

The MULLET RAPPER



**What's Happening in the Everglades & 10,000 Islands!
News, Stories, Classifieds & Tide Table**



July 10, 2021 - July 23, 2021

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P. O. Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume XIII • Issue # 394

Calling All Fishing Guides!

Captain Mike Merritt, longtime resident of Everglades City and fishing guide, is working on a project to photograph all of the fishing guides who have worked and fished the 10,000 Islands out of our area.

He is also looking for any guides who went to Everglades City School.

The fishing guides in our area are the ones who first “put us on the map”. Without them, our local businesses providing food and accommodations would have never thrived.

Those working in the background are often at least partly responsible for many of the advancements and growth that we see today.

The guides of the past, present, and future should be recognized for their contributions to our community.

If you are a guide, or if you know one, who may be interested in this project being spearheaded by Captain Merritt, please call him so he can explain the details. You can call **Captain Merritt at 561-252-4324**.

You may not hear it enough...so we will say it here again, “Thank you to all of those who have helped this community grow and prosper. The fishing guides of our area bring new people to our community that are vital to our economy and our future. The guides who share their love and knowledge of the area, and help educate others about the importance of the 10,000 Islands, should be remembered as ambassadors of the Everglades forever.

Savannah Oglesby Recognized for Excellence in Writing



Savannah Oglesby, Everglades City native and Everglades City School (EVG) Graduate, won second prize from the Association of Community Papers (ACP) for her article on the Smallwood Store which appeared in the March 5, 2020 edition of the Coastal Breeze News.

After graduating from EVG, Savannah attended the University of Florida where she obtained a degree in history. Savannah’s column in the Coastal Breeze recounts her life and stories from her hometown (Everglades City). Her in-depth knowledge of the area, coupled with her fluid and entertaining writing style is what makes her column so popular with readers.

From a very early age, Savannah had a love of writing. While still in elementary school, Savannah started writing for the Mullet Rapper in a recurring column “From Savannah’s Eyes” while she was only nine years old and in the 4th grade. Savannah continued writing for the Mullet Rapper throughout her first year of college.

Upon graduating and returning to the area, Savannah started writing a column for the Coastal Breeze News, “Growing Up in Everglades City” where she shares stories, and a fresh perspective, on our small, southwest coastal City.

We are so very proud that the little girl who started her writing career at the Mullet Rapper at the age of nine, who has become a nationally recognized, award-winning columnist!

Congratulations, Savannah. Your dedication, commitment and perseverance is something we can all feel proud of. You are a fabulous role model, and an even better human. Thank you for your contribution to our community. We look forward to reading about your future success.

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SWFL Coast tide predictions, maps, tours & more at www.visitevergladescity.com! Call us @ 954-662-7003

~ EVENT CALENDAR - JULY 11, 2021 —AUGUST 14, 2021 ~

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
July 11	12	13 City Council 7 pm (rescheduled)	14 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	15 Museum Talk. 2pm, p. 8	16	17
18	19	20 P & Z Meeting	21 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	22	23-Full Moon	July 24—Rapper
25	26	27	28 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	29	30	31
August 1	2	3 City Council 7 pm	4 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	5	6	Aug 7—Rapper Kids Event at Museum, p.8
8-New Moon	9 ESHP, 9 am	10	11 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	12	13	14

September 1: Snook Season Reopens

September 6: Labor Day

October 31: Halloween

AREA INFORMATION & NUMBERS:

AA: Wed., closed until further notice
 CARNESTOWN Recycle & Trash: 2nd Sat. of month, 9a-12p, 12:30p-2:00p
 DR DEMARTINO: Seeing patients in Marco, call: (239) 642-5552
 DR MARTIN: Call for appointment: (813)-787-9738
 LIONS CLUB: Closed for Summer
 MUSEUM: Open Tuesday-Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm, 239-252-5026
 PANCAKE FLY-IN: Closed for summer
 SKATING RINK: Open Friday & Saturday, 7 pm to 10 pm
 SMALLWOOD STORE: Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon 11 am to 5 pm, 239-695-2989
 THRIFT SHOP: Open Thursday. 11 am to 3 pm, more info on p. 3
 VETERANS SUPPORT: Wednesdays at the food pantry, 10:30am-1pm
 VISITOR CENTER: (239)-232-4037 Summer Hours Vary. Please Call!

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

AIRPORT: (239)-695-2778
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 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
 Mail pickup is at Everglades City Post Office, see times below
 Everglades City (239) 695-2174
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 Ochopee (239) 695-2099
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Thank You Donors!

Generous Donors Gave Over \$8000 to the Fireworks Fund in 2021

Many thanks to those in our community and outside of our community who donated money to the fireworks fund.

This year, the campaign raised over \$8000, which is almost two-times more than average years.

In total, the City received contributions from 37 donors including:

\$500 Donations:

**Sheryl & Tom Parman
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Woodward, Pires, & Lombardo, PA**

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Gemco Painting, Inc

\$250 Donations:

**Friends of the Museum of Everglades
Lions Foundation of Everglades**

In addition, the City also received donations of \$100 and more from 29 others, including 6 donors who were first-time donors to the fireworks fund.

And, the Winner Is....



The **BIG PRIZE:** Aaron Tabor takes home the "big" prize for best float in the parade. See more photos and details about the day on page 4 of this edition.

COMMUNITY SERVICES & INFORMATION

THE FOOD BANK IS OPEN !

