

The MULLET RAPPER

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

OCTOBER 19 - NOVEMBER 1, 2019

AREA INFO
TIDES ~ EVENTS
RESTAURANTS



OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH



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

Volume XI • Issue # 349

Mayoral and Two Council Seats Unopposed. City Government is Set

The only local items on the upcoming ballot in November for Everglades City residents to consider will be several charter amendments. Mayor Howie Grimm and Parker Oglesby will retain their seats, and Tony Pernas will take the seat now occupied by Tina Collins who decided not to seek the office after being appointed by the Mayor this year.

Tina Collins took over for McBeth Collins after he resigned his seat.

Tony Pernas, who works for Big Cypress National Preserve, is an Everglades City resident, and president of the Everglades Lions Club, and president of Seaboard Villas HOA. Pernas decided to put his hat into the ring, and without additional candidates to run against him, he will take over the seat for Tina when her term is completed.

Council persons and the Mayor's seat are all four-year terms. The next time council seats will be decided upon will be 2022 when Elaine Middelstaedt, Tim Smith and Vicky Wells terms will conclude.

FREE Turkeys for Thanksgiving are back! See page 8 for details!

Hurry, you need to sign up by 10-21!

Restoration of Historic Broadway Pond Brings Back Memories Eagle Scout Project is Underway



The project to restore the pond on Broadway in Everglades City is underway. When finished, the project will pay homage to the way it was when the pond was stocked with goldfish.

Arita Hoffman Parker, Copeland resident, attended school in Everglades City back in the 1930's and recounted her memory of the pond to Rapper Photojournalist, Helen Bryan.

"When I was a little girl back in the (Stone Age) 1930s my friends and I spent many an hour laying on our stomachs at that goldfish pond holding our fingers on the surface and letting the little fish explore and nibble at them. The old gentleman that fed them and the monkeys in the cage across the street, would often give us a small handful of fish food to sprinkle in the water for them...that was a real treat.

He had to replenish the pond every few days because the wild raccoons would swim over from across the river and raid the fish pond at night. I once saw the original architect plans for building the city and the goldfish pond and monkey pen was included on it.....plan dated early 1920s."

Every week you can see the progress at the pond. The area has been completely dug out and the cement pond structure has been cleaned and painted. When it is finished the pond will feature titanium "gold fish" representing the fish that once inhabited the pond, so no treats for the herons or raccoons will be tempting them in the renovated structure.

In addition to the titanium fish and refurbished setting, a plaque will be erected at the site that speaks to this historical relevance of the pond and its place in Everglades City history.

Above, Candidate Eagle Scout Morgan Bock works with his Scouts at the site of the Everglades City Goldfish Pond on Broadway Street. Donations are being accepted to help complete the project. For more information about the pond project, or if you are interested in donating towards the project, see the article on page 10.

We look forward to seeing the finished product!

RAPPER TABLE OF CONTENTS

Events, etc.	p. 3	Bike Ride & Local	p. 8
Stone Crab Rules	p. 4	Charles Sobczak	p.9
Alligator Nests	p. 5	Capt. Raffield	P. 9
Book Club	p. 6	Local -Regional, School News	p.10
My Slice	p. 7	Tide Table	p.11
Recipe & Puzzle	p. 7	Council Update	p.11
Poetry Street	p. 8	Classifieds	p.12

FEATURE - ALLIGATOR NEST SURVEY, P. 5

UPCOMING EVENTS

STONE CRAB SEASON IS HERE! October 15th through May 15th



Support the local crab fleet by purchasing and eating the delicious stone crabs harvested in the Gulf waters. Crabs are available in local restaurants and at area seafood markets. For a directory go to www.visitevergladescity.com, and click on "directory," and then "Restaurants/Seafood Markets".

TRUNK OR TREAT! October 26th, 5:00 to 8:00 pm McLeod Park



Come out and celebrate Halloween at the Park on October 28th. This is the third year we are holding the Trunk or Treat event, but this year we are moving the celebration to McLeod Park.

There will be free hotdogs, chili and beverages served by the Everglades Lions Club. There will be many fun things for kids to do and fun for the adults too. Children may also trick or treat in the neighborhood! Everyone is invited!

CAR WASH & BAKE SALE NOVEMBER 9th 10 am to 3 pm

Museum of the Everglades



Come out and get a car wash and some delicious baked goods to benefit the 10th grade class at Everglades City School.

Visit the museum while you wait to get your car looking (almost) like new again!

All donations will be to support the 10th grade class and homecoming. We hope you can attend (and so does your car)!

SCHOOL BOOK FAIR

November 11-14



The annual family & friends "Books and Breakfast" event will take place on Wednesday Nov. 13 from 7 am—8 am.

The Everglades City School FALL Scholastic Book Fair will be held on November 11- 14, 2019!

Join us as we celebrate literacy with our fall Scholastic Book Fair. The fair will open Monday, November 11 through Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019. The daily hours will be 7:30 am – 3:30 pm. Thursday, November 14, the fair will conclude at noon!

DINNER & MUSIC AT MCLEOD PARK

November 16th , 5 to 8 pm

Come out to McLeod Park and enjoy music, and one of the Lion's Club specialties! Dinner is \$12 and includes, dinner, desert, and a beverage. Proceeds will go towards park improvements.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

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

November 19, 8 am to 4 pm

The Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida's Health & Smiles Mobile Dental Bus will be in Everglades City on November 19th, 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!

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 at his Marco office: Call to schedule an appointment: (239) 642-5552.

