



The MULLET RAPPER

**AREA INFO
TIDES ~ EVENTS
RESTAURANTS**

**What's Happening in the Everglades & 10,000 Islands
APRIL 6, 2019 - APRIL 19, 2019**



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Easter is April 21st!



HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Everglades Community Church

April 14 Palm Sunday Worship
11 am (Palm Crosses will be distributed)

April 18 Maundy Thursday

Communion Service 7 pm

April 19 Good Friday Service 7 pm

April 21 Sunrise Svc-ENP, 7 am

April 21 Easter Service, 11 am

Holy Family Catholic Church

April 19 Good Friday Service 3 pm

April 21 Sunday Mass 10:30 am

1st Baptist Church of Everglades

April 21 Lords Supper Service, 11:00 am

Chokoloskee Church of God

April 21 Easter Service 11 am

Copeland Baptist Church

April 21 Easter Service 11 am



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SAWFISH NEWS, PAGE 4

New Everglades National Park Rules Being Enforced. Here Are the Requirements for Boaters Details by Scott Brunner

Effective January 10, 2019 boaters are required to have a **park pass** to enter the Everglades National Park on the gulf coast in a vessel or vehicle. This requirement is being waived for an undetermined period and the rangers are being asked to educate and inform us of the new rules as they do our normal boat checks in the park. I was checked in Lane Cove recently and this was exactly what happened.

Boaters are also required to take an Everglades Boater Education Course, which upon successfully scoring 80% or more on the exam, you will be issued a "Everglades National Park Boaters Permit" which you must have to operate a boat in the park. This permit is good for 12 months and it appears we must retake the assessment quiz every 12 months and obtain a new permit. This course is currently free. I have seen conflicting information that it may cost \$50 in the future or that it may remain free.

The park rangers are now writing tickets for boaters in the park who have not completed the Everglades Boater Education Course. Here are the links for the park pass and boater education course:

Park Pass Under 62 Years of Age
<https://yourpassnow.com/ParkPass/park/ever>

Park Pass Over 62 Years of Age
<https://store.usgs.gov/senior-pass>

Boater Education Course
<http://provalenslearning.com/national-park-service/everglades-boater-education-course>

You can also find information at
<https://swflgo.com/fishing-2/>

Copeland Resident Robert Hickok Dies of Head Injury on Fishing Vessel off of Marco Island



Robert Hickok, 54, longtime resident of Copeland, Florida was commercial fishing aboard the vessel "No Bitchin" for grouper for about a week. On March 18th, a crewmember radioed the Coast Guard that there was trouble on board, and the U.S. Coast Guard headed towards the vessel.

When they boarded the vessel, the Coast Guard found Robert Hickok unresponsive with severe trauma on his skull and determined that he had expired from his injuries.

Robert Hickok is well known in his hometown Copeland and in nearby towns Everglades City, Chokoloskee and Plantation.

In many of his photos there is a fishing pole nearby. Fishing was his passion and he was even known to take his own pole with him on commercial vessels to get some of his own fishing in when his workday was done.

In the tight Copeland community of just over 200, the news of his passing hit the community hard where many of his extended family members and friends reside.

Robert Hickok had 8 children, an older brother, two younger sisters and one younger brother as well as many grandchildren. Many members of his family live in the Copeland area, while others live in various places across Florida and out of state.

Photo submitted by Taylor Hickok

APRIL 7, 2019 — MAY 11, 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
April 7	8	9	10 Ladies Coffee Havana Café, 8a	11 Lions Club Mtg., 6 pm Book Club, See p. 8	12	13 Movie Night! Museum 5 pm, see p. 3
14 Palm Sunday	15 Tax Day	16 P & Z, 7 p Dental Bus, p.3 Reach-out, 4 p City Council, 6 p	17 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8a	18 Maundy Thursday	Full Moon 19 Good Friday (no school)	Rapper 20 Pancake Fly-in, see p. 3
21 Easter Sunday	22 Monday Holiday (no school)	23	24 Ladies Coffee TBA	25	26 Bike Ped Mtg 2 pm	27 Art-in-Glades, Museum B-day Trail Town, see p. 3
28	29	30	May 1 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8a	2 National Day of prayer	3	Rapper 4 New Moon
5	6 ESHP Mtg, 8:30 am	7 City Council Mtg 7 pm City Hall	8 Ladies Coffee TBA	9 Lions Club, 6 pm	10	11 First Responders Fish Fry, 5 pm, see p. 3

