The MULLET RAPPER

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

APRIL 21, 2018 - MAY 4, 2018

(Check Out Our New Website! Visit www.SWFLGO.com)

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TIDE TABLE & RESTAURANTS PAGE 11

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P O Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139 Volume X • Issue # 310

The Museum of the Everglades Turns 20! And You are Invited to the Celebration!

Just over 20 years ago, there was a little building in Everglades City known as the "old laundry."

Originally, the laundry building was built by Barron Collier, and it was used by many of the families who had relatives on the Tamiami Trail work crew. Barron Collier and other dignitaries would get their shirts cleaned, pressed and starched there. Back at that time, Everglades City was the County seat, and was a target destination of many of society's elite families.

In 1998, an intensive renovation was completed to restore the building to its original 1920's appearance. The Collier County board approved the renovation in a 5-0 vote to restore and open the location as a part of the Collier Museum family.

Today, the Museum of the Everglades is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and one of the City's most treasured pieces of history.

On April 28th, we will celebrate the Museum's 20th anniversary in conjunction with the 90th anniversary of the opening of the Tamiami Trail which took place on April 28th 1928.

April 28th, 3 Events in 1 Day!

►The Tamiami Trail 90th Anniversary
►Museum of the Everglades' 20th Birthday Celebration
►Art-in-the-Glades
Don't miss one minute of this huge FREE event in Everglades City.
(See event schedule on page 8.)

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FEATURE: ALL ABOUT BURROWING OWLS, P. 9

The Tamiami Trail Turns 90! It Was, and Still is, A Big Deal for Florida. Come to the 90th Anniversary Celebration in Everglades City on April 28th!

In April 1928 a gala celebration was planned that included some of the most prominent members of Florida society. Barron Collier, president of the Tamiami Trail Association, was also in charge of the Trail's Grand Opening celebration. The event was held over a three day period starting on April 25th, 1928 in Tampa, with a stop in Fort Myers, a huge gala in Everglades City on the 26th and concluding in Miami on April 28th.

Attendees included dignitaries like, Henry Ford, Thomas A. Edison and prominent businessmen from the area. The Tamiami Trail was a huge engineering feat at the time taking over 5 years to complete and 2000 workers to build it.

When the project began it was not headed by Barron Collier. Captain James Franklin Jaudin, a developer from Dade County, actually started the project. His crew was known as the "Trail Blazers." He was financing it mostly himself and quickly realized that it would be much more difficult and far more expensive then first thought. The terrain was difficult and the limestone was much deeper than anticipated. The project soon ran out of money.

This is when leaders reached out to Barron Collier. Collier was a shrewd businessman and structured a deal so that it would benefit him personally giving him some assurance that it would be fiscally sound (in the long run). He would help finance the road if Lee County would relinquish the land that he owned for the formation of a new county. In addition, the road had to go through this new (Collier) county. In October 1923, work on the trail began and the rest is history!

Here are some great photos from the Florida Archives of the Tamiami Trail construction and Grand Opening! Don't forget to attend the 90th Anniversary Celebration in Everglades City on April 28th. Activities start at 10 am, the complete schedule is on page 8, center column!

Huffman Construction Company houseboat cr. 1925

Construction along a canal cr.1926

Excavation crew cr. 1926

Grand opening gala, Everglade, April 26, 1928

See Complete April 28th Event Schedule, Center Column, Page 8.

APRIL 22, 2018 – MAY 26, 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
22	23	24 **Gym Rededication, 9 am, see p. 5**	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 **full 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, see p. 3**	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, McLeod Pk**
13	14 **Get Some Stone Crabs… While They Last**	15 **new moon** ● **Stone Crab Season Closes** ☹	16 **Ladies Coffee** Island Café 8 am	17 **School Awards Night, 5 to 7 pm**	18	19 ***RAPPER***
20	21	22 **Reach Out Mtg, 4 pm**	23 **Ladies Coffee** City Seafood 8 am	24	25 **Graduation!** See p. 5	26

May 28: Memorial Day **June 30: Independence Day Celebration** **July 4: Independence Day (National)**

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, 4 pm, City all
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	Mon-Fri: 9:30 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 4:30 pm
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

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.

BE A PART OF THE ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION!

The planning has already started for the annual Independence Day Celebration in Everglades City that will take place on Saturday, June 30th.

The parade will not be complete without your participation so please plan on decorating your golf cart, swamp buggy or whatever you can think of to join in on the fun.

Donations are appreciated and help fund the day's event that includes the amazing fireworks, the parade, and celebration at McLeod Park that features contests for kids and a raffle!

To contribute to the celebration, please send a check to: Everglades City Fireworks Fund, PO Box 110, Everglades City FL 34139. For more info, call Dottie at 239-695-3781. Thank you for your participation!