Wed. 10:30 am to 1:00 pm

Food is distributed from the rear of Everglades Community Church located at 101 S. Copeland Ave., Everglades City. "This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

Thrift Store

Open Thursday. 11 am to 3 pm

205 Buckner Ave, Everglades City

Please do not leave items on the porch when we are not open. They get wet from moisture overnight and get ruined. Thank you!

Everglades Area Information

There are two brochure racks at City Hall with information about local businesses. You can visit City Hall Monday—Friday from 9 am to 5 pm.

You may also go to the area website **www.VisitEvergladesCity.com**. Here you can access our business directory by category. Each business listing provides a map and link to the business' website.

Yard Debris Pick Up

Yard debris is picked up on Thursdays. Debris must be cut into pieces 4 ft or less and tied together, or put into paper bags (not plastic). Set them in the same area as your trash bins. If you put out unbound debris, they will not pick it up.

Everglades City Hall Contact Info:

239-695-3781

**ABC Lawn Care Provides Service to Bank of Everglades Renovation Project
By Kathy Brock**

This is a shout-out to ABC Lawn Care and Mitch Blankenship for removing the trees at the Bank of Everglades building.

The palm trees around the foundation of the building needed to be removed before tenting and restoration work could begin, and ABC offered their services pro bono to the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation, new owner of the building.

We spoke to Mitch about the Bank and he told us he'd support the project in anyway he could, so ESHP asked about the tree removal around the foundation. As soon as there was a break in the rain, ABC came in and cut down the trees. The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation is very, very grateful for ABC's help and support.

ABC Lawn Care provides service in Collier County, including Everglades City, Chokoloskee and Plantation. They can be reached by calling 239-821-4101.

Visit, bookmark and share CollierVotes.gov for all election and voting information in Collier County

The Collier County Supervisor of Elections office has updated their web address to CollierVotes.gov and is encouraging the public to visit, bookmark and share this change.

The Supervisor's website is a full-service resource for voters, candidates and the general public who are looking for pertinent information about upcoming elections, voter registration, voter statistics and so much more. Visit, bookmark and share – the Collier County Supervisor of Elections' website is now CollierVotes.gov!

To contact the supervisor of elections office please call 239-252-VOTE or email Trish.Robertson@CollierVotes.gov



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Above: First Prize for "Best Float" by Aaron & David Tabor, Chokoloskee

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Photo Left: The Everglades Lions Club gets together to prepare the free lunch to those in attendance. In total, over 250 hotdogs, chips and beverages were served. Great job done by the Lions Club!



Photo Right, the flag and mounted police move through the streets around Everglades City Hall. Thank you to Helen Bryan for capturing the day in photos!

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~Adventures of the Saltwater Cowboy~ Looking a Little Green by Jon Edward Edwards



As a student of the fishing game and an all-around outdoor enthusiast, I'll jump at any opportunity for adventure, on and off the high seas. If there's one arena in which I lack professional class experience, it's offshore. So, when one of the top off shore guides in the area asked me to First Mate on a red snapper trip, I felt like I'd been called up to the majors.

I showed up at the customers' place on Marco Island, ready to rock and roll, fancy pliers clipped to my belt and all. The owners of the 35' Boston Whaler were a group of friends from Chicago. A rowdy bunch, not unlike us, just with a weird accent. (Those who know me will appreciate the irony of that statement - me referencing an accent.) These guys had come to fish, ready to rumble, expecting a meat haul. We headed out of Big Marco Pass and hammered down, the rising sun at our backs.

Several miles out, one of the guys started to look a little green. I leaned over and yelled over the noise of the engines, "Hey, Podna. You alright? Lookin a little green there. Did you take any Dramamine?" He said he hadn't. One of the other guys broke some out of his bag and gave it to him. I gave a little spiel on sea-sickness; keep your eye on the horizon, stay hydrated ... like I was a seasoned veteran. Shortly afterward, Mr. Green seemed to be alright.

Eighty miles offshore in 165 feet of water, the Captain found the snapper, and they were ravenous; big ones too. Running from the back of the boat to the front, side to side, taking them off hooks, measuring them, and either boxing or letting them go. Grouper were mixed in as well, and cobia showed up as I cut squid and herring, baited hooks, and tied snapped leaders.

Suddenly I began to feel a little puny. I tried to push through, but it got worse. My body ceased to work. I got worried, unaware of what was happening to me. Dehydration, kidney stones? I told the Captain, "Hey, Amigo. Something is amiss. If my face starts drooping, or I start slurring my words, call in a mayday, or a pan-pan ... something. Because I might be having a stroke."

Then, the gentleman I had lectured regarding the ins and out of seasickness said, "Hey, are you alright? Looking a little green there." OMG, I thought. I'm seasick ...

I had been seasick once in my life, Cabo San Lucas, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight. The former Mrs. Edwards and I were on our honeymoon, bill fishing. It's the only time I've ever caught marlin. Although, I couldn't enjoy much of it because I was sick as a dog. However, I think that was due more to the spirits the night before. Or it could have been the Mexican Xanax. And my divorce came as a shock ...

This was different. In addition to the spectacular vomit volleys, the fatigue and nausea were crippling. Although, the worst, by far, was the embarrassment. I'd blown my Big League debut. Not only could I not do my job, but now I had to be seen after.

