

# The MULLET RAPPER



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



**January 8, 2022 - January 21, 2022**

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

Volume IX • Issue # 407

## Gone But Not Forgotten

We lost many friends and neighbors in 2021. And, although they are no longer with us their memory lives on within our community, and we miss them all.

Please note that the date represents the issue date of the published obituary. Past issues can be downloaded at MulletRapper.com.

Barton, Wallace Bennet (Wally)	6/26/2021
Brown, Arvid Kenneth	12/11/2021
Brown, Evelyn Lorraine	11/13/2021
Brown, Merle	3/20/2021
Ellington, Darrell "Tadpole"	5/29/2021
Ford, Fred	9/18/2021
Foss, Carol	3/20/2021
Fross, Jim	2/6/2021
Herren, Norman "Punch"	7/24/2021
Holbrook, Betty	1/23/2021
Huggins, Robert	4/3/2021
Jay, Dick	5/29/2021
Kelley, Michael James	10/2/2021
McMullen, William Otis	8/7/2021
Noland, Pat	7/24/2021
Potter, Billy	3/20/2021
Valkema, Roy	12/11/2021

## The Story of a Hardware Store by Carolyn Thompson



As we begin a new year, I want to express my heartfelt "thanks" to the people in Everglades and the surrounding area for their loyalty over the past years.

When the 2017 hurricane devastated the store, I really didn't know what to do. The cleanup took all of the insurance money, and I ended up with pneumonia. I was so sick for a couple of months. My grandchildren did not want me to try to restart the store.

I prayed about it, and in the middle of the night I woke up. In my mind I could see a store with merchandise. I knew God was showing me what to do. I began going to the store everyday and doing

what I could to get it ready.

That January (2018), I went to our Hardware Market in Orlando and ordered enough shelving to go around the walls, and also a key cutting machine. It took a couple of months to get the shelving. In the meantime, customers came in and helped me. We painted the porch in front and the breezeway. We cleaned the glass for the T-shirt cubes that had been saved. I revarnished the office walls.

When the shelving came in, there were the customers to put them up for me. Our hardware company extended credit and we began to fill the shelves. Thank you, David! When it came time to pay for them a customer gave me a check with the exact amount due.



One morning months later, a man walked in and said to me "the Lord told me to bring you a check for shelving." A day or so later I was told, "Toys R Us is going out of business and is selling shelves." I was able to get what I needed for less than he had given me. We officially reopened May 1st. My family helped me and has been helping since opening.

I will always be so thankful to Linda, Craig, and Bob for all of their help, and my daughter-in-law Merina who is living with me (my oldest son had passed in July before the

hurricane).

Craig moved all the nuts and bolts up from the back building. Merina and I washed nuts and bolts and tried to put them in the correct place. We had a lot of PVC parts from the storm, but it was all covered in mud. Merina and I washed them for months.

I know I am where God wants me for whatever reason. I thank God for the health I have enjoyed- to be able to be a blessing to our customers. I enjoy having "just what they needed". I thank God for all of the wonderful people he has brought into my life. I love you all and pray God will be gracious and give us a healthy and prosperous new year.

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FEATURED: SAWFISH NEWS, P. 6

~ EVENT CALENDAR - JANUARY 9, 2022 - FEBRUARY 12, 2022 ~

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9	10	11 Rescheduled City Council Meeting, 7 pm	12 Ladies Coffee City Seaf, 8:30a Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	13 Lions Club, 6 pm	14 Pulled Pork Dinner, ECC See P. 8	15
16	17-Full Moon	18 P & Z, 7 pm	19 Ladies Coffee Havana, 8:30a Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	20 Museum Talk, 2 pm, See p. 9	21 Museum Movie. 6 pm Garage Sale, See p. 3	Rapper-22 Art-in-Glades, See p. 3 Garage Sale, See p. 3
23	24	25	26 Ladies Coffee Isl Café, 8:30 am Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	27	28	29 Annual Plant Sale, p.3 Exclusive BOE Tour, p. 3
30	31	February 1 New Moon Council Mtg, 7 pm	2 Ladies Coffee City Seaf, 8:30a Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	3	4	Rapper-5
6	7	8	9 Ladies Coffee Havana, 8:30a Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	10 Lions Club, 6 pm	11 Seafood Fest! See p. 8	12 Seafood Fest! See p. 8

Feb 13: Everglades Seafood Festival, p. 8

Feb 14: Valentine's Day

Feb 25: ESHP Talk

Feb. 26: Art-in-the-Glades

Feb. 26: Exclusive Bank of Everglades Tour

**AREA INFORMATION & NUMBERS:**

AA: Wed., closed until further notice  
 CARNESTOWN Recycle & Trash: 2nd Sat. of month, 9a-12p, 12:30p-2:00p  
 DR DEMARTINO: Seeing patients in Marco, call: (239) 642-5552  
 DR MARTIN: Call for appointment: (813)-787-9738  
 LIONS CLUB: 2nd Thursday of the month. 6 pm. Jinkins Hall at ECC  
 MUSEUM: Open Tuesday-Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm, 239-252-5026  
 PANCAKE FLY-IN: TBA  
 SKATING RINK: Open Friday & Saturday, 7 pm to 10 pm  
 SMALLWOOD STORE: Open daily 10 am to 5 pm, 239-695-2989  
 THRIFT SHOP: Open Tuesday & Thursday. 11 am to 3 pm, info on p. 3  
 VETERANS SUPPORT: Wednesdays at the food pantry, 10:30am-1pm  
 VISITOR CENTER: Open 10 am—2 pm daily. (239)-232-4037  
 FLORIDA STONE CRABBERS ASSOCIATION: email:  
 floridastonecrabbers@gmail.com

