

The MULLET RAPPER



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

25¢

March 19, 2022 - April 1, 2022

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

Volume IX • Issue # 412



Independence Day Celebration July 2, 2022

It's never too early to put an amazing fireworks display, parade, and an all around great family day on your calendar!

This year's theme is *Red, White & Blue*, so use that for inspiration in designing your amazing parade float, golf cart or whatever your mind can think of!

This year's celebration will start with a "bang" promptly at 10 am. The full day's schedule is:

10:00 am: Opening Ceremony

10:30 am: Parade

11:00 am: Booths Open at McLeod Park

11:30 am: Kids Contests at Park

12:30 pm: Raffle Winners Announced

9:00 pm: Amazing Fireworks

The Everglades Lions Club will be providing hotdogs, chips and a beverage to those in attendance (at McLeod Park).

Each year the fireworks are paid for by generous donations taken in boxes placed in local businesses or those directly sent to the City for the festivities.

If you would like to contribute to this year's celebration, please send a check to the City of Everglades City, and put "fireworks" in the memo section. Mail it to PO Box 110, Everglades City, 34139. *Thank you!*

2nd Annual Chili Cook- Off Was a Great Success!

The second annual Chili Cook-Off sponsored by the Chokoloskee Church of God Ladies Ministry took place on Saturday, March 6th.

The day started out quite warm, and then a cold front moved in with some bad weather...but the crowd stayed plenty warm with all of the delicious, spicy chili served up on that "Chili" day!

There were 8 entries this year with a full crowd of "taste testers" eager to try the various, prepared chili.



This year's winner for best chili was Peter Graves (above: Hazel Mitchell, Pastor Jesse Wilson, Peter Graves). Last year's winners, David and Aaron Tabor took home second place. Wesley Mitchell took home the third place prize.

Judges Elaine Middelstaedt, Olga Pereira, and Cheri Allison, principal of Everglades City School were the official Judges.

The Church Youth Group provided the hotdogs, chips, desserts, and drinks that paired perfectly with all of the delicious Chili. The Ladies Ministry thanks everyone who entered the contest, the judges, and those who turned out to sample all of the chili.

We are already looking forward to next year!

Saltwater Cowboy "How Dare You" By Jon Edward Edwards

I watched George as he sat across from me, elbows on the desk in my office, weathered face bordered by a thick white mustache contorted in thought as he made his marks. When he finished, he stood up, handed me the chart, and said, "There ya go, Bo." A native South Florida Cracker, he said: "snuke," instead of "snook," more like "nuke" than "book."

You, see? George Smith was one of the greatest sportsmen I've known. His list of accolades is too long for a short story, inventing the willow leaf spinnerbait being among the least impressive. For George to share this knowledge with me was huge.

Many years later, I understand that chart is among the greatest gifts I've ever received. I still have it somewhere, along with a slate turkey call with a wooden strike tied to it he gave me. The marks George made were like pieces to an actual scale jigsaw puzzle. Each spot I learned made the picture a little clearer. These were my directions for the 10,000 Islands.

I studied it, memorized routes, and landmarks - it's all downloaded in my mind. Armed with the Golden Scroll shoved under my leg, referencing it along the way like a "slide rule" version of the modern GPS map, I ventured out. When GPS mapping systems became standard equipment, I found that I barely used them. Since then, I have used the technology to expand my knowledge, but I learn the terrain.

Anyone with a skinny water vessel can follow a GPS track anywhere. That would take some of the pleasure out of it for me. There is nothing more serene to me than moving freely through that maze of mangroves without having to think about which way to turn.

(Continued on page 6)

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

~ EVENT CALENDAR - March 20, 2022 - April 23, 2022 ~

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|---|
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 Ladies Coffee Havana, 8:30a Food Pantry ECC, 10:30-1pm | 24 | 25 | 26 Art-in-the-Glades & Bank Tour, p.3 Grapefruit Gala, See p. 9 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Ladies Coffee Isl Café, 8:30a Food Pantry ECC, 10:30-1pm | 31 | April 1 New Moon April Fools Day | Rapper-2 |
| 3 | 4 ESHP, 9 am | 5 City Council, 7 pm | 6 Ladies Coffee City Seaf, 8:30a Food Pantry ECC, 10:30-1pm | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 Ladies Coffee Havana, 8:30a Food Pantry ECC, 10:30-1pm | 14 Lions Club 6 pm | 15 Good Friday | Rapper-16 Full Moon Easter Party, See p. 3 |
| 17 Easter Sunday | 18 | 19 P & Z | 20 Ladies Coffee Isl Café, 8:30a Food Pantry ECC, 10:30-1pm | 21 Museum Event, See p. 9 | 22 | 23 Museum B-Day See p. 3 |

