

The MULLET RAPPER



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

News, Stories, Classifieds & Tide Table

November 27, 2021 - December 10, 2021

Happy Thanksgiving!



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

Volume XIII • Issue # 404

Fishing in the 10,000 Islands With Captain Mike Merritt



The seasons are changing, and we have had our first cold front. Things are changing and we are seeing some of our winter species showing up. The White Pelicans are in the Islands by the hundreds and can be seen for a long way off. We have some Black Drum showing up and a few Sheepsheads are being caught. And of course, the Seatrout are biting much better.

It's time to use more shrimp! We are catching a variety on shrimp and even hooked an 80 lb. Tarpon on one today. You just never know. Earlier this week we landed a couple of 25 lb. Redfish, also on shrimp. Sometimes opportunity shows up and you have to be ready. I missed a couple opportunities also because I couldn't get the right bait in the water quick enough. We missed out on some big Permit, and Tarpon.

The fishing has been a little tough due to the fronts and winds, but we are still catching a little of everything. Snook, Reds and Seatrout and the occasional Tarpon. Just keep on fishing and moving around and pretty soon something good will happen.

Email Capt. Merritt
SnookFishing1@juno.com



Meet the Florida Stone Crabbers Association (FLSCA)

By Kathy Brock

Holly Dudley knows a thing or two about helping people. As the founder of "Holly's Hope, Inc.," a non-profit that aims to help addicts before, during and after treatment, she works tireless hours to help people with addictions seek treatment and stay sober. Holly has touched so many in our area by helping them break free from addiction so they can lead a more productive, fulfilling, and a healthy life.



In May of 2020, Holly Dudley, Kelly Kirk, and Carrie Doxsee founded **Florida Stone Crabbers Association (FLSCA)**, a non-profit aimed at helping area crabbers and fishermen as a response to regulations proposed by FWC that could have potentially crippled fishermen's ability to make a living. The FLSCA organization is the first and only form of organized representation our local fisherman can turn to when their livelihood is threatened..but Holly was not done yet!

In June of 2021, Holly stepped up again. Only this time, she set out to save the 52-year-old Everglades Seafood Festival that was in jeopardy after longtime organizer, Carol Foss's passing. **FLSCA** stepped in and they are now the **official host of the Everglades Seafood Festival!** Their goal is to donate the revenue the festival generates to fund programs for students and unmet needs in the immediate community.

The FLSCA presented their vision to the Everglades City Council and got rave reviews for their organization, clarity and commitment to keep the festival going so it can serve as a catalyst for good once again.

The 52nd Annual Everglades Seafood Festival will be held on February 11-13, 2022. There will be some positive changes festivalgoers will notice.

An emphasis on local, Gulf seafood, many new vendor booths, and headline performers will debut in 2022.

One of this year's headliners is singer-songwriter, and actor **Ryan Bingham**. You may recognize him from his picture. Yes, he is "Walker" on the popular show *Yellowstone*! He and some other well-known headliners will sing on the big stage throughout the 3 day event. In the coming weeks we will keep you posted about Seafood Festival updates and music acts.



We expect a huge turnout for the 2022 Festival, so make your plans to get here early. This family event is the perfect getaway tucked within the beautiful 10,000 Islands.

Be sure to bring your appetite! There will be fresh stone crabs galore, gulf shrimp and fish, and some specialty surprises too.

There are still a few Seafood Festival sponsorship opportunities available. If your business or organization could benefit from exposure to over 50,000 visitors from Collier, Lee, Dade, Broward Counties, and beyond, contact the event organizer for more information.

You can reach out by email at seafoodfestboard@gmail.com. You can visit the event website at www.evergladesseafoodfestival.org or call Holly at 239-537-9922.

(Look for donation drop-boxes for the Seafood Festival at area business)

Photo FLSCA Founders: Carrie Doxsee, Holly Livingston-Dudley, Kelly Kirk

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~ EVENT CALENDAR - NOVEMBER 28, 2021 - JANUARY 1, 2022 ~

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
November 28 Holy Family Catholic Church Reopens	29	30	December 1 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm Snook Season Closes	2	3 Everglades Arts Reopening. See Ad on P. 9	4-New Moon Boat Parade! See p. 3
5	6 ESHPP 9 am	7 City Council, 7 pm	8 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	9 Lions Club 6 pm, Wells Home	10	Rapper-11 Art-in-the-Glades See p. 3 Mr. Watson, p.8 Parade, p. 8
12 Xmas Children's Program, 11 am Choko. Church	13	14	15 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	16 Museum Talk, See p. 8	17	18-Full Moon
19 Xmas Blessing Service, 11 am, Choko. Church	20	21	22 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	23	24	Rapper-25 Christmas Day!
26	27	28	29 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	30	31	Jan. 1 Happy 2022!

