

The MULLET RAPPER

**AREA INFO
TIDES ~ EVENTS
RESTAURANTS**

**What's Happening in the Everglades & 10,000 Islands
FEBRUARY 23, 2019 - MARCH 8, 2019**

**NEWS
25¢**

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**Business Development Workshop
Everglades City Hall
March 6th, 6 pm**



In January, Everglades City was designated as a Florida Trail Town by the Office of Greenways and Trails.

Trail towns have or develop trails for non-motorized exploration by paddling, biking and hiking. Because of Everglades City's proximity to the Circumnavigational Waterway, the Wilderness Waterway and many other hiking and biking trails, the OGT selected our city as one of only seven other trail towns in Florida.

Other areas with these designations have experienced business growth, city revitalization and new opportunities for goods and services for trail users and residents.

This workshop will provide information about what new opportunities emerged in other trail town cities and what we may expect from our new designation.

The workshop is free and we invite all businessowners and entrepreneurs to attend. There will be a presentation and question and answer period after the presentation.

Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Kathy Brock @ 954-662-7003.

**Perfect Weather. Perfect Weekend.
2019 Everglades City Seafood Festival Was Enjoyed by All!**

The 49th Annual Everglades City Seafood Festival took place on a weekend that was highlighted by pleasant temperatures, a nice breeze, great music and some pretty good food too.

The bands played from mid-morning to night and the crowds definitely enjoyed it judging by the hooting, hollering and dancing going on around the big stage.

The event was emceed by Chris Lombardo for the second straight year. Chris even got the crowd interested in "investing" in the sewer plant, promising that for a \$5 donation the individuals name would be noted on the outside of one of the holding tanks! The offer did not go unnoticed. Members of the audience immediately started asking where they could sign up with their \$5 in hand! Great job, Chris!

Next year, the festival turns 50. It will be interesting to see what Carol Foss has in store for the big anniversary. Thank you to Carol, and all of the other people behind the scenes that help make the festival a success each year. It's a lot of hard work all year long, and a grueling weekend to pull it all off. Thank you to all who helped.

Below are some photos from the festival taken by the Mullet Rapper's photojournalist, Helen Bryan.



Above left: the crowd listens to music at the big stage. Right; a dad waits for the kids to slide down. Lower right: Seafood delight awaits hungry festival-goers!

More Inside: Local entrepreneur launches a new sports line at the festival and is "blown away" by the support. Read his story on page 4.



RAPPER TABLE OF CONTENTS			
Events, etc.	p. 3	Local News/ Events	p. 8
Entrepreneur	p. 4	Antonia Florio	p.9
School News/ Tax/ Butcher	p. 5	Capt. Merritt	P. 9
Free Bike Tours	p. 6	Local -Regional	p.10
My Slice	p. 7	Tide Table	p.11
Recipe & Puzzle	p. 7	Obituary	p.11
Poetry Street	p. 8	Classifieds	p.12

FEATURE: INVASIVE SPECIES, P. 9

FEBRUARY 24, 2019—MARCH 30, 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
24	25 TAC Mtg	26	27 Ladies Coffee Havana Café, 8a	28	March 1 Snook Season Opens!	2 Stargazing Event, see p. 3
3	4 NCH Outreach Noon, see p. 10 ESHP Mtg 8:30 a FME 4 pm	5 City Council Mtg, 7 pm	New Moon 6 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8a Biz Workshop, see p. 1	7	8 No School	Rapper 9
10 Set Clock Ahead 1 hour Bike Ride, see p. 6	11 No School	12 No School	13 Ladies Coffee City Seafood, 8a	14 Lions Club Mtg. 6 pm	15 No School	16 Pancake Fly-in, See p. 3
17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 P & Z Mtg, 7 pm City Hall	Full Moon 20 Ladies Coffee Havana Café, 8a Ash Wednesday 1st day of spring	21 Book Club, see p. 8	22	Rapper 23 Art-in-Glades, see p. 3 Dinner at Park, see p. 3
24	25	26	27 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8a	28	20	30

April 14: Palm Sunday	April 15: Tax Day	April 18: Maundy Thursday
April 21: Easter Sunday	April 27th: Tamiami Trail Anniversary Celebration	

AREA INFORMATION & NUMBERS:

AA: Wed., 5:00 pm, Evg. Comm. Church, Fellowship Hall
 CARNESTOWN Recycle & Trash: Dec 1st, Every Sat, 9 am to 2:00 pm
 DR DEMARTINO: Little Gator Clinic, See info on page 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. 239-252-5026
 PANCAKE FLY-IN: Mar. 16, Apr. 20. E City Airport, 10 am-noon
 REACH OUT: 3rd Tuesday, 4 pm, City Hall
 SKATING RINK: Now open! Fri. & Sat. 6 to 9 pm
 SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily 10 am to 5pm, 239-695-2989
 THRIFT SHOP: Open Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 11 am to 3, p.3.
 VETERANS SUPPORT: 2nd & 4th Wed. of month, noon—2 pm

