

# The MULLET RAPPER

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

### OCTOBER 6, 2018 - OCTOBER 19, 2018

TIDE TABLE &  
RESTAURANTS  
PAGE 11

ONLY  
**25¢**

**Stone Crab Season Opens October 15th!**

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### 11th Annual Blessing of the Fleet Well Attended, Enjoyed by All

The 11th annual Blessing of the Fleet hosted at the Rod & Gun Club was, by Everglades City Standards, the largest in its brief history.

The stone crab fleet came out in force, the residents and visitors gathered, and even the congressman for the 25th district, Mario Diaz-Balart, showed up.

Last year's event was subdued, taking place only weeks after Hurricane Irma ravaged the area. This time, the only threatening weather was a few rain clouds and a light sprinkling...then the sun broke out and the festivities began.

The live music was great as always with Mitch Mitchell & partner providing tunes for the crowd.

The kids (and adults!) had a blast during the "frog race" even though many of the reptiles did not fully cooperate.

The barbecued pork, slaw and potato salad was delish...and was then topped off by some homemade cake.

The cake was provided by the 10 Guava Cake contest entries proving that there are some excellent bakers in these here parts.

Mayor Grimm spoke and reminded us of how far we have come in only one year, and Congressman Diaz-Balart reinforced his admiration for our area telling me that we are a "very resilient" group of people and how impressed he is with our recovery and our community spirit and patriotism.

Then, Pastor Tim from Holy Family Catholic Church provided the blessing which will surely give our crabbers an edge to start the season on October 15th.

Thank you to everyone who participated.

**See the day in photos on page 4!**

| RAPPER TABLE OF CONTENTS |      |                               |      |
|--------------------------|------|-------------------------------|------|
| Events, etc.             | p. 3 | Local News<br>Regional News   | p. 8 |
| Day in Pics              | p. 4 | Charles Sobczak               | p.9  |
| School News              | p. 5 | Capt. Merritt                 | P. 9 |
| Free Bike Tours          | p. 6 | Local Extra,<br>Regional News | p.10 |
| My Slice                 | p. 7 | Tide Table                    | p.11 |
| Recipe & Puzzle          | p. 7 | Obituaries                    | p.11 |
| Poetry Street            | p. 8 | Classifieds                   | p.12 |

FEATURE: NEW PROBLEM FOR BEACHES, P. 10

### Superintendent Pedro Ramos Responds to Rapper Article

An article that appeared in the "My Slice of Paradise" column in the September 8th edition of *The Mullet Rapper* that addressed the National Park Service's intention to enforce an entrance fee and require an online boaters course, caught the attention of Pedro Ramos, superintendent for Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Park.

Mr. Ramos contacted me to explain the park's intention and how they will roll out the new rules over time.

According to Mr. Ramos, the intention of the online boater safety course, which will be offered free of charge, is to educate boaters about the unique waters in and around Everglades National Park, to keep the boater safe, and to help protect the sensitive environment. The online course will be an opportunity to introduce boaters to the intricacies of the area and help teach them the uniqueness of the area.

The implementation of the entry fee to Everglades National Park was also discussed. My article questioned the method that will be used to collect the entry fee since the boaters launch at multiple boat ramps, all privately owned, and that a central point for entry does not exist like in most other parks.

The superintendent explained that boaters will have the option of paying at the visitors center or paying online using their mobile phone or laptop computer.

He went on to explain that implementation would take place over a period of time and law enforcement officers (Rangers) for the park would be instructed to issue warnings in the beginning, and continue to do so until it was widely believed that the public was fully aware of the requirements.

The Park will use a PR campaign to make the public aware of the changes.

Implementation will require the cooperation of local establishments to help distribute information as it relates to park boating rules and entry fees for visitors and residents alike.

Lastly, the superintendent pointed out that the old visitors center had been torn down in preparation for the building of a new center expected to be completed within 24 months.

We appreciate that Mr. Ramos took his time to explain the Park's intention and future plans so that we can clarify the rules for our readers.

### Area Icon Passes Away Dorothy "Mama Dot" Weeks is Gone at 93 (See Obituary on page 11)



Dorothy "Mama Dot" Weeks was born January 19, 1925 in Greenwich New York. Mama Dot met her husband in Staten Island and in a few weeks they were married and moved to South Florida. Ivan, Dot's

husband was from Marco Island family of 10 children.

Mama Dot and Ivan's first home was a lighter boat where they raised their four children on the Barron River. Her husband was fisherman. Mama Dot got her own 4 cylinder- motor and a fishing boat so she could fish too. She sold her fish to Everglades City Fish house close to what is now Camilla Street Grill.

Her 4 children attended Everglades City School. Her husband Ivan died of a heart attack while fishing. She wanted to stay in Everglades City and Baron Collier offered her a space in back of the Sundries store that



became a luncheonette serving food.

She would get up at 4am and make the breakfast for the crabbers before they left for the day. She was well known for her hamburgers and cheeseburgers. She also served the movie stars that came in for the movies filmed in Everglades City and the surrounding area such as "Gone Fishin". She reported learning how to cook from her husband. She was to be charged \$200.00 for rent but it was never collected by Collier.

Mama Dot Weeks will be missed but her legacy will live on in our hearts, and in our memories, for generations to come.

**Photos: Top: Mama Dot Weeks & Helen Bryan outside the Museum of the Everglades. Bottom: Manhattan Mercantile Building in Everglades City where her coffee shop served coffee, snacks and breakfast.**

