

The MULLET RAPPER



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

March 20, 2021 - April 2, 2021



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

Volume XIII • Issue # 386



Saturday, April 3, 10 am to 1 pm
McLeod Park

Bring the kids to the park! There will be over 2000 candy-filled eggs to find, and there may even be some prizes hidden in a few of them!

There will be something for kids of all ages (from 0 & up)!

- ◆ Cool giveaways
- ◆ Cash eggs
- ◆ Gift cards
- ◆ Bikes
- ◆ Hotdogs & drinks, chips
- ◆ Inflatables for fun
- ◆ Fun-surprises!

The egg hunt is being organized by local churches and businesses.

Everyone is invited to attend. We hope to see you there!

Please see the schedule for Easter Services on page 3.

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FEATURED: PASTOR BOB, P. 8

TWO AREA ICONS GONE TOO SOON

Billy Potter Dies at 68



Billy Potter, longtime resident of Chokoloskee, FL, and former owner/operator of the Oyster House Restaurant, and the Seafood Depot Restaurant has passed away after suffering a heart attack.

The Seafood Depot restaurant was viewed as a symbol of the past when the railroad that was built by Barron Collier would make regular stops at the station. For many locals, the Sunday Chicken Buffet at the Depot was a Sunday favorite.

Locals would come for the buffet and to catch up with friends. Billy, with his electric smile, would light the room as he greeted guests and chatted with friends. His smile is something that will always be remembered fondly. Billy and

Ernest Hamilton built the wonderful tower next to the Oyster House (now Diving Pelican) in memory of his wife Crystal's father. Billy impacted the community in so many ways.

Please read Billy's complete obituary on page 11. Our sincere condolences to the Potter family.

Carol Foss Passes Away



Carol Foss, wife, mother, daughter, businessowner, and community leader, passed away suddenly on March 15th. She was 47.

News about her passing spread throughout the community leaving people numb, saddened and shocked.

Carol Foss was a force of nature. She had drive and the work ethic to go with it. She made things happen.

After Hurricane Irma Carol Foss kept employees working at Island Café so that they could still earn an income—even with her restaurant closed. She cared about the people that worked for her, and was willing to go into her own pocket to make sure they would be OK. That was Carol.

Carol wore many hats in the community. She owned and operated the Island Café, one of the most successful eateries in the area. She was the former president of the Everglades Chamber of Commerce. Carol was the president of the Everglades Betterment Association, and was the organizer of the Everglades Seafood Festival. After Carol took over the reins of the Seafood Festival she was able to turn it around, get rid of the debt, and eventually turn a profit. She was such a good businesswoman, and provided many jobs for people in the community.

Carol took over the management of the Captains Table hotel a few years back, and had other, new business ventures she was working on. Obviously, one thing Carol did not do is sit still. Her fingerprints are on so many parts of the community. She lived, worked and played here. She was a true community leader that led by her own example.

Those in the community that knew her know that her family and children were her pride and joy. She was the consummate mama bear always protecting her cubs. Carol leaves behind her husband Jeff, and four children.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Jeff Foss and his family, her mother JoAnn and the McKee Family, and all of Carol's friends. Carol's contributions to our community will be everlasting. As of this writing final arrangements had not been released.

MARCH 21, 2021 — APRIL 24, 2021 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
21	22	23	24 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm Virtual Ladies Coffee, 9:30	25	26	27
28—Full Moon	29	30	31 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm Ladies Coffee, 9:30	April 1 April Fools Day	2 Good Friday	3—Rapper Easter Egg Hunt, see p. 3
4 Easter	5 ESHP	6 City Council 7 pm	7 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm Virtual Ladies Coffee, 9:30	8 Lions Club	9	10
11—New Moon	12	13 P & Z	14 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm Ladies Coffee, 9:30	15 Museum Talk See P. 8	16	17—Rapper
18	19	20	21 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm Virtual Ladies Coffee, 9:30	22	23	24 Museum Birthday!

May 6: National Day of Prayer

May 31: Memorial Day

July 4: Independence 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: Second Thursday of Month, 6 pm
 MUSEUM: Open Tuesday-Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm, 239-252-5026
 PANCAKE FLY-IN: Coming Soon!
 REACH OUT: closed until further notice
 SKATING RINK: Closed until further notice
 SMALLWOOD STORE: Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon 11 am to 5 pm, 239-695-2989
 THRIFT SHOP: Open Thursday, 11 am to 3 pm
 VETERANS SUPPORT: Closed until further notice
 VISITOR CENTER: (239)-232-4037 Fri-Sun, 10 am to 2 pm

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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Knife Sharpening, 2nd Tuesday of Month, 9 am to noon
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Saturday, March 20, 6 to 9 pm
Museum of the Everglades
The Grapefruit Gala
See page 9 for details!

Saturday, March 20,, 2021, 11:30 am
1st Annual Chili Cookoff
McLeod Park, Everglades City, FL
If you like chili, make your plans today.
Come to compete or just to eat. Fun,
prizes, and much more!

