

# The MULLET RAPPER



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



**March 6, 2021 - March 19, 2021**

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

Volume XIII • Issue # 385

## 1st Annual Everglades City Chili Cookoff

**"Come to Compete or Just to Eat"**

**March 20, 2021**

**McLeod Park, Everglades City**  
**Starting at 11:30 a.m.**

***Come to Eat or to Compete!***

**Here is how to enter the contest:**

- ◆ **\$25 Entrance fee (Non-Refundable)**
- ◆ **Entrance Fee is due by March 12**
- ◆ **Make a big pot of your favorite chili**
- ◆ **Anyone is allowed to participate: restaurants, business or individuals.**
- ◆ **1st place winner gets \$100 and a trophy and shoutouts online!**
- ◆ **2nd place winner will receive a ribbon!**

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

Contact Hazel at 239-719-0368 for more information or if you are interested in entering the contest

We will be following CDC guidelines including frequent hand sanitizing, and by practicing social distancing.

***Sponsored by Chokoloskee Family Church of God Ladies Ministry***

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## Exposed in the Everglades: the Bryde's whale that wasn't

By Michelle Collier, Science Communications Liaison, Everglades National Park

I would be willing to bet a large portion of my children's college fund that if I asked visitors of Everglades National Park to name a type of animal found there, a baleen whale would not rank in the top 50 answers given. And yet, in late January of 2019, a baleen whale showed up in park waters.

In the whirlwind that followed, those who happened to visit the park's Flamingo marina got to witness something quite extraordinary. And I'm not just referring to the whale itself. Baleen whales, such as the charismatic humpback, are a group of large to massive whales that have rows of thick, hair-like combs in lieu of teeth that they use to filter food out of seawater.

Baleen whales typically stay offshore or in deep water so the appearance of one in the shallow, nearshore waters of Everglades National Park was not normal. But whale visitors to the park aren't unheard of.

Strandings, when dolphins or whales purposefully or accidentally get stuck at or near the shore, are an occasional occurrence along the park's 137-mile coastline. Just over two years before this baleen whale showed up, close to 100 false killer whales stranded in a remote area of the park. Four years before that, 25 pilot whales stranded on a different remote beach.



When anglers first spotted the baleen whale in park waters near Cape Sable on Jan. 27, 2019, they knew something was wrong. Sadly, two days later, the whale was found dead, its body lying on a shallow sand bank near Sandy Key.

The stranding was reported to the National Marine Fisheries Service, a part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that is responsible for managing marine mammals in U.S. waters.

Scientists identified the animal as a rare Bryde's whale, one they almost never get chance to study up close. Now racing a ticking time bomb

of biology, trained responders from the Southeast Marine Mammal Stranding Network descended upon South Florida. Some even drove through the night to get on scene in time.

Since I work for the park in science communications, I was asked to be present to help answer questions from the media and the public about what was happening. I wasn't going to pass up the chance to see a Bryde's whale.

As I explained to numerous park visitors later that day, the fact that we got to see this animal at all, dead or alive, was remarkable.

Of course, the whale's death was tragic and not something we should take lightly. Most whale populations face multiple human-related threats to their survival, and the loss of even a single whale can be devastating.

Marine mammal scientists, like many others studying species in danger, are in a race to learn about these animals to help protect them before they are gone.

Alas, it is very difficult to study live marine mammals, especially whales and dolphins. Imagine you're an alien and you are trying to study humans. Unfortunately for you, the only time you can see them is for the brief period when they open their refrigerator door. You never know when they'll do it or for how long they'll stay peering into the fridge's chilly depths.

**("Whales" continued on page 6")**

**Photo: Trained responders perform necropsy. NPS Photo by Michelle Collier**

# FEBRUARY 21, 2021 — MARCH 27, 2021 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
7	8	9	10 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm Virtual Ladies Coffee, 9:30	11 Lions Club, 6 pm	12	New Moon-13
14 Set Clocks 1 hr. Forward!	15	16 P & Z, 6 pm	17 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm Ladies Coffee, 9:30	18 Museum Talk, See P. 9	19	20—Rapper Chili Cookoff See front page Museum Event, See p. 9
Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break
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
4 Easter	5 ESHP	6 City Council 7 pm	7 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm Virtual Ladies Coffee, 9:30	8	9	10

April 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.)  
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Sunday, March 14, 2021  
Spring Forward! Don't forget to set your clocks 1 hour forward!

March 15 through March 19  
Spring Break—No School Days  
Students Return to School March 22nd

Thursday, March 18, 2 pm  
Museum of the Everglades  
"Third Thursday Lecture Series"  
The History of Deep Lake, See Page 9 for more details.

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. See complete information on page 1!

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.

Find out about events, tides and  
businesses at:  
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's  
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

New Marina Opens in Everglades City  
Everglades Bait & Tackle is now operating the marina located at 200 Collier Ave. in Everglades City. The operating hours are 6 am to 6 pm. Ramp in and out is \$15, parking is available at the lot across the street.

