

The MULLET RAPPER



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



October 2, 2021 - October 15, 2021

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

Volume XIII • Issue # 400

Annual Blessing of the Fleet
October 2, 2021, 10:30 am
Rod & Gun Club



The annual Blessing of the Fleet, the day we celebrate our hard working stone crab fleet, will take place this year on October 2nd.

Boats will arrive at the docks along the historic Rod & Gun Club at 10:30 am, with the blessing by the local clergy taking place immediately thereafter.

If you are one of the best bakers in town, it's time to show off your skills by entering your favorite coconut guava cake. Anyone wishing to enter the contest should drop their cake off by 10 am so that the judges can select the tastiest guava cake.

This is a great time to thank the captains and crew who work so hard to provide one of the ocean's best delicacies for all of us to enjoy them. We hope to see you there!

What: Blessing of the Fleet
When: October 2, 2021
Where Rod & Gun Club, Everglades City
Why: Because We Love Stone Crabs!

For more information, please contact Tod Dahlke at toddahlke@aol.com or by phone at 239-695-4444.

BLESSING OF THE FLEET
Everyone is Invited to Attend!

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Adventures of the Saltwater Cowboy – “Knife to a Gun Fight”
By Jon Edward Edwards

In the pre-dawn blackness of an overcast morning, we ran the Manatee River towards Tampa Bay. Crossing the bay, I could see the lights of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge over my right shoulder disappear into the clouds. The bruised sky of daylight coming up at our backs, Shannon pointed the bow north-northwest and engaged the autopilot. Outward Bound once again

The seas were calm enough for the teenagers (Shannon's daughter, Sydney, and my son, Will) to plop down in beanbags on the bow. I didn't even have to perform the quasi-aerobic maneuver I'd taught myself to use in rough seas so many years ago. A "lift" upon the T-Top at the crest of a wave to take the disc-compressing bang of a poorly timed or rogue four-to-five-footer.

Eighty-five miles and two and a half hours later, Shannon backed off the throttle as we neared his first spot. The twenty-six-foot Parker settled into the rolling waves, water a clear midnight blue at one hundred and ninety feet. Creeping closer to the structure, Shannon kept a close eye on the electronics on the center console, GPS on the left - sonar on the right.

"There we go ...," Shannon said. I looked at the sonar screen. Other than showing a nice patch of fish, it didn't seem that extraordinary to me. "Look at the line at the bottom," he added. Indeed, a thick red border was indicating hard bottom - or limestone. These fields of honeycomb-like surface amid no bottom structure exist everywhere in the Gulf of Mexico - if you know what you're looking for, holes for big snappers and groupers.

Shannon cut the engines. "Aight ... Drop em." Using heavy rods and reels with five-ounce weights and 5/0 circle hooks, Will, Sidney, and I dropped frozen baits (squid and sardines) one-hundred-and-ninety feet. As soon as they reached the bottom, we were hooked up; red grouper, gag grouper, snapper, but not the big ones yet.

While drifting around, searching for the slot-sized American Red Snapper, in my infinite wisdom, I thought, *Why not break out my heavy baitcasting rig while we're drifting around?* Who of sound mind would be fishing for big snapper with a baitcasting reel and a stout flipping stick, one might ask? Someone from Louisiana, of course, me.

Many anglers avoid bait-casters due to the difficulty of use; the backlash - the dreaded bird's nest. But he who learneth the skill shall threadeth the needle - place a lure in a bullseye. Although, offshore there isn't much to cast to, is there? Regardless, I've caught plenty of cobia, permit, and oversized snook on my heavier baitcasting tackle. It's been a source of pride over the years, a redneck purist. But when you're talking about pig bottom dwellers - well, it's sort of like fishing for ten-pound carp with a Mickey Mouse rig, which is another story.

In the foreground, I heard a commotion. Sydney had something big, then so did Will. Shortly after, we had our first two keeper snapper onboard. "There they are," said Shannon as he started the engines, moved up, and engaged the windlass anchor. "Dddddddd ...," the twenty-feet of chain attached to the anchor rattled and clanged its way into the water. Shannon played out anchor rode as he reversed, taking up the slack. The anchor caught, and the boat swung into position - Easy Like Sunday Morning.

Shannon is one of a small handful of expert civilian offshore anglers I know. Another being Hill Pohlman out of Cocodrie, Louisiana. By civilian, I mean nonprofessionals or charter captains. Not only were we catching fish, but the boatmanship and setup were all-pro. I would have been circling and pulling anchor and repositioning until I was exhausted, humiliated, and dehydrated - windlass anchor system notwithstanding.

