WOW! What a Catch
Just off of Chokoloskee Bay!

Amy Lynn Hyer was fishing with her dad, Bob Cull, in a creek off Chokoloskee Bay and caught this awesome 33 pound Permit on a 14 pound test line. Permit are typically caught well offshore.

It took them 40 minutes to land the fish, Amy fighting it while Bob was chasing it down with the boat. The teamwork proved successful and Amy landed the huge Permit.

We are sure the Cull clan will be eating well for the next few weeks! Thank you for sharing this great photo and congrats on your great catch!

Mayor Honors First Responders at Annual Fish Fry

First responders are a vital part of every community. And when ours are put to the test, they perform with flying colors and then some!

On Saturday, May 14th, the Mayor held his annual fish fry to honor our community’s first responders. The fish was fantastic and the weather held out so the event could go off without a hitch.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all of the first responders in our area (and everywhere else!). Without you, we would not feel or be as secure as we are in our community. It is essential that we take the time out of our day to honor these men and women who risk their lives to keep us safe. Thank you to Mayor Hamilton for keeping up this great tradition and thank you to all of the firefighters who work in our community!

Pictured top right: Daniel Wilcox & Todd Schilling. Below, first responders enjoy comradery, the fish and the beautiful cake!
The MULLET RAPPER
What’s Happening in the Everglades
May 20, 2017

MAY 21 – JUNE 24, 2017

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July 1: Independence Day Celebration
September 1: Snook Season Re-opens

May 21 – June 24, 2017

- July 1: Independence Day Celebration
- September 4: Labor Day
- September 1: Snook Season Re-opens
- October 15: Stone Crab Season Opens

**Post Office Phone Numbers & Hours:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post Office</th>
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<tr>
<td>Everglades City</td>
<td>(239) 695-2174</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chokoloskee</td>
<td>(239) 695-4468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ochopee</td>
<td>(239) 695-2099</td>
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**Sheriff:** 239-252-9300
**City Hall:** 239-695-378
**Public Library:** 239-695-2511
**Chamber of Commerce:** 239-695-3941

**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):**

**Lions Club:** Meetings resume in September
**Dr Demartino:** Marco Island office information on p.3.
**Dr Martin:** Mon. & Wed 10-11 am, 3-6 pm, call 813-787-9738
**AA:** Wed., 5:00 pm, Community Church
**Women's Frenship Hr:** Tues. 9:30-10:30 am, Copeland Baptist Church
**Museum:** Mon – Sat., 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
**Carnestown Recycle and Trash:** 2nd Saturday, 9 am to 3:30 pm

**Skating Rink:** Fri., Sat., 7-10 pm
**Reach Out:** 3rd Tuesday, 9:30 am, City Hall
**Little Gator Clinic:** Not seeing patients at this time
**Food Pantry:** Wed., 12 n to 2 pm, Community Church
**Veterans Support:** 1st & 3rd Thurs., 10 am, Com. Church
**Smallwood Store:** Daily, 11 am to 5 pm
**Pancake Fly-in:** Closed for the summer

**Sheriff at City Hall:** 1st Tuesday (4:30 pm) Other Tuesdays (10-11 am)
**Chamber of Commerce:** Mon–Thurs (9 am to 2 pm); Fri-Sat (9 am to 3 pm)
**Collier County:** 239-252-8999

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**Email:** mulletrapper@gmail.com
**Website:** www.MulletRapper.com
what's happening in the everglades

May 20, 2017

The MULLET RAPPER

In and Around Town

GRADUATION!
Friday, May 26, 7 PM

Our graduating class will be celebrated in the gymnasium this year. Please come out to honor our students that worked so hard to achieve their high school diploma so they can move on to their next chapter in life. The festivities start at 7 PM sharp so please arrive before to be seated a bit early so you can enjoy the entire evening.

C’MON LADIES, LET’S GET FIT!!!

Please come out and join us every Saturday evening from 6 to 7 pm to exercise with us at Chokoloskee Church of God. Everyone is invited to attend! For information call “Candy” 239-695-3452.

JOIN THE CELEBRATION!
July 1, 2017

The city is already planning for the Independence Day Celebration which will be held on Saturday, July 1st.

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. This year’s theme is “The Star-Spangled Banner”.

Donations are appreciated and help fund the day’s event that includes the amazing fireworks, the parade, and celebration at McLeod Park that features the best dressed fireworks, the parade, and celebration at the day.