"Seven Model T's, One Elcar, and a Truck – Trailbazing the Tamiami Trail" Exhibit
Museum of the Everglades
April 2, 2018 - May 31, 2018

"Seven Model T's, One Elcar, and a Truck – Trailbazing the Tamiami Trail" tells the story of a group of men who drove across the Everglades in their automobiles back in 1923 - before there was a road.

Conceived as a publicity stunt to draw public support for the construction of the Tamiami Trail, this group of businessmen and entrepreneurs – largely inexperienced and unequipped – not only succeeded in reaching their intended goal, but ultimately convinced Barron Collier to finance the building of this highway across the state. The exhibit features a collection of images and artifacts that bring this fascinating chapter of South Florida history to life. Visit the museum: 105 W. Broadway Avenue, Everglades City, FL, from 9 am to 4 pm daily.

National Day of Prayer, May 3rd
Noon at Everglades City Hall

The 2018 National Day of Prayer will be observed Thursday, May 3, at 12 noon. On that day over 40,000 events nationwide will be praying for our country. Pastors of our local churches will again be leading this service. Luncheon will follow in the old Council Chamber Room in City Hall.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

FREE DENTAL, BLOOD PRESSURE & DIABETES SCREENINGS, PLUS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INFORMATION FOR ALL AGES
April 30th & May 22nd , 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 & may 22nd** from 9 am to 4 pm, in the Fire Station parking lot, providing free dental, diabetes, blood pressure screenings and behavioral health information. For more information or an appt: call 239-986-7323.

THE FOOD BANK IS OPEN!
Wednesdays noon to 2pm

Everglades Community Pantry, a proud partner agency of the Harry Chapin Food Bank, is open every Wednesday from noon to 2 in Jinkins Fellowship Hall at Everglades Community Church. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

DOCTOR'S CLINIC

Dr. Kirk DeMartino is seeing patients in his Marco Island Office. 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. Appts: from 10 am to 6 pm. Call to confirm: 813-787-9738, see p.8.

~ 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.

Mayor Grimm Attends Roundtable with President Trump!

On April 16th Everglades City Mayor Howie Grimm was invited to, and attended, a roundtable discussion in Hialeah with President Trump, Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (FL-25), Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL), Labor Secretary Alex Acosta, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and community leaders to discuss the recent tax reform bill.

The purpose of the roundtable was to assess any economic impact that the tax reform bill may have generated, and to obtain feedback from community leaders...and take that information back to Washington, D.C.

Mayor Grimm was on a short list of about 200 invited from the South Florida community.

A Message From
Fire Chief Kingman Schuldt

The second week in April is a special week for the fire service. April 8 – 14 is recognized as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. While we are always appreciative of their efforts, on this week we recognize the telecommunications personnel who serve a critical role in the delivery of public safety services. Without the dedication and commitment of these quiet heroes behind the scenes, we would not be able to carry out our mission to provide emergency response services to our community. Please join us in extending thanks to the telecommunications operators within the Collier County Sheriff's Office and the City of Naples Police Department who serve our community with excellence.

This same week is also recognized as Wildfire Awareness Week as we commemorate the 20th anniversary of the historic 1998 wildfire season where 500,000 acres were burned throughout Florida destroying more than 300 homes and structures. Recently, our community got a glimpse of the impact wildfires can have. At this time, in cooperation with the Florida Forest Service, we want to stress the importance of fire safety. If you haven't already, take time out to prepare a wildfire plan for your family. You should also prepare your property to help mitigate wildfire risk:

►Have a 30 foot radius of clear zone around your home. Eliminate brush and limbs that are too close to your home.

►Cut grass and weeds before the heat of the day to reduce fire hazard.

►Landscape with fire resistant plants closer to the home. Those with higher water content and low profiles.

►Keep combustible materials away from your home like gas, propane tanks.

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Visit the Everglades City Museum Located at:
105 West Broadway
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Open Monday through Saturday
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
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14 T	O	O	■	15 S	I	D	E	B	A	16 R
■	■	■	17 W	E	N	■	18 R	U	S	E
19 U	20 N	21 T	I	L	■	22 D	A	T	E	D
23 P	E	R	T	■	24 D	E	L	■	■	■
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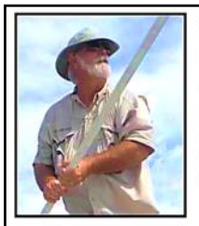
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A Message from Principal Ragusa

Coming Down the Homestretch

We are in the last quarter of the school year with many students completing their required state assessments over the next two months. Testing has been pushed back this year due to changes made by the state legislature last year and as a result of Hurricane Irma. This was a welcome change due to the closure of school for over two weeks after the storm.