May 8: Mother's Day

May 30: Memorial Day

June 19: Father's Day

July 2: Local Independence Day Celebration

July 4: Independence Day

AREA INFORMATION & NUMBERS:

AA: Wed., 5:00 pm, 1st Baptist Church, 416 School Dr., Everglades City
 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—4 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
 (M-F: 8 am to 10 am, noon to 4 pm; Sa: 10 am to 11:30 am)

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**What's
Happening!**

**Art-in-the-Glades
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**

**Tour of the Bank of Everglades Bldg
March 26 & April 23, 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 at www.save-boe.org/events.

**Easter Eggstravaganza
Saturday, April 16, 2022**

10am to 2 pm

Bring the family to McLeod Park for the Easter Eggstravaganza sponsored by Chokoloskee Church of God.

There will be inflatables, candy filled eggs (Easter egg hunt), free food, and giveaways. This is a great event for the kids and the entire family!

Everyone is invited to attend!

**94th Anniversary of the Building of the
Tamiami Trail/ Museum of the
Everglades Birthday!**

April 23, 2022

This annual celebration of the completion of the iconic Tamiami Trail features a dedication speech at City Hall, **Laundry Cart Races in front of the museum**, live music, lunch served at the park, and birthday cake (the Museum of the Everglades officially opened on the 70th anniversary so it is considered the museum's "birthday") served at the museum.

For additional information call 239-252-5026 during museum hours, Tuesday – Saturday. 9am-4pm. See More events on page 9.

**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. & Sat., 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 4 pm.

There brochure racks with information about local businesses, and volunteers to help you find what you're looking for.

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.

Watertribe Everglades Challenge

The Everglades Challenge is an unsupported, expedition style adventure race for kayaks, canoes, and small boats without motors. The distance is roughly 300 nautical miles, from Tampa Bay to Flamingo, depending on the course selection. There is a time limit of 8 days or less.

"Unsupported" means that there are no safety boats or support crews to help you during the race. You are not allowed to have a support crew follow you or meet you during the race. Family or friends meet you at the official checkpoints, but they cannot provide anything other than emotional support.

Several vessels made it to the Chokoloskee Bay checkpoint on March 5th where photojournalist Helen Bryan took some pictures and spoke with a few entrants.



There were a total of 91 entrants in this year's challenge. As of Wednesday, March 9th, a total of 18 had visited the Chokoloskee, checkpoint #2. All racers had until March 12th to reach Flamingo. This is an annual race that passed through our area. We hope the racers had a good trip in spite of the bad weather they may have encountered on March 12th!

For information about this event visit their website at www.watertribe.com/events/evergladeschallenge/.



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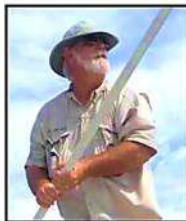
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**Summer Camp 2022
Early Online Registration
Ends on March 31**

Collier County Parks & Recreation Division plans and is preparing for Summer Camp 2022. This year's theme is "A Sweet Summer". There will be a sweet theme each week that will include a variety of fun and exciting activities which are designed to meet the social, physical, and developmental needs of our campers in a fun and supportive environment.

Secure a spot for your child's favorite camp. Collier County Parks & Recreation offers a wide variety of Summer Camps for children of all ages and abilities. Sign up to ensure your child can experience day camps, sailing camps, skiing camps, and sports camps.

Online registration for all Collier County Parks and Recreation Summer Camps begins at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 1 and ends Thursday, March 31. In person registration begins April 1, at 9:00 a.m.

Register online by logging onto www.collierparks.com and click the "Browse & Register for Activities Search". You can search by Keyword, Activity Category, and Activity Location. Sign in or create an account to complete registration & payment. If you don't have an account, you can refer to "Online Registration How To's" that are available online by clicking on the "Programs & Registration" link. Register and pay online 24/7 with no additional fees.

Elementary School Day Camp is for children in grades K - 5 (must be 5 by September 1) and Middle School Day Camp is for children entering grades 6 - 8.

Day Camps will run from Monday, June 6 - Friday, August 5, Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$85.00 per week or \$600 for the full 9 weeks.

Attention Everglades Area!

**New Packaged Goods Service
is Now Available**

Everglades Isle RV Resort's Marlin Bar Now Offers Packaged Goods! Simply order online, select your pick up time, and then pick up at the gate! 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!

