

The MULLET RAPPER



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



December 11, 2021 - December 24, 2021

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

Volume XIII • Issue # 405

*****Saturday, December 11*****
~Event Schedule~

Art-in-the-Glades

10:00 am-1:00 pm:

McLeod Park, Everglades City

Art, Crafts, Gifts, Food

Need Gifts? Start Here!

Killing Mr. Watson

A Play by Larry Block

Smallwood Store, Chokoloskee

Two Performances

11:00 am & 2:00 pm

See page 3 for more details!

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

Golf Cart Entry \$10

Trucks & Trailers \$20

Parade entries line up behind the

fire station at 6:16 pm.

This event supports our students!

OBITUARIES

Arvid Kenneth Brown



Arvid Kenneth Brown, 90, of Chokoloskee Island, Florida, went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, November 23, 2021.

He was born in 1931 and raised on Chokoloskee Island by his late parents, William and Rosa Brown. He was a life-long Christian and church member who served as Clerk of the Chokoloskee Church of God for more than 25-years. He was a devoted and loving family man, and his family will be forever grateful for all the love, compassion, and grace that he showed and taught them. He lived an adventurous life and loved being on the water. He was a successful businessman who, until his retirement, owned and operated a marina, motel, and RV park on Chokoloskee Island. He previously worked as a charter fishing guide, and operated a bait shrimp operation on Cape Sable.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 56-years, Georgia Brown, his daughter, Gwen Brown Petty. He is survived by his children, Arvid Kenneth Brown Jr., Karen Brown Birdwell, Houston Brown and wife, Jennifer; grandchildren, Craig Daniels Jr. and wife, Gina, Caleb Morris and wife, Lynette, Brandon Daniels, Stephanie Daniels, Brittney Morris Abney and husband, Bruce, Dwight Brown, Karisa Brown, Houston Brown Jr., River Brown; six great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild.

A graveside service was held on Monday, November 29 at Hodges Funeral Home (525 111th Ave. N., Naples, FL 34108). He was interred at Naples Memorial Gardens.

Roy Valkema



Roy Valkema went to be with his Lord and Savior Thursday morning, November 18, 2021. Roy was born July 9, 1929 in Chicago, IL the son of Henry and Anna (Klooster) Valkema. He was the owner of Tri City and Commercial Waste Disposal of Kalamazoo until his retirement. Roy loved his God, his family, his flowers and his cows. He was an avid fisherman and he loved his winter home in Everglades City, FL.

On February 21, 1964 Roy was united in marriage to his loving wife, Marilyn (Noble) who preceded him in death on October 14, 2017. He was also preceded in death by his brother Albert Valkema and his sister Evelyn (Paul) Dean. He is survived by his children, Henry (Colleen) Valkema, Carol (Randy) VanDyke, Mark (Susan) Nap; grandchildren,

Greg (Maddie) Nap, Angela (Chris) Reiter, Mellisa Kakarian, Brad (Olivia) VanDyke, Henry M. Valkema, Heath Valkema and Anna Valkema; great-grandchildren, Drew and Jackson Reiter, Hunter Nap, Damien and Wyatt Kakarian, Finley VanDyke and Cope Palmer and several nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be directed to Hospice Care of Southwest Michigan or the Everglades Community Church, 101 S. Copeland Ave., Everglades City, FL 34139. To view Roy's personalized webpage, please visit <https://www.langelands.com>

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FEATURED: EVG SCHOOL UPDATE P. 5