Please encourage our students to give their best as they have done an excellent job working through the challenges that we faced as a community this year. We really believe that students have shown tremendous resiliency and words of encouragement can give them a little extra spark when completing their required assessments.

We look forward to a number of improvements to our campus and this week work began on the new basketball surface and pavilion at the rear of our campus. This important improvement will give another location for the PE classes to meet as well as for the volleyball and basketball teams to use for practices if the gym is in use by another team. It should be a great addition to our campus and we look forward to it being completed prior to the start of school in August.

IT IS ALWAYS A GREAT DAY TO BE A GATOR!

School Schedule:

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

Mullet Rapper Donations to Date
~$1700 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!

You Can Sign Kids Up For Collier Parks Summer Camp 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!

In April 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.

A Special Thank You!
To Mr. Tribble's Class from the City of Everglades City for Painting the Pelicans at the Entrance to City Hall.
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My Little Slice of Paradise

by Kathy Brock

Understanding Red Tide

In northern Collier and Lee Counties, there have been reports of red tide and dead and dying fish on the beaches. This is quite unsightly and a bit unnerving if you are not from around these parts...and not familiar with what red tide is, and it isn't so nice even if you do!

A red tide is a type of algal bloom. It is a higher-than-normal concentration of a microscopic alga (plantlike organism). In Florida and the Gulf of Mexico, the species that causes most of our red tides is Karenia brevis, often abbreviated as K. brevis. To distinguish K. brevis blooms from red tides caused by other species of algae, researchers in Florida call the former the "Florida red tide."

An outbreak of red tide can cause health issues for both humans and marine life. In humans the algae can cause breathing issues, especially for people with emphysema or asthma. K. brevis can also cause allergy related problems, scratchy throats and headaches.

In marine life, a severe red tide can be deadly to sea turtles, manatees and other marine life, causing central nervous system damage which can lead illness and to death. And, obviously the most widely reported issue is a fish-kill that can reach the beaches.

Scientists are able to forecast red tide movement using wind and water current data once a bloom is located. Scientists also monitor the concentration of the red tide organism by collecting water samples from the affected areas. Red tide movement and concentration are important because the effects of a red tide, such as dead fish and human respiratory irritation, depend on these factors and the data is used by news organizations so that the public can stay informed.

K. brevis is formed about 40 miles off shore so this is not an algae associated with runoff of nutrients near shore. However, once a K. brevis outbreak reaches in shore waters, the man-made nutrients can influence its growth.

There are some types of red tide that are directly associated with runoff from fertilizers and other man-made nutrient sources, especially those used in high doses in coastal areas where the runoff reaches the waters directly.

Red tide gets its name from the color of the water during a severe outbreak. Some types of algae will discolor the water red, brown and almost purple. These tides happen all around the world so this is not just a Florida phenomena.

An outbreak of red tide can last from a week to over a year. There are many factors that influence this and researchers are not able to predict how long a bloom will last with any certainty at the current time.

K. brevis is only present in saline waters but there are types of algae blooms that also affect fresh water bays and estuaries.

Like all green plants, algae produce oxygen during the daylight hours as a by-product of photosynthesis. This is usually a major source of oxygen in fresh water ponds. In darkness, however, all plants consume oxygen, including algae. Algae blooms in natural water bodies or fish ponds normally produce much more oxygen in the daylight than they consume during the night, but some situations reduce the amount of oxygen a bloom produces without reducing its nighttime oxygen consumption resulting in oxygen depletion and a fish-kill.

The good news is our off shore winds typically keep the tide from getting too close to our shorelines and we have not been affected by the recent outbreaks in the 10,000 islands...and it is a natural phenomena. So for now, our coast is clear. So yes, even in paradise sometimes these things can happen.

Recipes for Good Eating

By Bonnie Woodward

Ham Hot Dish

Ingredients:

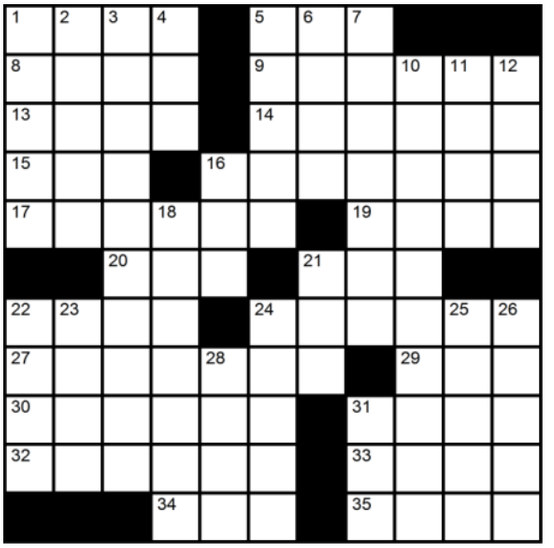
2 Pounds Cooked Diced Ham
1 Pound Spaghetti Noodles Cooked
1 Pound Shredded American Cheese
1 Large Can Crushed Tomatoes
1 Large Can Mushrooms
1/3 Cup Oil
2 Large Onions Diced
2 Green Peppers Diced
Salt, Pepper, Paprika to Taste

