

The MULLET RAPPER



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

25¢

February 19, 2022 - March 4, 2022

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

Volume IX • Issue # 410

2nd Annual Everglades



March 12, 2022, 11:00 am—?
McLeod Park, Everglades City, FL
Come to Compete or Just to Eat!
Sponsored by Chokoloskee Family
Church of God Ladies Ministry.

Requirements to enter the contest:

- \$25 Entrance fee (Non-Refundable)
- Entrance Fee is due March 1
- A big pot of your favorite chili

Anyone is allowed to participate: restaurants, business or individuals.

The first place winner will receive \$100 and a trophy.

The second and third place winners will receive a medallion.

Those of you who are just coming to eat, we will be selling a 2 to 3 oz cup of chili for \$5, but you will be able to try all the different, yummy chili.

During the Chili Cook off, people are able to set up a table and sell crafts, jewelry, etc. There will be no charge for setting up a table. The youth group will be selling hot dogs, chips, drinks and desserts.

Contact Hazel at 239-719-0368 for more information, to enter the contest, or to set up a table to sell crafts.

52nd Annual Everglades Seafood Festival Was a Smash Hit! Huge Crowds & Great Food Mark New Organizers First Event

By Kathy Brock



In May of 2020, Carrie Doxsee, Holly Dudley, Kelly Kirk (photo left), founded the **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 is the only organized group that advocates on behalf of Florida's stone crabbers and fishermen.*

In June of 2021, the trio agreed to take on the annual Seafood festival after the long-time organizer, Carol Foss, unexpectedly passed away leaving the future of the festival in serious doubt.

The FLSCA admitted to having no prior experience running a festival, much less one this large with such a storied history. What they did have is the passion and energy to take on this herculean project so that the longtime festival, that helps raise funds for local non-profits and businesses, didn't just fade away as a distant part of Everglades heritage. By August of 2021, the FLSCA submitted a complete business plan for the restructured event to the City of Everglades City council members

After ironing out some details, the City gave the trio their blessing, issued the event permit, and the FLSCA got to work.

As of this writing, it is a bit too early to provide specific details regarding attendance and sales, but it was quite clear, from the number of cars parked wherever they could fit, and the density of the crowds on Friday & Saturday, that the festival was a tremendous success.

The only damper on the weekend was the rain and cold front that blew in during the early morning hours on Sunday. Over one inch of rain fell which caused some tents to collapse from water retention and muddied the area up a bit. Once the sun came up, the water receded and the festival opened at 10 a.m., the weather had cleared and festivalgoers were all smiles listening to the music, drinking beer (water, soda, and wine too), dancing and having a blast.

In a totally non-scientific survey (me asking booth owners) how the festival was for them, most indicated by Saturday they were very satisfied with their sales for the weekend. Food sales for local vendors like the Everglades Lion's Club were strong on all days with food selling out before the end of the festival on Sunday.

Several new food vendors were at this year's festival including food trucks with delicacies like smoked gator, BBQ, and many others offering Gulf caught seafood, along with some of the traditional vendors from festivals past.

Sunday's crowd thinned out a bit before the 6 pm official closure likely due to the Superbowl's 6:30 pm start time. Several years back the festival was moved from the first week of February to the second week to avoid aligning with the big game. This year the NFL added an additional game to the regular season which pushed the Superbowl back into conflict with festival's last day.

The Collier County Sheriff's Office provided protection for the crowd with mounted officers, those on foot and a CCSO drone that hovered overhead for the entire festival.

Congratulations to the FLSCA for organizing such a successful festival. Your hard work was evident! Learn more about the FLSCA at www.floridastonecrabbers.org.

Go to page 6 to see the 2022 Everglades Seafood Festival in photos!