(Saltwater Cowboy Continued on page 5)

~ EVENT CALENDAR - OCTOBER 3, 2021 - NOVEMBER 6, 2021 ~

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
October 3	4 ESHP, 9 am	5 City Council, 7 pm	6-New Moon Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	7	8	9 Car Wash Fundraiser, See p. 5
10	11 Columbus Day	12	13 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	14 Museum Talk, 5-7 pm, See p. 9 Lions Club, 6 pm	15 Stone Crab Season Starts!	16
17	18	19 P & Z	20-Full Moon Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm Fak Tour, See p. 8	21 Museum Talk, 2 pm	22 Fishing Tourney See p. 3 Clyde Butcher Event, p. 5	23 Fishing Tourney See p. 3 Clyde Butcher Event, p. 5
24	25	26	27 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	28 Museum Talk, 5-7 pm, See p. 9	29	30 Bank Event, p. 3 Local Halloween, See p. 3
31 Halloween Day	November 1 ESHP, 9 am	2 City Council, 7 pm	3 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	4-New Moon	5	6 E-City Music Festival, p. 3

Nov. 19: History Talk Nov. 20: Art in Glades Nov. 25: Thanksgiving Day! Nov. 26: Black Friday
Dec 11: Killing Mr. Watson, p. 3 Dec. 11: Art in Glades Dec 25: Christmas Day

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. Island Cafe
 MUSEUM: Open Tuesday-Saturday, 9 am to 2 pm, 239-252-5026
 PANCAKE FLY-IN: Closed for summer
 SKATING RINK: Open Friday & Saturday, 7 pm to 10 pm
 SMALLWOOD STORE: Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon 11 am to 5 pm, 239-695-2989
 THRIFT SHOP: Open Thursday. 11 am to 3 pm, more info on p. 3
 VETERANS SUPPORT: Wednesdays at the food pantry, 10:30am-1pm
 VISITOR CENTER: (239)-232-4037 10 am—2 pm, Friday—Sunday, hours may vary. Center is open on Monday holidays.

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
 FAKAHATCHEE: (239)-695-4593
 PUBLIC LIBRARY: (239)-695-2511
 SHERIFF: (239)-252-9300

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
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What's Happening!

Exclusive Tour of Bank of Everglades Building, Lunch at Rod & Gun Club Oct. 30, 2021



These exclusive tours include a discussion about the history of the Bank of Everglades Building, lunch at the Rod & Gun Club, and a beautiful Donald Sunshine framed print of the historic building. Tickets are \$150. Each tour is limited to 10 persons. For ticket information, go to www.SaveBOE.com, and click on "events".

Local Halloween Celebration October 30, Sundown

Here is a day where we all agree on masks! It's time for the kids to celebrate! Candy will be everywhere, the ghosts and goblins will visit dressed in their favorite costumes. Expect the fun to start just before sundown.

Everglades City Music Festival November 6, 2021, 11:00 am—6:00 pm At the Historic Rod & Gun Club



Mark your Calendar! You won't want to miss the Everglades City Music Festival!

The day will feature great local performers, live auctions, and arts and crafts booths. The event is hosted by the

Everglades Society for Historic Preservation (ESHP), and proceeds from the event will go towards the renovation of the Bank of Everglades Building, the future permanent home of the Everglades Area Visitor Center and Trail Town Headquarters.

Reserved Seats are \$50/person, includes souvenir program, and general admission is \$40/car or \$20/motorcycle or \$20/pedestrian. For tickets or more information about the event visit www.SaveBOE.com and click on "events".

For information about ESHP and the bank building renovation project visit www.eshp.org or www.SaveBOE.com.

Thank you for your support!

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 Thursday. 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.

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.

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.

4th Annual Hook'em In The Glades Fishing Fundraiser, October 23, 2021 Parkway Motel & Marina, Chokoloskee,



The fourth annual Hook'em In The Glades fishing fundraiser will take place on October 23, 2021. This year's fishing fundraiser for Everglades City School will include multiple divisions; Adult Boat Division, Student Boat Division, Paddle Division, and the Student On-Shore Division.

Teams and anglers will fish the 10,000 islands for a chance to catch the biggest Snook, Redfish, and Seatrout while supporting Everglades City school.

The Captains Meeting will be held on Friday, October 22 at Parkway Motel & Marina, located at 1180 Chokoloskee Dr, Chokoloskee, FL 34138.

Captain's Check-in & Happy Hour starts at 5:30 pm at Parkway Motel & Marina. Dinner, catered by **Camellia Street Grill**, will be served at 6:30 pm. Captains must attend to receive their official tournament measuring device and tournament rules.

Details about the tournament, tournament rules, and registration information can be found at www.hookemintheglades.com. We look forward to seeing you at the tournament!

To register, download tournament rules or for general information visit:

www.hookemintheglades.com



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**Everglades City School and Students
Recognized for Academic Achievement
By Assistant Principal Ed Laudise**

Last May, Everglades Students in grades 3-12 were put through the rigorous Florida State Assessments (FSA) and End of Course (EOC) exams. Our students rose to the occasion and exceeded expectations. The recently released scores were sent home with students on September 23. Everglades students and teachers outperformed the State in almost every area and earned the school its second consecutive "A".

Everglades students even captured the attention of Governor DeSantis as he sent notes home to many of our students and sent personal Certificates of Achievement to students. Pictured below are Katie Collins (AKA "Super K") and Nathaniel Carrington with Dr. Allison displaying their certificates.

We are proud of each and every one of our students, teachers and stakeholders for supporting our students. One of the areas our students distinguished themselves in was "gains" in other words our students all learned and moved forward as measured by these assessments.



Katie Collins with Dr. Cherie Allison Nathaniel Carrington with Dr. Cherie Allison

Congratulations Everglades City School!!!



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Wednesday Worship: 6:00 p.m.

