorance is not bliss...it is really expensive! We love the Trail for what it did to move humans from Tampa to Miami. And, yes. We love the convenience of the Alley from east to west. We just didn't think about what the consequences may be...and, now we know, so we must pay for it.



Recipes for Good Eating

By Bonnie Woodward
Karen Sacks' Buffalo Chicken Dip

Ingredients:

- 3 chicken breasts cooked & shredded
- 3/4 cups Texas Pete's Buffalo Wing Sauce
- 1 cup ranch dressing
- 8 ounces extra sharp cheddar cheese
- 8 ounces cream cheese



Directions:

Mix all ingredients together except the chicken and microwave for 3 minutes to melt. Pour over the shredded chicken breasts and stir together and microwave for another 3 minutes until everything is melted, hot and well blended.

Serve hot with Frito scoops, tortillas or toasted baguette bread slices and enjoy. This is super easy and delicious as an appetizer!

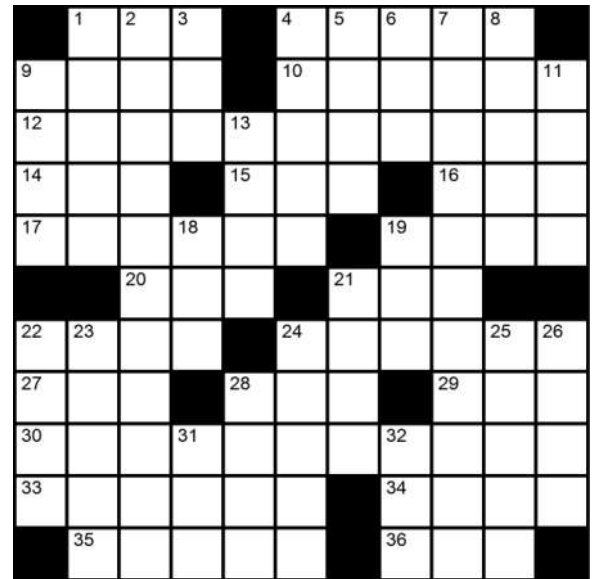
MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Illustrative craft
- 4 Knitted wrap
- 9 --- Falco of "Nurse Jackie"
- 10 Hawaiian Punch fruit
- 12 Lawsuit
- 14 Exclamation of contempt
- 15 Writing fluid
- 16 Blaster's material
- 17 Wedding vow sites
- 19 Sunday rite
- 20 Pro bono promo, briefly
- 21 Female sibling
- 22 Encourage in wrongdoing
- 24 Most pleasant
- 27 High rock
- 28 Rollaway
- 29 Dove sound
- 30 Impish
- 33 Skiers' haunts
- 34 Taverns
- 35 Type of drum
- 36 Append

Down

- 1 Words after make or close
- 2 Just the one for the job
- 3 Long Island iced cocktail
- 4 Slaps as punishment
- 5 Writer for hire
- 6 Rental unit abbreviation
- 7 "Hey, that's not right!"
- 8 Film critic Jeffrey ---
- 9 Able was I ere I saw ---
- 11 Small insects
- 13 Old Italian money
- 18 Nova Scotia hours
- 19 It may be open at a bar
- 21 Location
- 22 Cash caches, perhaps
- 23 Prepares eggs
- 24 Sound
- 25 Narrow sea channel
- 26 Throw
- 28 Singer who's got you, Babe!
- 31 IRS forms expert
- 32 By way of



5/5/18





Poetry Street
By Katherine Tullie

In the complex world we live in, we can strive for harmony in our lives. That is the inspiration for my poem "Harmony."