~ EVENT CALENDAR - DECEMBER 12, 2021 - JANUARY 15, 2022 ~

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12 Xmas Children's Program, 11 am Choko. Church	13	14	15 Ladies Coffee Isl Caf�, 8:30a 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 Ladies Coffee City Seaf, 8:30a Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	23	24 ECC Xmas Eve Service 7:00 pm, p. 3 City Hall Closed	Rapper-25 Christmas Day! Holy Family, 10:30 Mass
26 City Hall Closed	27 City Hall Closed	28	29 Ladies Coffee Havana, 8:30a Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	30	31	Jan. 1 Happy 2022! Holy Family, 10:30 Mass
2-New Moon	3 ESHP 9:00 am	4 City Council 7 pm	5 Ladies Coffee Isl Caf�, 8:30 am Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	6	7	Rapper-8 Chicken Dinner, See p. 8
9	10	11	12 Ladies Coffee City Seaf, 8:30a Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	13 Lions Club, 6 pm	14 ESHP Event, Golf Gala	15

Jan 22: Art-in-the-Glades

Feb 11-13: Everglades Seafood Festival

Feb 14: Valentine's Day

Feb 15: ESHP Talk

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
 FLORIDA STONE CRABBERS ASSOCIATION: email:
 floridastonecrabbers@gmail.com

The Local Area Code is 239

POST OFFICE INFORMATION:

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

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

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

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
Church & Community Christmas
Blessing Service
 December 19, 11 AM

Flat Scree TV Giveaway, Gift Cards,
and Gift Baskets!

Christmas Eve Church Service
Everglades Community Church
December 24, 2021, 7:00 pm
Come and enjoy "coffee & Christmas
carols" at ECC. Everyone is invited to
attend and bring a friend!

Art-in-the-Glades
January 22, 2022

10:00 AM-1:00 PM, McLeod Park
 You'll find interesting and unique items for sale in historic Everglades City, where local talented artists and crafters will set up their tables under the pavilion near the tennis courts. This is an informal event where your kids and well behaved pets are welcomed.

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

Do you have an event for the
calendar? Please let us know so
we can post it in the Mullet
Rapper's print and online
editions. It is best to get us the
information 2 weeks (or more)
before the event!

**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.

FWC to meet December 15-16 in Destin
Your Input is Important!



The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) will meet in person December 15-16 at The Henderson Beach Resort, 200 Henderson Resort Way, Destin, Florida 32541. The meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. ET each day and is open to the public.

The FWC is committed to providing opportunity for public input. There are several opportunities prior to the Commission meeting to provide comments. Also, time is allotted for public speakers at the Commission meeting.

Additionally, at the end of the second day, December 16, the Commission will provide time for public comment on subjects not on the agenda. Those people who wish to offer comments during this period will be asked to ensure their comments are not related to any agenda item. The deadline for registration to speak on items not on the agenda is 9:00 a.m. ET on December 16.

Public speaking is organized using a speaker registration process and time limits. To accommodate as much input as possible from those attending, the Chairman reserves the right to designate the amount of time given to each topic and speaker.

For the full December 15-16 agenda and links to background reports, go to MyFWC.com/Commission and select "Commission Meetings." Those who cannot attend can follow coverage at [Twitter.com/MyFWC](https://twitter.com/MyFWC) (@MyFWC) and sign up for news updates at MyFWC.com.

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Wednesday Worship: 6:00 p.m.



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Either scan the QR code below, click below, or go to the link online!

<https://bit.ly/3qUgmMA>

When you reach the gate, push the intercom button
to let us know you are here to pick up!

You must be 21 or older to order and to pick up



**A Message from Principal Dr. Cherie Allison
Everglades City School has a lot to share!**



Thanksgiving was a wonderful experience for our Everglades City School students and staff. Students celebrated in classrooms and staff served our students hot turkey lunches. We are gearing up for a wonderful Christmas celebration school-wide with hot cocoa, pajamas and

the Polar Express.

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) was established in 2008. The committee serves as a critical link in identifying topics, issues and concerns that face the student-athletes of the Florida.

This year, the Association received over forty-five applications from students across Florida. These members were chosen based on their sports participation, extracurriculars, essay, and leadership skills.

