City Council Meetings Set

Everglades City Council Meetings are slated to begin for the fall session. There are numerous important issues under review so attendance and participation is encouraged.

The preliminary meeting schedule is as follows:

Public Hearing & Council Meeting, 1st reading, budget and millage:
Tuesday, September 6, 5:30 pm

Public Hearing & Council Meeting, 2nd reading budget and millage:
Monday, September 12, 5:30 pm

Collier County Chosen as the #1 Place to Retire in U.S!

Policy Zip has weighed in on the top retirement communities in the States...and Collier County took top billing. Many factors were taken into account such as a high percentage of fellow retirees, access to healthcare, recreational activities, and, of course, weather.

This study set out not to just find a pretty place to retire, but to discover the areas that retirees can enjoy the life they’ve worked so hard to build. See the list full list of the top counties throughout Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia to retire below:

Top Spot: Collier County, FL
Boasting great weather, reliable access to healthcare, and plenty of recreational activities, Collier County comes in at the top spot in the rankings. Retirees will love areas like the Big Cypress National Preserve and, of course, Everglades National Park.

In Order, The Top Eight Retirement Communities in the U.S.!

1. Collier County, FL
2. Benton County, AR
3. Baldwin County, AL
4. St. Johns County, FL
5. Kanawha County, WV
6. Oconee County, SC
7. Montgomery County, VA
8. Marion County, FL

Pokémon Party Huge “Lure” for Area Kids

Pokémon Go has become a cultural phenomenon since it launched July 6 in the United States. The game, which one gets by downloading the free mobile app, lets users see tiny creatures called Pokémon through their phones, as if they existed in the real world. It has gotten people to rack up miles of walking in an effort to catch them all.

The “lure” parties, held at Collier museums, have been a tremendous success. The Museum of the Everglades hosted their party on August 20th and the area kids had an amazing time. Thank you to Collier County for hosting these Pokémon parties in our area!
## AUGUST – OCTOBER 2016

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Oct 15: Stone Crab Season Opens  
Oct 29: Halloween Celebration  
Nov. 8: General Election  
Nov. 24: Thanksgiving

### 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)
Upcoming Events in Town

Last Day of Early Voting
The last day for early voting before the primary election is August 27th. The primary election will be held on August 30 at your local precinct.

Coastal Collier Cleanup
September 17, 8:00 am to 11:00 am. Keep Collier Beautiful - Coastal Cleanup. We are seeking volunteers for the annual effort to keep our coastal areas clean. Interested individuals contact us for more information: 239-580-8319. Visit the website: keepcollierbeautiful.com.

Notice Board

Amendment 4 Provides Tax Exemption for Homeowners and Businesses
Amendment 4 enjoys unanimous bipartisan support in the Florida legislature. It is backed by the League of Women Voters, Sierra Club, Florida Retail Federation, Nature Conservancy, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association, and the Environmental Defense Fund, among others.

For more information, visit: www.CollierVotes.com or call (239) 252-VOTE.

Collier County Public Schools Announces Its Policy for Free and Reduced-Price Meals
Any interested person may review a copy of the policy by contacting Lucy Aponte, 5775 Osceola Trail, Naples, FL at 239-377-0297

Household size and income criteria will be used to determine eligibility. An application cannot be approved unless it contains complete eligibility information. Once approved, meal benefits are good for an entire year. You do not need to notify the organization of changes in income and household size.

Visitors Bureau Offers Advice on Zika Virus, Launches Zika Webpage
The Naples, Marco Island, Everglades Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) have activated a link to updated Zika Virus information about Collier County and the state of Florida accessible from the Home Page at the area’s official travel and tourism website, www.paradisecoast.com. There are no reported cases of local transmission of Zika virus by mosquitoes to people in Collier County.

For More Information, Call the Zika Virus Hotline: (855) 622 6735

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT
08/09/16: Emergency Medical, 59 MM I-75
08/09/16: Vehicle Fire, 77 Mile Marker I-75
08/10/16: Vehicle Accident, SR 29 and US 41
08/10/16: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands
08/12/16: Vehicle Accident, 76 MM I-75
08/12/16: Vehicle Accident, 78 MM I-75
08/13/16: Vehicle Accident, 54 MM I-75
08/13/16: Vehicle Accident, 68 MM I-75
08/13/16: Call Canceled, 63 Mile Marker I-75
08/14/16: Emergency Medical, Copeland
08/14/16: Smoke, Port of the Islands
08/14/16: Vehicle Fire, US 41 and SR 29
08/15/16: Emergency Med, Chokoloskee Isl.
08/16/16: Vehicle Accident, Port of the Islands
08/16/16: Emergency Med, East of Port of the Islands on US 41
08/17/16: Vehicle Accident, 70 MM I-75
08/18/16: Emergency Med, Port of the Islands
08/18/16: Mutual Aid, 44 Mile Marker I-75
08/18/16: Fire Alarm, Everglades City
08/19/16: Emergency Med, Plantation Island
08/20/16: Emergency Med, SR 29 and Wagon Wheel Road
08/20/16: Emergency Med, US 41 West of Port of the Islands
08/21/16: Emergency Medical, Copeland
08/21/16: RV Fire, Jerome

The Ochopee Fire Control District Advisory Committee will meet at 4 p.m. on Monday, September 12th, at the Port of the Islands Fire Station, located at 525 Newport Drive #C in Naples.