Saturday, April 3, 2021
Easter-egg Hunt
See front page for details

Sunday, April 4, 2021
Easter Sunday Worship:
1st Baptist Church of Everglades
Service at 11: 00

Chokoloskee Church of God
Service at 11:00 am

Everglades Community Church
Service at 11:00 am

Holy Family Catholic Church
Mass held at 10:30

Due to the Covid-19 Virus,
there will not be a sunrise service at
Everglades National Park.

April 15, 2021
2:00 pm, Museum of the Everglades
Third-Thursday Lecture
"The Building of the Tamiami Trail"
See page 8 for details

****Special Message****

"Thanks so much to the Everglades area churches and especially to Mrs. Hazel Mitchell for the WONDERFUL cake you made and gave to us. You are a wonderful group and we love you all."
Glenn and Linda Cathey

www.VisitEvergladesCity.com

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.



Thrift Store
Open Thursday & Saturday
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 Visitor Center
Open Fri., Sat., & Sunday
10 am to 2 pm

Stop in the Everglades Area Visitor Center to learn about all of the things to do around the area. At the center we also have maps, brochures, art and crafts by area artists, photography and more. We hope to see you there! We are located at 207 Broadway West in Everglades City, FL.

Yard Debris Pick Up

Yard debris is picked up on Thursdays. Debris must be cut into pieces 4 ft or less and tied together, or put into paper bags (not plastic). Set them in the same area as your trash bins. If you put out unbound debris, they will not pick it up.

Everglades City Hall Contact Info:
239-695-3781

Local News

March City Council Update

In the March City Council meeting, the council approved the most recent round of 6-month contracts for the city docks for commercial, tour guide, and residential use.

The council has been working on revisions to the dock leases to streamline the dock station allocation process.

The council voted in favor of bringing back the 4th of July parade after a year off due to Covid-19. Details about the event will be published when they become available.

The solar city lights are still being installed! The new lights can now be seen along Barron River and on Copeland Avenue. The light project is about 60% complete.

The council voiced approval for the City skating rink to reopen with specific sanitizing protocols. Parents should check with City Hall for details.

The Planning and Zoning Board (P&Z) has been working on revisions to the Land Development Code (LDC) to clarify and streamline single-family and multi-family permit application process. The revision recommendations will be sent to council for their approval.

In the April council meeting the councilmembers will consider Phase III of McLeod Park improvements that are being funded by donations received by the Everglades Lions Club. The next phase will include exercise stations around the park perimeter for adults,

Snook Season is OPEN

Daily bag limit of 1 fish
Slot size:

Not less than 28" or more than 33"
(more details on p. 9)



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Tips to Help People and Pets Safely Co-exist With Alligators

Warm spring weather means Florida's state reptile - the American alligator - becomes more active and visible. It's also a popular time of year for people to enjoy the outdoors with their pets. To help keep people and pets safer when spending time near the water, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is introducing a new graphic outlining important safety tips.

We wanted to produce a tool with easy-to-remember advice that people could easily share with their friends and family on social media," said Brooke Talley, FWC's Alligator Management Program coordinator. "We hope everyone joins us in getting the word out about simple precautions pet owners should take when in or near the water!"

When temperatures rise, alligators' metabolism increases and they begin moving around more as they seek food. Therefore, you're more likely to see them.

The following tips can help reduce the risk of a conflict with an alligator:

- ◆ Keep pets on a leash and a safe distance away from the water's edge because pets can resemble alligators' natural prey.
- ◆ Swim only in designated swimming areas during daylight hours and never allow your pet to swim in fresh or brackish water.
- ◆ If you believe an alligator poses a threat to people, pets or property, call FWC's toll-free Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 866-FWC-GATOR(866-392-4286), and we will dispatch a contracted nuisance alligator trapper to resolve the situation.

CO-EXISTING WITH ALLIGATORS


Alligators occur throughout Florida in lakes, rivers, ponds, wetlands and other waterbodies. The following tips can help you and your pet stay safe during your outdoor adventures.

People should swim only during the day and in designated areas but pets should never swim.

Make sure pets are on a leash and a safe distance from water's edge.

Concerned about an alligator?
 Call FWC's Nuisance Alligator Hotline at 866-FWC-GATOR (866-392-4286)

LEARN MORE AT MYFWC.COM/ALLIGATOR



Serious injuries caused by alligators are rare in Florida. The FWC places the highest priority on public safety and administers a Statewide Nuisance Alligator Program to proactively address alligator threats in developed areas, while conserving alligators in areas where they naturally occur. SNAP uses contracted nuisance alligator trappers throughout the state to remove alligators believed to be a concern. The FWC also works to keep Floridians and visitors informed, including providing safety information in a video and brochure.


The American alligator, an important part of Florida's wetland habitats, is a conservation success story. Florida has a healthy and stable alligator population, which is estimated at 1.3 million alligators of every size. They are found in freshwater lakes, ponds, swamps, and slow-moving rivers in all 67 counties in Florida.

Learn more by visiting MyFWC.com/Alligator and clicking "Living with Alligators."

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 Sunday Worship: 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Worship: 6:00 p.m.



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Does Allowing Seven Springs Corporation to Pump 1 Million Gallons of Water a Day Harm Florida's Water Supply?

Apparently, the State Does Not Think So \$115 Permit Nets 5-Year Contract With State to Siphon Water from Pristine Springs

After a 2 year battle, Seven Springs has won the battle to keep pumping water from pristine Ginnie Springs in Gilchrest, Florida, so they can sell it to behemoth Nestle Corporation.