May 12: Mother's Day
 June 16: Father's Day
 May 27: Memorial Day
 June 29: Independence Day Celebration, see p. 3
 May 24: High School Graduation

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: 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 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
 (M-F: 9:30 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 4:30 pm, closed Sat. & Sun.)
 Everglades City (239) 695-2174
 (M-F: 9:30 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 4:30 pm, closed Sat. & Sun.)
 Ochopee (239) 695-2099
 (M-F: 8 am to 10 am, noon to 4 pm; Sa: 10 am to 11:30 am)

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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 presented as a Florida Trail Town by the Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Greenways and Trails. For event details visit www.swflgo.com/events.

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.

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.



Movie Night! April 13th, 5 pm

"Voices of the Glades:

Remembering Hurricane Irma"

the DEBUT of the film filmed

And produced by FGCU with

interviews by local people.

Admission is free, refreshments by

Friends of the Museum of the Everglades.

Reservations requested, call 252-5026.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

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

April 16, 8 am to 4 pm

The Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida's Health & Smiles Mobile Dental Bus will be in Everglades City on April 16th, 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 Open Saturdays

The new thrift shop is open Saturday from 11 am to 3 pm. Come see the new store located between the fire station and community center.



A Message From Greater Naples Fire Chief Kingman Schultdt

You may notice increased smoke conditions throughout our community. This is a result of many prescribed fires in our nearby State and Federal lands in the eastern portions of the county.

Prescribed fire is one of the most versatile and cost-effective tools land managers use. Prescribed fire is used to reduce hazardous fuel buildups, thus providing increased protection to people, their homes and the forest. Other uses include disease control in young pines, wildlife habitat improvement, range management, preservation of endangered plant and animal species and the maintenance of fire-dependent ecosystems.

The Florida Forest Service through the Forest Protection Bureau oversees one of the most active prescribed fire programs in the country. In an average year the Florida Forest Service will issue approximately 88,000 authorizations allowing landowners and agencies to prescribe burn an average of over 2.1 million acres each year.

Burning in Florida is governed by Florida Statutes Chapter 590 and Florida Administrative Code Chapter 5I-2. Local governing agencies may also have rules or regulations for burning, so please check with them and your local Florida Forest Service office for additional information.

Marco Riders Pedal 30 Miles for Lunch at Havana Café

Mullet Rapper Photojournalist Helen Bryan met up with a group of bikers from Marco who took advantage of the beautiful weather to take a trip to our area to have lunch at Havana Café before they close for the season on April 15th (oh no!).



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SAWFISH NEWS by Tonya Wiley, Havenworth Coastal Conservation

Entanglement of marine species in lines, fishing gear, and other debris is a problem seen with unfortunate regularity in the southeastern United States. This includes Endangered Species Act-listed species such as North Atlantic right whales, giant manta rays, sturgeon, turtles, and smalltooth sawfish. Each species is susceptible to entanglement based on their physical attributes but none more so than sawfish.

The toothed rostrum of the smalltooth sawfish could be considered one of the most unique morphological traits in any species. Yet this feature has also directly led to the species' decline. Sawfish are rays that generally swim along the sediment surface where marine debris can accumulate. The toothy rostrum is easily entangled in any debris the sawfish encounters, which can lead to injury, deformation, or death by suffocation or starvation. Sawfish entangled in a variety of man-made items including dock lines, trap lines, nets (gill nets, cast nets, trawls, etc.), fishing lines, pvc pipes, coffee cans, dog toys, and elastic bands have been reported. While strides have been made in recent years to raise awareness about sawfish entanglement, this threat continues to affect the species.

