The MULLET RAPPER

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

APRIL 7, 2018 - APRIL 20, 2018

ONLY 25¢

© 2018, K Bee Marketing | P O Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139 | Volume X • Issue # 309

TIDE TABLE & RESTAURANTS PAGE 11

Taxing Things by Mike Klein

Tax Day is April 17th. If You're Not Ready, You Can File an Extension!

Due to the devastating effects of Hurricane Irma many folks in Everglades City are still not prepared to file their 2017 Income Tax return. Lost records, disrupted postal service, employee records availability, and job related losses, among other difficulties; have contributed in one way or another to a very burdensome tax filing season. If you have not yet filed you can file for an automatic extension of time.

There are three ways to request an automatic extension of time to file a U.S. individual income tax return.

►You can pay all or part of your estimated income tax due and indicate that the payment is for an extension using Direct Pay, the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System, or using a credit or debit card.
►You can file Form 4868 electronically by accessing IRS e-file using your home computer or by using a tax professional who uses e-file.
►You can file a paper Form 4868 and enclose payment of your estimate of tax due.

You must file the extension by the regular tax due date April 17th. Under the extension your 2017 income tax filing date will be October 15, 2018.

Any Everglades City and local area residents needing assistance filing for an extension may contact Mike at 239-695-0595.

RAPPER TABLE OF CONTENTS

Events, etc.	p. 3	Trail Celebration	p. 8
School News	p. 5	Charles Sobczak	p.9
School Corner	p. 5	Capt. Merritt	P. 9
My Slice	p. 7	Local Interests	p.10
Recipe	p. 7	Tide Table	p.11
Crossword	p. 7	Bird Stats	p.11
Poetry Street	p. 8	Classifieds	p.12

FEATURE: LIVING WITH ALLIGATORS, P. 10

The Big Egg Hunt! Area Kids Have Fun Finding 1200 Hidden Easter Eggs

Kinston Robinson of Chokoloskee Wins the Hunt by finding 93!

Fun, food, candy and prizes galore! About 1200 eggs were hidden this year for area kids in the 4th annual Easter Egg hunt, and the kids showed their excellent "hunting" skills.

Delicious cupcakes and treats were brought in by 1st Baptist Church of Everglades, and the Easter eggs were provided by Chokoloskee Church of God.

Thank you to the area churches, and to everyone who came out and participated in this very enjoyable day for the kids and adults for the 4th year in a row. We are already looking forward to next year!

Perfect Weather Highlights Heavenly Sunrise Service Overlooking Chokoloskee Bay

The parking lot was filled to capacity at Everglades National Park for the annual Sunrise Service. The moon setting over the bay to the west, and the sunrise to the east, provided a picture perfect morning for the Easter services sponsored by our area churches. Excellent music, uplifting sermons and reflection on the past year was the theme on this Easter Sunday.

After the service, the fellowship continued as worshipers enjoyed coffee and donuts together.

If you have news, photos, announcements, or articles ... email us at: mulletrapper@gmail.com *or call us at*: 954-662-7003.

APRIL 8, 2018 – MAY 12, 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
8 **Bear Island Bike Ride,** see p. 3	9	10 **Collier School Board Mtg,** EVG, 4:30 pm	11 **Ladies Coffee** City Seafood 8 am	12 **Lions Club,** Havana Café, 6 pm	13	14 **Community Cleanup,** see p. 3
15 **full moon** ○	16	17 **P & Z Meeting,** City Hall, 7:30 pm **History Talk, see p. 10**	18 **Ladies Coffee** Island Café 8 am	19	20	21 ***RAPPER*** **FBA Meeting,** see p. 10 **Pancake Fly-in,** see p. 3
22	23	24	25 **Ladies Coffee** City Seafood, 8 am	26	27	28 **Tamiami Trail & Museum B-day** see, p. 8 **Art-in-Glades,** see p. 3
29 **new moon** ●	30 **Medical / Dental Screening,** see p.3	May 1 **City Council Mtg., City Hall,** 7:00 pm	2 **Ladies Coffee** Island Café 8 am **FME Mtg,** 4 pm	3 **National Day of Prayer**	4	5 ***RAPPER***
6	7 **ESHP Mtg,** 8:30 am	8	9 **Ladies Coffee** City Seafood 8 am	10	11	12 **First Responders Fish Fry**

May 15: Stone Crab Season Closes **May 25: Graduation** **May 28: Memorial Day**

June 30: Independence Day Celebration **September 29: Blessing of the Fleet**

THRIFT SHOP: Reopened on March 24, 11 am to 3, see p.3.
LIONS CLUB: 2nd Thursday of month, 6 pm
DR DEMARTINO: Marco Island office information on p.3.
DR MARTIN: Call for appointment: 813-787-9738
AA: Wed., 5:00 pm, Evg. Comm. Church, Fellowship Hall
MUSEUM: Open Monday-Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm. 239-695-0008
CARNESTOWN Recycle and Trash: 2nd Saturday, 9 am to 3:30 pm

SKATING RINK: Closed until further notice
REACH OUT: 3rd Tuesday, 9:30 am, location TBA
LITTLE GATOR CLINIC: Not seeing patients at this time
VETERANS SUPPORT: 2nd & 4rd Wed. of month, noon—2 pm
COMMUNITY CHURCH FOOD PANTRY: See p. 3
SMALLWOOD STORE: 10 am to 5 pm
PANCAKE FLY-IN: 4/21 at 10 to 12, E-City Airport

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: Tuesdays, 2 to 5 pm
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Mon–Thurs (9 am to 2 pm); Fri-Sat (9 am to 3 pm)
COLLIER COUNTY: 239-252-8999

POST OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS & HOURS: TEMPORARY HOURS DURING REMODELING

Everglades City	**(239) 695-2174 (no phone now)**	**Mon-Fri: 9:30 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 4:30 pm, Sat: 10 am to noon.**
Chokoloskee	**(239) 695-4468**	**Mon-Sat: 10 am to 3 pm– PO is reopened. Stamps, mail, & weighing.**
Ochopee	**(239) 695-2099**	**Mon-Fri: 8 am to 10 am, noon to 4 pm; Sat: 10 am to 11:30 am**

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

BEAR ISLAND BIKE RIDE!
April 8th, 9 am to 2 pm
Call for Availability

Join us for a leisurely bike ride in the NW portion of Big Cypress.

The Bear Island area is a fantastic place to observe a variety of plants and animals in prime panther habitat. You must bring your own fat tire bike - hybrid or mountain bike.

It is a 14 mile round trip ride on a hard rock road. (Not suitable for road bikes.) Please bring snacks and lunch that can fit in your backpack, plenty of water, sunscreen, hat, sunglasses and dress for the weather. Limit 12 people, min. age 15, Meet Ranger Lisa at the Bear Island Entrance on HWY 29.

Directions if coming via I-75:

Exit HWY 75 at exit #80 onto SR 29 going north.