The marina carries live bait and all of your fishing needs. The marina also has Rec90-Fuel at the docks, boat rentals and overnight dock space.

Their former store location at 101 Buckner Ave. in Everglades City has been renamed BAAKwater, where they will carry a full line of clothing, hats, caps, gear and gift items. BAAKwater will be open daily 10 am to 6 pm.

Free "Bookshelf" Moved From  
Chokoloskee PO to  
Right Choice Supermarket

The large bookshelf with the free books to read and return has been moved to Right Choice Supermarket now that the Chokoloskee Post Office has closed and moved to the Everglades City PO.

Local Artist Varick Niles,  
Reopens Gallery

Varick Niles has reopened her gallery in Everglades City. The gallery will be open Thursdays 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, or by appointment by calling 508-677-5136.

The Gallery is located in the historic "shotgun" house at 106 Camellia Street, Everglades City (see our ad on p. 10)

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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*Adventures of the Saltwater Cowboy - "How many wraps?"*

By Jon Edward Edwards

The sun was high in the Southwest Florida sky on a balmy summer day off Marco Island, Florida. A slight Southwest wind blew across the Gulf of Mexico from the Yucatan Peninsula, absorbing the heat of the Gulf Stream along the way.

The water on the western side of Marco Island was a clear and vibrant turquoise with patches of green from the seagrasses mixed in. The towering condominiums of Caxambas Pass were visible above the tall mangroves that line Cape Romano.

A flock of brown pelicans glided gracefully, slowing to divebomb schools of bait. With reckless abandon, they hit the water with a force that would seemingly rip them apart. Tough birds they were – my favorite bird. They remind me of Cadillac Allante's.

The tide had been rushing in, swirling around the jagged metal piles of the Cape Romano Dome Houses. Making calculated drifts, we floated live greenback shiners past the structure. "There he is," Ben, my customer and lifelong friend from North Louisiana, uttered as his hips thrust forward, his arms bowed, pulling against the creature surging on the other end. Rod bent nearly all the way over, the drag buzzed in spasms - "ZZZ...", "ZZZ...", "ZZZ...", as line was stripped from the reel. Music to my ears was the high pitch whine of the braided line as it was being reeled back through the guides of the rod.

A wide bucket mouth burst through the water from just outside the corner piling of the last Dome House. Followed by an expanse of silver and black sinew, the snook danced across the surface. All of a sudden ... "Pop!" Ben and I exchanged a look – that look of mutual disbelief. Then, from the aft deck came a volley of obscenities. His fish was gone.

Ben reeled in the line - sure enough - a little squiggly. A tell-tale sign of a compromised knot – solidifying operator error. Those of you among the community of avid to expert light tackle anglers along the Gulf Rim understand ...

"How many wraps did you use on that loop knot?" I asked, already aware that his answer, if honest, would be less than it should have been.

"Just one, same as always. Usually, it's not a problem." Ben was still looking at the "little squiggly" in disgust.

"It's got to be three wraps on the loop knot, man – not two, not three ... maybe even four. One may be enough for those three-pound bass in North Louisiana, but not for a big snook. "That was the last greenback, Amigo," I said, pulling on a long cord, lifting the trolling motor out of the water. It folded down nicely; the pin "clicked" as it snapped into the base.

The boat was drifting dangerously close to the jagged and rusty metal beams of the Dome House. I hurried down the gunnel and plopped down on the bench seat. Without a moment to spare, I cranked the motor and punched the throttle. The little skiff danced across the still water, heading due north towards Caxambas Pass.


*Jon Edward Edwards is a local author, fishing guide, and avid sportsman. His stories often recount his adventures in and around the 10,000 Islands. Email Jon at jedm1s@mac.com.*

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**SAWFISH NEWS by Tonya Wiley, Havenworth Coastal Conservation  
What Does Recovery Mean for Endangered Smalltooth Sawfish?**

Following the population decline of smalltooth sawfish in the United States and the 2003 listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), a team was assembled to recover the population of this endangered species. But what is recovery and how do we achieve it for smalltooth sawfish?



Under the ESA, recovery is defined as the process of restoring endangered and threatened species to the point where they no longer require the safeguards of the Act. To guide managers and researchers in that recovery process, the ESA directs NOAA Fisheries (or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the case of terrestrial animals) to develop recovery plans. Recovery plans outline the paths and tasks required to restore and secure self-sustaining wild populations. They are guidance documents that describe, justify, and schedule the research and management actions necessary to support recovery of a species.

A recovery plan for smalltooth sawfish in the U.S. was published in 2009 and outlines specific criteria for downlisting (a reclassification from endangered to threatened) and delisting (a reclassification from threatened to recovered). Sawfish may be delisted on the basis of recovery only if the best available scientific and commercial data indicate an improvement in the status of the species to the point where it is no longer appropriate to be considered endangered. For smalltooth sawfish that means ensuring the

long-term viability of the species through substantial increases in both abundance and range.

