

The MULLET RAPPER

AREA INFO
TIDES ~ EVENTS
RESTAURANTS

What's Happening in the Everglades & 10,000 Islands
APRIL 20, 2019 - MAY 3, 2019



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Easter Egg Hunt at McLeod Park, Saturday, April 20th, 11 am

No Easter weekend is complete without an egg hunt for the kids! Bring the children to McLeod Park on Saturday, April 20th at 11 am for the annual Everglades City egg hunt!



Easter Sunrise Service at Everglades National Park Gulf Coast Center Sunday, April 21, 7 am

Everyone is invited to attend this multi-denominational Easter Sunrise Service at the Everglades National Park's Gulf Coast Center overlooking beautiful Chokoloskee Bay.

Members from many of the area's houses of worship will be a part of the service that starts at 7 am.



Everglades City Proclaims May Drowning Prevention Month

At the April City Council meeting, the Collier Sheriff's Office Youth Relations Bureau and "Stewie" took center stage to discuss the importance of water safety as the hot summer months approach.

Collier County is one of few counties in the state to report no deaths due to accidental drowning in 2018.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), drowning is the second leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 14, and number one in children under five. In the United States, approximately 750 children drown each year, 375 of whom do so within 25 yards of a parent or adult.

Florida ranks fourth in accidental drowning deaths in the US.

About Stewie



On January 1, 1989, a 21-month old toddler lost his life in a drowning accident. This sparked his parents to pledge that they would do everything in their power to prevent this tragedy from striking other families, since drowning is the leading cause of accidental death in children under five.

In 1990, that toddler's parents, Kim and Stew Leonard, founded the **Stew Leonard III Water Safety Foundation** in memory of their son. Since this time, the Foundation has raised more than \$2 million dollars to go towards water safety awareness and education, including lifeguard training and providing 10,000 free or low-cost swimming lessons to children every year.

Stewie the Duck, the organization's mascot, visits schools all over the country. Above, Stewie visits the Everglades City Council meeting.

Read about drowning warning signs, on p. 3.

The BIG Day in Everglades City April 27th, 2019

A Time to Eat & Celebrate



April 27th should be circled on all of our calendars in the Everglades area.

The date represents the end and a new beginning as the winter winds down.

April is when our winter visitors leave to make their trek back home. Our human winter friends have left or will be leaving, and our avian visitors have taken flight to start their way back home too.

The day also marks two important dates in past history and one for our future history as well.

Most of the activity will take place in and around McLeod Park starting at 10 am and culminating about 3 pm.

10:00 am: Art-in-the-Glades, McLeod Park, Vendors are welcomed!

10:00 am to 3:00 pm: Museum of the Everglades, storytelling starts at 2 pm

11:00 am: Official designation as a Trail Town City, City Hall Steps

Noon: Dixieland Jazz Band in McLeod park

11:30 am to 1:30 pm: Pulled pork lunch (\$10), McLeod Park

Please note that the museum is celebrating all day while other events take place in select locations.

Lunch is being hosted by the Everglades Lions Club with proceeds from the sale of lunch going towards the playground renovation at McLeod Park.

**Please come out to help us
celebrate our big day.
Everyone is Invited to Attend!**



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Pancake Fly-in

April 20, 10 am to noon, Free Breakfast
Pancakes, Sausage & Beverage. Fly-ins and walk-ups welcomed! Next fly-in, April 20th. We hope to see you at the Everglades City Airpark!



Art-in-the-Glades

April 27, 10 am, McLeod Park

Our next Art-in-the-Glades is on Saturday, April 27th, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to help celebrate the **Museum Birthday, Tamiami Trail anniversary and Trail Town dedication.**

We are under the pavilion in McLeod Park where you can set up any time after 8:00am that morning. There is no charge but donations to a local charity are always welcome.



Museum of the Everglades Birthday Celebration

April 27th, Starting at 10 am

Mark your calendars! On April 27th we will celebrate the Museum's birthday, and the anniversary of the opening of the Tamiami Trail.

On the same day, our City will be formally designated as a Florida Trail Town by the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways and Trails. For event details see p, 1 or visit www.swflgo.com/events.

National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 2, Noon, City Hall

Please join us for the National Day of Prayer ceremony on May 2nd at noon at Everglades City Hall's front steps.

After the ceremony, finger-foods will be offered inside City Hall. The celebration is free and everyone is invited to attend. We hope to see you there!



First Responder's FREE Fish Fry

Saturday, May 11, 5 pm

Without them we would not feel safe. We want our first responders to know...that we understand how important they are to us and the community. This is why we are honoring them on May 11th.

Fresh fried fish, coleslaw and baked beans will be served up with a whole lot of love for the men and women who are there when we need them most! Please come to show your support.