Travel north from HWY 75 on SR 29 toward Immokalee 4 miles. Watch for the Bike Ride sign on the right side of the road and turn in to the right. Come in through the panther fencing to the parking area.

This ride is full. Please contact Dayna at (239) 777-5806 to see if there are any last minute cancellations.

Reservations are Required

HISTORY TALK ABOUT BARRON COLLIER,
April 17th, 10:00 AM
See more on page 10.

PANCAKE FLY-IN BREAKFAST
April 21st , 10 am to noon

The pancake fly-in is hosting the final breakfast! Please join us on April 21 to meet and enjoy a free pancake breakfast with sausage and coffee. Of course, fly-ins are encouraged, and we welcome walk-ins as well! This is the last fly-in of the season so we hope to see you there!

ART-IN-THE-GLADES
April 28th, 10:00 am

We are planning our big celebration for the Tamiami Trail 90th Anniversary and hope that you will join us as a vendor on Saturday, April 28, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. (see page 8 for more details).

We will be under the pavilion in McLeod Park and want to plan the space well in advance. Please confirm if you plan on attending and would like a booth. Please call Marya Repko @ (239) 695-2905.

Mark Your Calendar

April 28th
3 Events in 1 Day!
►The Tamiami Trail 90th Anniversary
►Museum of the Everglades' 20th Birthday
►Art-in-the-Glades
Don't miss one minute of this huge celebration in Everglades City.
See more details on page 8.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

FREE DENTAL, BLOOD PRESSURE & DIABETES SCREENINGS, PLUS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INFORMATION FOR ALL AGES
April 30th , 9 am to 4 pm

The Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida's Health & Smiles Mobil Dental Bus is scheduled to be in Everglades City on **April 30th** from 9 am to 4 pm, in the Fire Station parking lot, providing free dental, diabetes, blood pressure and behavioral health screenings. For more information or to make 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 of 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. You may call his office to schedule an appointment to see him there: (239) 642-5552.

NATURAL MEDICINE

Dr. John Martin can see patients in Everglades City. Call to make an appt. or leave a message: 813-787-9738.

~ ACCOUNTING SERVICES~
MIKE "THE TAX GUY"

Local and professional, personal & business tax services in Everglades City. Call 239-595-4203 to set an appointment. Email: nfn19842@naples.net for more information.

THRIFT SHOP

The thrift shop is open! Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday from 11 am to 1 pm. Please do not leave donations on the porch outside where they can get wet or damaged! Please do not drop off damaged items.

Volunteer For Our

Community Clean-up Day

April 14th, 8 am to 11 am

Keep Collier Beautiful, Inc. is organizing a county-wide clean up taking place on April 14th from 8 am to 11 am.

The Everglades Lions Club is sponsoring the cleanup in Everglades City, Chokoloskee, and Plantation Island.

Please come out and help us pick up any of the leftover trash from the storm and the reconstruction taking place throughout our communities.

We need volunteers on land and by boat!

Volunteers will receive T-shirts, gloves and trash bags and lots of love from their fellow volunteers.

There are many areas of our community that still need quite a bit of attention, so please tell your friends to come too! If you are aware of areas that need our attention, please write it down and bring it with you so that we can be sure to get it done!

To sign up, please contact Tony Pernas. You may email him at tpernas@bellsouth.net to confirm your intention to participate in the clean up.

We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Let's Team Up to Clean Up!

Collier County Receives Outstanding Achievement Award

Collier County's Bureau of Emergency Services-Emergency Management Division brought home an Outstanding Achievement Award from the 2018 National Hurricane Conference held March 26 – 29, 2018, in Orlando.

The award is in recognition of outstanding work in maintaining the community safety through innovative and extended preparedness efforts and sound leadership exemplified through its response to Hurricane Irma in September 2017.

"This recognition is testimony to the excellence of leadership and dedication—from the Board of County Commissions, to the first responders and all county and partner agency personnel—that kept our residents safe throughout the storm, and allowed the county to quickly recover from the devastation," said Dan Summers, Bureau of Emergency Services Director.

For more information, contact public information coordinator Margie Hapke at (239) 252-2679 .

Daily • Weekly • Monthly Rentals
River Wilderness
★WATERFRONT VILLAS★
FREE WI-FI - SCREEN PORCH - CANOES
SWIMMING POOL - BOAT RAMP- DOCK - OUTDOOR BBQ
210 Collier Ave. Everglades City, FL 34139 239-695-4499
reservations@river-wilderness.com

www.bobwellsrealestate.us Office: 239-695-2660
bob@bobwellsrealestate.us Fax: 239-695-0967
Bob Wells Real Estate
Bob Wells, Broker
Vicky Wells, Sales Associate
Liza Wells, Sales Associate
P.O. Box 250 • Everglades City, FL 34139

Visit the Everglades City Museum Located at:
105 West Broadway
Everglades City, Florida
Open Monday through Saturday
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
For more information: 239-695-0008

Havana Café
Chokoloskee, 695-2214
Fresh Fish, Daily Specials, Delish!
Open Daily 7 am to 3 pm
(We are closing on April 15th)

Triad Seafood
Market & Café
Stone Crabs • Shrimp • Conch
Crab Cakes • Homemade Key Lime Pie
Orlo & Pam Hilton 239-695-2662
M-Th 10:30-6 pm, Fri & Sat, 10:30-9 pm
Sunday 10:30-5 pm

JOANIE'S BLUE CRAB CAFE
Everglades Dining at its Best!
US Hwy. 41, Ochopee, Florida 34141
1/4 Mile East of Ochopee Post Office

239-695-2682
11:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Gator Nuggets with Indian Fry Bread & Salsa
Save Room for the Homemade key Lime Pie!

EvergladesAreaTours.com
Guided Eco Adventures
Bioluminescence Tours
Kayak Eco Tours • Manatee Tours
Everglades National Park
239.695.3633

3/10/18 Puzzle Solution

1 D	2 D	3 A	4 Y	■	■	5 P	6 C	7 B	8 S	■
9 Y	U	R	I	■	10 S	H	A	R	P	■
11 K	E	E	P	12 A	N	E	Y	E	O	13 N
14 E	T	A	■	15 C	A	N	■	16 E	R	A
■	■	■	17 G	A	G	O	18 R	D	E	R
19 F	20 L	21 U	I	D	■	22 M	O	S	S	Y
23 L	I	N	G	E	24 R	E	D	■	■	■
25 E	V	E	■	26 M	A	N	■	27 D	28 I	29 S
30 D	E	S	31 T	I	N	A	32 T	I	O	N
■	33 A	C	H	E	D	■	34 V	E	T	O
■	35 T	O	Y	S	■	■	36 S	T	A	B

Unique Gifts
Marine Supplies
Knives – Apparel
Hardware
T-Shirts
Tackle - Caps
WIN-CAR, INC.
Reopening April 2018!
209 N. Collier Ave
Post Office Box 247
Everglades City, FL 34139
(239) 695-3201
Fax: (239) 659-3344