For a tiny \$115 permit fee, the State will allow Seven Springs, a family owned bottling company, to pump 984,000 gallons per day for the next 5 years so that they can put it into plastic bottles, and sell it to Nestle...so they can sell it back to us at a hefty profit. Oh, and help fill our landfills with more plastic bottles. Something we all know we need more of.

Opponents of the permit cite increasing evidence that pumping and pumping can lead to water shortages, and some suggest, for sinkholes to form as water levels drop. According to a study in 2019, levels at Ginnie Springs was down 26% from historic water levels, which should seem alarming.

Those in favor of the permit say there is "no real" evidence that the plant or pumping water has had a negative impact, and that the bottling operation provides 60 jobs to area workers.

Politics aside, does it seem "right" to allow a private corporation to pump natural resources from our State springs, a resource that we all rely upon (water) so that they can profit from it...for a \$115 permit fee? What happens when we have our next water shortage? Will Seven Springs have to cut-back the way we homeowners are forced to?

According to the county and the State, they see no problem or conflict of interest. About 7% of the Gilchrest tax-base is tied to the plant, and that is significant. People do need jobs. But, when there is "evidence" that pumping out millions (there are 7 springs in Florida where water is pumped out and bottled) of gallons of water does lower the water table...leading to sink holes, salt intrusion and a myriad of other problems, will the State have the courage to charge those pumping the water for the damages they have caused?

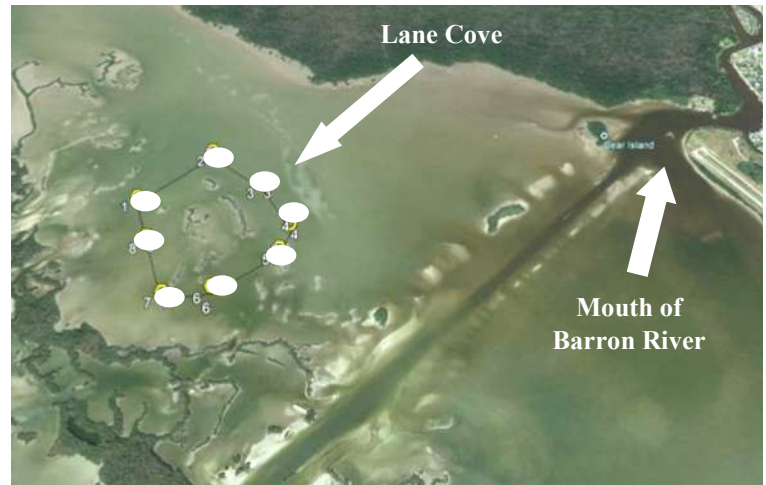
Probably not—if you look at big agriculture as an example. There are few businesses that could get away with causing down the line pollution and problems like big Ag. While tax payers foot the bill for cleanup, and residents deal with smelly green slime behind their waterfront property, those responsible just keep cashing checks. Big ones.

In my lifetime (60 years) there have been several years where water was in short supply. During those times, we were told not to water our yards or wash our cars. Fines were imposed, neighbors were asked to report on neighbors for "overusing" water.

Are their provisions in this permit that will throttle back Seven Springs allowable daily pumping limits should our supply be threatened? Nah. That is on the backs of the taxpayers again.

Reader's Questions, Answered.

Q: Why Were New Signs Erected in Lane Cove That Prohibit Fishing, Boating & Entry in the Area?



The new signs in Lane Cove that prohibit boating, fishing or entry into the area was established to protect the birds nesting in the rookery in Lane Cove.

According to the Park, the area is off limits to any activity to prevent any disturbance to the nesting birds that are known to spook easily, causing them to flee. When not present at the nests, predators can easily pluck the young from the nests disrupting breeding success.

Nesting season runs from December to June in the Everglades area. The 2019 annual wading bird report suggested that the birds are returning to some "historic" nesting sites in the Everglades, and expanding their nesting grounds throughout the 10,000 islands on the SW coast of Florida.

Rookery success is often tied to the water levels in the Everglades. In years where there are heavy rains just prior to nesting season, numbers of successful hatchings are lower. When water levels are high, nutrient-rich foods are spread over a large area making it more difficult to find food.

When the weather remains dry, like the start of this season, nesting success increases. Biologists believe that the food becomes more concentrated in smaller pools making it easier for parents to find food for their young, and thus less time away from the nest.

Rookeries, like the one in Lane Cove, over time become a popular sightseeing location for visitors. Even though the majority of sightseers keep a respectful distance from the birds, many get too close for comfort causing the birds distress.

The area is clearly marked by signs advising boaters to stay away. We hope the birds have a successful season.

Advertisement for Robert Wilhelm, Owner of Wilhelm Landscapes, listing services like Beach Sanding, Brick Paving, Retaining Walls, Seawalls, Hydroseeding, and Waterfalls. Contact info: 231-944-9661, 32 Plantation Dr., Everglades City, FL 34139.