Smalltooth sawfish in the U.S. are considered to be, and managed as, one single population. This means that under ESA regulations, all sawfish receive equal and consistent protections regardless of where they are geographically. Sawfish in Everglades National Park are just as protected and equally important to the population as those in Tampa Bay, Indian River Lagoon, Texas, or Georgia. Since the species is managed as a single population, not individual geographic populations, only the species as a whole can be considered recovered. In other words, smalltooth sawfish cannot be locally or regionally recovered such as in one particular bay system.

While we are starting to see some encouraging signs in the population, we are certainly a long way from recovery. Modest increases in sawfish numbers are likely the result of the 1992 protection from harvest in Florida waters, the 1995 Florida gillnet ban, and the 2003 ESA listing which have all aided in reducing mortality, and a substantial increase in important outreach and education efforts over the last two decades. However, until recovery is truly documented, it is critical that local, state, and federal regulations and protections remain in place in all areas of the U.S. to ensure the continued improvement in the smalltooth sawfish population.

You can also help scientists track recovery of the population and steer research efforts by sharing information about your sawfish catches and sightings by visiting [www.SawfishRecovery.org](http://www.SawfishRecovery.org), calling 1-844-4SAWFISH, or emailing [sawfish@myfwc.com](mailto:sawfish@myfwc.com). For more information on protected species recovery visit <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/insight/recovery-endangered-and-threatened-species>.

*Tax-deductible donations to help us continue our mission to promote the sustainable use and conservation of marine resources through research, outreach, and education can be made at <https://havenworth.wedid.it/> Photo by Anthony Planas*

**About Smalltooth Sawfish\***

*The smalltooth sawfish belongs to a group of fish called elasmobranchs that includes rays, skates, and sharks. Although shark-like in appearance, they are actually rays, as their gills and mouths are found on the underside of their bodies. Sawfish get their name from their distinct rostrum—a long, flat snout edged with teeth—that looks like a saw.*

*Smalltooth sawfish live in tropical seas and estuaries (semi-enclosed areas where rivers meet the sea) of the Atlantic Ocean. They are most at home in shallow, coastal waters, and sometimes enter the lower reaches of freshwater river systems. In the United States, they can be found off the coast of Florida. Smalltooth sawfish populations have declined dramatically due to habitat loss associated with coastal development and accidental capture in fisheries.*

*The smalltooth sawfish was the first marine fish to receive federal protection as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act in 2003. Under the ESA, it is illegal to catch, harm, harass, or kill an endangered sawfish. However, some fishermen catch sawfish as bycatch (i.e., incidentally while fishing for other species). Safe handling and release guidelines have been developed for fishermen to learn how to respond when they incidentally capture sawfish or other protected species. Smalltooth sawfish also are listed as a migratory species threatened with extinction (Appendix I) under the United Nations Environment Programme Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. Participating countries strive to strictly protect these animals, conserving and restoring the places where they live, and mitigating obstacles to migration.*

*\*Information from [Fisheries.noaa.gov](http://Fisheries.noaa.gov)*



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**(“Whale” Continued from front page)**

My college professor, Dr. Shannon Gowans, uses this alien metaphor in her marine mammalogy courses to explain how difficult it is to observe whales and dolphins in the wild, since they live most of their lives below the surface.

Many species of marine mammal live far out at sea and they don't broadcast when or where they are going to come up for air. Complicating things further, some are hard to spot at the surface and disappear below as soon as they've taken a breath.



Even when you've spent a few summers playing dolphin paparazzi for a comparatively easy species to study, like the bottlenose dolphin, animals that don't want you taking their mugshots can still give you the slip. Not speaking from personal experience or anything.

Creative scientists have come up with new ways to study whales and dolphins where they live. For example, scientists, who have rebranded themselves as whale spies, record and listen to marine mammal communications to discover new information about where and how these animals live their lives.

Despite technological advances, the best method we have to understand marine mammal biology is still to study their bodies. For massive baleen whales, the only way to do that is to study dead whales.

Marine mammals have been protected from most intentional killing since the 1970s, so scientists have the macabre task of seeking out the remains of dead whales.

The whale that stranded in January 2019 was an incredible opportunity, one that marine mammal scientists had been waiting several years for. They had a whale of a mystery to solve and this animal's remains could provide the evidence they needed to do just that.

But there was a problem. The whale had stranded in a location that was hard to access and where it would be difficult to perform a necropsy, or animal autopsy. The responders hatched a plan to bring the whale's body somewhere better suited for the work they needed to do—Flamingo marina. For that, they enlisted the help of the National Park Service and Sea Tow.

As the whale arrived in the Flamingo marina, towed in by a Sea Tow vessel usually tasked with salvaging boats, the responders went into action.