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

AIRPORT: 239-695-2778
 BIG CYPRESS: 239-695-2000
 CITY HALL: 239-695-3781
 CURBSIDE TRASH PICKUP 239-252-2380,
 (CALL TUESDAY FOR THURSDAY PICKUP)
 EVG NATIONAL PARK: 239-695-3311
 FAKAHATCHEE: 239-695-4593
 PUBLIC LIBRARY: 239-695-2511
 SHERIFF: 239-252-9300

The Local Area Code is 239

POST OFFICE INFORMATION:

Chokoloskee (239) 695-4468
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Art-in-the-Glades

Sat., Feb. & March 23rd, 10 am-1 pm
 Come out to McLeod Park in Everglades City on February & March 23rd. There will be live music, goodies for the kids (and adults) and plenty of local arts and crafts. It's a great time to get some early (and unique) holiday gifts and a great excuse to spend a few hours at the park! Call Marya at (239) 695-2905 for more info.



ORA Bazaar

Saturday, February 23rd. 9:00 am
 The Annual ORA Bazaar, will be held on Chokoloskee Island, on **Saturday, February 23rd**. The gates will open at 9:00 am. There will be fresh bakery and coffee. Lunch and ice cream will be available starting at 11:00.

Meet Clyde Butcher at his Big Cypress Gallery for his Annual Winter Open House

Saturday, Feb. 23, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm.
 Visions of Dali's Spain photographs by Clyde will be on display at the Big Cypress Gallery through March 10th. \ **Meet & Greet Location:**
52388 Tamiami Tr. Ochopee, FL
Phone: 239-695-2428
Website: <https://clydebutcher.com/>

Pancake Fly-in March 16, 10 am to noon Free Breakfast

 Pancakes, Sausage & Beverage Fly-ins and walk-ups welcomed! Future dates: March 16th & April 20th. We hope to see you at the Everglades City Airpark!

Stargazing—Dark Sky Event March 2, 7:30 to 9 pm

View one of the darkest night skies in the eastern United States by attending a **ranger-led astronomy program** at Big Cypress National Preserve -- and have a snack and drink on NPCA. Location: 33000 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee, FL 34141.

Tamiami Trail Anniversary April 27th, Starting at 10 am

Mark your calendars! On April 27th we will celebrate the anniversary of the Tamiami Trail. On the same day, our City will be formally presented as a Florida Trail Town. More details to come in the next edition of the Rapper...

**Dinner & Music at McLeod Park
 Saturday, March 23, 5:00 to 8:00 pm**
 Save the date! Come to McLeod Park for a community dinner hosted by the Everglades Lions Club with music, 50/50 drawing and much more. Cecil is cooking up pulled pork, and there will also be beans, corn, slaw and dessert. Dinner is only \$12. For tickets call Connie Barker; 419-350-6650.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

**FREE DENTAL, BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INFORMATION FOR ALL
 March 19, 8 am to 4 pm**
The Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida's Health & Smiles Mobile Dental Bus will be in Everglades City on **March 19th**, from 8 am to 4 pm, in the Everglades Community Church 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 and in **Everglades City on Fridays from 1:30 to 4:30 pm.** You may call his office to schedule an appointment at either location: (239) 642-5552.

NATURAL MEDICINE

Dr. John Martin can see patients in Everglades City on Fridays. 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 (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.

NEW E-CITY THRIFT SHOP Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday

 The new thrift shop is open **Tuesday, Thursday & 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

Did you know the Gloria M. Silverio Foundation, a 501(C)3 Florida not-for-profit organization, established a program in 2001, called **"A Safe Haven for Newborns"** that began in response to the tragedy of newborn abandonment in Florida?

The Florida Safe Haven Law was enacted in 2000 in response to an increasing number of newborn infants left to die in dumpsters, garbage cans, ditches, along lakes, canals and other hazardous places... Desperate young mothers who are hiding their pregnancy, in great fear and mental distress and don't know what to do, have too often chosen the frantic path of abandoning their newborns only to face charges in the legal system. The unthinkable act of these young mothers not only destroyed the lives of these babies, it made them criminals. Two lives lost unnecessarily.

"Safe Haven" is a safety net for both the mother and the newborn infant. It allows mothers, fathers or whoever is in possession of an unharmed newborn, approximately seven days old or less, to leave them with someone at Safe Havens: any hospital, staffed fire rescue station, or staffed emergency medical service station, with no questions asked, totally anonymous, free from fear of prosecution. The Hospital will contact a participating private adoption agency who will then arrange placement of the newborn with a waiting family.

A Safe Haven for Newborns is dedicated to reaching pregnant girls and mothers before they reach the crisis stage. They assist them as they make their decision in the best interest of their baby and themselves, whether with counseling, parenting, health related issues, Adoption or confidentially placing their Newborn with a "Safe Haven."

In compliance with Florida Statute 383.50 that designates fire stations as designated drop-off points for abandoned infants, the GNFR has operating procedures in place on how to care for a newborn infant that may be surrendered at a District facility. For more information please visit : <https://asafehavenfornewborns.com/>.