LARSEN TRIAL LAW
Edward L. Larsen, Esq.
Committed to our clients
PERSONAL INJURY
CIVIL LITIGATION
The Chamber Building
2390 Tamiami Trail N., #202
Naples, Florida 34103
(239) 643-0100
ed@edwardlarsenesq.com

RIGHT CHOICE SUPERMARKET
- ATM Machine
- Shirts / Caps / Hats
- Camping Supplies
- Batteries
- Beer / Wine / Ice
- Medicine
- Groceries
- Meats
- Produce

104. S. Buckner Avenue, Everglades City, (239) 695-4535
www.RightChoiceSupermarket.com

Charlene Rairick, Sales
BMI Marine Construction
•Docks, Boat Lifts
•Dock Repair
•Dredging
•Seawall Repair
•Hurricane Damage Repairs
"Call for a Free Estimate"
Phone: 239-542-0456 • Fax 239-542-0466
office@BMIdocks.com, Lic. # CBC 1253238

Friends of the River of Grass Greenway (FROGG)
Contact us to find out about hiking/cycling along the Tamiami Trail
P.O. Box 5031
Everglades City, FL 34139
Email: info@evergladesROGG.org
We Accept Donations
Telephone: (239) 695-2397
www.evergladesROGG.org

Visit the NEW Thrift Store!
Completely Renovated
Great Merchandise
Sit Down & Have a Coffee!

Open On: Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday
From 11 am to 3 pm
Just North of the Fire Station
in Everglades City, FL

Snook • Redfish • Tarpon • Trout
Captain Mike Merritt
Native Florida Guide/USCG Master
Individual & Corporate Charters
13009 Collecting Canal Road
Loxahatchee, Florida 33470
cell 561-252-4324
office 561-795-3437
email: snookfishing1@juno.com
website: everglade-angler.com

Fish Florida's "Last Frontier" with Captain John Hand, Guide and Master Fly Casting Instructor.
(239) 842-7778 www.redfishlanding.com

THE EVERGLADES CITY SCHOOL CORNER

P: 239-377-9802, F 239-377-9801 www.evgcollierschools.com

A Message from Principal Ragusa

A Fresh Start to Spring

Spring has truly arrived early this year. We are happy to report that the repairs of our art and music rooms are completed and the gym is almost done! It has been a challenging time for teachers and students who utilized these buildings as they have relocated to other areas of the building. We appreciate how they adapted and strived to make the best of this situation.

Some other exciting improvements are also ongoing. A large new steel building is being built at our baseball facility. This will house all the equipment used to maintain the field as well as provide a new storage space for our baseball equipment. As this concludes, the batting cage will also be redone as the team has had to work without one during this process.

The softball field will also be receiving much needed attention this summer. Soil, irrigation and new turf will be installed to provide beautiful new field with other improvements. The Lady Gators are really making tremendous strides and we look forward to having this available for them for the 2019 season.

Graduation is right around the corner! Please mark the date as we will celebrated the Class of 2018 with our school community on May 25th at 7:00pm in the gym. This class has been through a year like no other class in recent memory and we invite you to share our pride in them for the great perseverance they have shown in reaching this milestone.

IT IS ALWAYS A GREAT DAY TO BE A GATOR!

School Schedule:

April 10……..School Board Meeting, 4:30
April 19……..SAC Meeting, 6:00 pm
April 25……..Kindergarten Registration Begins
May 25……..Early Dismissal
May 25……..Graduation, 7:00 pm, School Gym
May 28……..Memorial Day, No School
May 30 & 31……..Early Dismissal
May 31……..Last Day of School
For school information, visit http://www.collierschools.com/EVG

Mullet Rapper Donations to Date
~$1571 so far in 2018!!!!

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 the Everglades City School Athletic Department! When you see the coin receptacle, please put your quarter (or more) into the slot!

Every time you buy the paper you are helping students achieve their goals. Athletic accomplishments help students receive grants and scholarships and being involved in sports is also shown to help keep students more focused and on track with their studies!

When You Buy the Print Edition of the Mullet Rapper, It Helps a Kid!

Collier County Superintendent Honored as 2017 Lavan Dukes District Leader of the Year

At a meeting of the State Board of Education on March 27th, Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart named Collier County Superintendent Dr. Kamela Patton the 2017 Lavan Dukes District Data Leader of the Year. As a result of Dr. Patton's leadership over the last six years, Collier County Public Schools has made tremendous progress through a data-driven focus on continuous improvement.

"Dr. Kamela Patton's techniques are a great example of the way data can be used to help teachers and administrators provide students with the best education experience possible, and Collier County students are benefitting greatly," said Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart. "What I appreciate most is the fact that she has opened her doors and offered other districts the opportunity to learn about the student-focused strategies that have worked in Collier County so they too can help students reach their full potential. It is truly an honor to recognize Dr. Patton today, and I look forward to witnessing her ongoing success."

Of the 67 school districts, Collier's district grades ranking has risen to 5th in 2017 from 33rd in 2011. Through strategic and systematic monitoring to ensure students' needs are met, the "A"-rated district has also experienced a 15.7 percent increase in its high school graduation rate, from 72.5 percent in 2010-11 to 88.2 percent in 2016-17.

Upon her arrival, Dr. Patton introduced "Data Dialogues," which are collaborative and targeted conversations between school and district leaders that have resulted in tremendous gains. Three times per year, following state and local benchmark assessments, school leaders analyze and reflect upon data. This allows school leaders, teachers, students and parents to review the data and determine the best approaches to maximize student impact.

During her tenure, Dr. Patton has implemented the Naviance College and Career Readiness platform for grades 6-12, which includes a Family Connection platform that helps students research colleges, scholarships, careers and more. In addition, she has implemented recruitment, retention and professional development systems to create a strong administrator pool for those aspiring to be instructional leaders.

The Lavan Dukes District Data Leader of the Year Program highlights the critical role district superintendents play in supporting and encouraging the use of data to improve students' college and career readiness. The award is named after Lavan Dukes to honor longtime Department of Education employee Garnet Lavan Dukes for his numerous contributions to public education on both the state and national levels.

Sign Up For Collier Parks Summer Camp –Do it Online Today!

The school year is almost over, so now is the time to make plans for summer activities. Camp Collier offers a fun lively environment where children can play, connect and discover. Each week is a different theme. Children have the opportunity to attend weekly or enjoy the entire summer. Campers will take nature walks, play games, make arts and crafts, participate in different sports, host guests from the community, as well as take weekly swim and field trips!

You can register (only) online through April 15th. Then, starting April 16th, you may register online or in person at any Collier County park. The full summer is $66 per week per child. There are also affordable plans for single weeks or whatever plan suits your needs.

To sign up online, go to www.collierparks.com and click the "register online here" button shown to the left about midway down the page.

The nine-week activity schedule starts on June 1st and runs through August 3rd. Each week is a different experience so your kids are bound to find something they love to do. Programs are available for children as young as 5, but they must turn 5 by September 1st to qualify for the program. Space is limited so register early to get your spot.