Katherine Collins, Everglades City School – Katie is a sophomore from Everglades City, she is a member of her school's volleyball and softball teams. Katie is also a member of her school's Advisory Council, Student Government and Make-A-Wish Southern Florida Youth Leadership Committee. Her freshman year, Katie created an online tutoring program for Algebra. Katie has a goal of creating awareness programs for cyberbullying in an effort to promote good sportsmanship between schools.



Two teachers wrote Classroom Grant requests and received grant funding from The Learning Connection and Women in Naples Giving Support (WINGS). At present 100% of our funding requests have been granted.

Mr. Stein (Everglades City School Music Teacher) wrote a grant to Champions For Learning which was funded by WINGS for \$670 to purchase an electric piano.

Fifth grade teacher Mr. Mayberry also wrote a grant and received \$729.11 for his class to provide various opportunities for students to be able to choose to work where they feel most comfortable. With the grant monies awarded the classroom will have flexible seating. This includes surf portable lap desk, wobble cushions, square floor cushions, balance ball chairs, and other seating options. Science has proven this alternative seating helps students engage and grow academically.

This year, Champions For Learning awarded a record-breaking 201 grant checks that totaled \$101,747.00 to 50 Collier County Schools. These classroom grants were requested by Collier County teachers through the online grant portal on Champions For Learning's website. The community can go to the website and fund requests. This online grant program began in 2003 to enable the community to support teachers.



The purpose of the Champions For Learning funding is to provide teachers with funds to implement creative and innovative learning experiences for students. Thanks to a charitable gift from Suncoast Credit Union, which supports the technology and capacity for the classroom grant portal, 100% of community contribution goes into supporting teacher grants.

WINGS has funded various school projects, such as school uniforms in Collier's middle schools. Back in 2019-2020 WINGS provided a break-through grant to Everglades City School's fledgling culinary program envisioned and executed by Mr. Baumler. This program boasts the highest districtwide ServSafe Food Service Manager's exam pass rate of 87%.

We Remain an A!

Everglades City School went all out to celebrate our school remaining an A school even through a global pandemic!! Student leadership ran the event with staff cooking hotdogs and



Lieutenant Jason Miller in charge of snow cones. The day could not be complete without a giant slide and a water balloon launch! Thank you Mr. Mayberry and Mrs. Whitcomb for making this a fabulous celebration.

Robert Wilhelm
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**SAWFISH NEWS by Tonya Wiley, Havenworth Coastal Conservation
Angler and Diver Guidelines for Interactions with Endangered Sawfish**

The population of smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*) in the United States experienced a dramatic decline during the 20th century due to overfishing and habitat loss. Given the decline, NOAA Fisheries listed the U.S. population of smalltooth sawfish as “endangered” under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 2003. One of the best ways to track the effectiveness of ongoing management and conservation efforts is to collect information about the sawfish encounters of fishers, divers, and others. Details of public sightings and captures of sawfish can substantially increase the data we have about the species, allowing us to make management and policy decisions that are reflective of the realities in the water. Because of their countless hours on and in the water, we are seeking to partner with the angling and diving community to collect information about their sawfish interactions.



For anglers to safely and legally release any sawfish accidentally caught while fishing:

- ◆ Release sawfish immediately
- ◆ Leave the sawfish, especially the gills, in the water at all times
- ◆ Never lift a sawfish from the water or drag it ashore
- ◆ Do not use gaffs or ropes to secure any captured sawfish
- ◆ Cut the line as close to the hook as safely possible
- ◆ Share the details of your sawfish catch with scientists

Anglers should note that advertising fishing trips or charters aimed at catching endangered smalltooth sawfish can be considered “targeting,” which is a violation of the ESA. Therefore, I strongly urge that the following conservation messaging be included in all social media posts regarding sawfish catches: Sawfish are protected under the Endangered Species Act. Help protect this critically endangered species by following NOAA Fisheries handling and release guidelines available at www.SawfishRecovery.org.