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

VACATION BIBLE STUDY
July 31 – August 4th
6:30 to 8:30 PM

The Chokoloskee Church of God is holding its annual Vacation Bible School on evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

If you would like your child to attend or if you need more information, please contact Hazel at 239-695-4566.

The MULLET RAPPER

May 20, 2017

Pauline Reeves Gallery
“Everglades Found”, A Photographic Exhibit by Elizabeth Smith
May 2017

The Friends of the Museum are proud to welcome Elizabeth Smith to the Pauline Reeves Gallery. Examples of her quick plein-air sketches and her more intensive watercolor paintings will be on display during the months of April and May.

Elizabeth’s personal style is self-taught and shaped by ten years in the graphic arts, then by private studies and workshops. Recently she went back to school to complete her art degree and to take postgraduate classes.

Student Art Exhibit
“Art By E- City School Students”
June-July 2017, Reception June 1, 1-3 pm

Enjoy the art by our talented students during the months of June & July. Please come out and join the reception at the museum the afternoon of June 1st.

Community Services

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 is seeing patients at the Pauline Reeves Gallery. Call 695-0595 or 239-595-4203 to set an appointment. Email: nfn19842@naples.net for more info.

~ Accounting Services~
Mike “The Tax Guy”
Local and professional, personal & business tax services in Everglades City. Call 695-0595 or 239-595-4203 to set an appointment. Email: nfn19842@naples.net for more info.

Thrift Shop
Open 2 Days A Week
Open Tuesday and Saturday from 11 am to 3 pm, located behind the fire station. Please do not leave items on the porch. Please bring them in during operating hours. All donations are appreciated!

BECOME A CONTRIBUTOR!

Join the Mullet Rapper team and start contributing to our community paper. Send us any news, photos, recipes, and articles by the Saturday before publication so we can include it in the paper.

A Message from Fire Chief
Kingman Schultd

Exciting news this week as the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District was officially recognized as a Blue Zones certified organization and the only fire rescue agency in the state of Capri Fire Station. This state-of-the-art 36’ vessel, built by Metal Shark, is one of a kind in southwest Florida. Boat 90 is capable of transporting more than a dozen crew members and passengers, treat medical emergencies with advanced life support capabilities in a controlled environment, and produce fire streams at a rate 500 gallon per minute. Boat 90, along with her little sister Boat 60, a 26’ vessel stationed in Everglades City, makes Greater Naples the most diverse fire rescue based marine program in Collier County.

May 7-13 is National Hurricane Preparedness Week.

Hurricanes are among nature’s most powerful and destructive phenomena. If you live in Southwest Florida you are prone to tropical cyclones, and you need to be prepared. Even areas well away from the coastline can be threatened by dangerous flooding, destructive winds and tornadoes from these storms. This is your time to prepare for a potential land-falling tropical storm or hurricane. Learn how with the daily tips and related links from the National Hurricane Center at http://www.weather.gov/wrn/hurricane-preparedness.

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---PAGE 3---
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The MULLET RAPPER
What's Happening in the Everglades
May 20, 2017

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

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Our Amazing Bodies by Dr. John Martin

The Human Reproductive System – Part II

Spermatogenesis is just what it sounds like, the production of sperm. The full process takes about 64 to 72 days in a healthy male. Starting at about age 14 (yrs.) and continuing throughout life, about 400,000,000 sperm are made every day. In the more common cell development (in growth and repair) the process of “Mitosis” results in two (“daughter”) cells from one, each with a (chromosomal) DNA match to the original. In the process of gamete (male and female contributing cells, i.e. the sperm and the egg) production, the number of contributing chromosomes is split in half, from 46 to 23 (called “Meiosis”). In this manner, each parent contributes half of the chromosomal DNA to the new individual. Through a series of maturation changes the epithelial cells inside the seminiferous tubules of the testes the initial undifferentiated spermatogenic cells progress from spermatogonia to spermatocytes and from spermatocytes to spermatids and from spermatids to sperm.

Each resulting sperm or spermatozoon has a head, mid-piece, and tail. These parts correspond roughly to genetic, metabolic and locomotor functions. The head contains the compacted DNA. The mid-piece contains the mitochondria (energy units) that serve to propel the sperm along its journey by whip-like movements of the filament-like tail. Simultaneously, during the sperm maturation process, sustentocytes or “Sertoli cells” form. These cells function to: provide nutrients and essential signals to the dividing cells, even telling them to live or die. Move the cells into proper position. Secrete testicular fluid (rich in androgens and metabolic acids) that provides a transport medium. Phagocytize faulty germ cells and the excess cytoplasm sloughed off as the spermatids transform into sperm. And produce chemical mediators that help regulate spermatogenesis.