Clyde Butcher's
BIG CYPRESS GALLERY
Fine Art Black & White Photography

239-695-2428
23 miles east of Everglades City
52388 Tamiami Trail East, MM 54.5
Ochopee, FL 34141
Open 7 days a week 10 am to 5 pm
clydebutcher.com

Island CAFE
BREAKFAST, LUNCH, & DINNER
Your Favorite Foods with a Local Flavor
ISLAND ICE CREAM & Gift Shop
305 Collier Avenue, Everglades City, FL
695-0003

Epic **EVERGLADES** Adventures
Call for availability 239-695-2428
-Guided Swamp Walks
-Overnight accommodations

Behind Big Cypress Gallery
23 miles east of Everglades City
52388 Tamiami Trail East, MM 54.5
Ochopee, FL 34141
clydebutcher.com

City Seafood
702 Begonia Street, Everglades City
OPEN ALL YEAR...
We are one of the most affordable restaurants with one of the most beautiful waterfront locations.
11:00 AM to 6:00 PM Daily, Thur. – Sun. Upstairs
We Serve Delicious, Local Seafood & Cuisine

Want to book a private party? Call Richard or Candice at 239-695-4700

GLADES REALTY
Serving Everglades City Since 1988
Glades Realty, Inc.
Karen Cochran, Licensed Real Estate Broker
New Location! City Hall, 2nd Floor Everglades City, FL 34139
Residential • Commercial • Rentals • Land
Visit us online to view our full portfolio of listings in Everglades City, Plantation Island, Chokoloskee and the surrounding areas.
www.GladesRealty.com
Office: (239) 695-4299 Cell: (239) 777-6614
Fax: (239) 695-3849
Email: Karen@GladesRealty.com

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
BOAT TOURS
Sole Authorized Concession on Gulf Coast
Open for Business!

Mangrove Wilderness
10,000 Island Tours
Canoe Rentals • Gift Shop
Located at the Tower Building at
900 S. Copeland Av., Everglades City
1-866-NAT-Park

www.EvergladesNationalParkBoatToursGulfCoast.com

HOME FOR SALE

2800 SQ. FT., $150,000
939 Church Street, Copeland, FL. 4 bdrm, 2,800 sq. ft. newer Jim Walters stilt home fenced on approx. 3/4 acre lot. Beautiful inside w/ wood flooring and outside with beautiful mature trees & palms.
Ph: 727-480-1640 or E010101@aol.com.
Rancho T Properties of Florida, LLC

EVERGLADES COMMUNITY CHURCH
The Friendly Church on the Circle
Non-Denominational
101 South Copeland Avenue
P.O. Box 177, Everglades City, FL 34139
(239) 695-4787
The Rev. Dr. Bob N. Wallace, Pastor
Services Sunday 11 am
www.ever-community-church.com

Explore The Glades
www.EvergladesAdventures.com
Discover the Mystery and Magic of the Everglades
With TripAdvisor's #1-rated Eco Tour provider
- *Guided kayak trips*
- *Canoe and kayak rentals*
- *Airboat and swamp buggy rides, and more*

Located at the historic Ivey House
107 Camellia St.
Everglades City, FL 34139
1.877.567.0679 | 239.695.3299
evergladesadventures.com

My Little Slice of Paradise

by Kathy Brock

For the Mockingbird, this is Shangri-La

Springtime means baby birds. Almost every bird around us now is either nest-building, brooding eggs or raising babies. We are fortunate to have a nest of mockingbirds in our backyard to watch as they grow.

The parents picked a perfect nesting spot, deep inside of a Vanda orchid basket. It is the perfect little woven nest. A week and a half ago, we saw 3 little bluish and brown speckled eggs. The female broods the eggs for approximately 10 days.

They hatched on March 24th, and on the morning of the 30th we took the photo (left) of the 6-day old babies.

The adult pair share in the feeding and guarding of the chicks. Both forage and bring food back and forth the entire day. They are monogamous and will stay with each other throughout their lifetime.

I will say that this pair has it pretty easy. In our yard, we have 5 bird baths, so fresh water is no effort at all for them. It is there whenever they want it.

The tomato garden provides a quick meal at any time. The adults love the tomatoes and eat them throughout the day. The rotting tomatoes attract insects, and that is what the parents feed the chicks. They need not leave the immediate area for food or water, it's right in front of them.

The adults guard the nest and their food sources pretty much the entire day. When we let the dogs out, they dive-bomb the dogs to try to drive them away from the nest. If we walk too close, they let us know they are not happy. That is about the extent of this pairs daily grind.

I imagine the male was quite proud of himself when he landed this spot. In fact, he must be quite a stud. First, he "won" the territory. The territory fighting was going on all February. Then he got the "girl". The guy with the waterfront digs landed the pretty girl. He is the envy of the rest of the mockingbird world around here. He is lucky and he knows it.

That is true for most of the local nature. How fortunate to be the offspring of an Everglades City mockingbird, flycatcher or cardinal. They could be from Maine and imprinted to migrate to Florida or Texas each winter. Those poor birds have to fly almost 1600 miles to escape bad weather, then return home for a roundtrip total of 3200 miles! Our local mockingbirds get to fly around here all year...no migration necessary!

Being born in SW Florida must be like a winning the lottery when you are a bird. Of course there are perils. We have the big, bad Great Horned Owls that are training their baby right now. That pair raised the owlet on the light post by the fire station. I imagine the owlet is pretty hungry so the mockingbirds do have some daily stress.

The Everglades area also has its share of snakes, raccoons, opossums, hawks and insects. I guess each is a potential threat to our mockingbird family...so my suggestion that life was too easy for them isn't quite accurate.

BUT, let's face it. Whether you are a bird, other creature or a human, being here is really special. Beautiful sunrises, beautiful sunsets and all that nature has to offer. We too can go out and forage...and come back with a fish for dinner! The more I think about it, I think we won the lottery. I got the guy, and the waterfront home. That's me. The really lucky one!

Recipes for Good Eating

by Kathy Brock

Super Easy, Fresh Pickled Beets

Ingredients:

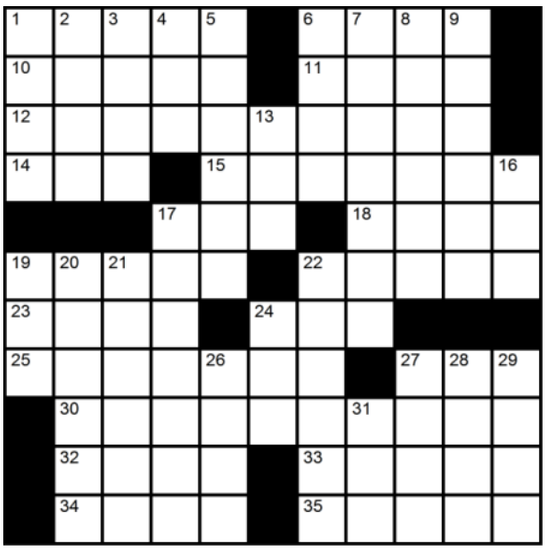
4 cups cooked & sliced fresh beets, about 4 beets
1/8 cup sugar (or to taste)
1 large, sweet onion sliced
32 ounces Kraft Zesty Italian Dressing (enough to cover all of the beets & onions)

Directions:

Peel and slice fresh raw beets and place in large saucepan. Cover with water and bring to a boil. Turn down heat to a slow boil and let cook until tender. Cool and drain and set aside.