For divers to safely and legally enjoy encounters with sawfish:

- ◆ Keep your distance
- ◆ Avoid disturbing sawfish
- ◆ Never chase, feed, or touch them
- ◆ Share information about your sawfish encounters with scientists

Divers should note that advertising expeditions aimed at encountering endangered smalltooth sawfish can be considered “targeting,” which is a violation of the ESA. Therefore, I strongly urge that the following conservation messaging be included in all social media posts regarding sawfish observations: Sawfish are protected under the Endangered Species Act. Help protect this critically endangered species by following NOAA Fisheries viewing guidelines available at www.SawfishRecovery.org.

You can promote sawfish recovery by following these interaction guidelines and educating others about them. Please share the information about your sawfish encounters by visiting www.SawfishRecovery.org, calling 1-844-4SAWFISH, emailing sawfish@myfwc.com, or entering the details in the FWC Reporter App. Your encounter reports will be used to track recovery of the population and steer research efforts, which will ultimately benefit the species and the areas in which you fish and dive.



Tonya Wiley, President,
Tonya@havenworth.org,
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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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Everglades Society for Historic Preservation:
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If you know of others, contact us.



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November 27, 2021 Puzzle Solution

1	P	E	R	I	L	S	7	O	S	H	A
11	F	L	O	R	A	L	12	F	L	A	G
13	C	L	U	M	S	Y	14	S	O	G	O
			15	N	A	T	16	M	O	T	
17	O	D	D	19	T	R	A	U	M	A	S
23	P	A	R	T	I	C	U	L	A	T	E
25	S	N	O	W	M	A	N	26	C	P	A
			27	B	E	E	28	A	A	H	
30	A	S	I	A	32	S	K	I	I	N	G
35	B	A	N	K	36	H	E	R	N	I	A
37	M	O	S	S	38	E	A	S	E	L	S

“Turn down the volume so we can all hear!”

By Pastor Bob Wallace



There's been a lot of talk lately about noise that comes from airplanes using our airport. Engine run ups late at night, or early in the morning, definitely have a way of disturbing a good night's sleep. All you have to do is add the noise of jet aircraft and bingo, we're right in middle of big city living.

But that's not what bothers a lot of people who want to get away from noise and have a little peace and quiet.

Have you ever tried going to the beach for the day, having selected a nice little spot where all you hear are the sounds of the birds and the waves hitting your newly re-nourished beach and, whammo! You're invaded with loud music courtesy of a boom-box plopped nearby? The size of some of those sound machines carried on shoulders up and down the beach is truly amazing. The noise they generate is enough to make you scream. Too bad that kind of thing can't be addressed along with airplanes, trucks, motorcycles and any other noisemakers that break your peaceful sound barriers.



And how about when you're watching the evening six o'clock news on TV and the program takes a commercial break? Look out. The sound engineer running the commercials has a heavy hand and really turns the volume up, especially on the car dealer commercials. That's when you reach for the TV remote and fumble fast to hit the mute

button. You can hardly hear yourself think with that one. It makes one wonder if there will be any permanent hearing loss due to television commercial sound overload.

If that's not bad enough, shopping in some stores has become a chore, not because of the crowds, but because of the music being played over the store's sound system. It used to be that music was played in stores for the enjoyment of the customer. Now, it seems the selection of music is made for the enjoyment of the store employees. I can't believe what I hear being played in some places and the level at which the sound emanates from the speakers. It kind of takes the fun out of shopping.

But that happens in a lot of restaurants as well. Just try eating with music being pumped out of an overhead sound system. Or better yet, live music blasting away at you during lunch. It's enough to turn your stomach.

Now I don't want to sound unappreciative of good music appropriately played for the enjoyment of others. I think I have a good ear for music. I took a course in music appreciation while in college and learned not to exclude any form of musical expression for my enjoyment and pleasure of music. It took some doing.