Scientific work in the park is typically methodical, deliberate. It was surprising for many of my fellow park staff helping out that day to see the urgency with which the responders worked. But with my knowledge of marine mammals, I knew what they were racing against.

Whales and dolphins have blubber to insulate their bodies from ocean water. When they die, that nice layer of blubber that keeps them warm in life also traps in heat as their bodies begin to decompose. With all that internal heat building up, they decompose incredibly fast. Scientists studying marine mammals have to act even faster to get useable samples.

Now, looking back, I remember the responders' fervor with renewed appreciation. The stakes were so much higher than I knew at the time. Everyone watching the necropsy that day was witnessing scientific history in the making.

Scientists suspected that the whale was what they were then calling a Gulf of Mexico Bryde's whale from the northeastern Gulf of Mexico, a critically endangered subspecies of the Bryde's whale seen worldwide. Genetic samples later confirmed this to be true.

At the same time, scientists were also trying to determine if the subspecies was, in fact, a completely different, though similar, species. They needed well-preserved remains of one of these whales from the Gulf of Mexico to confirm, and this stranding gave them that opportunity.

The responders took careful measurements and samples from the stranded whale during the necropsy. They found a piece of plastic lodged in its stomach which was determined to be the cause of its demise.

After the necropsy, the whale's remains were buried and allowed to decompose for a year. Then its bones were cleaned and ultimately sent to the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History to await further scientific study.

It was there that NOAA scientists and colleagues got the final evidence they needed to show that the stranded whale and those like it were not a subspecies of Bryde's whale after all, but a separate and closely related species.

Scientists are hoping to name the new species Rice's whale after Dale Rice, the marine mammalogist who first discovered the animals in the Gulf of Mexico. The name won't be official until the Society for Marine Mammalogy Committee on Taxonomy reviews it. For now, the species is unofficially referred to as Rice's whale.

It isn't every day that you get to witness an event that leads to the recognition of a new species of baleen whale, but visitors to Flamingo in Everglades National Park on Jan. 30 and 31, 2019, got just that experience.

National parks offer diverse and limitless opportunities for people to experience and share the world. While being places for recreation and reflection, they are also places for conservation and discovery. Like the discovery of a new species of whale that was hiding in plain sight.

*Photo above: Rice's whales are baleen whales that live in the northeastern Gulf of Mexico. Shown here, baleen is a mass of thick, hair-like combs that whales use to filter out food from seawater. -NPS photo by Michelle Collier*

**What should you do if you find a stranded marine mammal or sea turtle?  
Call a stranding hotline!**

**NOAA Fisheries Southeast Marine Mammal Stranding Hotline  
(877) WHALE-HELP (877-942-5343)**

**Florida Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network  
(888) 404-FWCC (888-404-3922)**

**Visit NOAA's website to find the hotline numbers for your state or region: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/report>**

**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!*

**Clyde Butcher's  
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239-695-2428  
23 miles east of Everglades City  
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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](https://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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EVERGLADES CITY, FL. 34139




Authorized Concessioner

**Solution to February 20, 2021 Puzzle**

1	C	2	T	3	A	4	Y	5	I	6	N	7	T	8	I	9	E
10	H	I	S			11	E	M	U			12	A	N	D		
13	A	T	14	T	E	M	P	T				15	H	A	G		
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33	T	I	S			34	G	A	S			35	E	R	R		
36	H	E	S			37	E	L	E			38	R	D	A		



**Time to Stop the Paper Flow to Seniors**

By Pastor Bob Wallace

Someone recently said to me that once you reach 65, it seems there's more paper to deal with than before. I thought about that for a while. Then, it really hit me that was a true statement as I opened my mailbox to pull out a handful of "junk mail". And then a reader sent me the following information. It seems he's been keeping track of his own personal paper flow and has a record he wanted to share with me. Here are his findings:

"For the past few years, I have been surprised at the number of mailed requests from charitable organizations requesting donations. So, out of curiosity I decided to keep a record during 1995. The results were completely astounding.

- ◆ 249 total requests received.
- ◆ 84 different organizations represented in total requests.
- ◆ One-half of organizations sent one or more requests.
- ◆ Thirteen of the organizations sent five or more requests.
- ◆ The highest from one group was 30."

He goes on to ask, "How should one deal with this? I donated to 19 different organizations on a one-time basis. Any second or more requests were discarded. I'm sure most people would agree that all these charities are worthy and doing a great service.

The thing that bothers me is the repeated requests plus the passing of names to other organization."

He's got a point. My banker and I were talking about how much paperwork is required for financial transactions. She has an idea about giving the customer copies of loan information all in the same color instead of mixing them up. Why not make them all yellow or pink or whatever and give one set to the customer and another color set is kept by the bank? Is that too rational, or what?