The reproductive role of the female is much more complicated than the male. Not only must she produce gametes, but her body must prepare to nurture a developing fetus for a complete term of nine months.

The ovary is the main organ of the female reproductive system. The ovary produces the ovum or “egg” to be united with the spermatozoon combining the parents DNA and beginning the life of the new fetus. The ovary also secretes the hormones estrogen and progesterone. Embedded in the highly vascular ovary cortex are many saclike structures called ovarian follicles. Each follicle consists of an immature egg called an oocyte, encased by one or more layers of very different cells. The surrounding cells are called follicle cells if a single layer is present, and granulosa cells when more than one layer is present. Unlike the male duct system, which is continuous with the tubules of the testis, the female duct system has little or no actual contact with the ovaries. Once an ovulated oocyte is cast into the peritoneal cavity (ovulation), the finger-like fimbrae that drape over the ovary help recapture the ovum and direct it into the infundibulum.

The female duct system continues back toward the uterus via the uterine tubes (aka fallopian tubes or oviducts). It is along this tubular journey when fertilization usually occurs. For a successful and healthy developing fetus/embryo and ultimate delivery of the newborn, the fertilized egg much reach the uterus (which has been preparing for its arrival) and implant there on the uterine wall. Should fertilization not occur, the oocyte (ovum) degenerates and a sloughing off of the (this time) unused nutritive uterine wall follows (menstruation), and the cycle begins again.

The uterus (Latin for “womb”) is located in the pelvis, anterior to the rectum, and behind and slightly above the bladder. It is a hollow, thick-walled, muscular organ that receives, retains and nourishes a fertilized ovum. The cervix of the uterus is its narrow neck, or outlet which projects down into the vagina. The cavity of the cervix (the cervical canal) communicates with the vagina via the internal os. The mucosa of the cervical canal secretes a mucus that fills the canal and covers the external os protection against bacterial invasion from the vagina into the uterus. Cervical mucus also blocks sperm entry except at mid-cycle, when it becomes less viscous and allows sperm to pass through. Next time, Fertilization, and Intro to Embryology.
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**Reducing Your Exposure to Mosquitoes**

Mosquitoes are most active during dawn and dusk. Try to stay indoors during times of peak activity. Dogs and cats are susceptible to heartworms, and heartworms are transmitted by mosquitoes, especially *Aedes taeniorhynchus* which are very abundant right now. To minimize your animals exposure, walk them in open areas and limit their time outdoors when mosquitoes are bad.

You should also have your pet on some form of heartworm preventative medication that you can get from the veterinarian. Investigate preventative medication that you can get from the veterinarian. You can purchase it over the counter.

By wearing long sleeves and pants you can reduce the amount of repellent needed to keep the bugs from biting you. Products with DEET are proven most effective. When you come in from outdoors wash the repellent off of you to limit your exposure to the chemicals in the repellents.

Make sure you have spare repellent on your boat, in your car and in your older child’s backpack. There are also some brands of natural repellents that you can try to see if they are effective for you and your family. There are even repellents for dogs, but my dogs absolutely would not tolerate me rubbing it on their fur, nor did it seem to do any good.

**Recipes for Good Eating**

submitted by Marya Repko

*Fresh Veggie Snacks*

The former veggie man near E-City post office told me that to stop radishes from going soggy, I should cut off the leaves and put the globes into cold water and store in the fridge. It seems to work and I take one as a ready-to-eat snack when I’m hungry.

I recall nostalgically a romantic afternoon in Paris sitting outside a sunny café eating radishes sliced in half (lengthwise) and spreading them with lovely salted butter … a perfect hors d’oeuvre. I don’t remember the rest of the meal, equally excellent, but I’ve never forgotten the radishes, so simple but so elegant.

I’ve since discovered another use for radishes: slice them up and throw into a stir-fry. They give a crunchy and tasty addition to whatever other veggies you are cooking up.

I prepare celery in a similar way for quick eating. I cut off the bottom of the bunch and then select the inner stalks which I cut in half and store in a glass with water in my fridge. All I need to do is take one out and start munching. It’s a great palette-cleanser and a healthy vehicle for spready cheese … my favorite is Boursin.