Historically, a number of commercial fisheries incidentally captured smalltooth sawfish in the southeastern United States, though none more prominent than inshore gillnet fisheries. Because juvenile sawfish rely on shallow inshore waters as nursery habitat, gillnet fisheries for mullet in these same areas resulted in extensive incidental capture of sawfish. Once entangled, the toothed rostrum was difficult to remove from nets so often these fish were simply killed as bycatch. The 1995 gillnet ban in the state waters of Florida has been instrumental in reducing the number of sawfish killed by this gear. However, illegal use of gillnets still results in mortality of sawfish.

Recently two sawfish entanglements have been highlighted on social media. In late 2018, the National Park Service reported a sawfish entanglement in Biscayne Bay National Park (see <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/saving-endangered-sawfish>). In this instance a sawfish was trailing lines from a lobster pot. Excessive entanglement can affect mobility, feeding, and thus overall fitness. If unattended, these entangled animals are likely to perish. Fortunately, park rangers were able to secure the lines, and remove



them from the sawfish.

In a separate event, the National Park Service responded to a tip that an illegal gillnet was found in the waters of Everglades National Park near Chokoloskee, Florida. Upon retrieval of the net, law enforcement discovered a dead sawfish. This example illustrates just how deadly these nets can be to this endangered species. Law enforcement is still investigating this case and has requested that anyone with information to please contact 305-242-7741.

It is a shared responsibility of all outdoor enthusiasts to keep our waters free of trash and debris, which could result in entanglement. Next time you're out on the water, do your part to pick up any trash or debris, and if you ever encounter a sawfish please let us know by calling 1-844-4SAWFISH.

*Tonya Wiley, President, Tonya@havenworth.org, 941-201-2685, www.havenworth.org
Tax-deductible donations to help us continue our mission to promote the sustainable use and conservation of marine resources through research, outreach, and education can be made at <https://www.oceanfdn.org/donate/havenworth-coastal-conservation>*

A sawfish injured from entanglement in a bungee cord. The animal was freed and swam away. Credit Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.


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A Message From Principal James Ragusa

Preparing Students for Their Future

As we are concluding this school year, planning for next year is already underway.

We are continually reflecting on how to improve our way of work to increase our effectiveness and meet the needs of every student. To meet this challenge, we have been reviewing a process of whole-school improvement that creates an environment where students can thrive as they develop college, career, and life-readiness skills. *Leader in Me* is a K-12 model implemented in thousands of schools to serve as a foundational operating system for a school.

To determine if this system is a good fit for our school, we have worked all year on a number of fronts. Many of our teachers and our Leadership Team have visited schools which are utilizing this system. Our assistant principal, Michele Wheeler, has led a book study with interested teachers. I have also shared this with community members as well as our SAC committee for their feedback. Everyone who has examined this process has been excited about the potential this initiative has to make such a tremendous difference in the lives of our students.

It is exciting to think of how this initiative can transform the school as we strive to prepare the students for their future. Students become leaders as their unique talents and genius are celebrated. Their learning extends beyond the curriculum as they develop leadership skills they will utilize their entire lives.

Our first challenge is to raise the funds to cover the cost of this initiative. The first year is the greatest expense and we need to raise \$25,000 to make this a reality. This includes the annual membership fee, staff professional development, and support from a coach from their organization who works alongside our team to ensure that implementation is effective. If you would like to assist us with this effort to bring this opportunity to our students, please contact me at the school at 239-377-9804 or by email at ragusaja@collierschools.com.

Thank you for considering this request and I believe we can make a tremendous impact on our students and community by launching the *Leader in Me* next school year.

IT IS ALWAYS A GREAT DAY TO BE A GATOR!



A Message From the Superintendent, Dr. Kamela Patton

It is hard to believe that we only have two months left in the 2018-2019 school year! We have much to look forward to as we continue through a busy time of the year.

First, I want to wish those students taking state assessments much success. We know your hard work and preparation will carry you through. Remember, make sure to get plenty of rest and a healthy breakfast every day, but especially on testing days. Also, arrive to school on time and do not plan any off-campus appointments during testing days.