**The Local Area Code is 239**

**POST OFFICE INFORMATION:**

Chokoloskee (239) 695-4468  
 Mail pickup is at Everglades City Post Office, see times below  
 Everglades City (239) 695-2174  
 (M-F: 9:30 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 4:30 pm, closed Sat. & Sun.)  
 Ochopee (239) 695-2099  
 (M-F: 8 am to 10 am, noon to 4 pm; Sa: 10 am to 11:30 am)

**OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS:**

AIRPORT: (239)-695-2778  
 BIG CYPRESS: (239)-695-2000  
 CITY HALL: (239)-695-3781  
 CURBSIDE TRASH PICKUP (239)-252-2380,  
 (CALL TUESDAY FOR THURSDAY PICKUP)  
 EVG NATIONAL PARK: (239)-695-3311  
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*What's  
Happening!*

**Everglades Lions Club Dinner**  
*Featuring*  
**Cecil's Famous Grilled Chicken!**  
**January 8, 2022, 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm**  
**McLeod Park, Everglades City**

\*\*\*\*HUGE SALE\*\*\*\*

**At Fisherman's Cove Rec Hall**  
**Friday Jan. 21, 3 PM-6 PM**  
**Saturday Jan. 22, 8 AM to 4 PM.**

Items are priced inexpensively (CHEAP!). We have lots of household items, rods & reels, fishing tackle and baits, and some tools. 3PM on Saturday, all items half price.

**Art-in-the-Glades**  
**January 22 & February 26th, 2022**  
**10:00 AM-1:00 PM, McLeod Park**

You'll find interesting and unique items for sale in historic Everglades City, where local talented artists and crafters will set up their tables under the pavilion near the tennis courts. This is an informal event where your kids and well behaved pets are welcomed.

**Vendor space is free. Contact Marya:**  
**239-695-2905**

**Annual Plant Sale-Fundraiser**  
**Benefiting Everglades City School**  
**January 29, 2022, 9 am to 2 pm**

The annual Mullet Rapper plant fundraiser is back! This year we will have a nice variety of ornamental plants, butterfly host plants, flowering plants, bromeliads, palms, herbs and more!

The fundraiser will be held at 406 Storter Avenue North in Everglades City. Please park on Evergreen Street (not on Storter!) when you arrive, there will be signs.

If you have plants you would like to donate for the event please drop them off at the above address before the day of the event,

100% of the proceeds of this plant sale is donated to Everglades City School to help fund unmet needs.

For more information, please contact Kathy Brock (954) 662-7003.

**List Your Event Here!**  
**Email Us at**  
**MulletRapper@Gmail.com**

**COMMUNITY SERVICES  
& INFORMATION**

**THE FOOD BANK IS OPEN !**

**Wed. 10:30 am to 1:00 pm**

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

**Thrift Store**

**Open Tues. & Thur. 11 am to 3 pm**  
**205 Buckner Ave, Everglades City**

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

**Everglades Area Information**

The **Everglades Area Visitor Center** is located at 207 Broadway W., Everglades City. The Visitor Center is open daily from 10 am to 2 pm.

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

**You may also access the area's complete business directory at [www.VisitEvergladesCity.com](http://www.VisitEvergladesCity.com).**

**Veterans Assistance**

Every Wednesday the Department of Veterans Affairs Readjustment Counseling Service will have a tent at Everglades Community Church on the circle. **No appointment is needed.** Gloria Salmeron and David Soldano are there to assist and answer any questions.. The Naples Vet Center is located at 2705 Horseshoe Drive South, Suite #204, Naples FL 34104. Office Phone (239) 403- 2377. Office FAX (239) 403-2388.

**FWC: Leading the charge on handling bull redfish**

Bull redfish are just one example of a popular saltwater species that have anglers chasing "the big one" for their next fish tale. While there is no doubt that monster reds have rightfully earned their place in the big leagues, any redfish angler worth their salt will tell you that an important part of any trip catching bull reds is the release.

Florida regulations require that redfish over 27 inches be released. The intent of this regulation is to protect larger fish (redfish don't usually spawn until they get larger than 27 inches). Larger fish also produce higher quality and larger numbers of eggs and sperm.

It's important to remember that just because a fish swims away doesn't always mean it will survive.

**Use these tips to help your next bull red, or any other fish you release, survive to fight another day:**

- \*Keep large fish in the water to reduce stress or injury to the fish.
- \*Use tackle that is large enough to bring the species you are targeting in quickly
- \*Always revive fish showing signs of exhaustion by allowing a consistent flow of water through the mouth and over the gills. Use a "figure eight motion" if you are fishing from a stationary location.
- \*Do not gaff a fish unless you intend to harvest it.
- \*Keep fingers out of the eyes and gills.
- \*Use a venting tool on fish with signs of barotrauma (bloating)
- If you must remove fish from the water:**
- \*Get them back in the water as soon as possible.
- \*Always hold them horizontally and support their weight with two hands.
- \*Use wet hands when handling, never a towel or other cloth that can remove their protective slime.
- \*Do not drag them over rocks, the gunnel of a boat, the side of a dock or pier.