Cecil's Pulled Pork at the Park
April 27, McLeod Pk, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Join the celebration as our community celebrates the Museum Birthday and receives the formal Trail Town designation by Florida's Office of Greenways and Trails. Cecil's Famous Pulled Pork, Chips and a drink for only \$10. Everyone is invited.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

FREE DENTAL, BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INFORMATION FOR ALL
May 21st, 8 am to 4 pm

The *Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida's Health & Smiles Mobile Dental Bus* will be in Everglades City on **May 21st**, from 8 am to 4 pm, in the **Everglades Community Center** parking lot, providing free dental checks, blood pressure screenings and behavioral health information if requested. For more info or to schedule an appointment: call 239-986-7323.

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 Aid

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

E-CITY THRIFT SHOP

Open Tuesday & Saturday

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



Help Prevent Accidental Drownings. Warning Signs are Not What You Think (some excerpts from Slate.com)

When TV or the movies portray a drowning victim, no matter the age, we are shown a vision of someone with arms flailing and yelling for help.

However, this is only in the movies. In real life, a drowning victim rarely shows such obvious signs. **10% of parents could be looking at their child in the water drowning and may not even know it.**

Knowing what to look for may help you avert the number one cause of accidental death in children 4 and under, and the number two cause of accidental deaths in children up to 14. These warning signs appeared in a blog post on slate.com:

◆ Except in rare circumstances, drowning people are physiologically unable to call out for help.

◆ Drowning people's mouths alternately sink below and reappear above the surface of the water. The mouths of drowning people are not above the surface of the water long enough for them to exhale, inhale, and call out for help. When the drowning people's mouths are above the surface, they exhale and inhale quickly as their mouths start to sink below the surface of the water.

◆ Drowning people cannot wave for help. Nature instinctively forces them to extend their arms laterally and press down on the water's surface. Pressing down on the surface of the water permits drowning people to leverage their bodies so they can lift their mouths out of the water to breathe.

◆ Throughout the Instinctive Drowning Response, drowning people cannot voluntarily control their arm movements. Physiologically, drowning people who are struggling on the surface of the water cannot stop drowning and perform voluntary movements such as waving for help, moving toward a rescuer, or reaching out for a piece of rescue equipment.

◆ From beginning to end of the Instinctive Drowning Response people's bodies remain upright in the water, with no evidence of a supporting kick. Unless rescued by a trained lifeguard, these drowning people can only struggle on the surface of the water from 20 to 60 seconds before submersion occurs."

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**LCEC Continues to Remove Osprey Nests In Everglades City
Latest One Removed Has Been Active For Over a 25 Years
Maybe They Should Look at What TECO Energy in Tampa is Doing**
by Kathy Brock

For over a 25 years residents and visitors have watched the antics of a mature nesting pair of osprey in their nest along the Barron River just north of Steve and Patty Huff's home. This week a LCEC crew came and removed the nest in what has become routine in our little city that is home to many shore birds, wading birds and osprey.

LCEC has an "avian protection plan" and claims to look for solutions to both protect their equipment and the birds. Total removal is a solution, but aren't their other factors that should be considered as well? Is there not some type of compromise where we can keep the nests that are on some structures and not others? This particular nest was on the very top of the pole with no interference with the wires. The birds are confused and the residents are angered. There must be a better solution!

Osprey choose power poles because they are the best suited location for them in their eyes. You see, osprey will choose a nest with a 360° view over a tree location every time. Why? Because osprey chicks are one of the favorite foods of many hawks, eagles and great horned owls. Predation is reduced dramatically when osprey nests are on structures with an unimpeded view...and they know it. A power pole is the perfect location in their eyes.

Power companies all along the eastern seaboard have been dealing with nesting birds for decades. They have learned that simply removing a nest will do nothing to deter the birds from returning again and again.

In Florida where the birds are fairly common, many power companies have looked for ways to protect their power supply, and protect the birds. TECO Energy in the Tampa area is one such company.

In a May 2015 article published in the Tampa Tribune, columnist Andy Warrener spoke with TECO about their program. "We were seeing a number of bird-related outages," TECO spokeswoman Cherie Jacobs said. "So we brainstormed and came up with a solution to protect our equipment and the animals."

TECO's Avian Protection Program helps the company identify at-risk species of birds, documents birds that use high-risk electric equipment for nesting, recommends appropriate equipment retrofits to minimize electrocution risk and develops bird-friendly surveys within the service territory.



TECO and Duke Energy have stepped in to build nesting platforms. TECO has built more than 30 platforms in Hillsborough and Polk Counties since 2004. Duke has constructed nine platforms in Pinellas County along with 59 deterrent mechanisms since January 2013.