NATURAL MEDICINE



Dr. John Martin can see patients in Everglades City on Thursdays. Appts: from 10 am to 6 pm. Call to confirm: 813-787-9738.

CEDR Hurricane Disaster Recovery Aid

Communities of Everglades Disaster Recovery works in conjunction with disaster case managers from several agencies and have a team set up in Everglades City Hall (in the old council room). They will have advocates there from 10 am to 3 pm on Mondays to assist people still in need of help. Stop in the office or you can call Elaine at 239-695-2695 for more information.

E-CITY THRIFT SHOP

Open Saturday 11am -3pm



The Everglades City Thrift Store is open Saturday from 11 am to 3 pm. Come see the new store located between the fire station and community center.



A Message From Fire Chief Kingman Schuldt

On Saturday October 5th, the District alongside our partnering county first responder agencies, held "Fire Prevention Awareness Day" at Coastland Center Mall to kick off Fire Prevention Week, which is observed October 6 – October 12 this year. This is a great event held every year where our life safety professionals do an excellent job of educating the community on fire safety in a fun atmosphere.

Fire Prevention Week is observed annually during the week in which October 9 falls, in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire. The Chicago Fire of 1871 burned from October 8 to October 10 with the majority of the damage occurring on October 9. This horrific event killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign is "Not every hero wears a cape. Plan and practice your escape!" We want you to be proactive when it comes to protecting your family in a potential home fire. Did you know you may have as little as two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds? This is why it is so important to have an escape plan ahead of time, every second counts!

Here are some questions to ask to get you and your family prepared:

- ◆ Do you have working smoke alarms in your home?
- ◆ Is there a smoke alarm in every sleeping room and outside each sleeping area?
- ◆ Is there a smoke alarm on each level of the home, including the basement?
- ◆ Do you test your smoke alarms at least once a month?
- ◆ How old are your smoke alarms? (If they're more than 10 years old, you need new ones.)
- ◆ Does your family have a home fire escape plan?
- ◆ Do you know two ways out of each room in your home?
- ◆ Do you know what to do when you hear your smoke alarm? (Get out and stay out.) Are all the exits in your home clear of trash and toys?
- ◆ Has your family picked a meeting place outside the home where everyone can go when they've escaped a fire?
- ◆ Does everyone at home know how to call for help once they are outside?
- ◆ Do you and all family members practice your escape plan at least twice a year?

JOANIE'S BLUE CRAB CAFE



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**STONE CRAB SEASON OPENED OCTOBER 15
 NEW RECREATIONAL TRAP REQUIREMENTS**

Recreational harvesters who are age 16 and older and fish with traps are now required to complete an online, no-cost recreational stone crab trap registration and place their registration number on their traps before using them. To register, visit GoOutdoorsFlorida.com and add the Recreational Stone Crab Trap Registration to your fishing license account.

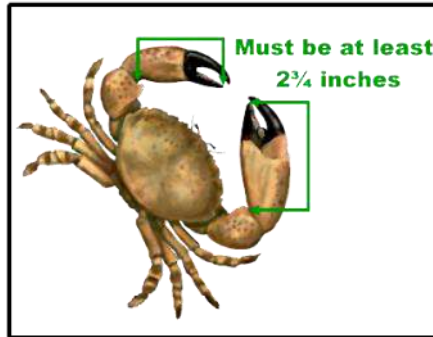
Upon completion, each person will receive unique trap registration numbers that must be included on each trap along with the owner's full name and address. This information must be legible and must be permanently attached to each trap.

This no-cost registration will allow the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to collect important information about these recreational fisheries, which is needed for future stock assessments and management decisions.

Other Regulations: To be harvested, stone crab claws must be at least 2.75 inches in length when measured from the elbow to the tip of the lower immovable portion of the claw (see illustration). View a video on how to properly remove the claw on the FWC YouTube channel and increase the chance the crabs you release will survive.

Harvesters are encouraged to take only one claw, even if both claws are of legal size, so the released crab will be better able to defend itself from predators. A crab that is returned to the water with one claw intact will be able to obtain more food in a shorter amount of time and therefore regrow its claw faster. There is a recreational daily bag limit of 1 gallon of claws per person or 2 gallons per vessel, whichever is less.

Claws may not be taken from egg-bearing stone crabs. Stone crabs may not be harvested with any device that can puncture, crush or injure a crab's body. Examples of devices that can



cause this kind of damage include spears and hooks.

Recreational harvesters may use up to five stone crab traps per person. Recreational and commercial traps may be baited and placed in the water Oct. 5, but claws cannot be harvested or possessed until Oct. 15. Traps that are not being fished should be removed from the water to avoid ghost fishing, a process in which marine species get caught in the trap for extended periods of time and are not harvested.

The season will be open through May 15, 2020, closing May 16. Stone crab regulations are the same in state and federal waters.

For more information on harvesting stone crabs for recreation, as well as trap specifications, commercial stone crab regulations and licensing information, go online to MyFWC.com/Fishing (click on "Saltwater Fishing").

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Checking on Alligator Nests, with Mama Nearby

By: Antonia Florio, Science Communications Liaison, Everglades National Park

It's a sweltering mid-August morning, and the helicopter circles 50 feet over the sawgrass. As the aircraft turns towards the left, I see my first Everglades alligator nest.

"There's Mama," said Mark Parry, wildlife biologist for Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks. "Her nest looks flooded. We should land and take a look."