Jan. 14: Golf Extravaganza

Jan 22: Art-in-the-Glades

Feb 11-13: Everglades Seafood Festival

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: 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: Open 10 am—2 pm daily. (239)-232-4037

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.)
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**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. 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.

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.

Manatees are Dying in Record Numbers in Florida You Can Help Protect Them in Several Ways

When there is a wildlife emergency, please use the following information:

Report injured, orphaned, entangled, distressed or dead manatees to the FWC.

Call the Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-3922.

Early reporting sets the rescue team in motion so that the animal(s) can be saved.

Other ways to help include individual, family or community activities that enhance manatee habitat, safety or support:

◆ **Help keep manatee habitat clean-** One of the best ways to help manatees and other wildlife survive is to participate with shoreline, beach, park or roadside cleanup events in your area. If you are enjoying a day in the outdoors you are encouraged to pick up litter or discarded fishing line and dispose of it properly.

◆ **Check** with local environmental organizations to see if you can volunteer or conduct a community service project that would benefit manatee conservation.

◆ **Recycle** your monofilament fishing line in designated bins near docks, ramps or in tackle shops. Get your civic group to adopt or monitor a recycling bin in your area

◆ **Avoid traveling in seagrass** or other shallow areas where manatees may be feeding or resting. Look out for manatees and give them space.

◆ **Volunteer** your time to educate others and help manatees – Share this information with paddlers you know to encourage wildlife friendly observation in Florida.

FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute Internship and volunteer opportunities are available.

*What's
Happening!*

**Art-in-the-Glades
Dec. 11**

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

**Everglades City
Christmas Boat Parade!
December 4, 2021**

Starting at Sunset (5:30pm-ish)

The annual boat parade will be held on December 4th this year.

Everyone is invited to participate in the early season event.

If you are entering a boat, simply meet at the mouth of the Barron River in front of Outward Bound. The parade will start at sunset, so time your arrival accordingly.

If you will be watching, the parade will run down the river past the school.

**The Killing of Mr. Watson
A Play by Larry Block
December 11, 2021**

**Smallwood Store,
Chokoloskee, FL**

...A Play by Larry Block...

*Based on the books
by Peter Matthiessen*

Two Performances:

11:00 AM & 2:00 PM

\$50 Reserved Seating

\$20 General Admission

To reserve your seats go to:

www.SaveBOE.com/events

**Chokoloskee Family Church
Christmas Children's Program
Dec. 12, 11 AM**

**Chokoloskee Family Church Annual
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December 19, 11 AM**

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Everglades City School is so thankful for its fall Scholastic bookfair sponsors! We are thrilled at the response from the community!

Each book fall, the community is called on to replenish our classroom teacher's libraries. **This fall, every classroom was sponsored!** Over \$2,000 worth of books were purchased for our teachers and students! We would like to thank the following for sponsoring one or more classrooms:

Camellia Street Grill, the Collier County Police Activities League, Island Café, Trail Lakes Campground, LLC., Re/Max Partners, Everglades City Airboat Tours, Everglades Fishing Company, the Lions Foundation of Everglades, Rock Can Handy Man, LLC., and the Everglades City Book Club.

We are very grateful and appreciative for their support! The book fair was a huge, fun literacy experience for the entire school!

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 Wednesday Worship: 6:00 p.m.

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Adventures of the Saltwater Cowboy – "He's Doing It Again"

Jon Edward Edwards

Anchored off the sandy beach of a barrier island south of Cocodrie, Louisiana, we were in them thick. Speckled trout, all sizes - hand over fist - we whacked 'em.

Hill Pohlman, a buddy close enough to call my brother, had Bay Hawk at the time, which had poorly designed scuppers that sat low in the stern and allowed water to pool in the hull while the boat was at rest. Within the flaw, however, was a silver lining in the form of a makeshift live well. Therefore, we unhooked them and dropped them into the boat, saving time and catching more fish.