Advertisement for Parkway Motel & Marina, listing amenities like Valtect Marine, Rec 90 gas at the dock, Dock water & electric, Boat lift, Ice. Address: 1180 Chokoloskee Dr., Chokoloskee, FL. Website: www.parkwaymotelandmarina.net

A Message From the Everglades City School Principal, Dr. Cherie Allison

I have been asked multiple times "Why Leader in Me?" The 7 Habits are invaluable lessons but it is the life changing empowerment these students feel that sets this program apart. Teachers have embraced this program and it has changed the face of the elementary school. Here is a perfect example!

Me, the "Little CEO" up early and ready for school and the Leader in Me Elementary School Student Leadership Team

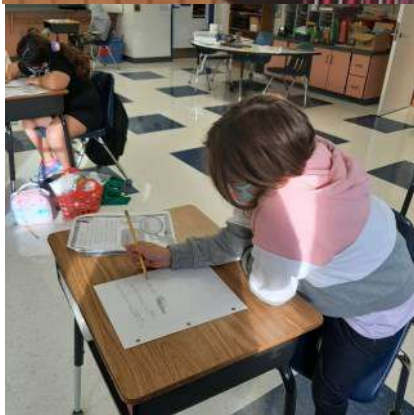


An interview with Kaydence Freeman by Mr. Laudise, our Assistant Principal:

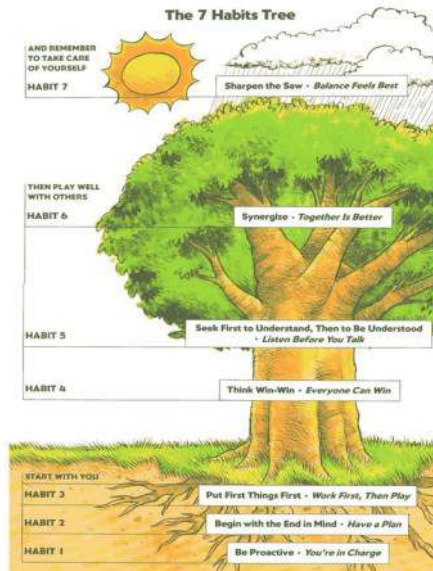
"This year started off horribly. I did not want to go back to school and was scared because of all the changes due to Covid. I also knew I would miss my Mom and Dad. We had not been to school since March because of Covid and I was used to being with my parents all the time. Some of my friends and cousins decided to be home-schooled and did not return to school which made it even harder. I had been used to seeing them every day was scared to go back to school without them. I was very upset and had a tough time coming to school. I would not get up in the morning and when we finally got to school I was afraid to get out of the car.

At the beginning of the second marking period I had an opportunity to become part of the Leader in Me Elementary School Student Leadership Team. I worked with my mom and grandmother on the application and was accepted. This changed my whole view of school. I had something to look forward to and I found myself eager and ready to come to school. I took my new responsibilities very seriously and would get up early every Tuesday to meet with the Leader in Me Elementary School Student Leadership Team. My mom was so happy to see the change in my feelings about school. Early one Tuesday morning she watched me pack up my computer and notepad in my little brief case she saw how serious I was about Leader in Me and she started calling me the "Little CEO".

As the "Little CEO" I would attend the Leader in Me Elementary School Student Leadership Team meetings and we would discuss and plan how to help other students write personal mission statements. Our 2-5 grade team has even come up with community service projects, for example we are organizing a canned food drive and working on collecting bottle caps to be sent to a company that recycles them to make benches. Our 4th and 5th grade leaders even go into classrooms to work with students on the 7 Habits. My favorite habit is "put first things first" which is what I have been doing since I have been the Little CEO and working as part of the Leader in Me Elementary School Student Leadership Team."



Above: My friends Nicole and Lydia working on their personal mission statements. The page from the PowerPoint presentation on Personal Mission Statements



The program has become so popular that we had to split the student leadership teams into two 2nd and 3rd and then 4th and 5th. We also have a secondary leadership team

that we are working on to go down to elementary for lessons as well. Leader in Me® is a whole-school transformation model and process developed in partnership with educators that empowers students with the leadership and life skills they need to thrive in the 21st century. We are in the process of becoming the first Leader in Me Pre-K through 12th grade lighthouse school. If you are interested in partnering with EVG to continue this incredible program please contact me at allisc@collierschols.com or 239-377-9804.

The Mullet Rapper Supports 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 our school fundraiser events!

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If you shop on Amazon, at no additional cost to you, you can support a local charity. Three (that we have been made aware of) have been set up for charities in the Everglades area. All you need to do is click on the link and accept the charity and Amazon does the rest. Below, the links are provided:

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

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

Everglades Community Church
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-3934843>

If you have a charity that is set up on Amazon, let us know so we can promote the link in the Mullet Rapper!

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Authorized Concessioner

Solution to March 6, 2021 Puzzle

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



Dress Codes Aren't Politically Correct, But I Wish They Were
By Pastor Bob Wallace

I was looking through my high school yearbook the other day and was struck by how my teachers dressed. Sixty-seven teachers were pictured – 22 men and 45 women. All were appropriately clothed according to the standards of the late '50s. Men were wearing suits and ties. Women were wearing jackets and blouses or women's suits. They looked very professional. The student body was a large one. More than 1,200 were in my graduating class. Looking at their pictures, I didn't see any ragged jeans or over-sized shirts on anyone.