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And By Appointment

FWC's Tips on how to enjoy and help conserve Florida wildlife during spring

Sea Turtles – These large marine reptiles start to nest in spring. You can help by keeping beaches dark at night and free of obstacles during their March through October nesting season. Artificial lighting can disturb nesting sea turtles and disorient hatchlings, so avoid using flashlights or cellphones on the beach at night. Turn out lights or close curtains and shades in buildings along the beach after dark to ensure nesting turtles aren't disturbed. Clear away boats and beach furniture at the end of the day and fill in holes in the sand that could entrap turtles.

Manatees - Chances of close encounters between manatees and boaters increase in the spring, as manatees leave their winter use areas and travel the coastal waterways along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and other inland waters. For boaters, it is a critical time to be on the lookout for manatees to avoid collisions with these large aquatic mammals. Boaters should follow posted speed limits as many areas have seasonal zones in spring that reflect manatee migration patterns.

Gopher Tortoises - Spring days are a good time to spot a gopher tortoise, as Florida's only native tortoise becomes more active, foraging for food and searching for a mate. If you see gopher tortoises or their half-moon shaped burrow entrances, it is best to leave them alone. You can help a gopher tortoise cross a road, by picking it up and placing it in a safe location along the roadside in the direction it was heading. But only do this if it is safe for you to do so, and remember the tortoise is a land animal, so never attempt to put it into water.

Nesting Birds - Keep your distance from shorebirds and seabirds on the beach and wading birds nesting on mangrove and tree islands. If birds become agitated or leave their nests, you are too close. Disturbance can cause birds to flush from their breeding sites, which exposes their eggs and chicks to predators and extreme heat. Egg temperatures can increase to lethal levels after just a few minutes of direct sun exposure.

Bears - As spring temperatures warm, bears become more active, increasing the opportunities for conflicts with people. During this time of year, females are teaching their cubs what to eat and the skills necessary to survive. Do your part to make sure eating garbage, pet food or bird seed in your yard is not part of that learning experience by removing attractants from your property. If they can't find food, bears will move on.

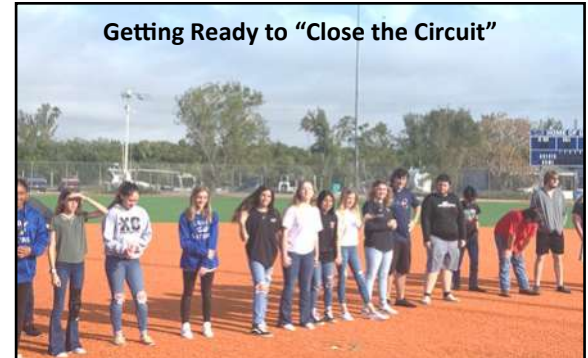
Bats – Spring is when bats start to give birth and raise their young. Bat maternity season starts April 15 and runs through Aug. 15. During this time, it is illegal to block bats from their roosts. Therefore, now is the time to check your home for any entry points, ensure that no bats are present and make any necessary repairs. If bats are found, you should take steps now to exclude them before bat maternity season begins.

Snakes - Watch for snakes in your yard or when hiking. What should you do when you come upon a snake? Just stand back and observe it. They'd much rather avoid encounters and usually will flee.

Injured and Orphaned Wildlife - If you find a baby animal, it is best to leave it alone. Baby animals rarely are orphaned; a parent may be nearby searching for food or observing its young. Instead, report wildlife you think may be injured or orphaned to the nearest FWC Regional Office or call the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline: 888-404-FWCC (3922) or #FWC or *FWC on a cell phone.

A Message From Principal Cherie Allison

At Everglades City School we are better together! During the year all students across all age levels have been participating every Tuesday and Thursday morning in our Connect 4 Success classes. These classes discussed social and emotional issues, were designed as a way for students to make connections with adults and were a great vehicle to deliver Leader in Me lessons.



Getting Ready to "Close the Circuit"

The district initiated a culminating activity for all schools to complete on our last day of Connect and Everglades was the only school able to do it school wide! The lesson began around energy sticks. These are by the scientist Steve Spangler to teach students about open and closed circuits. The energy stick flashes bright lights and makes sounds if it is held between two people and their other hands are clasped causing a closed circuit. EVG was able to assemble the entire student body from Pre-K to seniors and connect to make the energy stick light up!! For us it was a lesson in that we can make great things happen if we can rely on one another and work together. At EVG we are One School, One Family and together we can do amazing things!



And, We Have Light!

Advertisement for Wilhelm Landscapes featuring a pond illustration and contact information for Robert Wilhelm, Owner. Services include Beach Sanding, Brick Paving, Retaining Walls, Seawalls, Hydroseeding, and Waterfalls. Contact: 231-944-9661, 32 Plantation Dr., Everglades City, FL 34139.