# OCTOBER 7, 2018 –NOVEMBER 10, 2018

| <u>SUN</u>  | <u>MON</u>                               | <u>TUES</u>                   | <u>WED</u>   | <u>THURS</u>                                       | <u>FRI</u>                   | <u>SAT</u>  |
|---|--|-------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------|---|
| Oct. 7<br>Bike Ride,<br>Shark Valley,<br>See p. 5 | 8<br>new moon ●<br>ESHM Mtg.,<br>8:30 am | 9<br>FME Mtg.<br>4:00, museum | 10<br>Ladies Coffee<br>City Seafood<br>8 am                        | 11<br>Lions Club<br>Mtg. Club<br>Everglades<br>6pm | 12<br>Safe<br>Cities<br>6 pm | 13  |
| 14  | 15<br>EAT<br>STONE<br>CRAB!              | 16<br>P & Z Mtg,<br>7 pm      | 17<br>Ladies Coffee<br>Havana Café<br>8 am<br>Nat'l Sawfish<br>Day | 18   | 19                           | 20<br><u>RAPPER</u>   |
| 21  | 22                                       | 23<br>Dental Bus,<br>see p. 3 | 24<br>full moon ○<br><br>Ladies Coffee<br>Island Café<br>8 am      | 25   | 26                           | 27<br>Halloween<br>Celebration<br><br>Artist Meet &<br>Greet,<br>see p.3. |
| 28<br>Butcher<br>Swamp<br>Weekend,<br>see p. 3    | 29                                       | 30                            | 31<br>Ladies Coffee<br>City Seafood<br>8 am                        | Nov. 1   | 2                            | 3<br><u>RAPPER</u>  |
| 4<br>Fall Forward!<br>Set Clocks 1<br>hour ahead  | 5  | 6<br>Election Day             | 7<br>new moon ●<br><br>Ladies Coffee<br>Havana Café<br>8 am        | 8  | 9                            | 10  |

November 12: Veterans Day

November 16: History Talk

November 17: Art-in-Glades

November 22: Thanksgiving Day

**AREA INFORMATION & NUMBERS:**

AA: Wed., 5:00 pm, Evg. Comm. Church, Fellowship Hall  
 CARNESTOWN Recycle and Trash: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, 9 am to 3:30 pm  
 DR DEMARTINO: Marco Island office information on p.3.  
 DR MARTIN: Call for appointment: 813-787-9738  
 LIONS CLUB: Meet 2nd Thursday of Month, 6 pm  
 MUSEUM: Open Monday-Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm. 239-695-0008  
 PANCAKE FLY-IN: Closed for summer.  
 REACH OUT: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 4 pm, City Hall  
 SKATING RINK: Now open! Fri. & Sat. 6 to 9 pm  
 SMALLWOOD STORE: 11 am to 4 pm, 239-695-2989  
 THRIFT SHOP: Open Saturday 11 am to 3, see p.3.  
 VETERANS SUPPORT: 2nd & 4<sup>th</sup> Wed. of month, noon—2 pm

**The Local Area Code is 239**

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 (M-F: 9:30 am to 12 pm, 1 pm to 4:30 pm, closed Sat. & Sun.)  
 Ochopee (239) 695-2099  
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# UPCOMING EVENTS



**October is breast cancer awareness month. Please encourage those that you care about to schedule regular screenings. Early detection saves lives!**

## Big Cypress Gallery FALL FESTIVAL Meet Clyde & Ranger-led Activities October 27 - October 28 9:00am - 5:00pm.



Come out to the Big Cypress Gallery and experience the annual fall festival. There will be raffles and ranger-led swamp walks during this fun-filled weekend.

If you would like to book a swamp walk, there is limited space. Get your tickets by visiting the website: [www.clydebutter.com](http://www.clydebutter.com), and click on "events". You can also call us at 239-695-2428.

## Museum of the Everglades Meet & Greet with Photographer Matt Stock October 27 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm



Join us for a free meet & greet with photographer Matt Stock, creator of the "Abandoned Vehicles of the Everglades" exhibit on display at

Museum of the Everglades. About the Exhibit: Through a series of photographs mainly captured at night, this exhibit explores the interaction between man and nature as seen through environmental portraits.

You can contact the museum at 239-695-0008. The museum is located at 105 W. Broadway, Everglades City, FL.

## Book Club to Resume Nov. 15th

The book club in Everglades City will resume meetings in November. Anyone interested is invited to join in. We will provide meeting locations in the paper as the dates draw closer!

**Nov. 15: An American Family** by Khizr Khan, Hosted by Patty Huff

**Dec. 20: The Phony Hermit** by Al Seeley and Elizabeth Pardichizzi, Hosted by Dianna Pollock and reviewed by Elaine Middlestaedt

**Jan 17: Undaunted Courage** by Stephen Ambrose, Hosted by Sadie Stroud

**Feb. 21: Watership Down** by Richard Adam, Hosted by Linda Williams

**Mar. 21: Being Mortal** by Atul Gawande, Hosted by Judy Judge

**Apr. 11: Lilac Girls** by Martha Kelly, Hosted by Diann Lock



## Halloween Celebration Trick or Trunk!

October 27th, 5-8 pm

The annual Halloween celebration for the kids will be held on October 27th. Like last year, the celebration will be a Trick or Truck style at Seaboard Villas in Everglades City.

There will be a cookout with free hotdogs and fixins provided by the Lions Club. We hope to see you there!

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

### FREE DENTAL, BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INFORMATION FOR ALL October 23, 9 am to 4 pm

The Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida's Health & Smiles Mobile Dental Bus will be in Everglades City on **October 23rd** from 9 am to 4 pm, in the Fire Station parking lot, providing free dental checks, blood pressure screenings and behavioral health information if requested. For more information or an appt: call 239-986-7323.

### THE FOOD BANK IS OPEN! Wednesdays noon to 2pm

Everglades Community Pantry, a proud partner agency of the Harry Chapin Food Bank, is open every Wednesday from noon to 2 in Jinkins Fellowship Hall 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.

### CEDR Hurricane Disaster Recovery Assistance is Available

Communities of Everglades Disaster Recovery works in conjunction with the Salvation Army and have a team set up in Everglades City Hall (right inside the front door). They will have advocates there from **10 am to 3 pm** 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.

### NEW THRIFT SHOP

Saturday 11 am to 3 pm

The new thrift shop is open Saturday from 11 am to 3 pm. Come see the new store! Please do not leave donations on the porch outside where they can get wet or damaged! Please do not drop off damaged or dirty items.



## A Message from Fire-Chief Kingman Schuldt

The last week of August, the District took delivery of two new fire apparatus. These 2018 Emergency One Typhoon Rescue Pumpers are equipped with a 400 hp motor, 1,250 gpm water pump, 810 water tank and 40-gallon foam cells.

In all, the District will receive five identical fire apparatus over the next few weeks. After in-servicing the units and training is provided to the members, the apparatus will be placed in-service at fire stations 22, 23, 70, and 71. The fifth unit, Engine 25 was purchased with Impact Fees and will be housed at Station 25 which is expected to open mid- 2019. This facility is being constructed as part of Collier County's EMS expansion efforts and will be located on Lords Way near the Motor Park.