DOCTOR’S CLINIC
Dr. Kirk DeMartino will continue to see patients in his Marco Island Office. Please call (239) 642-5552 for an appointment.

SPORTS & FAMILY MEDICAL CARE
Dr. John Martin is in the office at the Everglades Community Center on Mondays & Wednesdays 10 am to noon, then 2 pm to 6 pm. Call (813) 787-9738 or email martinjohndr@gmail.com.

THRIFT SHOP
The Thrift Store is open on Saturdays from 11 am to 3 pm, located behind the fire station. Please do not leave items on the porch where they will get damp during the rainy summer months. Bring your items in on Saturday during our regular hours.

BECOME A RAPPER CONTRIBUTOR!
Please send us your articles, news, area events, recipes, and photos of the day’s big catch. Become a contributor to our community paper. The deadline for submissions is Saturday, a week before publication. Publication dates are posted in the calendar of each issue of the Rapper.
Send to: mulletrapper@gmail.com, or call 954-662-7003.

化观测

家庭日

蜜蜂

飞越

沼泽

即将到来的事件

最后一天的提前投票
最后一天的提前投票是在8月27日。初步选举将在8月30日在当地选区举行。

科斯利尔县清理
9月17日，从8:00 am到11:00 am。保持科斯利尔美丽的沿海清洁。我们正在寻找志愿者进行年度努力来保持我们的沿海地区清洁。感兴趣的个人联系我们以获取更多信息：239-580-8319。访问网站：keepcollierbeautiful.com。

公告板

修正案4提供了对业主和企业的税收减免
修正案4在佛罗里达州立法会得到了一致的两党支持。它得到了女性投票者联盟、西耶拉俱乐部、佛罗里达零售联合会、自然基金会、西班牙裔保护联盟、环境保护基金会、西班牙裔妇女投票者联盟、佛罗里达零售联合会和科斯利尔县游客 bureau的支持，以及其他组织。

有关更多信息，请访问：www.CollierVotes.com 或拨打(239) 252-VOTE。

科斯利尔县公立学校公布其对免费和减价餐的政策
任何感兴趣的个人都可以查看该政策的副本。联系露西·阿蓬特，5775 Mr. Osceola Trail，Naples, FL在239-377-0297

家庭规模和收入标准将用于确定资格。申请未经批准，除非它包含完整资格信息。一旦获准，膳食福利有效期为一年。您无需通知组织收入和家庭规模的变化。

游客局提供关于寨卡病毒的建议，并发布了寨卡网页

奈普尔斯，马科岛，埃弗格莱兹会面和游客局（CVB）已经激活了链接到关于科斯利尔县和佛罗里达州的官方旅游网站的更新的寨卡病毒信息。该网站为：www.paradisecoast.com。没有报告过本地寨卡病毒由蚊子传播的案例。

更多信息

拨打寨卡病毒热线：(855) 622 6735

奥乔皮火控区

08/09/16：紧急医疗，59 MM I-75
08/09/16：车辆火灾，77英里标记I-75
08/10/16：车辆事故，SR 29和US 41
08/10/16：紧急医疗，港岛
08/12/16：车辆事故，76英里I-75
08/12/16：车辆事故，78英里I-75
08/13/16：车辆事故，54英里I-75
08/13/16：车辆事故，68英里I-75
08/13/16：取消呼叫，63英里标记I-75
08/14/16：紧急医疗，科佩兰
08/14/16：火灾，埃弗格莱兹市
08/15/16：紧急医疗，乔科洛斯基岛
08/16/16：车辆事故，港岛
08/16/16：紧急医疗，港岛
08/17/16：车辆事故，70 MM I-75
08/18/16：紧急医疗，港岛
08/18/16：互助援助，44英里标记I-75
08/18/16：火灾警报，埃弗格莱兹市
08/19/16：紧急医疗，植物岛
08/20/16：紧急医疗，SR 29和一辆火车
08/20/16：紧急医疗，US 41和港岛
08/21/16：紧急医疗，科佩兰
08/21/16：RV火灾，杰罗

奥乔皮火控区顾问委员会将于9月12日星期一在港岛消防站举行，位于525 Newport Drive #C在Naples。

医生的诊所

Kirk DeMartino博士将继续在Marco Island办公室就诊。请拨打电话(239) 642-5552预约。

体育和家庭医疗

Dr. John Martin在Everglades Community Center工作，星期一和星期三10 am到noon，然后2 pm到6 pm。致电(813) 787-9738或发送电子邮件martinjohndr@gmail.com。

福利商店

该商店每周六上午11 am到下午3 pm开放，位于火站后面。请不要将物品放在火站旁边的后廊上，那里在雨季会变湿。

成为rapper贡献者！
请将您的文章、新闻、地区事件、食谱和当天大捕获的照片发送给我们。成为我们的社区报纸的贡献者。提交日期前一周在每期报纸上发布。发送至：mulletrapper@gmail.com，或致电954-662-7003。
The MULLET RAPPER
What’s Happening in the Everglades City Area
August 27, 2016

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
riverwilderness@localline2.com

Havana Café
Chokoloskee, 695-2214
Thank you for your business.
We are closed for the summer. SEE YOU IN OCTOBER ...