It may be hard to understand for someone that has never experienced it, but the rush of getting into a ravenous bite such as this is part of what it's all about. The angler and sportsman in us are on a never-ending quest to duplicate the experience. Not as intense as playing in a football game that your team is winning, but close. Everyone is hooting and hollering and high-fiving.

Coming from Florida, I wasn't used to the 12" minimum size for speckled trout. Therefore, I took a break and began tossing the smaller ones out. Hill witnessed my efforts and stammered, "Hhhhey, man! Hey, man! Wwwe're kkeepin em all ... we're keepin em all!"

Larue, the big guy with a deep voice, emphasized Hill's statement in his Mississippi drawl, "Yeah ... We're keepin em all." (A Mississippi drawl is different from a North Louisiana Drawl or a Texas twang. Southern ears denote that difference.) "Even these dinks?" I asked.

"I want some fish in the freezer," Larue said, confirming the demand. Twenty-five per person bag limit with five people. Let's see ..., I learned algebra from Granny, same as Jethro. That's ... a lot of fish. Every one of them was cleaned and iced to be shared and enjoyed by all of us with freezers. For some reason, I felt like I needed to clarify that.

"Tttwelve inches, Man. Twelve inches," Hill said, reminding me of the starting slot size.

When excited, Hill stutters and stammers, spewing jumbled sentences, sometimes inventing new phrases in the process. He has ever since we were kids. It was so funny we would often provoke or bring on these bouts of silliness. It became a favorite past-time, all in good fun. As you will soon see, I was usually the one getting hazed, which is why I waited a few minutes and started again.

I bumped into Thomas, another childhood friend close enough to be a brother, while sloshing around, making a spectacle chasing fish around. "Dude" Thomas says, alerting Hill in deep concentration on the bow. Hill turned around to find me chase a particularly slippery one around Taylor's legs, catch it, and throw it out. Taylor - Larue's son, a spritely teen at the time.

"LLarue! Larue! Hhhe's dddoing it again! He's doing it again!" "Boy ... Don't let me see you do that again, or I'm gonna throw YOU out of the boat," said Larue. Only his voice seemed much deeper at this point.

Hill was wild-eyed, unable to think of anything to stammer. I read the dare on Thomas and Taylor's faces and knew I had no choice. Picking up the biggest trout I could find, I moved closer to Larue so that he got a good look and let it slide over the side.

I didn't have time to think to myself - "He's not kidding" - before I was in the water. I may have beaten the fish I had tossed out - it was close. I dog paddled around while they laughed at me, all the while they continued to catch fish.

You see, Larue was a man of his word. He never wore a wristwatch and did deals on a handshake. If he said, "Don't touch the radio," or, "Don't let me see you do it again, or I'm going to throw you out of the boat," he meant it. Thomas can attest to the former.

I'm now vividly reminded of the harrowing game of Duck - Duck - "who's going to get the electric fillet knife with a short in it," that Larue and I played later that afternoon. A slight jolt every few seconds for the length of time it takes to clean a fair share of 125 speckled trout, plus a good haul of redfish can be maddening. I lost.

Post Script:

Issuing this clarification postscript was important to preserve the integrity of the original story I pulled from, "Big Guy With The Deep Voice," eulogizing my dear friend, Larue Byrd. Also, within the story is the spirit of "Pop," Mr. Jimmy Pohlman, an essential figure in my younger life.

Considering the content isn't from our area, I asked my editors if it was suitable for our local publication. It does jive with the recurring theme of me falling, jumping, or being jettisoned from the confines of the vessel. I haven't planned it this way, one story has led to another, and here we are. In addition, it pays homage to a beloved area that was devastated this year by Hurricane Ida. Hill told me that Cocodrie was "Gone." Regardless of their answer, the exercise allowed me to feel Larue in my heart again. Because they were cool enough to say yes, maybe you can feel him in yours, too.

Jon Edward Edwards is a local author, fishing guide, and avid sportsman. His stories often recount his adventures in and around the 10,000 Islands. Email Jon at jedmls@mac.com.



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“Killing Mr. Watson” by Diallo Xia

If you didn't know, on December 11th, there will be a reenactment of the Edward Watson tale, written by Larry Block and based on the books by Peter Matthiessen. The cast is made of many of our neighbors and friends, including yours truly, and admission is \$50 for a reserved seat and \$20 for general admission.