Mama was definitely on my mind when I unbuckled my seatbelt and stepped out of the helicopter into knee-deep water. A female alligator can be very aggressive if you threaten her nest or her babies. As a new mom, I can relate, and so I was very afraid of her. I followed Parry through sawgrass, clumsily moving through the Everglades with a long wooden stick. This stick doubles as both a way to approximate water depth and to defend against an attack from Mama.

Eventually, we arrive at her nest, a small mound made mostly of plant materials. I could see that the water was high around it. It was possible that the eggs had been flooded.

We are here to check on alligator nests. Parry starts these surveys in early July, when most of the female alligators capable of reproducing have built nests and deposited eggs.

After first locating where the alligator nests are, Parry checks on them every two weeks until September, when the approximately 60-day incubation period is complete. If he notices a negative change, such as a flooding event or if a predator has disturbed the nest, Parry lands again to check on the nest status and condition of the eggs.

The Park has carried out these alligator surveys since 1985. That's when scientists recognized that despite nearly three decades of protection, alligators and other key animal groups within the park continued to decline.

"From the 1980s into the 1990s, most alligator nests were found in the center of the main sloughs, particularly the deepest Shark River Slough," Parry said. "Alligators were concentrated there because few areas in the southern Glades held enough water throughout the year to support their needs, especially during the late dry season onset of courtship, mating, and nesting behavior."

When water would finally arrive in the southern Glades late in the wet season, it flooded the alligator nests that had already been built.

That's because water would be held in upstream reservoirs, known as Water Conservation Areas, for human use. If water levels got too high, then large amounts of water would be released to protect against flooding. Most of this water flowed through the central sloughs and flooded the incubating alligator nests.

None of this was natural for the southern Glades or its inhabitants. Historically, water in Everglades slowly rose throughout the wet season and slowly fell throughout the dry season in concert with rainfall patterns. And alligator nests were more spread out because areas outside of the central sloughs had enough water to sustain them.

"For alligators, if you solve the nest distribution problem, you solve the flooding problem," Parry said. "It's like how you wouldn't put all your money in one stock or all your eggs in one basket. Increasing the spatial distribution of nests decreases the impact that a very wet or even very dry year will have on all of the alligator nests that year."

Past efforts to drain the southern Florida landscape, combined with water management decisions that halted the natural delivery of water in the Everglades, have had a negative impact on park's

wildlife. South Floridian's drinking water was also threatened because it is dependent on freshwater flow through the Everglades. Improvements to canal systems and water delivery schedules have been made to fix this by more closely mirroring natural patterns. The Everglades now receives more water at more appropriate times, and that water is more evenly distributed across the landscape than was the case for most of the mid to late 1900s.

Parry has noticed a positive change in alligator nests in the Park. "In the 1980s, there were on average, only about 20 nests found in the sampling region," Parry said. "In more recent years, we regularly see four to eight times that many nests even in less ideal conditions, and sometimes more in the best years. Perhaps most importantly, the distribution across the landscape has greatly improved even in years with less suitable conditions. So now, our gator eggs are no longer in one basket."

But even if we get the water management right in South Florida, alligator nests will still sometimes flood, especially late in the wet season, and that is okay.

I remind myself of that as we start to open the flooded alligator nest, and fully expect to find eggs with alligator embryos that have stopped developing. I was wrong.



"You might want to get your camera out," Parry said.

As I peered into the nest, I saw a speckling of colors, including green, yellow, white, and red, and it looked like they were moving. It took a minute, but it finally hit me. Baby alligators were hatching from the eggs with their embryonic sacs still

attached.

Parry explained that these alligators were hatching early because the eggs were partially or fully submerged in water, which prevents oxygen exchange.

The only way these almost fully developed hatchlings could survive is by breaking out of their eggs early and wiggling their noses high enough to reach the surface. Alligators are nothing if not survivors.

I took as many photos of these baby alligators as I could, trying to document for others the amazing sight I was witnessing.

Deeper in the nest, some of the eggs were completely covered in water. Parry's suspicions were confirmed when he carefully cut the eggs open to check on their developmental stage. Almost fully developed baby alligators were inside these flooded eggs, but they hadn't survived. I stopped taking photos.

"You should document these, too," Parry said. "You have to show the full story. They don't all make it."

I've been taught to never ascribe human qualities to wildlife. You can't know that animals have the same emotions we do, and making the assumption that they do can cause more harm than good.

That is sometimes easier said than done and has been especially difficult for me since becoming a mom. Looking at these baby alligators who didn't make it, Mama came to my mind again. This time, I felt more solidarity than fear.

Photo: Mark Parry, a wildlife biologist for Everglades National Park, records information from an alligator nest.

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The Everglades Book Club is Back!

EVERGLADES BOOK CLUB

Everyone is welcome to join in on the conversation, coffee and comradery.

This year's titles are excellent so we expect 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.

Book Club Schedule

November 21st

Before We Were Yours

by Lisa Wingate

hosted by Patty Huff

December 19th

Euphoria by Lily King

hosted by Dianne Pollack

January 16th

My Stroke of Insight by Jill Bolte Taylor

hosted by Elaine Middelstaedt

February 20th

The Swamp by Michael Gunwald

hosted by Geri Freiburger

March 19th

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 October 5, 2019 Puzzle

	1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8
	B	A	D		A	S	K	E	D
9	D	A	D	A	10	C	H	I	L
11	E	R	A	D	12	I	C	A	T
14	M	O	P		15	B	U	D	
17	I	N	T	H	18	I	S		19
					20	O	S	A	21
22	B	23	24		25	T	U	X	26
29	U	A	E		30	W	I	G	31
32	S	T	E	33	T	H	O	S	34
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	37	T	E	X	T	S		38	S
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My Little Slice of Paradise
by Kathy Brock

Today is the first day of stone crab season. Yes. I am writing this article on October 15th.