Thank you to all who attended our #CCPSFamily Day at the Fair last month. It was a great evening filled with rides, food, and fun STEAM activities! Thank you to the Collier Fair for collaborating with us on this event. Also last month, we held the 2019 Spelling Bee and crowned Oakridge Middle's, Bharath Ram, as our back-to-back Champion with the winning word "s-a-b-o-t-e-u-r." Plus, our high school debate tournament resulted in Lely High taking the 1st place win, Golden Gate High placing 2nd, and Gulf Coast High taking 3rd. Kudos to all participants.

Looking ahead, we will be hosting our Virtual Symposium on Building Grit and Strengthening Resilience in Children on April 2nd at 6pm. Click here for a list of locations and more information. If you miss the event, not to worry, we will post all resources and a replay of the symposium on our District website. Also this month, we are excited to host our 6th Annual STEAM Competition at Florida Southwestern State College on April 13th. It will no doubt be an exciting day of littleBits, solar cars, and robotics!

Good luck to all students participating in academic competitions in April! Let's continue the year with phenomenal #CCPSSuccess!

School Schedule, March 2019

April 19 & 22: No School

**Kindergarten Registration Begins April 22, 2019
Secondary Registration Begins April 29, 2019**

All students, Kindergarten through 12th grade, NEW or returning to the District, must be registered using the Online Centralized Registration system. To access the system go to:

Visit: www.collierschools.com/registration

Also on the website, there is a link where you will find the list of all documents required to get your child registered.

Everglades Arts

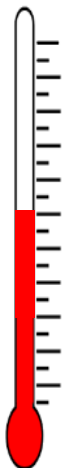
online gallery

Coastal Paintings

Varick Niles Originals

Visit galleries by appointment View on

Instagram: [everglades_arts](https://www.instagram.com/everglades_arts), varick@varickniles.com



Mullet Rapper Donations to Everglades City School in 2019 = \$774

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!

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****New Contributor****

From the Lens of Trenton Mayberry

My name is Trenton Mayberry. I am 15 years old and I am in the 9th grade at Everglades City School.

Since the day I can remember I have wanted a camera in my hand. I love sharing photos with people because everyone gets to see the beauty on our planet.

I am sharing this photo with you today because I have recently entered it into a Nationwide Art Contest.

In this photo you see the perfect shell lying among the bubbly waves on a Marco Island Beach. To see more photos like this, go to @mayberry_photography_03 on Facebook or on Instagram.



Photo: Florida Fighting Conch
by Trenton Mayberry



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Solution to March 23, 2019 Puzzle



Poetry Street
by Katherine Tullie

When things get tough and we feel we need a hand, we can look inward to our own inner strength. We can be our own winning team. That is the theme of my poem today called "Empowerment."

empowerment

Let's tap into our own strength and inner self
Place all of our worries up on a shelf
We are in charge of ourselves and our destiny, I say
As we start anew on any given day
Don't let anyone get us down
Or knock us to the ground
We are our own winning team and best friend
This is a message that I want to send
By taking control of our own lives each day
We can pave for ourselves a better way
So let's tap into our positive energy as we move on
Reaching our goals as we move along
Empowerment is the word for today
It is a powerful tool, I must say
We can make great things happen if we try
Share this energy to all that you pass by



Look for
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Area Parks
Everglades Adventure!
Paddle Sandfly Island

One of the best ways to experience the coastal mangrove zone in Everglades National Park is by canoe or kayak. Drop by the Gulf Coast Visitor Center for information on planning a day trip to Sandfly Island just across Chokoloskee Bay.

Bring your own paddle craft, or rent from one of the outfitters in Everglades City. Be sure to check the tides and wind before you go. On your paddle across the bay, you're likely to see pelicans and other seabirds. A close encounter with a dolphin, manatee, or sea turtle is also possible.

The dock at Sandfly Island is easy to find. Bring a picnic lunch and take a walk on the mile-long trail around the island. Interpretive signage introduces you to tropical plants, as well as the Calusa Indians who lived here 2,000 years ago and the settlers who farmed tomatoes in the early 1900s.

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.

For more information on programs and events at Everglades Gulf Coast Visitor Center log on to nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/calendar.

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. **Ranger scheduled activities are free.** Please download the updated list of programs at swflgo.com/big-cypress-national-preserve/.

Local Happenings

New Local Business!