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And By Appointment

**Carwash Fundraiser for
Everglades City School Debate Club!
Saturday, October 9, 9 am to 3 pm, McLeod Park**



Come out and support the Everglades City Debate Club at a Car Wash Fundraiser on Saturday, October 9 from 9 am to 3 pm at McLeod Park in Everglades City. All proceeds support the Everglades City School Debate Club!

**Swamp Celebration for the Parks
8th Annual / Big Cypress Gallery
October 23 & 24, 8:00 am-3:00 pm**



Our annual two-day swamp walk fundraiser is back once again!

This exclusive event gives supporters of The Alliance for Florida's National Parks an opportunity to explore the private property surrounding Clyde Butcher's Big Cypress Gallery within Big Cypress National Preserve.

These adventurous outings are in support of Big Cypress's youth environmental education program, which serves every 6th-grade student in Collier County each year. With support from The Alliance, around 3,000 kids are able to experience the natural and wild wonders of Southwest Florida through this program.

During the Swamp Celebration, swamp walks will take place on Saturday, October 23, and Sunday, October 24, from 8 am – 3 pm each day.

Each walk will be spaced 30 minutes apart and will be limited to 10 adults and up to five children per walk. Tickets are \$75 per adult and \$25 per child age 12 and under. The first 25 adult tickets purchased can receive the \$50 early bird ticket price using code SWAMP2021.

This event sells out every year so get your tickets early! Call (305) 665-4769 with questions, or go to clydebutcher.com.

**Lions Club to Resume In-person Meetings
Next Meeting, October 14, 6:00 pm, Island Café**

The Everglades Lions Club was chartered in 1952. Today, the club continues to serve the community by supporting various causes throughout the Everglades area. If you would like to know more about the organization, check them out online at:

<https://e-clubhouse.org/sites/everglades/>

(Saltwater Cowboy Continued from Front Page)

Now the best course of action would have been to be better equipped by grabbing some heavier tackle. These were BIG fish that had to come up a LONG way. Not only did I forgo the conventional wisdom, but I stood on the rear gunnel with my equivalent to a Mickey Mouse rod and reel, bending my knees, moving with the motion of the ocean. Why I was doing this, I can't remember. I can't remember why I do a lot of the things I do. My step-dad says I'm a hedonist. I had to look that up. Be that as it may, I was getting a bite. I lowered the rod tip closer to the water, all covertly – like the fish could see me. Then Gone.

I've cast a rod and reel out of the boat before but recovered it, nearly swept away by the tide in the process. Also, I endangered a good-hearted Boat Club member when she tried to help by retrieving an adrift flip-flop I lost upon the frantic plunge. She leaned over to scoop it up and fell right out of her rented deck boat. That also is another story. On more than one occasion, I've had an unattended rod snatched from the bow of a bay-boat in the marshes of South Louisiana by a lazy redbfish. At least once, we recovered the gear by following the popping cork that happened to be tied to it. I want to say the redbfish was still on the line as well; I'll have to ask the aforementioned Mr. Pohlman.

However, I have never had a rod and reel vanish from my hands as if summoned by a poltergeist. I looked down in disbelief. I looked to my left to find Sydney's mouth agape and eyes wide. "Did you see that?" I asked her. To which she just busted out laughing. "Stop laughing," I said, "Stop laughing ...". Then I started laughing. By now, Will and Shannon were keyed in and were laughing as well.


I could write plain ole fishing stories, but you can read those in the fishing reports and Florida Sportsman and the like. The mishaps, brush-ins, fails, falls, and miscellaneous debauchery that follows me like a shroud of story fodder makes for exciting reading, so I've been told. I'd instead give you something more, such as bond-forging and memory-searing times like these, time and time again.

Editors Note: Due to an error in publishing the closing statement (below in bold) was left off of the Saltwater Cowboy's article that appeared in the September 18, 2021 edition.. Below are the final two paragraphs of "Beavertail Sandwich."

Big Boy got caught in the chewed-up rub rail alongside the boat, getting the rope in a bind, pulling the hook free. The Leviathan swam away free to do as they do – survive.

My battle injured Beavertail brought us back to the boat ramp, beaten but breathing, innards displayed and all. Fortunately, Coop and Bill Murray are competent at fiberglass work.

All in the name of adventure. If you're going to be a bear, be a grizzly.



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**Help Create an Area Fishing Guide Memorial
Your Input is Needed**



Captain Mike Merritt, longtime resident of Everglades City and fishing guide, is working on a project to photograph and document all of the fishing guides who have worked and fished the 10,000 Islands out of our area.

If you are a guide, or if you know one, who may be interested in this project being spearheaded by Captain Merritt, please call him so he can explain the details. You can call

Captain Merritt at 561-252-4324.

The guides who share their love and knowledge of the area, and help educate others about the importance of the 10,000 Islands, should be remembered as ambassadors of the Everglades forever. Please contact Mike at **561-252-4324**, with any information.

ON THIS DATE
by Marya Repko



Charlie Brown is a Senior Citizen! At the age of 71, he should be eligible for a pension but you'd never know it as he celebrates his birthday today. On this date in 1950, a new comic strip called "Peanuts" was published in big-name newspapers such as the *Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, and *Chicago Tribune*.