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Local Boy Makes Good!
Jimmy Wheeler Unveiled His Company's New Gear Line at the Seafood Festival
Here's Why You'll Be Seeing His Shirts on a Sportsman Near You
 by Kathy Brock



About two years ago, Jimmy Wheeler told me he came back to Everglades City "to make a difference." Not really knowing Jimmy at that time, I really wasn't sure what that meant. Now I do.

Jimmy Wheeler is a 4th generation Glades-man. His family is well know around these parts. The Ivey House was named after his great-grandparents, Earl and Agnes Ivey. He's got the everglades in his veins. As a child he attended Everglades City School, then he moved with his family to Naples and finished up his schooling there...but his heart never

left Everglades City.

In 2017, Jimmy and his wife Michelle bought a home on the Barron River in Everglades City and started moving in...then came Hurricane Irma and all her fury. The house was destroyed but his determination to make a difference in the town was not washed away with the storm surge.

The first thing that made me think that Jimmy really will make a difference was his boat - he had it beautifully wrapped with the words "Everglades Fishing Co." I recall seeing the bright red X and thinking it was memorable and cool. The Everglades Fishing Company is more than a guide service, it is a brand, and Everglades City brand.

Last weekend when attending the seafood festival, I spotted people in the crowd wearing shirts and hats emblazoned with his logo. By Sunday, they could be spotted everywhere.

On Sunday I visited his booth. Of course, it was a big, spacious booth with cool branded items everywhere. It was impressive.

Jimmy and his wife Michelle were expecting to manage the booth duties themselves, but they got so busy they had to enlist family to come and help.



They told me the response they had was overwhelming.

It is great to see the entrepreneurial spirit alive and kicking in Everglades City. It's even better to know it's coming from someone who genuinely loves the town...and not only what can be exploited from it.

The everglades are a lure for tourists from around the world. Our little city is host to thousands of them each year as they visit area parks and trails.

Jimmy and Michelle are positioning themselves as a brand to be reckoned with. It won't be easy, but good things seldom are. I am in their corner. I can't wait to see how their company grows and what that may mean for our area. Congratulations Jimmy & Michelle Wheeler. By the way, I wear a women's medium!

www.evergladesfishingco.com www.instagram.com/evergladesfishingco/



Visit the new Noland's Old Country Market website to order a box of fresh local produce, homemade baked goods, farm fresh eggs, and raw local honey. Orders are available for pick up or delivery! Pick-up on Saturdays from 9am to 1pm at 1181 Hamilton Lane, Chokoloskee. Deliveries made after 1 pm Saturday.

<http://mariljw64.wixsite.com/nolandsmarket>

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Everglades City School Boys Basketball Teams Place First & Second in Area Tournaments!



What's Happening in Sports
By Athletic Director Jill Whitcomb



The varsity boy's and varsity girl's basketball teams competed in the newly formed **Paradise Coast Athletic Conference** this year which consisted of the following schools: Everglades City, Donahue Academy, Mason Classical Academy, and Marco Island Academy. *The varsity boys basketball team won the Paradise Coast Athletic Conference against Donahue Academy.*

The varsity girl's were runner up losing to Donahue in the Championship game.

Congratulations to both teams on a great season!

The middle school boys basketball team also formed a new conference this year called the **Southwest Florida Athletic Conference** which consisted of the following teams: Everglades City, Mason Academy, Marco Charter Middle, Oak Creek Charter, and Gulf Coast Charter.

The middle school boy's also competed in the championship game against Marco Charter Middle. They fought hard and claimed the title of runner up for 2019.

Congratulations Gator Boys & Girls Basketball Teams!



School Schedule, February—March 2019

- March 8-15: Spring Break, No School
- March 18: Return to Class

Mullet Rapper Donations to Everglades City School in 2019 ~\$300!

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 athletic department.

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!

Photos: Top Left: The boys middle school basketball team. Bottom Left: The boys varsity basketball team. Lower Right: The girls varsity basketball team.

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online gallery

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**Cycle Tours through the Everglades
Bear Island Bike Ride**



Join us for a leisurely bike ride in the northwestern portion of Big Cypress National Preserve. The Bear Island area is a fantastic place to observe a variety of plants and animals in prime panther habitat. You must bring your own fat tire bike - hybrid or mountain bike. It is a 14 mile round trip ride on a hard rock road. (Not suitable for road bikes.) Please bring snacks and lunch that can fit in your backpack, plenty of water, sunscreen, hat, sunglasses and dress for the weather. This ride is limited to 12 people and a minimum age of 15. Since this ride is limited to 12 people, please RSVP to Dayna at (239) 777-5806.

Directions if coming via I-75:
Exit HWY 75 at exit #80 onto Highway 29 going north.
If coming from the West, there is a \$3.50 toll just after exit #101.
Travel north from HWY 75 on Highway 29 toward Immokalee 4 miles.
Watch for the Bike Ride sign on the right side of the road and turn in to the right. Come in through the panther fencing to the parking area.