RAPPER TABLE OF CONTENTS

Calendar	p. 2	Pastor Bob	P. 8
Event Calendar/ Announcements	p. 3	Museum Events Charles Sobczak	P. 9
Starting a biz	P. 4	My Slice/ Taxes Recipe/ Sudoku	P. 10
Obituaries Capt. Merritt	p. 5	Biz listings/ Tides/ Parks	p.11
Fest Photos!	p. 6	ESH Update	p.11
Golf Gala	p. 7	Classifieds	p.12

FEATURED: FESTIVAL PHOTOS, P. 6

SWFL Coast tide predictions, maps, tours & more at www.visitevergladescity.com! Call us @ 954-662-7003

~ EVENT CALENDAR - February 20, 2022 - March 26, 2022 ~

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
20	21 President's Day	22	23 Ladies Coffee City Seaf, 8:30a Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	24 Pulled-Pork Dinner, ECC See p. 8	25 EHSP Talk, 5:30 pm, ECC. See page 3	26 Art-in-Glades Bank Tour, p. 3 Dennis Noble Service, p. 5
27	28	March 1 Council Mtg, 7 pm	2-New Moon Ladies Coffee Havana, 8:30a Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	3	4	Rapper-5
6	7 ESHM Mtg, 9 a	8	9 Ladies Coffee Isl Caf�, 8:30a Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	10 Lions Club, 6 pm	11	12 Chili Cookoff! See front page
13 Spring Forward Clocks ahead 1 hour	14	15	16 Ladies Coffee City Seaf, 8:30a Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	17 St. Patrick's Day Museum Talk, 2 pm-see p. 9	18-Full Moon Golf Gala, See p. 7	Rapper-19
20	21	22	23 Ladies Coffee Havana, 8:30a Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	24	25	26 Art-in-the-Glades See p. 3 Bank Tour See p. 3

March 2: Ash Wednesday April 1: April Fool's Day April 15: Good Friday April 17: Easter Day
 May 8: Mother's Day May 30: Memorial Day June 19: Father's 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. Jinkins Hall at ECC
 MUSEUM: Open Tuesday-Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm, 239-252-5026
 SKATING RINK: Open Friday & Saturday, 7 pm to 10 pm
 SMALLWOOD STORE: Open daily 10 am to 5 pm, 239-695-2989
 THRIFT SHOP: Open Tuesday & Thursday. 11 am to 3 pm, info on p. 3
 VETERANS SUPPORT: Wednesdays at the food pantry, 10:30am-1pm
 VISITOR CENTER: Open 10 am—2 pm daily. (239)-232-4037
 FLORIDA STONE CRABBERS ASSOCIATION (FLSCA): email:
 floridastonecrabbers@gmail.com, www.floridastonecrabbers.org

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!*

**Pulled Pork Dinner at ECC
February 24th, 5:00-7:00 pm
ECC, See page 8 for details**

**ESHP Annual Meeting
February 25, 2022, 5:30**

Get an update about the Bank progress, the Visitor Center and ESHP. Serving beverages and snacks. This is a free event. Reservations required. Call 239-695-2905 or email ESHP@hotmail.com to reserve.

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

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

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

ORA Bazaar

February 26, 2022, 9:00 to 11:00 AM

The Annual ORA Bazaar will now be a huge Rummage Sale and the "New 2 U Boutique", where we sell the clothing and jewelry. This will be held at ORA, on Chokoloskee Island, on Saturday, February 26th. The gates will open at 9:00 and it will run until 11:00. For more information please phone Sherri Parsons at 239-695-2281.

**Tour of the Bank of Everglades Bldg
February 26 & March 26, 2022,
11:30 am to 1:00 pm**

Meet at the historic Rod & Gun Club for an illustrated lecture, lunch, and then a guided tour of the Bank to discuss the plans and to see the progress to date!

Limited to 10 persons, each will receive a special gift bag. \$150/ ticket. Tickets for this date and more dates for this event are available on the website. Reserve tickets at www.saveboe.com/events (See Special ESHP Event on P.7).

**2nd Annual Everglades Chili Cookoff
March 12, 2022, 11:00 am 'til ??**

For info about the event please call Hazel Mitchell at 239-719-0368.

See full event details on the front page.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES
& INFORMATION**

THE FOOD BANK IS OPEN !

Wed. 10:30 am to 1:00 pm

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

Thrift Store

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

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

Everglades Area Information

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

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

You may also access the area's complete business directory at www.VisitEvergladesCity.com.