The strip was created by Charles Schultz (1922-2000), a youngster of 27, who had served in the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II before working for the firm Art Instruction, Inc., in his hometown of Minneapolis. Previously, the shy artist had sold cartoons featuring a doggie similar to Snoopy (based on a family pet) to the *Saturday Evening Post*.

When Schultz died in 2000 of cancer, he had decreed that no other artist continue his creation which had become a favorite here and abroad.

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

Yes, the Reds have shown up. They are being caught in really good numbers all down the coast. Bait is plentiful and these fish are feeding on a variety of baits. If you are using live bait, they will eat it all! Even cut bait will work and of course don't forget shrimp. The best bite continues to be on the incoming tide but as long as you have moving water you can find these guys willing to eat.

Catching them on artificial lures is my favorite way to fish them and if your proficient at casting it will be easy to find them for the next couple months. My favorite way is on the jig. 1/4 oz. with a variety of tails. The key is to slow down your retrieve enough to bump along the bottom. You might have to adjust the weight of your jig head according to the water depth and current. I use anywhere from 1/8 oz. to 1/2 oz. The action is mostly the same, a slow retrieve with a light jiggling action.

These fish are in all sizes right now, from 16" fish all the way to some 36" bruisers. Local Capt. Kyle McMillin had a client land a 37" fish just a couple days ago. Most of them are slot size fish that we are catching and if you want a Redfish dinner it shouldn't be too difficult to get it done. Just be sure to do your best to handle the fish you release in a way to ensure they survive. If a shark shows up or gets a fish, we are fighting I will leave that spot. Don't be the guy that sits there and feeds the sharks. There are plenty of more places to fish.

Snook fishing has also been on fire. The smaller fish are in the islands in great numbers and if you want to catch 50 Snook in a day, I am sure you can find them. Bigger Snook are being a little tougher but are showing up in greater numbers too. Jigs are still my favorite, but nothing beats a topwater bite in the morning! I have a friend that makes a variety of lures and has been selling them online. He now sells them at one of the local tackle stores here in town. Roosbaitco. makes jigs, soft plastics, wooden top water spooks, chuggers and a variety of others. I love these wooden lures and have been using these jigs that hold up to big fish without the hooks straightening out. Plus, I get to support a small business by using them.

The Snook feed really comes to life when the bait schools start moving in on the tide. You will see these smaller fish light up these schools and even launch themselves out of the water during the feed. They get extremely aggressive and are easy to catch during this feed.

Tarpons are still here feeding and will generally feed a little further out from the shore during this incoming tide feed. You will see them blowing up the baits in slightly deeper water on most of the shorelines. The backcountry still holds fish, and the smaller Tarpon will be scattered out everywhere. Bottom line is this is a great time of the year as fall sets in!

Seatrout are being caught on the grass flats again and the bite is also red hot on the incoming tide. Popping corks are working the best. Artificial baits or live baits underneath are getting it done. There are tons of shorts but plenty of keepers if you're looking for an easy fish dinner. It's also a great way to keep kids busy and get them excited about fishing!

Enjoy the great fishing we have and be respectful of other fishermen and everyone comes home happy! *Till next time, good luck fishing! Captain Mike Merritt*

The Mullet Rapper Supports the Everglades Community and Everglades City School
Each year, *The Mullet Rapper* hosts plant sales, and other events, to raise money for Everglades City School. Please help us support our local children by attending one of the school fundraiser events!

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

Everglades Society for Historic Preservation:
smile.amazon.com/ch/20-2229534

If you know of others, contact us.



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September 18, 2021 Puzzle Solution

1	S	2	T	3	A	4	G			5	H	6	A	7	R	8	S	9	H
10	C	O	M	A				11	S	O	P	H	I	A					
12	A	P	P	L	13	I	C	A	T	O	R	S							
14	B	E	L		15	C	O	X		16	D	E	N						
17	S	E	E	18	Y	O	U		19	C	E	N	T						
				20	I	N	N	21	E	R									
22	S	23	L	24	A	P		25	D	E	T	26	E	27	S	28	T		
29	M	I	D		30	U	R	L		31	R	A	Y						
32	I	N	D	33	O	N	E	S	34	I	A	N	S						
35	R	E	T	A	I	L			36	A	S	T	O						
37	K	N	O	T	S					38	M	E	A	N					

Whatever happened to things put together before you bought them?

By Pastor Bob Wallace



I'm sitting here looking at something I've always wanted. A real, honest -to-goodness wheelbarrow. The only problem is, I have to put it together myself before I can use it! It's spread out all over the garage floor. The label the store used for scanning its price says, "Handles plus 2 more: 1 of 3 components." I should have known right then and there; I was in trouble.

After I got the "components" home, I looked at the instructions. In fact, I've looked at a lot of instructions over the years. As a father and grandfather, I've assembled enough wagons, tricycles, swing sets and bicycles to equip a small army. I believe I could put them together, take them apart, and put them together again the way a lot of Gi's field-stripped their M-1 rifles during World War II – *blindfolded!* It's easy! Look at the picture on the front of the instructions and you'll get some idea of what the finished product is supposed to look like. However, if you're trying to put a tricycle together, and it comes out looking like a bicycle, then you'd better start looking for another wheel. Or, if you have too many parts left over, you're in big trouble!