The Fire District has been afforded the opportunity to joint-staff this facility alongside our County EMS partners. This is yet another example of the great working partnership the Fire District and Collier County maintain in order to provide our residents with the best possible life safety services.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the District and Fire Foundation are partnering to raise awareness and support programs that reduce the effects of this disease.

The Foundation will be selling pink t-shirts (design below) with a portion of the proceeds being donated to a local organization, Bosom Buddies Breast Cancer Support, Inc., that offers support to women in our community battling this disease.

The short-sleeve pink t-shirts will be available the first few days of October and will be sold at Headquarters for \$15.00.

Please contact AA Judy Schleiffer at [jschleiffer@gnfire.org](mailto:jschleiffer@gnfire.org) or 239-348-7540 to make a purchase. Cash or checks made payable to Greater Naples Fire Foundation will be accepted.



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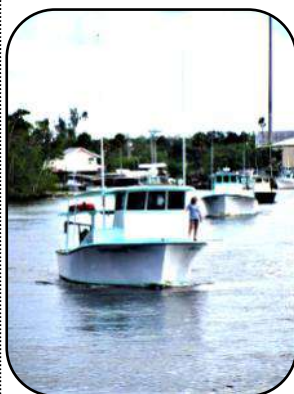
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**A Day in Pictures...11th Annual Blessing of the Fleet in Everglades City  
 September 29th, 2018 at the Rod & Gun Club**



The fleet arrives



The kids prepare the walkway



The clergy & Mayor Grimm say a few words



Congressman Diaz-Balart



Kids ready for frog race



Mitch Mitchell entertains the crowd



There were 10 entrants into the guava cake contest which is the most ever. The Coconut Guava cake winners were: First Prize Judy Barton (right), second Prize Kathleen Howard (left), third Prize Hazel Mitchell (center). Thanks everyone who participated to make this annual event possible: Tod Dahlke, Helen Bryan, Marya Repko, the frog hunters(!), the flower girls, and the clergy for the blessings!



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A Message From Principal James Ragusa



The Buddy Bench

The Buddy Bench is a simple idea to foster friendship on the playground during recess. Experts say that including kids who are alone at recess or lunch can also help students feel accepted at school. We have two Buddy Benches installed. One is on the playground and another in the courtyard area where students play at lunch.

One of the many great things about this program is simply students helping students. Peer support is a critical factor in combatting bullying and fostering kindness to create a school community. Our hope is that this Buddy Bench can help to build empathy, tolerance and teach inclusiveness. In addition, the Buddy Bench will act as a reminder to be kind to one another. Our goal is that eventually no children use the Buddy Bench; it becomes a symbol that we are all buddies. It complements our school-wide approach to developing a positive social culture.



The basic concept of the bench is simple: A student who wants someone to play with goes to the bench; other students notice the student on the bench and invite him/her to play; student on bench accepts. Of course, life is not always this simple. That is why students will be taught a few rules.

Students will learn all about the "Buddy Bench" in their classrooms, with the school counselor leading the discussion. The conversation will include what the Buddy Bench is, why we have it, and how to use the Buddy Bench.

IT IS ALWAYS A GREAT DAY TO BE A GATOR!

School Calendar-No School Days

- October 15.....No School
- October 16.....Early Release Day
- Nov. 21-23.....Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 23- Jan. 3.....Christmas Break

Mullet Rapper Donations to Everglades City School Over \$2500 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!

When You Buy the Print Edition of the Mullet Rapper, It Helps Everglades City School!



Meet the Whitcombs. Everglades City School's Dynamic Duo By Kathy Brock

The 2016 school year was a great one, especially since the school landed two great and caring educators. Jill Whitcomb is the school's athletic director, and John Whitcomb is the math teacher in 6th, 7th, 8th grade and also teaches algebra to the 9th grade students.

Jill and John Whitcomb originally moved to Florida from their hometown in rural Indiana. They fittingly met in the outfield at a community baseball game. They have been married 26 years and raised two boys.

Teaching is the second career for both of them. Jill was originally in the business world and John was a contractor. Teaching would provide both of them a better schedule with their boys, so they made the switch and could not be happier here.



Jill is a tireless worker acting as athletic director, activities coordinator and the founder of the Hook 'em in the Glades fishing tournament.

The idea for the tournament was borne out of Jill's desire to raise money for the School's athletic department which is self-funding. The small population size of the school necessitates additional fundraising to fill the gaps.

Jill, an avid angler, suggested the fishing tournament to Principal James Ragusa as a way to raise funds in one large event. Mr. Ragusa loved the idea and proposed it up the chain of command, receiving approval by Superintendent Kamela Patton.

The first tournament was scheduled last year in September...to only be postponed by Hurricane Irma. Undeterred, they held the event later in the year and held it in September again this year.

This time, the weather cooperated and the tournament grew to an impressive 31 boats in the September 2018 event. Funds from last year's event helped pay for the beautiful scorer's table and other equipment. The department even had a little left over as reserves when this school year started.

This year's event hosted local anglers and some from as far away as Miami and Fort Myers. The Whitcomb's have set a goal of 50 boats for next year and plan to add some additional categories for the competition.

Finding a major sponsor is high on the wish list, and it shouldn't be too difficult given the success of the event so far, and the proximity of the tournament to the 10,000 Islands which are considered to be an angler's paradise.

When I asked the couple if they planned on staying, they both stated that they absolutely love the school and the area and plan on staying until they retire at some future, undetermined date.

I hope that is many years down the line so that our area's children can continue to blossom and reach new goals with the help of our very own dynamic teaching duo, Jill & John Whitcomb.

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**Cycle Tours through the Everglades**  
*FREE Monthly Tours!*

Come join us on our free monthly bicycle tours on and off-road in the Everglades. The next tour will be Sunday, **October 7**, starting at 9:00 am at the visitor center at Shark Valley. This is a 15.8-mile ride along a paved road in the Everglades National Park. Along the way you may see alligators, herons, egrets, deer, turtles, and snail kites. An observation tower at the halfway point provides panoramic views. Bicycles can be rented from the Shark Valley Tram Tour Company. Participants should wear a helmet and bring your own drinks, snacks or purchase at visitor center. If interested in this or any other guided tour, please contact Patty Huff at 239-695-2397 or email [info@evergladesrogg.org](mailto:info@evergladesrogg.org).