Mix Zesty Italian dressing & sugar together. If you like it a bit more tart, you can add additional apple cider vinegar to your taste. In a large glass container that seals, add a layer of beets then onion and do this until the container is full. Pour liquid mixture over the beets and onions and put in the refrigerator for a week or longer. The longer it sits the better it gets. Our family loves the pickled onions so you may want to add extras if you are "onion people" too. By the way, the greens of beets can be prepared like spinach and served with a little butter, salt and pepper!

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD



3/24/18

Across

1 Pass through Congress
6 Shot on the ice
10 --- Lama
11 Slay
12 Nonphysical
14 As well
15 Menu at the edge
17 Cyst
18 Trick
19 No later than
22 Outmoded
23 Sassy
24 --- Rio, Texas
25 Take a --- it (Go for it!)
27 Frequently
30 "On top of that ..."
32 Female first name Ms. Minnelli rejected
33 S American republic that's cold by the sound of it
34 Opposite of first
35 Irritably impatient

Down

1 Prepare for publication
2 "Small" prefix
3 Voice below a soprano
4 He came between J A G and G C
5 Hollywood town?
6 Kind of row
7 Type of arts?
8 Everyone except
9 Make happy
13 Cotton seed remover
16 Wine selection
17 See
19 Downs' partner
20 Mike ---, "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" director
21 Bits of information
22 Discover
24 "A little _ _ _ will do ya"
26 Tiny insect
27 Elevating outfit?
28 Experienced
29 Small club, maybe
31 Much-used article

Poetry Street

By Katherine Tullie

Some of our days are hectic and upside down. First there is one thing, then another. All you can say is "Oh Brother!" Those are the days that inspired my poem "Funny As We Are."

FUNNY AS WE ARE

THE THINGS WE DO,
THE THINGS WE SAY
GOING THROUGH OUR BUSY DAY!
SOME DAYS WE ARE UPSIDE DOWN
OTHER DAYS WE ARE
PLAIN TURNED AROUND
AND THE DAYS WE HAVE IT
ALL TOGETHER
WOULDN'T YOU KNOW,
HERE COMES THE WEATHER!
RAIN THEY SAY CLEANSES THE SOUL
BUT WHEN IN TRAFFIC
IT GETS A LITTLE OLD!
CHARACTER COMES FROM
BUMPS IN YOUR ROAD
BUT IT RUINS YOUR TIRES AND
THE THOUGHT GETS OLD
SO YOU TURN ON THE TELEVISION
WHEN YOU ARRIVE HOME
TO SIT BACK AND RELAX
SWEARING NEVER AGAIN TO ROAM
AN ALERT COMES ON THE TV
SCREEN AS YOU TURN IT ON
AND YOUR FAVORATE
RELAXING SHOW IS GONE
TO THE KITCHEN YOU GO…..
TO SEE WHAT'S THERE
YOU GATHER UP
THE COMFORT FOOD
AND THEN LET DOWN YOUR HAIR!

Email: Kathythepoet@gmail.com
Look for Poetry Street on Twitter
© Copyright 2018, Katherine S. Tullie, Poetry Street, Inc.

Lyrid Meteor Shower Peak Viewing on April 22nd

The Lyrid Meteor Shower should be excellent this year as the moon will be in the waning phase and dark skies are expected. The Meteor shower is active all of April with the peak days from the 16th to the 25th. The best viewing day is expected to be the 22nd with the pre-dawn hours being the (expected) best times. Enjoy! We are a dark sky area!!

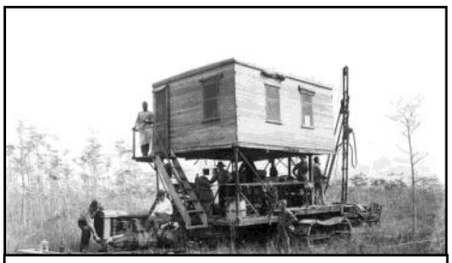
Local Celebration!

April 28th, 10 am

The 90th Anniversary of the Opening of Tamiami Trail! *AND* The Museum of the Everglades' 20th Birthday

April 28, 2018, marks the 90th anniversary of the opening of the Tamiami Trail and the 20th Birthday of the Museum of the Everglades!

The Tamiami Trail (from Tampa to Miami) was a brilliant engineering feat, conquering the once impenetrable Everglades and stands out as a picturesque link between the two coasts of Florida. Barron Gift Collier invested much of his personal wealth in building the Tamiami Trail, a gigantic project to link Florida's east and west coast with a continuous highway across the Everglades. The road was completed and opened to traffic on April 26, 1928.



Drill Rig Used During Trail Construction

Establishing a museum was the dream of the Everglades Women's Club which eventually evolved into the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades, under the leadership of the late Pauline Reeves, for whom the museum's front gallery is named. The Museum of the Everglades was opened 20 years ago on the 70th anniversary of the Trail.

We will also be commemorating the 65th Anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Everglades City in 1953 and the 95th Anniversary of the establishment of Collier County in 1923.

The celebrations will start at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 28, at the Museum of the Everglades, located at 105 West Broadway in Everglades City, Florida. Festivities will include a parade, live music, food, and fun for all the family as well as a walking tour of historic buildings and the "old timers" storytelling. This event is free and open to the public.

For information go to: www.evergladesmuseum.org. We will publish more information in the next issue about all of the day's events!

Blue Zones Project Celebrates 2nd Annual National Walking Day with Blue Zones Project Co-Founder, Dan Buettner April 16th, @ FGCU

Southwest Florida is celebrating National Walking Day Monday, April 16 at Florida Gulf Coast University's Alico Arena. Special guest speaker, Blue Zones Project co-founder, and New York Times bestselling author Dan Buettner will share lessons from around the world on how to live a longer, healthier, happier life. Following the program attendees can take an optional walk around FGCU's campus and be treated to plant-based food tastings from Chartwell's catering. The event begins promptly at 6 p.m. with doors opening at 5 p.m. at Alico Arena (12181 FGCU Lake Pkwy E, Fort Myers, FL 33913). RSVP @ wellbeingSWFL.eventbrite.com.

Attendees at Alico Arena will receive a Blue Zones Project t-shirt, be entered to win prize drawings for copies of Dan's book, and will also be eligible to win prizes to Blue Zones Project Approved™ restaurants.