HARMONY

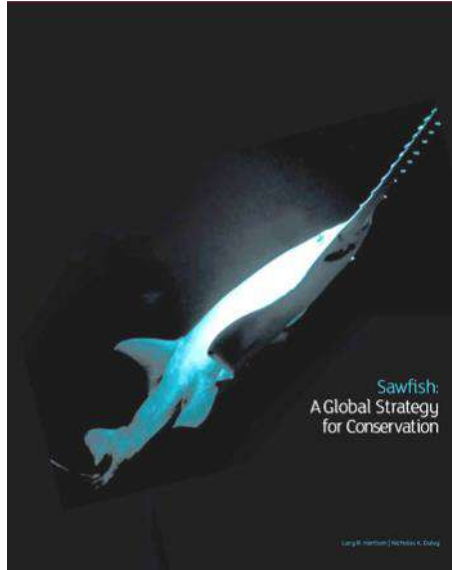
A Balance Is What We Need Now
Look Towards Nature
So To See The Way How
Mother Nature Had It All Worked Out
Man Has Changed Things Around
Without Any Doubt
Harmony Is A Very Important Thing
When We Have It We Just Want To Sing
Singing For The Positive Ultimate Good
Singing Always To Be Understood
Harmony Comes In Many
Different Packages For Sure
For When We Are In Harmony
We Have Found Our Cure
Let Us Have Harmony
In And Around Our Lives
For This We Can Certainly Strive
Positive Action Can
Bring Us Good Reactions, I Say
Harmony In Our Lives
Helps Us In Many Ways!



Email: Kathythepoet@gmail.com
Look for Poetry Street on Twitter
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Poetry Street, Inc.

SAWFISH NEWS by Tonya Wiley, Havenworth Coastal Conservation
Sawfish: A Global Strategy for Conservation

Sawfishes are arguably the most threatened family of marine fishes in the world. The global populations of all five species of sawfish have experienced historic declines due to fisheries overexploitation (directed and bycatch) and habitat loss. Consequently, three species are listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Red List as Critically Endangered, and two species are listed as Endangered. There is now a very real risk that these unique species will be lost without urgent conservation action.

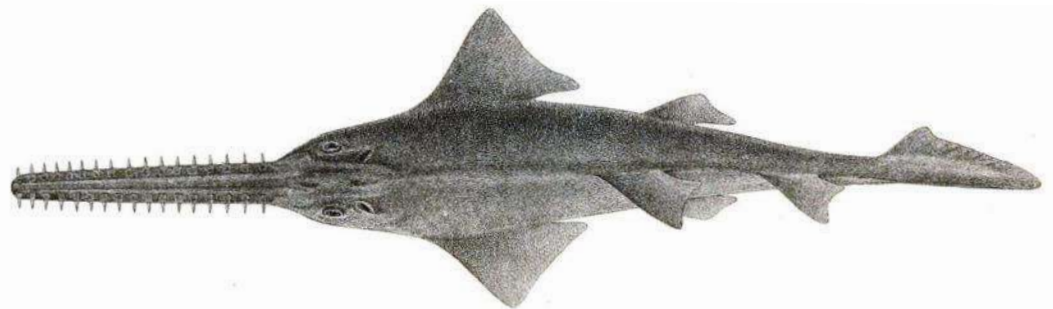


The IUCN Shark Specialist Group developed a Global Sawfish Conservation Strategy that provides an update on the status of sawfishes. The vision of the strategy is a world where sawfishes are restored – through understanding, respect and conservation – to robust populations within thriving aquatic ecosystems. The strategy contains two goals aimed at achieving this vision 1) robust sawfish populations where threats are minimized through improved fisheries management, strategic research, species and habitat protection, and trade limitation and 2) effective sawfish conservation and management enabled through capacity building, outreach and fundraising.

It also details a set of clear, global-scale prioritized recommendations for meaningful research, education and conservation actions, and a roadmap for the development of regional conservation programs to improve the global status of sawfishes. These Actions are based on the global status review of all sawfishes, including: taxonomy, historical and current status, threats, values, and conservation actions currently in place.