There will be two showings at the Smallwood Store, each at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM, with an auction and food booths all day, finishing with performances by local artists.

The tale of Edward Watson goes a little like this: (although you might want to ask Tod at Hole in the Wall pizza to tell you the tale.)

A hundred some years ago, Edward Watson moved down here from the North, after getting involved in a shootout with his fellow bank robbers. After that, he did the only thing that made sense: lay low in the Everglades. Unlike today, the swamps of Florida were a Wild West of their own, with its own unique dangers and threats. Hurricanes, illness, pests, and life-threatening beasts each posed their own risks, not to mention other undesirables laying low in the swamp. Although the dangers were many, some were able to eke out a life from the harsh land.

Anyways, this Watson moved East and built a house at Chatham Bend, likely using some of that aforementioned money, and started a cane sugar farm where he refined cane sugar into syrup with the help of desperate farmhands and others. According to some people (See Crackers in the Glades), Edward Watson was not a brutal person, and was welcome in the family. However, by other accounts he was not so innocuous.

See, Mr. Watson had been running his farm with the help of other people, often desperate themselves to lay low in the Everglades or make some much needed money. Unfortunately, when they asked for their pay, they did not get it, and for those who resisted, they received their payment--in the form of a bullet. Those unfortunate souls were buried, and supposedly near the cane fields they harvested.

Although you can't see his house anymore, people who were said to visit the house before it was destroyed remembered seeing blood stains on the walls of the property, possibly the blood of his victims.



After many years of this, there was a hurricane. This hurricane was very fierce, and the waters were so high that the people of Everglades City climbed into the trees, right next to the Smallwood Store, and held on for dear life. However, when water rises above a grave, a strange thing happens: the bodies float. Many of the people were already suspicious of Watson, so this day, when Watson passed by in his boat, the townsfolk decided they had

had enough.

The townsfolk shouted down at Ed, asking him where his helpers were, and Watson replied that it was his assistant who had killed them and buried them. As evidence, he produced a hat, with a bullet hole through it. It was clear he was a liar, and had fabricated the hole beforehand. Tempers rose, and Ed raised his shotgun to fire. But before he could fire a shot, 33 bullets hit him from the treetops. Apparently, his shotgun shell was too wet, perhaps from the storm. Edward Watson was killed, right within eyesight of the Smallwood Store.

Ed J. Watson was buried on Rabbit Key without a grave, but his daughter and her husband returned later, to find him dead. They had the body exhumed and moved to Ft. Myers, where they buried him with dignity.

However, one of the most intriguing parts of this story is where it differs. It changes as it moves from person to person, and it depends on who tells it. Was Watson innocent? Was he guilty? Who was he really like? And who fired the first shot?

Come down to the Smallwood Store in Chokoloskee on December 11th to see our version of the tale and enjoy yourself!

Diallo is a student and writer living in Everglades City, FL

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**New Water 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 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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Authorized Concessioner

November 13, 2021 Puzzle Solution

1	S	2	H	3	I	4	R	5	T	6	R	7	A	8	I	9	N	10	S
11	T	A	N	Y	A	12	I	K	N	O	W								
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“Hobbies are great!”

By Pastor Bob Wallace



“Mind if I take a look?” I asked the fella’ with the hood up on the engine compartment of his really neat looking car. I was waiting for something to be fixed on mine.

“Not at all,” he said. “I love to show her off.”

“Wow just look at her engine. You can actually see it” I said, looking down into a big hole that had a big piece of machinery

compared to what’s in cars today.

“Yeah, it’s a V-8.”

“Naw, it can’t be” I said.

“It is! She’s the first model they came out with the V-8. Everything else before her was six cylinders.”

This little baby had to have set him back a bundle I thought, as I looked at the great big belt that went to the generator. It reminded me of a truck motor. I asked him if he ever entered his car in shows.

“Usually at drive-in shows. You know, where you drive ‘em into a town where there’s a show, wash ‘em, have ‘em judged and then drive home.



This, I learned, was his hobby. And when he asked me if I had a hobby, I thought about it and answered, “Yard work!”

He laughed, and said, “I never liked yard work.

“I never like working on cars”, I said, and we both laughed.

“Thanks for letting me see your car.” I said.