**For information: [www.myfwc.com](http://www.myfwc.com)**



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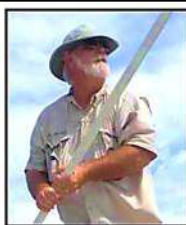
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**Everglades Seafood Festival  
Entertainment Lineup  
February 11, 12, 13**

**Friday Night, February 11:**

- 4:30 Opening Ceremony
- 5:00-6:00 Lost Rodeo
- 6:20-7:05 Special Guests
- 7:30 Fireworks and Charlie Pace  
National Anthem
- 7:45 – 8:45 Charlie Pace Band
- 9:00 – 10:00 Raiford Starke

**Saturday, February 12:**

- 9:30 to 10:00am Opening Ceremony  
(Chris Lombardo)
- 10:10 National Anthem by  
Matrasa Lynn
- 10:15-11:00 Matrasa Lynn
- 11:30-12:20 Them Hamilton Boys
- 12:45-1:40 Hat Trick
- 2:00-3:00 Charlie Pace and the Boyz
- 3:30-4:30 Whey Jennings
- 5:00-6:20 Ryan Bingham
- 6:40- 7:30 Champ Jackson
- 7:45-8:30 Southern Stampede
- 9:00-10:00 Ira Dean

**Sunday, February 13:**

- 9:30 to 10:00 Opening Ceremony
- 10:05 National Anthem Charlie Pace
- 10:10-10:40 Billy Cass Prayer and  
Music
- 11:00-11:45 Billy J & Collateral  
Damage
- 12:00-12:45 Wes Shipp
- 1:05-2:05 Gator Nate
- 2:25-3:40 Hank Williams 4th
- 4:00-5:00 Raiford Starke
- 5:15-6:00 John Prestige (Johnny Dept)

[www.evergladesseafoodfest.com](http://www.evergladesseafoodfest.com)

\*\*\*Attention Everglades Area! \*\*\*

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**Taxing Things by Mike "the Tax Guy" Klein**

**\*\*\*Watch for Advance Child Tax Credit letter\*\*\***

The Internal Revenue Service announced today that it will issue information letters to Advance Child Tax Credit recipients starting in December and to recipients of the third round of the Economic Impact Payments at the end of January. Using this information when preparing a tax return can reduce errors and delays in processing.

The IRS urged people receiving these letters to make sure they hold onto them to assist them in preparing their 2021 federal tax returns in 2022.

To help taxpayers reconcile and receive all of the Child Tax Credits to which they are entitled, the IRS will send Letter 6419, 2021 advance CTC, starting late December, 2021 and continuing into January. The letter will include the total amount of advance Child Tax Credit payments taxpayers received in 2021 and the number of qualifying children used to calculate the advance payments.

People should keep this and any other IRS letters about advance Child Tax Credit payments with their tax records.

Families who received advance payments will need to file a 2021 tax return and compare the advance Child Tax Credit payments they received in 2021 with the amount of the Child Tax Credit they can properly claim on their 2021 tax return.

**EVERGLADES AIRPORT RENEWAL**

**By Mike Klein**

Everglades City Airport has been approved by the FAA for runway improvement.

The project is tentatively scheduled to begin on January 10th 2022 and will consist of elevating and widening the runway, re-striping and marking, and renewed runway number designations (15 – 33).

The cost of the project has been fully funded by the Federal Aviation Administration and includes permitting by various agencies including the Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, Florida EPA, and other environmental and conservation organizations.

Anticipated time to completion, weather depending, is expected to be about four months; and the airport will be closed to all operations during that time.

Business aviation operations can be accommodated at the Marco Island airport (KMKY –17 airmiles) or the Immokalee Airport (KIMM) 35 airmiles.

For more information about the airport project please contact Mike Klein at 239-595-4203.

**Living Gulf Coast by Charles Sobczak**

Cuban Treefrog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*) Other names: none / Status: FL=Invasive, rapidly expanding its range, IUCN=LC / Length: 3-5.5 in. (7.5-14 cm) / Weight: n/a / Life span: to 10 years / Reproduces: lays 100-130 eggs in any standing water, including highly saline water, in early spring / Found: All Counties, coastal, near coast, inland / Months found: JFMamjjaSOND.

The invasion of the Cuban treefrog is a case study in what happens when an interloper that is a prolific breeder enters a new environment through human commercial activity. First identified in the Florida Keys in the 1920s, this frog is now found throughout Florida and is rapidly moving into Georgia and the Carolinas, as well as westward toward the Texas coast. The Cuban treefrog spreads not only via ornamental plants, but also by motorized vehicles, trailered boats, and many other unusual methods.

This spread is devastating to the indigenous frogs because the Cuban treefrog grows to twice the size of both the green and squirrel treefrogs and is capable of eating them. Furthermore, the Cuban treefrog tadpole is a superior competitor to native tadpoles, causing even more pressure on the indigenous species. It also appears to be negatively impacting certain smaller fish in the locales it has moved into.



The Cuban treefrog readily gets into homes and condominiums, swims in toilets, can be found under sinks, has been known to short out electrical boxes, and generally wreaks havoc on the environment. Studies are now under way to explore the use of biological or chemical deterrents to halt or at least slow the continued spread of this invasive species.

The Cuban treefrog eats a wide variety of insects, but has also been known to consume Indo-Pacific geckos, green and brown anoles, and bird eggs, as well as some smaller hatchlings. It has become the prey of choice for yellow rat, coral, and corn snakes and is heavily preyed upon by rodents.