Directions:

This is a recipe that is quite common in the north, but is great anywhere. This is an excellent dish to serve when you have leftovers from a baked ham!

Cook noodles and set aside to cool. Sauté peppers, onion & ham in oil. Add tomatoes, mushrooms, cheese, salt, pepper, and paprika then mix in with cooked noodles. Cover and bake at 325° for 15 to 20 minutes. Serve hot with a green vegetable.

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD



4/21/18

Across

1 More than 50%
5 Pull laboriously
8 Fuzzy red Muppet
9 It's on top of the world
13 --- Turing, of "The Imitation Game"
14 Dark
15 Abner's intro
16 Ladies' man
17 Scold (2 wds)
19 Basic unit of heredity
20 Average
21 Dog or cat
22 Supercilious manner
24 Discontinued Chrysler marque
27 Bewitched
29 Once around the track
30 Get the teachers attention
31 Ready to eat
32 Not destroyed or lost
33 Way out yonder
34 Defiant exclamation
35 View from Los Alamos

Down

1 Soft, dry and friable
2 Stan's sidekick
3 Contract details
4 Weight unit: may be long or short
5 Illumination
6 "Daily Bruin" publisher
7 Composer --- Bizet
10 Perk up
11 So be it
12 Funerary bonfire
16 Amtrak unit
18 Urgent sale words
21 Write
22 His name is on a stadium in Queens
23 Large-screen format
24 Pool dimension
25 Spanish appetizers
26 Musical drama
28 Sushi option
31 Run into

Poetry Street

By Katherine Tullie

As I looked out my window one day, I saw a beautiful butterfly going from flower to flower. The butterfly seemed to be so free. That is what inspired me to write this poem.

LET US FLY HIGH LIKE A DELICATE BUTTERFLY

Let us fly high like a delicate butterfly
Fluttering our wings and knowing why
In and around blossoms
in the garden so free
There is something special about
you and about me
We are free to come and to go
With a life unabridged and in the know
We are strong though delicate indeed
We have true happiness.
We are more likely to succeed
As we flutter in flight
We do not give up the fight
Always coming down to
a smooth silky landing
Alive with gratitude
and not too demanding
Gratitude is a strong trait in our heart.
That is so
Our loving heart shines brightly
Like the spectrum in a rainbow
Shining brightly for all to see
The love in our lives shared
with others so they may be
Letting others know our secrets
By opening the doors
with a special magical key!

Email: Kathythepoet@gmail.com
Look for Poetry Street on Twitter
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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 News

Coastal Cleanup a BIG Success

Clean-up Day in Everglades City & Chokoloskee was a great success. Thanks to the almost 20 volunteers from Chokoloskee and 40 more in Everglades City, including ORA and the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Another HUGE help came from Rick Perez Landscaping Co. who donated the use of his equipment, so volunteers could fill and compact the 3 large dumpsters on Chokoloskee. The dumpsters were all filled to the brim.

Two more dumpsters were filled to the brim in Everglades City as volunteers found trash by boat and on foot clearing out debris and trash left behind from Hurricane Irma. Thank you to Tony & Tammy Pernas for helping organize the day's event and to everyone who participated!

The 90th Anniversary of the Opening of Tamiami Trail & The Museum of the Everglades' 20th Birthday
Event Schedule
April 28, 2018

10:00 am: Booths Open in McLeod Park, Coffee & Bake Sale
10:00 am : Guided Walking Tour of Historic Buildings
11:00 am: Opening Ceremony on City Hall Porch
11:30 am: Grande Parade
11:30 am: BBQ ($10) in McLeod Park
Noon: Naples Dixieland Jazz Band in McLeod Park
1:00 pm: Marco Historical Re-Enactors (Museum)
2:00 pm:: Guest Speaker Jonathan Ullman (Museum)
3:00 pm: Old-Timers' Story-Telling (Museum)
4:00 pm: Afternoon Tea & Birthday Cake (Rod & Gun)

Dr. John Martin's Clinic Reopens in Everglades City
(between the Thrift Store & Fire Station)

With the repairs complete, Dr. John Martin was able to finally reopen his little clinic at 203 Buckner Avenue. He is taking appointments for Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m., to 6:00 p.m. To schedule or confirm an appointment, please call 813-787-9738.