We wore nice clothes and kept our hair combed and cut.

Then, I saw a report on TV that same day where a teacher was wearing distressed jeans with a T-shirt and long flowing hair over the shoulders. It was a male teacher. A woman teacher in the same school was dressed the same way! You couldn't even tell the difference between the teachers and their pupils the way they were dressed.

DRESS FOR



But you could when I was in school! It seemed we had some sort of pride in the way we appeared when we were out in public back then. The teachers' mode of dress was a role model for the students to follow. Not so today. I'm appalled by what I see being worn as acceptable among student bodies. Baggy clothes. Holes in the knees are very fashionable. It's called the grunge look. We used to throw clothing like that away when I was a kid.

Call this a generation gap if you want. But I think we're missing something by downplaying personal appearance. Plus, what people wear when they travel on airplanes

amazes me. I remember travelers really got dressed up to go somewhere on a plane. Nowadays, it appears as if some passengers have just gotten out of bed and can hardly wait to get back into one at their destination. It's pretty casual! Drive by any church on a Sunday and you can see some of those attending dressed as if they were either going to, or coming from, the beach.

Now, I'm not a prude. And I certainly don't think you have to be dressed a certain way before going to school, getting on a plane or attending church. But I do think there should be a certain sense of decorum. There should be some personal guidelines on appearance. I've seen dirty blue jeans and rumpled shirts at weddings and funerals. It doesn't matter. People just seem to go where they want, when they want, with little or no attention given as to how they look. I think a good ole' dose of taking care of how one looks and appears to others in public, goes a long way for self-esteem and personal impressions.

I was taught that a person's first impression on others is a lasting impression. That's why I always tried to look my best when I met other people or was going someplace for the first time. My mother taught me it was very difficult to change someone's opinion after you had made your first impression. That's what I keep telling our grandchildren. Some listen—some don't.

It's not possible to have dress codes anymore; however, they're allowed in some schools and workplaces. I've heard that where they're allowed, people feel a lot better about themselves.

Well, I still like seeing someone whose hair is combed and wearing clean, freshly laundered clothes. It says to me they care. That's why it's so important for elders who no longer can care for themselves, and have to depend upon others for their needs, be attended by someone who will be sure they have clean, well-fitting clothes, haircuts, hairdos, regular baths and pedicures. It means to them they're still acceptable in society.

The old saying still rings true that "cleanliness is next to godliness". If we could somehow get around to having social values and behavior practiced when it comes to our dress, we'd be better off. Just looking in the mirror ought to do the trick. But apparently it doesn't. That's why dress codes aren't politically correct these days. I wish they were.



EVERGLADES COMMUNITY CHURCH
The Friendly Little Church on the Circle
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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 Oct. 13th—March ◆
www.ever-community-church.com

MUSEUM NEWS



First opened in 1927 as a commercial laundry, the building that now houses Museum of the Everglades is one of several

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's permanent and rotating exhibits provide visitors with an in-depth look at over 2,000 years of human history in the area and tell the stories of those adventurous enough – and tenacious enough – to settle "Florida's Last Frontier".

Faithfully restored to its original, 1920s Collier-era appearance, the museum is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is located at 105 W Broadway Ave. in Everglades City, FL.

Museum Event
The Grapefruit Gala

Saturday, March 20, 6 to 9 pm

A whimsical, Everglades-style country dance with live music celebrating the region's rich history and grapefruit-growing roots (the Deep Lake Grove grapefruit orchard was Barron Collier's first acquisition in what would grow to be Collier County). 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. Casual attire encouraged/no ties required at this glades gala. Live music provided by Gator Nate.

Dredges, Dynamite, & Determination The Building of the Tamiami Trail
April 15 • 2:00 pm

This presentation explores the rare combination of technology and tenacity that ultimately yielded the miracle of modern engineering known as the Tamiami Trail. An analysis of the machinery and materials employed as well as rarely-seen photos and firsthand accounts of the work will leave no doubt as to why the massive project was—at the time—compared to the building of the Panama Canal.

For more information:
www.CollierMuseums.com
Click on
"Museum of the Everglades"

Couple From New York Rescued in Everglades National Park

A couple visiting the area from New York set out for a relaxing kayaking adventure on a sunny morning on Monday, March 8th.

At about 9:30 am, they were met at Turner River and 41 after they rented kayaks. They were given maps of the area and set off on an adventure.

Somewhere along the way they made a wrong turn and could not find their way back.

The couple told authorities that they headed south and were enjoying their trip, but at some point, they took a wrong turn either in the backwaters of Halfway Creek or Left Turner Branch and got stuck as low tide hit around 5:15 p.m.

They were able to call for help (cellphones were working!) and were rescued by helicopter and taken to Everglades City airport where they were checked out.

The couple did not have any injuries and said they were not in distress at any time but knew that they needed to get rescued before dark.

CCSO's Air 1 Huey rescue helicopter was deployed carrying Pilot Lt. Dennis De Rienzo, Co-Pilot Cpl. Joe Andreasen and Crew Chief Cpl. Josh White, along with North Collier Fire Rescue Specialists ENG Mason Bellamy and Lt. Brent Loewel.