However, once you reach Medicare age you'd better watch out! The amount of paperwork required for that endeavor is overwhelming. Not only do you get copies from Medicare for every little medical procedure, but also from the doctors, hospitals and secondary insurance plans. It sometimes gets so burdensome people are required to hire someone who

understands just what's required to do the paperwork for them.

Then, how about taxes? I take off my hat to anyone who can do their own federal income taxes! That little doozy of a federal document is enough to keep anyone awake at night for weeks. And talk about paper! You must have backups for everything. Just finding a place to keep all that paper throughout the year can require a fairly elaborate record keeping system – which requires more paper. Then, you have to have some place to keep all the stuff!

I solved it by buying a five-drawer filing cabinet the other day. I was so delighted. I thought I'd come upon the solution to my paper pile. My wife told me that if I didn't do something about all the paper on my desk, she would wake up some day and probably find me choking on it. She's not far from wrong. So, I started filing. I filed, and filed, and filed, now I need another cabinet. But, what's a person to do? The paper just keeps coming, courtesy of the U.S. Postal Service.

I think he really had his finger on something when he said that what bothers him is the repeated requests from organizations and the passing of names by one organization to another – in other words, the selling of lists. Once you get on a list you're sold and passed along to others. You never can get off a list. I know.

I get mail from the Republicans and the Democrats all the time asking for a contribution, despite my repeated efforts to have my name removed from their list.

Now that's crazy!

That's why I'm calling for a moratorium for the paper flow to all seniors. That way we could have time to catch up on what we already have before starting all over again. Is that too much to ask?

**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.*

**Lecture**

**The History of Deep Lake  
Thursday, March 18, 2 pm**

This presentation will dive deep into the history of this strangely mystical place – a sizeable sinkhole surrounded by a citrus grove that has been the home of Native American leaders, site of a bloody battle, a retreat for millionaire moguls, and the location of a wilderness prison known as the "Alcatraz of the Everglades".

**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.

**For more information:**

**www.CollierMuseums.com  
Click on**

**"Museum of the Everglades"  
Call: 239-252-5026**



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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**



**Please Don't Feed the Pelicans!**

By Kathy Brock



When we come back from a day of fishing, the resident brown pelicans are always eager to meet us at the docks hoping for a handout.

The trouble is, feeding them the filleted fish we catch is very dangerous for a pelican.

Pelicans do eat fish. But the fish they eat are those that they dive for, and those are smaller whole fish that easily slide down the pelican's gullet.

Offering up a freshly filleted fish may seem like a nice thing to do but it is quite the opposite.

The bones from a filleted fish (like a redfish) are much larger than a pelican's system is designed to handle.

The larger bones from a filleted fish can puncture the pelican's esophagus or the oversized fish can get stuck in a pelican's throat. Last year Tim & I captured a struggling pelican on the Barron River that had a large redfish carcass stuck in its gullet. Fortunately, we were able to remove it and release the bird back into the wild, others are not so lucky.

Installing 4" PVC pipes at dock cleaning stations are a great way to prevent the birds from grabbing oversized prey. The pipe is installed so that it extends into the water to approximately 12 inches from the bottom. This will allow any fish remains to be returned to the sea where crabs and bottom feeders can safely eat what is left.

*Remember as a rule of thumb, "if it is large enough for you to keep, it is too big for a pelican to eat."*

**Trash Can Broken? You Can Get A Replacement By Calling**

After several years of use the lid on our trash can was broken...for weeks. Then, I decided to do something about it, and I discovered that Collier County Waste Management provides a number to call if you have any issues with trash receptacles.

Whether you need just a wheel, a new lid or an entire replacement, all you need to do is call **239-252-2380**.

When you call they will ask that you leave your trash can out after they pick up on Monday or Thursday. They will send a truck to either repair or replace the can.

After a call on Wednesday, they came out and fixed our trash receptacle on Thursday.

**Thank You Everglades Isle! Dinner Raises over \$12,000 for Park Upgrades**

On Saturday, February 20th the Everglades Lions Club prepared and served over 80 meals to the guests of Everglades Isle Luxury Motorcoach Retreat.

The club prepared a "low country boil" dinner with stone crab and shrimp to help raise money for the ongoing upgrades at McLeod Park in Everglades City.

*"We would like to thank Everglades Isle for inviting us to host a private fundraiser dinner at their beautiful retreat. The dinner raised over \$12,000 from the sale of dinners and generous donations. We are very grateful for their continued support,"* said Lion President Tony Pernas.

In December of 2019, new playground equipment was installed at the park after a multi-year fundraising effort.

The next phase will add more enhancements for the public to enjoy.

**Questions From Readers Answered**

Occasionally we receive questions from some of our readers that provide good information for others. We will share them when they do.