Advertisement for Parkway Motel & Marina featuring a logo and listing services like Rental Rooms, Efficiencies, Cottages, 3/2 Unit Clean & Comfortable, and Valvtect Marine-Rec 90 gas at the dock. Contact: (239) 695-3261, 1180 Chokoloskee Dr., Chokoloskee, FL.

(Saltwater Cowboy Continued from Front Page)

Negotiating hull-ripping oyster bars hidden at high tide and avoiding hazards at every turn by memory, not glued to a screen, is liberating. I tell people they'll never learn the area until they turn that thing off - part of the time.

There are many thousands of acres yet to learn... I don't know if anyone can learn all the 10,000 Islands. But the little swaths here and there that are still a bit uncomfortable, I make a point to travel whenever possible, adding another piece to the puzzle. I'll try to find my way, and should I get turned around - a slightly lesser version of being lost, I'll reference the GPS. Well, my GPS hasn't worked for about eight months ... I haven't been too concerned about it. If I ever need to know my location, I use my phone. This finally sets the stage for what happened a few weeks ago in what ended up being the Dismal River.

This instance was particularly confusing in its simplicity, just a slightly different route from point A to point B than usual. Once you begin to question your location, things become disorientating; perception is skewed - depth expands and contracts, and time is warped. Pretty soon, the only way to know which way is up is to follow the bubbles, a fail-safe for SCUBA divers. However, I knew that I knew where I was. I just didn't know yet. My location was on the tip of my tongue like lyrics to a song you can't think of the title for. So, I kept riding, looking for my landmarks. After a good try, I backed down to idle in a wide body of water - some river. I took my phone out and pinpointed my location. I looked left and right, then behind me... *I'll be dang. I knew it!* In an instant, my bearings returned the Dismal River. In that vertigo-like state, I'd traveled twice the distance that it had seemed.

Suddenly, I heard a vessel approaching from behind and moving fast. I made sure I was not in any blind spot and that I was safely over to the right side near the entrance to a small bay that had a sand/mudflat at the mouth. Suddenly, the boat was upon me, passing too close on my starboard side. In passing came a muffled yell through a neck gator. I didn't make out what the operator said, but I didn't need to. I heard the arrogance and sarcasm ebbing and flowing through the wind and the sound of our outboard motors as he sped by, a fly-fishing guide outfitted with all the latest garb in matching saltwater camo. I can always spot the guides. They'll look a little different from everyone else aboard, in this case, just the one passenger, appearing slightly out of place.

The comment had something to do with the fact that I was looking at my phone; *Get off your phone, you idiot, pay attention to what you're doing...*, something like that. Like I was among the hordes of personal watercraft that have launched an amphibious assault on

Marco Island with reckless abandon and nonexistent common mariner courtesies. That topic deserves its own story.

I looked around to see who he was talking to. There was nobody else. *"I know he's not talking to me... He must not know who he's talking to. This is MY Point Break."* The Hell's Bay Luxury Poling Skiff settled in its wake well inside the bay, presumably looking for tailing redfish. *"Someone ought to tell him,"* I thought as I followed him, pushing a nasty wake.

I wasn't on Instagram, or Facebook, or TikTok, or Snapchat. But what if I was? What if I was texting my high school girlfriend, who I ran into at the Marriott the weekend prior, reminiscing about things only first loves can? Who is this guy to bludgeon my serenity? The wave runners are bad enough.

As the distance closed, I began seeing red, fighting mad. *"What was that?"* I hollered once I was within hearing distance. He pulled the buff down and said something about letting me know that he was passing. I could tell that he wasn't accustomed to being called out for being rude; most people that are prone to being a-holes aren't. I proceeded to tell him that he was full of S and that he was being a smart-ass. The conversation got heated, so I moved closer, thinking, *"Good grief, this is going to turn into a good old-fashioned dust-up like on the Homosassa Flats during the tarpon record craze of the '70s...."* Stories of Billy Pate and Tom Evans came to mind. He's yelling, I'm yelling... Then my forward momentum was stalled. I looked behind and saw the mud in my wake.

In my agitated state, I hadn't noticed that I'd drifted on the sand bar; a good thing in that the confrontation was stymied. I'd like to think that it wouldn't have gone any further, but that would have depended on him. I was committed to my ignorance; we're talking pride and ego here. I trimmed up the motor and jack-plate and eased away not as quickly as I'd come, churning up the bottom. I must say, the prospect of running aground after such a display was the worst part by far. I don't fear any man, but humiliation scares the hell out of me.