“That’s okay. I’d like to see your yard someday,” he said as I walked away.

“Now, that’s an interesting thought,” I said to myself. Nobody, but nobody, has ever

walked over to my yard and asked to see it, even though it is my hobby. I’ve put a lot of time into it. As well as sweat, hard work and money – probably not as much money as that man’s put into his car. But they’re both an investment. And both are labors of love.

So, what’s the big deal about hobbies, anyway? Actually, they’re for people to show off. Show off their talent, their time spent and their investment. Hobbies really become labors of love to a lot of folks. They show off their doll collections. Their dish collections. Their hand-sewn quilts. I marvel at what some people have for hobbies. It kind of reminds me of the tv show Antiques Roadshow.

For example, I know a man who is a master craftsman when it comes to woodworking. He can make all kinds of furniture and things. Woodworking is hobby, and I’m sure it helped him keep his sanity during trying times. That’s the way it is with hobbies. They let you show off your talent, while at the same time help you keep a right perspective on life.

I feel sorry for people who don’t have a hobby of one sort or another. They just don’t know what they’re missing. And it really is neat when someone, like your wife, enjoys your hobby with you.

“Honey, I’m going out into the yard. Wanta’ come along and help?”

“I will honey when the grass gets dry. You know I don’t like getting my feet wet.”

That’s the time I think I’ll get a new hobby.

Maybe I’ll get an old car and fix her up.

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

Everglades Gators Booster Club

Presents the 10th Annual Tree Lighting at 5:30 pm

&

Light Parade at 6:45 pm

Festivities Start at 5:00 pm

at McLeod Pk

Food, Drinks & Raffles

Saturday, December 11, 2021

Golf Cart Entry \$10

Trucks & Trailers \$20

Parade entries line up behind the fire station at 6:16 pm.

This event supports our students!

Local Event!

Killing Mr. Watson

December 11, 11:00 & 2:00 PM

Smallwood Store in Chokoloskee, FL

...A Play by Larry Block...

Based on the books by Peter Matthiessen

Two Performances: 11:00 & 2:00 PM

\$50 Reserved Seating

\$20 General Seating

To reserve your seat go to:

www.SaveBoe.com

...and click on “events”



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 ◆

◆ Sunday School 9:45 am ◆

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.

—————> **Event**
Historical Talk

Stories of a Sportsmen's Paradise: A Folk Art Experience
December 9, 5:00 to 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.

—————> **Event**
Third Thursday Historical Talk

"Guides of the Glades – How Frontier Skills & Knowledge Transformed South Florida Tourism"
December 16, 2021, 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

The history of Everglades fishing guides will be discussed along with their role in attracting visitors to the area and building the region's economy.

—————> **Event**
Third Thursday Historical Talk
"Collier's Vision of Everglades City as an International Destination"
Thursday, January 20, 2022

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.

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!



Everglades Arts
Paintings, Crafts, Plants, Pottery, Cards, Jewelry & More!
Re-Opening Dec. 3rd! Stop In!
Open Fri. & Sat. 11:00 am-3:00 pm
(call 508-677-5136 for appointments)
106 Camellia Street, Everglades City, FL 34139

LIVING GULF COAST BY CHARLES SOBCHAK



Yellow Rat Snake (*Elaphe obsoleta quadrivittata*)
Other names: rat snake / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=LC / Life span: to 20 years / Length: 4.5-7 ft (1.4-2.1 m) / Weight: 2-4 lb (0.9-1.80 kg) Nests: on island / Found: All counties, coastal, near coast and inland.

After the black racer, the yellow rat snake is the second most commonly seen snake in our area. It is an impressive predator. Growing to lengths of seven feet, with a circumference about the same size as a man's wrist, this snake can be quite startling when you happen upon one. It is non-venomous, however, and aside from a nasty bite, will not cause any real harm to a person. Nonetheless, it should never be picked up or handled.



The rat snake is a true constrictor. It seizes its prey, then coils its muscular body around the animal, slowly constricting the life out of it through suffocation. The yellow rat snake is one of the leading predators of invasive black and brown rats and is therefore very beneficial to wildlife. It also preys upon

birds, frogs, lizards, eggs, insects, and small mammals. Extremely arboreal, the yellow rat snake can often be spotted climbing into trees and up onto porches, rooftops, and rafters. It has nowhere near the speed of the black racer on the ground.