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.

Everglades National Park Gulf Coast Center Guided Tour Schedule



Everglades National Park Gulf Coast Center has a full calendar of ranger led tours from now through April of 2022.

The schedule includes daily boat tours that leave from the center starting at

10 am and throughout the day to 4:00 pm. There are several other guided activities available:

- Daily bayside chats at 4:15 p.m. and also at 10 a.m. on Mondays.
- Nature Walks at 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Paddle exploration on Saturday and Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
- Paddle the morning on Friday at 9:00 a.m.
- Nature's Notebook on Friday at 10:00 a.m..
- Stargazing by the bay-times will vary (Saturday)
- Full Moon paddle, times vary (Saturday)
- Starlight Cruise, times vary (Saturday)
- Special Programs, times vary, (Saturday).

For all activities, reservations are encouraged. For more information about the programs, contact the Gulf Coast Center at 239-695-3311, or visit their website at www.nps.gov/ever.

**Download the full schedule at:
<https://visitevergladescity.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/GC-Sched.pdf>**



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**Business Quick-Start Checklist
By Monica Smith**

When it comes to getting a business up and running, there are a few steps you'll need to take in anticipation of the launch.

In addition to securing a business location and license, you'll want to establish a limited liability company or LLC. An LLC will protect you against some types of liability, make it easier to file taxes, and give you flexibility.

You can do the legwork yourself, hire an attorney, or use a formation service to handle the details. State laws vary around LLC formation, so search, "how do I start a business in Florida." Other startup necessities include:

- Establishing a business bank account
- Obtaining special use permits
- Finding appropriate business insurance
- Developing business and marketing plans
- Ordering inventory
- Hiring and training staffers

Selecting the right city for a business start-up is an important first step in getting your entrepreneurial venture off the ground. Everglades City, FL might be the perfect spot to get your new company up and running.

VisitEvergladesCity.com offers a wealth of information about interesting things to see and do in Southwest Florida. It provides maps, resources, an events calendar, and local news and information. Visit the site today to learn more about the area.

Next edition: The rental market, affordability and quality of life will be discussed.

***Attention Everglades Area! ***

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Everglades Isle RV Resort's Marlin Bar Now Offers Packaged Goods!

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Obituaries

Martha Ann Dantin



Martha Ann Dantin, 81, of Naples, FL passed away on February 2, 2022.

Martha was born on January 11, 1941 to Ralph Martin Buffington and Annie Mae Taylor in Jacksonville, FL.

Mrs. Dantin lived in Mont Alto, PA. until her marriage on June 29, 1957 in Leitersburg, MD to Morris Dantin Sr.

They moved to Louisiana where they began a life in the ministry. They went on to have 4 children, Kathy, Joey, Nancy and Jennifer.

They moved to Naples, FL in 1989 where Bishop Dantin was the associate pastor of the former Naples Church of God, before moving to Chokoloskee, FL, pastoring at the Chokoloskee Church of God from 1995 to 2014.

Mrs. Dantin was wonderful mother, grandmother, and friend. She excelled at supporting her family through the many passions and difficulties of their lives. She made it her mission to improve the lives of others.

Martha is survived by 3 children, Kathy Dantin of Montegut, La., Joey (Becky) Dantin of Montegut, La., Jennifer (Shannon) Hubbell of Naples, FL. 12 Grandchildren, 27 Great- Grandchildren.

Martha was predeceased by her husband of 57 years Bishop Morris J. Dantin; Daughter, Nancy Dantin Ruiz.

Ira Dennis Noble



Dennis Noble (90) of Lake Placid and Everglades City, FL, passed away Sunday, January 23, 2022, in Lake Placid, Florida.

Dennis was born in Everglades City to Nelson and Ellen Noble on September 16, 1931. He came into this world weighing 1 ½ pounds, but he was no Lightweight.