Park News

FWC Returns Panther Family to Picayune Strand State Forest

A female panther and her two kittens are back in the wild after spending months in captivity. On April 10, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) panther team released the panther family in the Picayune Strand State Forest in Collier County. This is the first time the FWC has rescued, rehabilitated and released a family group of panthers.

FWC biologists rescued the adult female panther, known as FP224, in December 2017 after she was struck by a vehicle on Collier Boulevard in Naples. They took her to the Animal Specialty Hospital of Florida in Naples where veterinarians determined she had a broken hind leg. Following a successful surgery to repair the fracture, the FWC panther veterinarian took the panther to White Oak Conservation Foundation for rehabilitation.

In June, FP224 produced a litter of one female and two male kittens, and biologists suspected these kittens were near where their mother was injured. They set up cameras to locate the young panthers, and two of the kittens were photographed and captured immediately thereafter. Unfortunately, biologists were not able to capture the third kitten.

Biologists brought the two male kittens to White Oak Conservation Foundation. They were not immediately returned to their mother so that her leg had time to heal. Last month, the family was reunited in a 1-acre pen to maintain the family bond.

On Monday, veterinarians determined that all three felines were healthy and ready for release.

"Typically, orphaned kittens still dependent on their mothers need to be kept in captivity until they can survive on their own," said Darrell Land, FWC panther team leader. "However in this case, the mother can continue to raise her kittens, teaching them the required survival and social skills they would not receive in captivity."

FP224 is not new to the rescue and rehabilitation efforts of the FWC and partners. In 2013, she was struck by a vehicle and had to be rescued. In the years between the two accidents she has produced three litters of kittens, successfully contributing to the Florida panther population.

Florida residents can support conservation efforts like the rescue and rehabilitation of injured or orphaned panthers by purchasing a "Protect the Panther" license plate. Fees from license plate sales are the primary funding source for the FWC's research and management of Florida panthers.

People can also help with panther research by reporting panther sightings and uploading photos and videos to the FWC online at MyFWC.com/PantherSightings.

To report dead or injured panthers, call the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922), or MyFWC.com/Panther.

Living Gulf Coast

by Charles Sobczak

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) Other names: turkey buzzard / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=LC / Life span: to 16 years / Length: 25-32 in. (64-81cm) / Wingspan: 67-70 in. (170-178 cm) / Weight: 3.2 lb (1.45 kg) / Nests: on the ground throughout SW Florida / Found: All Counties, coastal, near coast, mainland / Months found: (lower case indicated breeding season) **JFmamjjASOND**.

The turkey vulture is one of the easiest birds to spot in Florida. All you really have to do is look up. The only time you will not see it soaring above the mainland is in the early morning before the rising thermals form. It is one of the most ubiquitous birds in the sky, and in agricultural areas such as Glades and Hendry counties it is not uncommon to see dozens of these large birds across the horizon.

A carrion feeder, the turkey vulture thrives on roadkill, red tide incidents (feeding on washed-up fish carcasses), and other dead animals. When there is a shortage of carrion, it feeds on garbage, vegetables, and even pumpkins, so it is actually an omnivore. Even though the vulture—with its unsavory eating habits, bald head, and black body—is considered unattractive by most birders, it plays an important role in the ecosystem. It quickly removes dead chicks from rookeries and feeds on stillborn livestock and other large carcasses such as deer and bear. This niche behavior greatly reduces the risk of diseases spreading from the decaying flesh. The vulture makes up the biological cleaning crew of the wilderness.

Whereas the black vulture feeds by sight, the turkey vulture feeds by both sight and smell. It has the most sophisticated olfactory sense of any bird in the world, able to spot and smell carrion from heights of up to 200 feet.

The turkey vulture tends to be less social than its close cousin, the black vulture. Although the turkey vulture is easily and frequently spotted soaring overhead, almost no one ever sees its nests. This is in large part because it nests either on the ground in dense cover such as Brazilian pepper or white mangrove thickets, where it builds a minimal nest of raked stones, dried leaves, and wood chips, or in hollowed-out tree stumps with narrow entrances.

It has several other unique behaviors. One of the weirdest of these is its propensity to defecate on its own legs, using the evaporation of the water to cool itself down. When alarmed, the turkey vulture has been known to throw up on its attackers.

Because of its tendency to feed on roadkill, the turkey vulture is often hit by automobiles. It is also sometimes killed by predators such as panthers in an effort to keep the vulture off of fresh kills. Because it is a ground nester, its eggs and chicks are subject to predation by mammals and snakes.