The yellow rat snake is preyed upon by hawks, ospreys, eagles, and owls. It is also eaten by raccoons, bobcats, and otters. Unlike the black racer, the yellow rat snake takes readily to humans, and after it becomes socialized, seldom bites. Various sub-species and color variations extend the range of the yellow rat snake across most of the eastern U.S., as far west as western Texas.

Southern Black Racer (*Coluber constrictor priapus*) Other names: black racer, racer / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=LC / Length: 2-4.5 ft (0.61-1.4 m) / Weight: 0.75-1 lb (340-453 g) / Life span: to 10 years / Reproduces: deposits its eggs (7-22) in old logs, stumps, and sawdust / Found: All Counties, coastal, near coast, inland / Months found: JFMamjjasOND (lower case indicates nesting season).

The most commonly seen snake in this region, the southern black racer is also one of the most common in Florida. One reason for the frequent sightings is that the black racer is a diurnal hunter, so it is out at the same time when most people are working in their yards, biking, or doing other activities that might bring them into contact with this snake. The black racer has one of the most extensive ranges of any North American snake, extending to the Canadian border, west to Washington, and east to Maine.

The black racer is nonvenomous but will inflict a nasty bite if grabbed. It will rattle its tail in the grass or dry leaves when cornered or threatened, imitating the eastern diamondback rattlesnake. It cannot be domesticated and should not be kept as a pet. It will continue to bite its captors throughout its life span and repeatedly bash its head against a glass enclosure until it seriously injures itself.

Despite its scientific middle name (constrictor), the black racer is not a true constrictor. It tends to chase down, bite, then suffocate or crush its victims on the ground rather than coiling around them in true constrictor fashion. Its diet includes brown and green anoles, insects, moles, birds, frogs, eggs, smaller snakes, and rodents. It is preyed on by red-shouldered hawks, owls, and larger snakes.

The black racer is extremely quick and agile, making it difficult to catch. When spotted crossing a trail or road, it vanishes into the understory with amazing swiftness.

The Island Life Recipes

Roasted Sweet Potato & Butternut Squash Salad Submitted by Elaine Middelstaedt

Ingredients:

- 2 pounds sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/2 inch cubes (6 cups)
- 2 pounds butternut squash, peeled and cut into 1/2 cubes (6 cups)
- Olive oil spray
- 1 bunch scallions, sliced (about 1 cup)
- 1 cup snipped fresh parsley
- 1 cup walnuts
- 1 cup fresh cranberries

Dressing:

- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 3 tablespoons orange juice
- 2 tablespoons pure maple syrup
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon salt (or to taste)

Directions: Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Line two cookie sheets with aluminum foil. Spray the foil with olive oil spray. Spread sweet potatoes and butternut squash in a single layer on the cookie sheets. Spray the vegetables with olive oil spray to coat. Roast, uncovered, about 30 minutes, or just until vegetables are tender. Let cool.

In large serving bowl, combine sweet potatoes, butternut squash, scallions, parsley, walnuts and cranberries. Cover and chill for at least 4 hours or up to 24 hours. For dressing, in a screw-top jar combine the olive oil, orange juice, maple syrup, balsamic vinegar, ginger, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt. Cover and shake well to combine. Pour dressing over salad and toss to coat. Cover and chill for at least two hours. Let stand at room temperature for 30 minutes before serving.



My Little Slice of Paradise By Kathy Brock

Thoughts of Thanksgiving

It's cliché, but there is much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. Locally, all you need to do is look around the immediate community.

Four-plus years removed from Irma, IF you were here for the first time, you may not believe the town was devastated by storm surge in 2017. A devastation that closed 90% of our businesses and ruined 40% of the homes.

In 2017 before the hurricane, our little City had some very big problems. We won't rehash that here, but suffice it to say things were bleak, and then came Irma, and it went from bleak to dire.

We are here today in far superior condition because community members stepped up for each other. A new local governing body including a mayor, and five council members, knuckled down and dug us out.

Essential community businesses immediately reopened to support us. Community members volunteered many hours to clean up and help where they could. We took care of each other.

Little by little, the "grey haze" faded away. (Not all the way, any of us that went through it knows what I'm referring to), and with it, the constant reminders of the struggle.

Today, paradise feels like paradise again. There are still a few who have yet to get "all the way back" but, a thankful holiday this will be!