You should always take care in handling the Cuban treefrog as its skin secretes a sticky substance that is extremely irritating to the mucous membranes of humans, such as the eyes, ears, and nose. People with allergies are especially vulnerable, and recovery from contact with a Cuban treefrog may take several hours. Although it has not been documented to be responsible in any dog or cat deaths, pets should be kept away from this potentially harmful frog. Given its ability to adapt and thrive in urban environments, the Cuban treefrog battle will probably end with the frog winning.

*Photo: Cuban Tree Frog by Eric B. Holt*

*Charles Sobczak is a writer and photographer from Sanibel Island. His books are available at Amazon.com and other online booksellers.*



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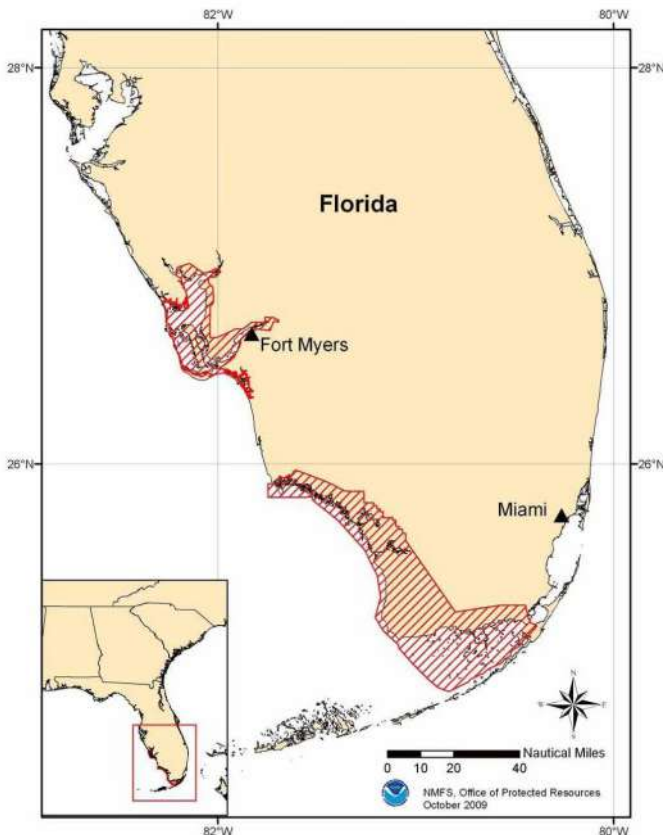
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*Sawfish News by Tonya Wiley  
Havenworth Coastal Conservation*

### Smalltooth Sawfish: History of an Endangered Species

Sawfish are unique and intriguing animals. The population of smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*) in the United States was once found in coastal waters from Texas to North Carolina. However, smalltooth sawfish populations declined dramatically during the second half of the 20th century due to the loss of important nursery habitat from coastal development and decades of mortality in both commercial and recreational fisheries. Smalltooth sawfish are now found mostly in Florida, and regularly found only in southwest Florida around Everglades National Park.

#### Smalltooth Sawfish Critical Habitat



In response to the dramatic reductions in both their numbers and range, NOAA Fisheries listed the U.S. population of smalltooth sawfish as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 2003.

The goal of the Endangered Species Act listing is to recover the population to the point that it no longer needs the protections of the ESA. After the listing NOAA Fisheries convened the Smalltooth Sawfish Recovery Team to develop a plan to recover the U.S. smalltooth sawfish population. The team worked several years to build additional knowledge of the species and to identify the most severe threats to the population. Published in 2009, the plan recommends specific steps to recover the population, focusing on (1) educating the public to minimize human interactions with sawfish and any associated injury and mortality, (2) protecting and/or restoring important sawfish habitats, and (3) ensuring sawfish abundance and distribution increase. After the plan was published the Smalltooth Sawfish Recovery Implementation Team was assembled to implement the recovery plan, protect the remaining sawfish population in the United States, and rebuild the population. (Sawfish News author Tonya Wiley is an appointed member of the Smalltooth Sawfish Recovery Implementation Team)

Newborn sawfish, like many other marine species, use specific habitats referred to as nurseries to protect small sawfish from predators and provide ample food for quick growth. Young sawfish often rely on shallow estuarine habitats fringed with red mangroves, but development has changed or destroyed much of this habitat which potentially affects in which areas sawfish can give birth and the juveniles can survive. Protecting these nurseries is vital to the recovery of the species so NOAA Fisheries designated two areas as Critical Habitat for juvenile sawfish in 2009: one in Charlotte Harbor and one in the Ten Thousand Islands/Everglades. It is important to note that the designation of an area as critical habitat does not create a closed area, marine protected area, refuge, or other conservation area. However, it ensures that federal agencies that undertake, fund, or permit activities that may affect these designated critical habitat areas are required to consult with NOAA Fisheries to ensure that their actions do not adversely modify or destroy the designated critical habitat.

NOAA Fisheries is required by the ESA to periodically re-examine the listing classification of all threatened or endangered species to ensure accuracy. These periodic reviews collect and consider information about sawfish from the public, recovery plans, critical habitat designations, previous reviews, and all scientific literature, reports, and presentations. Two reviews in 2010 and 2018 determined the U.S. smalltooth sawfish population remains in danger of extinction throughout its range and continues to meet the ESA definition of endangered.