The crew flew to the couple's last known GPS coordinates as relayed to them by dispatchers. The crew located the couple shortly thereafter around 7:30 p.m., about 10 miles from where they began their journey.

They set out for an unforgettable trip...and it sounds like it is a trip they will never forget. Thankfully, with a happy ending.

**Taxing Things
by Mike "the tax guy" Klein
IRS begins delivering third round of**



Economic Impact Payments to Americans
Following approval of the American Rescue Plan Act, the first batch of payments will be sent by direct deposit.

Additional batches of payments will be sent in the coming weeks by direct deposit and through the mail as a check or debit card. The vast majority of these payments will be by direct deposit.

In general, most people will get \$1,400 for themselves and \$1,400 for each of their qualifying dependents claimed on their tax return. As with the first two Economic Impact Payments in 2020, most Americans will receive their money without having to take any action.

The third round of Economic Impact Payments (EIP3) will be based on the taxpayer's latest processed tax return from either 2020 or 2019. This includes anyone who successfully registered online at IRS.gov, or alternatively, submitted a special simplified tax return to the IRS. If the IRS has received and processed a taxpayer's 2020 return, the agency will instead make the calculation based on that return.

In addition, the IRS will automatically send EIP3 to people who didn't file a return but receive Social Security retirement, survivor or disability benefits (SSDI), Railroad Retirement benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Veterans Affairs benefits.

For those who received EIP1 or EIP2 but don't receive a payment via direct deposit, they will generally receive a check or, in some instances, a prepaid debit card (referred to as an "EIP Card"). A payment will not be added to an existing EIP card mailed for the first or second round of stimulus payments.

Unlike the first two payments, the third stimulus payment is not restricted to children under 17. Eligible families will get a payment based on all of their qualifying dependents claimed on their return, including older relatives like college students, adults with disabilities, parents and grandparents.

Under the new law, an EIP3 cannot be offset to pay various past-due federal debts or back taxes.

**For more information go to:
www.IRS.gov**

**Fishing in the 10,000 Islands
By Captain Mike Merritt**



Here we are in the middle of March and the Snook fishing is on fire! Lots of under size Snook all throughout the islands and in the back country! Our fishery is really looking good. Big Snook are being

caught and as water temps rise there will be more showing up. Baitfish have inundated the islands so the fish are feeding and growing fast. They are not being too picky about what they eat, just get it in front of them. If you're not catching fish on the moving tide then you are in the wrong spot, just keep on moving.

Nice size Redfish just showed up too. These seem to be mostly on the outside islands and are feeding on the rising tide. They are being caught on jigs, shrimp and live bait. Small schools are moving but the fish are good size with a lot of 24"-27" fish being caught.



Seatrout are still abundant and seem to be in all the spots where you catch Reds and Snook. You can get your limit of Seatrout just fishing for the other fish!

Tarpon are also showing up and the ones I have seen are big fish. More should be coming as the water gets warmer. Pretty soon we will see rolling fish and free jumpers offshore!

Get in on some good action this spring and enjoy the weather before it gets too hot! Good luck fishing, **Capt. Mike Merritt**

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Snook are Protected!
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Not less than 28" or more than 33"

Download Fishing Regulations:
www.VisitEvergladesCity.com
And click on
"Fishing/Boating"
Scroll down to "regulations"

The Island Life Recipes

Kathy's Quick Flatbread Pizza

Ingredients:

- 1 Package "Flat Out" pizza flatbreads
- Spaghetti or marinara sauce
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 1 cup chopped fresh mushrooms
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 package pepperoni



Directions: Heat oven to 400°. On a cookie sheet (or 2 sheets) put 2 or 3 flatbreads on top of parchment paper and bake for 4 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool.

In a saucepan, sauté fresh vegetables until soft. Set aside. Put a small amount of marinara on each flatbread. Add cooked veggies, top with cheese and dot with pepperoni. Bake for 20 minutes.

You can use any veggies or meats you want on these flatbreads. They are low calorie, thin, and very good tasting. Experiment with them to find your perfect combination. I recommend precooking the veggies which reduces moisture that can make the crust soggy.

You can find "FlatOut" flatbreads at Publix in the deli area. If they are not there, ask someone at the store. Some stores put them in different spots.



My Little Slice of Paradise by Kathy Brock

Wow, wow, wow. My how things can change in a blink.

The very sad news about the untimely passing of people we love and admire in the community has a way of shocking us into reality. Everything we know and love can change in an instant.

It is times like these that remind us of the importance of family and friends. It shows us that those that we hold dear may not be with us for much longer...even if there are no indications that tragedy is just around the corner.

And, when tragedy strikes, the "survivors" are left to pick up the pieces by trying to move forward while processing the immense sadness they feel from their loss.

This is life. It isn't easy for anyone, really. No amount of money, fame, or possessions can soften the blow when you lose someone you love.

March 17th marks the fifth anniversary of my father's passing. At 92, I would not call his passing a "tragic" loss. Dad lived an amazing, good life but his death shook me nonetheless. To me it felt "tragic". It still does.

When someone passes away way too young, the sting goes much deeper. Losing Carol Foss so suddenly is a tragic loss. I am not going to claim we were close friends, but I do know we respected each other. I respected Carol, and I told her so. I am glad I did.

