

The MULLET RAPPER

AREA INFO
TIDES ~ EVENTS
RESTAURANTS

What's Happening in the Everglades & 10,000 Islands
MAY 18, 2019 - MAY 31, 2019



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Glades Building Under Contract, New Café Expected to Open

The Glades Building which was once the home of Glades Realty and Sweet Mayberry's Café has been sold.

The buyers are Craig and Bonnie Woodward, longtime residents of Marco Island and longtime homeowners in Everglades City.

The Woodwards spend weekends and any other days they can in their Everglades City home and they became interested in the property when the building was put up for sale.

The building is in dire need of renovations after several years of neglect. The couple plans on renovating the exterior, the interior and redesigning the landscaping. The goal is to have the business open in time for the winter season.

Since the closing of Mayberry's there has been a need for another small café to serve the locals and visitors in our area.

Their current plan is to open a breakfast and lunch café. One of their daughters and grandchildren will relocate to the area full time to run the business and oversee operations.

We are very happy to learn that the building will be undergoing some much needed TLC. We look forward to spending a few afternoons sipping coffee at the Glades Building again.

Everglades City May 2019 City Council Meeting Highlights



There were some interesting moments during the City Council meeting held on May 7th.

Collier County Sheriff Officer Lt. Adam Hall reported that there was one Part 1 Burglary in town (breaking & entering, ransacking property) in the month of April. During the month, the department sent 340 extra patrols, had 28 traffic stops, 6 details and 6 public assists. There were 4 "suspicious incident" reports.

Fire Chief Kingman Schuldt reported that funding for the I-75 based fire station was finally approved after several attempts and 7 months of lobbying in Tallahassee. The budget was approved at \$1.4 million per year, which is less than the \$1.6 million requested. The department must also contribute 10% (\$140,000) of their own funds for the station, but the Chief expressed relief that the funding is finally in place to keep the station open. Had funding not been secured, the team in Everglades City would have been responsible for calls on 75 in Collier County increasing response time on the highway and potentially in Everglades City, Chokoloskee and surrounding areas. We are thankful Chief Schuldt was able to get the job done!

Deb Logan, Executive Director of the Southwest FL Blue Zones Project in Collier County gave a presentation about bringing Blue Zones to Everglades City and the surrounding areas. Blue Zones promotes healthy eating by encouraging restaurants to add healthy options on their menus and encourages people to get outdoors and get moving. All participation is optional and there are no obligations if you do choose to participate. Blue Zones has helped Collier County become one of the top 10 healthiest places to live in America.

The contract with Century Link for the controversial tower replacement / potential tower relocation was also on the agenda. The much-debated topic that has frustrated many residents was unanimously approved as a replacement back in the center of town despite the fact that one year is still remaining on the current contract.

The City saw no reason to continue looking at other location options. During the discussion Councilman Tim Smith stated that "he does not even notice it anymore". No member of the Council opposed a new tower being erected in the center of town and voted to execute a new contract now (for 45 years) rather than wait until the existing contract expires in just over one year. The City will receive \$2000 per month and a \$10,000 lump payment to go towards attempting to mask the large structure with landscaping that will be surrounded by a tall chain-link fence in the town circle.

Assistant City Attorney Zach Lombardo provided an update the City's effort to obtain a grant to help fund the construction of a new sewer plant. The city was not successful in their efforts to obtain funding despite traveling to Tallahassee to make their case. Lombardo stated that the City will now focus on applying for other grants made available for areas impacted by Hurricane Irma.

In other news, Lombardo said the City is awaiting a response regarding the lawsuit with Viola (the former company that managed the sewer and waste water system). The two sides do not agree on what the City actually owes the company which is the basis of the lawsuit. US Water is the now the firm the City is using for the management of the sewer and waste water plant.

A Workshop will be held on May 21 at 6:30 pm to discuss the street lights. A Planning & Zoning meeting will be held on May 21 at 7 pm. The next City Council meeting will be held on June 4th at 7 pm.