Duke Energy builds most of the platforms in Pinellas County. TECO platforms are made of composite material and look like wooden pallets on top of lighting poles. Duke uses a platform that looks like a satellite dish on top of their poles. Walker predicts that by the end of the year, these organizations will have combined to spend \$100,000 on urban osprey management.

Osprey nests are protected and one must obtain a permit to remove nests in Florida. Osprey were on the verge of extinction in the 60's & 70's when DDT infiltrated the food chain. The birds eggs were so fragile simply sitting on them to incubate them would crush the eggs which essentially halted reproduction. Scientists made the connection, and DDT was banned from use in the US (I am quite sure DDT was not good for Humans either...but that is an article for another time). Fortunately, the osprey population has recovered and we are/were enjoying them very much again in Everglades City.

There must be a way that LCEC could work with the community to make strategic placements for nest platforms within the city? The birds will come back, and frankly, we want them back. They add to our city's charm. They are one of our native birds. They are only doing what they are driven to do...find a home, find a mate and have a family.


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A Message From Principal James Ragusa

Gators in STEAM Competition

Teams from Grades 4 and 6 competed in the annual CCPS STEAM competition at Florida Southwestern University on Saturday, April 13th, 2019. This event has teams from every school compete in different events that challenge their creativity, thinking, and ability to work as a team. Each year is memorable and we were well represented again this year.

Our fourth grade students were presented a task that utilized "Little Bits". Little Bits are kits that contain modular electronic components that allow students to create inventions. They are presented with a task and use the components to address the identified challenge in a team setting. Students prepare by using the components prior to the event but they do not know what task they will be given at the event. Our team this year was led by our 4th grade teacher, Ms. Clark, and they did an excellent job competing against thirty other elementary schools.

Our sixth grade team was challenged to create a solar car that would race against teams from each middle school in the district. The design and testing of the car is done at school and it is brought to the event. Our team did a tremendous job and came in 2nd place! They were within inches of the champion and the final was the best race of the entire day. A special thanks to Mr. Roberts for all his work preparing our students as he does a tremendous job each year!

Congratulations to our 4th and 6th grade teams for their great work and dedication.

IT IS ALWAYS A GREAT DAY TO BE A GATOR!

Cameron Foss Signs Letter of Intent to Play Football at Greensboro College



Former EVG School student Cameron Foss is off to Greensboro College to play football. Foss attended EVG school until 9th grade and then left for Marco Academy to play football. He transferred to St. John Neumann High where he finished high school and played defensive lineman for the team. Foss finished his senior season with 39 solo tackles, 70 total and 13 tackles for a loss. Congratulations Cameron!

Mullet Rapper Donations to Everglades City School in 2019 ~ \$900

Thank you to everyone who buys the Mullet Rapper every two weeks. Remember, the Mullet Rapper donates 100% of the proceeds from the sale of the print edition of the paper to Everglades City School to help fund the Leader-in-Me Program!

When you see the coin receptacle, please put your quarter (or more) into the slot!

Remember, When You Buy the Print Edition of the Mullet Rapper

It Helps Everglades City School Students!

Bicycling in South Florida by Patty Huff

A hundred years ago the population in Florida was less than 1 million (about the population of Jacksonville today). Now our state ranks 3rd in the country with over 21.5 million residents! We all love living here with our fantastic weather and variety of outdoor activities, the same amenities that attract the millions of tourists who come to enjoy Collier County. Somehow we all have to find a way to live and travel together. The more people on the road, the higher the danger for cyclists; a never ending compromise to "share the road."

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month and May is National Bicycle Month which provides each of us an opportunity to become more involved in spreading the word about safety. Florida Bicycle Association works diligently to improve our current safety record, working with other organizations, communicating our position with legislators, and educating the public (both motorists and cyclists) about the rules of the road and how we can all work together to improve safety for everyone.


What you can do to help:

