

# The MULLET RAPPER



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

**News, Stories, Classifieds & Tide Table**

**May 15, 2021 - May 28, 2021**

*This edition is dedicated to my mother*



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

Volume XIII • Issue # 390

Dear Readers:

Each year our little City hosts a big Independence Day celebration on the Saturday before the 4th of July. This year's celebration will be held on Saturday, June 26.

Last year, all daytime activities were cancelled due to Covid-19, but the wonderful fireworks display went off as scheduled at 9 pm.

This year, the daytime activities will be back (see schedule on page 9). There will be a parade, a "best dressed" contest for kids, a bounce house, best float awards, raffles, yummy food and more.

One trip to the store to buy anything is all the evidence you need to know that prices have increased on everything-including fireworks.

Each year the City receives generous support from the community and beyond to help offset the day's expenses. This year your support is needed more than ever.

To contribute to the Everglades City Fireworks Fund, please mail your check to:

**Everglades City Fireworks Fund  
PO Box 110  
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Please put "Fireworks Fund" in the memo section of your check. No amount is too small and every penny is a blessing.

Thank you for your support!

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**FEATURED: SAWFISH NEWS, P. 4**

## \$4.3 Million Is In the State Budget For A New Wastewater Treatment Plant For Everglades City

**Now, We Must Let Our Elected Officials Know How Important It Is!  
(The Governor Can Still Veto it From the Final Budget)**

Everglades City received the news they have been hoping for. The new State budget includes a line item for a \$4.3 Million award to Everglades City to build a new wastewater treatment plant.

This is great news. However, the Governor has line-item veto power which means Governor Ron DeSantis can still eliminate it from the final budget if he chooses to do so.

Now is the time to let our elected officials know how important this is to our community, and the surrounding parks.

Everglades City hosts hundreds of thousands of tourists each year that come our way to visit Everglades National Park's Gulf Coast Center and the Big Cypress National Preserve.

Replacement of the wastewater plant is way overdue. The current plant was purchased used in the 1990's and is beyond its useful life.

A new wastewater treatment plant would not only benefit Everglades City, it is an improvement that the entire region would benefit from. Big Cypress, Plantation Island, Chokoloskee Island, and Ochopee are all utilizing septic tanks. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection would like the entire region to phase out of septic tanks and tie into a wastewater treatment facility. A new facility in Everglades City would be a great first step in seeing this vision come into focus.

The new budget is under review at the Governor's office in early June. Now is the time to let our elected officials know how important this is to our area. Below I have provided contact information to our State and local representatives. Please take a few moments to let them know why this is important to you, and that their support on this issue is critical to our area:

**Governor Ron DeSantis:** [www.FLgov.com](http://www.FLgov.com), [GovernorRon.Desantis@eog.myflorida.com](mailto:GovernorRon.Desantis@eog.myflorida.com), State Assistance Line: 800-342-3557. You can email the Governor on the governor's webpage as well. Remind the Gov., "Please don't line item veto this from the budget!"

**Kathleen Passidomo:** [www.FLsenate.gov](http://www.FLsenate.gov), District Office. 3299 East Tamiami Trail Suite 203 Naples, FL 34112. (239) 417-6205. You can email the State Senators from the webpage as well.

**Rep. Bob Rommel:** [Bob.Rommel@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Bob.Rommel@myfloridahouse.gov), 3299 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, Suite 304, FL 34112-5746, Phone: (239) 417-6200

**Commissioner Bill McDaniel:** [Bill.McDaniel@colliercountyfl.gov](mailto:Bill.McDaniel@colliercountyfl.gov), Executive Aide: [Sue.Filson@colliercountyfl.gov](mailto:Sue.Filson@colliercountyfl.gov). 239-252-8605, [www.colliercountyfl.gov](http://www.colliercountyfl.gov)—then click on "Your Government", then "commissioners".