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MAY 19, 2019 — JUNE 22, 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
19	20	21 Dental Bus, p.3 Wkshop, 6:30pm P&Z 7pm City Hall	22 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8a	23	24 High School Graduation, Gym, 5 pm	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8a	30	31 Bike Ped Mtg, 3 pm	Rapper JUNE 1
2 New Moon	3 ESHP Mtg 8:30 am	4 City Council Mtg 7 pm	5 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8a	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8a	13	14	Rapper 15
16 Father's Day	17 Full Moon	18	19 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8a	20	21	22

June 29: Independence Day Celebration, see p. 3
 July 4: Independence Day
 September 1: Snook Season Reopens
 September 28: Blessing of the Fleet

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: No meetings until fall
 MUSEUM: Open Monday-Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm. 239-252-5026
 PANCAKE FLY-IN: Closed for summer
 REACH OUT: 3rd No meeting until fall
 SKATING RINK: Now open! Fri. & Sat. 6 to 9 pm
 SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily 11 am to 4 pm, 239-695-2989
 THRIFT SHOP: Open Tuesday & Saturday 11 am to 4, 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:

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 Everglades City (239) 695-2174
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 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

FATHER'S DAY IS JUNE 16TH
Plan a day together and create some nice memories!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
THE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION IS JUNE 29TH
DONATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR FIREWORKS FUND



The planning is underway for the annual Independence Day Celebration in Everglades City that will take place on **Saturday, June 29th.**

In addition to the amazing fireworks that we all look forward to, the day is filled with fun things to do with the entire family, and Art-in-the-park!

Here is the schedule of events:

- 10:00 am: Opening Ceremony**
- 10:30 am: Parade, "Hats off to America" is the theme this year**
- 11:00: Booths open at McLeod Park - Art-in-the-Park**
- 11:30: Parade winners announced, contests for the kids**
- 12:30 pm: Raffle winners announced**
- 9:00 pm: Amazing fireworks!**

Everyone is invited to attend and all of the day's events are free. There will also be hotdogs and refreshments available. Donations are appreciated and help to fund the day's event. To contribute to the Independence Day celebration, please send a check to: Everglades City Fireworks Fund, PO Box 110, Everglades City, FL 34139. You can also use the donation boxes around town. The business with the most collected will be awarded a trophy! All donations are needed and appreciated. Thank you!

BLESSING OF THE FLEET



Saturday, September 28th

Planning for the annual blessing of the stone crab fleet is underway. The event will be held at the historic Rod & Gun Club in Everglades City. The full schedule of events will be included in future editions.

Everglades City School's High School Graduation is May 24th

Join us on **May 24th at 5 pm** at Everglades City School to celebrate our graduating seniors. The graduation ceremony will be held in the gymnasium. Please plan on arriving a bit early to get seated before the ceremony. *Go Gators!*

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.



A Message by Fire Chief Kingman Schuldt

May 5-11 was National Hurricane Preparedness Week. According to initial hurricane predictions from hurricane experts, the 2019 season is expected to be slightly above average with a total of 14 named storms predicted, seven of which are expected to be hurricanes.

Florida is one of the most impacted states from hurricanes. In fact, the entire state is susceptible to hurricane damage. Because hurricanes can impact a large area in a variety of ways, it's important to determine the risks based on where you live. Determine today what types of wind and water hazards could happen where you live, and start preparing now.

It's important to take appropriate preparedness action. Have an emergency plan long before any storm threatens our community. Hurricane season runs from June 1-November 30 with the most active part of the season typically in late August & September. However, hurricanes have wreaked havoc as early as June and as late as November. Be sure to constantly monitor the latest weather information throughout this upcoming hurricane season.

Here are a few tips to prepare ahead of hurricane season:

Know your zone: Find out if you live in a hurricane evacuation area by contacting Collier County Emergency Management.

Put together a basic emergency kit: Check emergency equipment, such as flashlights, generators and storm shutters.

Write or review your family emergency plan: Before an emergency happens, sit down with your family or close friends and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go, and what you will do in an emergency. Keep a copy of this plan in your emergency supplies kit or another safe place where you can access it in the event of a disaster. Start at the ready.gov emergency plan web page.

Review your insurance policies: Review your insurance policies to ensure that you have adequate coverage for your home and personal property.

Understand National Weather Service forecast products, especially the meaning of NWS watches and warnings.

Review preparation tips for your home from the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes.

Review preparation tips for those with Chronic Illnesses.

Editors Note:

**Florida Becomes 46th State to Enact Cancer Bill for Firefighters!
It's About Time!!!**

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Thank You First Responders! We are Safe Because of You!

On Saturday May 11, Mayor Howie Grimm honored the area's first responders with the annual First Responders Fish Fry. Delicious fried grouper, baked beans, macaroni salad, slaw and cake was enjoyed by all!

Many from the community came out to share the evening and to say "thank you" to the men and women who risk their lives to make our lives more safe. Mayor Grimm and City Clerk Dottie Joiner were on hand to personally thank each and every one of our area's finest!