**Q: Does Everglades City and Chokoloskee, and Plantation have leash laws?**

**A:** Chokoloskee and Plantation Island fall under the laws of unincorporated Collier County. Their leash law is as follows: *Pets must be confined to the owner's property or walked on a leash. Pets may not run at large. Pets may not chase, run after, or jump at vehicles or bicycles using the right-of-way; and may not snap, growl, snarl, jump upon, or threaten persons using the right-of-way.*

Everglades City requires dogs to be leashed when they are off their own property, as do most municipalities in Florida.

**Living Gulf Coast**

By Charles Sobczak

**Snook (Centropomus undecimalis)**

Life span: to 7 years / Length: 12-40 in. (30 -101 cm) / Weight: 2-25 lb (.90-11.3 kg); Florida record: 44 lb 3 oz, IGFA: 53 lb 10 oz /

A magnificent game fish, the snook is not only exciting to catch, but also beautiful in design. It has a long, thin body with a distinctive black stripe running along the lateral line the length of its body. This solitary line gives it the nicknames: sergeant fish and linesider. Its lower jaw has a clear underbite, allowing the snook to feed on surface minnows and lures.

In the late spring and summer, the large female snook moves into the passes to spawn. Some of these fish top 40 pounds and are all but impossible to land in the tangled root system of the tidal creeks. When hooked, the snook is just about as frenetic as the tarpon. It jumps, twists, and dives, but it is most famous for heading straight toward the oyster-covered roots of the mangroves, which can cut fishing line faster than a razor blade.

The snook ranges from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to North Carolina. A good time to spot a large snook is during a strong winter cold front. It is a tropical species and cannot tolerate cold water. When the water temperature drops below 56 degrees Fahrenheit, snook begin to expire. Severe cold snaps have been known to kill thousands of snook locally. During these cold snaps the snook seeks shelter in the warmer canal systems and under boats and docks in marinas, where it lies dormant.

The snook is predominantly an inshore fish, although very large specimens have been caught on the nearshore reefs located in less than 40 feet of water. It feeds on threadfin herrings, scaled sardines, pinfish, grunts, shrimp, and crabs. It readily takes surface lures such as Zaraspooks and slow-sinking Mirrorlures, as well as silver and gold spoons.

Bottlenose dolphins, sharks, and cobia prey upon the snook. Immature snook are taken by ospreys, herons, and egrets.

**Snook are Protected!**

**1 snook per license per day  
Not less than 28" or more than 33"**

**Download Fishing Regulations:**

**www.VisitEvergladesCity.com  
And click on  
"Fishing/Boating"  
Scroll down to "regulations"**

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The Island Life Recipes

St. Patrick's Day Dinner by Kathy Brock

Ingredients:

- 1 flat cut corned beef
- 3 medium onions
- 10 carrots peeled
- 5 potatoes quartered
- 5 stalks of celery cut in chunks
- 2 tbs minced garlic
- 1 cabbage cut into quarters



In a very large spaghetti pot, place the corned beef, celery, onion, and garlic inside and cover with water until about 60% full. Bring to a boil, cover and keep on a low boil for 3 hours. Check occasionally to make sure your water is not boiling out and that it hasn't stopped boiling.

When the corned beef is fork tender, remove it and scrape off any fat (it's very easy when it is hot), wrap it in foil and place in the refrigerator to cool. Keep your water for later.

When you are about ready for dinner, get your water boiling again and add the potatoes, carrots and cabbage. Cook until all are fork tender. Slice the corned beef thin and serve with the hot veggies. A side of mustard works well. If you need more veggies than suggested...just increase the amounts!

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Not yet scheduled
- 4 Afternoons
- 7 Gasoline auto performance stat
- 10 X-ray dosage measure
- 11 Music genre
- 12 Attention
- 13 Tel Avivian, for example
- 15 Fort Meade intel group
- 16 Stir-fry ingredient
- 18 Nervous
- 19 Brings up
- 20 Greatest Love \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ (Whiney Houston)
- 22 Enhanced by artificial body parts
- 25 "Lovely ---, meter maid" (The Beatles)
- 29 Considered
- 31 Ultimate degree
- 32 Networked a room
- 33 Anger
- 34 Type of light
- 35 Orkin target
- 36 3 letter negative word
- 37 Affirmative reply
- 38 Equality State
- 37 Spanish "L"
- 38 Old food label letters

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		

Down

- 1 Clan
- 2 Headquartered
- 3 "If that don't suit ya, that's ---" (Alice Cooper, "School's Out")
- 4 Veep's boss
- 5 Lawsuit against a doctor
- 6 Inflationary path
- 7 Restaurant handouts
- 8 Adhesive type
- 9 Lawn surface
- 14 "Do I have a volunteer?"
- 17 Drilling apparatus
- 21 With assurance
- 22 Nation once known as Dahomey
- 23 Foreword, briefly
- 24 Survey option
- 26 Relative by marriage
- 27 Itsy-bitsy
- 28 Embellish
- 30 "... a bushel --- peck"

3/6/21



My Little Slice of Paradise by Kathy Brock

The closure of the Oyster House Restaurant across from the entrance to Everglades National Park's Gulf Coast Center was a real downer for the area after Hurricane Irma. That prominent location remained dark and deteriorating for two years until local entrepreneurs Ervin and Lynn Stokes decided to change all of that.