With Hurricane Irma two years behind us, and a new crab season here, it brings hope of better things to come for the future for our city.

As fate would have it, the hurricane was a natural disaster that only punctuated a series of serious missteps for our city.

The troubles started coming to light in 2015 when the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) cited the City for illegally dumping sewage into the (once) pristine mangroves.

With the City's sewage plant falling apart and well over capacity, "the back door" was opened up to release all that could not be processed to take the strain off of the plant.

The irony of that does not escape me. So many of us who were born here or moved here many years ago (like me), came and stay here to experience the pristine Everglades. The very idea that this was happening here is unacceptable, to understate it.

Today, we have a brighter future, albeit a difficult path forward. The City is digging out of a financial morass that will keep us strapped for cash for the foreseeable future.

On October 14th, Collier County granted us an early holiday gift. They forgave a debt of \$347,000 the City owed for a water line that was installed by the County on the City's behalf.

When that intra-local agreement was signed by former Mayor Sammy Hamilton, it was done so without the knowledge or approval of the City Council, which is not how our local government is supposed to operate.

The Council are the elected officials that the electorate put in place to evaluate these types of decisions. They are the ones that must vote to approve or disapprove of such agreements.

Putting all of the power in the hands of a single individual is never a good idea. What seems like a "good idea" to a single individual, could spell disaster for an entire community. Two heads are better than one...

Take what happened here as an example. Left unchecked, the City would have amassed fines it could never, ever repay. Never.

Even though we are on an island and "feel like" we are out here on our own, we are not. Everglades City is a part of Collier County. We are not like the other two cities, nor are we similar to Immokalee. **We are unique.**

Our uniqueness is what makes us special. It is what will keep people coming here. **Our uniqueness is the way out of the financial mess we find ourselves in today.**

The current City government has improved many things. But the biggest and best improvement is transparency and involvement of all city officials.

Every month there is at least one council meeting. The issues are discussed and open for public comment. Keeping it that way is our roadmap to future success.

It is us, the people, who are the true police force of the local government. Showing up to meetings and asking questions is our job. It is incumbent upon us to stay vigilant and demand transparency. It requires a small commitment of time, but our community is worth it.

Small towns need many helping hands. Our City is on a better path, and it's up to us to make sure it stays on it.

Island Life Recipes
Mom's Baked Apples
By Kathy Brock



Ingredients:

- ✕ 1 whole apple per person
- ✕ 1/2 cup brown sugar
- ✕ 1 tsp. cinnamon
- ✕ Dash nutmeg
- ✕ 1/4 cup chopped nuts, if desired

✕ Wash apples. Mix cinnamon, brown sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg and nuts together and set aside. With a paring knife, cut the core out of the apple without breaking through the bottom, like shown above. Fill each with the sugar mixture into the cored out section.

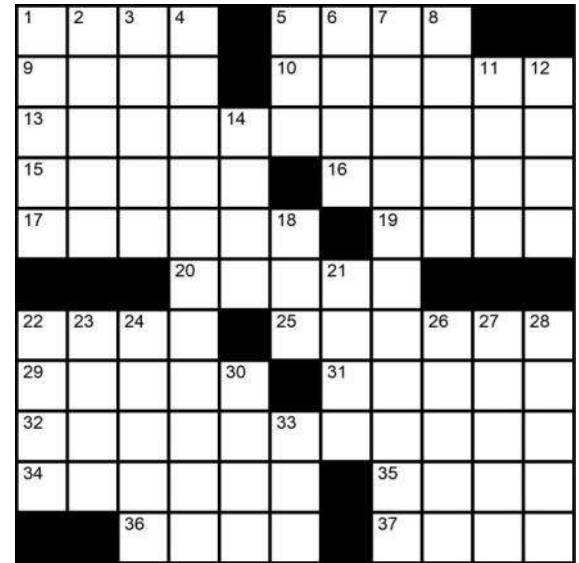
✕ Put in a pan or corning ware, add a 1/4 inch of water in the pan, and cover and bake at 350° for 30 minutes, or until apples are soft. You can also put them into the microwave oven on high for about 10 minutes. In the microwave, cook on high for 5 minutes, test them for doneness, and return them for an additional 5 or less until to desired softness.

✕ These are delicious on their own warm, or with a scoop of vanilla ice cream on them. If you cook them so that they are done just as dinner is served, they will be the perfect temperature when you are ready for them.

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

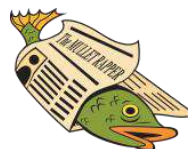
Across

- 1 Nagging fish?
- 5 Sisters
- 9 Composer --- Novello
- 10 34 across' sister
- 13 Echo
- 15 Set of opinions
- 16 Scarecrow stuffing
- 17 Sky lit lobby
- 19 They release a toy truck every year
- 20 Range
- 22 Get a present ready
- 25 Tile setter need
- 29 Trustworthiness
- 31 Every golfer likes this kind of hole
- 32 Motley assortment
- 34 Often opposed to Venus on court
- 35 Houston university
- 36 Uptight
- 37 Like Sean Connery



Down

- 1 Roughly
- 2 Stave off
- 3 Random archery target
- 4 Inclined
- 5 Kernel
- 6 Applications
- 7 Many winter residents in the South
- 8 Bowling feat
- 11 Airline guesses
- 12 The latest
- 14 Defeat soundly
- 18 Lady of the house
- 21 Annul
- 22 "--- sorry now?"
- 23 Transported by horse
- 24 --- Agassi
- 26 Gin go with
- 27 Corporate conclusion
- 28 Start again
- 30 Told
- 33 Dissenting vote





Poetry Street™

The Holiday Season is upon us! It is a time of year to enjoy good times with Family and Friends. It is a time of togetherness, love and hope. Here's wishing you a great October, November and December! My poem is called "Halloween Hope."