Thank you to our local first responders, and thank you to all of the men in women who work to keep our communities and country safe.

Because of You We Can Sleep Soundly at Night!

Below are some photos taken by Helen Bryan during the Fish Fry celebration.



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A Message From Principal James Ragusa

Exciting Times Ahead

We are only a few days away from the end of another school year and it feels like the year flew by. This is always an exciting and stressful time for students as they are finalizing their grades for the second semester while looking forward to the relaxing days of summer.

Graduation this year is on Friday, May 24th at 5:00pm in the gym. Doors will open at 3:30pm. It is truly an awesome event as so many families and members of the community come to celebrate this rite of passage with our seniors. This year's class is one of the larger classes we have had in recent years as 17 students are currently slated to receive their diploma.

We have great news regarding our Leader in Me initiative as well. Due to the fundraising efforts of Craig and Bonnie Woodward, we have 80% of our goal raised at this point! We are now able to begin this process when teachers return in August so our students will benefit from this transformational school model.

A special thanks to Craig and Bonnie for their dedication to our school and community!

IT IS ALWAYS A GREAT DAY TO BE A GATOR!



Graduation is Friday, May 24th!

Where: Everglades City School Gym

Time: 5:00 pm

Everyone is Invited to Celebrate Our Graduating Seniors!

Mullet Rapper Donations to Everglades City School in 2019 ~ \$1060

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!

Lady Gators Outstanding Accomplishments



Each year the Florida Athletic Coaches Association (FACA) recognizes superior student athletes in all sports. FACA selects an outstanding softball player and coach from each district and class to be represented in the selection of the Florida Miss Softball & Softball Coach of the Year awards.

Everglades City School is in District 18 and our classification this year is Independent. We are honored to announce that this year, freshman, Alycia Kibodeaux was selected as the District 18 Independent Class softball Player of the Year and Coach Jill Whitcomb was selected as the District 18 Independent Class Coach of the Year! Coach Whitcomb and Alycia will be placed on a statewide ballot along with all the other FACA district candidates. FACA members and sportswriters from around the state will then select the top players and coaches in each classification.



FACA also selects an All-Academic Team. Softball players must have at least a 3.0 GPA in order to be recognized to the FACA All-Academic Team. We are pleased to announce that four Lady Gators received the honor of being named to the FACA All-Academic softball team. Freshman Taylor Dahlke, who is a four sport athlete, leads the team with a 3.8971 GPA. Taylor is also captain of the team. She plays shortstop and pitches for the Lady Gators. Sophomore Kimberly Valle has a 3.8876. Four sport athlete, Morgan Herrin was also selected with her 3.6025 GPA. To round out the All-Academic team from Everglades City School, three sport athlete, Alycia Kibodeaux maintains a 3.52 GPA!

Congratulations to our outstanding student athletes for all their accomplishments this season!

Pictured top, left to right: Kimberly Lopez Valle, Alycia Kibodeaux, Morgan Herrin, Taylor Dahlke. Pictured bottom: Alycia Kibodeaux.

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From the Lens of Trenton Mayberry
 "Air plant on Driftwood"



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 in our planet.

In this photo you see a Quill Leaf Air Plant on a piece of drift wood hanging on a white fence by Trail Lakes Campground. To see more photos like this, go see my Instagram or Facebook @mayberry_photography_03.

Trenton Mayberry lives in Everglades City and is a student at Everglades City School. Trenton is in 9th grade and is 15 years old. See more of Trenton's work at the Museum of the Everglades in the Everglades City School students collection.



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Solution to May 4, 2019 Puzzle



My Little Slice of Paradise
by Kathy Brock

I love being outside working in the garden. For most of my life I have been a garden person. I find tinkering in the garden relaxing. It is a way to lessen stress and forget about all of the other noise in life, that is, most of the time.

Recently (like right now!) I had a bit of a garden setback. I broke one of the rules in gardening, wearing gloves. I am pretty diligent about wearing them. I know the risks of getting cut or picking up some kind of infection from the dirt. But sometimes it is inconvenient and I break my own rule...and now I am paying for it with some kind of nasty funk on my finger. I will be heading to my third doctor appointment in one week to try to get it under control.

Everything around us has some good and not so good bacteria in it or on it. The soil is full of different types of bacteria and fungi. Animal waste, stagnant water, and different strains of strep virus all live in the dirt, and most of the time, our bodies can fight off whatever is in there. Most of the time.