But any grandparent worthy of the name should know how to assemble gadgets, toys, and tools by now. All you have to do is follow the instructions, which have been translated into English by someone who's not very good at it. "Follow steps 1, 2, 3", and pray! It's like my wheelbarrow. I placed the handles marked (A) on a flat surface between the wheel guards (D) with bolts (F) from the inside. That's difficult. Especially when you're warned that "to make the assembly easier, tighten the nuts on the wheel guard bolts only one full turn at this time!" Mine fell apart!

Then when you get to the part where you stand the thing up and align the bottom holes with the risers, you'd better start looking at the picture again. See if what you're creating looks anything like what's being described. After you get to the part where you add the wheel, it really starts to get exciting. "NOTE: Before tightening hex nuts, adjust the axle brackets toward the wheel to eliminate excess play between axle bracket and wheel. TIGHTEN ALL NUTS SECURELY NOW!" That's the point where you begin to see if everything is hanging together, and it works. Finally, you just have to say to yourself, if it looks like a wheelbarrow, and rolls like a wheelbarrow, then it *must be* a wheelbarrow.

That goes for lawnmowers, weed eaters, grass blowers, exercise machines and a whole parcel of other things we buy and take home to assemble.

It was easier with toys. You had all the various colors to match up. And when you were finished, you were the first one who got to play with them.

Now, what's all this got to do with adults whose kids are grown, and grandchildren aren't around to make things for all the time?

Just this.

I've finally decided how to save a lot of money. Instead of buying a car that's already assembled, how about just buying its *component parts* and putting them all together in your garage? That should save a bundle. There oughta' be a store somewhere that sells enough car parts that you could pull this one off. It could go like this:

"Can I help you, sir?"

"Yeah, I'd like to build me a Cadillac."

"Sedan or convertible?"

"Two doors."

"Sorry, we're all out of those, but if you you'd like, I'll let you have the sedan kit at half-price. If you just leave two doors off you ought to be okay. And the instructions tell you how to do that. Just follow them."

"Fine. I'll take it. Is there a number to call if I need help?"

"Yep, they have an 800 number."

"Do you have any experience doing this," the clerk may ask.

"Experience? You want experience? Why I've had 55 Christmases and hundreds of birthdays of experience."

"Sounds good to me. Here you are, sir. Your Cadillac is in 64 boxes. Good luck."

Farfetched?

Nope, they're already doing it with small sports cars and airplanes.

Why not family cars? Besides, it'll give those of us who are retired something to do besides fish, play golf and watch TV.

"Good looking Caddy, Charlie. Where'd you get it?"

"Made it myself. Only took me 10 months."

"Wow! I think I'll get a Lincoln and make it myself."

Who knows? This may start a trend.

Besides, if they didn't intend for it to go this far, they would have stopped making us put things together years ago.

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



EVERGLADES COMMUNITY CHURCH
The Friendly Little Church on the Circle
NON-DENOMINATIONAL

101 S. Copeland Avenue, PO Box 177
Everglades City, FL 34139, 239-784-7318

The Rev. Dr. Bob N. Wallace, Pastor
◆ Sunday Worship Service 11:00 am ◆

www.ever-community-church.com

Moonlit tram tour of Fakahatchee
Oct.20 Kicks Off

Friends of Fakahatchee Fall Tours



The Friends of Fakahatchee will offer their first tour of the fall season the evening of Wednesday, **October 20** with their Moonlit Tram tour. The three-hour tour

lets visitors experience Florida's largest state park under the illumination of a full moon. The Moonlit tours sell out rapidly, so early reservations are essential. Additional tours are offered **Nov. 18 and 19** and **Dec. 19** as well as next year.

Starting time for the October tour is 4:30 pm, prime time for photography and spotting some of the mammal residents and birds settling in for the evening.

For complete details, starting time and reservations at \$35 per person, visit www.orchidswamp.org and click "Tours and Events."

What's Happening At The Museum of Everglades

→ Exhibit

**Pioneering the Past:
The Story of the Brickell Family**
Now through November 27, 2021
Museum of the Everglades

Guest curator Cesar Becerra a noted Florida historian and "Everglades Evangelist", created this traveling tribute to William and Mary Brickell: early pioneer settlers in South Florida whose story has been largely diminished or even ignored in favor of a more romantic narrative. The exhibit explores the marginalization of the couple's role as the co-founders of Miami as well as their contributions to the birth and growth of commerce in South Florida as a whole. Mr. Becerra was the speaker for September's Third Thursday lecture and discussed the topic in depth. Copies of his new book "Orange Blossom 2.0" was available at the talk.

→ Event

Stories of a Sportsmen's Paradise: A Folk Art Experience
October 14, 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Step back in time at Museum of the Everglades, where you'll hear rich stories of how the Ten Thousand Islands became a magnet for avid anglers and enthusiastic adventurers—including why Everglades City just might be the birth-place of the modern fishing lure. But this experience offers much more than fanciful fish tales.

Step behind the scenes with the museum's curator, and explore an exclusive archive of previously unseen works of local folk art. To complete the adventure, each participant will receive their own personal rustic masterpiece as a souvenir of the experience. This immersive experience redefines how stories are told and will leave you wanting more and ready to explore. \$35 per person includes intimate guided tour, exclusive access to rare artifacts, and the opportunity to make a piece of personal folk art (all materials provided). Minimum of 4, maximum 12 participants.