On February 26th, a new day dawned with the soft opening of the **Diving Pelican Restaurant**. Yes, they opened with a limited menu. And yes, there will be growing pains, but the energy in the building was evident.

Live music by Gator Nate would be playing from 8 pm to midnight. Yes, midnight! Adult entertainment is here again beyond 9 pm, and we can thank the Stokes for that.



There is a game room, a lounge, televisions and room to move about. And, they are not done by a long shot.

The package store will eventually reopen and the menu will be expanded.

And one day, the beautiful chickee hut will serve as an outside patio bar overlooking beautiful Chokoloskee Bay.

Most important, one of the most prominent parcels in Everglades City will no longer just be a harsh reminder of what the Hurricane *almost* did to us. Today, it serves as a reminder that even when you are toppled over...*you can get back up*.

I am thankful that the Stokes chose to fight on and open the restaurant. I am happy that they are employing local residents that need employment. I am thrilled that they chose to make another investment in this community which helps our local economy.

When business parcels go on the market, I am always relieved to see local investors jump in the ring. It keeps the money here versus flowing out to areas unknown never touching any part of our community.

Of course people go into business to make money. But make no mistake, the Stokes did not have to do it here. They could have chosen any town to open a restaurant. But they chose us. Again. Even when they did not have to.

The Diving Pelican is located at 901 S. Copeland Ave, Everglades City. They are open Wed., Thurs & Sunday from 11 am to 8 pm, and Friday & Saturday from 11 am to midnight.



**Arts & Crafts Studio**  
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**EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP**

<b>Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands</b> (642-1025): Closed Mon- Tue-Thurs, 5-11 Fri-Sun Noon - 11 pm
<b>Camellia Street Grille (239-695-2003):</b> 11:00 am – 9:00 pm, Daily
<b>City Seafood (239-695-4700):</b> 8:00 am – 10:00 am; breakfast Noon-6pm Lunch & Dinner
<b>Everglades Fishing Co. / Nely's Corner</b> Open Daily 6 am to 10 pm 203 Collier Avenue, (239-695-4222)
<b>Havana Café (239-695-2214):</b> Open Daily 9am to 4 pm See our ad on page 3
<b>Hole in the Wall Pizza (239-695-4444)</b> M-Th 11am-3pm, Fri & Sat 11 am-9 pm
<b>Island Café (239-695-0003):</b> 6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily
<b>Ivey House (239-695-3299) (Private)</b> 7:00 am – 9:00 am; daily (for guests only)
<b>Joanie's Crab Café (239-695-2682):</b> Open Daily 10:30 am to 5 pm, Closed Wed.
<b>Rod &amp; Gun (239-695-2101):</b> 11:30 am - 8:00 pm; daily
<b>Triad Seafood &amp; Café (239-695-2662):</b> Open M-Sat, 10:30 to 6pm, Sun. 10:30-5
<b>MARKETS</b>
<b>Right Choice Market (239-695-4535):</b> Open 7 days, 9 am to 7 pm
<b>Grimm's Stone Crab (239-695-3222):</b> Open 8-5, Mon—Sat. Closed Sunday.
<b>Fresh Produce</b>
<b>Right Choice Supermarket</b> See listing under "markets"
<b>SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES</b>
<b>Chokoloskee Family Church</b> Sunday: 10 am Sch., 11 am Worship See our ad on page 11
<b>Copeland Baptist Church</b> Sunday: 10 am School, 11 am Worship
<b>Everglades Community Church</b> 11:00 am Sunday Worship, See ad p. 8
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church of Everglades City</b> 9:45 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship 6 pm Sunday, 6 pm Wed. Bible Study
<b>Holy Family Catholic Church</b> Mass at 10:30 am
<b>St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples</b> Phone: 239-417-2084
<b>San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl.</b> 239-394-5181