If you have open cuts or punctures it can allow the bacteria or fungus in and then it starts it rapidly spreading. The reason bacteria and fungi spread so quickly is because the cells replicate, meaning 2 becomes 4 which becomes 8, then 16, and so on. Of course when you are working outside, getting cut or punctured by a plant is very common, which is why gloves are so important.

Hopefully, what I have is something they can treat once it is properly diagnosed. There is no way to be absolutely certain about when or how it happened, so I can provide little insight. But I do know I was gardening, it showed up and here I am waiting on my next appointment.

I am guilty of breaking more than one rule of gardening too. When you do get cut or punctured, you really should immediately clean it out and apply some type of antibacterial ointment on it. Of course, I did not do this either. I have been cut hundreds of times and have rarely sprang into action to clean the wound and apply ointment to it. I will usually do this after I am done with my gardening chores.


The last time I went through something like this it was over two decades ago. Twenty years has a way of softening your response to things. I grew complacent because I was fortunate that nothing bad happened as a result of my failure to protect myself. Now I am back in full protect mode!

It's sad that it often takes something bad to change a behavior. You would think just knowing that something *could* happen that you'd take the cautious route. Not me. I have been lucky, not smart. New day, new perspective!

So today, I pledge my allegiance to gloves. Not cotton gloves, the ones with water repellent rubber. I will never minimize the importance of them again (I hope!). I will wear them even when it is hot, and I vow to go inside to clean my wounds as they happen. I even have a new slogan, MAWGA. Make America Wear Gloves Again!



Island Life Recipes
Squash with Dill & Lemon
By Kathy Brock



Ingredients:

- 2 zucchinis, sliced
- 2 yellow squash, sliced
- 1/4 cup butter (half stick)
- 2 teaspoons dried dill weed or 2 sprigs fresh dill
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- Salt & pepper to taste

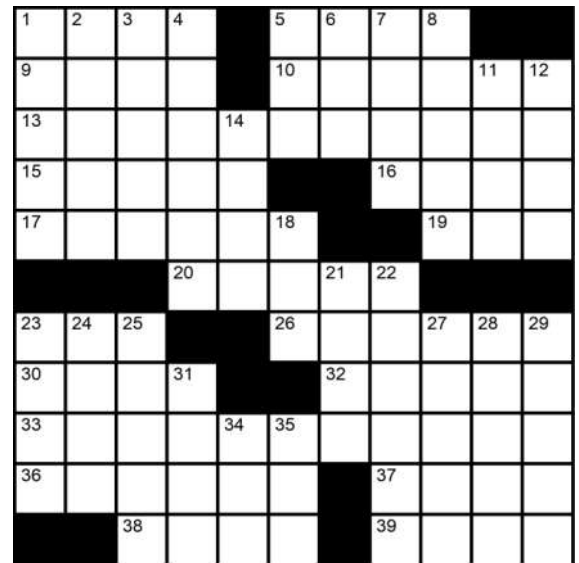
Directions:

- Peel squash (if desired) and then cut into 1/4 inch slices. You can use any type of squash you want, it looks pretty when you mix the green and yellow! Melt the butter in a saucepan, add the sliced squash. Cook over medium heat until it is fork tender.
- Add in the dill, lemon juice and salt & pepper and heat through for about 5 minutes.
- Serve as a side with any of your favorite dishes. This dish has a pleasant, unique flavor. When you do this for the first time, make sure you do not overdo it on the dill which can be a strong flavor. You can always add more. Enjoy!

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

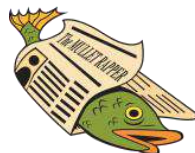
Across

- 1 Feeling of hunger
- 5 "Four Weddings --- Funeral"
- 9 Operatic solo
- 10 Boxer George
- 13 Unfortunate
- 15 Mournful ring
- 16 Emerald, ruby, sapphire
- 17 In peril
- 19 Fink
- 20 We eat them on birthdays
- 23 Not on
- 26 Old capital on the Vistula
- 30 Sign of a roof leak
- 32 The first Mrs. Trump
- 33 A shared characteristic, if common
- 36 Inactive state
- 37 Baseball team composition
- 38 Kind of year
- 39 Golfing gadget



Down

- 1 Arctic garment
- 2 --- you forgetting something?
- 3 It hangs near Chad
- 4 Vampire repellent
- 5 Toward the stern
- 6 A negative
- 7 Type of queen
- 8 Fossil resin
- 11 Egyptian dancing-girl
- 12 Digs of twigs
- 14 "Born Free" lioness
- 18 Racist group
- 21 Brockovitch
- 22 Learned one
- 23 Chances
- 24 You make notes on it
- 25 Last edition
- 27 --- Holmes, a Tom Cruise ex
- 28 One- --- (basketball defense strategy)
- 29 Merchandise
- 31 Sit for a portrait
- 34 Airport in SE Florida
- 35 Web service co.