National Walking Day, an annual observance sponsored by the American Heart Association (AHA), is designed to get people moving, no matter their location. According to the AHA, Americans are spending more time sitting in front of a screen and are becoming less active, which can increase the risk of heart disease, stroke, and other diseases.

To combat these health issues, Blue Zones Project, a community-led well-being improvement initiative, is partnering with Florida Gulf Coast University, area schools, and organizations in Naples, Bonita Springs, and Estero to encourage community members to walk for at least 30 minutes on April 16.

Brought to Southwest Florida by NCH Healthcare System, in collaboration with Sharecare, Inc. and Blue Zones, LLC, Blue Zones Project is a vital part of Southwest Florida's well-being improvement initiative that encourages changes in the community that lead to healthier options. For more information about Blue Zones Project Southwest Florida, visit southwestflorida.bluezonesproject.com.

About Blue Zones Project

Blue Zones Project® is a community-led well-being improvement initiative designed to make healthy choices easier through permanent changes to a city's environment, policy, and social networks. Established in 2010, Blue Zones Project is inspired by Dan Buettner, a National Geographic Fellow and New York Times best-selling author who identified five regions of the world—or Blue Zones®—with the highest concentration of people living to 100 years or older. Blue Zones Project incorporates Buettner's findings and works with cities to implement policies and programs that will move a community toward optimal health and well-being. Currently, 42 communities in nine states have joined Blue Zones Project.

Living Gulf Coast

by Charles Sobczak

Cottonmouth (Agkistrodon piscivorus conanti) VENOMOUS! Other names: water moccasin, swamp moccasin, black moccasin, viper / Status: FL = stable, IUCN = LC / Length: 34-52 in. (.86-1.3 m) / Weight: 2 -4 lb (.90-1.8 kg) / Life span: to 10 years / Reproduces: ovoviviparous, giving live birth to 7-21 baby snakes in the summer or early fall / Found: All Counties, near coast, mainland / Months found: JFMamjjasoND (lower case indicates nesting season).

The longest known cottonmouth specimen was taken from the Dismal Swamp of Virginia and measured 74 inches. The Florida average is half of that, at approximately 36 inches. Highly aquatic and an exceptional swimmer, the cottonmouth prefers the numerous swamps, marshes, and wetlands found throughout the Southwest Florida landscape. It is fairly commonly seen at the Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary and Big Cypress National Wildlife Preserve in Collier County and Myakka River State Park in Sarasota County.

In these black waters, the cottonmouth is a skilled predator, feeding on an array of animals. It has been known to feed on banded water snakes, mud snakes, fish, frogs, salamanders, sirens, lizards, turtles, baby alligators, birds, small mammals, insects, crayfish, snails, and even bats. Because its diet is so varied, it is sometimes referred to as being omni-carnivorous.

When approached, it is not as aggressive as the rattlesnake, and sadly, many similar-looking banded water snakes are killed every year in a lamentable example of mistaken identity. Fatal cottonmouth bites are far rarer than those of rattlesnakes, both because of the smaller size of the snake and the fact that the cottonmouth is generally found in wet environments avoided by humans.

The venom of a cottonmouth is similar in composition to that of a rattlesnake. It is rich with tissue-destructive enzymes and causes extensive bleeding. Immediate emergency medical attention is mandatory. It is preyed upon by kingsnakes, which are virtually immune to the cottonmouth's venom, great horned owls, opossums, alligators, snapping turtles, and great blue herons.

This article is an excerpt from *Living Sanibel*-by Charles Sobczak. Charles is a writer and photographer that resides in Sanibel. Photos: Kenny Krysko of University of Florida

SNOOK SEASON IS OPEN

Size Limit: 28" to 33" - 1 Per License Per Day

Fishing in the 10,000 Islands

with Capt. Mike Merritt

April should bring us some better weather and therefore some better fishing. We are all tired of the wind and not knowing what direction it will be every other day! More stable weather patterns should occur this month allowing the fish to get in steady feeding patterns. What this means for you is that you can fish the same areas more than just one day in a row and expect good results.

If you're live bait fishing there should be plenty around this month. Snook, Reds and Seatrout all love Pilchards. You will be able to catch all 3 on the outside in the islands this month. If you can pick your days this month try an incoming tide in the morning and target the snook up close to the islands and points using live baits either on a cork or using a knocker rig. What you use will depend on the amount of current you have. I prefer using Owner light wire hooks. My clients lose less fish this way. Once hooked these allow for mistakes without losing the fish.

You may be able to sight fish this month for these same Snook. You will see them move in the shallows on the incoming tide. They are getting in position to feed on the bait that comes in with the tide. I like using a 3/8 oz. jig for this. In really shallow water I will sometimes go as light as a 1/8 oz. I use the DOA Cal Tails but there are a lot of good plastics out there. Accurate casting is the key, just remember to lead the fish and work the bait so it's in his path and if they are feeding you will gets strikes.

The Seatrout have been biting good on the flats when you can fish them. This month should allow for more flats fishing. We are also catching some nice Seatrout in rock holes and even on some wrecks. The usual popping cork and shrimp will work. I am catching plenty on a jig right now too. This should continue all month.

Catching Reds this month will be the toughest challenge. There are still plenty around but it has not been consistent. There are Reds on the outside and also in the back country. We have been catching some nice size fish but we just have to work a little harder. Live bait, live shrimp or a jig tipped with shrimp have all been working. Incoming tide is definitely your best bet for these. Fishing out as far as 100 ft. from some of the shorelines will produce. Moving in closer as the tide rises all the way up to the roots. Once the tide gets up too high they will be harder to catch due to the fact they are in those roots feeding.

Of course, if it's Tarpon you are after this is a good month for them also. Rolling fish will be seen in the rivers, out off the deep points and offshore along the edges. Artificials work great on these fish and red and white lures are an old time favorite that still produce.

Offshore fishing is also heating up this month. Permit and Cobia are both offshore and you may see a couple or may just see hundreds. It's a great month to mix it up and catch a variety of fish. So get out and enjoy some great weather and some great fishing to go with it!

~Good Luck Fishing! Capt. Mike Merritt

~~~~~~

Permit Season Closed on April 1st in Gulf Coast Waters Due to Updated Regulation for Spawning Season

The spawning season closure for permit inside the Special Permit Zone in south Florida started April 1. This closure includes all state and federal waters south of Cape Sable on the Gulf coast, and south of Cape Florida on the Atlantic coast including all of the Florida Keys and Biscayne Bay.

The month of April was added to the existing May-through-July season closure at the February Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) meeting.

For visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and click on "Saltwater Fishing," "Recreational Regulations" and "Permit, Florida pompano, African pompano."
~~~~~~

Local Interests

~Learn About Barron Collier~
Talk at Preserve by Local Historian
April 17th, 10:00 am

Learn about the amazing man who changed the face of southwest Florida at a free talk on Tuesday, April 17, at Naples Preserve.