In the name of self-preservation, I must say that I rallied a few hours later, somewhat saving face. Thankfully, the Captain is a dear friend and waited until after the charter to tell me what a jackass I am.

Since then, I take a Dramamine before going offshore and no longer give advice on seasickness.

It seems as if I have more epic fails than cosmic wins. But I'd rather shoot for the moon and miss than aim for the ditch and make it.

Jon Edward Edwards is a regional author, fishing guide, and avid sportsman. His stories often recount his adventures in and around the 10,000 Islands. Email Jon at jedmls@mac.com.



Fishing the 10,000 Islands With Capt. Mike Merritt

Well, we are getting enough rain now! We are into the everyday afternoon rains that calm the waters and cool off

our evenings. I love being out in the late afternoon after a good downpour and fish some top water lures for Snook. The Snook bite has continued to be steady and if you happen to find the fish you can get some good action on the artificials including the jigs still. The Snook seem to be in pockets so chances are if you get a couple of fish it pays to work that area thoroughly. Casting shorelines while on the trolling motor will help you accomplish this. A top water lure can be a fun way to find the fish, but if they keep missing it you need to have another sub surface lure ready.

The freshwater that is starting to flow out of the backcountry will affect the fishing as bait moves and fish adjust. Snook will thrive in this change and it can sometimes even make the artificial lures produce better! The outside Islands will continue to produce some big fish as this will continue into the fall months.

Redfish have still been scattered and I suspect that as the fresh water builds up in the back country more of those fish will make their way outside to feed. So maybe the Redfish bite will get better out in the islands. I have started to see a few more fish showing up already and this should continue.

Tarpon are still around and will be here all summer. Bigger fish should be found on the outside and even in the rivers and bays. The smaller Tarpon are still in the backcountry in good numbers, and these seem to be honed in on smaller baits—so if you want to hook up keep this in mind.

Stay alert to the weather and don't take any chances with the lightning! Enjoy the Summer bite! Stay hydrated and covered up. Be prepared for the bugs, and have fun!



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“Public-Reported Sightings Led to First Two Sawfish Tagged in Tampa Bay!”

By Tonya Wiley, Havenworth Coastal Conservation



I saw the email first thing Friday morning; a sawfish had been sighted in the Tampa Bay area. A man walking the beach in Redington Shores the day before had filmed a very small sawfish swimming in the shallow surf zone. Thanks to all the outreach and public education I've done in the area (including posting signs at fishing piers and boat ramps, manning booths at outdoor expos and fishing shows, hanging flyers at tackle stores

and bait shops, and writing these monthly Sawfish News articles for magazines, newspapers, and blogs) he knew to share the details of his sawfish observation with us and submitted the video and location information to sawfish@myfwc.com. Andrew Wooley, who facilitates the sawfish hotline for Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, promptly forwarded the email to me since the sawfish was observed in my study area.



Since reports of sawfish on the Florida Gulf Coast north of Charlotte Harbor are rare, especially of small ones, it was critical to respond quickly. I promptly loaded my car with all the gear needed to catch, measure, and tag the sawfish if we could find it; though my experience suggested this would be a proverbial needle in a

haystack situation. Adam Brame, the NOAA Fisheries U.S. sawfish recovery coordinator, and I were at the location within two hours to start our search. We hit the beach and walked in opposite directions to maximize effort searching for the tiny sawfish in the shallow, coastal water. Within minutes Adam called me, he had found it!! I raced to his location and was astonished to see this little 28-inch-long sawfish in front of me. After easily catching it in a dip net*, we quickly collected several measurements, determined it was a female from the absence of claspers at the pelvic fins, tagged her with external and internal identification and tracking tags, collected a small piece of fin tissue (about the size of a pea) for genetic analysis, and released her.

Later that night we celebrated, after all we had just tagged and released an endangered sawfish in the Tampa Bay area!! But that was not the end of the story as more good news was on the way. A couple days later we received another report of a small sawfish in nearly the same location. So, my intern Matt Bernanke and I went back to the beach and repeated the search. Luck was again on our side, and we caught and tagged this second sawfish, a 24-inch male.

Now, in addition to the dozens of sawfish colleagues have tagged in south Florida, we have two sawfish in the Tampa Bay area to track and learn from!! These transmitters will last about two years and we will hopefully get movement data when these sawfish pass within range of stationary receivers placed in the Tampa Bay area and beyond. Our receivers are but a small part of a vast network of these listening stations throughout Florida through the iTAG and FACT programs. The fin clip samples will be processed by our sawfish geneticist, Kevin Feldheim at The Field Museum, to determine if the two sawfish are siblings and to provide additional information about their relatedness to other sawfish in our U.S. research database.



To find sawfish pups north of their typical nursery areas (Charlotte Harbor to Everglades National Park) was remarkably interesting and exciting; but it also raised several scientific questions. Why were these sawfish born in the unprotected, high-energy waters of a Gulf of Mexico beach instead of the safe, calm, mangrove-lined shorelines of Tampa Bay backwater areas? Although the two sawfish were the size we know them to be when born, did the mother intend to drop her young there or did

something cause her to give birth early? Did she drop her entire litter of pups or only a few on her way to more suitable nursery habitat? Could this be a sign that smalltooth sawfish are expanding northward and are reestablishing in Tampa Bay? All are exciting questions that additional research will help us answer.