My mother insisted that celery leaves be put into the pot when she was boiling up shrimp. She did not include them when she served the shrimp but I often add celery, leaves and thinly-sliced stalks, which really do add a lot of flavor, and I enjoy them. I’m always doing something with celery, I think I’m addicted.

And, of course, I also use sliced celery in my stir fry or steamed with other veggies. Jazz them up with a dollop of garlic mayo … dice raw peeled garlic cloves, mix into small plastic container of mayo, add seasoning like dried turra-gon, store in fridge for healthy use on veggies instead of butter.

---

**MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD**

Across

2. Finished
5. Deep cut
7. Type of sentence
8. Whiskers in front of the ears
11. Project data
13. Mid-point between a.m. and p.m.
14. Strong dislike
15. Mentally defeat
16. A lost boat is this
19. The wolf did this to the 3 pigs home
22. Near
23. Finale
24. Tiny Tim used them through tulips
25. Spools
26. Talent
27. You plant flowers in them

Down

1. Tool for painting
2. Beginning
3. You need it to speak
4. Concludes
5. Type of reef fish
6. Contraction of has not
9. You do it with an ear
10. Bumps in the night
12. Forgive a crime legally

**MULLET RAPPER**

What’s Happening in the Everglades

May 20, 2017

email: muletrapper@gmail.com

www.MulletRapper.com
My Little Slice of Paradise
by Kathy Brock

The news about a local fisherman who was stuck on a sand bar and could not use his cell phone is a good reminder that you must be prepared and knowledgeable when boating, fishing, diving or participating in any type of water sport. With the prevalence of cell phones, “old fashioned” communication devices have essentially disappeared. However, the tried and true ship to shore radio performs when cellular phones may fail.

Cell phones rely on a tower to bounce the signals from phone to phone. Ship to shore radios work on VHF radio transmissions that can be transmitted for several miles. The story about the fisherman reminded me of a scary experience Tim & I had on a dive trip some years back. On our dive boat, we had a ship to shore, emergency equipment and other resources for whatever event may occur. It is our rule. But on this particular afternoon, we joined friends who had purchased a brand new boat and then invited us out to one of our favorite diving spots.

It was just two couples and the ocean that beautiful summer afternoon. We did our first dive early at about 40 feet. It went flawlessly, and was what most dive excursions are…amazing. We surfaced to do our top time and the two guys decided that next we should do a deeper dive. We got to the location and saw that the current was pretty strong so the two wives decided to stay on board so the guys could do a drift dive at 90 feet, I have never liked to fight the current. Normally, a 90 foot dive is a 30 minute endeavor…

While waiting we got to talking and talking as we followed the dive flag. After 40+ minutes I felt something was amiss and suggested we venture over to the flag to look for bubbles (from our husbands beneath the flag on the ocean floor). No bubbles! I nervously lifted the flag only to find that the rope that would connect it to Tim on the other end was nowhere to be found. We were following an aimless flag and our husbands were somewhere in the Atlantic, but nowhere in sight.

Knowing what the next move should be, I asked where the ship to shore was located…and found out they did not have one! So here we sit in the middle of the ocean, in a shiny new boat, with waves increasing as the afternoon easterly winds blow separated from our husbands - somewhere out there. Next, I suggested we look for a large vessel which would surely have a VHF radio. We spotted a large sailboat in the distance and motored out quickly to plead for them to notify the Coast Guard and tell them that our husbands are missing. The Guard instructed us to zig zag back south (we drifted north with the Gulf Stream current) in an effort to find them. I knew we were in trouble as the whitecaps were making it very difficult to see anything in the water!

Soon we saw helicopters, police boats and the Coast Guard mobilizing to find them too. As time passed, the more nervous we became and the choppier the ocean became. Eventually, we reached the port distressed as we did not find them with our boat. When we arrived to our port, there is Tim & his buddy on shore. So no, I did not collect the Life Insurance policy! So here we sit in the middle of the ocean, in a shiny new boat, with waves increasing as the afternoon easterly winds blow separated from our husbands - somewhere out there. Next, I suggested we look for a large vessel which would surely have a VHF radio. We spotted a large sailboat in the distance and motored out quickly to plead for them to notify the Coast Guard and tell them that our husbands are missing. The Guard instructed us to zig zag back south (we drifted north with the Gulf Stream current) in an effort to find them.