Triad Seafood
Market & Café
Stone Crabs • Shrimp • Conch
Crab Cakes • Homemade Key Lime Pies
Orlo & Pam Hilton (239) 695-2662
“On the River behind the School”
We are Closed for Summer

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11 am – 5 pm
207 W. Broadway (239) 695-0092
Salads, wraps, and pressed sandwiches
Gourmet Coffee, Organic Hot Teas, Italian Gelato

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Instructor.
(239) 842-7778 www.redfishlanding.com
**Small Town Taylor**
by Taylor Mayberry

So, it’s my last family vacation before school starts. Some of you know that we went up to Crystal River. It was a lot of fun because we got to do so many different things. First, we went scalloping. It was our first time ever scalloping but, we caught our limit both days (2 gallons/person). I was with my Mommy and Rylee was with my Daddy. It’s just like an underwater Easter egg hunt and is so much fun. We all decided as a family that we are going to go back every single summer and make scalloping a family tradition.

The next day we packed away and headed to go snorkeling in the springs. The first spring we went to is one of the coolest places I have ever been to in my life! It’s called Devil’s Den Springs. It is a cave that you can swim in. It is the coldest water I have ever swam in. We had to walk down stairs underground in the cave to get to the spring. We also went to Rainbow Springs that day. It was very cold and very clear water which also makes it great for swimming.

Today, we went to Weeki Wachee Springs. It was one of my favorite things I did this week. When we first got there we had to wait in line for like 30 minutes to see the mermaids, but every minute was worth it. The mermaids were fake but my little sister thought they were real and I didn't want to break her heart so I acted like they were real. After the mermaid show we went on the boat tour and swimming in the springs there too. This was the perfect vacation to end our summer. I’m writing this from the hotel room and we leave tomorrow to head back home to Everglades City. School starts in two days. So excited!

With lots of love,
Taylor
P.S. Go Team USA! You're doing great!!!!!

**Taylor Mayberry is 10 years old and in the 5th grade attending Everglades City School.**

---

**A Message from the Principal**
by Jim Ragusa

Off and Running! Students returned to campus on Monday, August 15th ready to embark on another year of learning and activities. It has been a pleasure to observe the level of work and commitment from teachers and students alike. Students came prepared to learn and we thank them for the focus they have displayed to improve their academic achievement the last two weeks. Before you know it, we will be celebrating the graduation of the Class of 2017!

We are fortunate to have an exceptional group of teachers and staff returning for the 2016-17 school year! Only one new teacher is joining us, and she spent time working at Everglades City School only two years ago. Our teachers are dedicated to meeting the needs of every student inside as well as outside of the classroom. Thanks to all of our staff for the many hours they devote to serving the children of this community.

We would like to remind our parents and their families to encourage their children to read daily. A great family activity is to read to your children and set aside time in the day to read together. Students benefit greatly when they have the opportunity to read with members of their family or adults in their life.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the children of this community!

Jim Ragusa
Principal

**IT IS ALWAYS A GREAT DAY TO BE A GATOR!**

Visit: [http://www.evgathletics.com/main/calendar](http://www.evgathletics.com/main/calendar) for a calendar of school athletic events

---

**Top 5 Tips to Encouraging Your Kids to Read**

1. **Let your child choose.** Plan a field trip to the library and let your child choose books that interest them. Keep books readily available at home, in the car, wherever your day takes you.
2. **Read to your children.** Establish a routine for reading. Whether before bed or at snack time, reading can fit into almost any part of your daily routine.
3. **Read aloud together.** It’s never too early to start reading to your little ones. For older kids, take turns reading each page of a favorite book.
4. **Talk about what you are reading.** Asking questions before, during and after the read helps your child make connections and increase reading comprehension skills.
5. **Show your children that you enjoy reading.** Be a reading model. Children often mimic parent behavior. Let your children see that you enjoying reading too.

*From (Reading is Fundamental) rif.org*
**City Seafood**

702 Begonia Street, Everglades City

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BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER

Book a private party – Phone Richard or Candice at 695-4700

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10,000 Island Tours
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www.evergladesnationalparkboattoursgulfcoast.com

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Fine Art Photography & Swamp Lodging

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

www.clydebutcher.com

---

**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
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 A.M.
Sunday School October - April 9:15 A.M.

www.evergladescommunitychurch.com

---

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Fishing & Boating Community
Captain’s Table Lodge

Diane Sullivan, Broker
C. 239 273-2848
Diane@NBBRealty.com

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S.W. FLA’s Pest Authority since 1990

Termites? We can help!