Everglades Old Time Charters

Everglades Old Time Charters offers a comfortable, quiet option for fishing or sightseeing in the 10,000 islands aboard a stable, shaded pontoon boat.

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Check them out online at:
Evergladesoldtimecharters.com

Census Jobs! Starting at \$17/hr.

Hiring is still 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 April 11



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 Diann Lock at: 812-361-7402.

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

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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The Women of the Everglades

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

March is Women's History Month. And here in Everglades National Park, we owe a lot to women. After all, women first led the effort to preserve this special place back in the early 1900s.

Female conservationists and scientists have continued that legacy as caretakers and defenders of the park. Here, we highlight just a few women who have made Everglades National Park what it is today.

Women laid the foundation for Everglades National Park. Women's clubs in South Florida were influential in the creation of Royal Palm State Park, which later became the nucleus for Everglades National Park.

The Florida Federation of Women's Clubs, and particularly the Preservation Committee chairwoman, **May Mann Jennings**, began campaigning for the creation of Royal Palm State Park in 1905. It took 10 years, but finally in 1915, the park was signed into law. At the official dedication ceremony on Nov. 23, 1916, May Jennings committed Royal Palm State Park to "the people of Florida and their children forever."

The creation of a state park in South Florida made people more aware that the Everglades was special and should be protected. And it was women who accomplished this, before they even won the right to vote in the United States.

Everglades National Park owes a lot to **Marjory Stoneman Douglas** who started advocating for the Everglades in the early 1920s. She joined the Everglades Tropical Park Association to enhance the cause to create a national park in South Florida.

Her early work became the blueprint for her celebrated book, *The Everglades: River of Grass*, published in 1947, the same year Everglades National Park was established. It has become the definitive description of the natural treasure she fought so hard to protect. Through her writing, Douglas successfully rallied people to protect this unique South Florida ecosystem. Douglas advocated for the Everglades up until her death in 1998.

Betty Robertson always made birds a part of her life and translated that love to others. "Everything in the yard, she studied," Sally Robertson, Betty's daughter said. Robertson wound up in the Everglades because her husband, Bill, got a job in the park working in fire ecology. She met Bill in graduate school. She was studying for her masters in ornithology, and he was getting a PhD.

Because birds would also be a part of her life, she found a way to study them here. She and her husband studied the sooty tern seabirds in Dry Tortugas from the late 1950s until their death. Robertson's work led to the discovery that sooty terns migrate from Dry Tortugas across the Atlantic to the African coast. The birds come back to Dry Tortugas when they are about 3 years old to nest.

Caryl Alarcon works behind the scenes making sure we can see the Everglades. "I'm a visual person so when you're talking about a project, I want to see it," she said. Alarcon was drawn to geography because it provided a full picture of the story. "Geography allowed me to see people and places moving through landscapes through time," she said. Shortly after obtaining a masters in geography, she was offered a job as a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist at Everglades National Park.

When asked about what keeps her in South Florida, she doesn't hesitate in her response: Florida Bay and her job. So, it's not surprising that her favorite project was doing an inventory of the Florida Bay channel markers.

"We were out on the Bay for a whole year," she said. "The project helped me better understand the resources we are protecting, and how hard everyone at the park works in their jobs every day. It gave me a lot of respect for my colleagues."

Jean Seavey and her husband Rick couldn't stay away from the Everglades. "We came down to the park for the first time in 1967, on a honeymoon trip a few years late," Seavey said.

They would come back and visit when they could, and then officially moved here in the 1980s after they retired. But when they returned in 1984, they noticed that Royal Palm hammock was now choked with an invasive plant called shoebuttan ardisia. Seavey and her husband were horrified. They made it their priority to rid the hammock of invasive ardisia. They worked with the University of Miami to trace how the invasive plant's seeds spread in the park. They also worked with other volunteers to remove it from the Royal Palm Hammock. Their hard work paid off. Royal Palm became largely free from invasive ardisia and native plants returned.

The Seavey's have just one request for the park service: "We hope the Park Service will remember our work and not let shoebuttan ardisia ever regain a foothold in its precious hammocks."

As we can see, women first led the cause to create Everglades National Park, and they're still here making sure it's in good shape for future generations to enjoy.