This story highlights the importance of citizen science and prompt teamwork communication; but citizen science only works when successful outreach campaigns educate the public. In this case, years of outreach in the Tampa Bay region finally paid off resulting in the multiple public reports of sawfish sightings. If you ever catch or see a sawfish anywhere in the United States, please share the information by visiting www.SawfishRecovery.org, calling 1-844-4SAWFISH, emailing sawfish@myfwc.com, or submitting the information through the FWC Reporter app. Your encounter report just might lead us to tag the next endangered smalltooth sawfish!

Photo Left: Tonya Wiley (right) and Adam Brame (the NOAA Fisheries U.S. sawfish recovery coordinator) with the first sawfish tagged in Tampa Bay, a newborn located in Redington Shores in April 2021. All research activities were performed under the authority and guidelines of NMFS ESA permit #21857. Photo by Tonya Wiley.

Photo Right: Tonya Wiley prepares to release a tagged sawfish along the beach in Tampa Bay in May 2021. All research activities were performed under the authority and guidelines of NMFS ESA permit #21857. Photo by Matthew Bernanke.

Havenworth Coastal Conservation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) project of The Ocean Foundation.

The Mullet Rapper Supports the Everglades Community and School

Each year, The Mullet Rapper hosts plant sales, and other events, to raise money for Everglades City School. Please help us support our local children by attending one of our school fundraiser events!

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If you shop on Amazon, at no additional cost to you, you can support a local charity. Three (that we have been made aware of) have been set up for charities in the Everglades area. All you need to do is click on the link and accept the charity and Amazon does the rest. Below, the links are provided:

Everglades Society for Historic Preservation:
smile.amazon.com/ch/20-2229534

Everglades Lions Foundation:
<https://www.amazon.com/b?node=15576745011>

Everglades Community Church
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-3934843>

If you have a charity that is set up on Amazon, let us know so we can promote the link in the Mullet Rapper!

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**Just When You Think You've Had Enough,
Something Else Happens**

By Pastor Bob Wallace



I was talking with someone the other day who recently suffered a stroke. It wasn't the devastating kind, but it was bad enough. During our conversation, my friend pointed out that it always seems like bad things happen when everything's going along just fine. You know how it is! You're expecting company and looking forward to their visit, when you come down with some kind of malady that causes you to have to tell them they should visit you another time because you're just too sick to see them.

Or, you've just finished making the last payment on your four-year-old car and you're stopped at a traffic light when, WHAM!!! – someone rear-ends you and they don't have insurance. Things like that happen. But you don't give up! Kids today call it "Hanging tough!" It doesn't matter how old you are. There are times when you believe you just can't handle another crisis – but you do! People all around you say how much they admire your intestinal fortitude. Which is another way of saying inner strength. Age and experience help sometimes, but I've seen older people cry just as hard as youngsters. When something hurts, or goes wrong in your life, age is no respecter of persons. It's how a situation is handled that counts.



James Lawrence was Commander of the American frigate Chesapeake engaged in battle with the British frigate Shannon 30 miles off Boston Harbor on June 1, 1813. Mortally wounded, Lawrence spoke the immortal words, "Don't give up the ship!" However, the Chesapeake was captured and Lawrence died after four days. Three months later, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry won a naval victory over the British on Lake Erie during which he flew a blue battle flag from his main mast inscribed with the dying words of Captain Lawrence – "Don't give up the ship!" That's how it should be with life! Nothing should be so

devastating as to cause someone to give up the ship. There are those inner strengths that should cause one to continue. In other words, don't give up on life!

There are lots of analogies about such situations. In football they say, "Don't fumble the ball! Especially if you are on the goal line". Sure, it takes an iron will to do what you're sometimes tempted to give up on. But that's never accomplished anything. Try dogged determination. Be determined you're going to tough it out, whatever it takes.

Which brings up another saying we've all heard or used over the years. "Tough as nails!" Nails are what hold a structure together to keep it from falling down. And so it is with determination. I've seen many people survive the most difficult situations in life, only to be successful in the end. How? By using their own sheer determination not to be defeated. And they weren't! Which just goes to show, growing old ain't for sissies. I've seen many elderly people stand up under the pressure of life far better than younger folk. They seem to have an inner strength and discipline that isn't often found today.



EVERGLADES COMMUNITY CHURCH
The Friendly Little Church on the Circle
NON-DENOMINATIONAL

101 S. Copeland Avenue, PO Box 177
Everglades City, FL 34139, 239-784-7318
The Rev. Dr. Bob N. Wallace, Pastor
◆ Sunday Worship Service 11:00 am ◆

www.ever-community-church.com

Some years ago, I came across words that have stuck with me. "As you are, I was. As I am, you will be." This relates how the older generation and the younger generation view each other. Sometimes one views the other with suspicion and contempt. The older generation often fears how the younger generation will fare in a world that will be theirs one day. The young people seem eager for their seniors to get out of the way! But life's path is one that's already been walked down by a lot of feet. All people, in all times, have faced problems, turmoil and death. That's just the way life is! So, when you think you've had enough just remember, something else is bound to happen – oft times for the bad, but many times for the good. Just don't give up the ship!

The Reverend Doctor Bob N. Wallace was called to be Pastor of Everglades Community Church March 19, 2006 where he currently serves.