Over the next weeks and months many will find out (that don't already know) how many things Carol touched in our community. The list is very, very long.

There are people who talk about doing things, and there are those who just do them. Carol was a doer. A bit of a quiet storm.

While her family is coping with the loss of this daughter, wife, mother, and family matriarch, the community is coping with the loss of an entrepreneur with vision and an amazing role model.

I once told Carol that I'd love to see her as Mayor someday. She just laughed. I was serious.

I knew it would be a few years but I told her I was patient. She laughed again.

Now the unimaginable has happened and the word of the day is "cope". Coping is what you do when you don't know what else to say or do.

Process this as a wake-up call. Nothing is guaranteed. Live life like you are on borrowed time...because we all are on borrowed time.

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 "Shock and ---"
- 4 Besides
- 7 Harper Valley _ _
- 10 "--- Degrees of Separation"
- 11 Electrically charged particle
- 12 60's Band, T _ _ _
- 13 Mix of 2 races
- 16 Ripped
- 17 Land measure
- 18 "--- Spanish town ..." (Rosemary Clooney song)
- 22 Schlemiel
- 23 Lost soldier
- 24 Craze
- 27 Like some football tackles
- 30 Like Shaq
- 32 Corporate bigwig
- 33 Florida's oldest town
- 37 Illustrative craft
- 38 This country
- 39 Convent resident
- 40 --- whiskey
- 41 The Peacock network
- 42 Acquire

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10				11				12	
13			14			15			
16						17			
18				19	20	21			
22				23			24	25	26
		27	28			29			
30	31					32			
33				34	35	36			
37				38			39		
40				41			42		

Down

- 1 Without change
- 2 Ryder of "Beetlejuice"
- 3 Predict on basis of known data
- 4 Atmosphere
- 5 And not
- 6 "CSI" concern
- 7 Business agreement between companies
- 8 Drop of sadness
- 9 Wheel connector
- 14 It could be electric in the water
- 15 President Coolidge
- 19 Global financial org.
- 20 Bind
- 21 Light brown
- 25 Wide street
- 26 Respectable
- 28 Seasonal disorder
- 29 Become firm
- 30 Former Russian ruler
- 31 "Why not give it ---?"
- 34 NRA concern
- 35 Kind of PC port
- 36 Anatomical pouch

3/6/21



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EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP

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): 8:00 am – 10:00 am; breakfast Noon-6pm Lunch & Dinner
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 M-Th 5:30 am to 8pm, Sat Sun till 10 pm 203 Collier Avenue, (239-695-4222)
Havana Café (239-695-2214): Open Daily 9am to 4 pm
Hole in the Wall Pizza (239-695-4444) M-Th 11am-3pm, Fri & Sat 11 am-9 pm
Island Café (239-695-0003): 6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily
Ivey House (239-695-3299) (Private) 7:00 am – 9:00 am; daily (for guests only)
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): Open Daily 10:30 am to 5:00 pm
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
Right Choice Supermarket
See listing under "markets"
SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES
Chokoloskee Family Church Sunday: 10 am Sch., 11 am Worship
Copeland Baptist Church Sunday: 10 am School, 11 am Worship
Everglades Community Church 11:00 am Sunday Worship, See ad p. 8
1st Baptist Church of Everglades City 9:45 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship 6 pm Sunday, 6 pm Wed. Bible Study
Holy Family Catholic Church Mass at 10:30 am
St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples Phone: 239-417-2084
San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl. 239-394-5181

BARRON RIVER TIDES

3/20/2021	Sat	3:24 AM	0.12	L
3/20/2021	Sat	9:08 AM	1.63	H
3/20/2021	Sat	1:03 PM	0.81	L
3/20/2021	Sat	6:45 PM	2.22	H
3/21/2021	Sun	4:38 AM	0.12	L
3/21/2021	Sun	10:40 AM	1.61	H
3/21/2021	Sun	1:17 PM	0.9	L
3/21/2021	Sun	7:42 PM	2.15	H
3/22/2021	Mon	5:46 AM	0.07	L
3/22/2021	Mon	3:03 PM	1.79	H
3/22/2021	Mon	5:45 PM	1.01	L
3/22/2021	Mon	10:20 PM	2.17	H
3/23/2021	Tue	6:45 AM	0	L
3/23/2021	Tue	1:31 PM	1.9	H
3/23/2021	Tue	6:56 PM	0.94	L
3/23/2021	Tue	11:38 PM	2.31	H
3/24/2021	Wed	7:37 AM	-0.08	L
3/24/2021	Wed	1:46 PM	2.08	H
3/24/2021	Wed	7:48 PM	0.81	L
3/25/2021	Thu	12:39 AM	2.52	H
3/25/2021	Thu	8:23 AM	-0.14	L
3/25/2021	Thu	2:09 PM	2.25	H
3/25/2021	Thu	8:31 PM	0.64	L
3/26/2021	Fri	1:29 AM	2.74	H
3/26/2021	Fri	9:05 AM	-0.17	L
3/26/2021	Fri	2:34 PM	2.41	H
3/26/2021	Fri	9:12 PM	0.43	L
3/27/2021	Sat	2:13 AM	2.91	H
3/27/2021	Sat	9:45 AM	-0.14	L
3/27/2021	Sat	2:59 PM	2.56	H
3/27/2021	Sat	9:53 PM	0.22	L
3/28/2021	Sun	2:57 AM	2.99	H
3/28/2021	Sun	10:24 AM	-0.06	L
3/28/2021	Sun	3:24 PM	2.68	H
3/28/2021	Sun	10:36 PM	0.01	L
3/29/2021	Mon	3:43 AM	2.95	H
3/29/2021	Mon	11:02 AM	0.07	L
3/29/2021	Mon	3:49 PM	2.79	H
3/29/2021	Mon	11:22 PM	-0.16	L
3/30/2021	Tue	4:35 AM	2.8	H
3/30/2021	Tue	11:41 AM	0.24	L
3/30/2021	Tue	4:15 PM	2.87	H
3/31/2021	Wed	12:10 AM	-0.27	L
3/31/2021	Wed	5:33 AM	2.57	H
3/31/2021	Wed	12:19 PM	0.43	L
3/31/2021	Wed	4:45 PM	2.9	H
4/1/2021	Thu	1:01 AM	-0.31	L
4/1/2021	Thu	6:38 AM	2.28	H
4/1/2021	Thu	12:57 PM	0.62	L
4/1/2021	Thu	5:21 PM	2.87	H
4/2/2021	Fri	1:58 AM	-0.27	L
4/2/2021	Fri	7:53 AM	2.02	H
4/2/2021	Fri	1:36 PM	0.79	L
4/2/2021	Fri	6:04 PM	2.77	H