All these management documents and more information are available at:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/smalltooth-sawfish>

A video looking at smalltooth sawfish conservation and recovery in the United States is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NSRWUjVU3e8&t=3s>.

For more information about current sawfish conservation and research in the United States visit:

[www.SawfishRecovery.org](http://www.SawfishRecovery.org) or call 1-844-4SAWFISH.

*Tax-deductible donations to help us continue our mission to promote the sustainable use and conservation of marine resources through research, outreach, and education can be made at <https://havenworth.wedid.it/>*

*Illustration by NOAA Fisheries: The two areas designated as critical habitat for juvenile smalltooth sawfish.*

## City Seafood

702 Begonia Street, Everglades City

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Open 7 days a week 10 am to 5 pm  
clydebutcher.com

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If you shop on Amazon, at no additional cost to you, you can support a local charity. All you need to do is click on the link and accept the charity and Amazon does the rest. Below, the links are provided:

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

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

**Everglades Society for Historic Preservation:**  
[smile.amazon.com/ch/20-2229534](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-2229534)

If you know of others, contact us.



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Authorized Concessioner

**December 25, 2021 Puzzle Solution**

1	S	O	A	P	S	6	P	E	D	A	L		
11	A	B	O	U	T	12	E	D	E	M	A		
13	C	O	N	N	E	C	14	T	I	C	U	T	
15	S	E	E	K	T	O	16	B	A	L	E		
						17	S	M	A	L	L	E	R
		19	B	E	S	O	22	T	E	S	T		
23	A	R	M	E	N	I	A						
25	S	E	P	T	26	S	T	A	Y	O	N		
31	W	A	I	T	32	A	M	I	N	U	T	E	
33	A	C	R	E	S	34	M	A	R	I	A		
35	S	H	E	E	P	36	E	X	I	S	T		

*Waiting for the mail to come can bring back a lot of memories*

By Pastor Bob Wallace



Some people would say you don't have much to look forward to in life if all you have to do is look for the mail to come each day. But I've always been excited about receiving something in the mail. Anticipation builds within me when it's time for the mail carrier to come to my house. I look at the clock and begin to worry if it looks like the mail will be late.

"Honey has the mail come yet," I call to my wife in the other room.

"No, honey. Not yet. This is the day Social Security checks arrive, and it always makes the mail run a little late."

"I know that. But it seems to come a little later each month."

"That's because there are more people moving into town," she says as she continues dusting the furniture. That got me to thinking about mail delivery in my lifetime. The other day I drove past the "The Smallest Post Office in the United States" in Ochopee, Florida. It sits right on the edge of the Everglades serving a town with a population of eleven. That's right. Eleven! When you're driving down US Highway 41, going towards Miami, you'll miss it if you don't look quickly.



I've seen mail delivered all kinds of ways in all kinds of places. Pony Express was before my time. But when I was a kid growing up in Oklahoma, the mail was delivered to our home by a man who walked from house to house and carried a heavy leather pouch on his shoulder loaded with mail. Neither rain, nor howling storm kept our mail carrier from his appointed rounds. It really impressed me. In fact, I even considered entering the U.S. Postal Service at one time.

As I grew older and pursued another career, the Postal Service continued to fascinate me, especially after World War Two. That's when Willys Jeeps were put into service for mail carriers. The idea of the Jeep originated with the

U.S. Army in 1941. The infantry needed a low, powerful vehicle with a four-wheel drive that could go anywhere. Then after the war, instead of olive drab paint, Jeeps got a coat of blue paint with right-side steering wheels and a sign on the back – "Caution! Frequent Stops. Mail Delivery." Driving with a steering wheel on the left side is hard enough. Driving on the right side always looked dangerous to me. But it worked for mail delivery at roadside mailboxes on the right. Then, Jeeps were replaced by larger trucks painted red, white and blue which seemed to kind of take the glamour out of delivering the mail. It made it look more corporate-like!

My favorite kind of mail delivery was when I was in the Navy on board ship, and we were told a helicopter was approaching our stern – that's the back end of a ship to landlubbers. Our hearts always beat a little faster hoping we would see the familiar bright, orange nylon bag dangling beneath the chopper and that we would soon hear the words, "MAIL CALL" over the ship's loudspeaker. Now, that was exciting!

I guess the pioneers had some of the same excitement back in 1860 and '61 when letters were carried by Pony Express from the western end of the new telegraph line in Saint Joseph, Missouri clear through the plains and mountains out to Sacramento, California in eight days. Those riders carried the mail over 2,000 miles of open prairie across Indian land which often proved to be very unfriendly. It was only a short-lived mail service. But the Pony Express was exciting.

Another chapter in our mail delivery service was when mail began to be carried by airplanes. You probably weren't around when the first civilian air mail flight was made by the U.S. Army from New York City to Washington, D.C. on May 15, 1918. The Postal Service took that operation over from the Army and flew the mail from 1920 to 1921 when in May 1920, the first transcontinental air mail flight was completed from New York City to San Francisco, California. Then in 1925 the Postmaster General authorized contracts for air mail to be carried by private companies.

I'll always remember standing behind the fence at the old airport in Tulsa, Oklahoma seeing two-wing open cockpit biplanes being loaded with sacks of mail and having "Air Mail" painted on the sides of the planes. How I would have liked to have flown on one of those little babies. However, a lot of accidents happened. And pilots lost their lives "getting the mail through".

"Honey, the mail just came!" my wife called looking out the front window.