Poetry Street
by Katherine Tullie

We can be young at heart at any age. If we look beyond the wrinkles on somebody's skin we can see the true person inside. Young and old have many things in common. That is the theme of my poem today called "Age Connections."

No matter what their age
People can be on the same page
It matters not how old we are
chronologically
Our attitude is what matters logically
For it is what is in our heart
That gives us a jump start
We can be young at heart at any age, I say
Age connections can
bring people together every day
It is not the amount of wrinkles
on one's skin
It is more important to look within
When we look inside someone's
heart and soul
You may find that they aren't very old
Much in common can be found
The similarities can
knock you to the ground
Never judge a book by the cover, I say
The pages within the book
may pave the way
Seeing with our heart and soul
Can change our lives
whether we are young or old!



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Area Parks & Recreation
Kids Can Become Junior Rangers!



Explore, Learn, and Protect. That's the motto of the National Park Service **Junior Ranger program**. When you visit Everglades National Park with children, drop by the

Visitor Center and ask for a Junior Ranger book. It's filled with fun activities that help kids learn about the Everglades Ecosystem.

When kids complete the requirements, they earn a junior ranger badge, just like the badge proudly worn by our park rangers. The program is designed for kids ages 8 – 17, but is open to all who are young at heart.

The Gulf Coast Station is located in Everglades City at 815 Oyster Bar Lane. 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! Protecting

over 729,000 acres of this vast swamp, Big Cypress National Preserve contains a mixture of tropical and temperate plant communities that are home to a diversity of wildlife, including the elusive Florida panther.

For general information call 239-695-4111. For reservations call 239-695-4758.

A Local Experience

Monster Sail Catfish Caught Behind Fisherman's Cove



Kamryn Waldron reeled in this monster catfish while fishing behind Fisherman's Cove.

Her parents are Michelle and Craig Waldron and they sent us this photo!

Kamryn is pictured with the fish and their neighbor Calvin Close who helped her get the fish safely off the hook and back into the water to grow even more!

Need Area Information? Everything You Need is at www.swflgo.com

Find area park info, tour guides, trail maps, restaurants, gear rentals, events, and more!

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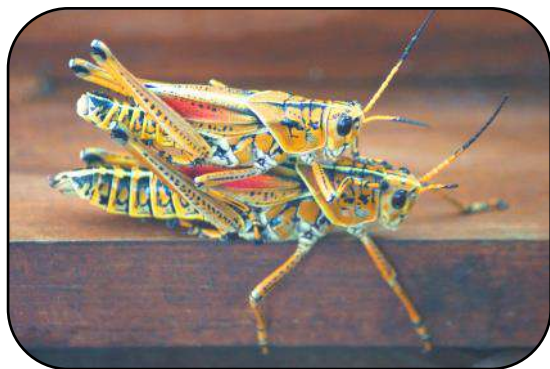
To Book a Tour Call: 239-241-1482 or Visit our Website: www.EvergladesOldTimeCharters.com

Living Gulf Coast by Charles Sobczak



Lubber Grasshopper (*Romalea guttata*) Other names: eastern lubber / Status: FL=thriving / Life span: n/a / Length: 1.5-4 in. (38-101 mm) / Reproduces in the under story of uplands habitat, the immature lubbers look much like crickets / Found: Throughout SW Florida

This large, unmistakable grasshopper is brightly colored for good reason. Like many other poisonous, venomous or toxic animals, the lubber grasshopper proudly displays its bright colors as a warning to birds, snakes and other predators that it is inedible. This is the reason why these large, flightless grasshoppers are so easy to spot. When threatened, they quickly raise their wings defiantly and bubble out a poisonous froth. The can also shunt poisons from the toxic plants they eat, making them anything but a tasty snack.