Biking Events
♦ March 10 – Bear Island in the Big Cypress

*No registration fees –
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Solution to February 9, 2019 Puzzle



My Little Slice of Paradise

by Kathy Brock

There has been a lot of discussion about the seafood festival lately. Some of us love it, others not so much. Most of us who live here stay here because we do not like traffic or crowds, and the festival brings both of those things to our community for a 3-day period.

I have pondered this quite a bit over the years, more so in the last two or three. This year, I purposely set out to look at it from an outsider's perspective. I also tried to evaluate whether "it does any good for the community". What does it bring to us other than a boisterous crowd ready to eat, drink and party in the streets?

I spoke to some festival-goers to get their take on it too...and those that come here for it, really enjoy it. They love the atmosphere. They love the town and they like the food too.

Local not-for-profits feel the same way. Our churches benefit from the parking. The Lions Club benefits from the sale of food. The school benefits from the sale of Coke products. And, the residents indirectly benefit from all of the above because the not-for-profit's income flows back to our community.

To put on a festival like this, it is a year-long effort. It is not easy. Lining everything up, food, vendors, work crews, supplies, is an enormous task. It takes many hours of preparation to make it happen, then many more to put things back to the way they were pre-festival.

Yes. There are some tire tracks and a bit of trash left behind. That is true with any event - no matter the size. When a collection of people come, there will be a mess to clean up afterwards. That's what people do. We're messy.

When looking at our festival, it is easy to get grumpy about the crowds, garbage and "inconvenience" of it all. It does "cramp our style" a bit. It turns our sleepy little town into a loud, crowded, almost unfamiliar place for 3 days.

However, because something feels inconvenient it does not mean it is a bad thing. Holiday company can feel inconvenient. When you are an older couple, young children can be taxing. Pets cause a bit of inconvenience. Nature sometimes gets in the way of things. Almost anything can be viewed as an inconvenience.

Just because something causes a temporary inconvenience is not reason enough do away with it. If that were the case, we'd take down all of the trees because the leaves are inconvenient when they fall.

Next year will mark the 50th Annual Everglades City Seafood Festival. The festival brings more than just inconvenience to our area. It brings recognition. It brings new people. It brings our congressman and other representatives that are important to our city. It provides a platform for local entrepreneurs like Jimmy & Michelle Wheeler. If we look for the positives...*they are there.*

Could there be some improvements? Sure. Almost anything can be improved upon. But if you get an outsiders' opinion of our festival, it is overwhelmingly positive. People leave here with a good impression, not a negative one. They leave wanting to come back.

Obviously, I am in the "the festival is a good thing" camp. Yes, I had to shoo away people from parking on my grass...and there were lots of people walking by my house that I did not know...but it was worth it because it really is not all about "me" it's about "us". *All of us.* And, if you look for the good, it is there amid all of the mugs, plates of food and loud music. If we focus on using the festival as a positive force...it will become an even greater one.

Island Life Recipes
Yummy Peanut Butter Pie
by Connie Barker



1 graham cracker crust (make one from scratch or purchase a ready made one)
1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
1 cup powdered (10x) sugar
1/2 cup milk
4 oz. softened cream cheese
12 oz. container Cool Whip

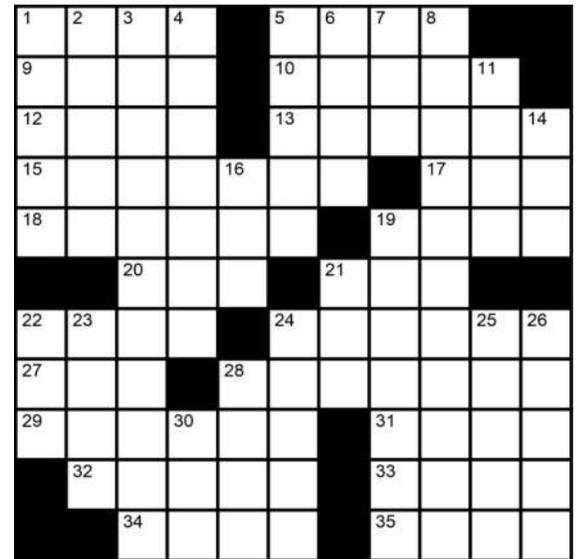
Directions: Mix all ingredients together until creamy. Fold in 8 ounces of the Cool Whip. Pour the mixture into the prepared pie crust and then put it in freezer for at least 4 hours. Just before serving, spread the remaining Cool Whip on the pie and serve. *Enjoy!*

If you have a recipe you'd like to share please send it to us! You can email your recipe to mulletrapper@gmail.com.