As a third generation SWFL Native, Everglades City to be exact, he proved himself to be one of the finest fishermen in the area. He was honored to have guided George Jenkins, Founder of Publix, Buddy Hackett, comedian, and former President, Richard Nixon, although his biggest joy was taking his children and grandchildren fishing. Dennis was a veteran of the Korean War. He was a beloved elder of his community and one of the last of his kind. He will be dearly missed.

Dennis is preceded in death by his loving wife, Harriette "Chickie" Noble; his sons, Dennis Ray and Manny and grandson Manuel; his brothers, Tom, Mervin and Nelson, his sisters, Edith, Barbara, Twyla and Arlene.

Dennis is survived by his children Ella Skinner (Tony), Bonita Noble Edwards (Rodney), Tracy Noble Mullaly (Danny) and Darren Noble (Chastity); Grandchildren Erica Perry (Myron), Matthew Mitchell, Blake and Trevor Mullaly, Mackenzie and Montgomery Noble, Dennis and Allen Noble, Tanya, Christy, Libby and Corey Skinner, Pam and Ramona Noble; Great-Grandchildren Hayden Kilgore (Kaylee), Hannah and Myranda Powell, Lilly Salorino (Emanuel); Great Great-Grandchildren, Bella, Arian, Enderse, Aliyah and Kayden.

The family wishes to express their sincere appreciation for all the expressions of kindness, sympathy and prayers. *A Celebration of Life will be held in Everglades City on Saturday, February 26, 2022 at 2:00pm at McLeod Park.*

Fishing in the 10,000 Islands with Captain Mike Merritt



Well, the beginning of the month sure was full of difficulties. Cold days, windy days, and some stirred up water on the outside. Not to mention some really low tides and slow incoming water. But the backcountry has continued to give us plenty of opportunity.

The bite may be slow for most of the day, then you will get a couple hours where you can catch some good fish. Lure fishing or jigs and soft plastics have continued to be the best way to find the fish. There just doesn't seem to be large numbers of fish stacked up in one place for the live bait fishing. So, moving and covering lots of area is a good bet.

Reds and Snook will be caught along the mangroves, but you might also find fish out off of the banks 20-30ft. If you're fishing the bow, make sure you make the long cast in front every so often. You just might catch the biggest Snook of your life!



Sheepshead

If it's fish for dinner you are after, then this is a great time to get some live shrimp at your local bait shop. We are catching some nice Snapper, Black Drum and Sheepshead in holes with a hard bottom. Seatrout are being caught in the same holes but also on bars and grasses too.

I have been catching some of my bigger Trout in the back country. Don't forget that DOA Shrimp on a popping cork too. It works just as good sometimes and you don't waste time rebaiting your hook. Bottom line is the fishing has been good overall and should continue to get even better, especially the Snook fishing. Get out and enjoy this weather and good luck fishing!

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The 2022 Everglades Seafood Festival in Pictures

The 2022 Everglades Seafood Festival

In order from top to bottom, left to right: Top: Mayor Grimm accepts a check from the Community Foundation of Collier, Swamp buggies at Heritage row.

Row 2: Cars fill the streets, the crowds pack in! Row 3: Mounties patrol the streets, the "big stage" under the lights, local business Everglades Fishing Company's booth.

Bottom: Event organizer (FLSCA) booth. *Photos by Tim Brock*



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February 5, 2022 Puzzle Solution

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

Don't judge a book by its cover
By Pastor Bob Wallace



I remember a story from my childhood that's worth retelling. It's a true story which happened one sunny September at a Cadillac dealership in downtown Tulsa, Oklahoma.

It was just after World War II. Probably 1946. New car production had started up again. The public had begun a stampede to replace their old cars with brand-spanking new ones. They had driven their pre-war cars throughout the war years and eagerly awaited Detroit's unveiling of new cars to buy.

Servicemen were returning from the war and had enough money saved up to buy new cars. Jobs weren't hard to find. There were job training programs plus the GI Bill to help prepare veterans for civilian work. Small affordable houses with detached garages for new cars were going up at a record pace. One could be bought with no money down on a VA loan and no points. Thirty-year loans cost 1 percent interest.