Please allocate a few minutes of your time to let these officials know how important our area is to Florida and Collier County tourism. **Too often elected officials look at "population size" to determine the importance of an issue.** It is imperative that they understand how many tourists are served each year in our community (Everglades National Park & Big Cypress average from 800,000 to 1.2 million visitors per year). As they visit the nearby parks, they come to our community for tours, airboat rides, hiking, paddling, eating lunch...and using the potty! That's a lot of flushing.

**SWFL Coast tide predictions, maps, tours & more at [www.visitevergladescity.com](http://www.visitevergladescity.com)! Call us @ 954-662-7003**





**Exclusive Tour: See Inside the Historic of Everglades Building, Hear a Prepared Presentation and Enjoy Lunch at the Rod & Gun Club May 29, 2021. 11:30 am—2:00 pm (Other Dates Also Available)**

Book an exclusive tour of the Bank of Everglades Building! This informative event, hosted by the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation, features a presentation about the history of the Bank of Everglades Building, some details about the future plans for the building, lunch at the historic Rod & Gun Club, and a tour of the building. Each tour is limited to 10 persons. There are only a few spots remaining for May 29th, but other dates are available.

Tickets are \$150 per person. You can book online at [www.SaveBoE.com](http://www.SaveBoE.com) and click "events," and locate the event. There is a direct link to Eventbrite to select your date! Contact Marya about other possible dates at 239-695-2905. Proceeds go towards the Save BOE fund.

**Independence Day Celebration Saturday, June 26th, 10 am**

Save the date, the parade will be back this year!

After a one-year hiatus, the Independence Day festivities will take place on June 26th in Everglades City.

The day starts off at City Hall where the now, almost famous, parade of golf carts will wow the crowd!

Later in the evening at 9 pm, the unbelievable fireworks display will light up our SWFL skies.

To learn more about the day's events and to see the full schedule, see the article on page 9 in the center column.

**Before You Go On Vacation**

- Please donate any unused or unwanted canned goods to the food pantry or give leftovers to a friend in need.
- Don't forget to shut off your water before you go! Please call the city to ask them to shut the water off at the meter, or you can shut it off at the house. Call the City for anything regarding the meter!

**COMMUNITY SERVICES & INFORMATION**

**THE FOOD BANK IS OPEN ! Wed. 10:30 am to 1:00 pm**

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

**Thrift Store**

**Open Thursday. 11 am to 3 pm 205 Buckner Ave, Everglades City**

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

**Everglades Area 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**

**Biking Across the Everglades By Patty Huff**



Many bicyclists have crossed the Tamiami Trail headed to Key West, and every one of them has his/her own reason to take this journey across the

Everglades. Ricky Folsie is one of these individuals who has a story to tell. He started his adventure in New Orleans where he lives, is a U.S. Army veteran and is cycling for other veterans who are suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), many who are homeless.

Ricky telephoned me from Ft. Myers, looking for information about cycling in this area. I get a call every few weeks from bicyclists coming this way. The Friends of the River of Grass Greenway (FROGG) has been a great resource to cyclists ([www.evergladesrogg.org](http://www.evergladesrogg.org)) by providing maps and stories about others who have biked along the Tamiami Trail.

Ricky's mission is to ride to Key West, then head north to Washington D.C. to continue his support for his fellow veterans. He says we should not forget those who have fought for our country. He knows how they are suffering; he lost two friends to PTSD last year and this loss is what inspired him to do something, to bring awareness to their plight. So, he got on his bike and is now telling the stories of vets as he rides around the country.

Ricky is raising money through donations to help those in need. He hopes to visit as many veterans as possible along the way. If you'd like to donate or learn more about his journey, visit "Rick Fit" on Facebook. You can also visit his gofundme site to help him on his journey, <https://gofund.me/abea5efa>



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**SAWFISH NEWS by Tonya Wiley, Havenworth Coastal Conservation**  
**Anglers and Divers Asked to Help with Sawfish Research**

One of the best ways to track the effectiveness of ongoing management and conservation efforts is to collect information about interactions with endangered sawfish by fishers, divers, and others. Details of public sightings and captures of sawfish can substantially increase the data we have about the species, allowing us to make management and policy decisions that are reflective of the realities in the water. Because of their countless hours on and in the water, we are seeking to partner with the angling and diving community to collect information about sawfish in the United States.