Owing to a combination of complicating factors, the sawfishes are at greater risk of extinction than all other rays and sharks. Although the threat is exceptionally high and global, encouraging trends in the USA and Australia demonstrate that recovery from the brink is possible for sawfishes, if the species are strictly protected and their critical habitats are conserved, with the help of focused, regional research and recovery programs. Recovery is most likely to occur under a coordinated conservation-planning regime that shares the lessons learned, particularly from regions where declines have been stemmed to areas of priority need. It is hoped that the IUCN Global Sawfish Conservation Strategy will swiftly spark effective recovery initiatives throughout the range of these remarkable and imperiled marine species.

If you want to learn more about the status, distribution, biology, cultural significance, threats, and management of sawfish around the world, you can view the Global Sawfish Conservation Strategy at www.iucnssg.org/conservation-strategies-sawfish.html and read Ghosts of the coast: global extinction risk and conservation of sawfishes available at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/aqc.2525>.



For more information about endangered sawfish in the U.S. visit <http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/pr/species/fish/smalltooth-sawfish.html> or <http://myfwc.com/research/saltwater/fish/sawfish/> or call 1-844-4SAWFISH

★ Eta Aquariids Meteor Shower ★
★ Peak Viewing on May 6th ★
★ This annual shower originates from none ★
★ other than Halley's Comet, and these ★
★ meteors come in fast at 41 miles per ★
★ second! ★
★ At its best, under ideal conditions, ★
★ the Eta Aquariids can deliver a meteor per ★
★ minute at its peak, which this year should ★
★ occur at its peak at 2 am until dawn. ★
★ The shower's radiant (in the Water Jar ★
★ asterism of Aquarius) never gets very high ★
★ above the horizon for observers in the ★
★ Northern Hemisphere. It rises only a ★
★ couple of hours before dawn, and this year ★
★ a fat gibbous Moon will be in the same ★
★ part of the sky. ★
★ *****

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 Gulf Coast

by Charles Sobczak

Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) Other names: loggerhead / Status: FL=threatened, IUCN=EN / Length: 36-42 in. (.92-1.1 m) / Weight: 250-350 lb. (113-158 kg) / Life span: to more than 100 years (maximum life span is still unknown) / Reproduces: lays multiple clutches along the coastal beaches during the summer / Found: All Counties, coastal / Months found: JFmamjjaSOND (lower case indicates nesting season)

By far the most common nesting sea turtle found in Southwest Florida, the loggerhead has been visiting the gulf beaches since they were formed thousands of years ago. The loggerhead used to be much larger than is commonly found today. When Ponce de Leon arrived in Florida there were turtles weighing 1,000 pounds or more. A loggerhead of 600 to 800 pounds was quite common until the turn of the 20th century. Today, a loggerhead approaching 500 pounds is considered remarkable.

The range of the loggerhead is worldwide, though only in tropical or subtropical waters. There are still a couple of sites where up to 10,000 females nest every year: one is in South Florida and another in Oman at the tip of the Saudi Arabian peninsula. Approximately 68,000-90,000 loggerhead turtle nests are recorded in the United States every year. The world population of the species is unknown.

The loggerhead is an omnivore, eating jellyfish, Portuguese man o' war (a toxic jellyfish the loggerhead is immune to), sponges, small fish, crustaceans, mollusks, crabs, and shrimp. Juveniles eat sea grasses and marine worms at first, moving to larger prey as their powerful jaws develop. The adult sea turtle has few natural predators. Sharks have been known to bite off turtle limbs but only an extremely large shark is capable of piercing the thick carapace.

The hatchlings are another story. Literally everything preys upon them for the first year of life, including raccoons, dogs, herons, seagulls, crows, birds of prey, ghost crabs, shorebirds, snook, catfish, tarpon, shark, and even fire ants. To counter this constant predation, the female loggerhead can lay as many as four or five clutches of eggs in a breeding season, which may occur only every two or three years. Every clutch holds between 50 and 150 eggs, which helps the species since the mortality rate of sea turtle hatchlings is precariously close to 100 percent. Studies have shown that only one out of every 1,000 sea turtles makes it to adulthood. Therefore, any additional pressure on its fecundity puts its long-term survival in jeopardy.