"Thanks", I said as I hurried out the front door to see the back of a little white truck with red and blue stripes pulling away from our mailbox.

"What did we get?" she asked when I got back in the house.

"Oh, not much. Just bills!"

Silence.

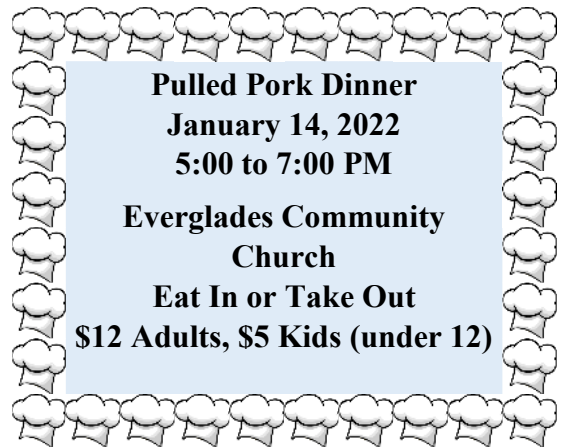
But isn't it amazing? There's something exciting and magical about receiving mail. Even if it's only a bill from the electric company.

I can hardly wait until tomorrow!

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

*Visit the Church website:*

*[www.ever-community-church.com](http://www.ever-community-church.com)*



**Pulled Pork Dinner**

**January 14, 2022**

**5:00 to 7:00 PM**

**Everglades Community Church**

**Eat In or Take Out**

**\$12 Adults, \$5 Kids (under 12)**



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◆ **Sunday Worship Service 11:00 am** ◆

◆ **Sunday School 9:45 am** ◆

**[www.ever-community-church.com](http://www.ever-community-church.com)**



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

First opened in 1927 as a commercial laundry, the building that now houses Museum of the Everglades is one of the historic structures still standing as a testament to the town's time as a once-bustling center of business and the region's first County seat.

**The Museum of the Everglades is open Tuesday—Saturday from 9am to 4 pm.**

—————> **Exhibit**

**Everglades-The Fisherman's Paradise Luring Anglers to Florida for Over a Century**  
Now – February 27, 2022  
**Museum of the Everglades**

This exhibit tells the story of Everglades City's evolution from a secret fishing hole known only to locals and a few wealthy Northerners in the late 1800s to a highly desirable destination for world class sportfishing today. The guides, the gear, and the area's influence on the industry are discussed along with Barron Collier's discovery, branding, and promotion of the town as Fisherman's Paradise.

—————> **Event**

**Third Thursday Historical Talk "Collier's Vision of Everglades City as an International Destination"**  
**Thursday, January 20, 2022, 2:00 pm**

What inspired a New York City advertising mogul to build a city in the wilderness? Find out the details surrounding the early beginnings of Everglades City as a hub for business and commerce in the region.

—————> **Event**

**History & Heritage Days at The Everglades Seafood Festival**  
**February 11, 12, 13, 2022**

The event previously known as the EVERGLADES EXPO will meld with Everglades City's annual Seafood Festival, restoring a history and heritage element to the town's signature event that draws thousands of visitors every year. All five Collier County Museums will be represented, providing information about their region's unique seafood history and more. Other groups dedicated to promoting and preserving glades culture — including the Florida Airboat Association, the Gladesman Heritage Foundation, and the Everglades Sportsmen's Club — will have informational displays (some including actual vehicles) creating a "Heritage Row" in front of the museum. **Hours: Feb. 11, 5 pm to 10 pm, Feb. 12, 10 am to 10 pm, Feb. 13, 10 am to 6 pm.** For more info call the museum during normal business hours.

*Please make reservations online at [colliermuseums.com](http://colliermuseums.com) OR by calling the museum at 239-252-5026 during museum hours, Tuesday – Saturday. 9am-4pm. Thank You!*



*Everglades Arts*  
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Open Fri. & Sat. 11:00 am-3:00 pm  
(call 508-677-5136 for appointments)  
106 Camellia Street, Everglades City, FL 34139



**Fishing in the 10,000 Islands with Captain Mike Merritt**

**Happy New Year to everyone!** Hope this year brings you all some great fishing and family memories. It looks like we are going to continue to have warm weather and great fishing!

The Seatrout bite is really good for all the winter residents and visitors to be able to have their fresh fish dinner. These fish continue to bite really well on the incoming tide but honestly, they will bite good as long as the water is moving. Popping corks with a DOA shrimp or a live shrimp will continue to catch plenty. Live shrimp will give you a chance at catching a Pompano while Trout fishing. The fish have been plentiful all along the Islands and on the grasses.



If it is Redfish you are after you will have to look a little harder. They don't seem to be around in the numbers they were last year at this time. Hopefully that will change this January. Shrimp or a jig tipped with shrimp will help you find them. The outside

islands are holding a few but I have also found a few in the backcountry.

Normally we are catching plenty of Sheepshead, Black Drum and Mangrove Snapper this time of year on all the bars, but these fish are not here in the usual numbers. All these things have to do with warmer than normal water temps and can change any time. There are some big Black Drum swimming the coast and if you happen across them it makes for some great fun as these fish range from about 15lbs all the way to over 40lbs. We have seen some Spanish Mackerel and Bluefish while catching Trout too. If you are using shrimp, you just never know what you might catch.