Local historian Marya Repko will give an illustrated lecture at 10:00 a.m. about how Barron Collier "got sand in his shoes" and bought over a million acres before having a county named after him and forging a road through the Everglades.

But, that was not all Collier did. He owned a chain of hotels, a shipping line, a fleet of buses, and several newspapers. And, we forget that he was an important public figure in New York City during the "Roaring Twenties".

For information about Marya's books, including "The Story of Barron Collier", see her website www.ecity-publishing.com or call Marya at (239) 695-2905.

The talk will be held at the Hedges Family Eco Center in Naples Preserve, which is located at the corner of Fleischmann Boulevard and Tamiami Trail (US-41).

~~~~~~

Florida Bicycle Association Meeting Scheduled on April 21st in Naples

Florida Bicycle Association (FBA), the state-wide advocacy organization dedicated to bicycle safety and education, will have a meeting open to the public from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 21, in Naples. Agenda items include bicycle safety issues by local advocacy organizations and a presentation about off-road cycling opportunities in Collier County. Everyone is invited to attend. For more information about FBA, visit website: www.floridabicycle.org. Location of Meeting: Collier County Regional Library (Rees Meeting Room), 650 Central Avenue, Naples, Florida. Disclaimer: *"The Collier County Public Library does not sponsor or endorse this program"*

~~~~~~

HOUSEHOLD TIPS by Marya Repko
Before You Go Back Home...

If you are packing up to leave us for cooler climes, don't forget to:

► Safely deposit out-of-date prescriptions in the white metal box just inside the front door of City Hall
► Donate unopened dry and canned foods to the Pantry at the Community Church
► Donate clothing, books, and household items to the Thrift Shop
► Shut off your water at the meter or main valve on your house
► Unplug any unnecessary appliances
► Close your drains to keep pests out when your traps dry out
► Cover the toilet seat with plastic wrap so it doesn't dry out completely

Have a great summer! And, don't forget to keep up with area news at www.mulletrapper.com!

~Please Help Support the Feral Felines ~

Please help our feral cats by donating so Barbara can continue to help them! Send donations to:
Feral Felines, P O Box 564,
Chokoloskee, FL, 34138

Living With Alligators a Reality (and Necessity) in Florida

The American alligator is a conservation success story. Florida has a healthy and stable alligator population, which is estimated at 1.3 million alligators of every size. They are an important part of Florida's wetlands, but should be regarded with caution and respect.

Alligators become more active and visible during spring when temperatures rise and their metabolism increases. Although serious injuries caused by alligators are rare in Florida, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) recommends taking precautions when having fun in and around the water. Alligators inhabit all 67 counties in Florida and can be found anywhere there is standing water. Reduce the chances of conflicts with alligators by swimming only in designated swimming areas during daylight hours. Also keep pets on a leash and away from the water.

Because alligators control their body temperature by basking in the sun, they may be easily observed. However, the FWC urges people to keep their distance if they see one. And never feed alligators because it is dangerous and illegal.

The FWC places the highest priority on public safety and administers a Statewide Nuisance Alligator Program to address complaints concerning specific alligators. People concerned about an alligator should call the FWC's toll-free Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 866-FWC-GATOR (392-4286). SNAP uses contracted nuisance alligator trappers throughout the state to remove alligators 4 feet in length or greater that are believed to pose a threat to people, pets or property. The FWC also works diligently to keep Floridians and visitors informed, including providing advice about Living with Alligators at MyFWC.com/Alligator.

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):
9:00 am – 6:00 pm; daily
Supper Upstairs is Closed

Glades Haven Deli (695-2091):
Deli Closed for Repairs
Live bait available at marina

Havana Café (695-2214):
7 am to 3 pm daily
We are closing on April 15 for summer

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

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

Joanie's Blue Crab Café (695-2682):
11:00 am – 5:00 pm; Mon - Saturday
Closed Sunday

Oyster House Restaurant (695-2073):
Currently closed for repairs
Please check back!

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

Tastes of the Everglades (695-0075)
11 am to 4 pm

Triad Seafood & Café (695-2662):
M-Th 10:30-6 pm, Fri & Sat 10:30-9 pm
Sunday 10:30-9 pm

MARKETS

Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535):
9:00 am – 7:00 pm; daily

Grimm's Stone Crab (239-695-3222):
8 am to 5 pm M-Sat, Closed Sunday

Fresh Produce
1181 Hamilton Ln, Chok. Closed for Summer
By E City Post Office, Closed for Summer

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

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
Last Sunday Mass for Season, 3/8, 10:30 am

St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples
Phone: 239-417-2084

San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl.
239-394-5181

EVERGLADES CITY - BARRON RIVER TIDES
LAT: 25.87° N LONG: 81.37°W

4/7/18	Sat	3:42 AM	0.16	L
4/7/18	Sat	9:34 AM	1.82	H
4/7/18	Sat	3:44 PM	0.94	L
4/7/18	Sat	8:20 PM	2.2	H
4/8/18	Sun	4:52 AM	0.2	L
4/8/18	Sun	10:51 AM	1.85	H
4/8/18	Sun	5:19 PM	0.94	L
4/8/18	Sun	9:47 PM	2.15	H
4/9/18	Mon	5:55 AM	0.2	L
4/9/18	Mon	12:05 PM	1.96	H
4/9/18	Mon	6:27 PM	0.88	L
4/9/18	Mon	10:59 PM	2.2	H
4/10/18	Tue	6:50 AM	0.19	L
4/10/18	Tue	12:50 PM	2.11	H
4/10/18	Tue	7:20 PM	0.77	L
4/11/18	Wed	12:04 AM	2.3	H
4/11/18	Wed	7:38 AM	0.17	L
4/11/18	Wed	1:21 PM	2.27	H
4/11/18	Wed	8:03 PM	0.63	L
4/12/18	Thu	12:57 AM	2.43	H
4/12/18	Thu	8:20 AM	0.16	L
4/12/18	Thu	1:49 PM	2.42	H
4/12/18	Thu	8:41 PM	0.48	L
4/13/18	Fri	1:42 AM	2.56	H
4/13/18	Fri	8:58 AM	0.17	L
4/13/18	Fri	2:16 PM	2.56	H
4/13/18	Fri	9:17 PM	0.31	L
4/14/18	Sat	2:21 AM	2.66	H
4/14/18	Sat	9:33 AM	0.19	L
4/14/18	Sat	2:42 PM	2.68	H
4/14/18	Sat	9:54 PM	0.15	L
4/15/18	Sun	2:59 AM	2.71	H
4/15/18	Sun	10:08 AM	0.25	L
4/15/18	Sun	3:05 PM	2.77	H
4/15/18	Sun	10:32 PM	-0.01	L
4/16/18	Mon	3:38 AM	2.7	H
4/16/18	Mon	10:43 AM	0.32	L
4/16/18	Mon	3:27 PM	2.85	H
4/16/18	Mon	11:14 PM	-0.14	L
4/17/18	Tue	4:23 AM	2.62	H
4/17/18	Tue	11:18 AM	0.42	L
4/17/18	Tue	3:49 PM	2.9	H
4/17/18	Tue	11:58 PM	-0.23	L
4/18/18	Wed	5:16 AM	2.5	H
4/18/18	Wed	11:55 AM	0.54	L
4/18/18	Wed	4:15 PM	2.92	H
4/19/18	Thu	12:45 AM	-0.26	L
4/19/18	Thu	6:15 AM	2.33	H
4/19/18	Thu	12:33 PM	0.67	L
4/19/18	Thu	4:51 PM	2.89	H
4/20/18	Fri	1:38 AM	-0.24	L
4/20/18	Fri	7:23 AM	2.18	H
4/20/18	Fri	1:15 PM	0.79	L
4/20/18	Fri	5:36 PM	2.8	H
4/21/18	Sat	2:38 AM	-0.17	L
4/21/18	Sat	8:41 AM	2.07	H
4/21/18	Sat	2:13 PM	0.9	L
4/21/18	Sat	6:36 PM	2.66	H