- 1) If you are not a member of the Florida Bicycle Association, join now: https://floridabicycle.org/membership-and-sponsorship/.
2) If you are a member, tell your friends about FBA and ask them to join. Explain the benefits and the importance of speaking with one united voice through FBA.
3) Stay in contact with representatives at the local, county and state level and explain the importance of Complete Streets. In September 2014, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) adopted the Statewide Complete Streets Policy (Topic No. 000-625-017-a). Complete Streets serves the transportation needs of all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, motorists, and freight handlers. A transportation system based on Complete Streets principles can help to promote safety, quality of life, and economic development.
4) Stay informed about future road plans in our area. Get involved with our local Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) by attending meetings and staying in touch with our Everglades City representatives: Elaine Middelstaedt (MPO), Tammie Pernas (Citizens Advisory Committee), Tim Brock (Technical Advisory Committee) and Dayna Fendrick (Bicycle / Pedestrian Advisory Committee).
5) Attend the Everglades City Bicycle / Pedestrian Committee meetings on the last Friday of each month at 3:00 pm in the downstairs conference room of City Hall.
6) Always be courteous and respectful when communicating the concerns and safety needs of bicyclists.
7) Everglades City is a walkable/bicycle friendly community with little traffic and low speed limits. Ride your bike and have fun! We all have had wonderful memories while riding: the feeling of freedom, good exercise, the sounds of the birds, in addition to the friendly people we meet while walking or biking. We have the privilege of getting on a bicycle year round with our phenomenal south Florida weather. With the exhilaration of the wind in your face and the road beneath your wheels, it's important to be able to ride safely. The bicycle is famous for being the most efficient man-powered means of transportation the human race has yet invented, not only for the thrill of getting there but the wellbeing it provides. Enjoy the ride and act now to help us make south Florida a safer place to ride!

For information about the Florida Bicycle Association, visit www.floridabicycle.org.

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Angels of the Swamp
by Patty Huff



Recently when I was coming back from Chokoloskee, I saw a lady on a bicycle stopping and picking up trash along the way. It reminded me of the many unselfish residents who continue to volunteer their help to keep our communities clean. We have a walkable/bikeable town and many times I see people collecting trash as part of their daily walking routine.

Years ago I had a column in The *Mullet Rapper* to highlight people in our area who are true Angels. I would like now to personally thank this lady and everyone else who takes the time to make our area beautiful. Just this simple act of kindness adds so much to our town. Also, I sincerely want to thank our elected officials and city employees for replacing and restoring our street and road signage; it does so much to enhance our town.

The Everglades Lions Club continues to work hard to collect donations to purchase playground equipment for our children and improve McLeod Park. Soon we'll have a new bike rack shaped like a Dolphin and a new bike repair station in the Park and bicycle racks around town. These additions have been possible due to community contributions.

We've come a long way since September 2017 when Hurricane Irma washed through south Florida; we still have things to accomplish but the willingness of our winter and year round residents to contribute their time has made them true Angels of the Swamp. We are proud of our town and the efforts of so many make it all possible.




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Solution to April 6, 2019 Puzzle



My Little Slice of Paradise
by Kathy Brock

This year was our third consecutive year planting vegetables in raised beds in Everglades City. Each year, we try different things and learn more, and then incorporate our findings into next year's garden for a better result.

This year we had dried seeds from last year's crops and we also purchased starter plants at local stores.

In addition to planting seeds and starter plants, the gardens also sprouted numerous volunteer plants that came up in multiple locations.

Our most prolific crops have been tomatoes, jalapeno peppers, banana peppers and green beans that are purple but turn green as soon as you cook them.

Here is what we have learned: Tomatoes from the seed of last year's plants that we planted this year grew stronger and healthier than any of the store bought plants. In fact, when our seeds first spouted we felt they were still so small in October that we ought to buy larger plants so we could get the crop going...but the garden sowed seeds out-performed the store bought plants 100% of the time. Those plants grew faster and out-produced store bought plants. Interestingly, volunteer plants that came up on their own out-performed all plants. Tomato plants that got partial late afternoon shade out-performed those in locations that received sun all day.

White flies have been a problem all year. The most vulnerable plants have been the beans. However, the flies did not show up until after the beans produced several great crops with some leftover to freeze for future use.

Keeping seeds for your next crop is easy and it saves money! Always let tomatoes mature completely on the vines before picking them for their seeds. Squeeze the seeds from the tomatoes into a fine mesh strainer and rinse with water to remove any fruit pulp. Invert the strainer onto a paper towel and let the seeds dry on it. Do not put seeds (of any kind) in air tight, plastic bags. I just fold up my paper towels and tape them together with the seeds on them. I then label them with the date and what type of plant it is from. When you are ready to plant next season, the seeds will easily lift off of the paper towels. Mailing envelopes are excellent to hold seeds too.

For beans, let the beans you are using for seed dry on the vine. I will then open up the pods and put the seeds in an envelope for next year. I have found that the germination rate is much higher when you let them fully mature and dry outside on the vine. Our bean seeds sprouted almost 100% of the time. I have plenty of seeds to share!

When you plant the following year, change the location of your plants from previous years. Rotating your crops makes for a more productive garden. Different plants use up different nutrients in the soil. Continually using the same soil for the same crop will deplete the soil resulting in inferior crops. We also augment the soil each fall with cow manure and low nitrogen, organic fertilizers.

Using high amounts of nitrogen will make your plants very lush...but not very productive. It also attracts the pests. We learned this the hard way!