Other tours will include rides through the Big Cypress, the Fakahatchee Strand, Loop Road, Ave Maria / Immokalee, and historic Everglades City / Chokoloskee. The Friends of the River of Grass Greenway has published brochures about these tours and other on and off-road rides. Please visit website [www.evergladesrogg.org/events](http://www.evergladesrogg.org/events). The bicycle tours are part of FROGG's mission to focus on safety and environmental education and stewardship for those hiking, walking, or cycling through south Florida and the Everglades.



**Biking Event Schedule**

- ◆ **October 7 – Shark Valley in ENP (15 miles)**  
Meet at Shark Valley
- ◆ **Nov. 11 – Loop Rd, Big Cypress (34 miles)**  
Meet at West End of Loop Road
- ◆ **Dec. 9 – Everglades City/Chokoloskee (10 miles)**  
Meet at McLeod Park in Everglades City
- ◆ **January 13 – Janes Scenic Drive in the Fakahatchee (17 miles)**  
Meet at Fakahatchee Strand Headquarters in Copeland
- ◆ **February 10 – Ave Maria (40 miles)**  
Meet at McLeod Park in Everglades City
- ◆ **March 10 – Bear Island in the Big Cypress**  
Meeting Location TBA



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| 7  | P | E | N | A | L  |   | 8  |    | 9  | E | L | A  | 10 | N |   |   |    |   |   |   |
| 11 | A | L | I | K | E  |   |    | 12 | F  | O | L | I  | C  |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |
| 14 | L | I | V | I | N  | G | 15 | S  | P  | A | C | E  |    |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |
|    |   |   |   |   | 16 | N | I  | L  |    |   |   | 17 | W  | H | O |   |    |   |   |   |
| 18 | P | R | E | G | N  | A | N  | 21 | C  | I | E | S  |    |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |
| 23 | R | E | X |   |    |   |    | 24 | D  | O | E |    |    |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |
| 25 | O | P | T | O | M  | E | T  | R  | I  | S | T |    |    |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |
| 31 | F | A | R | G | O  |   |    | 32 | M  | E | N | L  | O  |   |   |   |    |   |   |   |
|    |   |   |   |   | 33 | Y | A  | R  | N  |   |   | 34 | E  | A | T | U | P  |   |   |   |
|    |   |   |   |   |    |   |    |    | 35 | S | E | T  |    |   |   |   | 36 | L | O | G |

Solution to September 22, 2018 Puzzle



**My Little Slice of Paradise**  
by Kathy Brock  
It's Just My Opinion...

When did everything become so complicated? Did we ever really like each other or have we all been faking it all along? This is the question rolling around in my mind as I watch the politicizing of every facet of our lives—issues so polarizing it causes some families to completely rip apart...that is if you live somewhere other than Everglades City, Florida.

Everglades City is so small that our local politics are **NOT political**. And, how refreshing that is! I guess we are not bound by parties mostly because our population is so tiny we couldn't field a list of candidates from multiple parties, so our local elections simply run candidates who happen to also be neighbors and friends. How fortunate!

This was evident during our Mayoral election last November, and at every city council meeting we hold in town to this day. When not bound by a party affiliation, we can speak freely and openly about all issues without being manipulated and directed by party-line positions.

Of course, this does not mean that people don't have disagreements, and that everyone is always happy with the outcome. But what it does mean is that when you remove the labels, you are simply left with issues that need to be dealt with and problems that need to be solved... by everyone...together.

Here, an issue is just an issue and we can discuss it, weigh options and make decisions as a cohesive group...and still remain friends when it is all said and done. No one is forced to argue a particular position because they are **expected to**, they can speak freely about their position without fear of alienation or retribution from the mother ship.

That almost seems Utopian...but Utopia does not exist. However, Everglades City does, and we are living proof that people can still, and do, discuss issues and solve problems without becoming mortal enemies in the process.

Am I advocating that this become a national trend? Hardly, I am not that naive. All I am attempting to do is point out that when people are not fueled by political bias, the emotion in the discussion is significantly ratcheted down, if not removed all together, making calm, productive conversation possible. And, thank goodness for that!

After Hurricane Irma there was, and still is, so much work to do. Can you imagine us having to tiptoe around political baggage during this last year here? Doesn't it even sound silly that you wouldn't or couldn't ask for help, or offer it to someone, because they are not from the right "party affiliation"?

If you write down on a piece of paper the most important things to you and compare it with your neighbors, what you will find out is that...most of us are remarkably alike.



Do we have disagreements here in Everglades City? Of course we do. I prefer redfish and maybe you prefer snook.

Maybe you like your stone crab with drawn butter and I want mine with mustard sauce.

That's about as divisive as it gets here in local politics.

After thinking about it a bit, I guess we do take sides after all. We have the "Butters" and the "Mustard Sauces". And, the debate rages here in town. We will take to marching in the streets! Our side must be heard! Mustard all the way! And, not the yellow kind either...it's got to be the spicy brown kind with just a hint of horseradish for me...and I won't give up until you all agree!

Now, get out there are prove your side right starting on October 15th by buying some stone crab and choosing your "side" very, very carefully...one claw at a time, dipping and tasting.

**Island Life Recipes**  
*Calley Anderson's Sweet Potato Pie*

**Ingredients**  
 4 medium sweet potatoes-baked  
 1/2 stick butter, softened  
 1/4 cup sugar  
 3/4 cup brown sugar  
 2 eggs, beaten  
 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract  
 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
 1/8 teaspoon ground ginger  
 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg  
 1/8 teaspoon ground allspice  
 1/2 teaspoon salt  
 3/4 cup evaporated milk  
 1 unbaked pie crust  
 Maple whipped cream for the topping (see below)

**Directions:** Mash the sweet potatoes and set aside. Blend the butter, sugar and dry goods, then add the eggs. Blend well. Mix into the potatoes and add the evaporated milk. Pour into the unbaked pie shell and cover the edges of the crust with foil so it doesn't burn. Bake at 350° for 1 hour or until toothpick comes out clean.