Amaryillis "Merle" Hartzog Brown

On October 10, 1950, Merle married William Stanley Brown and remained happily married for 61 years until his death in 2012.

Amaryillis moved to Naples in 1933. As a young adult, her and her husband built a successful business in Chokoloskee, FL, and spent many years there raising their two children. Later in life, she enjoyed traveling with her family and friends, birdwatching, sewing and being an active member of her church. In her final years, her greatest pride and joy were her four great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents Robert and Ikey "Rose" Hartzog; her sister, Elouise Woods; and her loving husband, William.

She is survived by her son Norman Brown; daughter, Brenda Hinton; many grandchildren.



Billy E. Potter



Billy E. Potter, age 68, of Chokoloskee FL went to be with the Lord on March 9, 2021.

Billy was a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. He was a generous man and always did his best to support our community. He gave free meals to countless people in need as well as being host to many special community events. Billy was also a faithful member of Chokoloskee Family Church of God and full of the love of Jesus. Romans 14:8 "For if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord." Billy's life was a testimony to this scripture.

He lived a full life for the Lord and his family. Although his presence will be greatly missed by his family and the community, he is walking on streets of gold!



"Doing Life Together"

Sun. Marriage Class-9:am
Sun. Worship-11:am
Sun. 5:30 pm-Celebrate Recovery
Kids Program-Wed 7pm
Kids Program- Sun. 11:am
Wed. Bible Study -7:pm-
at Island Café-Free Coffee & Pie
239-232-0098

CLASSIFIED ADS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOR SALE 102 S. Copeland Ave. Location, location, location! This building is located right on town circle in Everglades City where over 1 million tourists pass by on their way to Everglades National Park. There is a caretakers / living qtrs upstairs from the main room. Village Commercial zoning offers plenty of opportunities; restaurant, ice cream parlor, gift shop, beer, wine, food, sports bar, rental office space and much more! Live and work in Paradise! Asking \$599,000.

239-695-4299, GladesRealty.com Karen@Gladesrealty.com

FOR SALE: Everglades City Captain's Table Hotel room. Great getaway or income investment. Includes the use of the pool, boat ramp, and boat parking. Asking \$33,900. For Information please call 954-435-8896.

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.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Local Electrical Contractor needs electrician or helper. No experience necessary, will train. Herb Kehoe, MARSON Electric, LLC 239-398-5093.

FOR RENT: Efficiency apartment in Everglades City. 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath. Monthly or seasonal, for 2 adults; includes W/D, utilities and use of dock. No smoking or pets. For more information call Sandy, 239-253-3942 or 239-232-0459.

FOR SALE: Full set of MacGregor golf clubs (12), bag, MT- O.S. A little rust on some but in good condition. \$95 OBO. Located in E-City. 239-272-6095,

VOLUNTEERS WANTED: If you love meeting people, this is the perfect fit! The Everglades Area Visitor Center, operated by the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation, is looking for volunteers to staff the center.

Knowledge about the area and a pleasant attitude is essential! If you would like to volunteer at the center, please contact Kathy Brock at 954-662-7003 or Patty Huff at 239-717-0020, The center is currently open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 2 pm.

HELP WANTED: River Wilderness Part-time housekeeping help wanted, Wednesdays & Thursdays. More days if available. Please call Jaye at 239-695-4499 or text 239-315-6791.

ARTISTS WANTED: The Everglades Area Visitor Center carries art and crafts by local artists on a consignment basis. If you have items you would like to sell, please contact Kathy Brock at 954 662 7003 or email mulletrapper@gmail.com. The center is open Thurs-Sunday, 10—2.

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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