But after the big band sound of the '40s and '50s, the rock and roll of the '60s took some getting used to. The '70s and '80s brought a mix of new music styles that challenged the ear of the listener. But none as much as the rap music of late. It's not so much the monotony of the rhythm of rap that bothers me. It's the monotony and incoherence of the lyrics. Any rap music played on sound systems that invade the privacy of others is what gets to a lot of people these days.

What say we all get together for one big music appreciation night at the Philharmonic and have played all the types of music available to us today. Include classical, opera, big band, rock 'n roll, country western and rap. Then let's take a vote. Which would be the most popular?

Well, you don't have to worry. That's probably not going to happen. But you don't need to have a winner. The one thing I learned in music appreciation was that a person doesn't have to like only one kind of music to appreciate music. Understanding and appreciating all kinds of musical expression is the mark of a well-rounded person, they say.

BUT, the screeching, hollering, shouting and vulgarity that's called pop music today is enough to try one's appreciation, tolerance and patience. What say we just respect each other's space, turn the volume DOWN and have a real good time being together while we can still hear.

What's that, you say?

*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*

Chicken Dinner!

By the Everglades Lion Club

Saturday, January 8, 2022

4:30 to 6:00 pm

**Pre-Order & Pickup at
McLeod Park**

Featuring:

*Cecil's Famous Grilled Chicken
Cole Slaw
BBQ Beans
Dessert & Beverage*

Only \$15.00 / plate

*Please call any of the following to
purchase tickets:*

*Kathy Brock: 954 662 7003
Connie Barker: 419-350-6650
Tammie Pernas @ City Hall:
239-695-3781*

*A limited amount of dinners will
be available the day of the event.*

Please Pre-Order!

Thank You!



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

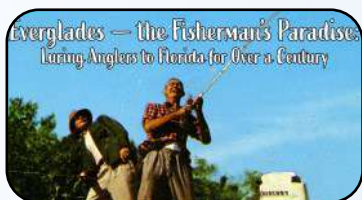


First opened in 1927 as a commercial laundry, the building that now houses Museum of the Everglades is one of the historic structures still standing as a testament to the town's time as a once-bustling center of business and the region's first County seat.

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

Exhibit

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



This exhibit tells the story of Everglades City's evolution from a secret fishing hole known only to locals and a few wealthy Northerners in the late 1800s to a highly desirable destination for world class sportfishing today. The guides, the gear, and the

area's influence on the industry are discussed along with Barron Collier's discovery, branding, and promotion of the town as Fisherman's Paradise.

Event

Third Thursday Historical Talk "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 SOB CZAK



Ornate Diamondback Terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin macrospilota*) Other names: none / Status: FL=species of special concern, IUCN-NT / Length: 5-9 in. (12-23 cm) / Weight: 0.90-1.7 lb (300-1,400 g); the male is much smaller than the female / Life span: unknown / Reproduces: lays up to 3 clutches a year with 6-7 eggs in each clutch / Found: Sarasota Co., Charlotte Co., Lee Co., Collier Co., coastal / JFMAMJJASOND (the ornate diamondback breeds year round).

In all four coastal counties of Southwest Florida the ornate diamondback terrapin spends most of its life in and around the mangroves where it forages on carrion, snails, crabs, and salt-marsh plants. Along the Eastern Seaboard and west to Texas it lives in salt marshes. The terrapin is equipped with a special gland next to its eyes that allows it to secrete excess salt. It has one of the most heavily embossed shell patterns of any turtle and a unique spotted lavender skin. It is also becoming extremely rare.

The reason for its demise is simple: it is delicious. Until recently the terrapin was hunted in much of its range for terrapin soup. It has also suffered from coastal development. Its biggest threat today is crab traps, which it enters to feed on the bait, then drowns. There are five subspecies in Florida and two more in its greater range from southern New England to Corpus Christi, Texas. Although these small reptiles can be seen in captivity, where they do well in saltwater aquariums, seeing a terrapin in the wild is nothing short of astonishing. They are shy and elusive turtles, and a terrapin sighting is a special experience for any nature enthusiast.