Once heavily preyed upon by humans, all the world's sea turtles are now endangered. Illegal taking of mature turtles still occurs throughout much of its range. An even larger threat to the population comes from people raiding turtle nests for eggs. Finding a sea turtle nest is not difficult since the female hauls herself up beyond the surf line and leaves a clearly evident crawl track. Eggs are still taken illegally throughout much of the Third World. Roughly the size of a large Ping-Pong ball, the egg is a free source of protein in a hungry world.

Other leading causes of mortality for the loggerhead are long-line fishing and shrimp trawlers, which the turtle gets caught in and drowns. In 1989 the National Marine Fisheries Service required all U.S. shrimp boats to install turtle extruder devices (TEDs). These large metal contraptions allow turtles and larger fish to escape entanglement in the trawling net. TEDs have helped tremendously, but many shrimp fleets throughout the world refuse to install them, or in some instances they fail to work correctly because of improper installation.

Thousands of sea turtles also die annually from choking on plastic trash. To a sea turtle that feeds on jellyfish, a plastic bag or a six-pack ring floating offshore looks like food. Once ingested, this plastic can become lodged in the intestines, causing a slow and painful death. As if these gauntlets aren't enough, still another cause of loggerhead mortality is boat and propeller collisions. This is especially true in the early spring when the loggerhead comes to the surface to mate. Because of these and other impacts, the loggerhead turtle has suffered a 40 percent decline in population in the past decade.

Snook Season Closed on May 1st

Snook will close to all harvest in Gulf state, federal and inland waters, including all of Monroe County and Everglades National Park, starting May 1. Seasonal harvest closures conserve Florida's valuable snook populations and help sustain and improve the fishery for the future. Snook is open to harvest in Atlantic state, federal and inland waters, including Lake Okeechobee and the Kissimmee River, through May 31, closing June 1.

Both the Atlantic and Gulf will reopen for recreational snook harvest Sept. 1.

Snook are one of the many reasons Florida is the Fishing Capital of the World. While snook may be caught and released during the closed season, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) encourages anglers to handle their catch carefully to help the fish survive upon release. Proper handling methods can help ensure the species' abundance for anglers today and generations to come. To learn more about fish handling, visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and click on "Saltwater Fishing," "Recreational Regulations" and "Fish Handling."

Learn more about recreational fishing at MyFWC.com/Fishing by clicking on "Saltwater Fishing" and "Recreational Regulations."

SNOOK SEASON IS CLOSED

Season Reopens September 1, 2018

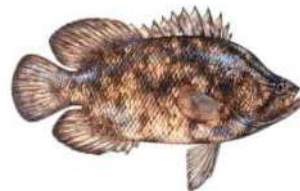
FWC Approves Statewide Changes to Tripletail and Sheepshead, No Change in Goliath Grouper Management

At its April meeting in Fort Lauderdale, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) approved several changes to the management of tripletail and sheepshead. Changes go into effect July 1, 2018, and are documented below. The FWC did not make any changes in the management of the Goliath Grouper so all restrictions remain in effect for 2018.

Tripletail:

Increasing the minimum size limit from 15 to 18 inches total length. Extending all of the FWC's recreational and commercial regulations for this species into federal waters (including the new size limit).

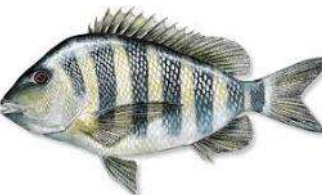
Learn more about tripletail regulations at MyFWC.com/Fishing by clicking on "Saltwater Fishing."



Sheepshead:

Reducing the recreational bag limit from 15 to 8 fish per person, per day year-round.

Creating a recreational vessel limit of 50 fish per vessel, per trip during March and April.



Extending all of the FWC's recreational and commercial regulations for this species into federal waters (including the new bag and vessel limits).

Learn more about sheepshead regulations at MyFWC.com/Fishing by clicking on "Saltwater Fishing."