Our nation's future was just around the corner. Prosperity was on the rise. It was almost the time President Roosevelt had spoken about during the Depression years of 1930 and before the war when he had said there would be a car in every garage and a chicken in every pot. We were changing from a war machine to peacetime prosperity. Affluence was not yet upon everyone, but there were signs of it. One sign of prosperity was the car you drove.

Well, it seems a fella' walked into the only Cadillac dealership showroom floor on Boston Avenue in Tulsa. He looked anything but prosperous. He was wearing a pair of soiled bib overalls. A sweaty faded blue work shirt. A floppy, stained straw hat. And high-top work shoes that probably had never seen a coat of shoe polish.

The car salesman were old-timers. They had experience sizing up people who could afford to buy a new Cadillac. They snickered under their breath at the disheveled man looking at their cars. They said to their newest salesman, "He's yours, if you want him."



The young man left the group of grinning salesmen, walked over to the customer, and said, "May, I help you, sir?"

The old man replied, "Is this all ya' got, sonny?" He looked around the showroom floor at three shiny new Cadillacs.

"No, sir, we have a lot more. These are only the ones we've gotten ready to put out here to show."

"That's fine. I like 'em." He nodded and turned around to see a red convertible, a blue two door coupe and a big, shiny black four door Cadillac which looked as long as a city block. "I'll take 'em."

"You'll what?" the young salesman asked as if he had not heard correctly what the old man had just said.

"I'll take all of 'em", as he pulled a roll of bills out of his bib overalls pocket large enough to choke a mule. The old man peeled off several crisp new \$100 bills, along with a couple of bigger ones and said, "How much?"

As the young man ran to get his sales book he glanced over to see the shocked expression on the faces of the salesman who had watched the scene unfold. They just stood, shaking their heads from side to side. They realized they had made a very costly assumption about the customer in the soiled bib overalls.

"I'll get 'em tomorrow," the old man said loudly as he left and smiled at the gawking salesmen.

I've never forgotten that story. It's one which says a lot about how we see one another.

Still, there have been other times when I've been working in the yard and just needed to run to the store for something and was ignored. Was it how I looked? Unshaven with soiled clothes and unkempt hair that turned people off? Probably!

"Never judge a book by its cover", my mother always said. It still holds true today!

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



*****ECC Fundraiser*****

Pulled Pork Dinner

February 24, 2022

5:00 to 7:00 PM



Everglades Community Church

Eat In or Take Out

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

For Tickets email:
vskanning@aol.com



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**

History of Everglades City
March 17, 2022, 2:00 pm—3:00 pm

While many early settlers were attracted by the area's diverse and plentiful fish and game, it was the extraordinarily fertile soil that caused them to stay.

Squash, pumpkins, and cucumbers gave way to sugarcane and tomatoes — crops still grown throughout the region. Pioneer farms supplying soldiers in the Civil War would eventually grow into massive fields of tomatoes contributing 80% of the fast-food industry's supply nationwide. This presentation will discuss the rich history of farming and food cultivation in the area for both family use and for profit.

—————> **Event**

The Other Side of "Progress:"
The Tamiami Trail's Dark Legacy
April 17, 2022, 2:00 pm—3:00 pm

Although the construction of a highway across the Everglades in the mid-1920s is still celebrated as a miracle of modern engineering, the devastating effects this edifice would have on both the ecosystems of the Everglades and the culture of the region's indigenous people is often overlooked. This day-before-Earth-Day presentation will explore the unfortunate effects of the road's creation as well as the long history of schemes to drain the Everglades and recent efforts to reverse the damage done.

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!
House & Garden Treasures!!
Open Saturday 11:00 am-3:00 pm
call 508-677-5136 for appointments
106 Camellia Street, Everglades City, FL 34139

Living Gulf Coast by Charles Sobczak

Fish Crow (*Corvus ossifragus*) Other names: crow / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=LC / Life span: to 14 years / Length: 14-16 in. (36-40 cm) / Wingspan: 33 in. (84 cm) / Weight: 7-12 oz (190-340 g) / Nests: along the coast / Found: SC, ChC, LC, CC, coastal, near coast / Months found: JFMAMJJASOND (lower case indicates breeding and nesting season).