**BARRON RIVER TIDES**

3/6/2021	Sat	3:41 AM	-0.14	L
3/6/2021	Sat	10:24 AM	1.62	H
3/6/2021	Sat	3:26 PM	0.88	L
3/6/2021	Sat	8:01 PM	2.4	H
3/7/2021	Sun	4:55 AM	-0.18	L
3/7/2021	Sun	1:04 PM	1.8	H
3/7/2021	Sun	4:56 PM	0.9	L
3/7/2021	Sun	9:38 PM	2.4	H
3/8/2021	Mon	6:02 AM	-0.22	L
3/8/2021	Mon	1:34 PM	1.94	H
3/8/2021	Mon	6:10 PM	0.83	L
3/8/2021	Mon	11:01 PM	2.47	H
3/9/2021	Tue	7:01 AM	-0.25	L
3/9/2021	Tue	1:53 PM	2.03	H
3/9/2021	Tue	7:10 PM	0.7	L
3/10/2021	Wed	12:07 AM	2.6	H
3/10/2021	Wed	7:50 AM	-0.25	L
3/10/2021	Wed	2:05 PM	2.11	H
3/10/2021	Wed	7:59 PM	0.56	L
3/11/2021	Thu	12:57 AM	2.69	H
3/11/2021	Thu	8:32 AM	-0.22	L
3/11/2021	Thu	2:17 PM	2.21	H
3/11/2021	Thu	8:41 PM	0.42	L
3/12/2021	Fri	1:38 AM	2.73	H
3/12/2021	Fri	9:10 AM	-0.15	L
3/12/2021	Fri	2:33 PM	2.32	H
3/12/2021	Fri	9:21 PM	0.3	L
3/13/2021	Sat	2:16 AM	2.71	H
3/13/2021	Sat	9:45 AM	-0.06	L
3/13/2021	Sat	2:54 PM	2.42	H
3/13/2021	Sat	9:59 PM	0.2	L
3/14/2021	Sun	3:52 AM	2.64	H
3/14/2021	Sun	11:19 AM	0.06	L
3/14/2021	Sun	4:18 PM	2.48	H
3/14/2021	Sun	11:36 PM	0.13	L
3/15/2021	Mon	4:30 AM	2.52	H
3/15/2021	Mon	11:51 AM	0.19	L
3/15/2021	Mon	4:43 PM	2.51	H
3/16/2021	Tue	12:14 AM	0.08	L
3/16/2021	Tue	5:11 AM	2.36	H
3/16/2021	Tue	12:20 PM	0.33	L
3/16/2021	Tue	5:08 PM	2.5	H
3/17/2021	Wed	12:52 AM	0.06	L
3/17/2021	Wed	5:55 AM	2.17	H
3/17/2021	Wed	12:43 PM	0.48	L
3/17/2021	Wed	5:32 PM	2.44	H
3/18/2021	Thu	1:33 AM	0.06	L
3/18/2021	Thu	6:44 AM	1.97	H
3/18/2021	Thu	12:55 PM	0.61	L
3/18/2021	Thu	5:52 PM	2.38	H
3/19/2021	Fri	2:21 AM	0.09	L
3/19/2021	Fri	7:47 AM	1.77	H
3/19/2021	Fri	12:55 PM	0.72	L
3/19/2021	Fri	6:14 PM	2.3	H

**FWC: You Can Help Florida's Nesting Waterbirds**

Many shorebird and seabird species nest directly on beaches across the state where their eggs and chicks are well camouflaged in the sand. Colonies of wading birds, such as herons, will typically nest on mangrove islands off the coast.

**Here are five ways you can make a difference for nesting waterbirds:**

- Keep your distance from birds, on the beach or on the water. If birds become agitated or leave their nests, you are too close. As a general rule, it is best to stay at least 300 feet from a nest and to avoid walking through flocks of birds whenever possible. Birds flushing, calling out loudly and dive-bombing are signals for you to give them space.


- Respect posted areas, including Critical Wildlife Areas, which are established to protect congregations of one or more species of wildlife from human disturbance during critical life activities including nesting, feeding or migration. Avoid entering any area marked with signs for nesting birds and use designated walkways when possible.

- Keep the beach clean and do not feed wildlife. Food scraps attract predators, such as raccoons and crows, that can prey on shorebird eggs and chicks. Litter on beaches can entangle birds and other wildlife.

- It is best to not take pets to the beach but, if you do, keep them leashed and avoid shorebird and seabird nesting areas. Always take your pet to pet-friendly beaches and be respectful of the rules.

- Know what to do if you hook a bird while fishing. Remember, don't cut the line: reel, remove, release. Visit MyFWC.com/Unhook to watch an educational video that shows step by step how to safely unhook a bird. It could save a life!

More information: MyFWC.com/ Shorebirds or call at 888-404-FWCC



**Chokoloskee Family Church**

**"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: Incredible! This waterfront home was the old Juliet Carnes Collier five room hospital in Everglades City until 1963 when it was converted into a private residence. Located next door to the Historic Rod & Gun Club, this home is zoned City Historic Preservation which allows various uses. This home still has original wood floors, bead board walls, ceilings and original doors throughout. The potential is there! Asking ... \$549,000.. Glades Realty 239-695-4299 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. Please call 954-435-8896 for information.

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

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Local Electrical Contractor needs electrician or helper. No experience necessary, will train. Candidate must speak English and have transportation to jobsite. Call 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 encourage contrasting points of view

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"The Everglades is a test. If we pass it, we may get to keep the planet." ~ Marjory Stoneman Douglas Visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/evergladescitynews/ or Online at www.visitevergladescity.com



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