Players of the same game just opposite sides; I'd be willing to bet if we meet again, we'd share a good laugh. I've made more than a few friends through conflict, trivial variety especially. As a matter of fact, Capt. Saltwater Camo, if you read this, hit me up at jedmls@mac.com. Let's go get a beer.

As this story concludes, it occurs to me that I should probably go ahead and get my GPS fixed.

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.

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clydebutcher.com

Sanibel Bicycling Club Tours Area
The Sanibel Bicycling Club made their bi-annual visit this month. In January, fellow bicyclist and resident, Patty Huff, gave a presentation to the club about our area's history and conditions for cycling here. The group stayed at the Rod & Gun Club and had a wonderful dinner there after a fun bike ride at Shark Valley. Later that day they visited the Museum of Everglades. The next day they had breakfast at Island Café and biked to Chokoloskee to visit the Smallwood Store, and then had lunch at Havana Café where Patty Huff joined them. On the last day of their trip, after their breakfast, they kayaked the Turner River with a local guide and had dinner at Camellia Street Grill that night. Patty stopped by to see them in the evening, and they said everything, and everyone was wonderful!



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52388 Tamiami Trail East, MM 54.5
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clydebutcher.com

One couple she met were from Chicago visiting Sanibel and had always wanted to see the Everglades. They said it was beyond their expectations.

Everglades City Wins the Bike Friendly Community of the Year award presented by the Florida Biking Association! Congratulations Everglades City!



Photo: Patty Huff presents City Council Members & City Attorney with the award.



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March 5, 2022 Puzzle Solution

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

When repairs are needed be careful who, and what, you use By Pastor Bob Wallace



Trying to get something fixed these days can often turn into a hassle. It may even reduce you to tears. Why? Because so many things are made these days to be thrown away rather than be fixed. I've found the cost of replacing certain small household appliances is less expensive than the cost of replacement parts and labor.

On more than one occasion I've taken a toaster, or iron, into a fix-it shop only to be informed that it would be cheaper to just throw it away and buy a new one!

And you really must be careful when you're getting replacement parts, either for your car or for your body. For example, a fella' recently told me that imitation parts for cars may not only be harmful to a car, but they can also have an effect on its trade-in value.

He said a recent study commissioned by General Motors Service Parts Operations, showed that when people get ready to sell or trade in their old cars, those having imitation parts may be worth less than what is shown in the NADA (National Automobile Dealers Association) handbook. He pointed out that a car with imitation parts could fetch a lot less if it's sold as a used car or traded in on a new one. It may not only be costly at the time of trade. But the use of imitation parts could have an effect on the car warranty.

Imitation parts are known in the industry as *Like Kind and Quality* (LKQ) parts, or *Quality Replacement Parts* (QRP), or *Certified Automotive Parts Association* (CAPA) parts. These happen to be unauthorized copies of *Original Equipment Manufacturer* (OEM) parts, which oftentimes are used by insurance companies to hold down the cost of expensive automobile repairs.

Just because you've saved a bundle by substituting unauthorized parts doesn't mean that it won't cost you later down the road.

Besides, automobile manufacturers are telling us that passenger safety may be at risk by using imitation parts.

Many times, imitation parts are manufactured out of inferior materials. And by using them, a vehicle's structural integrity and system may become weakened.

And cars aren't the only things in which replacement parts are being used today. How about the field of medicine? It's nothing to talk with someone who has had both knees and hips replaced, not to mention shoulders and other body parts as well. I remember watching *"The Six Million Dollar Man"* on TV not too many years ago. I wondered if such a person would ever exist. Well, *ta-dah!* That time is here! And it's happened. Wrong appliances have been put into patients, or improperly implanted. When that occurs, it's just as bad as putting imitation parts into cars. Your own body's warranty is threatened.

I guess when you get right down to it, when it comes to fixing something for which you must replace a part, it's always smart to use the real thing. Not an imitation. And the best plan of action is to **ALWAYS ask BEFORE** a repair job or surgery. Make sure that what you're getting is the proper device for your situation. If you don't understand, have the mechanic, fix-it person or doctor fully explain it to you. Never be afraid to ask questions. And never be afraid to ask for a second opinion on anything that's being fixed and repaired. Remember, it's you that's having the work done. And you're the one paying for it. After all, mechanics, repair men and doctors have only one thing to sell. Service and expertise.

So, always demand the very best!

*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*

Fishing the 10,000 Islands With Captain Mike Merritt



We always called March the "windy month", and that certainly has been true. These winds will wear you down when you're out on the water daily. But it means things are changing.