Florida Softshell Turtle (*Apalone ferox*) Other names: flatback, pancake turtle, river flyer / Status: FL= stable, IUCN=LC / Length: 6-25 in. (15-63 cm) / Weight: 20-50 lb (9-22.5 kg) / Life span: to 30 years / Reproduces: lays 2-3 clutches of 12-20 eggs in burrows on land / Found: All Counties, coastal, near coast, inland / Months found: JFmamjjaSOND (lower case indicates breeding and nesting season).

A favorite food of the American alligator, the Florida softshell turtle can be found in almost every pond and lake in Southwest Florida. It is easily recognized by its unusually long snorkel-like snout and flat, olive-black carapace, which resembles stretched leather. The largest Florida softshell on record topped the scales at 93 pounds (42 kg).

The average size found in this region is 25-35 pounds. The softshell turtle is capable of pharyngeal breathing. This means it can bypass its lungs by taking in oxygen and releasing carbon dioxide through a special membrane that lines the throat, creating a direct gas exchange with the water. Think of it as a turtle gill device, giving the softshell the unique ability to remain underwater for extended periods of time. It is, in effect, part fish.

The Florida softshell turtle is primarily a carnivore, dieting on insects, crustaceans, mollusks, fish, waterfowl, and amphibians. It has also been known to eat other turtles. Softshell eggs and hatchlings are heavily preyed upon by otters, raccoons, skunks, and snapping turtles. Adults are taken by alligators and humans, who turn it into turtle soup.

On land the softshell turtle can be very aggressive and should never be handled. It is capable of delivering a nasty bite, and because of the habitat it thrives in, infection is a strong possibility.

Charles Sobczak is a writer and photographer from Sanibel Island; His books are available in most online booksellers.

Photos by Eric Holt.



The Island Life Recipes
Stovetop Nutty Oatmeal Cookies
 By Kathy Brock

Ingredients:

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 stick butter
- 1/2 cup evaporated milk
- 4 tbs. cocoa
- 2 1/2 cups quick oatmeal
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 cup peanut butter



Directions:

Boil sugar, butter, milk and cocoa for 90 seconds. Remove from heat and add oatmeal, vanilla and peanut butter. Mix well and drop onto waxed paper until cooled. If you want to shape them, do so before they are cooled!

This is a great recipe to try for the holidays. My mother used to make them. She first got the recipe from an article that appeared in the Miami Herald in the 1970's. The cookies only takes a few minutes to make and they are delicious. This recipe will yield about 4 dozen cookies.



My Little Slice of Paradise
 By Kathy Brock

We are so incredibly fortunate to live in an area with limited development surrounded by nature. Because it is "normal" for those of us who live here, it is easy to forget how special it actually is.

Each time we are visited by a friend or relative, it reminds us to take notice and appreciate what surrounds us.

A short trip in a boat to the outside islands is all it takes to see abounding nature. In one day-trip we spotted dolphin, loggerhead turtles, manatee, numerous fishes, and countless birds.

This year, the white pelican flocks are huge. They arrive here from places as far north as Canada where they live and breed during the summer months.



The birds are quite a spectacle, and it is very tempting to get close so you can take photos or see them better, but when you encroach on their space, they fly away.

One recent trip on the water we watched as some boaters deliberately zoomed right past a flock of pelicans causing them all to flee in a hurry. This may seem fun to the boaters, but for the birds it is quite frightening and dangerous. Often these quick "getaways" result in injury to the birds as they all flee at once and get entangled with each other resulting in broken legs or wings.

Moreover, if the birds are continually harassed, they will move to areas without harassment depriving us of seeing them any longer without traveling great distances...if at all.

It is a tough balance between humans and nature. Humans tend to do whatever it is we want to do, often without regard to how it impacts the nature around us.

As Captain Merritt states in his articles frequently, it is important to have respect when you are on the water. Respect for your fellow boaters and anglers, and respect for the nature around you.