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Knock, knock, --- there?
- 5 Scotch partner
- 9 Spellbound
- 10 It may be grand or petty
- 12 Inkling
- 13 Like the States
- 15 It is measured in F's
- 17 Doing it is human
- 18 Passes
- 19 Branch of service
- 20 Golf bag item
- 21 Concealed oneself
- 22 Phrase meaning "caveat emptor"
- 24 Pleasure boat harbor
- 27 Mahmoud Abbas's organization
- 28 Crack Tom's nut to reveal part of an instruction to refrain
- 29 Type of bicycle
- 31 Like some JFK or LAX flights
- 32 Defunct airline
- 33 Flat tableland
- 34 --- Luck
- 35 Aphrodite's son



2/23/19

Down

- 1 Compose
- 2 Wore
- 3 In working order
- 4 Political positions
- 5 They are spaced in walls
- 6 Shout of dismay
- 7 Roman gods
- 8 Time for a mint
- 11 Type of school paper
- 14 Arid
- 16 Had lunch
- 19 Broadcast length
- 21 Owns
- 22 Renter may line in one
- 23 Open-handed hit
- 24 One wrapped up ages ago
- 25 Untrue
- 26 World's on his shoulders
- 28 Lake on the Colorado
- 30 Forensic test





Poetry Street

by Katherine Tullie

We can change our own little corner of the world! How do we do that, you ask? We can do our best to love our families, children, neighbors and others. It will make a big difference in their lives and it will encourage them to spread the love to others. That is the theme of my poem today, "Let's Spread Brotherly Love."

**Brotherly love is quite in demand
Let us spread this love all over our land
Loving, charitable acts is what we need
They will help us to succeed
Let us do for others
To help all of our brothers
As a former school teacher, I must say
The children are starving
for love in many ways
Let love come to all
family members at hand
It will help families bond
together all over our land
We all need to come together
in the name of love
Let's pray today for guidance
from up above
I've worked with children
and their parents for years
As a school teacher
I've seen my share of children's tears
I've made a change for the
better from teaching days
I now use my mighty pen
to pave the way**



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

Area Parks

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! For details on activities and to make reservations call: 239-695-1201. Reservations are accepted up to 14-days in advance of the activity date. Ranger scheduled activities are **free**. Please download the list of programs at <https://swflgo.com/big-cypress-programs/>

Boating or Paddling the Wilderness Waterway? Visit Us First!

by Cynthia Berger

The Gulf Coast Visitor Center in Everglades National Park is "information central" for boaters who plan to travel the Wilderness Waterway. The iconic water trail extends 99 miles through twisting, challenging, and beautiful channels among the coastal mangrove islands from Everglades City to Flamingo at the tip of the Florida Peninsula.

The Wilderness Waterway is one of America's great wilderness experiences. Canoeists and kayakers typically allow 5 – 8 days to complete the route. Shorter "loop" trips are also an option.

It takes careful planning to make a safe transit. The trail is not marked--you must find your way with nautical chart and compass. And there's no fresh water along the route, so paddlers must carry all their water.

Drop by the Visitor Center in Everglades City for a trip planning guide and info on routes and conditions. Note that you MUST obtain a backcountry permit at the Gulf Coast or Flamingo station before you go; permits are required for overnight stays at Waterway campsites.

Download the trip planner for the Wilderness Waterway: https://www.nps.gov/ever/upload/wilderness_trip_planner_2009.pdf
The ENP Gulf Coast Center: 815 Oyster Bar Lane, Everglades City, 8 am to 4:30 pm daily.

Local Happenings

Circle K is Hiring

Circle K will be reopening in Everglades City in March. There are several new employment positions available.

To find out what jobs are available visit <https://workwithus.circlek.com>, and then search by zip code 34139 for local store job openings.

Census Jobs! Starting at \$17/hr.

Hiring is underway for jobs in the Everglades City area working the 2020 U.S. Census, as the Census is committed to having people work in their own communities. Generally, these are part-time jobs with flexible hours, home-based (mileage reimbursed), and pay starting at \$17/hour -All applications must be completed at 2020census.gov/jobs.



Book Club Meeting March 21

The Everglades City Book Club meets monthly during the season. We welcome visitors who are interested in books and discussion. If you would like to check out our club, please come to one of the club meetings. For more details, contact Patty Huff at: 239-695-2397.



Mar. 21: Being Mortal by Atul Gawande, Hosted by Judy Jury
Apr. 11: Lilac Girls by Martha Kelly, Hosted by Diann Lock

Find restaurants, tour guides, and a full event schedule at www.swflgo.com!

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The Race to Keep Invasive Tegus Out of Everglades National Park
 by: Antonia Florio, Science Communications Liaison, Everglades National Park



"Do you want to help catch a tegu tonight?" asked my biologist friend. "Sure," I said. And this is how in early October 2017, I learned the thrill of catching a large, invasive lizard that can move very fast. I was helping a USGS biologist catch a radio-tagged tegu before it went into brumation, a state of hibernation, ahead of the South Florida winter.

We had to catch this tegu to change its transmitter. Tegus grow fast. Adults can grow up to four feet, so they need transmitter size upgrades several times a year.

Scientists track tegus using these transmitters and radio telemetry to locate their position in the wild.