I wish you Halloween hope
Let's all have a good time
and not sit around and mope
Halloween may bring out
the child in you
It's a haunting time of year, too
With Halloween hope we may
accomplish many things
Following our dreams
that make us sing
We wish hope for all
this Halloween Season
We come to you for this special reason
To lift your spirits
in these ever changing times ahead
Do not be afraid
and hide under your bed
Halloween hope is here for you
Run with this uplifting hope
and never feel blue
When discouragement sets in
Go for Halloween hope and you will win
The good spirits
will hopefully lift you up
Like a sweet candy buttercup
So let's all celebrate
with positive energy this year
I am wishing you
much Halloween cheer!



Look for #PoetryStreet on Twitter or at PoetryStreet.com
Kathythepoet@gmail.com

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FREE GUIDED BIKE TOURS
Bike Rides Through the Everglades

Come join us again this season as we tour different parts of the Everglades, some on road and some off road within our National Parks and Preserves.

These tours are free and guided. As in the past, we will be riding for the fun of exploring the Everglades area.

The bike tours will be self-supported rides so be sure to bring your own snacks and repair kits.

We will be meeting at 9:00 a.m. with plans to have lunch together after each ride.

This year we will be offering the bike rides on SATURDAY rather than Sunday so please mark your calendars!

Also, we are asking that you sign up in advance so we can prepare for the number of participants. Just email info@evergladesrogg.org or call 239-719-0020 to let us know if you plan to join us!

Schedule of Rides

- October 19.....Shark Valley
November 9.....Port of the Islands
December 7.....Everglades City & Chokoloskee
January 11.....Janes Scenic Drive in the Fakahatchee
February 15.....Loop Road in Big Cypress
MarchBear Island in the Big Cypress

Please email info@evergladesrogg.org or call (239) 719-0020 for more information.

Everglades Garden Club We Need Members!



We are exploring the idea of starting a garden club...

Everything grows here! Let's start a garden club where we can share our experiences, learn and share what we grow.

The time and dates can be flexible depending on what can work best for those who are interested.

We will offer growing tips, tested methods and fantastic flops.

If you are interested in this idea, please contact me by phone or email. If we have enough to form a loose group, we will start the club this season!

Email me at mulletrapper@gmail.com or call me at 954-662-7003.

The Tradition Continues...

FREE Turkeys Are Available to Residents of Everglades City, Chokoloskee, Plantation, Copeland & Jerome! (Submit Your Form by Oct. 21st!)



The tradition of providing free turkeys to our community is back! Thanks to the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida and Everglades City, anyone in our community can get one in plenty of time for the holiday.

We are requesting that you fill out the form available at City Hall in the water department or at Right Choice Supermarket, or by downloading it from the website: visitevergladescity.com/turkey/. We need your reservation so that we have enough for everyone. All members of the surrounding communities are invited to reserve a turkey.

In the next edition of the Mullet Rapper, we will let you know the exact dates they can be picked up, and the location for pickup in Everglades City.

One turkey per household. Reservation will be required. Thank you!

American Pickers to Film in Florida!

Mike Wolfe, Frank Fritz, and their team are excited to return to Florida! They plan to film episodes of the hit series American Pickers throughout the area in December 2019.

AMERICAN PICKERS is a documentary series that explores the fascinating world of antique "picking" on History. The hit show follows Mike and Frank, two of the most skilled pickers in the business, as they hunt for America's most valuable antiques. They are always excited to find sizeable, unique collections and learn the interesting stories behind them.

As they hit the back roads from coast to coast, Mike and Frank are on a mission to recycle and rescue forgotten relics. Along the way, the Pickers want to meet characters with remarkable and exceptional items. The pair hopes to give historically significant objects a new lease on life, while learning a thing or two about America's past along the way.

Mike and Frank have seen a lot of rusty gold over the years and are always looking to discover something they've never seen before. They are ready to find extraordinary items and hear fascinating tales about them. AMERICAN PICKERS is looking for leads and would love to explore your hidden treasure.

If you or someone you know has a large, private collection or accumulation of antiques that the Pickers can spend the better part of the day looking through, send us your name, phone number, location and description of the collection with photos to:

americanpickers@cineflix.com or call: 855-OLD-RUST Facebook: @GotAPick

City Seafood

702 Begonia Street, Everglades City

OPEN ALL YEAR...

We are one of the most affordable restaurants with one of the most beautiful waterfront locations.

Breakfast 8 am to 10 am, 12 to 6 Lunch & Dinner

We Serve Delicious, Local Seafood & Cuisine



Want to book a private party? Call Richard or Candice at 239-695-4700



Living Gulf Coast by Charles Sobczak

Southern Black Racer (Coluber constrictor priapus) Other names: black racer, racer / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=LC / Length: 2-4.5 ft (0.61-1.4 m) / Weight: 0.75-1 lb. (340-453 g) / Life span: to 10 years / Reproduces: deposits its eggs (7-22) in old logs, stumps, and sawdust / Found: All Counties, coastal, near coast, inland / Months found: JFMamjjasOND (lower case indicates nesting season).