**Maple Whipped Cream:** 1 cup of heavy whipping cream, 1/4 cup of confectioners' sugar, 2 tablespoons of pure maple syrup. Whip until soft peaks form. Mix in a pre-chilled (in the freezer) bowl.



**MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD**

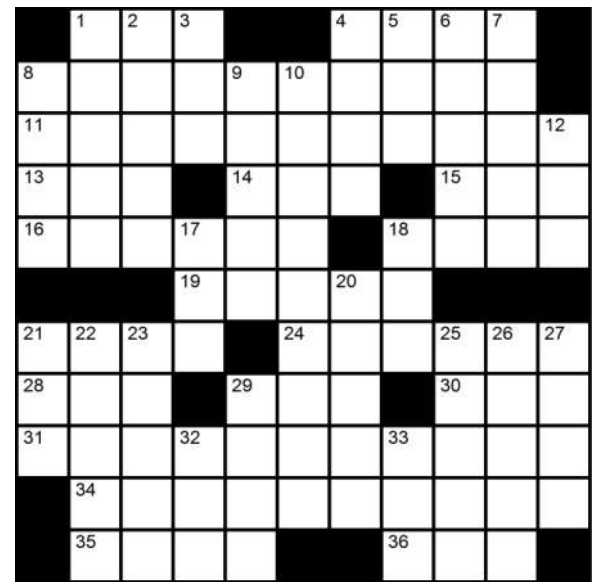
**Across**

- 1 Angel dust
- 4 Adds
- 8 Citizen of Santa Ana
- 11 Due to
- 13 Morning drops
- 14 De-squeak
- 15 San Diego's is famous
- 16 Classify
- 18 Deal with the issue
- 19 "I haven't seen you in ---"
- 21 Leading light?
- 24 Dog warning sounds
- 28 Gas station abbr.
- 29 Small battery
- 30 Exclamation of surprise
- 31 Like some university staffers
- 34 Mapped out
- 35 Inner being
- 36 Narrow beam of light

**Down**

- 1 Window divisions
- 2 Talons
- 3 Pipe plastic
- 4 Aretha was the Queen of it
- 5 Vase
- 6 Unleavened bread
- 7 Pry
- 8 Pop
- 9 Squash variety
- 10 "Encore!"
- 12 Enemy

- 18 Suit with an MBA, maybe
- 20 Rate
- 21 Title for a distinguished Indian
- 22 Is inclined
- 23 Give consent
- 25 "We --- touchdown!"
- 26 Tyne Daly TV role
- 27 Storage shelter
- 29 "Like that would happen!"
- 32 90-degree fitting
- 33 Hearing organ



10/6/18



**Poetry Street**  
by Katherine Tullie



*There is nothing like a sunset in Everglades City. It is one of the most beautiful sights you can see. The natural beauty of an E.C. sunset makes everything colorful and bright. That is the theme of my poem: "Sunsets In Everglades City."*

Every evening the sun sets  
for you and for me  
Our sunsets are the most beautiful  
sights you can see  
A time for contentment in  
Everglades City, I say  
A time to end a busy day  
It's a peaceful time to reflect  
and calm our mind  
And leave all our worries behind  
A perfect time of day to settle down, for sure  
Our colorful sunsets  
brings about a calming cure  
It's such a beautiful sight  
The natural beauty makes everything  
look so colorful and bright  
It's one of many things of nature we see  
In Everglades City for you and for me  
This town is the place to be  
If nature is what you want to see  
Everglades City sunsets are a sight to behold  
No matter if you are young or old  
So enjoy this town  
with its natural beauty, I say  
Everglades City is a special place to be  
on any given day!



Email:  
Kathythepoet@gmail.com  
Look for #PoetryStreet on  
Twitter!

**Local News**

**Water & Wastewater Plant Update  
by Councilmember Elaine Middelstaedt**

At an Emergency City Council meeting on September 27, Mayor Grimm was authorized to sign an agreement with U.S. Water Services Corporation to take over the operation of the water and wastewater treatment plant belonging to the City from former contractor, Veolia.

The new agreement had been in the works for a while and has been approved by the DEP. The new contract recognizes that much has been accomplished in the past year, and is beneficial to the city from a cash flow perspective. It is also recognizes the knowledge and capabilities of city employees Lloyd Beatty and Gordon Forbes, who are very familiar about the operation of the city's facilities.

**Ochopee Fire Control District Representative  
Needed for Everglades City**

The Ochopee Fire Control District Advisory Committee has two seats expiring in December for applicants residing in the Ochopee Area Fire Control Special Taxing District, and one seat **expiring in December for a representative from Everglades City (who must be recommended by the Mayor of Everglades City).**

This five-member committee advises the Board of County Commissioners on the budget and operation of the Ochopee Fire Control District. Terms are two years.

To apply for an advisory committee vacancy, submit an application online at <http://www.colliergov.net/your-government/advisory-boards/online-advisory-board-application>.

After you complete the application, click on "Submit Form." To receive an immediate e-mail confirmation that your application was received, you must include your e-mail address in the application.

Residents interested in applying for advisory committee positions may also obtain an application by calling 239-252-8400.

**Park News**

**National Park Service Seeks Public  
Comments on Plan to Protect Species of  
Concern on Southeast US Coastlines**

The National Park Service (NPS) is seeking public comments on a regional environmental assessment that examines options for protecting shorebirds, sea turtles and beach mice from the threat of depredation at NPS units in the Southeast Region.

Many NPS southeast coastal parks have habitats that support species of concern, including parks in Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, and the US Virgin Islands. Some parks need a strategy to better protect species of concern, which includes both federally listed threatened and endangered species and state listed species, from predators. Some examples of these listed species of concern include snowy and piping plover shorebirds, loggerhead sea turtle, green sea turtle, Kemp's Ridley sea turtle, leatherback sea turtle, southeastern beach mouse, and Perdido Key beach mouse.

Species of concern using coastal and dune habitats are especially vulnerable during their respective breeding seasons, generally falling between April and October. Once the regional environmental assessment is complete, affected parks may implement assessed actions after preparing site-specific plans.