CALL TODAY (239) 455-4300

CollierPestControl.com, 3899 Mannix Dr #412

---

**Oyster House**

Happy Hour

Monday–Sunday, 3pm to 8pm

Alcohol
2 for 1 cocktails,
$5 House made Sangria
$1 off Bottle Beers, $20 Buckets (6)
$8 Bud light & Budweiser-Pitchers
$10 Import Pitchers

Appetizers $6

Firecracker Shrimp
Mac & Cheese balls
Fried Okra, Pop Corn Chicken
(Teriyaki or Buffalo)

---

**Happy Hour**

Monday–Sunday, 3pm to 8pm

Alcohol
2 for 1 cocktails,
$5 House made Sangria
$1 off Bottle Beers, $20 Buckets (6)
$8 Bud light & Budweiser-Pitchers
$10 Import Pitchers

Appetizers $6

Firecracker Shrimp
Mac & Cheese balls
Fried Okra, Pop Corn Chicken
(Teriyaki or Buffalo)

---

**Breakfast, Lunch, & Dinner**

Your Favorite Foods with a Local Flavor

**ISLAND ICE CREAM & GIFT SHOP**

305 Collier Avenue, Everglades City, FL 695-0003

---

**EAT LUNCH**

Happy Hour

Monday–Sunday, 3pm to 8pm

Alcohol
2 for 1 cocktails,
$5 House made Sangria
$1 off Bottle Beers, $20 Buckets (6)
$8 Bud light & Budweiser-Pitchers
$10 Import Pitchers

Appetizers $6

Firecracker Shrimp
Mac & Cheese balls
Fried Okra, Pop Corn Chicken
(Teriyaki or Buffalo)

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10,000 Island Tours
Canoe Rentals • Gift Shop
Located at the Ranger Station
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**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.

BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER

Book a private party – Phone Richard or Candice at 695-4700

Delicious Local Seafood & Cuisine

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**Big Cypress Gallery**

Fine Art Photography & Swamp Lodging

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

www.clydebutcher.com

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**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
Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 A.M.
Sunday School October - April 9:15 A.M.

www.evergladescommunitychurch.com

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**FOR SALE $89,000**

Fishing & Boating Community
Captain’s Table Lodge

Diane Sullivan, Broker
C. 239 273-2848
Diane@NBBRealty.com

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**NOW SERVING**

**EVERGLADES CITY**

Pest Control

S.W. FLA’s Pest Authority since 1990

Termites? We can help!

CALL TODAY (239) 455-4300

CollierPestControl.com, 3899 Mannix Dr #412

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**Oyster House**

Happy Hour

Monday–Sunday, 3pm to 8pm

Alcohol
2 for 1 cocktails,
$5 House made Sangria
$1 off Bottle Beers, $20 Buckets (6)
$8 Bud light & Budweiser-Pitchers
$10 Import Pitchers

Appetizers $6

Firecracker Shrimp
Mac & Cheese balls
Fried Okra, Pop Corn Chicken
(Teriyaki or Buffalo)

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TAXING THINGS
by Mike the Tax Guy

Back to School? Learn about Tax Credits for Education

If you are paying for college in 2016, you may be eligible to receive some savings on your federal tax return. Both the American Opportunity Tax Credit and the Lifetime Learning Credit may reduce the amount of tax you owe.

American Opportunity Tax Credit – The AOTC is worth up to $2,500 per year. This credit is available for the first four years of higher education. Forty percent of the AOTC is refundable. That means you can get up to $1,000 of the credit as a refund, even if you do not owe any tax.

Lifetime Learning Credit – The LLC is worth up to $2,000 per tax return. There is no limit on the number of years that you can claim the LLC.

Qualified Expenses – You may use only qualified expenses. These include the costs you pay for tuition, fees and other related expenses at an eligible educational institution.

Eligible educational institutions – are those that offer education beyond high school. This includes most colleges and universities. Vocational schools or other postsecondary schools may also qualify.

Form 1098-T – This form reports your qualified expenses to the IRS and to you. The amounts shown on the form may be either: (1) the amount you paid for qualified expenses, or (2) the amount that your school billed for qualified expenses; the amounts shown on the form may be different than the amounts you actually paid. Don’t forget that you can only claim the credit for the expenses that you paid in the tax year and not just the amount that your school billed.

Income Limits – Education credits are subject to income limitations and may be reduced, or eliminated, based on your income.

Recipes for Good Eating
by Kathy Brock

Key West Style Chicken
Four, skinless, boneless chicken breasts, halved.

3 tablespoons soy sauce
1 tablespoon honey
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1 teaspoon lime juice
1 teaspoon minced, fresh garlic
1 teaspoon black pepper

In a shallow bowl, blend soy sauce, honey, vegetable oil, lime juice, pepper and garlic. Place chicken breast halves into the mixture, and turn to coat. Cover, and marinate in the refrigerator at least 30 minutes. If you have the time, you can marinate this overnight. The longer you marinate it, the more flavorful the chicken will be!