This a ticketed event and requires registration. For tickets, dates, and times go to colliermuseums.com

→ Third Thursday Lecture Series:

The Skunk Ape, "South Florida's Bigfoot"
OCTOBER 21 @ 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

The roots of the Bigfoot/Yeti archetype in cultures around the world will be examined along with local Native American legends and historic sightings of this odiferous, swamp-dwelling furry humanoid. A Q&A session following the talk will feature local authors and experts on the topic.

→ Third Thursday Lecture Series:

**Trading Posts of South Florida-
Early Commerce on Florida's Frontier**
November 18, 3:00-5:00 pm

In recognition of National Native American Heritage Month, this presentation will focus on the role of frontier trading posts in the development of relationships between the indigenous people of South Florida and white settlers who came to live in the region. The evolution of trade and commerce in frontier society—beginning at remote outposts accessible only by water and later all but eradicated by the building of the Tamiami Trail—will be discussed at length.



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

Taxing Things by Mike "the Tax Guy" Klein

Oct. 15 deadline approaches for extensions to file 2020 tax returns

The IRS reminds taxpayers about the upcoming Oct. 15 due date to file 2020 tax returns. Taxpayers should file on or before the extension deadline to avoid a late filing penalty.

Delinquent Tax Collection

The Private Debt Collection program was established in 2016 authorized under federal law.

Taxpayers with unpaid tax bills may be contacted by one of the following three agencies:

- CBE Group, Inc, PO Box 2217, Waterloo, IA 50704, 800-910-5837
- Coast Professional, Inc., PO Box 526, Albion, NY 11441, 888-928-0510
- ConServe, PO Box 307, Fairport, NY 14450, 844-853-4875

The IRS will notify a taxpayer before transferring their account to a private collection agency (PCA).

The IRS will send a letter to the taxpayer informing them that their account was assigned to a PCA and giving the name and contact information for the PCA.

Following IRS notification, the PCA will send its own letter to the taxpayer and their representative confirming the account transfer.

Both the IRS letter and the PCA's letter will contain information that will help taxpayers identify the tax amount owed and assure taxpayers that future collection agency calls they may receive are legitimate.

Private firms are not authorized to take enforcement actions against taxpayers. Only IRS employees can take these actions, such as filing a notice of Federal Tax Lien or issuing a levy.

Private firms are authorized to discuss payment options, including setting up payment agreements with taxpayers. But, any tax payment must be made directly to the IRS. A payment should never be sent to the private firm or anyone besides the IRS or the U.S. Treasury. **Checks should only be made payable to the United States Treasury.**

MILESTONE!

The MULLET RAPPER Celebrates its 400th Edition!



Just over 15 years ago, founder Patty Huff published the first edition as Snook Publications. Patty founded the paper after the Everglades Echo was no longer being published.

We would like to thank all of our subscribers, readers, and columnists for their support over the years.

We look forward to serving our community for the next 400!

Thank you!

The Island Life Recipes

Laura's Sweet Potato-Coconut Pie
Submitted by Kathy Brock

Ingredients:

- 2 cups cooked, mashed sweet potatoes
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 cup shredded coconut *optional*
- 1 uncooked pie crust



Directions: Boil sweet potatoes (3 or 4 depending on size) skin on about 40 minutes. Remove from heat, drain, and cool. Blend all ingredients except the coconut until smooth. Fold in coconut.

Pour into uncooked pie crust. Cover crust edges with foil so they do not get too dark. Put in a pre-heated 350° oven and bake for 50 to 55 minutes. Remove foil for the last 15 minutes. The pie will puff up and then settle down once cooled.

Serve with whipped cream! This is a great alternative to pumpkin pie or a great way to use up sweets that are getting a bit old! Enjoy!



My Little Slice of Paradise
By Kathy Brock

It is fall! Soon we will be cracking stone crabs and opening up our windows again and enjoying the beautiful weather this time of year brings.

I really look forward to October each year because it is when we start seeing our winter residents trickle back in, and our migratory birds start arriving too.

Just imagine a tiny hummingbird making the trip here from the Midwest. They often fly straight through without stopping using the thermal currents and winds to help them make the journey. What is most fascinating is that they literally come from and go to the same locations each year. A tiny bird can navigate its way across the country to arrive at my home or yours. I need Google Maps to get my way around Naples, yet the tiny bird with the tiny brain can zero in on a location and find it every time.

Many years back I tested this for myself. I cataloged and photographed many of the birds that came to our yard each day at our first home in Pompano Beach. One of the female painted buntings had a marking on her chest that made her easy to identify. A male painted bunting had an orange patch on his red chest that made him easy to identify.

The next year in early October they were both back. The male returned for 4 years, the female for 2 years. Each year they become more and more comfortable, and I was able to move the feeders closer to my windows so I could watch them up close. I was hooked...and still am.

Your yard, no matter how small it may be, can become a small oasis for the birds. What food you put out for them will determine (for the most part) what birds you can attract. Water is another huge attractant for the birds. During the winter months when fresh rainwater is scarce, a simple birdbath can attract so many beautiful birds.