The public is invited to submit comments on the environmental assessment through October 26, 2018. Electronic and postal submission of written comments can be submitted online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/sero> (select "Open for Comment" on the left menu) or postmarked no later than October 26, 2018, at 11:59 pm EST to: Southeast Regional Office, National Park Service, Planning and Compliance Division, Attn: SERO PEA, 100 Alabama Street SW, 1924 Building, Atlanta, GA 30303.

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- GATOR SKIN HANDBAGS, CASE KNIVES, NOVELTIES
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**Living Gulf Coast**  
by Charles Sobczak

**American Crow** (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) Other names: southern crow, cawin' crow, corn crow / Status: FL = stable, IUCN = LC / Length: 15.7-20.9 in. (40-53 cm) / Wingspan: 33.5-39.4 in. (85-100 cm) / Weight: 11.1-21.9 oz (316-620 g) / Life span: to 14 years (note: one captive crow lived to be 59 years old!) / Nests: in mainland SW Florida / Found: AC, coastal, near coast, mainland / Months found: jfmamJJASOND (lower case indicates breeding and nesting season).

The only place where the American crow is uncommon is along the coast, where it is often replaced by the fish crow, a slightly smaller but similar species. On the mainland and near-coastal regions the American crow can be found just about anywhere. It is commonly found along highways where it feeds on roadkill, from deer to dragonflies. It is a regular at garbage dumps, dumpsters, and residential garbage cans where it pick through our refuse looking for scraps of food, potato chips, and everything in between.

The crow is extremely opportunistic and intelligent. It has been observed not only using tools, but also fabricating them. For example, the crow has been seen pulling the leaves off of small twigs, then inserting these stripped twigs into holes in fence posts in search of termites and ants. It knows which day the trash is put out and shows up accordingly. Native Americans held crows in high esteem. They recognized this bird's intelligence and based many of their myths and tales on the crow.

Once considered an agricultural pest, the crow is now widely seen as mitigating some crop damage by eating the insects that destroy the wheat and corn fields.

The crow is similar to the Florida scrub jay in that it is a cooperative breeder. The fledglings remain with their extended families for several years to help raise future broods. Flocks of crows, called murders, have been known to reach 2 million birds. When these extended families chance upon a resting great horned owl or a perching hawk, they exhibit another interesting behavior called "mobbing," harassing the owl or raptor until it leaves the area. Birders can be alerted to a well-hidden roosting owl by paying attention to this avian behavior.

Recently the American crow population has been decimated by the West Nile virus. The crow appears to be the most vulnerable species to this form of encephalitis. To date, more than 45 percent of the North American crow population has died from this pathogen. That's more than 25 million birds. For the moment this pandemic appears to be subsiding, but there are regions in the U.S. where the crow has virtually vanished from the landscape.

The adult crow has quite a few predators, including owls and Cooper's and red-shouldered hawks. Its nests are often raided by raccoons and squirrels. No crow-on-crow predation has ever been observed. In past decades bounties placed on killing crows by state and local governments accounted for considerable mortality in crows, but most of these have been repealed or discontinued.

**Fish Crow** (*Corvus ossifragus*) Other names: crow / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=LC / Life span: to 14 years / Length: 14-16 in. (36-40 cm) / Wingspan: 33 in. (84 cm) / Weight: 7-12 oz (190-340 g) / Nests: along the coast / Found: SC, ChC, LC, CC, coastal, near coast / Months found: JFMAMJJASOND (lower case indicates breeding and nesting season).

The fish crow, although slightly smaller, is all but impossible to discern from the American crow. The American crow is almost never found along the coastline, however, so the chances are that any crow you see along the coast is a fish crow. One distinctive difference between the two birds is the call; the fish crow is famous for its nearly constant cah, uh-uh.

The fish crow is unique in that it is one of very few birds endemic to North America. It does not have the range of the American crow, extending only as far north as Rhode Island, while the American crow's range extends all the way to the Northwest Territories. The American crow far outnumbers the fish crow. Unlike its cousin, however, the fish crow does not appear to be as vulnerable to the West Nile virus, which in some regions has decimated American crow populations.

A highly adaptable bird, the fish crow feeds on garbage, eggs, insects, carrion, ticks from livestock, various berries, and some fruit. Like all crows, jays, and ravens, the fish crow appears to be capable of learned behaviors. The fish crow, for example, has learned to pick up a mollusk, fly high above a rock pile or highway and release it, breaking the shellfish open so the bird can feed on it. While not quite at the same level as the tool-using green heron, it is a fascinating example of avian intelligence.

Huge flocks of fish crows, called murders, roost on islands in and around St. Petersburg and Tampa where they number in the thousands. The fish crow has adapted well to the habits of Homo sapiens and because of that is expanding its range throughout North America.



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**Fishing in the 10,000 Islands**  
by Capt. Mike Merritt

Fall is officially here! September was so hot it was hard to detect the subtle changes like some N.E. winds, White Pelicans showing up, Migrating hawks, a few mornings where the humidity was lower. Well, with these changes the Reds should also be showing up in greater numbers. We should also start catching consistently bigger fish.

There have been a lot of Redfish being caught but the reports I here from a lot of Captains is there are a lot of small fish everywhere. This bodes well for the future but the bigger fish should be here this month!



The outside islands is where you will want to target these fish and the entire coast should have them! Live bait, live shrimp, or jigs will be a good bet in October.

Snook fishing has remained really good and there have been fish of every size. We have caught Snook up to 41" this past month and there are also places where you can catch 50 fish in the 12"-18" range if you want. It's always good to see the small fish in such abundance! This fishing will continue all thru the month of October. The Snook bite is also on the outside islands and you will catch them and the Reds in the same places. The same baits that take the Reds will catch the Snook but also some top water action in the morning will produce some quality fish.

The islands are also still holding lots of Tarpon if this is your preference. These fish have been feeding aggressively and will hit a variety of lures. Or they may just ignore everything you throw at them. That's Tarpon for you! They are fun to chase and the size of the fish right now makes for some short fights which is always good.



Whatever you choose to go after this month will provide you with some great action. Even the Seatrout fishing on the grass flats is still going strong. Pompano are also being caught on these same flats. Bluefish and Mackerel have already shown up, and you just never know what is going to bite on the flats! Get in on the fun and enjoy our fall! **Good luck fishing!** ~Captain Mike Merritt

Regional News

A New Concern for Some Florida Beachgoers. Now, New Algae Shows Up

The 2018 calendar year has been a tough 9 months for beachgoers. First, the Southwest coast had to deal with Red Tide, then the blue-green algae from Lake Okeechobee showed up in Lee County, now parts of Northern Collier County are reporting that there is a different algae causing the water to look brown and murky...and Sanibel has a new one too.