Preheat an outdoor grill for high heat.

Lightly oil the grill grate. To minimize flare-ups, you can rinse off the chicken breasts before grilling. Discard leftover marinade, and grill chicken 6 to 8 minutes on each side, until juices run clear. Serve with grilled or steamed vegetables and quinoa or rice.

Off the Shelf - Book Review

Oh Florida! How America's Weirdest State Influences the Rest of the Country
by Craig Pittman
reviewed by Marya Repko

The author is a reporter and columnist for the Tampa Bay Times but the articles in this book are from a blog he wrote over the years. They range in subject from growing up in Florida before Disney World to the current political struggles of candidates.

For example, the chapter "Trading Gators for Beer" is devoted to some of our state parks and how they came into being. He credits environmentalist Nathaniel Reed with being partly responsible and describes him as "tall and slender with an aristocratic bearing. He reminds me of a wading bird so much I halfway expect to see him standing on one leg." It was thanks to Reed that the jetport was stopped and Big Cypress National Preserve created. Then Pittman criticizes feeding wildlife and, referring to alligators, says "in Florida, nature bites the hand that feeds it." He also describes the woman who rode on the back of a manatee and comments "A lot of people in Florida can't just watch a wild animal being wild."

The articles are short and easy to read but provocative so you can jump around in the book, depending on your mood. This new hardback is available from our public library.
Fishing the Ten-Thousand Islands in September
by Captain Mike Merritt

Well, as September rolls around Snook season is upon us. The big females are done spawning so they are feeding voraciously this month. This is the time of year when we start catching a lot more of these fish. It's not quite as good as it was before the freeze, but they have made a great come back! I have had some 50-75 fish days and each year it gets better. Of course, to have a day like this you have to fish the right conditions.

Fishing the optimum tide is a great way to start. I am amazed at how many people still ask if the phase of the moon matters. Of course it means everything. If you can choose your day you will want to fish 3 days on either side of the full or new moon. This will give you maximum water flow and higher tides to fish. I prefer the new moon tides but I catch plenty on the full moon also. The best tide will be an early morning low. This will give you a full day of incoming and then the high outgoing to fish. This will be for any inshore species; Snook, Redfish, Seatrout, Snapper, and even Tarpon.

I prefer to fish the outside islands this time of year due to the high numbers of Snook and the large schools of Redfish that are here. It is quite possible to catch close to 100 fish during a good bite this month. It is also a great month to catch a slam here in the islands. Snook, Redfish, Seatrout for the slam and a Tarpon for the grand slam! Live bait is plentiful and will work great. If you prefer to lure fish I would give a jig a try. Jigs will catch all 4 and allow you to cover more area without having to rebait your hook.

Snook and Reds will be caught around the oyster bars and mangrove shorelines while the Seatrout will mostly be on the grass flats. Tarpon will be moving south and will be rolling offshore in 8-15 ft. of water. Of course there will be some on the flats but I always do better out deeper this time of year. Get out and enjoy the bite! Remember the slot if you keep a Snook, and release them quickly if you don't.

There are lots of Sharks this time of year and once they get a fish it will probably be best to move on so as not to feed the sharks all our good fish. Be careful when releasing the fish as these sharks will come right up under the boat. This is why I try to release the fish while they are still green. Till next time, good luck fishing!
My Little Slice of Paradise
by Kathy Brock

One of my favorite things to do in the Everglades area is to sit on my porch at night and watch a lightning show. It can be truly spectacular. When it gets too close for comfort, I scurry inside. Call me a lightning lightweight. I’ll admit I have little courage when it comes to severe weather…and with good reason.

In Florida, there are approximately 1.45 million strikes per year. In the United States, there are about 25 million lightning flashes every year. Each of those 25 million flashes is potentially deadly. While lightning fatalities have decreased over the past 30 years, lightning continues to be one of the most dangerous weather hazards in the United States. Lightning strikes kill more people in Florida than all other weather hazards combined; there have been 62 deaths in 10 years due to lightning strikes.

Central Florida is the lightning capital of Florida, and the United States, with over 90 thunderstorm days per year; with the most active months being June, July and August. This is due to an abundance of moisture (humidity), atmospheric instability and storm triggering sea breezes. Moisture is almost always available in the summer because Florida is a peninsula surrounded by water with the Gulf of Mexico to the west and the warm Atlantic Gulfstream to the east. Unstable air is caused by surface heat and cool air above, something present for most of the summer season in Florida. A trigger is also needed to fire up thunderstorms. This is provided daily in the form of the sea breeze that forms on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. As a sea breeze forms, it typically moves inland (from the Atlantic or Gulf of Mexico) and dramatically aids thunderstorm formation. Surface winds also play a big part in determining which areas get the most lightning and at what time they get it. With westerly morning winds across the peninsula, afternoon thunderstorms tend to pile up on the east coast. If the morning winds are from the east, afternoon thunderstorms will cluster on the west coast. During the summer months, you can almost bet that there is a thunderstorm somewhere on the peninsula.