The fish crow, although slightly smaller, is all but impossible to discern from the American crow. The American crow is almost never found along the coastline, however, so the chances are that any crow you see along the coast is a fish crow. One distinctive difference between

the two birds is the call; the fish crow is famous for its nearly constant cah, uh-uh.

The fish crow is unique in that it is one of very few birds endemic to North America. It does not have the range of the American crow, extending only as far north as Rhode Island, while the American crow's range extends all the way to the Northwest Territories. The American crow far outnumbers the fish crow. Unlike its cousin, however, the fish crow does not appear to be as vulnerable to the West Nile virus, which in some regions has decimated American crow populations.

A highly adaptable bird, the fish crow feeds on garbage, eggs, insects, carrion, ticks from livestock, various berries, and some fruit. Like all crows, jays, and ravens, the fish crow appears to be capable of learned behaviors. The fish crow, for example, has learned to pick up a mollusk, fly high above a rock pile or highway and release it, breaking the shellfish open so the bird can feed on it. While not quite at the same level as the tool-using green heron, it is a fascinating example of avian intelligence.

Huge flocks of fish crows, called murders, roost on islands in and around St. Petersburg and Tampa where they number in the thousands. The fish crow has adapted well to the habits of *Homo sapiens* and because of that is expanding its range throughout the region.

Charles Sobczak is a writer and author from Sanibel, FL. His books can be found at Amazon.com and other online booksellers.

Photo of fish crow by Charles Sobczak

Lawn Watering Ordinance
For All Everglades City Water Customers
(Including Chokoloskee, Plantation, Copeland)

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

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

City Hall Contact Information:
(239) 695-3781

The Island Life Recipes

Fennel and Potato Gratin ala Ina Garten
Submitted by Elaine Middelstaedt

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- ½ tablespoon unsalted butter
- 1 fennel bulb, stalks and fronds cut off*, sliced thin in half length & crosswise
- 1 yellow onion, sliced thin
- 2 large russet potatoes, peeled and slice thin
- 1-1/2 cups heavy cream, plus one tablespoon
- 1-1/2 cups shredded Gruyere cheese (can sub Swiss cheese), divided
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper (or more, if desired)

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°. In a large frying pan, heat olive oil and butter, then add sliced fennel and onion, and cook until tender, about 10 or 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, place sliced potatoes in a large bowl, add 1 cup shredded cheese, salt and pepper, and 1-1/2 cups heavy cream, mixing well. Add cooked fennel and onion, and mix again. Butter a 9 x 9 inch baking dish. Pour in the potato mixture and pat down until smooth. Mix the remaining ½ cup of shredded cheese, and 1 tablespoon of cream. Spread this over the top of the casserole.

Bake for about an hour until golden brown on top. Remove from oven, and let rest for about 10 minutes before serving.

*Save the stalks for making soup stock, and the fronds for salad garnish.

MULLET RAPPER SUDOKU

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

2/19/22

How to solve a sudoku puzzle:

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



My Little Slice of Paradise
By Kathy Brock

The 52nd Annual Everglades Seafood Festival was held February 11-13th. People ask me what I think the festival means to the town.

In this short space I will attempt to sum it up. Many non-profits from our area considers the festival their number one fundraiser of the year.

Businesses in the area are able to showcase their products and services to about 50,000 sets of eyeballs in a 3 day period. As a career marketing professional, I can tell you that this is a very good thing.

Our school not only raises funds, but the students learn about entrepreneurship, fundraising and teamwork by working the festival.

Area churches are all active during the festival. Holy Family and Everglades Community raise money on parking. Chokoloskee Church of God sells baked good each year.

The local museum gets noticed. Stone Crabs galore. The list goes on.

Yes. There is a mess post-festival...but they clean that up. Yes. We like our sleepy little town which is anything but “sleepy” for those three days. It’s loud and some visitors are a bit obnoxious. BUT (and that is a big but), it is three tiny days for the benefit of many.