The most commonly seen snake in this region, the southern black racer is also one of the most common in Florida. One reason for the frequent sightings is that the black racer is a diurnal hunter, so it is out at the same time when most people are working in their yards, biking, or doing other activities that might bring them into contact with this snake. The black racer has one of the most extensive ranges of any North American snake, extending to the Canadian border, west to Washington, and east to Maine.

The black racer is nonvenomous but will inflict a nasty bite if grabbed. It will rattle its tail in the grass or dry leaves when cornered or threatened, imitating the eastern diamondback rattlesnake. It cannot be domesticated and should not be kept as a pet. It will continue to bite its captors throughout its life span and repeatedly bash its head against a glass enclosure until it seriously injures itself.

Despite its scientific middle name (constrictor), the black racer is not a true constrictor. It tends to chase down, bite, then suffocate or crush its victims on the ground rather than coiling around them in true constrictor fashion. Its diet includes brown and green anoles, insects, moles, birds, frogs, eggs, smaller snakes, and rodents. It is preyed on by red-shouldered hawks, owls, and larger snakes.

The black racer is extremely quick and agile, making it difficult to catch. When spotted crossing a trail or road, it vanishes into the understory with amazing swiftness.

Yellow Rat Snake (Elaphe obsoleta quadrivittata) Other names: rat snake / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=LC / Life span: to 20 years / Length: 4.5-7 ft (1.4-2.1 m) / Weight: 2-4 lb. (0.9-1.80 kg) Nests: on island / Found: All counties, coastal, near coast and inland.



After the black racer, the yellow rat snake is the second most commonly seen snake on Sanibel, Captiva and other parts of SW Florida. It is an impressive predator. Growing to lengths of seven feet, with a circumference about the same size as a man's wrist, this snake can be quite startling when you happen upon one. It is non-venomous, however, and aside from a nasty bite, will not cause any real harm to a person. Nonetheless, it should never be picked up or handled.

The rat snake is a true constrictor. It seizes its prey, then coils its muscular body around the animal, slowly constricting the life out of it through suffocation. The yellow rat snake is one of the leading predators of invasive black and brown rats and is therefore very beneficial to wildlife. It also preys upon birds, frogs, lizards, eggs, insects, and small mammals. Extremely arboreal, the yellow rat snake can often be spotted climbing into trees and up onto porches, rooftops, and rafters. It has nowhere near the speed of the black racer on the ground.

The yellow rat snake is preyed upon by hawks, ospreys, eagles, and owls. It is also eaten by raccoons, bobcats, and otters. Unlike the black racer, the yellow rat snake takes readily to humans, and after it becomes socialized, seldom bites. Various sub-species and color variations extend the range of the yellow rat snake across most of the eastern U.S., as far west as western Texas.

Photo by Tim Brock taken in Everglades City.

Mullet Rapper Donations to Everglades City School

~\$2000 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 fund the Leader-in-Me Program!

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!



The Everglades Backcountry Experience With Captain Rodney Raffield

Hi Mullet Rappers, Capt. Rodney here with more fishing tales from the beautiful Everglades National Park.

Fishing this past month has been very productive with good numbers of Snook and Reds.



Trout continue to be elusive with limits being very hard to find. They should start to show as the water starts cooling down in the next couple months.

It has been producing best around the oyster reefs and outside points on both Reds and Snook, but we have managed Snook in

fair numbers in the Backcountry too.

I have been catching a few Mackerel both inside and outside but they should pick up nicely in the next month. Look for these fish around rocky bottom in the channels coming out of Chokoloskee and Everglades City.

Hot lures continue to be Wiffelures and Zman paddle tails rigged on 1/4 oz jig heads.

Consistent colors have been Chartreuse and Pearl but Watermelon Red flake has been knocking them loose lately.

Remember best way to follow me on a daily basis is to go to Everglades Backcountry Experience on Facebook. Remember, you can't catch them sitting on the sofa so get out there and make a memory my friends. Capt. Rodney

Fish With Captain Rodney Raffield 239-695-4626 captrodney@centurylink.net

Download the Fishing Limits Guide https://visitevergladescity.com/fishing-regs-2019/



Parkway Motel & Marina (239) 695-3261

- Valtect Marine, Rec 90 gas at the dock Dock water & electric Boat lift, Ice

1180 Chokoloskee Dr., Chokoloskee, FL www.parkwaymotelandmarina.net

LOCAL EXTRA

Historic Broadway Pond Project Still in Need of Additional Funding



Scout Troop 2001 is reviving the Everglades City fishpond on West Broadway. Barron Collier used to keep it stocked with gold fish and now there is an Eagle Scout project to clean the pond up (they have already removed all the dirt) and put in fish sculptures to replicate and honor this site.

However, the scouts need additional funds to complete the project. As a community it would be nice to help: make checks payable to Scout Troop 2001 and in the memo space add: Morgan Bock Eagle Project and mail to Michelle Bock, 5250 23rd Court SW, Naples, FL 34116. For more on the project, see the front page...

CLYDE BUTCHER SWAMP WALKS
October 26 & 27, Big Cypress
Reserve Your Spot Today!



Vermont has its leaf-peepers. Munich has Oktoberfest. Here in South Florida, we celebrate the fall season with swamp walks in the Big Cypress National Preserve. Join us on October 26 & 27 at Clyde Butcher's Big Cypress Gallery and take a walk on the wild side!

Questions? Call the office for details: 305-665-4769. Visit the Gallery (location of the swamp walk): 52388 Tamiami Trail, Ochopee, Florida 34141.

Stargazing in the Everglades
Meteor Showers
Light Up the Sky

Southern Taurids: Next period of activity: Now through November 20th.