Lightning seeks the path of least resistance on its way to and through the ground. The human body is an extremely good conductor because of its large water content. Metal is a better conductor than most objects so lightning can travel easily through metal objects such as fences or railroad tracks, which can conduct electricity for long distances. Trees, because of their height and water content, are also great conductors.

In fact, many of our stately palms fall victim to lightning strikes, like the one pictured in this article. The strike took place on the crown of the palm and exited out the trunk. Debris from the trunk blow-out was strewn throughout the yard along the Barron River.

Anyone seeking shelter under that tree during the storm would not have survived. The fact is, if you live in or are visiting Florida, you are potentially at risk. So, please study these lightning safety rules and share them with the people you care about!

Lightning Precautions:

- Avoid open high ground and isolated large trees.
- Avoid water (swimming pools, lakes and rivers), beaches and boats.
- Seek shelter inside a building or an automobile, but not a convertible or a golf cart.
- Stay away from doors, windows, and metal objects such as pipes or faucets.
- Stay off the telephone and away from electrical devices.

More Lightning Fast Facts:

- Air in a lightning stroke is heated to 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit. This rapid heating of the air produces the shock wave that results in thunder.
- A ground strike can produce somewhere between 100 million to one billion volts of electricity.
- Average peak current in a cloud-to-ground lightning stroke is 100,000 Amperes.
- You can tell how far away lightning is by counting the seconds between seeing the lightning flash and hearing thunder.
- For every five seconds you count, lightning is one mile away.
- VOLTS in a lightning flash--between 100 Million and one Billion
- AMPS in a lightning flash--between 10,000 and 200,000

How far away is lightning from you? Here’s how to calculate:

1...When you see the FLASH
2...Count the number of seconds to the BANG of thunder
3...Divide this number by 5,
4...And this gives you the MILES the lighting is away from you.

It is recommended if the thunder arrives within 30 seconds or less from your location, you should seek shelter!

Warning!

If it takes 15 seconds between the time you see a lightning flash and hear the rumble of thunder, then the lightning flash is 3 miles from your location (too close!!), seek shelter!

30-30 Rule--Determine the threat of lightning in your area.
30 Seconds: Count the seconds between seeing lightning and hearing thunder. If this time is less than 30 seconds, lightning is still a potential threat. Seek shelter immediately.
30 Minutes: After the last lightning flash, wait 30 minutes before leaving shelter. Half of all lightning deaths occur after the storm passes. Stay in a safe area until you are sure the threat has passed.
PARK NEWS

Everglades National Park Celebrates 100th Anniversary

As we celebrate the centenary of the National Park Service, we should also remember that Royal Palm state park was founded in 1916 and later became the nucleus of Everglades National Park.

If it were not for dynamic women like May Mann Jennings, the majestic Paradise Key near Homestead could have been developed for housing or cultivated as farm land. She mobilized the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs and persuaded the legislature in Tallahassee to pass a bill allocating funds to purchase the property. There was also a generous donation from the widow of Henry Flagler whose Florida East Coast Land Company owned some of the property, bought when the entrepreneur was planning his Overseas Railroad from Miami to Key West.

You can read more about the brave pioneers who settled in the wilds of South Florida and achieved amazing landmarks, even before they had the vote, in a new book Women in the Everglades: Pioneers and Early Environmentalists, which is now available at the book shops at our local National Park visitor centers or at local outlets around Everglades City or directly from the author at www.ecity-publishing.com or call (239) 695-2905.

PARK ACTIVITIES

Glades Biking in the Morn' – FREE Activity
Shark Valley Visitor Center
Available Days: 09/18/2016 9:00 to 12:00 PM
Bring your own bicycle or rent one from the concession for $18.00, admission is FREE.
Meet on the back side of the visitor center by the benches.

Wild Walk in the Wilderness - FREE Activity
Shark Valley Visitor Center
Available Days: 09/17/2016 9:00 to 11:00 AM
Reservations are required (Children must be at least 12 years old), admission is FREE.

Florida Panther Update

Wildlife officials say a male Florida panther was killed by a vehicle on SR 29, 2 miles north of the I-75 entrance ramp. The animal was discovered on August 14th. Panthers are native to the entire southeastern U.S., but is estimated that only around 180 remain in the wild. Please drive carefully in the Everglades area, especially in the evening when driving sight distance is reduced. Panthers are most active at dawn and dusk.

Since March, there have been 11 panther kittens handled and tagged in the Big Cypress area; 5 males and 6 females.

LOCAL NEWS

Identity Theft & Financial Fraud Up 47%

Florida officials are warning people about identity theft scammers—a common form of financial fraud. Scammers typically gain people's information through identity theft scams.