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

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

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

**For divers to enjoy encounters with sawfish safely and legally:**

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

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

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

*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/>*



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**Living Gulf Coast by Charles Sobczak**

American Crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) Other names: American croc, saltwater croc, salty, croc / Status: FL=threatened, IUCN=VU / Length: 9.8-13 ft (3-4 m) / Weight: 380-840 lb (173-382 kg) / Life span: to 70 years / Reproduces: Along the southern edge of Florida, mostly in Monroe County / Found: Lee and Collier counties, coastal / Months found: (lower case indicated nesting season) JFMamjjasOND.

The crocodile is a rare sighting in Southwest Florida. Extremely vulnerable to cold temperatures, it seldom ranges as far north as Lee County, with the vast majority of the region's sparse population living along the southern coastal edge of Collier County, predominantly in the Ten Thousand Islands and Everglades National Park. Because this region represents the northern edge of its range, the Florida croc seldom grows as large as those found farther south. In South America there have been official reports of 20-foot crocs. The longest croc skull ever measured was 28.6 inches (72.6 cm) and came from a mature male estimated to be at least 22 feet long. That animal would have weighed more than 3,000 pounds. A crocodile this size could eat a horse. Whole.


Sadly, because of over-harvesting and hunting, the American crocodile is in trouble throughout its range. Venezuela banned the taking of crocodiles in 1972. Other nations such as Costa Rica and Cuba have followed suit, and in these locales the croc is making a slow but steady recovery from the brink of extinction.

Ironically, a major reason for the recovery of the American crocodile in Florida, where its numbers are now estimated at more than 1,500, is the nuclear power plant at Turkey Point, built in 1972 south of Miami near Homestead. The power plant encompasses some 3,300 acres of wetlands through which a series of canals were dug to assist in cooling the water used to keep the reactor core from overheating. Shortly thereafter, a handful of American crocodiles discovered these canals, which teemed with fish that thrived in the artificially warmed waters.

Like the endangered manatee that frequents the Florida Power and Light plant in North Fort Myers at Manatee Park, the Florida croc has found a safe haven at Turkey Point. The power plant has become the primary recovery engine for the entire Florida population, helping to upgrade the status of this impressive animal from endangered to threatened in 2007.

Despite its size, the crocodile is far less aggressive than the alligator toward humans. Aside from an injured croc named Zulu that killed the man who shot him in 1925 on the outskirts of Miami, there has never been a confirmed attack by any crocodile in the U.S., though there have been several fatal attacks reported in Mexico and Central America. You should never approach a crocodile in the wild. If its nest is anywhere near, the female crocodile will kill in defense of its eggs. The croc, like the alligator, is capable of explosive charges that occur almost faster than the human eye can follow. In the water the croc can obtain speeds of 20 miles per hour and is capable of launching its 2,000-pound body completely out of the water with its powerful tail.

*Charles Sobczak is an author and photographer that lives on Sanibel Island. His books are available on Amazon, and other online booksellers.*



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**Fishing the 10,000 Islands With Captain Mike Merritt**

Well, it feels like summer is here! Thankfully, there should be fewer boats on the water - and the fishing is getting better! Snook fishing on the outside is good in between the windy fronts. There are plenty of big Snook roaming the outside Islands and the early mornings and late afternoons should be best. I love throwing top water this time of year and Zara Spooks are my favorite. ***There is nothing like a big Snook blowing up your top water lures!***

There are still plenty of smaller Snook too, and these will take jigs readily. Live bait is a sure way to get plenty of action this time of year too. How you hook your baits can determine the action you get. Depending on current speed, water depth and how active the feed is, will determine where you hook the bait. I am surprised to find how many of my clients don't know the difference in how and why we hook baits a certain way. Just remember, the same thing doesn't always work. Don't be afraid to change things up.