Next Peak - The Southern Taurids will next peak on the Oct 9-10, 2019 night. On this night, the moon will be 87% full. Next Peak night Oct 21-22, 2019.

Orionids: Next period of activity: October 2nd to November 7th.

The Orionids are a medium strength shower that sometimes reaches high strength activity. In a normal year the Orionids produce 10-20 shower members at maximum.

MUSEUM NEWS

Visit the Museum of the Everglades to See Incredible Artwork & Artifacts

Autumn is a great time to visit the beautiful Museum of the Everglades. The museum routinely changes their feature displays, so you will want to schedule multiple visits each year to see why we are the County's most popular museum!

The Museum is open daily from 9 am to 4 pm and is located at: 105 W. Broadway, Everglades City. www.colliermuseums.com
Visit: www.evergladesmuseum.org

FAKAHATCHEE NEWS

Fall Friends of Fakahatchee Adventures
HURRY TOURS SELLING OUT FAST!

The Friends of Fakahatchee tram tours are selling out fast for the season! The three-hour tour lets visitors experience Florida's largest state park under the illumination of a full moon. The Moonlit tours sell out rapidly, so early reservations are essential. October and November dates are sold out! Dec. 11 and 12 dates are still available.

There are many other tours offered during the day led by area conservationists. We recommend booking early to reserve a seat!

For complete details and reservations at \$35 per person, visit us online at www.orchidswamp.org and click "Tours and Adventures."

For information call 239-695-1023.

FREE Ranger Led Programs at Big Cypress. Reserve Your Spot Now

Join us as we get out and explore the wonders of the Big Cypress Swamp! Protecting over 729,000 acres of this vast swamp, Big Cypress National Preserve contains a mixture of tropical and temperate plant communities that are home to a diversity of wildlife, including the elusive Florida panther.

EVERGLADES CITY SCHOOL NEWS

By Coach Jill Whitcomb

The Gators are wrapping up another great fall season of sports!

The middle school girls volleyball team finished the season as the Southwest Florida Athletic Conference runner-up!

They fell just short in the final game of the conference championship to Marco Island Charter Middle School!

Our girls varsity team is competing this week in the FHSAA district volleyball playoffs! We wish them the best of luck and hope they bring home a district championship.

Our boys and girls cross country teams have work very hard to prepare for the FHSAA district cross country meet on Oct. 24. We wish all our runners the best of luck in competing and hopefully advancing to regions!

Way to Go Gators!

School Calendar

- October 24: Report Cards
November 16: CCPS Walk/Run 5K
November 27- 29: No School
December 20: Early Dismissal
December 23-31: No School
January 1-7: No School
January 8: Classes Resume
January 20: No School

For more school information go to the school website:

www.collierschools.com/Domain/24

(239) 377-9800



Check Us Out on TripAdvisor!

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Enjoy an Authentic Dining Experience in Historic Chokoloskee, Florida Prepared by Chef Carlos Valdes

Breakfast. Fresh-Caught Seafood. Cuban Delicacies. Sandwiches & More.

191 Smallwood Drive, Chokoloskee, FL 34138

Phone: 239-695-2214

www.HavanaCafeoftheEverglades.com

EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP

Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands

(642-1025): Monday - Wed 5 to 11 pm,
Thurs to Sun Noon - 11 pm, see ad on p. 6

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. (239-695-2380)

Open Daily 6 am to 10 pm
Live bait, gear, food coming soon. C'mon in!

Havana Café (239-695-2214):

Open Daily 7 am to 4 pm
See our ad on page 10!

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 11 am to 5 pm
See our ad on page 4

Rod & Gun (239-695-2101):

11:30 am - 8:00 pm; daily

Triad Seafood & Café (239-695-2662):

Open Daily
See Our ad on page 4.

MARKETS

Right Choice Market (239-695-4535):

Open 7 days, 9 am to 7 pm

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

Opening for Season on October 15th!

Fresh Produce

Right Choice Supermarket

See listing under "markets"