Veering a bit further off the coastline where birds are roosting is an easy thing to do. Staying a good distance from a boat of anglers, or slowing so you do not create a wake for kayakers, is not difficult. It is thoughtful and courteous.

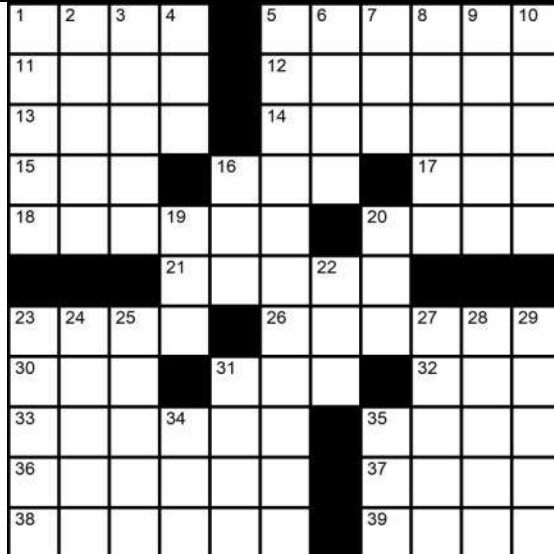
Being inconsiderate is a choice. Why not choose to be considerate instead? If we all did, the world would be a better, much happier, place.

Merry Christmas to you all!

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Equal
- 5 Vacillate
- 11 She had a theme in Dr. Zhivago
- 12 Schleppe
- 13 "Give it ---"
- 14 Big name in men's suits
- 15 Corporate bigwig
- 16 "--- a Heartache" (Bonnie Tyler tune)
- 17 It plugs into an amp
- 18 Fertilize
- 20 Crooked
- 21 Allman brother
- 23 Drug smuggler's unit
- 26 Coarse
- 30 Oscar winner --- Marie Saint
- 31 New York opera house
- 32 "Deathtrap" author --- Levin
- 33 Former champion golfer Bert ---
- 35 Wicked
- 36 Duke Ellington's "Mood ---"
- 37 True
- 38 Capital of the Bahamas
- 39 "--- Rider" (1969 Dennis Hopper



12/6/21

Down

- 1 Come in second
- 2 Consumed
- 3 Mistake
- 4 Narrow beam of light
- 5 Other similar things
- 6 Rowing levers
- 7 Kind of steer
- 8 Hold responsible
- 9 Big Red?
- 10 Decree
- 11 Place for critical cases, briefly
- 19 Bachelor's last words?
- 20 Actress Barbara --- Geddes
- 22 Pecan or cashew
- 23 Enter
- 24 Ivanka's mom
- 25 Touches down
- 27 "Frankly, my dear, I don't --- damn"
- 28 Divas' solos
- 29 Market upturn
- 31 "Big" prefix
- 34 "--- for Cookie" ("Sesame Street" song)
- 35 Before

EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP

BARRON RIVER TIDES

Bike Ride Through the Fakahatchee

by Patty Huff

Living in Everglades City, close to our wonderful south Florida parks, provides us the opportunity to explore our natural environment at any time. Biking, hiking, and paddling are the best ways to see the wildlife and nature.



I enjoy cycling so with a few friends from the Friends of the River of Grass Greenway, we spent last Saturday morning riding along Janes Scenic Drive in the Fakahatchee Strand. We met at the Ranger Station at 9 am, deposited our donation

in the collection box, and set out for the six-mile trip to Gate 12.




The sky was overcast and the temperature a comfortable 70 degrees. This is the perfect time

of year to hop on your bike and experience the wonders of the glades! We are in the dry season now so it was a smooth hard-packed dry surface along the main route and very little wet areas from Gate 12 to the "Fakahatchee Hilton" where we stopped to enjoy a snack and search for gators. The round-trip distance was an easy 17 miles which makes it a nice morning ride and lunch together at Triad.