The Reds are still around but still scarce as compared to earlier months. The ones we are catching are scattered out. I haven't been on a school of Reds for 2 months. We did get a couple good ones on top water in the backcountry but these are scattered also. The jigs seem to be working the best.

Tarpon fishing has been tough with the winds, but there are lots of fish around. Depending on the winds, you can find them along the outside islands and even in the back bays. Hopefully the winds lay down and they will be easier to locate!

With temperatures rising getting an earlier start can pay big dividends. The incoming tides will generally be the best feed on the outside islands. Make sure to handle the Snook with care as they are getting ready to spawn. Also if there are Sharks in the area you may have to leave those fish alone or the Sharks will ruin your day.

Remember to hydrate well and have a great time enjoying our great fishing! **Capt. Mike Merritt**

**Fish With Captain Mike Merritt**  
**561-252-4324 or email**  
**SnookFishing1@juno.com**

**Get The Tides For Your Next Trip**

There is a great tide tool on the VisitEvergladesCity.com website. You can select by specific area ("Lostmans") and get the tide data for current and future dates.

You also get sunrise, sunset and moon rise and set data, in addition to night illumination percentages. This data is very useful for fishing, boating and planning paddling trips...and it is FREE!

**Get Tides, Download Regulations:**  
**www.VisitEvergladesCity.com/tides**  
**www.VisitEvergladesCity.com/fishing**



### FWC Releases 2020 Boating Accident Statistical Report

With the release of the 2020 Boating Accident Statistical Report, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) encourages boaters to focus on taking the necessary steps for a safer boating experience.

“A leading contributor to boating accidents is the operator’s inattention or failure to maintain a proper lookout, said Lt. Seth Wagner, FWC Boating and Waterways Section. “Many operators believe they are looking around but they are not recognizing potential hazards or are distracted by dividing their attention between things like electronic devices or other occupants in the boat.”



In 2020, 402 boating accidents involved collisions and 44% of them were due to the operator’s inattention or failing to maintain a proper lookout.

“It is important for boaters to keep in mind that a vessel should be treated with the same responsibility as a car or truck so everyone can enjoy Florida’s beautiful waters,” Wagner said.

Florida had 836 boating accidents in 2020, which is 113 more accidents than in 2019, a 16% increase. A total of 79 people lost their lives last year in boating accidents, 14 more than the previous year. Since 2003, falling overboard has been the leading type of fatal accident with drowning as the leading cause of death. Of the drowning victims, 88% were not wearing a life jacket. Today’s boaters can choose from several models of light and comfortable, inflatable belt-pack or over-the-shoulder life jackets that can be worn while fishing or enjoying the sun. Events can happen quickly and unexpectedly, and boaters might not have time to grab their life jacket before finding themselves in the water. The message is clear, “Life Jackets Save Lives.”

The FWC is responsible for reviewing, analyzing and compiling boating accident data for the state. Its statistical report details boating accidents and their causes. FWC officers want to help keep Florida’s beautiful waterways a safe place to boat.

For a copy of the 2020 Boating Accident Statistical Report, visit MyFWC.com and select “Boating,” “Safety & Education” then “Recreational Boating Accidents.”

*Editors Note: To enter Everglades National Park, you are required to complete a free, online boater safety course. If you have not completed your free course, you can do so at the link below:*

<https://provalenslearning.com/everglades-boater-education-course>

### Governor Ron DeSantis Announces Appointments to the Newly Formed Blue-Green Algae Task Force



Governor Ron DeSantis has announced the appointments of five expert researchers and leading scientists to the newly established Blue-Green Algae Task Force. The Governor was joined by First Lady Casey

DeSantis and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary Noah Valenstein.