Peppers take quite a while to get going, but when they do the plants will last for up to 2 full years. We had jalapeno pepper plants that produced for over 2 years before declining. This year's peppers are going strong and they appear to be on track for another year of production. So far, no whiteflies on the peppers or late tomatoes.

Lastly, raised beds are essential. Superior drainage and no bending is the way to go! Enjoy the outdoors!

Island Life Recipes
White Bean Summer Salad
Submitted by Elaine Middelstaedt


Ingredients:

- 2 cans great northern beans, rinsed and drained
- 2 plum or Compari tomatoes, diced & seeded
- 1 or 2 small to medium zucchini, diced
- 1/2 red onion, chopped

Dressing:

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/3 cup white wine vinegar
- 2 Tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 tsp. dry mustard
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp dried basil (or 1/4 cup fresh basil, chopped fine)
- 1/4 tsp black pepper, or to taste

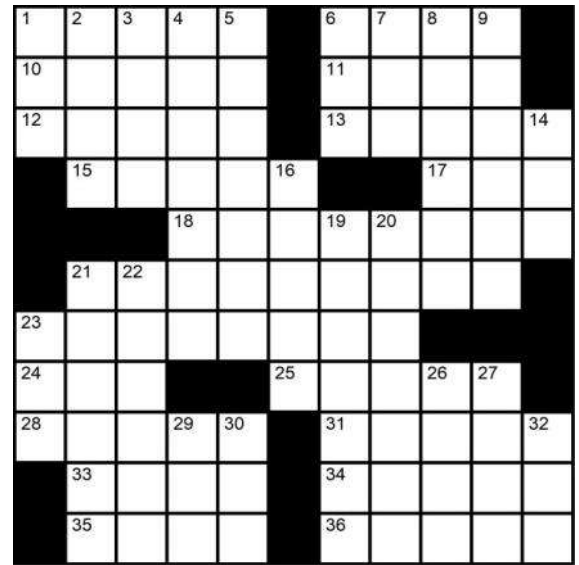
Mix ingredients together and set aside. Prepare dressing in a jar or bowl with a cover. Close lid and mix well. Pour dressing over ingredients and chill in the refrigerator for a few hours. Serve chilled. This is an excellent side dish with any meat or with a sandwich for lunchtime. You can also try other beans or use two types of beans as a variation. Enjoy!



MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

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4/20/19

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- 19 Apprehends
- 20 Weather
- 21 Shooting iron
- 22 Recorded, perhaps
- 23 Obsolete technology which could store programs 22 Down
- 26 Between jobs
- 27 Natural skill
- 29 Chop





Poetry Street
by Katherine Tullie

The old saying "if at first you don't succeed, try, try again" is more than a slogan, it is good advice. Not giving up gives you a chance to learn from your mistakes and then try again. It also makes you feel better about yourself. That is the theme of my poem called "DON'T GIVE UP!"

Don't Give Up!

If you are going on a downward dive
Always continue to strive
If life throws you a curve ball
Step up to the plate and stand ten feet tall
Tap into your inner strength
and you will find
Things will straighten out
and you'll unwind
Never give up the ship, I say
You will sail into life soon in a better way
Patience and courage are the key
Soon you will see
With prayers in your top pocket
You will take off like a winning rocket
Believe in yourself
Place your worries on a shelf
Don't give up
Soon you'll come out



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

Boating or Paddling the Wilderness Waterway? Visit ENP First!

The **Gulf Coast Visitor Center** in Everglades National Park (ENP) is "information central" for boaters or paddlers 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 a 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.

The park website offers a downloadable trip planner for the Wilderness Waterway: https://www.nps.gov/ever/upload/wilderness_trip_planner_2009.pdf

The Everglades National Park Gulf Coast Station is located at 815 Oyster Bar Lane, Everglades City. The Visitor Center is open daily from 8 AM to 4:30 PM.

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 general information call 239-695-4111. For reservations call 239-695-4758. Reservations are accepted up to 14-days in advance of the activity date.

Local Happenings

Book Club Closed for Summer Looking Forward to Next Season



The Everglades City Book Club enjoyed a wonderful season of reading and sharing. Next season's book list is fabulous. We look forward to seeing you in November.

Below are next season's book choices and monthly hostesses:

November: Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate, hosted by Patty Huff

December: Euphoria by Lily King, hosted by Dianne Pollack

January: My Stroke of Insight by Jill Bolte Taylor, hosted by Elaine Middelstaedt

February: The Swamp by Michael Gunwald, hosted by Geri Freiburger

March: Educated by Tara Westover, hosted by Linda Williams

April: Beneath a Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan, hosted by Diann Lock

Donations Being Accepted for Independence Day Fireworks Fund

The planning has already started for the annual Independence Day Celebration in Everglades City that will take place on Saturday, June 29th.