What's causing it in Naples? It's a nontoxic diatom, called Cylindrotheca. Scientists at FGCU explained that the brown color is from the diatom and it's more than likely winning the battle for nutrients in the water.

This naturally occurring organism competes with the Karenia brevis (that causes Red Tide) and gobbles up the nutrients in the water making it tougher for Karenia brevis to survive.

Unfortunately, it too saps the oxygen from the water causing some marine species to suffocate, die and wash up on shore.

Although it is not a respiratory danger or a health hazard to humans, it is an olfactory nuisance as the smell of decaying marine life is not pleasant!

The water on Sanibel Island's Bowman's Beach also has been discolored by a bloom of yet another microorganism, a dinoflagellate like the one that causes red tide called Peridinium, but this organism is also non-toxic.

The classification of this group of organisms is disputed. Historically, botanists have placed them in the algal division Pyrrophyta or Pyrrophytophyta, and zoologists have claimed them as members of the protozoan order Dinoflagellida. Although they are often considered to be algae in the division Dinoflagellata, this placement is controversial because these organisms have unique nuclei and significantly larger genomes than other eukaryotic algae. (Britannica.com)

Not to be outdone, the east coast of Florida is also experiencing Red Tide. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said in a press release that it had detected "low to medium concentrations of naturally occurring red tide" in water samples taken Sunday off the coast of Palm Beach County.

Kelly Richmond, a spokeswoman with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, told the South Florida Sun Sentinel, "It can be transported around the Gulf as coastal waters move with winds and currents. It can make it into the Atlantic Ocean and has been carried as far north as Delaware."

The Palm Beach County release said of 57 occurrences of red tide in the Gulf of Mexico since 1953, eight have made their way to the east coast in the area of Palm Beach County. All eight originated in the gulf and were carried by currents to the east coast, according to the press release.

Fakahatchee Strand News

Reservations Still Open for Fakahatchee Swamp Walks & Tram Tours



Reservations are now open for three adventures in Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park. The park, east of Naples, is Florida's largest and has been called "the Amazon of North America."

The season begins Wednesday October 24 at 5:30 p.m. with a three-hour Moonlit Tram Tour of the park. The \$35 evening tour sells out rapidly and will be repeated on Saturday, December 22 at 4:30 p.m.

Ghostrider Tram Tours of the park from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. get underway Nov. 8. The tours are offered for \$25 per person most Thursdays in November and December and are named for the famous ghost orchid found in the park.

The Naturalist Led Tram Tour and Swamp Walk begins Tuesday, Nov. 6 at 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This \$60 adventure is offered on most Tuesdays during the season.



For directions, complete details and required reservations for all Fakahatchee adventures, visit [www.orchidswamp.org](http://www.orchidswamp.org) and click on Tours and Events.

Please note that tours sell out fast so book your reservations early to secure your dates!

Local Extra

Collier County Supervisor of Elections Begins First Mailing of Vote-by-Mail Ballots for the 2018 General Election

The Last Day to Request a Mail-in Ballot is October 31st



The Collier County Supervisor of Elections office will send its first mailing of requested Vote-by-Mail ballots to domestic voters on Tuesday, October 2, for the upcoming General Election on November 6.

Voters may submit requests online

at [www.CollierVotes.com](http://www.CollierVotes.com) under the "Vote-by-Mail" tab. Requests can also be made by calling the Supervisor of Elections office at (239)252-VOTE. By law, ballots cannot be forwarded.

The deadline for voters to request a ballot to be delivered by mail for this election is 5 p.m. on October 31. Voted ballots must be physically returned (not just postmarked) to the Supervisor of Elections by 7 p.m. on Election Day, November 6. The United States Postal Service recommends that voters mail their voted ballots one week before the due date to account for any unforeseen events such as weather issues and to allow for timely receipt and processing by the elections office.

The voter's signature is required on the outside of the ballot return envelope. The signature on the returned ballot envelope will be compared to the signature on file with the Supervisor of Elections office. Voters can learn more about updating their signature by contacting our office at (239)252-VOTE.

Voters who receive a ballot in the mail and decide to vote in person should bring their marked or unmarked ballot to their polling location so it can be cancelled.

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EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP



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

Obituaries

Stephen Wayne Thompson



Stephen Wayne Thompson, born March 1, 1957, passed on to be with the Lord on September 22, 2018. Steve was a commercial fisherman and a longtime resident of Everglades City.

Steve was preceded in death by his parents, Jim Thompson and Rosina (Lopez) Thompson and his beloved Uncle Carl and Aunt Margaret Webb.

He is survived by his brother Greg Thompson and his nephew Alan Thompson. He was loved and will be missed deeply.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

Dorothy "Mama Dot" Weeks




Dorothy "Mama Dot" Weeks was born January 18, 1925. She passed away peacefully in her sleep on Friday, September 28, 2018 at her daughter's home in Homosassa, Florida where she was residing.

Services for her will be announced at a later date and published in the Mullet Rapper.