Native to South America, tegus are not supposed to be in Florida. There have been reports of three species of tegus in Dade County: the Argentine black and white tegu (*Salvator merianae*); the red tegu (*Salvator rufescens*); and the gold tegu (*Tupinambis teguixin*). That night we had to catch an Argentine black and white tegu. This species is of most concern to park scientists because there are several well-established populations adjacent to Everglades National Park.



Catching a tegu is difficult because fieldwork is always challenging. I knew this going into it, but I had limited experience in the Everglades. The hot, humid weather, even in October, mixed in with every insect trying to bite you and every plant trying to stab you, toughens you up. I'd argue that South Florida biologists are some of the toughest in the world. We met up once it was completely dark because that's when tegus tend to slow down, which makes them easier to catch.

When we finally got a strong signal, it was directed towards very dense, thorny vegetation. But when science calls, you go. So off we went into that intimidating terrain. I was drenched in sweat, could hear all the mosquitoes around my bug jacket trying to bite me. Tracking these tegus is critical work. Scientists at the National Park Service, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the University of Florida, and the U.S. Geological Survey are monitoring the tegus in South Florida because of the potential impact they can have on the environment.

"Tegus are do-everything lizards," explains Bryan Falk, the supervisory invasive species biologist at Everglades National Park. "They are happy in many different environments, whether that is a natural or disturbed habitat. We once had a report of a tegu living in a dryer vent in someone's house in Homestead. They will also eat almost everything, including small mammals, carrion, eggs, fruit, pet food, insects, and more."

Tegus are a successful invasive species in part because they are so adaptable.

Tegus were first reported in the Miami-Dade area about a decade ago as escapees from the pet trade. Since then, over 6,000 tegus have been removed from Dade County. What is most troubling is that the number of tegus seems to be increasing exponentially. Less than 200 tegus were trapped in 2012, but over 1,000 were trapped in 2017.

To make matters worse, the areas where they are being trapped are getting closer and closer to the park. The concern is that if tegus get into the park, they could eat the eggs of protected native species like the American crocodile, sea turtles, and ground nesting birds like the federally endangered Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow. If they make it to Key Largo, they might put the federally endangered Key Largo woodrat at risk for extinction. Turkey Point is home to a population of American crocodiles, and the introduction of tegus there also puts that population at risk.

While it's not likely we can rid Florida of all the tegus, we can work to keep them out of these sensitive areas. Park scientists are working hard to do this, but they need your help.

"Containment is possible," Falk said, "and our best bet is early detection." The more tegus reported means that biologists can act quickly to remove them and prevent a range expansion. The more eyes on the ground, the better.

Tegus are now emerging from their winter brumation. We need your help to report sightings! If you see a tegu, please report it to the invasive species hotline:

By phone: 1-888-IVE-GOT1, Online: IveGot1.org

By downloading the IveGot1 reporting app

This will help park scientists and local agencies decide where to put tegu traps, and could enable us to remove tegus before new populations become established.

Photo: Antonia with a Tegus Lizard, Tegus Lizard



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

Fishing this month has been really good both on the outside Islands and in the back country.

The Redfish bite has continued to be strong all month and looks like it will continue to be that way in March. These fish are growing fast and will start to reach slot size next month. We have caught many 17" fish this month along with a few slot size fish. Looking forward to catching these guys all year!

The Snook bite has been just as good as the Reds but more fish are being caught in the backcountry due to the colder water temps. As temperatures rise this month, and water temps rise, the Snook will find their way back to the outside in better numbers and we will start catching some bigger ones.

There are some good size fish in the backcountry and the best way to find them is to fish as much shoreline as you can. This is why lures work best right now. But live shrimp will catch plenty.

The Seatrout are also plentiful and can be caught on the outside, in the rivers and in the back country. Live shrimp, jigs and DOA's are all catching plenty. Popping corks are a great way to locate them. The incoming tide has been the best.

There are also Black Drum, Sheepshead, and Mangrove Snapper in the Islands and rivers. And these are best fished for with shrimp. So there is a variety of fish to catch right now. And this should continue thru the month. Good Luck Fishing! Capt. Mike Merritt.

Fish With Captain Mike Merritt!

Call to Book Your Dates:

Cell: 561-252-4324

Office: 561-795-3437

Visit Mike's Website:

www.everglade-angler.com

Download the Fishing Limits Guide
<https://swflgo.com/florida-saltwater-fishing-regulations-2018/>



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Area News

Share Your Thoughts About the Health of the Community

Monday, March 4th, Noon - 12:45 PM

NCH Healthcare System and Florida Health of Collier County are conducting a focus group to find out how you feel about the health of our community.

The goal of this discussion is to discover what needs are most important to our community so that Collier County can address those needs.

The meeting will be held at Everglades City Hall on the first floor in the old council chambers.

This meeting is open to the public and everyone is invited and encouraged to come.

Refreshments will be served. There is no obligation. You will not have to answer questions you do not want to!

For more information, call Kirsten Lezama at 239-232-2684.

Panthers Are on the Move Watch For them When Driving (Excerpts from Natureworks by PBS)



Panther mating season runs through March. Males will be on the move during this time to find a mate so please watch out for them while driving in the area, especially at dawn and dusk.