**Download the latest version of the Saltwater Fishing Charts!
Visit www.swflgo.com/fishing to get your copy!**

Local Interests

Sales Tax Hike for Collier County on Ballot in November

Despite a divided board and an organizing opposition, Collier County commissioners pressed forward Tuesday with a plan to put a sales tax increase on the November ballot.

If approved by voters, the proposed increase would raise the county sales tax 1 percentage point from 6 to 7 percent.

The increase would end after seven years or after it brings in \$490 million, whichever happens first. The county government would collect \$420 million, and the remaining \$70 million would be shared among Naples, Marco Island and Everglades City based on their populations (Editors note: If you do the math, that leaves about \$817,000 for Everglades City).

Commissioners voted 3-2 to approve the wording of the ballot question and to create the rules that would govern how the money would be spent if the tax is approved.

There was some doubt as to whether three commissioners would go forward with the referendum since two on the board — Donna Fiala and Bill McDaniel — opposed it. Commissioner Burt Saunders said earlier this month that it would be problematic to ask voters to consider a tax increase if two commissioners said it isn't necessary.

But it became clear Tuesday that Fiala's and McDaniel's opposition to the tax ran deeper than their issues with one or two of the 18 infrastructure and building projects that would receive funding from the tax.

Fiala said she would support using the money only to pay for five of the projects on the county's list. Even then, she said, she still wouldn't be sure a sales tax would be the best way to fund those projects, pointing to a local business owner who spoke out against the sales tax at the meeting.

"He said it would affect his business," Fiala said. "I didn't realize it would do that. We're trying to encourage business. I'm not solidly behind it."

The Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park in Golden Gate Estates east of Immokalee and Oil Well roads is expected to open in 2020, but Collier County needs to decide how to pay for it.

Under the plan, the county would fund 18 infrastructure and capital projects. It would use \$191 million on its road system, expanding several major roads and intersections, building or replacing 22 bridges in Golden Gate Estates and adding several miles of sidewalks in the county.

An additional \$139 million would go to building repairs and expansions, including hardening hurricane shelters, new ambulance substations and Sheriff's Office facilities, and would be used to build the long-planned Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park.

Commissioners would set aside the other \$90 million for a handful of projects they call "community priorities." Those include building a career and technical training center, trying to lure a veterans nursing home, starting a housing land trust and expanding a mental health facility at the David Lawrence Center in East Naples.

"It's important for the public to be able to decide if this is how they want to fund this work," Saunders said. "I look at the list, and I see an evidence building for the sheriff, EMS stations, hurricane hardening.

"Yes, there's a cost to taxpayers, but there's also a direct benefit.

"There's also a cost in doing nothing. There's a cost when you're using the jail as a mental health facility, and in gas and wear and tear when you're spending an extra 30 minutes stuck in traffic."

More than a dozen residents came to the meeting to oppose the tax increase, outnumbering speakers who supported it.

The decision is in the hands of voters, Commissioner Andy Solis said.

"We need to do the projects, so the question is how you pay for them," Solis said. "If we borrow and take out long-term debt, it would cost us about \$100 million more in interest, and that would come from taxes. If you ask me the most conservative option, it's that paying less is better than paying more."

America the Beautiful:

The Monumental Landscapes of Clyde Butcher

Beginning this summer, Clyde Butcher who is recognized as one of the world's foremost nature photographers, celebrates the return of his traveling museum exhibit at his St. Armand's Gallery in Sarasota. Visitors to his gallery will be able to immerse themselves in these stunning award-winning large format black-and-white photographs that illustrate the splendor and diversity of America's wilderness. The public is invited to the opening reception Memorial Day weekend (Friday, May 25th and Saturday, May 26th) to meet-and-greet with the famed photographer, Clyde Butcher. Clyde will be on-hand both days from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The exhibition will run through August 15th.