“The current algae blooms in the St. Johns River and Lake George are a stark reminder of how important and urgent this issue really is,” said Governor DeSantis. “My administration is taking another step forward toward addressing this by appointing five internationally renowned and respected scientists to the new Blue-Green Algae Task Force.”

“The Governor’s appointment of these five highly qualified experts and leading scientists signal the start of a new day in Florida,” said First Lady Casey DeSantis. “The water truly is the lifeblood of our state. From our economy and tourism to our quality of life, we have to make sure our water is clean and safe. I look forward to the future accomplishments of this Task Force and am honored to be a part of these efforts.”

“I am excited to join Governor DeSantis in announcing these five prominent environmental researchers to the Blue-Green Algae Task Force,” said DEP Secretary Noah Valenstein. “By bringing together these scientific leaders, I am confident we will continue to move forward with the governor’s bold vision to achieve more now for Florida’s environment.”

The focus of the Blue-Green Algae Task Force is to support key funding and restoration initiatives and make recommendations to expedite nutrient reductions in Lake Okeechobee and the downstream estuaries. The Task Force will identify opportunities to fund priority projects with state, local and federal funding. These recommended projects will build upon DEP’s updated Basin Management Action Plans (BMAP) data. The Task Force will also review and prioritize projects that will provide the largest and most meaningful nutrient reductions in key waterways.

The appointees are Dr. Wendy Graham, Dr. Evelyn Gaiser, Dr. Michael Parsons, Dr. James Sullivan, and Dr. Valerie Paul .



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### The Mullet Rapper Supports the Everglades Community and 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](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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9	L	I	M	A	10	A	B	E	A	M					
11	B	R	I	T	12	U	N	C	L	E					
13	S	O	L	E	14	M	N		15	T	I	L	L		
					17	R	E	A	18	D	A	B	L	E	
19	P	20	O	21	P	P	A		22	I	N	U	S	E	
23	S	T	A	R	T	24	I	N	G						
25	A	T	N	O		26	N	A	27	U	G	H	T		29
		30	A	D	O	31	B	E		32	L	A	I	R	
		33	W	A	F	E	R			34	A	L	L	Y	
		35	A	S	S	E	T			36	R	A	T		



**The Word 'Little' Can Often Get You in 'Big' Trouble**

By Pastor Bob Wallace



After dinner, the other evening my wife asked me if I would like a little dessert. I asked what we were having, and she informed me it was my favorite cake. Needing to lose a little weight, I said, "I'll take just a little piece." She took me at my word, for the piece of my favorite cake that was put in front of me was about one inch square. "Honey, I didn't mean that little," I said as I looked at her with my best hurt facial expression. "Well, then say what you mean," she said. "OK", I promised, "but could I still have a little bigger piece?"

That's how it starts. Misunderstandings often begin when we don't communicate well and when we don't say what we really mean. For example, we tell "little white lies" thinking they won't hurt anybody. But, when the truth comes out and it's discovered we lied and have to explain the "little" lie away, all of a sudden it becomes a matter of personal integrity. After all, a lie is a lie, no matter how "little" it is. Think about it. Often, we want someone to "move over a little" when we think they're sitting too close or they're "hogging the bed". What we really mean for them to do is to move over "a lot", but we say just the opposite. Why?

It's just a "little way down the road" has gotten a lot of folks lost. So, it helps when we give more specific directions such as miles or number of blocks. "A little way" has taken a lot of people a "long way" out of their way and caused them to be late. My advice is when you give instructions be as precise as possible. Leave the "little" word out of your directions.

"I didn't know how little you cared" isn't often said. We usually say, "I didn't know how much you cared." But when it comes to personal relationships, we often show how little we care when we forget to send a card or make a telephone call on special occasions. That can really hurt!

"I thought I'd drop you a little note" is a way of saying, "I didn't feel like writing you a letter." Notes are OK, but don't use them if something more meaningful and lengthier should be given about a certain subject.