Small birds are very wary. We have a significant hawk and owl population here and the other birds know it. If you are trying to attract buntings, cardinals, and other songbirds, placing feeders and water features where cover is nearby is best. They like locations where there are shrubs or trees, they can flee towards to evade our avian predators.

We also have hummingbirds here. We even have a few year-round residents but most of our hummers will arrive in October. To attract them use sugar water. Select a good hummingbird feeder (I use ClearView). I prefer the ones that include a "moat" around the hook so ants cannot invade the feeders

It took a few years, but we now have several hummers from October to April zooming around the yard too. Hummers are attracted by red, tubular flowers. Firecracker plants are one of their favorites and they grow well here. Firebush, porter weed attract them too.

Open up those windows, let some fresh air inside and enjoy what we have. Oh, and don't forget the stone crabs and mustard sauce.

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Type of football
- 5 Hose issues?
- 10 Tiny bit
- 11 Chicken brand
- 12 "--- company, . . ."
- 13 Again, please!
- 14 Not well
- 15 Biblical transport
- 16 Unopened flower
- 17 Legwear introduced in 1940
- 19 Falconer's strap
- 20 Licorice flavoring source
- 22 Bill
- 25 Nature's title, often
- 29 Worthless piece of cloth
- 30 Margaret Thatcher, Tony Blair, Boris Johnson et al.
- 31 Unity
- 32 Take too far
- 34 Remedy
- 35 Nairobi native
- 36 Dating from
- 37 Little rocket maker
- 38 Fresnel or fisheye, perhaps

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	
10					11					
12					13					
14				15				16		
17			18				19			
			20			21				
22	23	24			25			26	27	28
29				30				31		
32			33					34		
35								36		
37								38		

10/2/21

Down

- 1 Belong (2 wds)
- 2 Humble
- 3 Coral island
- 4 Beans result?
- 5 Like the Titanic
- 6 Atomic energy overseer
- 7 Block
- 8 Teachers, in India
- 9 Plants of the future
- 11 Orange Asian fruit
- 15 --- Arbor, MI
- 18 Former acorn
- 19 Type of engine
- 21 Sign on the beach?
- 22 Out of dough
- 23 Roof overhang
- 24 Some are secret
- 26 Poker hand, full --
- 27 --- company
- 28 Coral formations
- 30 Smartphone ancestors
- 33 Cereal grass
- 34 The Orioles' Mr. Ripken



EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP

BARRON RIVER TIDES

OBITUARY

Michael James Kelley
September 1960-September 2021



Michael James Kelley Sr (Mike), age 61, of Everglades City, Florida passed away peacefully Monday September 13, 2021 at Vitas Hospice Care Facility Collier County. He was born September 12, 1960 in Bar Harbor, Maine to the late, Elmer Kelley and Nancy Boynton.

Mike lived in Everglades City for 31 years, he loved his children, grandchildren, family and his job as a cook at various restaurants around town. Mike's hobbies included going to the casino and scratch off tickets. He left an impact on those around him and will truly be missed. Mike is preceded in death by his mother Nancy Jordan, father Elmer Kelley, Stepfather Buddy Jordan, brother in law Walter Covey Sr. and Nephew Walter Covey Jr. all of Maine.

Mike is survived by his wife Elaine Kelley of Everglades City, FL, 2 children, Holly Barnes of Macclenny, FL and Michael Kelley Jr. of Everglades City, FL; Grandchildren, Seirra, Brooke, Payton and Jonathan all of Macclenny, FL, 2 Great Granddaughters Harmony & Alaia of Macclenny, FL, Sisters Diane Covey of Marlboro, ME and Pam Jordan of Hancock, ME, nephew, Eric Briggs, nieces, Stacey Covey & Alicia Briggs; along with aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Legacy Options Funeral and Cremation Services 4376 Corporate Square, Suite 1 Naples, FL 34104.

Have an Announcement?
Send it to us at:
MulletRapper@gmail.com



"Doing Life Together"

Sun. Marriage Class-9:00 am
Sun. Worship-11:00 am
Sun. 5:30 pm-Celebrate Recovery
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

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 Open Sun-Thur 11 am to 8 pm, Fri & Sat till midnight
Everglades Fishing Co. / Nely's Corner Open Fri, Sat., Sunday, 6:00 am to 4:00 pm 203 Collier Avenue, (239-695-4222)
Havana Café (239-695-2214): Re-opening on October 15th!
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): Re-opening on October 1st!
MARKETS
Right Choice Market (239-695-4535): Open 7 days, 9 am to 7 pm
Grimm's Stone Crab (239-695-3222): Opening on October 15!
Fresh Produce
Right Choice Supermarket
See listing under "markets"
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 11:00 am Sunday Worship, See ad p. 8
1st Baptist Church of Everglades City 9:45 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship 6 pm Sunday, 6 pm Wed. Bible Study
Holy Family Catholic Church Closed for Summer. Reopening Dec. 5, 2021
St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples Phone: 239-417-2084
San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl. 239-394-5181