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

11:00 am Sunday Worship, See ad p. 11

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

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/

10/19/19	Sat	12:52 AM	1.05	L
10/19/19	Sat	5:10 AM	2.97	H
10/19/19	Sat	2:23 PM	0.22	L
10/19/19	Sat	8:23 PM	2.45	H
10/20/19	Sun	1:32 AM	1.13	L
10/20/19	Sun	6:00 AM	2.89	H
10/20/19	Sun	3:31 PM	0.26	L
10/20/19	Sun	9:40 PM	2.43	H
10/21/19	Mon	3:05 AM	1.2	L
10/21/19	Mon	7:11 AM	2.79	H
10/21/19	Mon	4:44 PM	0.27	L
10/21/19	Mon	10:48 PM	2.49	H
10/22/19	Tue	5:04 AM	1.15	L
10/22/19	Tue	9:40 AM	2.77	H
10/22/19	Tue	5:50 PM	0.26	L
10/22/19	Tue	11:46 PM	2.59	H
10/23/19	Wed	6:14 AM	0.99	L
10/23/19	Wed	11:10 AM	2.89	H
10/23/19	Wed	6:50 PM	0.26	L
10/24/19	Thu	12:32 AM	2.73	H
10/24/19	Thu	7:12 AM	0.77	L
10/24/19	Thu	12:23 PM	3.06	H
10/24/19	Thu	7:44 PM	0.28	L
10/25/19	Fri	1:09 AM	2.89	H
10/25/19	Fri	8:05 AM	0.52	L
10/25/19	Fri	1:24 PM	3.22	H
10/25/19	Fri	8:33 PM	0.34	L
10/26/19	Sat	1:42 AM	3.05	H
10/26/19	Sat	8:53 AM	0.28	L
10/26/19	Sat	2:16 PM	3.3	H
10/26/19	Sat	9:18 PM	0.42	L
10/27/19	Sun	2:12 AM	3.19	H
10/27/19	Sun	9:39 AM	0.07	L
10/27/19	Sun	3:05 PM	3.28	H
10/27/19	Sun	10:01 PM	0.53	L
10/28/19	Mon	2:41 AM	3.3	H
10/28/19	Mon	10:26 AM	-0.09	L
10/28/19	Mon	3:54 PM	3.17	H
10/28/19	Mon	10:44 PM	0.64	L
10/29/19	Tue	3:12 AM	3.35	H
10/29/19	Tue	11:12 AM	-0.16	L
10/29/19	Tue	4:45 PM	2.99	H
10/29/19	Tue	11:25 PM	0.76	L
10/30/19	Wed	3:44 AM	3.32	H
10/30/19	Wed	11:59 AM	-0.16	L
10/30/19	Wed	5:39 PM	2.79	H
10/31/19	Thu	12:08 AM	0.86	L
10/31/19	Thu	4:20 AM	3.21	H
10/31/19	Thu	12:47 PM	-0.09	L
10/31/19	Thu	6:35 PM	2.6	H
11/1/19	Fri	12:52 AM	0.96	L
11/1/19	Fri	5:02 AM	3.04	H
11/1/19	Fri	1:38 PM	0.03	L
11/1/19	Fri	7:35 PM	2.45	H



October

City Council Update

The Everglades City Council met for the second time on October 15 so they could pass several City Charter amendments that will modernize the charter and update several crucial areas of the charter. A public workshop will be held at 6 pm at City Hall on November 19th to discuss the changes. You can download a copy of the proposed City Charter amendments online at <https://visitevergladescity.com/cityord/>.

The ordinances will also appear on the sample ballots mailed to homes.

The City has appointed a Citizens Advisory Task Force to work with the City's contracted grant writers, Angie Brewer & Associates.

The 7-person group will meet as needed during the grant writing process. The City is currently seeking funds to make emergency repairs to the wastewater plant for damages caused by Hurricane Irma.

Collier County agreed to waive an expense incurred during the construction of the new Chokoloskee bridge. The County had been seeking over \$347,000 for moving a waterpipe during the construction phase. The County has agreed to drop the charge. Kathleen Passidomo and Bill McDaniel were helpful in getting the matter resolved.

The City voted to accept a donation by the Lions Foundation of the Everglades which will cover the full cost for brand new playground equipment, including installation and all associated costs! The Everglades Lions Club has been fundraising for over a year to get this first phase completed. Great Job Lions! They expect to have the new equipment installed sometime in January 2020.



EVERGLADES COMMUNITY CHURCH

The Friendly Church on the Circle

Non-Denominational

101 S. Copeland Avenue

PO Box 177, Everglades City, FL 34139

239-784-7318

The Rev. Dr. Bob N. Wallace, Pastor

Sunday Worship Service 11:00 am

Sunday School Oct. 13th—March

www.ever-community-church.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

JOB: Florida National Parks Association is seeking a sales associate for our store in Big Cypress National Preserve. This is a part-time, year-round position and candidates are expected to be available to work weekends and Holidays. Email corey@evergladesassociation.org.

FOR RENT: Newly renovated modular home on Plantation Island canal lot. Long term lease 6 month minimum. Sleeps 2-3. See it on: <https://tinyurl.com/y96k2c73> For more information contact Chip Chipman 281-358-7884 or Bob Chipman at 239-695-0007.

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

FOR SALE TRUCK: White Dodge Ram 1500 Pickup. Single Cab, 6.5 foot bed, HEMI engine, cold AC, and runs great. ~84000 miles. Asking \$11,500. Call Steve for more information at 239-695-2397.

SEASONAL RENTAL: Cozy 2/1 home on N. Buckner Ave. Available on November 1st. Call 508-677-5136.

FOR SALE: 2016 Beavertail Strike. 17' w/ 70 hp Yamaha. Tiller steering. Peterson trailer with folding tongue. Always garage stored. Less than 60 hours. Asking \$27,500. Everglades City. 239-784-9281

CLASSIFIED ADS

RV HOOKUPS, Everglades City. Two Sites, 30 and 50 amps. Service, water, no sewage. Rent nightly or weekly. Rough boat ramp, 100 ft. dock. Private & secure. Contact Capt. Wayne of Fish Hunt Charters at 239-695-2445.

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

RV PAD FOR RENT: In Everglades City RV park. Full hook-up, 30 amps, 25 x 35 pad, restroom, shower, laundry & rec. privileges, 55+. Quiet time 10 pm. Weekly, monthly. 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 RENT: Efficiency apartment in Everglades City. Monthly, or seasonal for 2 adults; kitchenette, W/D, includes all utilities and use of dock. No smoking or pets. Call 989-821-1411 or 239-253-3942.

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

The MULLET RAPPER

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

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We provide local news of interest to the extended

communities of Everglades City,

Chokoloskee, Plantation Island,

Lee Cypress, Copeland, Jerome & Ochopee

We strive to present the facts accurately

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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THE MULLET RAPPER
P.O. Box 134
Everglades City, FL 34139

"The Everglades is a test. If we pass it, we may get to keep the planet." ~ Marjory Stoneman Douglas
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