“...using credit card skimmers, or phishing emails or dumpster diving even,” said Jamie Mongiovi, the Office of Financial Regulation spokeswoman. “But, telephone scams and credit card scams and stolen personal items are common ways they get your personal information, and once they have it, they may try to apply for a loan or a credit card in your name or even file taxes.”

So, to reduce the risk of becoming a victim, Mongiovi says there's a few things people should know. One of the goals of her agency is to help reduce financial fraud in Florida.

“Never give out personal information over the phone or through e-mail, especially if someone is contacting you and it’s unsolicited contact,” she added. “Don’t click on links on e-mails that ask you to verify or provide personal information. You want to shred any documents that have personal information on them.”

Anyone who believes they’re a financial fraud victim should contact OFR at (850) 487-9687 or file a complaint online at www.flofr.com.

“So, they can always call the Office of Financial Regulation to file a complaint and we can get that to the right place,” Mongiovi continued. “However, the most important thing is to call the company if you know where the fraud occurred and then place a fraud alert on your credit report and get copies of that report and then report identity theft to the Federal Trade Commission and you can do that online.”

In early 2016, the Federal Trade Commission reported identity theft complaints were up 47-percent over last year. Mongiovi says much of that can be attributed to tax and wage related fraud.

Aviation Scholarships Now Available

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is making it easier for your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and neighbors to achieve their aviation dreams. Applications are now open for two scholarship programs that will award $115,000 in financial assistance to deserving teens. Learn more online at: https://www.aopa.org. It's FREE to apply – no application fee!

AOPA AV8RS Scholarships (www.apoa.org)

- $15,000 in scholarships
- Available for primary flight training expenses, attendance at an aviation or aerospace camp, pursuit of an aviation/aerospace degree or certification from an aviation technical program.
- Must be a current member of AOPA AV8RS, AOPA’s FREE membership for teens aged 13 – 18.
- Teens – apply now for: Flight training scholarship, Aviation camp scholarship or Collegiate or technical aviation program.

AOPA High School Flight Training Scholarships

- $100,000 in scholarships (twenty $5,000 scholarships)
- Scholarships are for direct flight training expenses.
- Must be a high school student, aged 15 – 18.
Angler’s Cove, Port of the Islands (642-1025): Tuesday thru Sunday, Noon - 9; closed Monday
Camellia Street Grill (695-2003): 11 noon – 5; Closed for Summer
City Seafood (695-4700): 6:00 am – 6:00 pm; daily
Supper Upstairs 6–9 pm; Thursday-Sunday
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 the 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 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): 7:00 am – 7:00 pm; daily
Sweet Mayberry’s Café (695-0092): 11 am–5 pm; Mon thru Sat
Tastes of the Everglades (695-0075) 11 am – 8 pm; daily
Triad Seafood & Café (695-2662): Closed for the Summer
Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535): 9:00 am – 7:00 pm; daily
Grimm’s Stone Crab (239-695-3222): Closed until October 15
Loco’s Fresh Produce: (239-462-7050) Closed for the Summer

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES
Chokoloskee Church of God 10 am Sunday School, 11 am Sun Worship
Copeland Baptist Church 10 am Sunday School, 11 am Sun Worship
Everglades Community Church 11 am Sun Worship
1st Baptist Church of Everglades City 9:45 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship
6 pm Sunday, 6 pm Wed Bible Study
St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples 8 am (Spanish) and 10 am (English) Mass
San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl. 8 am and 10:30 am Mass

TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER
08/27 Sat 12:15AM 2.3 H
08/27 Sat 06:04AM 0.9 L
08/27 Sat 11:10AM 3.0 H
08/28 Sun 07:04PM 0.1 L
08/28 Sun 01:26AM 2.4 H
08/28 Sun 07:09AM 0.9 L
08/28 Sun 12:17PM 3.1 H
08/28 Sun 08:00PM 0.0 L
08/29 Mon 02:05AM 2.5 H
08/29 Mon 08:05AM 0.8 L
08/29 Mon 01:11PM 3.2 H
08/29 Mon 08:50PM 0.0 L
08/30 Tue 02:32AM 2.5 H
08/30 Tue 08:54AM 0.7 L
08/30 Tue 01:57PM 3.3 H
08/30 Tue 09:34PM 0.0 L
08/31 Wed 02:56AM 2.6 H
08/31 Wed 09:38AM 0.6 L
08/31 Wed 02:37PM 3.3 H
08/31 Wed 10:15PM 0.1 L
09/01 Thu 03:21AM 2.7 H
09/01 Thu 10:19AM 0.5 L
09/01 Thu 03:15PM 3.3 H
09/01 Thu 10:52PM 0.1 L
09/02 Fri 03:47AM 2.8 H
09/02 Fri 10:58AM 0.4 L
09/02 Fri 03:51PM 3.2 H
09/02 Fri 11:28PM 0.2 L
09/03 Sat 04:15AM 2.8 H
09/03 Sat 11:36AM 0.4 L
09/03 Sat 04:28PM 3.1 H
09/04 Sun 12:01AM 0.4 L
09/04 Sun 04:46AM 2.8 H
09/04 Sun 12:13PM 0.4 L
09/04 Sun 05:08PM 2.9 H
09/05 Mon 12:33AM 0.5 L
09/05 Mon 05:18AM 2.8 H
09/05 Mon 12:53AM 0.4 L
09/05 Mon 05:53AM 2.7 H
09/06 Tue 01:03AM 0.6 L
09/06 Tue 05:54AM 2.8 H
09/06 Tue 01:37PM 0.4 L
09/06 Tue 06:47PM 2.5 H
09/07 Wed 01:31AM 0.8 L
09/07 Wed 06:34AM 2.7 H
09/07 Wed 02:30PM 0.5 L
09/08 Thu 07:50PM 2.4 H
09/08 Thu 01:58AM 0.9 L
09/08 Thu 07:26AM 2.6 H
09/08 Thu 09:37PM 0.5 L
09/08 Thu 09:03PM 2.2 H
09/09 Fri 02:41AM 1.0 L
09/09 Fri 08:36AM 2.6 L
09/09 Fri 04:50PM 0.5 L
09/09 Fri 10:23PM 2.2 H
09/10 Sat 04:45AM 1.1 L
09/10 Sat 09:55AM 2.6 H
09/10 Sat 05:57PM 0.4 L
09/10 Sat 11:40PM 2.3 H