**What's Happening At The
Museum of Everglades**

Event

**Third Thursday Lecture Series
Hermits of the 10,000 Islands
July 15, 2021, 2:00-3:00 pm**

The Ten Thousand Islands region has long been a magnet for those looking to "live off the grid": from runaway slaves and confederate deserters to moonshiners and armed outlaws looking to avoid the long arm of the law. But some came just to be alone – to live a simpler life. Squatting on islands, living in trailers, shacks, or hand-built homes,

Everglades hermits have carved out their own little pieces of paradise. This presentation will discuss the lives of a handful of the area's most colorful characters: Juan Gomez, the "pirate of Panther Key", alcoholic-in-exile Roy Ozmer, self-described "Phony Hermit" Al Seely, and more. A sympathetic window in the world of those who live outside of society by choice.

Seating is limited so that we are able to practice social distancing. Masks are encouraged. To attend the lecture in person, please make reservations online or by calling the museum.

Exhibit

**BANKING ON THE PAST,
SAVING FOR THE FUTURE: THE
LEGACY OF BARRON
COLLIER'S BANK OF
EVERGLADES**

**June 1- August 27, 2021
Museum of the Everglades**

This new exhibit celebrates the Bank of Everglades building—a grand neo-classical structure erected by Barron Collier in 1926. It was the only bank in Collier County for almost 40 years. The exhibit details the history of the institution, including its two previous (and far less impressive) homes and the bank's 1962 relocation to Immokalee, as well as the businesses that later occupied the space. The local effort to save and restore the structure by the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation and the possible ways the preserved structure might serve the community in the future will also be explored.

**FREE SUMMER EVENTS
for Kids At MOE**

August 7: Museum of the Everglades "Florida Fishing" 10 am to 2 pm

Please make reservations online at colliermuseums.com OR by calling the museum at 239-252-5026 during museum hours, Tuesday – Saturday. 9am-4pm. Thank You!

Living Gulf Coast
By Charles Sobczak



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliptila caerulea*) Other names: none / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=LC / Life span: to 4 years / Length: 4 in. (10-11 cm) / Wingspan: 6 in. (16 cm) / Weight: .18-.25 oz (57 g) / Nests on islands / Found : Throughout Southwest Florida.



Sometimes called a miniature mockingbird, the blue-gray gnatcatcher is similar in coloration and, like the mockingbird, loves to mimic other bird songs. Although a number of these diminutive birds are year-round residents, the population greatly increases during the winter months with the southern migration

of additional gnatcatchers. Thus, it is far easier to find this bird during the tourist season.

Of course, if you do see a blue-gray gnatcatcher, don't expect it to stay still for very long. Like many of the smaller birds, it is a hyperactive creature, flitting around the understory in a constant search for midges, gnats, spiders, and small insects. This is one of very few birds on Sanibel that feeds on the notorious no-see-um. It not only picks insects off of branches and vegetation but also can sally insects in flight.

The gnatcatcher is monogamous and a solitary nester. Because of its small size, it is vulnerable to insecticides and related chemical pollutants. It also has to deal with cowbird parasitism, wherein the much larger cowbird female lays her eggs in the gnatcatcher's nest, eliminating any chance of survival for the gnatcatcher's offspring and forcing it to rear a chick nearly 10 times the size of an adult gnatcatcher.

Condo Collapse Raises Questions About Building Inspections

By Kathy Brock

On June 24th, the unimaginable happened. At about 1:45 a.m. residents of a Surfside, Florida condo building were awakened by "banging and popping" noises. One woman called her husband who was away on business to tell him she could not sleep, and she thought she saw a big hole by the pool deck below her ocean-front condo. Moments later she screamed and the phone went dead.

In the darkness of night, over 150 people seemingly lost their lives. Most are still missing and unaccounted for, but presumed dead.

How could this happen here? Are high-rises safe? Is my building OK? These are all the questions being fielded by condo associations and local governments across Florida, and in other parts of the coastal United States.

Florida does not require mandatory inspections of condominiums. Only Dade and Broward Counties have what is known as a 40-Year recertification—meaning that a condo association in those counties must recertify their building by passing specific, visual inspections of the property. **No counties in Florida require any inspection of aging foundations.** That's a problem, and potentially a big one.

After reading countless articles about this tragedy, it is very evident to me that the technology exists to examine a foundation's strength and integrity. What does not exist is a requirement to do so.

Condominium boards are responsible for the bylaws that govern their buildings. They are the ones that vote for or against repairs and upgrades.

In the case of this building, by 2018 it was documented that a structural problem existed with the building's slab and foundation. However, this board made up of owners, who are not necessarily knowledgeable about structural engineering, decided to debate the issue for three years before finally agreeing that something had to be done...but it was too late. Their fate had been sealed.

Only two states have what one would consider "stringent" inspection requirements; New York, and California. Some others have loose rules. Florida, with hurricanes, saltwater, lots of rain, and humidity, has none.

The insurance industry has already stepped in by sending letters out to condo boards across Florida letting them know that **they** will require inspections, but this is not enough.

I do not imagine that I was the only person that did not realize that these really tall buildings on the oceanfront do not need to be inspected as they age...at all. I just assumed they did.

It is estimated that over 66% of the coastal condos in Florida were built before 1980, the same year the ill-fated Champlain Tower condominium was built. And, most condos have never had these types of inspections, unless the board tells them so.

In a changing world where many condo owners are not necessarily the condo dwellers, the board may or may not always have the residents best interests in mind...or they may simply not understand the true threat because they lack the professional expertise to do so.