Lubbers are herbivores, dining on various leaves, berries and grasses. The immature lubber is black with yellow markings and looks very similar to an oversized cricket. The primary cause of lubber mortality does not come from the outside, but from within. Lubbers appear to be especially vulnerable to parasites that consume the grasshopper from the inside out. The loggerhead shrike, a predatory passerine bird in

Florida, has learned to impale lubbers on barbed wire fences or other spikes and wait until their poisons dry out before dining on them. Look for large lubbers in the late summer and fall in dry, inland habitats.

There are more than a dozen species of other grasshoppers in SW Florida and scores of species in Florida, and more than 11,000 species worldwide. They are commonly eaten in Mexico, Africa and China. The most notorious of this species are locusts, whose massive swarms decimate crops in the Sahal of Africa as well as throughout Central and South America.

Velvet Ant (Family Mutillidae) Other names: cow killer, cow ant, red velvet ant / Status: FL=stable / Life span: 50 to 60 days, varies with different species / Length: 0.5-0.75 in. (12-19 mm) / Reproduces by means of parasitic behavior on bee and wasp larvae / Found: UA, IW.

The velvet ant is not an ant at all. It is a wasp, and only the females are wingless. A male velvet ant looks far more like a traditional wasp than does the female. In fact the two sexes can vary so much visually, that unless they are caught in the act of mating, most people would never consider them to be part of the same species. The scientific term for this is called sexual dimorphism.



The female velvet ant is covered in a heavily textured hair-like material that grows out of an extremely tough exoskeleton. The reason for this insect version of armor plating is that she is a parasitic insect. The female velvet ant lays her

egg on the mature larva of both bees and wasps, and because she is constantly invading hornet and bees nests, she can be stung repeatedly in her attempts to propagate. When her eggs hatch the larvae kills and eats the host pupa.

There are more than 5,000 species of this flightless wasp worldwide, with more than 400 in North America alone. They are not common on the islands but can be spotted crossing shell roads or along the bike paths where they look like oversized red and black ants. Velvet ants are not aggressive but will deliver a nasty sting if provoked. They are taken by birds, lizards and snakes but because their sting is quite nasty, not as often as more defenseless insects. *Photo of lubber grasshoppers by Hung V Do*

Charles Sobczak is a Sanibel author whose works include the novel Six Mornings on Sanibel, and two local guide books, Living Sanibel – A Nature Guide to Sanibel & Captiva Islands and The Living Gulf Coast – A Nature Guide to Southwest Florida.



Fishing in the 10,000 Islands With Captain Mike Merritt

Well, I got back from my lodge in Brazil April 30th. I started fishing on May 2nd and have been out everyday since.

The Snook fishing has been great! Big fish are coming out of the backcountry and feeding around the islands. Bait has been plentiful and the fish are fat.



Top water lures in the morning makes for some exciting action. But a jig is also producing some nice fish. Of course, live baits are working

too.

Tarpon are still around and some of the fish we are catching are 150 lbs. They are on the outside also, and the incoming tide seems best. Tarpon are being caught on a variety of lures and bait, from buck tails to live crabs.

Reds are still biting but they are not as plentiful as they were before I left for Brazil. I have been catching a few good sized fish but mostly small 16"-17" fish. It is nice to see all the undersize fish.

Seatrout are also still on the grass flats but with all the winds still blowing it is hard to fish for them most days. We are also catching Trout on the bars and in some deeper holes while Snook fishing. The weather is great and I am enjoying the bite!

Rains are starting and things will continue to change. If you not sure what to fish right now, cast a jig!

*Good Luck Fishing this month!
Capt. Mike Merritt*

Fish With Captain Merritt:
Call: 561-252-4324
Email: snookfishing1@juno.com

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

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Local Businesses Are Beautifying!

By Patty Huff

Ever since Irma hit us almost two years ago, we've been cleaning up our homes and yards. In my case I changed a few things with our landscaping. Almost every one of our palm trees survived but we lost a lot of small plants. Instead of putting the same flowers and bushes back where they were, I converted our entrance way with a more open view (we had lost the arbor that had been there for 25 years in the storm) and installed a new walkway.



Businesses around town have been doing the same, changing (rather than replacing) their landscape and entrance ways to make them

more attractive. Just look around: Carol Foss immediately got to work on the inside of Island Café in order to open as soon as possible and she repainted and added bushes around the outdoor garden area.



Richard Wahrenberger has new landscaping in front of City Seafood that really makes the entrance look great.



Orlo Hilton at Triad is always outside watering and taking care of their vegetable and flower pots. The potted plants really add

quite a bit of charm to the entrance of Triad Seafood.