It’s only three days. We have everything we are here for—for the other 362 days. I will take that every single year. Bring it on!

Taxing Things by Mike “the tax guy” Klein
The IRS has issued all first, second and third Economic Impact Payments (EIP).

You may be eligible to claim a Recovery Rebate Credit on your 2020 or 2021 federal tax return if you didn't get an Economic Impact Payment or got less than the full amount.

It is important to understand that the Economic Impact Payments applied to different tax years. Depending on whether you missed the first, second or third payment, you will need to file either a 2020 or 2021 tax return to claim a Recovery Rebate Credit.

Payments You Received:

IRS EIP Notices: These notices were mailed to the address on file with the IRS:

Notice 1444: Shows the first Economic Impact Payment sent for tax year 2020

Notice 1444-B: Shows the second Economic Impact Payment sent for tax year 2020

Notice 1444-C: Shows the third Economic Impact Payment sent for tax year 2021

Letter 6475: Through March 2022:

IRS will send this letter confirming the total amount of the third Economic Impact Payment and any plus-up payments you received for tax year 2021.

You will need the total payment information your letter to accurately calculate your Recovery Rebate Credit.

For married filing joint individuals, each spouse will need to review their own letter for their half of the total payment.

EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP

BARRON RIVER TIDES

Everglades Society for Historic Preservation Update

By Patty Huff

Ten months ago, the Bank of Everglades building was donated to the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation, Inc. (ESHP), a local non-profit organization committed to preserving the history and heritage of the Everglades area. Bob Flick generously gave the building to ESHP for the purpose of protecting and rehabilitating this 1927 structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In addition to the area visitor center and trail town headquarters, there will be sufficient space for community events and small gatherings. On the second-floor affordable office and retail space will be available for small businesses. The expanded Visitor Center, owned and operated by ESHP, will be an information and learning center for the ENTIRE community.

Since March 2021 ESHP has accomplished much, spending \$84,522.06 to clean out the building, tent it for termites, do exploratory demolition, complete engineering and structural analysis reports, architectural drawings, and the new roof! ESHP has been very busy raising funds to pay for all of these repairs and services; we will continue with special events to raise funds for the bank.


In addition, we are also reaching out to the community to see who may like to help us reach our other fundraising goals.

ESHP operates the Everglades Area Visitor Center utilizing volunteers, but there are expenses associated with the operation of the center, and the organization including insurance, utilities and supplies.

Every contribution to the organization is needed and much appreciated.

For more information about the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation, the Bank of Everglades project, or the Everglades Area Visitor Center go to the organization's websites www.save-boe.org and www.eshp.org, or call Patty Huff at 239-719-0020, or Kathy Brock at 954-662-7003.

Thank you for your support!



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
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
New Location to be announced...
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
St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples Phone: 239-417-2084
San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl. 239-394-5181