The days have been beautiful, and the action has been constant, so it is a great time to get the family out. Enjoy what we have here and remember to be courteous as it seems there are more boaters than I have ever seen in my lifetime. It is a perfect time to get out so good luck fishing! Capt. Mike Merritt

**Fish With Captain Mike Merritt**  
561-252-4324 or email [SnookFishing1@juno.com](mailto:SnookFishing1@juno.com)

**Lawn Watering Ordinance for Everglades City Water Customers**

Everglades City Water Customers, there are new water ordinances in effect. Here are a few of the key rules. For the complete ordinance, contact City Hall.

- ◆ All customers existing landscape: No watering between the hours of 10:00 am and 4:00 pm.
- ◆ Those with an even numbered address: watering days are Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday.
- ◆ Those with an odd numbered address: watering days are Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday.
- ◆ The ordinance also states that "wasteful and unnecessary water use is prohibited."

**City Hall Contact Information:**  
(239) 695-3781

*The Island Life Recipes*

**Freddie's Sockeye Salmon**

By Elaine Middelstaedt

**Ingredients:**

- Fresh caught Sockeye salmon, skin on
- Olive oil
- Salt
- Black pepper
- Rosemary
- Thyme



**Directions:**

Pre-heat oven to 425 degrees. Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil. Cut skin-on Sockeye Salmon fillet into serving pieces. Coat each piece with olive oil, salt, black pepper, rosemary, and thyme. Put skin-side down on the baking sheet. Bake in pre-heated oven for 20 minutes, or until the fish flakes easily. Delicious and definitely a keeper!

Serving suggestion: Rice, mixed vegetables, and a glass of white wine!

**MULLET RAPPER SUDOKU**

			1	6		9		
		9				5		7
		5	2				4	
7				9				
	6				1	3		8
5		1						3
	8			4			9	5
		3						4

**How to solve a sudoku puzzle:**

- Only use the numbers 1 to 9
- Avoid trying to guess the solution to the puzzle
- Only use each number once in each row, column, & grid
- Use the process of elimination as a tactic
- Use cross-hatching and penciling in techniques

1/8/22



*My Little Slice of Paradise*  
By Kathy Brock

**Happy New Year. It's Time for Some Changes!**

"Hope" isn't a good strategy, but I sure hope 2022 proves to be a much better year for everyone!

Every year when the new year arrives it is a great time to evaluate what you are doing and make any adjustments that may make things run a little smoother in your life.

The Mullet Rapper is a big part of my life here in the Everglades area. My goal is to provide information, news and stories about the Everglades that our readers may find entertaining, useful, and interesting.

In addition to the paper, we also publish a website for the area that keeps visitors and residents informed about what's going on here ([www.VisitEvergladesCity.com](http://www.VisitEvergladesCity.com)). The site includes an event calendar, business listings and all back issues to the Mullet Rapper, plus many other interesting things.

This year we are going to change a few things so that our Mullet Rapper publication schedule provides our contributors with a bit of a break during the slower summer months when many of us travel or desire to take some time off.

During the months of June, July, August, and September, we will publish the Mullet Rapper once per month. All other months we will publish twice per month.

You may have noticed we have changed our puzzle to a Sudoku puzzle. Even if you have never tried it before, you may find sudoku a fun challenge. The puzzle solution will be published in the very next edition as it was with the crossword puzzle. We hope you enjoy it!

The Everglades area is a special place. Those of us who live here often get so caught up in all the things that must be done around here that we tend to get away from all of the things that brought us here in the first place.

What brought you here? Are you still enjoying those things that brought you here or have you gradually gotten away from them?

Saving time in your schedule to enjoy family, and the things you love to do as a family, is very important to your emotional and physical health.

Feeling overwhelmed means a change is needed! Don't be afraid to make those changes!

Your family, friends (and readers!) will understand.

A conversation I recently had with a friend gave me the courage to make a few changes myself. And, you know what? I immediately felt a bit of relief.

Our life here on earth is short and time is precious. Don't squander that precious commodity worrying about whether you will disappoint someone else by doing what you feel you need to do for the benefit of you and your family.

Here's to a happy and prosperous New Year!

**EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP**

**BARRON RIVER TIDES**

*Obituary*

**Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands**

(642-1025): Closed Mon– Tue-Thurs, 5-11  
Fri-Sun Noon - 11 pm

**Camellia Street Grille (239-695-2003):**

11:00 am – 9:00 pm, Daily

**City Seafood (239-695-4700):**

Open All Year  
8 am to 3 pm

**Diving Pelican Restaurant (239) 232-0475**

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midnight

**Everglades Fishing Co. / Nely's Corner**

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203 Collier Avenue, (239-695-4222)

**Havana Café (239-695-2214):**

We are open daily 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Hole in the Wall Pizza (239-695-4444)**

M-Th 11am-7pm, Fri & Sat 11 am-9 pm

**Island Café (239-695-0003):**

6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily

**Ivey House (239-695-3299) (Private)**

The Restaurant is Closed

**Joanie's Crab Café (239-695-2682):**

Open Daily 10:30 am to 5 pm, Closed Wed.