In the Everglades area there is a central community. We are a caring and charitable community. There are so many who I am thankful for.

I would like to take this space to thank those who volunteer their time to assist with the Mullet Rapper.

To the recurring columnists who carve out time to submit articles in between your busy schedules, thank you. Your contributions are the cornerstone of the publication.

Thank you to Helen Bryan who attends almost every event to capture photos so that we can share them with you in the paper.

Elaine Middelstaedt, and Marya Repko thank you for proofing and reviewing content.

To Patty Huff, thank you for starting the Mullet Rapper, and selflessly passing it on let someone else carry it forth. I hope to do the same someday.

I want to thank my parents for passing on the "get it done" gene. It helps me focus and keep going until the Rapper is published every two weeks.

To the readers, each edition, we strive for perfection. However, we are human so we may fall short. Typos will slip through, and errors will get printed. Grammar may not be perfect (as I am not capable of producing a literary masterpiece) but we do our best. We hope you enjoy our little paper born in the tiny town of Everglades City serving the surrounding Everglades area. We enjoy producing it for you!

Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 What Pauline endured in silent films
- 7 Worker safety org.
- 11 Like Hawaiian shirts
- 12 Marker on a golf green
- 13 Bumbling
- 14 Not --- now ye that are men ... (Exodus)
- 15 Rebel --- Turner
- 16 Bon --- (clever remark)
- 17 Eccentric
- 19 Emotional stresses
- 23 Diesel exhaust is a source of this type of pollution
- 25 Winter sculpture
- 26 Reviewer of books
- 27 Crop pollinator
- 28 Exclamation of surprise
- 30 Largest continent
- 32 It's how Sonny Bono died
- 35 ESHP is trying to save it in Everglades City
- 36 Rupture
- 37 Fmr NFLer Randy Picasso
- 38 Support for Pablo Picasso

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11/27/21

Down

- 1 Cpl.'s subordinate
- 2 90° bend
- 3 Tennis tourney
- 4 She hit us hard in 2017
- 5 "The --- I Saw Paris" (Jerome Kern)
- 6 Wily
- 7 Aretha Franklin, Queen ---
- 8 One-armed bandit
- 9 Witch
- 10 Gone by
- 11 Dormant Hawaiian volcano
- 17 "Black" C I A doings
- 18 Old Dolphin Marino
- 20 TV Pioneers
- 21 Cellular energy chemical, briefly
- 22 Ocean
- 24 Minor fix
- 29 Opens windows
- 30 Missile downer, briefly
- 31 --- Tome
- 32 "He" opposite
- 33 Naught
- 34 Bean byproduct?

EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP

BARRON RIVER TIDES

TAXING THINGS

By Mike "The Tax Guy" Klein
Tax Changes for 2022

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): 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): Open 8-5, Mon—Sat. Closed Sunday.
Fresh Produce
Loco's Fresh Produce
At the post office Friday & Saturday
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,
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