Celebrated for his iconic photographs of Florida and the Everglades, Butcher always hears the question, "Do you ever photograph outside of Florida?" The answer to this question reveals itself in this exhibit, *America the Beautiful: The Monumental Landscape*. Using his antique Deardorff large-format view camera to capture images gives him the ability to create mammoth hand printed darkroom photographs ranging in sizes up to 5x9 feet. Butcher has spent the last 50 years photographing wilderness from California to New England and down to his home state of Florida. The result is this series of memorable photographs that expand our view of what constitutes the American Landscape.

"The images found in this exhibit reflect my respect and appreciation of those heroes of the past who were willing to stand up and proclaim the need to save our environment so that today we can see portions of our country as pristine, unchanged and unspoiled as it was long ago. Our accountability to future generations will be measured by how we safeguard the environment. Will we leave a legacy of beauty and abundance for future generations to enjoy? We need heroes in the present who will bravely stand up and be heard." -Clyde Butcher

Much of the collection majestically captures the great and public natural lands set aside by the federal and state governments for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this generation and future generations. His oversized dramatic images are a valued artistic expression of what we have and what we might lose if we do not protect our environment. He is a diplomat of the remaining wild places and an emissary to the hearts and minds of Americans whose mission is to protect our county's wild places.

"Clyde Butcher represents what we hope all great artists of our country hold true in their work: the responsibility of communicating the goodness of our world through the arts." - President Jimmy Carter

After suffering a stroke in May of 2017, the iconic nature photographer and acclaimed conservationist has only appeared in public a few times making this event at his St. Armand's Gallery even more of a special occasion. The stroke temporarily left Clyde without the use of his right side. But within weeks, he was back at his craft — even if it required some adjustments. *"I had my walker out on a bridge with traffic, and I set my tripod up out on the bridge," Butcher said. "But I got the pictures."*

Contact the Gallery for more information: 941-702-8818.

Above Photo: "Big Cypress National Preserve" by Clyde Butcher



EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP



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

FIRST RESPONDERS FISH FRY IS A CELEBRATION FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

McLeod Park May 12th, 5 pm
Everyone is Invited

Without them we would not be safe. Without them we would not be the same. This is what we want our first responders to know...that we know how important they are to us and the community. This is precisely why we are honoring them on May 12th.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, we saw them in action doing whatever it took to keep us going. On a daily basis our first responders are ready to respond to whatever medical emergency may arise. Sometimes it is not easy to do, but they are still there. Ready, willing and able.

We are grateful to them and this is why it is important to come out to McLeod Park on May 12th to show your support at the annual Fish Fry.

In a true community effort, fresh fried fish, coleslaw and baked beans will be served up with a whole lot of love for the men and women who are there when we need them most!

Please come out to this FREE dinner to show your support.

New Website Features Area Attractions, Accommodations & More!!
www.SWFLGO.com



The publisher of the *Mullet Rapper* has launched a new website that will highlight Everglades City, Chokoloskee and the surrounding area, parks and activities (we like to say that the website tells you "where to go and what to do when you get here").

The site, www.SWFLGO.com, will serve as a hub for visitors to our area and an easy place for them to go to find everything about the area on their mobile device or laptop while they are here including a weather feed, fishing regulations, food, accommodations, activities and more.

We look forward to building SWFLGO into a great community and visitor resource and look forward to your input and feedback! Please let your friends and visitors know about SWFLGO and look for us on Facebook too @SWFLGO.

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

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): Closed for Summer See you in October
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 Closed for Summer, see San Marco below
St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples Phone: 239-417-2084
San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl. 239-394-5181