Learning lessons? First and foremost, a ship to shore will succeed when your cell phone fails and is a must over the water. Second, don’t assume everything you buy is well thought out. That dive flag had an inherent design flaw and if we were more scrutinizing, it could have been discovered long before that potential disaster. Third, if you are alone, you simply must have a backup plan in case things go wrong (like gallons of mosquito repellent!) Lastly, take everything you do on the water seriously. No matter how experienced you are, stuff happens and that “stuff” is usually not-so-good.

Fortunately, this story had a happy ending except for one tiny little thing… Tim gave away all of our lobster that day and we ended up having hamburgers for dinner instead.

Off the Shelf - Book Review

The People’s Commissioner
by Lynn Alexander, Marissa Cleveland, and Stephanie Spell
reviewed by Marya Repko

Donna Fiala has been an active Collier County Commissioner since the Millennium for East Naples, Marco Island, Port of the Islands, and Copeland. Although her constituency does not include E-City and Chokoloskee, she shows an interest in what is happening down here and attends events when her busy calendar allows.

Donna moved to Naples with her family over 40 years ago from Ohio and worked in sales or public relations as well as joining local groups such as the Kiwanis, Naples Press Club, and East Naples Civic Association where she was encouraged to stand for election in 2000.

Her achievements are many with an emphasis on making life easier and more pleasant for residents; for example, plants in the medians of the roads, good lighting in dark neighborhoods, bus shelters in Copeland. She will not be forgotten because the Eagle Lakes Community Center on US-41, for which she lobbied, has been named in her honor (see Rapper, 6/15/2015).

This dynamic and sympathetic Commissioner believes in open government; she holds town hall meetings, at which a member of the County staff answers questions, and organizes tours of County facilities. Besides all her obligations, she also finds time to write a column for local newspapers and recently launched her own online newsletter (www.donnastidbits.com) to keep us up to date on developments in the area.

Donna will not stand for re-election when her term is up so this little book is a timely tribute. And, the proceeds from the sale goes to local charities. It is a print-on-demand book which I ordered at www.abebooks.com and will be available at Collier County Public Library on request.
Living Gulf Coast by Charles Sobczak

Crevice Spiders (Family Filistatidae) Other names: southern house spider, crevice weaver / Status: FL=common / Life span: to 8 years / Length: 1.2-2 in. (30-50 mm) / Reproduces in finely woven webs that all have a narrow tunnel wherein the spiders hide and raise their brood / Found: Throughout garages and storage rooms in SW Florida.

Next to the housekeeper, the crevice spider is possibly the second most common spider found on the southwest coast. It is especially fond of older wooden structures where it builds its unmistakable nest under floor joists, next to light fixtures or on the corner of windows where it can prey upon insects that are attracted to the house lights at night.

Crevice spiders do utilize their sheet-like web to trap and entangle their prey. When a moth or fly becomes caught up in this wooly silk (cribellate silk) the large, dark brown spider rushes out and attacks its victim with its fangs, quickly injecting a venom into the insect to subdue it. Bites to humans, though very rare, are not life threatening and the swelling seldom lasts for more than a few days.

The crevice spider, because of its unsightly nests, is not as welcome into people’s homes as is the housekeeper. After time, their silken webs become hosts to dead flies, wasps, moths and other insects and the spider itself is dark and foreboding. By and large however, crevice spiders do more good than they do harm, killing stinging hornets, black wasps, moths and other insects and the spider itself is dark and foreboding. By and large however, crevice spiders do more good than they do harm, killing stinging hornets, black wasps, moths and other insects and the spider itself is dark and foreboding. By and large however, crevice spiders do more good than they do harm, killing stinging hornets, black wasps, moths and other insects and the spider itself is dark and foreboding.

The female black widow is aptly named. The local species, Latrodectus mactans, is the only known black widow that practices sexual cannibalism. Shortly after the male mates with the female, she turns on him, killing him with her powerful venom, and then consumes him. Not all pairings result in this bizarre ending, and males that manage to escape can go on to fertilize other black widows, if they dare!

Female black widows are very fertile, laying four to nine egg sacs per year with each sac containing up to 400 eggs. In keeping with the temperament of their mother, the juvenile spiders practice paternal cannibalism and only a few of them make it to maturity. Black widows feed on woodlice, other spiders and a wide variety of insects. They are in turn preyed upon by preying mantis, spider wasps and a number of specialized flies. If you happen across a black widow do not attempt to pick it up or get too near it. They are fast and aggressive and if you are bitten by one you MUST SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION IMMEDIATELY!