Good News! 2017 Was a Great Breeding Year for Birds in the Everglades

Finally some really good news! After a decade of sub-par breeding numbers, 2017 turned out to be a very good year for the birds of the Everglades.

Shortly after Hurricane Irma, it was feared that breeding numbers would plummet due to high water in the 'Glades. However, this did not turn out to be true in all areas.

According to an article published in the Naples Daily News from data taken from South Florida Water Management Districts annual wading bird report, White Ibis, Wood Storks, Great Egrets, and other wading birds recorded some of the best numbers in over a decade.

It remains to be seen how long-lasting the increased higher breeding numbers will hold. It also is important to note that while the birds did well in the refuge of Everglades National Park and in a handful of water conservation areas immediately north of it, they still struggled in their ancient breeding grounds, in the disappearing shallow wetlands near the Big Corkscrew Swamp and coasts of southern Florida, according to the report.

"It's important not to read too much into one -year population jumps or drops," said Mark Cook, the water district's lead scientist, who helped put together the report. But last year's numbers compared to 10- and 20-year averages are a sign for hope, Cook said.

"It shows us ecologists that if we can get the water right in one year and see this kind of rebound then we can restore the system," he said. "I do not think it's too far-fetched to say we could recover a good portion of those birds that were historically here, with the right hydrological conditions. Even though the system is about half the size it was, I think it's possible."

Audubon has detailed records dating back to the late 19th century, so there is excellent knowledge of historic bird populations. "They're really the only group of organisms that we have good records from the early 20th century and even late 19th century," he said. "We know where they nested and how many of each species there were. So unlike everything else, we really know what we're aiming for."

Monitors counted 46,248 wading bird nests in the 2017 season, between December 2016 and July 2017. That's up from the 26,676 found in 2016 and above the 10-year annual average of 39,066.

It also marks the best year since 2009, the highwater mark for the population since restoration efforts began.

Explore Florida's largest state park!
The Friends of Fakahatchee lead guided swamp walks and tram tours of Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park each week during season. For complete details and required reservations, visit: **www.orchidswamp.org**
All proceeds benefit the Park

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.

GOLF CART TIRES: 4 newer golf cart tires with white rims for an EZGO golf cart. Purchased new in 2017 but the cart was ruined in the flood...we salvaged the tires. New they were $60 each. Purchase all 4 for $50. Call Kathy for info: 954-662-7003.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Electricians helper. Experience preferred, but not necessary. Must be reliable and honest. Call Herb @ 239-398-5093 .

REDUCED! 2 stilt houses EC: NOW $239,900 for 408 Buckner; $339,900 for 309 S. Storter. GREAT shape! Call Steve 910-599-2698. Dock available.

FOR RENT: 2 office spaces and one 2 room restaurant space, in the Glades Building @ the S. E. corner of Broadway and Allen Ave. For information and rates call- (239) 293 3033.

FULL-TIME JOB: Cashier at Joanie's Blue Crab Café. Experience preferred. Must be reliable and honest. The restaurant is located at 39395 Tamiami Trail E, Ochopee, FL. Please call Joanie about this position at: 239-695-2682.

THE MULLET RAPPER
P.O. Box 134
Everglades City, FL 34139

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR LEASE: Deepwater commercial dock and lot on Barron River at 909 DuPont St. in Everglades City. Perfect for business, commercial fishing or restaurant with chickee bar and tourist gift shop attraction, $1000 / month. Contact: Rancho T Properties LLC, (727) 480-1640.

FOR SALE: RV Lots with docks. Call Bob Wells Real Estate @ 239-695-2660 for more information.

FOR RENT: Everglades City R.V. Hookups. Two sites, 30 and 50 amp service, water, no sewage. Rental available nightly and weekly. Rough boat ramp, 100 ft boat dock with water. Private and Secured. Contact Captain Wayne of Fishhuntcharters at 1-239-695-2445.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Become an election worker for the 2018 elections. Qualifications: Be a registered voter in Collier County. Be able to read and write English. Complete the orientation and training. You must be available to work a 12-14 hour shift. Get started today! Complete your application at www.CollierVotes.com. Call us if you have questions. By email at: ElectionWorker@colliergov.net. Or by phone: **(** 239) 252-VOTE (8683).

FOR SALE: Two 5th wheel campers: 2008, 35', mint condition, $17500. 2017, 35', with fireplace, kitchen. Mint condition, $18,900. Both have 3 slide outs and many extras. Can deliver. Located in E-city. Call 317-696-2628.

The MULLET RAPPER

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

PUBLISHER
Kathleen Brock, K Bee Marketing, Inc.
P.O. Box 134, Everglades City, FL 34139
(954) 662-7003, MulletRapper@gmail.com
PUBLISHER EMERITUS
Patricia A. Huff, Snook Publications
EDITOR
Kathleen Brock
PHOTOJOURNALIST
Helen Bryan
CONTRIBUTORS to this Issue
Marya Repko, Elaine Middelstaedt, Patty Huff
Mike Klein, Charles Sobczak, Mike Merritt
Katherine Tullie, James Ragusa
PRODUCTION
DEB Printing & Graphics, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT
We provide local news of interest to the extended communities of Everglades City, Chokoloskee, Plantation Island, Lee Cypress, Copeland, Jerome & Ochopee
We strive to present the facts accurately with no political or social bias.
The views expressed in signed articles are not necessarily those of the editors or publisher.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
$40 annual by US Postal Mail, $10 by email
©2018, K Bee Marketing, Inc.
All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission.
****

SUBSCRIBE TO THE RAPPER

Annual Rate by Mail: $40
Annual Email Subscription: $10
To subscribe, please send name, address, email address and mail a check in the correct amount to:
K Bee Marketing, Inc.
PO Box 134
Everglades City, FL 34139
Call or Text Us: (954) 662-7003
Visit our Website:
www.MulletRapper.com