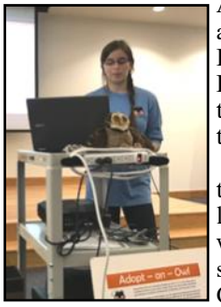
Photo by: Hung V. Do

SNOOK SEASON IS OPEN

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

Protecting Burrowing Owls in the Everglades

by Kitty Greenleaf



A large crowd showed up recently to attend a lecture and training in how to help Burrowing Owls in the Everglades. Nearly 100 people showed up at Rose Hall at the Marco Island Library to learn how to help the rare and diminutive raptor, now listed as threatened in Florida.

According to Allison Smith , staff researcher at the Audubon of the Western Everglades pictured left, Florida is the only state east of the Mississippi with Burrowing Owls, and Marco Island boasts the second largest population in the state, second only to Cape Coral.

Smith, who is pursuing a graduate degree in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida, said the Burrowing Owl is tiny in comparison to its cousins, the Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, and Barn Owl, standing a mere 7-10 inches tall and weighing only 5-9 ounces. Smith is studying the habits of the Burrowing Owl in an effort to protect their numbers.

Smith, who hails from New Jersey, traveled to Florida two years ago to do some volunteer work helping shorebirds when she learned about the Burrowing Owls.

"It was completely by accident. I became fascinated with the Burrowing Owl," she said. "They are just this really weird species. Imagine these grassland species birds living in people's front yards. I decided this was the bird I wanted to study."

Smith has counted and recorded 350 Burrowing Owls in all on Marco Island, including 170 mated pairs, and 10 singletons. Of the 170 mated pairs, 119 pairs had successful nesting which produced a total of 317 youngsters in 2017.

She said Marco Island currently has active nest sites spread out over 19 different neighborhoods. The owls prefer flat, sunny and sandy uplands with a clear view so they can watch for predators like hawks, and domestic dogs and cats.

The owls use their feet to dig deep burrows in the sand, creating a gradually sloping tunnel of seven to eight feet before reaching a depth at the bottom of the nest of three feet.

The Burrowing Owl is the only species of owl that lives underground, she said. The owls are also known to take up residence in abandoned gopher tortoise burrows. The majority of these nests are sited on vacant building lots, although the owls are also attracted to sandy grazing fields on horse ranches, she said.

With a hole dug, the yellow-eyed raptors then turn their minds to breeding and raising a clutch of youngsters, which ranges from March to July each year.

The female lays 1-9 eggs in a single clutch and the adult pair incubates the eggs for 28-30 days before hatching occurs. The young chicks emerge from their underground den roughly two weeks after hatching and can fly at six weeks of age. If the nest holes are left undisturbed, the mated pairs will return to the same location year after year, said Smith.

Oddly enough, researchers have observed that the owls decorate the outside of their burrows with bright and shiny objects like Christmas tinsel, tin foil, bottle caps, and small plastic toys, which helps the owl identify its burrow from the air. The owls also place the feces of other animals around the perimeter of the burrow's entrance, which scientists believe masks the smell of their young from predators.

Burrowing Owls eat lizards, frogs, snakes, rodents, and insects like caterpillars, crickets, grasshoppers, grubs and spiders, along with the invasive Cuban tree frog. The average lifespan of a Burrowing Owl is 6-9 years, she said.

Smith said it is important not to disturb a Burrowing Owl nest site, as it can drive the parents away from their young. Take of Burrowing Owls is prohibited by law. Harassing the owls and/or intentionally collapsing a burrow is also against the law and Marco Island Code Enforcement does not lend a kindly eye to property owners who try to force these tiny birds from their burrows. Burrowing Owls contribute to the economy, since their presence on the island draws scores of avid bird watchers each year, according to Smith.

Local Interests

Who Were the Koreshan Unity?

At the turn of the last century, a group of religious believers sought to build a "new Jerusalem" on the southwest coast of Florida near Estero based on the religious beliefs of Dr. Cyrus Teed.

These followers, called Koreshans, believed that the earth and universe were contained within a concave sphere. Teed came about this belief after a near fatal electrical shock, after which he claimed he was contacted by a divine spirit that told Teed that he was the Messiah.

Teed was born in 1839 in New York. He operated a clinic in Utica, and it was at this clinic where the event happened. Soon after, he changed his name to Koresh and began to recruit followers.

In 1888 he and his followers moved to Chicago and established a commune. Although he was quite charismatic, the Chicago newspapers viewed him as no more than a cult leader who manipulated his followers through fear.