So far in 2019, there have been five (5) panther deaths, three due to vehicle collisions. Vehicle collisions are the number one cause of premature death for panthers.

About Panthers

The female panther is ready to mate when she is between two and three years old. When a female is ready to mate, she leaves scent markings for the male to find. Kittens are born after about three months.

The mother prepares a den in a dry and protected place like a thicket. She gives birth to between one and three kittens. The kittens are blind and have spotted coats and blue eyes. In about two to three weeks, their eyes open and they begin to walk.

The kittens stay in or near the den for about two months. They are weaned and start eating meat when they are about two months old. The spots on their coats begin to fade after four to six months. They leave their mother when they are about a year and a half old. Once they leave their mother, they will establish their own territory.

Fakahatchee Strand News

Winter Fakahatchee Tram Tours Are the Perfect Day-Excursion!

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

Ghostrider Tram Tours of the park are from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The naturalist led tours are offered for \$25 per person most Thursdays in February and are named for the famous ghost orchid found in the park.

The Naturalist Led Tram Tour and Swamp Walks are from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This \$60 excursion takes visitors into knee-high water and is offered on most Tuesdays during the season.

For directions, complete details and required reservations for all Fakahatchee adventures, visit www.orchidswamp.org and click on Tours and Events. Please be advised that tours sell out quickly so it is recommended to call and schedule your dates as soon as possible!

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

About the Fakahatchee Strand

The Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park is perhaps the best example of a subtropical, strand swamp in the United States. The Fakahatchee Strand is a linear swamp forest, approximately twenty miles long by five miles wide and oriented from north to south. The Strand harbors one of the largest concentrations and diversity of native orchids in North America, and supports numerous rare and endangered animal species. It is also one of the core areas of the current range of the Florida Panther.

The Strand's 85,000 acres are part of the main drainage slough of the Big Cypress Swamp. The Fakahatchee Strand is linked hydrologically to the Everglades system and is particularly important to the estuarine ecosystem of the Ten Thousand Islands area.

Local Happenings Great Horned Owl Watch



The Great Horned Owls are raising two owlets this year. The baby owls can be seen

at the nest located on the light pole behind the fire station in Everglades City, and in front of the Community Center & Thrift Shop.

This is the second straight year the owls have chosen this location as the place to raise their brood. Best viewing is in mornings and afternoons...but as the babies mature, you will see them almost anytime!

Photo by Tim Brock

New Card Racks at E-City Hall Feature Businesses & Attractions



There is a great new resource at Everglades City Hall. The card racks on the first floor by the entry have free brochures about area businesses and attractions for visitors.

If you would like your information added to the racks, please contact Kathy Brock at 954-662-7003, or via email at mulletrapper@gmail.com.

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EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP

Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands

(642-1025): Monday - Wed 5 to 11 pm,
Thurs to Sun Noon - 11 pm

Camellia Street Grille (695-2003):
11:00 am – 9:00 pm daily

City Seafood (695-4700):
8:00 am – 10:00 am; breakfast
Noon-6pm Lunch & Dinner

Glades Haven Marina (695-2091):
Deli Closed. Marina is open.
Live bait available at marina

Havana Café (695-2214):
Open Daily, 7 am to 4 pm
See our ad on page 10!

Island Café (695-0003):
6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily

Ivey House (695-3299):
6:30 – 9:30 am; daily

Joanie's Blue Crab Café (695-2682):
11:00 am – 4:00 pm
Open: Mon., Fri., Saturday & Sunday

Rod & Gun (695-2101):
11:30 am - 8:00 pm; daily

Tastes of the Everglades
Open Tues.—Sunday 3 pm till closing

Triad Seafood & Café (695-2662):
Open Every Day
10:30 am-5 pm

MARKETS

Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535):
M-Th 9 am– 7 pm, Fri-Sun, 7 am to 7 pm

Grimm's Stone Crab (695-3222):
Open Mon.-Sat. 8 am to 5 pm

Fresh Produce

Noland's Market is taking orders online
<http://mariljw64.wixsite.com/nolandsmarket>

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

Chokoloskee Church of God

Sunday: 10 am Sch., 11 am Worship
Wed. 7 pm Hr. of Prayer

Copeland Baptist Church

Sunday: 10 am School, 11 am Worship

Everglades Community Church

11:00 am Sunday Worship, 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

Sunday Mass, 10:30 am

St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples

Phone: 239-417-2084

San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl.