"Can you come over and visit for a little while?" often means two things. Don't stay very long or stay as long as you can. It's sometimes hard to be precise about how long you mean, especially when the person you asked over begins to overstay the invitation. So, you often have to suggest when the time you had in mind is up, especially if you're sick. You might say, "Thanks for coming, but I'm tired now." That ought to suggest the visit should end.

"Little Things Mean a Lot" is a song title some of us first heard years ago. The sentiments of that song still hold true today. We can do "big" things for someone else and receive their praise, but when you come right down to it, the "little things" are often what's remembered the longest and appreciated the best.

Communicating with another person can be very rewarding, or it can be very frustrating. The one thing you always want to be is a good listener. Try and let the other person speak at least as much and as often as you. A lecture is not a two-way conversation.

Try not to interrupt unless it's absolutely necessary for clarification and will add to the conversation. Some people never let the other person speak because they're always interrupting. That kind of conversation will wear you out and drive people away from you if you have made interrupting a habit.

"I know what you mean" is a phrase that's often injected into conversations by some people. They say the phrase often and have no idea what the other person means. They just say it because they think that by saying it, they're showing interest in what the other person is saying. The only trouble is that it doesn't come off that way, especially when you have not the slightest idea that the other person is talking about.

See, it's these "little" things that count in a conversation. Watch out for them or they'll get you in a heap of trouble. Just remember, there are "little words" and "little phrases" that often have "big meanings." Watch out how you use them. I just thought you'd like to know just a "little bit" about these things.

*The Reverend Doctor Bob N. Wallace was called to be Pastor of Everglades Community Church March 19, 2006 where he currently serves.*



**EVERGLADES COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
*The Friendly Little Church on the Circle*  
**NON-DENOMINATIONAL**  
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 Everglades City, FL 34139, 239-784-7318  
 The Rev. Dr. Bob N. Wallace, Pastor  
 ♦Sunday Worship Service 11:00 am ♦  
 www.ever-community-church.com

**MUSEUM NEWS**

*Museum of the Everglades  
 Everglades Oasis: Plumbing the  
 Depths of Deep Lake's History  
 Exhibit on Display Through May 29th*



This exhibit explores the fascinating history of the area surrounding Deep Lake, a geological anomaly situated nineteen miles north of Everglades City. Once the home of Seminole Chief Billy Bowlegs (who would die in battle there during the Third Seminole War), it was later the site of a commercial grapefruit enterprise, complete with its own narrow-gauge railroad carrying the fruit to port in Everglades for transport.

It was the first southwest Florida real estate purchased by Barron Gift Collier in what would eventually become Collier County. Now a part of the Big Cypress National Preserve, only traces of the railway as well as ruins of a road prison and Collier's luxurious hunting lodge remain, but the region's rich history lives on.

**The Everglades Art of Bob Fink**  
**May 20, 2:00 to 3:00 pm**  
**Museum of the Everglades**

A lifelong professional artist and illustrator, Robert "Bob" Fink's work was first published at the tender age of 14. Best known for the stark, black and white block prints, he created to illustrate Marjory Stoneman Douglas' environmental classic, "Everglades – River of Grass," Fink's career ran the gamut from architectural renderings for the Coral Gables Company to torrid covers for pulp fiction novels. This talk explores his relationship with Douglas through anecdotes about their travels on the Tamiami Trail (as shared by Fink's daughter) as well as the story of the Museum's serendipitous acquisition of one of the original prints created for Douglas' groundbreaking book.

This is an in-person lecture, however, in consideration of COVID-19, seating is limited so that we are able to practice social distancing. Masks are required. Please RSVP below to secure your space.

This lecture is available via Zoom (please RSVP below to receive a Zoom invitation) and will also be streamed on Facebook Live @colliermuseums (no RSVP necessary).