Donations are appreciated and help fund the day's event. To contribute to the celebration, please send a check to: Everglades City Fireworks Fund, PO Box 110, Everglades City, FL 34139.

Everything You Need is Here!

Find area park info, tour guides, trail maps, restaurants, gear rentals, events, and more at www.swflgo.com

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- SOUVENIRS, GIFTS, HATS
- T-SHIRTS, FISHING SHIRTS
- SUNBLOCK,
- REC 90 FUEL (NO Ethanol)
- OIL, LUBE
- LIVE SHRIMP, BAIT
- TACKLE, GEAR
- GATOR SKIN HANDBAGS, CASE KNIVES, NOVELTIES

*** Chicken * Seafood * Gator Bites ***

OPEN DAILY 7 AM to 7 PM! 203 COLLIER AVENUE, EVERGLADES CITY, FL 34139, PHONE: 239-695-3937

Living Gulf Coast by Charles Sobczak

Dragonflies (Family Aeschnidae) Other names: mosquito hawk, darner, devil's darning needle / Status: FL=common / Life span: 7 months to 1 year, depending on the species / Length: 2-4 in. (50-101 mm) / Reproduces in standing water such as small ponds and larger residential lakes / Found: Throughout Southwest Florida



At certain times of the year, especially in the spring and early summer, massive swarms of these aerial insects will appear in upland areas such as the Bailey Tract of "Ding" Darling Wildlife Sanctuary. Literally thousands of dragonflies can be seen at once, dashing about feeding on a mass emergence of prey (commonly called "a hatch") well into twilight.

The color and pattern variations of this beautiful insect are nothing short of astounding, in many ways rivaling the sheer beauty of butterflies. They range from iridescent blue to a deep, scarlet red, to pink, and gold to jet black. Their names are equally diverse; the Emperor, Keeled

Skimmer, Azure Hawker, Roseate Skimmer and Green Darner. Watching them pursue and capture their prey, which ranges from mosquitos, moths, bees and flies, is enthralling. They are one of the most adroit flying insects in the world, capable of sharp turns, instant ascents and descents and stunning agility. Adult dragonflies are capable of propelling themselves in six directions: upward, downward, forward, backward and side to side. Only the hummingbird rivals them in flying prowess.

Worldwide, there are currently more than 6,500 species of dragonflies. Most of them live in the tropical and subtropical regions of the planet, but there are some 425 species that reside in North America. While no one has an accurate number of how many dragonfly species reside in Southwest Florida, the number is probably in the dozens.

Considered beneficial for their ability to feast on mosquitoes and biting flies, the dragonfly is revered for its swiftness and agility by the Native Americans. In Japan dragonflies symbolize "martial success." Japanese children catch large dragonflies as a game, using a thin thread or hair attached to a very small pebble. When they toss the tiny pebble up into the air, the dragonflies mistake it for prey, become entangled in the hair and fall back down to earth with the weight of the stone. The children then release them and toss the stone again, continuing the game. The jeweler Louis Comfort Tiffany used dragonflies as a motif for stained glass, with his dragonfly lamp being the most famous of all of his artistic creations.

Birds of prey, including the swallowtail kite, are known to feed on dragonflies. Their nymphs are heavily preyed upon by frogs, fish and even immature alligators. Look for them flying about over grasslands and open areas in southwest Florida. Dragonflies have three life stages; egg, aquatic larvae or nymph and adult. Eggs are laid in calm fresh waters where the nymphs are voracious eaters. They can live in this stage for months to 3 years depending on the climate. In warm climates, the lifespan of the adult dragonfly is approximately 4 to 7 months.

**For more information on dragonflies and damselflies, visit:
www.insectidentification.org**

**Charles Sobczak is a photographer and author from Sanibel Island, FL
Photo Credits: Top, Halloween Pennants mating by Hung V. Bottom:
Red Saddlebags mating by Kathy Brock**



Snook Season Closing May 1st

Attention anglers! Snook season is closing on May 1st and is not scheduled to reopen again until September 1st.

During the closed season, it is illegal to harvest snook of any size.



From Tampa Bay to Gordon Pass in Collier County, snook and redfish harvest has remained closed due to the lasting effects from red tide. However, south of the pass, harvesting is permitted. Water conditions have improved all over Florida and FWC reports no active red tide on the Gulf or Atlantic coasts off of the State.

Out of the Everglades City / Chokoloskee area, anglers have reported numerous excellent days of fishing for snook and redfish, with several fish being taken in the legal slot for harvest.

Many fish "under the slot" have been reported as well...which is a good sign for future harvest seasons.