|   |
|---|
| <b>Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands</b><br>(642-1025): Monday - Wed 5 to 11 pm,<br>Thurs to Sun Noon - 11 pm                        |
| <b>Camellia Street Grille (695-2003):</b><br>11:00 am – 9:00 pm daily   |
| <b>City Seafood (695-4700):</b><br>8:00 am – 10:00 am; breakfast<br>Noon-6pm Lunch & Dinner   |
| <b>Glades Haven Deli (695-2091):</b><br>Deli Closed for Repairs<br>Live bait available at marina                                      |
| <b>Havana Café (695-2214):</b><br>We are Opening October 15th!<br>See our ad on page 10!  |
| <b>Island Café (695-0003):</b><br>6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily  |
| <b>Ivey House (695-3299):</b><br>6:30 – 9:30 am; daily  |
| <b>Joanie's Blue Crab Café (695-2682):</b><br>11:00 am – 4:00 pm<br>Open: Mon., Fri., Saturday & Sunday                               |
| <b>Rod &amp; Gun (695-2101):</b><br>11:30 am - 8:00 pm; daily   |
| <b>Tastes of the Everglades</b><br>Reopened. Please stop in!  |
| <b>Triad Seafood &amp; Café (695-2662):</b><br>M-Th 10:30-6 pm, Fri & Sat, 10:30-9 pm<br>Sunday 10:30-5 pm                            |
| <b>MARKETS</b>  |
| <b>Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535):</b><br>9:00 am – 7:00 pm; daily   |
| <b>Grimm's Stone Crab (695-3222):</b><br>We are opening on Oct. 15th.   |
| <b>Fresh Produce</b><br>1181 Hamilton Ln, Chok. Closed for Summer<br>By E City Post Office, Closed for Summer                         |
| <b>SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES</b>   |
| <b>Chokoloskee Church of God</b><br>Sunday: 10 am Sch., 11 am Worship<br>Wed. 7 pm Hr. of Prayer                                      |
| <b>Copeland Baptist Church</b><br>Sunday: 10 am School, 11 am Worship   |
| <b>Everglades Community Church</b><br>11:00 am Sunday Worship   |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church of Everglades City</b><br>9:45 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship<br>6 pm Sunday, 6 pm Wed. Bible Study |
| <b>Holy Family Catholic Church</b><br>Closed for Summer, see San Marco below  |
| <b>St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples</b><br>Phone: 239-417-2084   |
| <b>San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl.</b><br>239-394-5181  |

|          |     |          |      |   |
|----------|-----|----------|------|---|
| 10/6/18  | Sat | 1:28 AM  | 2.83 | H |
| 10/6/18  | Sat | 8:06 AM  | 0.7  | L |
| 10/6/18  | Sat | 1:22 PM  | 3.36 | H |
| 10/6/18  | Sat | 8:41 PM  | 0.25 | L |
| 10/7/18  | Sun | 2:01 AM  | 2.97 | H |
| 10/7/18  | Sun | 8:55 AM  | 0.5  | L |
| 10/7/18  | Sun | 2:13 PM  | 3.44 | H |
| 10/7/18  | Sun | 9:26 PM  | 0.32 | L |
| 10/8/18  | Mon | 2:30 AM  | 3.1  | H |
| 10/8/18  | Mon | 9:41 AM  | 0.33 | L |
| 10/8/18  | Mon | 2:59 PM  | 3.44 | H |
| 10/8/18  | Mon | 10:08 PM | 0.41 | L |
| 10/9/18  | Tue | 2:59 AM  | 3.2  | H |
| 10/9/18  | Tue | 10:25 AM | 0.2  | L |
| 10/9/18  | Tue | 3:44 PM  | 3.34 | H |
| 10/9/18  | Tue | 10:49 PM | 0.53 | L |
| 10/10/18 | Wed | 3:28 AM  | 3.25 | H |
| 10/10/18 | Wed | 11:09 AM | 0.12 | L |
| 10/10/18 | Wed | 4:30 PM  | 3.18 | H |
| 10/10/18 | Wed | 11:29 PM | 0.65 | L |
| 10/11/18 | Thu | 3:59 AM  | 3.24 | H |
| 10/11/18 | Thu | 11:54 AM | 0.1  | L |
| 10/11/18 | Thu | 5:18 PM  | 2.99 | H |
| 10/12/18 | Fri | 12:09 AM | 0.78 | L |
| 10/12/18 | Fri | 4:32 AM  | 3.17 | H |
| 10/12/18 | Fri | 12:39 PM | 0.14 | L |
| 10/12/18 | Fri | 6:08 PM  | 2.79 | H |
| 10/13/18 | Sat | 12:49 AM | 0.9  | L |
| 10/13/18 | Sat | 5:09 AM  | 3.05 | H |
| 10/13/18 | Sat | 1:25 PM  | 0.22 | L |
| 10/13/18 | Sat | 7:02 PM  | 2.61 | H |
| 10/14/18 | Sun | 1:31 AM  | 1.01 | L |
| 10/14/18 | Sun | 5:52 AM  | 2.9  | H |
| 10/14/18 | Sun | 2:17 PM  | 0.32 | L |
| 10/14/18 | Sun | 8:05 PM  | 2.47 | H |
| 10/15/18 | Mon | 2:23 AM  | 1.11 | L |
| 10/15/18 | Mon | 6:50 AM  | 2.73 | H |
| 10/15/18 | Mon | 3:19 PM  | 0.41 | L |
| 10/15/18 | Mon | 9:14 PM  | 2.4  | H |
| 10/16/18 | Tue | 3:45 AM  | 1.16 | L |
| 10/16/18 | Tue | 8:17 AM  | 2.6  | H |
| 10/16/18 | Tue | 4:28 PM  | 0.48 | L |
| 10/16/18 | Tue | 10:22 PM | 2.4  | H |
| 10/17/18 | Wed | 5:09 AM  | 1.14 | L |
| 10/17/18 | Wed | 9:40 AM  | 2.56 | H |
| 10/17/18 | Wed | 5:33 PM  | 0.5  | L |
| 10/17/18 | Wed | 11:24 PM | 2.47 | H |
| 10/18/18 | Thu | 6:14 AM  | 1.05 | L |
| 10/18/18 | Thu | 10:50 AM | 2.6  | H |
| 10/18/18 | Thu | 6:30 PM  | 0.51 | L |
| 10/19/18 | Fri | 12:14 AM | 2.57 | H |
| 10/19/18 | Fri | 7:05 AM  | 0.93 | L |
| 10/19/18 | Fri | 11:54 AM | 2.7  | H |
| 10/19/18 | Fri | 7:20 PM  | 0.51 | L |
| 10/20/18 | Sat | 12:52 AM | 2.69 | H |
| 10/20/18 | Sat | 7:48 AM  | 0.8  | L |
| 10/20/18 | Sat | 12:48 PM | 2.82 | H |
| 10/20/18 | Sat | 8:04 PM  | 0.51 | L |



**EVERGLADES COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
The Friendly Church on the Circle  
Non-Denominational  
101 South Copeland Avenue  
P.O. Box 177, Everglades City, FL 34139  
(239) 695-4787  
The Rev. Dr. Bob N. Wallace, Pastor  
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**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.

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***The MULLET RAPPER***

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

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