239-394-5181

BARRON RIVER TIDES

LAT: 25.87° N LONG: 81.37°W
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2/23/19	Sat	12:04 AM	0	L
2/23/19	Sat	5:15 AM	2.4	H
2/23/19	Sat	12:24 PM	0.12	L
2/23/19	Sat	5:27 PM	2.46	H
2/24/19	Sun	12:58 AM	-0.01	L
2/24/19	Sun	6:18 AM	2.07	H
2/24/19	Sun	1:07 PM	0.35	L
2/24/19	Sun	6:09 PM	2.42	H
2/25/19	Mon	2:01 AM	0.01	L
2/25/19	Mon	7:32 AM	1.78	H
2/25/19	Mon	1:57 PM	0.56	L
2/25/19	Mon	6:59 PM	2.33	H
2/26/19	Tue	3:13 AM	0.03	L
2/26/19	Tue	9:00 AM	1.59	H
2/26/19	Tue	3:08 PM	0.72	L
2/26/19	Tue	8:02 PM	2.25	H
2/27/19	Wed	4:25 AM	0.01	L
2/27/19	Wed	12:32 PM	1.61	H
2/27/19	Wed	4:28 PM	0.8	L
2/27/19	Wed	9:12 PM	2.19	H
2/28/19	Thu	5:31 AM	-0.03	L
2/28/19	Thu	1:22 PM	1.77	H
2/28/19	Thu	5:41 PM	0.8	L
2/28/19	Thu	10:23 PM	2.21	H
3/1/19	Fri	6:29 AM	-0.08	L
3/1/19	Fri	1:50 PM	1.87	H
3/1/19	Fri	6:43 PM	0.74	L
3/1/19	Fri	11:28 PM	2.28	H
3/2/19	Sat	7:19 AM	-0.13	L
3/2/19	Sat	1:59 PM	1.94	H
3/2/19	Sat	7:32 PM	0.66	L
3/3/19	Sun	12:19 AM	2.4	H
3/3/19	Sun	8:01 AM	-0.16	L
3/3/19	Sun	2:00 PM	2.02	H
3/3/19	Sun	8:12 PM	0.57	L
3/4/19	Mon	1:00 AM	2.5	H
3/4/19	Mon	8:39 AM	-0.17	L
3/4/19	Mon	2:13 PM	2.12	H
3/4/19	Mon	8:47 PM	0.48	L
3/5/19	Tue	1:36 AM	2.58	H
3/5/19	Tue	9:13 AM	-0.15	L
3/5/19	Tue	2:35 PM	2.23	H
3/5/19	Tue	9:21 PM	0.4	L
3/6/19	Wed	2:09 AM	2.61	H
3/6/19	Wed	9:46 AM	-0.11	L
3/6/19	Wed	3:00 PM	2.31	H
3/6/19	Wed	9:55 PM	0.31	L
3/7/19	Thu	2:42 AM	2.59	H
3/7/19	Thu	10:17 AM	-0.04	L
3/7/19	Thu	3:27 PM	2.38	H
3/7/19	Thu	10:29 PM	0.24	L
3/8/19	Fri	3:16 AM	2.52	H
3/8/19	Fri	10:46 AM	0.06	L
3/8/19	Fri	3:53 PM	2.4	H
3/8/19	Fri	11:04 PM	0.17	L

Obituary

Thomas Anthony "Tony" Brock



On the evening of February 2, 2019, Thomas Anthony Brock passed away at the age of 80. He was known to friends as "Captain Tony" and he loved fishing and hunting.

Tony is preceded in death by his parents Charlie and Jewell Brock; his son Tony Brock Jr; his daughter Kathy Brock. Tony is survived by his wife, Janis Brock; his siblings, Jim, Ronnie and Cindy; his son, Scott Brock; his two daughters, Vicki Heyer and Terri Loomis; his nine grandchildren; his 5 great grandchildren and many close friends.

A memorial service will be held this weekend on February 23, 2019 at 2pm. Location: 17810 Turkey Trail, Ochopee FL 34141. Family and friends will also be there on February 24th if you can't come on the 23rd.

Sign Up for Text Notices

City Updates on Your Smart Phone

Everglades City has an easy text notification system for residents and water customers. To sign up text the word "Everglades" to 474747. You'll receive a welcome message with a link to set up your account. It is a simple, one-time process. When you sign up, you'll indicate which notices you want, business, student, voter, or water user. If you want all of them, just check "all". If you no longer want messages, you can stop the service at any time.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

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>
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FOR SALE- Great commercial investment - The Oyster House Restaurant and Glades Haven Marina and Store in Everglades City.

The Marina Store also had a deli, bait & tackle, dockage, boat rentals and much more. Plenty of uses! The Oyster House had seating capacity of 200. Dining room, bar / lounge, banquet room with private bar. Buy separately or together! Hurricane Irma damage, being sold As Is.

**Call Karen at Glades Realty
239-695-4299 for more information.**

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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.

RV LOT FOR SALE in VR Corp in Everglades City, # 22. Electric & sewer hookup. Concrete pad is ready for your RV. Call 954-261-3550 for info.

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 SALE: Condo #418 in Captain's Table, 1bed/1bath, totally renovated, fully furnished, new appliances, high impact windows/door, community pool. \$109,500. Call Vivian 786-395-9253. **MLS 218025142**

FOR SALE: Club Everglades home. A fisherman's paradise & weekend retreat, \$299,500. Built in 2006. 2 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Call Jim Prange for information at 239.642.1133 Premier Sotheby's International Realty.

The MULLET RAPPER

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

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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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