Insurance companies certainly will look to offset their (now more obvious) risk by implementing more stringent rules, or by canceling policies. Floridians know about this "system" already with our costly windstorm policies and 4-point inspection requirements.

Matters of safety should be treated differently than a vote on aesthetics, painting, or new landscaping. Requiring more frequent inspections which must be made public, and become a part of a disclosure made to all potential buyers could inspire boards to act more quickly when problems are detected. Clearly, having no inspection requirement in all but two counties until the 40 year mark leaves too many condo owners in the dark...or worse.

New Proposed Land Development Code Change in Collier County Would Impact Chokoloskee, Plantation, Copeland

Collier County is considering a land development code change which would allow the development of "fishing camps and trailer parks" on parcels smaller than 1 acre. This change would effect areas currently with "Village Residential" or VR zoning. Residents are encouraged to review these changes at:

<https://www.colliercountyfl.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/96824/637527754776330000>

or call the county's growth management office at (239) 252-2406.

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The Island Life Recipes

Tasty Summer Watermelon Salad

Ingredients:

- 1/2 Watermelon, cubed (seedless is best)
- 2 cucumbers, diced
- 1 cup crumbled feta cheese
- Fresh basil
- 1 tbs. lemon zest
- 2 tbs. lemon juice



Directions: Slice and cube fresh watermelon. If you are using a smaller round one, this recipe can use the entire fruit. For very large melons, cut it back to 1/2 of a melon. Using a seedless variety makes this a much easier task! If you do not have a seedless variety, remove as many of the seeds as you can from your cubes.

Peel and dice 2 fresh cucumbers and mix with the watermelon cubes. Crumble up 1 cup of feta cheese (or purchase the already crumbled variety) and mix it into the fruit mixture. Zest your lemon and then reserve 2 tablespoons of lemon juice. Add both to the fruit mixture and top it with some prepared fresh basil.

To mix it up, you can substitute peppermint for the basil or add a bit of both. This dish is best served chilled. Refrigerate for 2 hours after preparation and keep it sealed well in the refrigerator. This salad tastes best fresh (1 or 2 days) so do not make much more than you can consume in that time frame. Enjoy!



My Little Slice of Paradise
By Kathy Brock

As I write this article, tropical storm Elsa is just leaving the coast of Cuba and is heading towards the Gulf of Mexico, and then presumably to Florida.

Meteorologists have been predicting all week that the storm will brush by the southwest coast and then head towards the Tampa Bay area. So far, that seems to be accurate.

Yes. There is a price for paradise. As we were preparing as if the experts may be wrong; bringing in plants, tying things down and securing our boat, I asked myself again, "is it all worth it?"

Yes it is. No matter where you are there is some type of risk. In the north, a severe winter storm could wreak havoc. States out west have threat of fire, mudslides and earthquakes. Coastal states deal with all sorts of bad weather and other effects from salty air, wind, and water.

Those of us who have braved these elements for years (or for a lifetime like me) are aware of the risks...and the rewards.

The sunsets, nature, and beautiful water views reward us every single day. The risks are all still there, but they are in the back of our minds only creeping out as we lug our stuff from out to in, and from the ground up.

Hopefully, in the next issue I can write about how this was all for nothing because the storm fizzled out...hopefully.

I say "hopefully" because the experts have been wrong before, and they will be again. Weather prediction is something that is not 100% accurate so being proactive in a place like Florida is one way you can help minimize your exposure and your losses.

Tim and I look at storm prep as an opportunity. A lot of the stuff you move needs to move every now and then anyway so you can clean under and around it. Other stuff you move can go straight into the trash, because you realize it isn't needed anymore. After it is all over and it's time to put it all back, we organize it a bit better than it was before.

When you prepare for a threat and the threat misses you, you did not waste your time, you honed your preparation skills for the next time. That is time well spent.

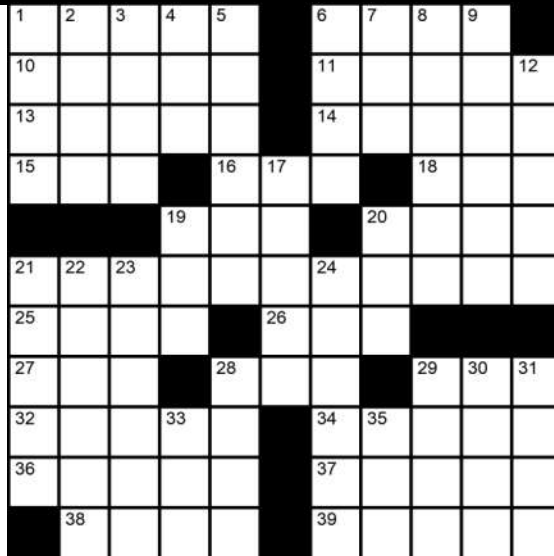
Yes. There is a price for paradise. It is not for everyone, but the price is not too dear for us. Come (storm) hell or high water...we are lifers.

P.S. The storm passed us by...phew!