Charles Sobczak is a writer and nature photographer from Sanibel Island

Photo Credits: Black Widow, Lorraine Sommers
Crevice Spider, Charles Sobczak

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Fishing the 10,000 Islands With Capt. Mike Merritt

Well, we are half way thru the month of May and we are still battling westerly winds. We have had some beautiful mornings lately and the fish seem to be cooperating nicely! We are catching a lot of Snook right now and there have been some really nice size fish being caught. The main bite seems to be on the first couple of hours of the incoming tide. Once that wind turns southwest it has been pushing the tide in so fast it’s hard to stay on the fish. Once it gets flood high the fish are pretty far back in the tree roots. So, try to catch this incoming for best results.

The Redfish bite has been hit or miss lately. We have caught some nice 27” Reds but they are not as thick as they will be in the fall. Best bet to find these guys is a jig tipped with shrimp fished slow. A cork with a shrimp rigged about a foot under it is still working also. The incoming tide is also your best bet but the higher water is also good for these as you can fish right up against the mangrove roots and work the cork to draw them out. Then as the tide begins to drop you can catch these Reds as they work their way back out of the mangroves.

The Seatrout are still on the grass flats and there are plenty of big Trout around. Finding water that is not completely stirred up and dirty is the key. Good grass and clean water in about 4 ft. is a good start. There are Tarpon around and plenty are being caught. The biggest factor again are the winds. Fish are being caught on the outside edges of the flats. Also in the rivers and in some of the back bays. This time of year, you are likely to hook a Tarpon while Snook fishing in the islands. The Seatrout are still on the grass flats and there are plenty of big Trout around. Finding water that is not completely stirred up and dirty is the key. Good grass and clean water in about 4 ft. is a good start. There are Tarpon around and plenty are being caught. The biggest factor again are the winds. Fish are being caught on the outside edges of the flats. Also in the rivers and in some of the back bays. This time of year, you are likely to hook a Tarpon while Snook fishing in the islands. The Seatrout are still on the grass flats and there are plenty of big Trout around. Finding water that is not completely stirred up and dirty is the key. Good grass and clean water in about 4 ft. is a good start. There are Tarpon around and plenty are being caught. The biggest factor again are the winds. Fish are being caught on the outside edges of the flats. Also in the rivers and in some of the back bays. This time of year, you are likely to hook a Tarpon while Snook fishing in the islands. The Seatrout are still on the grass flats and there are plenty of big Trout around. Finding water that is not completely stirred up and dirty is the key. Good grass and clean water in about 4 ft. is a good start. There are Tarpon around and plenty are being caught. The biggest factor again are the winds. Fish are being caught on the outside edges of the flats. Also in the rivers and in some of the back bays. This time of year, you are likely to hook a Tarpon while Snook fishing in the islands. The Seatrout are still on the grass flats and there are plenty of big Trout around. Finding water that is not completely stirred up and dirty is the key. Good grass and clean water in about 4 ft. is a good start. There are Tarpon around and plenty are being caught. The biggest factor again are the winds. Fish are being caught on the outside edges of the flats. Also in the rivers and in some of the back bays. This time of year, you are likely to hook a Tarpon while Snook fishing in the islands.

I am still hoping for some constant weather patterns and as the month progresses, we should get this. My biggest fish this month are a 25” Seatrout, a 34” Redfish, and a 39” Snook. So, as you can see the big ones are biting. So, enjoy these early mornings as they will be the last cool ones till after summer. Good luck fishing! Capt. Mike Merritt

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PARK NEWS

Local Volunteers Win National and Regional Awards
Submitted by Denese Canedo, Everglades National Park

Everglades National Park’s “Every Kid in a Park Volunteer Corps” was one of six national recipients of the Hartzog Award for Outstanding Park Volunteer Program. In 2016, thanks to the vision of the park’s Director of Education, Allyson Gantt, and dedicated stewardship of VIP Ellen Siegel, Everglades National Park doubled the number of fourth-grade students visiting the park for educational programs by developing a new 25-member volunteer corp. The volunteers worked with the park’s education team to engage students at interactive stations focusing on key Everglades topics and outdoor exploration. In prior years, the park could accommodate 150 classes for education programs with another 150 on a waiting list. In 2016, with the addition of this team of volunteers, the park offered programs to 325 classes, reaching 6,807 students and 802 teachers and chaperones, a 110% increase over the previous year’s total of 3,241 students! The group of volunteers itself has also impressively doubled in strength, now comprising over 50 members!