In 1894, the group relocated to Estero where they acquired 1600 acres in Estero through both purchase and donations. Here they had a thriving community with gardens, art, a bakery and a general store. Teed would hold seminars for the public on Cellular Cosmogony, his own "hollow earth" theory. Their religious practices included communal living, property sharing, gender equality and some forms of celibacy. However, their paradise on Earth was temporary.

Teed passed away in 1908. As he lay dying, he told his followers that he would arise in three days. They left his body in a bathtub awaiting his ascension...that never came.

Local authorities forced the surviving Koreshans to allow a burial. They buried him in the bathtub in a crypt at the south end of Ft. Myers beach. A few years later, a storm washed away the crypt.

The community carried on, but without their charismatic leader, member numbers dwindled. The last resident of the Koreshan Unity died in 1981.

Today the land is public park. The story about the Koreshan's is an interesting one and it is also pertinent to Everglades City. Members of the Koreshan Unity were frequently seen in Everglades City and the photos below are from the l920's.

Left, a group of Koreshan worshipers leave the Everglades City post office in 1928. Right, four ladies enjoy the Rod & Gun Club in Everglades City in 1924.
Pictures from Florida Memory Archives

~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

Taxing Things by Mike the Tax Guy

Beware of Tax Scams!

With the April 17 tax deadline approaching, the Internal Revenue Service and Security Summit partners urge taxpayers and tax professionals to be alert to identity theft scams, especially a new email version currently pretending to be from "IRS Refunds."

As the filing season comes to a close, thieves are stepping up their efforts, warned the Internal Revenue Service and the Security Summit partners. The Security Summit, a partnership between the IRS, state tax agencies and the tax industry, continues to take steps to combat tax-related identity theft.

The "IRS Refunds" scam is a common tactic used by cybercriminals to trick people into opening a link or attachment associated with the email. This link takes people to a fake page where thieves try to steal personally identifiable information, such as Social Security numbers.

Often these links or attachments also secretly download malware that can perform many functions, such as giving the thief control of the computer or tracking keystrokes to determine other sensitive passwords or critical data.

The IRS does not randomly contact taxpayers or tax professionals via email, including asking people to confirm their tax refund information. The IRS initiates most contacts through regular mail delivered by the United States Postal Service.

However, there are special circumstances in which the IRS will call or come to a home or business, such as when a taxpayer has an overdue tax bill, to secure a delinquent tax return or a delinquent employment tax payment, or to tour a business as part of an audit or during criminal investigations.

Even then, taxpayers will generally first receive several letters (called "notices") from the IRS in the mail.

Note that the IRS does not:

►Demand that taxpayers use a specific payment method, such as a Prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. The IRS will not ask for debit or credit card numbers over the phone. Taxpayers should make check payments to the "United States Treasury" or review IRS.gov\payments for IRS online options.

►Demand that taxpayers pay taxes without the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say is owed. Generally, the IRS will first mail a bill to those who owe any taxes. Taxpayers should also be advised of their rights as a taxpayer.

►Threaten to bring in local police, immigration officers or other law-enforcement to have taxpayers arrested for not paying. The IRS also cannot revoke a driver's license, business license or immigration status. Threats like these are common tactics scam artists use to trick victims into buying into their schemes.

►With scams like these circulating, taxpayers and tax professionals should take ongoing security precautions to protect their identities and their computer networks from identity thieves.

Here are a few basic security steps for taxpayers:

►Always use security software with firewall and anti-virus protections. Make sure the security software is always turned on and can automatically update. Encrypt sensitive files such as tax records stored on computers. Use strong, unique passwords for each account.

►Learn to recognize and avoid phishing emails, threatening calls and texts from thieves posing as legitimate organizations such as banks, credit card companies and even the IRS. Do not click on links or download attachments from unknown or suspicious emails.

►Protect personal data. Don't routinely carry Social Security cards, and make sure tax records are secure. Shop at reputable online retailers. Treat personal information like cash; don't leave it lying around.

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):
Closed for Summer
See you in October

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
Closed for Summer, see San Marco below