Obituary
Randy Malicoate, 49 died suddenly on August 20th. Randy was a resident of Chokoloskee and former student of Everglades City School.
Randy was originally from Brooksville, Florida. She is survived by her three children, grandson, Brody, her mother, Lynn Weatherly, her father, George Malicoate, her longtime partner, Bryan Sanders of Chokoloskee, three sisters, a brother and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.
Randy adored her two dogs Daisy and Boots, and loved to fully live life. Her wide smile lit up a room and her laugh made everyone else smile. A Celebration of Life Memorial will be Saturday, August 27 at Chokoloskee Church of God at 2 pm.

Memory Books Can Help Survivors Cope
When someone you care about passes away, the feeling of emptiness can be overwhelming. Often, the best way to cope is to put together a collection of positive memories about those that have passed. Memory books are the perfect way to remember a loved one. They can hold some of the most precious memories and life stories of a special person in your life who deserves to be honored in a special way.

There are different types of memory books, and what book style you choose depends on your own personality. Photo albums have several different ways to lay them out. You can put the photos in order from the earliest to the oldest one or you can start with the oldest photos. Scrapbooks are also a great way to honor someone. For this type of memory book, you place pictures on a blank cardstock and can add embellishments to highlight the photos. Some people will also journal on the page by writing about the feelings they have when looking at the photos or about the stories and experiences behind them.
RAPPER CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: Fifth Wheel 2008 Durango LX, 37 feet, 4 slides, power awning, central vac., fireplace, cherry wood cabinets, lots more, call 239-687-6512.

FOR SALE: WATERFRONT Stilt Home - 2BR/2 1/2BTH - Large Great Room opening onto 40' screened porch with beautiful views - extra-large pantry to cut down on those shopping trips - dock with boat cover. Bob Wells Real Estate (239) 695-4150.

AVAILABLE NOW. One and two bedroom apt for rent; wkly, monthly or yrly. Located in Glades Building, 207 W. Broadway. Above Glades Realty and Sweet Mayberry's Cafe. -239-695-4150.

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


FOR RENT: Mobile home lot in Copeland. Electric power pole, sewer tie in hook up and mobile home pad. 1.25-acre lot. Rent $292/month .first / last month rent required. (727) 480-1640.

FOR SALE or RENT: Cabins #7 & #8 at Glades Haven. Call (239) 695-9142 or email at fishnw.mykee55@live.com, or www.GladesRealty.com

PET PICS

“Smokey” smiles and sits at perfect attention for “dog mom” Julia McGlannan

RAPPER CLASSIFIEDS

FOR LEASE: Deep water commercial dock and lot on Barron river for lease. Premium sought-after location at 909 DuPont St. in Everglades City. Perfect for lucrative airboat business, eco tour business, commercial fishing or even a restaurant with chieke bar and tourist gift shop attraction. Contact: Rancho T Properties LLC, 727-480-1640.

WANTED TO RENT: Apt. or room for annual rental. Single gentleman, non-smoker. Please call (239) 687-6512.

FURNITURE FOR SALE: Moving, must sell! All solid wood roll-top desk, queen headboard and large entertainment center. Items located in Naples and priced to sell. Contact Sherry: 239-455-1159

FOR SALE: 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath, original Collier home. Vintage cottage style, large fenced yard, river view, huge screened porch, beautiful kitchen, oak floors, tin roof, deeded dock. Ready for you to move in today and start fishing. Call or text for appointment: 954-662-7003.

THE MULLET RAPPER
P.O. BOX 134
EVERGLADES CITY, FL 34139

email: mulletrapper@gmail.com