“We are extremely grateful for the dedication and impact of every volunteer,” said Acting National Park Service Director Michael T. Reynolds. “Each volunteer performs different tasks but shares the same goal - to make a difference every day. Whether a volunteer builds a bridge on a trail or a bridge to the future during a children’s program, each selflessly gives of his or her time and talent to enrich the national park experience for others.”

An individual Everglades National Park volunteer, John “Jeep” Jeffries, was also honored with a regional winner of the Hartzog Award for Outstanding Individual Volunteer Service. Jeffries, who volunteers in both the park’s Resource Education and Interpretation Division, and Visitor and Resource Protection Division, is the driving force for a new program called the Mobile Volunteer Patrol (MVP). As MVP coordinator, Jeffries has served more than 700 hours training and recruiting other volunteers, orchestrating volunteer schedules, and riding bike patrols. “Since September of last year, MVP volunteers have conducted over 100 bicycle patrols of the Shark Valley area,” said Shawn Bawden, the park’s VIP Program Manager. “They’ve logged nearly 4,200 miles and been a resource to over 7,100 visitors. None of this would have been possible without Jeep Jeffries’ dedication and hard work.”

Superintendent of Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks, Pedro Ramos, also thanked and congratulated the winners from Everglades National Park. “Through their extraordinary work, these volunteers have greatly expanded the park’s reach through these creative and truly sustainable volunteer programs.” He added, “We couldn’t be prouder, and are thrilled our volunteers’ innovation and hard-work has been deservedly recognized.”

The recipients of the national award will be recognized during a joint National Park Service/National Park Foundation ceremony in Washington, DC, on August 1. The Hartzog Awards are named for former National Park Service Director George B. Hartzog, Jr. and his wife Helen. Hartzog served as the head of the National Park Service from 1964 to 1972. In 1970, he established the Volunteers-In-Parks Program with 300 volunteers. Since then, more than four and a half million people have donated more than one and a half billion hours of service in national parks.

Are you interested in becoming a National Park Service volunteer?! Visit volunteer.gov regularly, as opportunities are frequently updated, or contact any park directly for more information. To learn more specifically about volunteering with the nationally recognized Every Kid in a Park Volunteer Corps at Everglades National Park, or the MVP or other programs in this park, visit https://www.nps.gov/ever/getinvolved/.

LOCAL NEWS

Boater Stuck on Sandbar Helped by Sheriff & Coast Guard
Reported by Rachel Ravina, WINK News

An 84-year-old fisherman went through quite an ordeal to come back with a trout and a red snapper.

John Paul Hensal’s 18-foot-boat got stuck on a sandbar Saturday, May 14th more than a mile off the Chokoloskee Island Park and Marina, the Collier County Sheriff’s Office said. “I tried, tried, tried to get off,” Hensal said. “I just waited until the tide came back.”

Hensal, who has been fishing for 60 years, had his phone with him but was unable to get a signal to call or text for help, according to deputies. His family called the sheriff’s office after he didn’t return at his regular 5 p.m. docking time for dinner.

A sheriff’s office helicopter found him and, once the tide was in, spent nearly an hour guiding him back to shore, according to deputies. He finally made it back to the marina at 2 a.m.

The U.S. Coast Guard and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission also took part in the search.

Lions Club New Board Member Installed
Lion Vicky Wells presents the gavel to new President, Lion Joe West, at a ceremony held on May 11th. Congratulations to Lion West on his appointment!

The Lions Club will resume meetings in September. For more information, contact Vicky Wells at 239-695-2660


A Beautiful Mother’s Day Service
Reported by Helen Bryan

A beautiful Mother’s Day service was held at the Everglades Community Church on Sunday May 14th. A lovely quilt made by Sandra Ballard was gifted to Betty Holbert, the oldest mother of the church. The men all contributed by serving the meal and then cleaning up all of the dishes afterwards! The ladies truly enjoyed it.