2/19/2022	Sat	3:42 AM	2.54	H
2/19/2022	Sat	11:26 AM	-0.08	L
2/19/2022	Sat	4:33 PM	2.34	H
2/19/2022	Sat	11:42 PM	0.14	L
2/20/2022	Sun	4:29 AM	2.36	H
2/20/2022	Sun	11:58 AM	0.1	L
2/20/2022	Sun	4:55 PM	2.38	H
2/21/2022	Mon	12:29 AM	0.06	L
2/21/2022	Mon	5:26 AM	2.12	H
2/21/2022	Mon	12:29 PM	0.3	L
2/21/2022	Mon	5:18 PM	2.41	H
2/22/2022	Tue	1:25 AM	-0.01	L
2/22/2022	Tue	6:40 AM	1.84	H
2/22/2022	Tue	12:59 PM	0.51	L
2/22/2022	Tue	5:49 PM	2.43	H
2/23/2022	Wed	2:37 AM	-0.06	L
2/23/2022	Wed	8:21 AM	1.61	H
2/23/2022	Wed	1:26 PM	0.7	L
2/23/2022	Wed	6:33 PM	2.43	H
2/24/2022	Thu	3:56 AM	-0.15	L
2/24/2022	Thu	10:19 AM	1.54	H
2/24/2022	Thu	3:05 PM	0.86	L
2/24/2022	Thu	7:43 PM	2.41	H
2/25/2022	Fri	5:09 AM	-0.26	L
2/25/2022	Fri	1:19 PM	1.72	H
2/25/2022	Fri	4:58 PM	0.91	L
2/25/2022	Fri	9:27 PM	2.45	H
2/26/2022	Sat	6:16 AM	-0.36	L
2/26/2022	Sat	1:38 PM	1.87	H
2/26/2022	Sat	6:14 PM	0.85	L
2/26/2022	Sat	10:59 PM	2.58	H
2/27/2022	Sun	7:15 AM	-0.44	L
2/27/2022	Sun	1:56 PM	1.98	H
2/27/2022	Sun	7:16 PM	0.72	L
2/28/2022	Mon	12:09 AM	2.76	H
2/28/2022	Mon	8:06 AM	-0.47	L
2/28/2022	Mon	2:14 PM	2.08	H
2/28/2022	Mon	8:07 PM	0.56	L
3/1/2022	Tue	1:03 AM	2.9	H
3/1/2022	Tue	8:50 AM	-0.43	L
3/1/2022	Tue	2:35 PM	2.19	H
3/1/2022	Tue	8:54 PM	0.39	L
3/2/2022	Wed	1:50 AM	2.94	H
3/2/2022	Wed	9:32 AM	-0.34	L
3/2/2022	Wed	2:58 PM	2.3	H
3/2/2022	Wed	9:38 PM	0.24	L
3/3/2022	Thu	2:35 AM	2.88	H
3/3/2022	Thu	10:10 AM	-0.21	L
3/3/2022	Thu	3:23 PM	2.4	H
3/3/2022	Thu	10:22 PM	0.12	L
3/4/2022	Fri	3:19 AM	2.73	H
3/4/2022	Fri	10:47 AM	-0.04	L
3/4/2022	Fri	3:50 PM	2.47	H
3/4/2022	Fri	11:05 PM	0.05	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: Fisherman's Dream in Chokoloskee! Waterfront vacant RV lot with a boat dock right out your door. This is a pie shaped lot with more yard than the average RV lot in the area. Quick easy access out to the Backcountry and Gulf of Mexico, no bridges. Parkway Village, a condominium, has a recreation hall, laundry and bath house onsite. The Marina offers gas, a boat hoist, live bait, tackle and a marina store for all your needs. Rental potential. Asking \$159,000.

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

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

**Reach the Everglades Area!
 Advertise in the Mullet Rapper!**

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

BOAT FOR SALE: 1998 20' Legacy Typhoon deck boat with trailer. 90 HP Suzuki outboard. Motor needs some work, the hull is in very good condition. This is a great boat for a family. Very stable and spacious. Asking \$5,900. The boat and trailer are in Everglades City. For more information call Joan at 239-272-6095.

FOR RENT: Commercial space in historic Everglades City across from the Rod & Gun Club in the "Glades Building" where the busy visitor center is located. Multiple spaces available with ample parking spaces. Contact Bonnie at 239-860-6369 or bonnieinmarco@gmail.com.

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The MULLET RAPPER

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

PUBLISHER

Kathleen Brock, K Bee Marketing, Inc.
 P.O. Box 134, Everglades City, FL 34139
 (954) 662-7003, MulletRapper@gmail.com

PUBLISHER EMERITUS

Patricia A. Huff, Snook Publications

PUBLISHER/ EDITOR

Kathleen Brock

PHOTOJOURNALIST

Helen Bryan

CONTRIBUTORS to this Issue

Marya Repko, Elaine Middelstaedt
 Patty Huff, NPS, Monica Smith, Charles Sobczak
 Pastor Bob Wallace, FWC, Capt. Mike Merritt

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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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K Bee Marketing, Inc.

PO Box 134

Everglades City, FL 34139

Call or Text Us: (954) 662-7003

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"The Everglades is a test. If we pass it, we may get to keep the planet." ~ Marjory Stoneman Douglas
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