Fish are in a kind of transition and once the weather becomes more stable the Snook will show up on the outside again! Right now, they are in the backcountry and when you find some they will generally be in good numbers. We are catching a variety of sizes with some big fish mixed in.

Baitfish are showing up in the Islands again and this will help encourage the fish to move in and stay. The main problem this month is the stirred-up water conditions in so many places. The cleaner the water the better your chances.

The bite has been a little tough some days but there are plenty of fish around. When conditions get good the fishing gets good. Snook, Reds, Trout, Snapper are all around with the Reds being the toughest right now.

Fishing jigs has been my most productive method for catching all these and tipping it with a small piece of shrimp helps with the Snapper and Reds. Some Tarpon have moved in also and are in a variety of places. Fishing them on the outside will be challenging but the rivers and bays are also holding fish.

One thing I have noticed and that is the amount of boats fishing compared to only a few years ago. It can be challenging to get to a place without other boats right now. Most are pretty respectful and treat you as they want to be treated, but there's always that guy that can care less about others. ***Don't be that guy.***

It ain't like it used to be, so we must remember to be courteous at all times. Us local Guys tend to think we own the place, but yes, everyone has the same rights to the waters here.

I love what we have here and just like to see everyone respect it, and enjoy it. Enjoy the fishing! Enjoy the weather! Be courteous! And good luck! Captain Mike

Fish With Captain Mike Merritt

Call 561-252-4324, or

email SnookFishing1@juno.com



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◆ Sunday School 9:45 am ◆

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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**
Now—May 28th
Rooted in Agriculture
Museum of the Everglades

“Rooted in Agriculture” explores farming and agricultural enterprises as the foundation of non-indigenous settlement in the Everglades. From the Union-controlled pioneer farms feeding the garrison at Ft. Taylor to vegetable picking and packing operations that grew to serve the nation, the story of the area's growth and development is synonymous with farming and food growing.

—————> **Event**
Grapefruit Gala
March 26, 2022
5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

A whimsical, Everglades-style country dance with live music, celebrating the region's rich history and grapefruit-growing roots. Come as you are and sample some delicious Florida citrus, hear a tall tale or two, and dance away your cares at this Gala in the 'Glades, where Collier County began. Representatives from the Collier Fruit Growers organization will be on site to answer questions and encourage planting. Live music by swamp-bard Gator Nate will begin at 6 pm.

—————> **Event**
The Other Side of “Progress:”
The Tamiami Trail's Dark Legacy
April 21, 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!



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Suspect cited for 2,611 pompano over the allowable limit

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has charged a vessel captain with the unlawful use of a monofilament entanglement net (gill net) to take pompano outside of the Pompano Endorsement Zone in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

Officers with the FWC's Offshore Patrol Vessel Program stopped a 48-foot commercial vessel, named Legacy, approximately 5.5 nautical miles south of the endorsement zone. The vessel's captain was in possession of a gill net with a substantial amount of pompano in the net and on the deck of the vessel. Officers began a fisheries inspection and quickly realized the vessel possessed well over the allowable bycatch limit of 100 pompano outside of the endorsement zone. **Officers escorted the vessel back to Everglades City for further inspection and discovered a total of 2,711 pompano on board, weighing just under 4,000 pounds. In addition, 76 of the pompano measured less than the minimum size of 11 inches to the fork.**

“Our officers are dedicated to protecting our state and federal fishery resources,” said Maj. Alberto Maza, FWC South Region B Commander. “Violations such as this one highlights the importance of the work that these men and women do every day.”

The vessel captain, from Hernando Beach, was cited for possession of over the allowable gill net bycatch for pompano outside of the endorsement zone and possession of 76 undersized pompano.

Gill nets were banned from use by the passing of a constitutional amendment by Florida voters on July 1, 1995. All violations pertaining to gill nets in state waters constitute a felony of the third degree. (Article by FWC)

The Island Life Recipes

French Onion Dip by Amy Kilgore

Ingredients:

- 3 T. butter
- 2 ½ c. onions, diced
- ¾ t. salt
- ½ t. black pepper
- ½ t. onion powder
- ¼ t. cayenne pepper
- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
- ¼ c. mayo
- ½ c. sour cream



Directions:

Melt the butter in a frying pan over medium heat. Add the onions, salt, pepper, onion powder and cayenne pepper. Cook for 5 minutes, stirring. Reduce heat to medium low and cook for 20-25 minutes, stirring occasionally. The onions should be golden. Remove from stove and allow to cool.

With an electric mixer, combine the sour cream and mayo; add the cream cheese and mix until smooth. Add the onion mixture. Refrigerate at least two hours. Garnish with chopped chives, if desired.