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

4/21/18	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
4/22/18	Sun	3:48 AM	-0.09	L
4/22/18	Sun	9:59 AM	2.05	H
4/22/18	Sun	3:53 PM	0.95	L
4/22/18	Sun	8:30 PM	2.51	H
4/23/18	Mon	4:59 AM	-0.03	L
4/23/18	Mon	11:11 AM	2.12	H
4/23/18	Mon	5:23 PM	0.87	L
4/23/18	Mon	10:14 PM	2.47	H
4/24/18	Tue	6:03 AM	0.02	L
4/24/18	Tue	12:12 PM	2.25	H
4/24/18	Tue	6:33 PM	0.71	L
4/24/18	Tue	11:36 PM	2.51	H
4/25/18	Wed	7:02 AM	0.08	L
4/25/18	Wed	12:54 PM	2.41	H
4/25/18	Wed	7:33 PM	0.52	L
4/26/18	Thu	12:47 AM	2.59	H
4/26/18	Thu	7:54 AM	0.14	L
4/26/18	Thu	1:27 PM	2.56	H
4/26/18	Thu	8:24 PM	0.32	L
4/27/18	Fri	1:44 AM	2.66	H
4/27/18	Fri	8:41 AM	0.22	L
4/27/18	Fri	1:56 PM	2.71	H
4/27/18	Fri	9:09 PM	0.14	L
4/28/18	Sat	2:31 AM	2.67	H
4/28/18	Sat	9:23 AM	0.3	L
4/28/18	Sat	2:23 PM	2.83	H
4/28/18	Sat	9:52 PM	0	L
4/29/18	Sun	3:12 AM	2.62	H
4/29/18	Sun	10:03 AM	0.39	L
4/29/18	Sun	2:50 PM	2.91	H
4/29/18	Sun	10:33 PM	-0.1	L
4/30/18	Mon	3:52 AM	2.54	H
4/30/18	Mon	10:41 AM	0.48	L
4/30/18	Mon	3:17 PM	2.94	H
4/30/18	Mon	11:14 PM	-0.14	L
5/1/18	Tue	4:34 AM	2.44	H
5/1/18	Tue	11:18 AM	0.58	L
5/1/18	Tue	3:45 PM	2.91	H
5/1/18	Tue	11:54 PM	-0.15	L
5/2/18	Wed	5:18 AM	2.33	H
5/2/18	Wed	11:54 AM	0.67	L
5/2/18	Wed	4:15 PM	2.83	H
5/3/18	Thu	12:35 AM	-0.12	L
5/3/18	Thu	6:06 AM	2.22	H
5/3/18	Thu	12:29 PM	0.76	L
5/3/18	Thu	4:46 PM	2.72	H
5/4/18	Fri	1:18 AM	-0.05	L
5/4/18	Fri	6:58 AM	2.13	H
5/4/18	Fri	1:04 PM	0.85	L
5/4/18	Fri	5:23 PM	2.59	H
5/5/18	Sat	2:04 AM	0.04	L
5/5/18	Sat	7:56 AM	2.07	H
5/5/18	Sat	1:42 PM	0.93	L
5/5/18	Sat	6:08 PM	2.44	H

New Website Features Area Attractions, Accommodations & More!! www.SWFLGO.com

The publisher of the ***Mullet Rapper*** has launched a new website that will highlight Everglades City, Chokoloskee and the surrounding area, parks and activities (we like to say that the website tells you "where to go and what to do when you get here").

The site, **www.SWFLGO.com,** will serve as a hub for visitors to our area and an easy place for them to go to find everything about the area on their mobile device or laptop while they are here including a weather feed, tide tables, food, accommodations, activities and more.

Residents will find the site useful because it will also include a calendar of events, phone numbers and links to City Hall and any other information about what's going on in and around our area! We will have an area for important documents, notices and any other information useful to residents.

Businesses will like it because it puts their information in front of visitors as they are making their plans to visit the area or when they are already here looking for places to eat, sleep or spend the day.

Originally scheduled to launch in January, the site was delayed, like everything else, by the hurricane but we pushed on and are excited to get it out in beta-phase this month.

The website will be a work in progress and is not at 100% completion, so you will see new added on a regular basis.

The ***Mullet Rapper*** will be visible on the new website and will still be accessible at the original address: www.MulletRapper.com, however the old Rapper website will be taken down.

Because of the Mullet Rapper's 2-week production cycle, the paper can miss out on the news of the day or get event notices too late to make it into the publication. With the SWFLGO website, we will be able to provide timely news and information not covered in the Mullet Rapper so that residents and visitors don't miss a thing.

We look forward to building SWFLGO into a great community and visitor resource and look forward to your input and feedback! Please let your friends and visitors know about SWFLGO and look for us on Facebook too @SWFLGO.

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 CHARGER: EZ GO Links brand charger only used 3 months before the hurricane...lost the cart, charger was safe upstairs. Auto shut off, for 36 volt golf cart. Paid $315, asking $120. 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: One bedroom apartment in the Glades Building across from the Rod & Gun Club on the corner of Allen Ave. For more information call: 239 293 3033.

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

FOR SALE: 2005 3 Bdrm., 2 Bath concrete stilt home with additional Deeded adjoining lot. @ 233 Worley St Chokoloskee. Asking $269,000. View by appointment only. Call 813 763 1944.

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, The camper has 3 slide outs and many extras inside. Can deliver to you. Located in E-city. Call 317-696-2628.

The MULLET RAPPER

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

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