For more information about cycling in the Fakahatchee, visit website:

<https://evergladesrogg.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Fakahatchee-Cycle-Tour.pdf>

Photos: Top: Patty Huff. gets ready to ride!, Bottom: Bikers Jim, Clark, Roger on the boardwalk at Fakahatchee



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

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
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Grimm's Stone Crab (239-695-3222): Open 8-5, Mon—Sat. Closed Sunday.
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SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES
Chokoloskee Family Church Sunday: 10 am Sch., 11 am Worship
Copeland Baptist Church Sunday: 10 am School, 11 am Worship
Everglades Community Church 9:45 Sunday Sch., 11:00 am Sunday Worship,
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 10:30 Mass Sundays, Christmas, & New Year
St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples Phone: 239-417-2084
San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl. 239-394-5181

12/12/2021	Sun	4:45 AM	0.48	L
12/12/2021	Sun	9:49 AM	2.03	H
12/12/2021	Sun	4:49 PM	0.48	L
12/12/2021	Sun	10:08 PM	2.4	H
12/13/2021	Mon	5:43 AM	0.3	L
12/13/2021	Mon	11:14 AM	1.99	H
12/13/2021	Mon	5:43 PM	0.59	L
12/13/2021	Mon	10:49 PM	2.47	H
12/14/2021	Tue	6:35 AM	0.13	L
12/14/2021	Tue	12:30 PM	2.02	H
12/14/2021	Tue	6:34 PM	0.68	L
12/14/2021	Tue	11:28 PM	2.54	H
12/15/2021	Wed	7:20 AM	-0.02	L
12/15/2021	Wed	1:19 PM	2.05	H
12/15/2021	Wed	7:20 PM	0.73	L
12/16/2021	Thu	12:04 AM	2.59	H
12/16/2021	Thu	8:00 AM	-0.15	L
12/16/2021	Thu	1:54 PM	2.07	H
12/16/2021	Thu	8:01 PM	0.76	L
12/17/2021	Fri	12:38 AM	2.63	H
12/17/2021	Fri	8:39 AM	-0.25	L
12/17/2021	Fri	2:26 PM	2.07	H
12/17/2021	Fri	8:38 PM	0.78	L
12/18/2021	Sat	1:08 AM	2.66	H
12/18/2021	Sat	9:16 AM	-0.31	L
12/18/2021	Sat	3:00 PM	2.07	H
12/18/2021	Sat	9:12 PM	0.8	L
12/19/2021	Sun	1:36 AM	2.66	H
12/19/2021	Sun	9:54 AM	-0.35	L
12/19/2021	Sun	3:37 PM	2.07	H
12/19/2021	Sun	9:45 PM	0.8	L
12/20/2021	Mon	2:01 AM	2.65	H
12/20/2021	Mon	10:32 AM	-0.35	L
12/20/2021	Mon	4:18 PM	2.07	H
12/20/2021	Mon	10:18 PM	0.81	L
12/21/2021	Tue	2:25 AM	2.62	H
12/21/2021	Tue	11:10 AM	-0.32	L
12/21/2021	Tue	4:59 PM	2.08	H
12/21/2021	Tue	10:53 PM	0.8	L
12/22/2021	Wed	2:53 AM	2.56	H
12/22/2021	Wed	11:48 AM	-0.27	L
12/22/2021	Wed	5:42 PM	2.1	H
12/22/2021	Wed	11:31 PM	0.8	L
12/23/2021	Thu	3:31 AM	2.48	H
12/23/2021	Thu	12:26 PM	-0.18	L
12/23/2021	Thu	6:25 PM	2.13	H
12/24/2021	Fri	12:17 AM	0.77	L
12/24/2021	Fri	4:20 AM	2.35	H
12/24/2021	Fri	1:08 PM	-0.06	L
12/24/2021	Fri	7:08 PM	2.16	H

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.

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The MULLET RAPPER

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

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

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