My Little Slice of Paradise

By Kathy Brock

Each year prior to our annual plant sale, generous donors will bring me planting pots, seeds, seedlings, and plants for the fundraiser.

This year we received a nice mixture of ornamental plants and palms, and some nursery pots and decorative pots.

Everglades City resident Geri Freiburger brings me things from her garden every year for the sale. This year she donated some royal palm and coconut palms for the plant fundraiser.

When I get plants, the first thing I do is determine if they should be repotted so that the new owners receive something they do not have to repot or plant themselves right away.

In the process of repotting, I noticed somewhat of an anomaly, a coconut palm with two palms coming from one coconut.

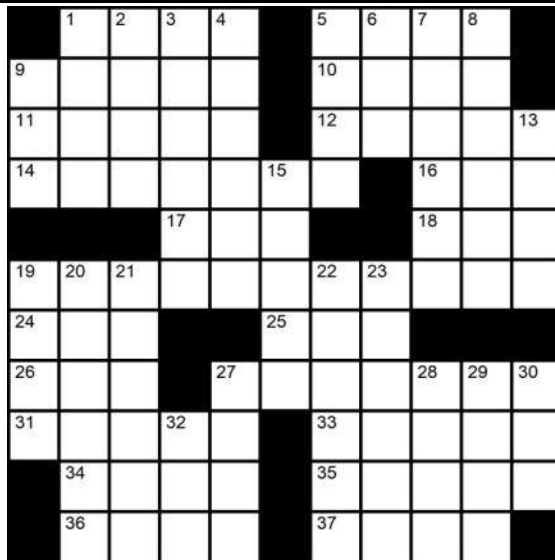
In all my years of growing...and I have been growing for many...I have never seen a coconut palm like this.

I repotted the specimen and set it aside as I continued the task of preparing the other plants for the sale.

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 "Just the facts, --- "
- 5 Window section
- 9 1970s and 80s dance craze
- 10 Charlie ---, fictional Honolulu 'tec
- 11 Single things
- 12 Persian Gulf port
- 14 Objections
- 16 "Cursed" team, informally
- 17 Contend
- 18 Entirely
- 19 Item for future historians
- 24 20 Down's temperature
- 25 Fish eggs
- 26 Alpha wave chart, for short



3/19/22

Down

- 27 It's not ---, according to Tom Jones
- 31 Trains ride 'em
- 33 Quick
- 34 Network
- 35 Mosque leaders
- 36 Poet --- Wheeler Wilcox
- 37 Fishermen need them
- 1 Not yours
- 2 "B --- boy"
- 3 On the go
- 4 Tile art
- 5 Banned contaminants
- 6 "By George, I think I've got it!"
- 7 Bahamian capital
- 8 Become a member
- 9 Bad firework
- 13 Wheel shaft
- 15 Absorb info
- 19 Ballpark level
- 20 Mammoth cold spell?
- 21 1991 Anna Chlumsky film
- 22 Enter en masse
- 23 Bun seed
- 27 Farming agency
- 28 --- the crack of dawn
- 29 Hopefully before firing
- 30 Many Salt Lakers
- 32 "--- Abner" (Comic strip)



Curious about it, I looked online for anything I could find about a "twin" palm and I found very little except one article that said it was fairly rare, and in some cultures, considered good luck for the person who possesses such a coconut palm.

Twins are not uncommon in some species of palms but they are not a common occurrence for coconut palms.

I contacted Naples Botanical Gardens who happily accepted the unique palm for the garden. In a nice text back to me they referred to it as "Twinkie". Here's to Twinkie. May she grow and prosper at her new home where we can see her from time to time and remember her fondly.



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Copeland Baptist Church

Sunday: 10 am School, 11 am Worship

Everglades Community Church

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9:45 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship
6 pm Sunday, 6 pm Wed. Bible Study

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St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples

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San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl.