Snook spawning season is from April to October with the most active months being July and August. Snook can live up to 20 years and grow to weigh over 50 pounds.

Snook is considered one of the best food and game fish in southwest Florida. It's lightly flavored, flaky meat, is delicious when cooked in almost any manner. Since 1957 it has been illegal to sell snook commercially, to protect the population from over-fishing.

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



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Regional News

Mexico Beach Rebuilds, Rebuffs Developers

On October 10, 2018 Hurricane Michael and its category 4 winds lashed the panhandle of Florida. Ground zero was the small waterfront community of Mexico Beach.

The storm ravaged the town of old Florida homes that were built before tighter building codes were enacted after earlier hurricanes devastated other Florida towns.

Of the 1,692 homes or condos in the town, 809 were either destroyed or severely damaged.

As soon as clean up started, developers swooped in to try and buy up as much land as possible to eventually redevelop the city in their vision.

Not so fast said Mayor Al Cathey. Refusing to change zoning to accommodate what the developers hoped for, the town, and the remaining residents, were spared what could have been a complete makeover of this sleepy little Gulf Coast town.

Today, residents are rebuilding. They are in the earlier stages, much like we were in 2018.

To stave off outsiders from taking over, and to keep corporate America at bay, residents have adopted a credo of trying to sell to locals first, if selling is what they must do.



Some would look at this and suggest that it could have been a "lost opportunity" for Mexico Beach to become a better version of its previous self. But when you look closer, you see the genius in their move to protect their unique town. Changing Mexico Beach into another cookie-cutter community does nothing but further homogenize the Florida coast.

Uniqueness is increasingly rare as investor groups snap up land, develop it and suck the money out of the community...and move on to the next opportunity.

Kudos to Mexico Beach for thinking before reacting and weighing their options carefully. To donate time or money:

Volunteer Response Center
201 Paradise Path, Mexico Beach, FL
volunteer@mexicobeachgov.com
Or call (850) 648-5700 Coordinator

Fakahatchee Strand News

Spring Fakahatchee Tram Tours April is Beautiful at the Park!

Beautiful weather makes now 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 April 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: 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 News

Another Panther Killed in Collier County

So far, 2019 has been a deadly year for the Florida Panther. As of April 16th, nine panthers have been killed in Southwest Florida.

Of the nine, six have been male and three have been females. Seven of the deaths were caused by vehicle accidents, one by intraspecific aggression and the other is unknown.

Panthers are one of two native big cats native to Florida. The bobcat is smaller than a panther and much more widely dispersed.

There are approximately 150 to 230 panthers left in Florida and they are on the endangered species list.

It is unlawful to harm, harass them in any way.

Panthers are most active at dusk and dawn when visibility is low. They travel great distances and do cross roadways in rural areas of the state.

To minimize the possibility of a negative encounter with a panther, please pay close attention while driving especially during their most active hours. If you see a deceased or injured panther, report online at myfwc.com or call 888-404-FWCC (888-404-3922). Cellular phone users can also call *FWC or #FWC, or send a text to Tip@MyFWC.com.

Card Racks at E-City Hall Feature Businesses & Attractions

There is a great 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.



We are closed for the summer. See you in October!

Open Daily: 7 am to 4 pm



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www.HavanaCafeoftheEverglades.com

EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP

Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands

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

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):

Closed for Summer. See you in October!
See our ad on page 10!

Island Café (695-0003):

6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily

Ivey House (695-3299):

7:00 am – 9:00 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

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

Right Choice Supermarket

See listing under "markets"

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

More Tide Locations On: www.SWFLGO.com!