10/2/2021	Sat	1:12 AM	2.61	H
10/2/2021	Sat	7:33 AM	1.06	L
10/2/2021	Sat	12:31 PM	3	H
10/2/2021	Sat	8:04 PM	0.33	L
10/3/2021	Sun	1:40 AM	2.76	H
10/3/2021	Sun	8:14 AM	0.9	L
10/3/2021	Sun	1:19 PM	3.2	H
10/3/2021	Sun	8:45 PM	0.3	L
10/4/2021	Mon	2:07 AM	2.9	H
10/4/2021	Mon	8:52 AM	0.71	L
10/4/2021	Mon	2:01 PM	3.36	H
10/4/2021	Mon	9:24 PM	0.32	L
10/5/2021	Tue	2:31 AM	3.03	H
10/5/2021	Tue	9:31 AM	0.5	L
10/5/2021	Tue	2:42 PM	3.46	H
10/5/2021	Tue	10:02 PM	0.38	L
10/6/2021	Wed	2:55 AM	3.15	H
10/6/2021	Wed	10:12 AM	0.3	L
10/6/2021	Wed	3:25 PM	3.45	H
10/6/2021	Wed	10:40 PM	0.48	L
10/7/2021	Thu	3:18 AM	3.24	H
10/7/2021	Thu	10:56 AM	0.13	L
10/7/2021	Thu	4:13 PM	3.35	H
10/7/2021	Thu	11:18 PM	0.62	L
10/8/2021	Fri	3:42 AM	3.31	H
10/8/2021	Fri	11:42 AM	0.01	L
10/8/2021	Fri	5:08 PM	3.16	H
10/8/2021	Fri	11:57 PM	0.77	L
10/9/2021	Sat	4:10 AM	3.35	H
10/9/2021	Sat	12:32 PM	-0.04	L
10/9/2021	Sat	6:10 PM	2.91	H
10/10/2021	Sun	12:36 AM	0.92	L
10/10/2021	Sun	4:45 AM	3.33	H
10/10/2021	Sun	1:26 PM	-0.02	L
10/10/2021	Sun	7:21 PM	2.66	H
10/11/2021	Mon	1:18 AM	1.06	L
10/11/2021	Mon	5:30 AM	3.23	H
10/11/2021	Mon	2:28 PM	0.06	L
10/11/2021	Mon	8:46 PM	2.47	H
10/12/2021	Tue	2:12 AM	1.18	L
10/12/2021	Tue	6:30 AM	3.08	H
10/12/2021	Tue	3:42 PM	0.15	L
10/12/2021	Tue	10:18 PM	2.4	H
10/13/2021	Wed	3:46 AM	1.24	L
10/13/2021	Wed	8:22 AM	2.93	H
10/13/2021	Wed	4:58 PM	0.23	L
10/14/2021	Thu	12:00 AM	2.45	H
10/14/2021	Thu	5:19 AM	1.17	L
10/14/2021	Thu	10:07 AM	2.9	H
10/14/2021	Thu	6:06 PM	0.28	L
10/15/2021	Fri	12:54 AM	2.56	H
10/15/2021	Fri	6:30 AM	1.02	L
10/15/2021	Fri	11:30 AM	2.94	H
10/15/2021	Fri	7:05 PM	0.33	L

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: Glades Haven Cozy Cabins. Your vacation get-away! One bedroom / one bathroom (RV) cabin with docks. Quick easy access out the Ten Thousand Islands and Gulf of Mexico. A fisherman's paradise right here in the famous Everglades. Rental potential. Multiple cabins available with different amenities. Asking \$119,000.

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

FOR SALE: Air conditioner, window unit. 14,000 BTU, 120 volt. Still under factory warranty. Only used for 3 weeks. Asking \$429. For more information, please call 239-695-2208.

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.

NOW HIRING: Retail associate needed for the Big Cypress Preserve Oasis Visitor Center.

Position is part-time to full-time. Pay rate is \$12 per hour. Email resume to monique@evergladesassociation.org or call 305.247.1216.

HOUSE FOR SALE: Unique 3 bedroom, 2 bath home in Everglades City. Original Collier home with upstairs addition and upgrades. Impact windows & doors. Free standing 2 car garage, built in swimming pool. City dock with lift. Asking \$650,000 as is. Call 239-450-2376 for more information or to set an appointment to see the house.

HELP WANTED: 25- 30 hours per week. Multi-tasker: Cleaning, Laundry, light maintenance. Contact Jaye at River Wilderness 239-695-4499.

FREE BOAT HULL

FREE 33ft Viking cabin cruiser . Both engines need work, but the hull would make an excellent crab boat. For more information, please contact Sabrina. Please call 239-877-7788.

FOR SALE: 3 Bedroom / 2 Bath Mobile Home for sale in Chokoloskee Island Park. Great family neighborhood, Boat ramp included in lot rent only \$650 per month. Assigned dock is available. Perfect opportunity for affordable housing in the Everglades. Condition is ok but not perfect. Central A/C. Asking \$12,000 OBO. Call or text (239) 222-5202.

The MULLET RAPPER

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

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PRODUCTION

Palm Printing, Naples, FL

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

We provide local news of interest to the extended communities of Everglades City,

Chokoloskee, Plantation Island,

Lee Cypress, Copeland, Jerome & Ochopee

We strive to present the facts accurately

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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\$45 annual by US Postal Mail, \$15 by email

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