Everglades Backcountry Experience with Capt. Rodney Raffield



Hi Mullet Rappers, Capt. Rodney here with some fish tales for you.

I have been crazy busy this last month with every day booked.

Fishing has been good but not quite as off the hook as my last Report.

Trout have moved out of the holes and onto the flats and around the Islands. We are also catching Trout around the oyster bars along with Snook and Reds.



Reds are running on the small side still as well as most of the Snook. But as you can see by the photo there are some good ones out there. Mr. Wiffelure and Zman paddle tails in Pearl and chartreuse continue to be the hot lures.

We are still catching Snook in the Backcountry but the numbers have decreased. Tarpon are showing up in the area with some of these fish exceeding 100lbs.

You will need some stout jigs to land these fish as they will destroy light wire hooks. So get out there and catch that big one but most of all have FUN.

Fish With Captain Rodney Raffield
Call: 239-695-4626
Online:
www.evergladesbackcountryexperience.com

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

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Collier County Votes To Limit Residential Rentals Affecting Unincorporated Collier Areas

The Collier County Commission passed a resolution 4-1 to put a limit on rentals after receiving some complaints by residents.

This ruling will affect only unincorporated Collier County areas, Cities (like Everglades City) have their own ordinances and are governed by those rules.

The ruling will put a minimum 6 month rental term for any residential home not in a designated "tourist district" in Unincorporated Collier County.

Supporters of the bill are happy because they say they are tired of the constant coming and going of people in their neighborhoods.

Detractors say it will only benefit hotels and encourage visitors to go to Lee County instead because many visitors who come for winter season prefer a home or condo, and will not want to stay in a motel or hotel for that length of time.

According to a county staff report, there are some 14,650 vacation rental listings in Collier alone. Many of the listings are on multiple websites, with the highest concentration of them in areas such as Naples Park, Pelican Bay, Pelican Marsh, Park Shore and downtown Naples.

Some municipalities do have limitations on rentals but a state law passed in 2011 prohibited counties and other local governments from regulating vacation rentals. However, those with rules before June 1, 2011, such as Collier, were considered to be "grandfathered," allowing them to keep their current regulations in place.

In 2014, the Florida Legislature agreed to tweak state law to allow local governments to pass more limited regulations, but they still can't ban or restrict how often vacation rentals are used.

Under state law, Collier County Attorney Jeff Klatzkow said there's no way to adjust the county's rules to limit rentals by the week, month or day, instead of using the more strict standard of less than six months outlined in the land development code. If they adjust the law in the land development code, they would lose the grandfather clause altogether opening Collier up to seasonal rentals (legally).

The County's rules were adopted many years ago, when county officials never contemplated such services as Airbnb and VRBO.

Vacation rentals generated more than \$8 million in tourist taxes for the county last fiscal year. Jack Wert, the county's tourism director, said it's too early to tell what kind of impact the county commission's decision will have on his budget — or the ability to market the destination year-round.

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

Rare Bird Sighting in Everglades City

By Kathy Brock



There are so many bird species one can see in Everglades City. In March we met a couple from England who stay in Everglades

City each winter, Alec & Angie McSkimming.

Each year when they visit, they go on bird-watching excursions. They stopped at my house when they noticed our hummingbird feeders and we began talking about birds and what birds they had seen on their visit this year.

During their stay, they documented 39 different species in Everglades City and 119 others around South Florida. One they did not see is the white crowned pigeon.

In my 25+ years here, I have seen one two times. Two years ago and again on March 23rd. As luck would have it, it was perched in my Norfolk pine and my camera was handy...and he cooperated.

Maybe next year Alec & Angie will get to see one!

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.