11/27/2021	Sat	3:22 AM	0.96	L
11/27/2021	Sat	7:36 AM	2.23	H
11/27/2021	Sat	3:46 PM	0.29	L
11/27/2021	Sat	9:33 PM	2.39	H
11/28/2021	Sun	4:31 AM	0.79	L
11/28/2021	Sun	9:14 AM	2.24	H
11/28/2021	Sun	4:42 PM	0.36	L
11/28/2021	Sun	10:13 PM	2.49	H
11/29/2021	Mon	5:26 AM	0.56	L
11/29/2021	Mon	10:29 AM	2.31	H
11/29/2021	Mon	5:34 PM	0.43	L
11/29/2021	Mon	10:49 PM	2.62	H
11/30/2021	Tue	6:16 AM	0.29	L
11/30/2021	Tue	11:39 AM	2.42	H
11/30/2021	Tue	6:25 PM	0.51	L
11/30/2021	Tue	11:24 PM	2.76	H
12/1/2021	Wed	7:05 AM	0.01	L
12/1/2021	Wed	12:39 PM	2.53	H
12/1/2021	Wed	7:13 PM	0.59	L
12/1/2021	Wed	11:57 PM	2.93	H
12/2/2021	Thu	7:52 AM	-0.26	L
12/2/2021	Thu	1:32 PM	2.59	H
12/2/2021	Thu	7:58 PM	0.66	L
12/3/2021	Fri	12:30 AM	3.1	H
12/3/2021	Fri	8:40 AM	-0.47	L
12/3/2021	Fri	2:24 PM	2.57	H
12/3/2021	Fri	8:42 PM	0.72	L
12/4/2021	Sat	1:05 AM	3.23	H
12/4/2021	Sat	9:28 AM	-0.6	L
12/4/2021	Sat	3:19 PM	2.5	H
12/4/2021	Sat	9:26 PM	0.77	L
12/5/2021	Sun	1:42 AM	3.3	H
12/5/2021	Sun	10:18 AM	-0.65	L
12/5/2021	Sun	4:16 PM	2.39	H
12/5/2021	Sun	10:12 PM	0.8	L
12/6/2021	Mon	2:24 AM	3.27	H
12/6/2021	Mon	11:09 AM	-0.6	L
12/6/2021	Mon	5:13 PM	2.29	H
12/6/2021	Mon	11:02 PM	0.82	L
12/7/2021	Tue	3:14 AM	3.12	H
12/7/2021	Tue	12:00 PM	-0.47	L
12/7/2021	Tue	6:08 PM	2.21	H
12/7/2021	Tue	11:56 PM	0.82	L
12/8/2021	Wed	4:17 AM	2.89	H
12/8/2021	Wed	12:52 PM	-0.28	L
12/8/2021	Wed	7:03 PM	2.18	H
12/9/2021	Thu	12:58 AM	0.81	L
12/9/2021	Thu	5:36 AM	2.62	H
12/9/2021	Thu	1:49 PM	-0.06	L
12/9/2021	Thu	7:55 PM	2.19	H
12/10/2021	Fri	2:14 AM	0.76	L
12/10/2021	Fri	7:03 AM	2.35	H
12/10/2021	Fri	2:50 PM	0.15	L
12/10/2021	Fri	8:43 PM	2.25	H
12/11/2021	Sat	3:36 AM	0.64	L
12/11/2021	Sat	8:29 AM	2.15	H
12/11/2021	Sat	3:52 PM	0.34	L
12/11/2021	Sat	9:27 PM	2.32	H

The IRS recently announced that the 2022 contribution limit for 401(k) plans will increase to \$20,500. Next year taxpayers can put an extra \$1,000 into their 401(k) plans. The agency also announced cost-of-living adjustments that may affect pension plan and other retirement-related savings next year.

The contribution limit for employees who participate in 401(k), 403(b), most 457 plans, and the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan is increased to \$20,500.

Taxpayers can deduct contributions to a traditional IRA if they meet certain conditions. If neither the taxpayer nor their spouse is covered by a retirement plan at work, their full contribution to a traditional IRA is deductible. **Limits on contributions to traditional and Roth IRAs remains unchanged at \$6,000.**

If the taxpayer or their spouse was covered by a retirement plan at work, the deduction may be reduced or phased out until it is eliminated. The amount of the deduction depends on the taxpayer's filing status and their income.


Increase in the meal's deduction from 50% to 100%.

Those who are self-employed or employed as contractors subject to 1099NE reporting are now eligible to deduct 100% of business-related meal costs.

This is a temporary 100-percent deduction for expenses that are paid or incurred after December 31, 2020, and before January 1, 2023, for food or beverages provided by a restaurant.

In particular, the notice sets forth a special rule that allows a taxpayer to treat the meal portion of a per diem rate or allowance as being attributable to food or beverages provided by a restaurant.

Mike Klein provides tax advise and tax preparation services. Contact Mike by email: nfn19842@naples.net.



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: Chokoloskee Island; 1294 Snook Alley canal front lot. This is a high lot with a dock. Quick and easy access out to the famous fishing of the Ten Thousand Islands and Gulf of Mexico! A stilt home could give you gorgeous Chokoloskee Bay views. Asking \$149,900.

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 Popenhagen 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.popenhagen.com. For more information call 786-258-2227.

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 Kathy Brock, 954 662 7003.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED? JOIN THE EVERGLADES LIONS CLUB! The Lions have been serving in our local community dating back to 1952 when the club was first chartered. Today, the club is still going strong supporting local community by holding fundraisers and providing services to those in need. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 6 pm at Jinkins Hall at Everglades Community Church. For more info visit the Club's website at https://e-clubhouse.org/sites/everglades/.

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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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