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Nasal grunt
- 6 Against
- 10 Time piece
- 11 Best of the best?
- 13 --- Is Born (2018 movie)
- 14 Star ---, a culinary and medicinal spice
- 15 Little Red Book chairman
- 16 "Black" C I A activities
- 18 Write
- 19 Ours are Great Horned
- 20 Sound power units
- 21 Reason to check a pulse?
- 25 Concerning, in legal speak
- 26 Sun --- - Sen, former Chinese leader
- 27 An intelligence org.
- 28 Tire pressure measure
- 29 Young child
- 32 Lightheaded
- 34 Providence, --- Island
- 36 Livestock
- 37 Corporate ID's
- 38 Exhort
- 39 Some are leap



7/10/21

Down

- 1 Crawled, perhaps?
- 2 Space Org
- 3 "The Simpsons" bus driver
- 4 Old production co.
- 5 Tosses
- 6 "Jumpin' Jack Flash, it's ---"
- 7 Quebecer's turndown
- 8 Taiwanese capital
- 9 "Thou art the thing ---" (Shakespeare, "King Lear")
- 12 Inward feeling
- 17 Devious maneuvers
- 19 Single unit
- 20 Deli sandwich
- 21 Spills the beans
- 22 Positioned
- 23 A teacher, maybe?
- 24 With justice
- 28 Funeral fire
- 29 "Animal House" party attire
- 30 Bad aroma
- 31 "--- of the D'Urbervilles"
- 33 Thermometric abbreviation
- 35 Garden tool

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EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP

BARRON RIVER TIDES

The Mango Thief
By Diallo Xia

Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands (642-1025): Closed Mon- Tue-Thurs, 5-11 Fri-Sun Noon - 11 pm
Camellia Street Grille (239-695-2003): 11:00 am – 9:00 pm, Daily
City Seafood (239-695-4700): Open All Year 8 am to 3 pm
Diving Pelican Restaurant (239) 232-0475 Open Sun-Thur 11 am to 8 pm, Fri & Sat till midnight
Everglades Fishing Co. / Nely's Corner Open M-Th 5:30 am to 8pm, Sat Sun till 10 pm 203 Collier Avenue, (239-695-4222)
Havana Café (239-695-2214): Closed for Summer.
Hole in the Wall Pizza (239-695-4444) M-Th 11am-7pm, Fri & Sat 11 am-9 pm
Island Café (239-695-0003): 6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily
Ivey House (239-695-3299) (Private) 7:00 am – 9:00 am; daily (for guests only)
Joanie's Crab Café (239-695-2682): Open Daily 10:30 am to 5 pm, Closed Wed.
Rod & Gun (239-695-2101): 11:30 am - 8:00 pm; daily
Triad Seafood & Café (239-695-2662): Closed for Summer
MARKETS
Right Choice Market (239-695-4535): Open 7 days, 9 am to 7 pm
Grimm's Stone Crab (239-695-3222): Closed for Summer
Fresh Produce
Right Choice Supermarket See listing under "markets"
SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES
Chokoloskee Family Church Sunday: 10 am Sch., 11 am Worship
Copeland Baptist Church Sunday: 10 am School, 11 am Worship
Everglades Community Church 11:00 am Sunday Worship, See ad p. 8
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. Reopening Dec. 5, 2021
St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples Phone: 239-417-2084
San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl. 239-394-5181

7/10/2021	Sat	4:35 AM	2.25	H
7/10/2021	Sat	10:28 AM	0.94	L
7/10/2021	Sat	3:02 PM	3.06	H
7/10/2021	Sat	11:29 PM	-0.2	L
7/11/2021	Sun	5:15 AM	2.31	H
7/11/2021	Sun	11:05 AM	0.92	L
7/11/2021	Sun	3:31 PM	3.08	H
7/12/2021	Mon	12:07 AM	-0.17	L
7/12/2021	Mon	5:55 AM	2.37	H
7/12/2021	Mon	11:46 AM	0.89	L
7/12/2021	Mon	4:06 PM	3.06	H
7/13/2021	Tue	12:46 AM	-0.12	L
7/13/2021	Tue	6:33 AM	2.43	H
7/13/2021	Tue	12:31 PM	0.85	L
7/13/2021	Tue	4:52 PM	2.97	H
7/14/2021	Wed	1:25 AM	-0.01	L
7/14/2021	Wed	7:12 AM	2.48	H
7/14/2021	Wed	1:20 PM	0.79	L
7/14/2021	Wed	5:49 PM	2.83	H
7/15/2021	Thu	2:07 AM	0.14	L
7/15/2021	Thu	7:50 AM	2.54	H
7/15/2021	Thu	2:19 PM	0.71	L
7/15/2021	Thu	6:57 PM	2.64	H
7/16/2021	Fri	2:53 AM	0.32	L
7/16/2021	Fri	8:28 AM	2.6	H
7/16/2021	Fri	3:32 PM	0.6	L
7/16/2021	Fri	8:24 PM	2.43	H
7/17/2021	Sat	3:47 AM	0.51	L
7/17/2021	Sat	9:08 AM	2.68	H
7/17/2021	Sat	4:46 PM	0.43	L
7/17/2021	Sat	9:56 PM	2.27	H
7/18/2021	Sun	4:46 AM	0.69	L
7/18/2021	Sun	9:50 AM	2.79	H
7/18/2021	Sun	5:53 PM	0.23	L
7/18/2021	Sun	11:26 PM	2.18	H
7/19/2021	Mon	5:47 AM	0.82	L
7/19/2021	Mon	10:39 AM	2.91	H
7/19/2021	Mon	6:57 PM	0.03	L
7/20/2021	Tue	12:59 AM	2.2	H
7/20/2021	Tue	6:47 AM	0.92	L
7/20/2021	Tue	11:34 AM	3.06	H
7/20/2021	Tue	7:56 PM	-0.15	L
7/21/2021	Wed	2:12 AM	2.27	H
7/21/2021	Wed	7:46 AM	0.95	L
7/21/2021	Wed	12:33 PM	3.23	H
7/21/2021	Wed	8:51 PM	-0.29	L
7/22/2021	Thu	3:04 AM	2.32	H
7/22/2021	Thu	8:41 AM	0.94	L
7/22/2021	Thu	1:28 PM	3.38	H
7/22/2021	Thu	9:42 PM	-0.36	L
7/23/2021	Fri	3:48 AM	2.35	H
7/23/2021	Fri	9:31 AM	0.89	L
7/23/2021	Fri	2:17 PM	3.48	H
7/23/2021	Fri	10:30 PM	-0.36	L