**Rod & Gun (239-695-2101):**

11:30 am - 8:00 pm; daily

**Triad Seafood & Café (239-695-2662):**

Mon-Sat, 10:30 -7:00, Sun 10:30-5

**MARKETS**

**Right Choice Market (239-695-4535):**

Open 7 days, 9 am to 7 pm

**Grimm's Stone Crab (239-695-3222):**

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**Loco's Fresh Produce**

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**SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES**

**Chokoloskee Family Church**

Sunday: 10 am Sch., 11 am Worship

**Copeland Baptist Church**

Sunday: 10 am School, 11 am Worship

**Everglades Community Church**

9:45 Sunday Sch., 11:00 am Sunday Worship,

**1<sup>st</sup> 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**

10:30 Mass Sundays

**St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples**

Phone: 239-417-2084

**San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl.**

239-394-5181

1/8/2022	Sat	1:43 AM	0.43	L
1/8/2022	Sat	6:38 AM	2.08	H
1/8/2022	Sat	2:01 PM	0.19	L
1/8/2022	Sat	7:35 PM	2.2	H
1/9/2022	Sun	2:55 AM	0.35	L
1/9/2022	Sun	7:54 AM	1.81	H
1/9/2022	Sun	2:56 PM	0.4	L
1/9/2022	Sun	8:18 PM	2.22	H
1/10/2022	Mon	4:05 AM	0.24	L
1/10/2022	Mon	9:14 AM	1.62	H
1/10/2022	Mon	3:56 PM	0.57	L
1/10/2022	Mon	9:03 PM	2.23	H
1/11/2022	Tue	5:07 AM	0.11	L
1/11/2022	Tue	10:56 AM	1.54	H
1/11/2022	Tue	4:56 PM	0.69	L
1/11/2022	Tue	9:50 PM	2.24	H
1/12/2022	Wed	6:04 AM	-0.03	L
1/12/2022	Wed	1:28 PM	1.63	H
1/12/2022	Wed	5:56 PM	0.76	L
1/12/2022	Wed	10:41 PM	2.27	H
1/13/2022	Thu	6:54 AM	-0.15	L
1/13/2022	Thu	2:11 PM	1.71	H
1/13/2022	Thu	6:51 PM	0.79	L
1/13/2022	Thu	11:32 PM	2.32	H
1/14/2022	Fri	7:40 AM	-0.26	L
1/14/2022	Fri	2:28 PM	1.76	H
1/14/2022	Fri	7:39 PM	0.78	L
1/15/2022	Sat	12:17 AM	2.39	H
1/15/2022	Sat	8:21 AM	-0.35	L
1/15/2022	Sat	2:35 PM	1.8	H
1/15/2022	Sat	8:18 PM	0.76	L
1/16/2022	Sun	12:56 AM	2.47	H
1/16/2022	Sun	8:59 AM	-0.41	L
1/16/2022	Sun	2:56 PM	1.85	H
1/16/2022	Sun	8:54 PM	0.72	L
1/17/2022	Mon	1:30 AM	2.54	H
1/17/2022	Mon	9:36 AM	-0.45	L
1/17/2022	Mon	3:23 PM	1.92	H
1/17/2022	Mon	9:28 PM	0.69	L
1/18/2022	Tue	2:00 AM	2.58	H
1/18/2022	Tue	10:12 AM	-0.45	L
1/18/2022	Tue	3:55 PM	1.99	H
1/18/2022	Tue	10:02 PM	0.64	L
1/19/2022	Wed	2:30 AM	2.59	H
1/19/2022	Wed	10:48 AM	-0.41	L
1/19/2022	Wed	4:28 PM	2.05	H
1/19/2022	Wed	10:38 PM	0.59	L
1/20/2022	Thu	3:01 AM	2.55	H
1/20/2022	Thu	11:22 AM	-0.34	L
1/20/2022	Thu	5:01 PM	2.11	H
1/20/2022	Thu	11:17 PM	0.52	L
1/21/2022	Fri	3:38 AM	2.46	H
1/21/2022	Fri	11:56 AM	-0.23	L
1/21/2022	Fri	5:33 PM	2.14	H

*Priscilla "Pat" Jankowski*




Priscilla "Pat" Jankowski was born Dec.7, 1929, and passed away at her home Dec. 18, 2021.

Pat was a resident of Plantation for 40 years. She was employed at several local restaurants.

She loved the families in the Everglades area. Pat had no family survivors. Her remains will be placed in a niche in the Memorial Garden of Everglades Community Church at a later date. May she rest in peace.





**Chokoloskee Family Church**

*"Doing Life Together"*

Sun. Marriage Class-9:00 am  
Sun. Worship-11:00 am  
Kids Program-Wed 7:00 pm  
Kids Program- Sun. 11:00 am  
Wed. Bible Study -7:00 pm  
at Island Café-Free Coffee & Pie

Phone: 239-232-0098

CLASSIFIED ADS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

FOR SALE: Fisherman's Dream in Chokoloskee! Waterfront vacant RV lot with a boat dock right out your door. This is a pie shaped lot with more yard than the average RV lot in the area. Quick easy access out to the Backcountry and Gulf of Mexico, no bridges. Parkway Village, a condominium, has a recreation hall, laundry and bath house onsite. The Marina offers gas, a boat hoist, live bait, tackle and a marina store for all your needs. Rental potential. Asking \$159,000.

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

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

FOR SALE: Queen size mattress for sale. Almost new condition. \$50. Please call Bob at 954-235-1913.

HAPPY VOLUNTEERS WANTED: Everglades Area Visitor Center. Greet visitors and share information about our area's most interesting attractions. Flexible hours, and no experience is necessary. We can provide any training needed, just bring a great attitude. For information contact Connie Barker at 419-350-6650.

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The MULLET RAPPER

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

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Lee Cypress, Copeland, Jerome & Ochopee

We strive to present the facts accurately

We encourage contrasting points of view

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

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