4/20/19	Sat	4:13 AM	2.71	H
4/20/19	Sat	11:05 AM	0.39	L
4/20/19	Sat	3:41 PM	3	H
4/20/19	Sat	11:38 PM	-0.26	L
4/21/19	Sun	5:03 AM	2.53	H
4/21/19	Sun	11:45 AM	0.52	L
4/21/19	Sun	4:13 PM	2.97	H
4/22/19	Mon	12:23 AM	-0.25	L
4/22/19	Mon	5:56 AM	2.33	H
4/22/19	Mon	12:24 PM	0.65	L
4/22/19	Mon	4:48 PM	2.88	H
4/23/19	Tue	1:10 AM	-0.18	L
4/23/19	Tue	6:51 AM	2.15	H
4/23/19	Tue	1:04 PM	0.78	L
4/23/19	Tue	5:27 PM	2.72	H
4/24/19	Wed	2:00 AM	-0.07	L
4/24/19	Wed	7:53 AM	2.02	H
4/24/19	Wed	1:48 PM	0.89	L
4/24/19	Wed	6:15 PM	2.54	H
4/25/19	Thu	2:58 AM	0.05	L
4/25/19	Thu	9:03 AM	1.95	H
4/25/19	Thu	2:58 PM	0.97	L
4/25/19	Thu	7:25 PM	2.35	H
4/26/19	Fri	4:04 AM	0.15	L
4/26/19	Fri	10:16 AM	1.97	H
4/26/19	Fri	4:35 PM	0.98	L
4/26/19	Fri	8:58 PM	2.23	H
4/27/19	Sat	5:10 AM	0.21	L
4/27/19	Sat	11:23 AM	2.05	H
4/27/19	Sat	5:51 PM	0.91	L
4/27/19	Sat	10:17 PM	2.2	H
4/28/19	Sun	6:09 AM	0.25	L
4/28/19	Sun	12:12 PM	2.17	H
4/28/19	Sun	6:50 PM	0.79	L
4/28/19	Sun	11:26 PM	2.24	H
4/29/19	Mon	7:01 AM	0.28	L
4/29/19	Mon	12:45 PM	2.31	H
4/29/19	Mon	7:38 PM	0.65	L
4/30/19	Tue	12:28 AM	2.32	H
4/30/19	Tue	7:47 AM	0.31	L
4/30/19	Tue	1:15 PM	2.45	H
4/30/19	Tue	8:18 PM	0.49	L
5/1/19	Wed	1:18 AM	2.42	H
5/1/19	Wed	8:27 AM	0.35	L
5/1/19	Wed	1:42 PM	2.59	H
5/1/19	Wed	8:55 PM	0.34	L
5/2/19	Thu	2:00 AM	2.49	H
5/2/19	Thu	9:02 AM	0.4	L
5/2/19	Thu	2:08 PM	2.7	H
5/2/19	Thu	9:30 PM	0.18	L
5/3/19	Fri	2:39 AM	2.53	H
5/3/19	Fri	9:35 AM	0.45	L
5/3/19	Fri	2:32 PM	2.79	H
5/3/19	Fri	10:05 PM	0.04	L

Local Tidbits

Former Miami Dolphin Superstar Spends Time in Everglades City

Former Miami Dolphin superstar, Mark "Super" Duper, long retired from the NFL, has been spending some time with his wife in Everglades City at Everglades Isle.

Duper was one of the famed "Marks Brothers" during the Marino years from 1982 to 1992. He was considered one of the top wide receivers of his era. Duper was inducted to the Dolphin's "wall of fame" in 2003.

They were planning on a shorter stay but a mechanical issue with the motorhome extended their time here. This was their first time in Everglades City and they enjoyed the area. We look forward to seeing them again.

Everglades National Park Boater Education & Park Pass

Visitors to Everglades National Park are required to pay an entry fee to enter the park. Even those entering by boat are required to purchase a **park pass** to recreate within park limits.

Those under 62 purchase an annual pass. Those over 62 can purchase a lifetime pass. If you are a frequent park traveler around the US, there is an America the Beautiful Pass that provides entry to federal parks across the country. For information on the America the Beautiful Pass visit usparkpass.com and navigate to the appropriate pass. You can also purchase the Everglades National Park Pass which provides entry only to ENP visit YourPassNow.com. Check them both out to see which is better suited for you.

The **boater education course** will be enforced in the near future.

You can take the free class by visiting
<http://tinyurl.com/y2o7f4bz>



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Non-Denominational

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Sunday Worship Service 11:00 A.M.
Sunday School Nov. 17th – April, 9:45 A.M.
www.ever-community-church.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Condo #409 at Captains Table, 1 bed, 1 bath, fully furnished, newer appliances, new porch, windows, community pool, \$105,000 call Bill 763-443-7419.

FOR SALE: Completely remodeled mobile home with lot (9000sf) in Copeland. 2/Br, 2/Bath, large living room, open kitchen and back porch. Fenced property with large shed, city water & sewer. \$42000, negotiable. 241 Swain Street. Call 941-203-0694

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.

FOR SALE: 207 West Broadway Ave. Commercial Building with 4 office / retail downstairs and caretakers unit upstairs. Nice corner lot across from the Famous Rod & Gun Club. Great investment opportunity. Glades Realty. Call: 239-695-4299 or email us at Karen@GladesRealty.com

Business listings, maps, tour guides, area park information. Your one-stop-shop for everything Everglades is at: www.swflgo.com!

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

NEED OUTFITTER GEAR? Check out WinCar Hardware & Outfitters at 209 Collier Avenue in Everglades City. See our ad on page 4.

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 Pranged 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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Lee Cypress, Copeland, Jerome & Ochopee

We strive to present the facts accurately

We encourage contrasting points of view

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

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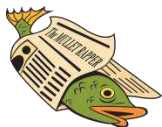
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