Below: Left, Millie Wallace with quilt-maker Sandra Ballard. Right, Pastor Bob & Millie Wallace with Betty Holbert.
EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP

Angler’s Cove, Port of the Islands (642-1025): Tuesday thru Sunday, Noon - 9 pm; closed Monday
Camellia Street Grille (695-2003): 12 noon – 9:00 pm; daily
City Seafood (695-4700): 9:00 am – 6:00 pm; daily
Supper Upstairs is closed until next season
Glades Haven Deli (695-2091): 6:00 am - 6:00 pm Sun-Thurs
6:00 am-9:00 pm; Fri & Sat
Havana Café (695-2214): Closed 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; Fri thru Tues closed Wed and Thurs
Oyster House Restaurant (695-2073): 11:00 am – 9:00 pm; Sun thru Thurs
11:00 am – 10:00 pm; Fri, Sat
Rod & Gun (695-2101): 11:30 am - 8:00 pm; daily
Subway at Gator Express (695-3937): Closed. Visit Subway on 29 & 41
Sweet Mayberry’s Café (695-0092): 9 am-4 pm; Tues thru Sat
Tastes of the Everglades (695-0075): 11 am – 8 pm; daily, Closed Tuesday
Triad Seafood & Café (695-2662): Closed for Summer
See you in October!
Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535): 9 am – 7:00 pm; daily
Grimm’s Stone Crab (239-695-3222): We are Closed for Summer

EYERIES & AREA WORSHIP

EQUADRO TIDES
LAT: 25.87° N LONG: 81.37°W
Check: www.weather.gov for conditions

Goodbye Loyal Friend

Ed Dalzell and Elaine Middelstaedt lost their beloved dog, Jack (pictured on right) on May 9th. Jack has been lonely since his mate, Ebony, passed away two years ago. Now they are together again. Our condolences to Ed and Elaine.

Grieving For A Pet Is Real, Different for Everyone
(From Helpguide.org)

One aspect that can make grieving for the loss of a pet so difficult is that pet loss is not appreciated by everyone. Some friends and family may say, “What’s the big deal? It’s just a pet!” Some people assume that pet loss shouldn’t hurt as much as human loss, or that it is somehow inappropriate to grieve for an animal. They may not understand because they don’t have a pet of their own, or because they are unable to appreciate the companionship and love that a pet can provide.

Don’t argue with others about whether your grief is appropriate or not. Accept the fact that the best support for your grief may come from outside your usual circle of friends and family members. Seek out others who have lost pets; those who can appreciate the magnitude of your loss, and may be able to suggest ways of getting through the grieving process.

EVEADLES 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
Sunday Worship Service 11:00 A.M.
Sunday School October – April, 9:45 A.M.
www.ever-community-church.com

PAGE 11
# 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.

**For Sale:** 2001 Cobia CC 194 Boat. 115 Yamaha 2-stroke, low hrs., well maintained. New 2015 Continental alum trailer tandem, never used boat cover, accessories. See at ORA lot 214. Call: 239-695-2160, inquire at Lot 205.

**For Sale:** Bike. Like new, perfect for riding around town. Adjustable seat. Asking $90. Call 954-662-7003.

**Caregiver:** Companionship, shopping & errands, light housekeeping, dog or cat sitting. Home checks & hurricane prep. References. Call Chris: 954-589-7220.

**For Sale:** 2 stilt houses EC: $249K, 5/4; $349K, 4/3. Available dock, new appliances, paint, etc. Possible owner financing. Call Steve at 910-599-2698.

**For Rent:** One bdrm apt available for rent in The Glades Building, corner of Broadway & Allen. Monthly, seasonal & yearly rates. Call: 239-302-8125 (cell) or 239-293-3033.

## For Lease

**For Lease:** Deep water 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, $1500 / month. Contact: Rancho T Properties LLC, (727) 480-1640.

**For Sale or Rent:** Cabins #7 & #8 at Glades Haven. Call (239) 695-9142 or email at fishnw.mykeec55@live.com.

**For Sale:** RV Lots with docks. Please call Bob Wells Real Estate @ 239-695-2660 for more information.

**For Rent:** Retail / office / commercial space for rent, prime location in E-City. Small & large space available. Ask about purchasing the commercial building! Call 629-201-9966

**For Rent:** Cozy furnished 2/1 house. Seasonal at $900/week or $3,200/month. Call (508) 677-5136

**For Sale:** Push pole, 18’6” long, graphite, mint condition. $600. Contact Robert: (305) 898-9212.

**Job Opportunity:** Full-Time position at Out Door Resorts (ORA) in Chokoloskee in the maintenance department. Please contact Mark to schedule an appointment or for an interview: 239-207-5848

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### The MULLET RAPPER
P.O. Box 134
Everglades City, FL

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