Carolyn Thompson has new rocking chairs and potted plants on the WinCar Hardware Store "front porch" that really give a

country store feel to the front entrance. In the next issue we'll highlight more stores and businesses around town that are continuing to make our town beautiful!

We are so proud of our local businesses. Thank you for making our little city more beautiful!

Fakahatchee Strand News

**Spring Fakahatchee Tram Tours
May is Beautiful at the Park!**

May is 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 May 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 through May.

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.

**Naples Daily News Selects Clay Story as Student of Distinction
(From NaplesNews.com)**

Last year, Claybrook "Clay" Story drove to the nearest U.S. Marine Corps recruitment center without telling anyone where he was going.

"I just Googled the closest recruitment center," said Story, 18, who will graduate from Everglades City School this month. "After I got out (of his recruitment meeting) it was kind of like, 'Oh wow, I did that.'"

He enlisted that day. He's ready to leave Everglades City. Story said he doesn't want to look back.

"This was something new," Story said.

Everglades City School's pride in Story and his choice to join the Marine Corps are two reasons the school selected him as its 2019 Graduate of Distinction.

"Claybrook Story has had to overcome some challenges but has been a very good student. He was successful in dual-enrollment classes so college was an option, but he is taking a different path," Everglades City School principal James Ragusa wrote in an email to the Daily News. "We are very proud of Claybrook. He is a great representative of EVG (Everglades)."

In the June 1 Edition the Mullet Rapper will feature the entire graduating class of 2019!

1st Baptist Church Starts Educational Series

**"The Apostles Doctrine"
A 22-Week Series
Wednesday Evenings
@ 6:00 PM**



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



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EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP

Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands

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

Camellia Street Grille (695-2003):

11:00 am – 9:00 pm daily

City Seafood (695-4700):

8:00 am – 10:00 am; breakfast
Noon-6pm Lunch & Dinner

Glades Haven Marina (695-2091):

Deli Closed. Marina is open.
Live bait available at marina

Havana Café (695-2214):

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 M—Thurs 10-4
Open Fri, Sat, Sun 10-5

MARKETS

Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535):

Open 7 days, 9 am to 7 pm

Grimm's Stone Crab (695-3222):

Closed Until October

Fresh Produce

Right Choice Supermarket

See listing under "markets"

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

Chokoloskee Family Church

Sunday: 10 am Sch., 11 am Worship
Sun. 6 pm & Wed. 7 pm Bible Teaching

Copeland Baptist Church

Sunday: 10 am School, 11 am Worship

Everglades Community Church

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

1st Baptist Church of Everglades City

9:45 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship
6 pm Sunday, 6 pm Wed. Bible Study

Holy Family Catholic Church

Closed for Summer, See San Marco

St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples

Phone: 239-417-2084

San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl.

239-394-5181

BARRON RIVER TIDES

LAT: 25.87° N LONG: 81.37°W

More Tide Locations On: www.SWFLGO.com!

5/18/19	Sat	3:24 AM	2.56	H
5/18/19	Sat	9:58 AM	0.56	L
5/18/19	Sat	2:37 PM	3.1	H
5/18/19	Sat	10:36 PM	-0.28	L
5/19/19	Sun	4:10 AM	2.46	H
5/19/19	Sun	10:38 AM	0.64	L
5/19/19	Sun	3:08 PM	3.11	H
5/19/19	Sun	11:20 PM	-0.31	L
5/20/19	Mon	4:57 AM	2.35	H
5/20/19	Mon	11:19 AM	0.72	L
5/20/19	Mon	3:40 PM	3.05	H
5/21/19	Tue	12:04 AM	-0.28	L
5/21/19	Tue	5:46 AM	2.25	H
5/21/19	Tue	12:00 PM	0.79	L
5/21/19	Tue	4:15 PM	2.94	H
5/22/19	Wed	12:49 AM	-0.2	L
5/22/19	Wed	6:36 AM	2.18	H
5/22/19	Wed	12:42 PM	0.86	L
5/22/19	Wed	4:56 PM	2.78	H
5/23/19	Thu	1:34 AM	-0.09	L
5/23/19	Thu	7:29 AM	2.13	H
5/23/19	Thu	1:27 PM	0.92	L
5/23/19	Thu	5:46 PM	2.6	H
5/24/19	Fri	2:24 AM	0.03	L
5/24/19	Fri	8:25 AM	2.13	H
5/24/19	Fri	2:27 PM	0.96	L
5/24/19	Fri	6:51 PM	2.42	H
5/25/19	Sat	3:20 AM	0.16	L
5/25/19	Sat	9:20 AM	2.17	H
5/25/19	Sat	3:51 PM	0.96	L
5/25/19	Sat	8:13 PM	2.27	H
5/26/19	Sun	4:20 AM	0.27	L
5/26/19	Sun	10:10 AM	2.24	H
5/26/19	Sun	5:07 PM	0.88	L
5/26/19	Sun	9:32 PM	2.18	H
5/27/19	Mon	5:17 AM	0.35	L
5/27/19	Mon	10:56 AM	2.33	H
5/27/19	Mon	6:07 PM	0.75	L
5/27/19	Mon	10:41 PM	2.15	H
5/28/19	Tue	6:09 AM	0.43	L
5/28/19	Tue	11:39 AM	2.44	H
5/28/19	Tue	6:57 PM	0.6	L
5/28/19	Tue	11:47 PM	2.17	H
5/29/19	Wed	6:56 AM	0.5	L
5/29/19	Wed	12:18 PM	2.56	H
5/29/19	Wed	7:42 PM	0.42	L
5/30/19	Thu	12:47 AM	2.22	H
5/30/19	Thu	7:39 AM	0.56	L
5/30/19	Thu	12:53 PM	2.67	H
5/30/19	Thu	8:23 PM	0.24	L
5/31/19	Fri	1:38 AM	2.29	H
5/31/19	Fri	8:19 AM	0.61	L
5/31/19	Fri	1:24 PM	2.79	H
5/31/19	Fri	9:02 PM	0.06	L