Have you ever had a perfect mango? I bet you haven't, because if you had, you'd be just like me. You don't see me often, but I'm your pet coon. Each day I sneak up, just around noon, and steal a mango.

What? It's not my fault; it's yours, for leaving those fallen fruits for all to see, and in my case, to eat.

But where are my manners? I'm a gentleman thief after all, and I only steal the ones you don't eat, which lay baking in the sun for the flies and bugs to gather. Don't you agree I'm a better alternative?


But "why, Why!" you say. "Why do you steal the succulent fruit, why do you steal - gasp- the MANGO?"

And the answer's quite simple. I love them. I love them more than apples, or bananas, or papayas. They're sweet and tangy and perfect mangoes, the nectar of the gods. If there were one fruit in heaven, it would be a mango. I particularly enjoy the tri-colored variety that catch the sun and burst into sweet juice at the first bite: there is no substitute. And, they can also be wonderful for your stomach.

So, if you should like to transform this fruit-gathering thief, donate your unwanted and much appreciated mangoes I hear oft of at the Visitor Center, where I shall surely enjoy them. ~Signed, the Mango Thief

Diallo Xia, 16, is a writer and student Who lives in Everglades City.

We are happy to welcome Diallo to the Mullet Rapper Family and we look forward to his future contributions to our publication.



Chokoloskee Family Church

"Doing Life Together"

Sun. Marriage Class-9:00 am
Sun. Worship-11:00 am
Sun. 5:30 pm-Celebrate Recovery
Kids Program-Wed 7:00 pm
Kids Program- Sun. 11:00 am
Wed. Bible Study -7:00 pm
at Island Café-Free Coffee & Pie
Phone: 239-232-0098

CLASSIFIED ADS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOR SALE: 936 Panther Creek Lane, Du Pont Island. Rare find in Everglades City! Waterfront single family three bedroom / two bath stilt home in the Commercial Fishing District. 80 feet of water frontage on almost half acre of land. Plenty of storage / workshops / garage and a Quonset hut. Asking \$469,000.

FOR SALE: Glades Haven Cozy Cabins. Your vacation get-away! One bedroom / one bathroom (RV) cabin with docks. Quick easy access out the Ten Thousand Islands and Gulf of Mexico. A fisherman's paradise right here in the famous Everglades. Rental potential. Multiple cabins available with different amenities. Asking \$119,000.

For more information contact Glades Realty 239-695-4299. GladesRealty.com Karen@Gladesrealty.com

NOW HIRING: Retail associate needed for the Big Cypress Preserve Oasis Visitor Center. Position is part-time to full-time. Pay rate is \$12 per hour. Email resume to monique@evergladesassociation.org or call 305-247-1612.

FOR SALE: Big Cypress Fly-in Retreat: The historic Popenhager Camp, a 21-acre oasis of natural beauty, complete with an FAA approved airstrip, and an adorable, modern cabin. This stunning parcel is secluded on a high and dry prairie, and is completely off grid. The price on this private piece of paradise is \$2.5 million. Take a tour of the camp www.popenhager.com. For more information call 786-258-2227.

UNWANTED PLANTS? Don't throw them away! We can recycle them for the annual plant sale benefiting the school. Call before you discard them. One person's trash is another's treasure! Call 954-662-7003.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED: If you love meeting people, this is the perfect fit! The Everglades Area Visitor Center, operated by the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation, is looking for volunteers to staff the center.

Knowledge about the area and a pleasant attitude is essential! If you would like to volunteer at the center, please contact Kathy Brock at 954-662-7003. The center is located in Everglades City across from the Rod & Gun Club. Summer hours vary.

BOAT FOR SALE: 2004 Pathfinder 2200V. 200HP Yamaha 2-stroke, power pole, trolling motor, GPS, fully loaded. Aluminum trailer. Asking \$26,000. Contact Dan: 352-455-3687.

HELP WANTED: 25- 30 hours per week. Multi-tasker: Cleaning, Laundry, light maintenance. Contact Jaye at River Wilderness 239-695-4499.



Help Save the Bank of Everglades Building. Learn how you can help:

www.SaveBOE.com www.ESHP.org

The MULLET RAPPER

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

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We strive to present the facts accurately

We encourage contrasting points of view

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

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"The Everglades is a test. If we pass it, we may get to keep the planet." ~ Marjory Stoneman Douglas Visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/evergladescitynews/ or Online at www.visitevergladescity.com



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