239-394-5181

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----|----------|-------|---|
| 3/20/2022 | Sun | 4:43 AM | 2.61 | H |
| 3/20/2022 | Sun | 11:55 AM | 0.23 | L |
| 3/20/2022 | Sun | 4:31 PM | 2.68 | H |
| 3/21/2022 | Mon | 12:24 AM | -0.13 | L |
| 3/21/2022 | Mon | 5:36 AM | 2.4 | H |
| 3/21/2022 | Mon | 12:27 PM | 0.4 | L |
| 3/21/2022 | Mon | 4:55 PM | 2.73 | H |
| 3/22/2022 | Tue | 1:13 AM | -0.19 | L |
| 3/22/2022 | Tue | 6:38 AM | 2.14 | H |
| 3/22/2022 | Tue | 12:58 PM | 0.58 | L |
| 3/22/2022 | Tue | 5:25 PM | 2.74 | H |
| 3/23/2022 | Wed | 2:09 AM | -0.19 | L |
| 3/23/2022 | Wed | 7:58 AM | 1.89 | H |
| 3/23/2022 | Wed | 1:25 PM | 0.76 | L |
| 3/23/2022 | Wed | 6:04 PM | 2.7 | H |
| 3/24/2022 | Thu | 3:19 AM | -0.16 | L |
| 3/24/2022 | Thu | 9:39 AM | 1.73 | H |
| 3/24/2022 | Thu | 1:41 PM | 0.91 | L |
| 3/24/2022 | Thu | 6:56 PM | 2.6 | H |
| 3/25/2022 | Fri | 4:39 AM | -0.15 | L |
| 3/25/2022 | Fri | 1:48 PM | 1.79 | H |
| 3/25/2022 | Fri | 4:20 PM | 1.02 | L |
| 3/25/2022 | Fri | 8:34 PM | 2.49 | H |
| 3/26/2022 | Sat | 5:53 AM | -0.16 | L |
| 3/26/2022 | Sat | 1:51 PM | 1.95 | H |
| 3/26/2022 | Sat | 5:59 PM | 0.97 | L |
| 3/26/2022 | Sat | 10:40 PM | 2.5 | H |
| 3/27/2022 | Sun | 6:59 AM | -0.17 | L |
| 3/27/2022 | Sun | 2:03 PM | 2.08 | H |
| 3/27/2022 | Sun | 7:11 PM | 0.82 | L |
| 3/28/2022 | Mon | 12:06 AM | 2.61 | H |
| 3/28/2022 | Mon | 7:56 AM | -0.17 | L |
| 3/28/2022 | Mon | 2:16 PM | 2.21 | H |
| 3/28/2022 | Mon | 8:09 PM | 0.63 | L |
| 3/29/2022 | Tue | 1:12 AM | 2.75 | H |
| 3/29/2022 | Tue | 8:44 AM | -0.12 | L |
| 3/29/2022 | Tue | 2:31 PM | 2.34 | H |
| 3/29/2022 | Tue | 8:57 PM | 0.42 | L |
| 3/30/2022 | Wed | 2:04 AM | 2.83 | H |
| 3/30/2022 | Wed | 9:26 AM | -0.04 | L |
| 3/30/2022 | Wed | 2:50 PM | 2.48 | H |
| 3/30/2022 | Wed | 9:40 PM | 0.24 | L |
| 3/31/2022 | Thu | 2:48 AM | 2.83 | H |
| 3/31/2022 | Thu | 10:04 AM | 0.06 | L |
| 3/31/2022 | Thu | 3:11 PM | 2.62 | H |
| 3/31/2022 | Thu | 10:22 PM | 0.09 | L |
| 4/1/2022 | Fri | 3:29 AM | 2.75 | H |
| 4/1/2022 | Fri | 10:40 AM | 0.19 | L |
| 4/1/2022 | Fri | 3:33 PM | 2.71 | H |
| 4/1/2022 | Fri | 11:02 PM | -0.02 | L |
| 4/2/2022 | Sat | 4:09 AM | 2.62 | H |
| 4/2/2022 | Sat | 11:15 AM | 0.32 | L |
| 4/2/2022 | Sat | 3:57 PM | 2.75 | H |
| 4/2/2022 | Sat | 11:42 PM | -0.09 | L |

Billie H. Turner
July 1, 1926—March 2, 2022



Billie H. Turner passed away peacefully on March 2, 2022. She was born in Tahlequah, Oklahoma on July 1, 1926. She left home at 17 and headed to California to help her sister with her newborn, while her sister's husband went to

war during World War II. She left California when she was 20 for a job offer in North Carolina. There she met her husband, George William Turner, "Booker." They were married in 1948 and moved soon after to Miami, Florida.


Billie and Booker enjoyed fishing the Ten Thousand Islands and fell in love with Everglades City and its lifestyle.

They loved the "Old Florida" feel of the town. They bought a weekend home there in the early 70's and loved it so much that they retired to Everglades City in 1983. Her wish was that the city would always remember its history and looking out for one another; and while it progresses, not to change its character.

She was active with both the city and the community.

She is predeceased by her husband, George in 2005. She is survived by her 2 daughters, Pam Helton and her husband Kim and Missy Cowart and her husband Lee, 4 grandsons and 9 great grandchildren.





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"Doing Life Together"

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Sun. Worship-11:00 am
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Kids Program- Sun. 11:00 am
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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

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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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