Taxing Things

by Mike "the Tax Guy" Klein

Record Keeping for Small Businesses
Small business owners should keep good records. Whether they cut hair or cut lawns, keeping good records is an important part of running a successful business.

Here are some questions and answers to help business owners understand the ins and outs of good record keeping.

Why should business owners keep records? Good records will help: Monitor the progress of their business, prepare financial statements, identify income sources, keep track of expenses, prepare tax returns and support items reported on tax returns

What kinds of records should owners keep? Small business owners may choose any record keeping system that fits their business. They should choose one that clearly shows income and expenses. Except in a few cases, the law does not require special kinds of records.

How should businesses record transactions? A good record keeping system includes a summary of all business transactions. These are usually kept in books called journals and ledgers, which business owners can buy at an office supply store. All requirements that apply to hard copy books and records also apply to electronic business records.

What is the burden of proof? The responsibility to validate information on tax returns is known as the burden of proof. Small business owners must be able to prove expenses to deduct them. How long should businesses keep employment records? Business owners should keep all records of employment taxes for at least four years, and they should keep tax records for three years.

Call Mike: 239-695-0595



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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: Concrete Block Home @ 1213 Chokoloskee Dr. Chokoloskee. 2Br. 1.5 Ba Ground Level Home that has never been Flood, Small screen front porch & large screen side porch. 960 sq. ft. On corner lot. Can be seen on Zillow & Trulia with photos. Asking 174,900. Call: 813 763 1944.

JOB: Miami-Dade Auxiliary Airport Specialist. Full-time, great benefits. For details: <https://swflgo.com/airport-job/>

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

FOR SALE: Canal front vacant lot on Lopez Ln, Chokoloskee. Quick & easy access to the Chok. Bay and Gulf no bridges! A stilt home could offer views of the Bay. Zoned for homes or mfg. homes. Asking \$115,000. Glades Realty 239-695-4299 www.GladesRealty.com

RV PAD FOR RENT: In Everglades City RV park. Full hook-up, 30 amps, 25 x 35 pad, restroom, shower, laundry & rec. privileges, 55+. Quiet time 10 pm. Weekly, monthly. Call 269-214-8623 or 941-374-0277.

FOR SALE: Condo @ The Estuary. Corner unit, 2 BR 2 BA + den. Nicely furnished. Large double car garage. Boat ramp & pool onsite. Glades Realty, 239-695-4299, www.GladesRealty.com, \$274,000.

FOR 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 Rent:

FOR SALE: Newly renovated modular home on Plantation Island canal lot. Long term lease 6 month minimum. Sleeps 2-3. Call Chip @ 281-358-7884 or Bob @ 239-695-0007.

The MULLET RAPPER

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

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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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To contribute to the celebration, please send a check to:

Everglades City Fireworks Fund, PO Box 110, Everglades City FL 34139.

For more information, call Dottie at 239-695-3781.

Thank You!