5/5/18	Sat	2:04 AM	0.04	L
5/5/18	Sat	7:56 AM	2.07	H
5/5/18	Sat	1:42 PM	0.93	L
5/5/18	Sat	6:08 PM	2.44	H
5/6/18	Sun	2:59 AM	0.14	L
5/6/18	Sun	9:00 AM	2.06	H
5/6/18	Sun	2:57 PM	0.99	L
5/6/18	Sun	7:16 PM	2.29	H
5/7/18	Mon	4:02 AM	0.22	L
5/7/18	Mon	10:00 AM	2.1	H
5/7/18	Mon	4:36 PM	0.97	L
5/7/18	Mon	8:58 PM	2.2	H
5/8/18	Tue	5:03 AM	0.27	L
5/8/18	Tue	10:54 AM	2.19	H
5/8/18	Tue	5:45 PM	0.88	L
5/8/18	Tue	10:14 PM	2.19	H
5/9/18	Wed	5:58 AM	0.31	L
5/9/18	Wed	11:42 AM	2.31	H
5/9/18	Wed	6:39 PM	0.74	L
5/9/18	Wed	11:22 PM	2.23	H
5/10/18	Thu	6:48 AM	0.33	L
5/10/18	Thu	12:24 PM	2.44	H
5/10/18	Thu	7:26 PM	0.58	L
5/11/18	Fri	12:23 AM	2.33	H
5/11/18	Fri	7:34 AM	0.36	L
5/11/18	Fri	12:59 PM	2.59	H
5/11/18	Fri	8:08 PM	0.38	L
5/12/18	Sat	1:16 AM	2.44	H
5/12/18	Sat	8:16 AM	0.39	L
5/12/18	Sat	1:30 PM	2.73	H
5/12/18	Sat	8:49 PM	0.17	L
5/13/18	Sun	2:02 AM	2.54	H
5/13/18	Sun	8:55 AM	0.43	L
5/13/18	Sun	1:57 PM	2.86	H
5/13/18	Sun	9:30 PM	-0.03	L
5/14/18	Mon	2:46 AM	2.6	H
5/14/18	Mon	9:34 AM	0.49	L
5/14/18	Mon	2:22 PM	2.99	H
5/14/18	Mon	10:12 PM	-0.2	L
5/15/18	Tue	3:32 AM	2.6	H
5/15/18	Tue	10:12 AM	0.56	L
5/15/18	Tue	2:47 PM	3.09	H
5/15/18	Tue	10:56 PM	-0.34	L
5/16/18	Wed	4:22 AM	2.55	H
5/16/18	Wed	10:52 AM	0.63	L
5/16/18	Wed	3:15 PM	3.15	H
5/16/18	Wed	11:44 PM	-0.41	L
5/17/18	Thu	5:20 AM	2.46	H
5/17/18	Thu	11:35 AM	0.71	L
5/17/18	Thu	3:50 PM	3.15	H
5/18/18	Fri	12:33 AM	-0.41	L
5/18/18	Fri	6:20 AM	2.36	H
5/18/18	Fri	12:21 PM	0.79	L
5/18/18	Fri	4:34 PM	3.07	H
5/19/18	Sat	1:25 AM	-0.35	L
5/19/18	Sat	7:24 AM	2.27	H
5/19/18	Sat	1:13 PM	0.86	L
5/19/18	Sat	5:32 PM	2.92	H

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.

WANTED TO LEASE: In Everglades City or Chokoloskee area. Full time resident looking for a home, condo or trailer for long term lease. Please contact John @ 954-422-3469.

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: One bedroom apartment in the Glades Building across from the Rod & Gun Club on the corner of Allen Ave. For more information call: 239 293 3033.

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT: Two office spaces for rent in the Glades Building across from the Rod & Gun club. For more information or to set an appointment call: 239 293 3033.

FOR SALE: 2005 3 Bdrm., 2 Bath concrete stilt home with additional Deeded adjoining lot. @ 233 Worley St Chokoloskee. Asking \$269,000. View by appointment only. Call 813 763 1944.

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: Like new 5th wheel, 2008, 35', mint condition, The camper has 3 slide outs and many extras inside. Can deliver to you. Located in E-city. Call 317-696-2628.

The MULLET RAPPER

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

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PRODUCTION

DEB Printing & Graphics, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

We provide local news of interest to the extended communities of Everglades City, Chokoloskee, Plantation Island, Lee Cypress, Copeland, Jerome & Ochopee

We strive to present the facts accurately with no political or social bias.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$40 annual by US Postal Mail, \$10 by email

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THE MULLET RAPPER
P.O. Box 134
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