We Will Close for the Season on April 15th

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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):

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):

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!](http://www.SWFLGO.com)

4/6/19	Sat	4:05 AM	2.56	H
4/6/19	Sat	11:12 AM	0.34	L
4/6/19	Sat	3:58 PM	2.67	H
4/6/19	Sat	11:41 PM	0	L
4/7/19	Sun	4:45 AM	2.46	H
4/7/19	Sun	11:40 AM	0.43	L
4/7/19	Sun	4:13 PM	2.69	H
4/8/19	Mon	12:21 AM	-0.06	L
4/8/19	Mon	5:30 AM	2.32	H
4/8/19	Mon	12:08 PM	0.54	L
4/8/19	Mon	4:32 PM	2.7	H
4/9/19	Tue	1:04 AM	-0.09	L
4/9/19	Tue	6:25 AM	2.17	H
4/9/19	Tue	12:35 PM	0.66	L
4/9/19	Tue	5:01 PM	2.69	H
4/10/19	Wed	1:54 AM	-0.09	L
4/10/19	Wed	7:33 AM	2.02	H
4/10/19	Wed	1:03 PM	0.78	L
4/10/19	Wed	5:39 PM	2.65	H
4/11/19	Thu	2:55 AM	-0.06	L
4/11/19	Thu	8:57 AM	1.93	H
4/11/19	Thu	1:39 PM	0.9	L
4/11/19	Thu	6:30 PM	2.57	H
4/12/19	Fri	4:08 AM	-0.05	L
4/12/19	Fri	10:20 AM	1.94	H
4/12/19	Fri	3:41 PM	0.99	L
4/12/19	Fri	7:49 PM	2.47	H
4/13/19	Sat	5:20 AM	-0.06	L
4/13/19	Sat	11:36 AM	2.04	H
4/13/19	Sat	5:33 PM	0.94	L
4/13/19	Sat	10:10 PM	2.47	H
4/14/19	Sun	6:24 AM	-0.07	L
4/14/19	Sun	12:34 PM	2.19	H
4/14/19	Sun	6:44 PM	0.78	L
4/14/19	Sun	11:39 PM	2.59	H
4/15/19	Mon	7:22 AM	-0.07	L
4/15/19	Mon	1:13 PM	2.36	H
4/15/19	Mon	7:42 PM	0.57	L
4/16/19	Tue	12:50 AM	2.75	H
4/16/19	Tue	8:14 AM	-0.04	L
4/16/19	Tue	1:45 PM	2.54	H
4/16/19	Tue	8:34 PM	0.33	L
4/17/19	Wed	1:47 AM	2.88	H
4/17/19	Wed	9:01 AM	0.03	L
4/17/19	Wed	2:14 PM	2.71	H
4/17/19	Wed	9:21 PM	0.11	L
4/18/19	Thu	2:38 AM	2.91	H
4/18/19	Thu	9:44 AM	0.13	L
4/18/19	Thu	2:43 PM	2.86	H
4/18/19	Thu	10:07 PM	-0.08	L
4/19/19	Fri	3:25 AM	2.85	H
4/19/19	Fri	10:25 AM	0.26	L
4/19/19	Fri	3:11 PM	2.96	H
4/19/19	Fri	10:52 PM	-0.2	L

TAXING THINGS

by Mike the Tax Guy

As we get closer to the **April 15th filing date** for income tax and if you have not yet gotten all your information, you can file for an automatic extension to file. This will allow for more time to file up until October 15th 2019.

The request for extension of time Form 4868 which can be filed electronically or mailed.

An extension to file is not an extension to pay any tax due. If you think you will owe tax you can make periodic payments prior to the October deadline. There are a few ways to go about this:

Address with payment enclosed:

Internal Revenue Service

P.O. Box 1214

Charlotte, NC 28201-1214

Include Form 1040V, payment voucher and follow the instructions for what to write on the check.

If you are filing a Form 4868

and you are not enclosing a payment, then use this address:

Department of the Treasury

Internal Revenue Service

Austin, TX 73301-0002

Payments are usually due April 15, June 15, and September 15.

You can choose to have direct withdrawal from your checking account.

Even if you are unsure whether you owe or what the total would be, it's a good idea to make some payments since the late payment penalty is based on a percentage of the balance due.

And, of course, if you overpay you will get a refund.

Anyone needing guidance through any of this can call Mike at 239-695-0595 for assistance at no charge.



EVERGLADES COMMUNITY CHURCH

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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.

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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Lee Cypress, Copeland, Jerome & Ochoppee

We strive to present the facts accurately

We encourage contrasting points of view

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

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