*Please make reservations online at colliermuseums.com OR by calling the museum at 239-252-5026 during museum hours, Tuesday – Saturday. 9am-4pm. Thank You!*



**USPS Considers Relocation of Chokoloskee Post Office**

CHOKOLOSKEE, FL – The U.S. Postal Service is considering relocation of the retail services provided from the Chokoloskee Post Office, 195 Smallwood Drive, Chokoloskee, FL 34138, to a yet-to-be determined location within the boundaries of the island of Chokoloskee.

The Postal Service is considering this relocation because the lease at the Main Post Office has expired and a new lease agreement was unable to be reached.

For the time being, retail services at Chokoloskee Post Office have been temporarily moved to the Everglades City Post Office, 601 Collier Ave., Everglades City, FL 34139.

Traditionally, the Postal Service would set up a public meeting to discuss the potential relocation, explain the process and invite questions from the community. But with the pandemic impacting communities, particularly as it related to the guidance to reduce public gatherings, the usual process of holding a community meeting to discuss the planned relocation would be a risk to our employees and customers.

Instead, the Postal Service will post the information required to be presented at the public meeting in the lobby of the Everglades City Post Office. We are inviting customers to send their written comments on the proposal to the following address:

**Susannah Winstead  
United States Postal Service  
Eastern Facilities Service Office  
P.O. Box 27497  
Greensboro, NC 27498-1103**

After the 30-day comment period, the Postal Service will consider the comments received that identify reasons why the Postal Services tentative decision and proposal is, or is not, the optimal solution for the identified need. Following that consideration, the Postal Service will make a final decision to proceed with, modify, or cancel the proposal.

All related materials are posted in the Everglades City Post Office lobby.

Chokoloskee customers will also be notified about the potential relocation through a postcard in the mail.

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

**Mark Your Calendar!  
The Parade is Coming Back!  
Independence Day Celebration  
June 26, 2021, 10 a.m.. Everglades City**



It is official! The City will proceed with the traditional Independence daytime festivities this year which will take place on **June 26th**.

The creativity was at an all time high in 2019 and 2020 was expected to be the best ever...but then 2020 happened.

I can only imagine what Jaye and Scott Brunner would have done last year. With all of that creativity put on hold for a year, this year's parade should be a sight to see.

The theme for this year's parade is "founding fathers". From that, create what you will to represent that notion and stick it on a golf cart, swamp buggy or whatever else you can come up with.

The opening ceremony will take place at 10 am, with the parade following immediately at 10:30 am. The day's schedule is as follows:

- 10:00 a.m. Opening Ceremony**
- 10:30 a.m. Theme: "Founding Fathers"**
- 11:00 a.m. Booths Open, Food, Contests**
- 11:30 a.m. Parade Winners Announced**
- 11:30 a.m. Kiddies' Contests**
- 12:30 p.m. Raffle Winners Announced**
- 9:00 p.m. Fireworks Display**

There will be prizes, games, hotdogs, beverages & raffles. We hope to see you there! For more information: evergladeskmc@gmail.com or call 239-695-

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Seafood & Cuisine



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Call Richard or Candice at 239-695-4700

**FWC Considering Lifting Ban on Goliath Grouper  
By Kathy Brock**

By the time you read this article the FWC will have decided whether to lift the ban on Goliath Grouper.

Those that fish in the 10,000 Islands know how abundant they are in these waters, especially when reeling in a smaller fish...and then the Volkswagen latches on.

There was a time when the Goliath's were at the verge of extinction. Because of their large size, slow reproduction cycle and spawning behavior, over-fishing almost wiped them out.

In 1990, a total ban on harvesting was put into place. By 2004, their numbers had increased to a point where NOAA removed them from their list of "species of concern".

Today, the Goliath has repopulated its range...so much so that many who fish here would tell you *they* are becoming a problem.

The FWC is set to vote on this issue on Tuesday, May 12th...and this edition will have gone to press by that time. What they will do is anyone's guess.

Here is what we do know...the protective measures put into place worked. The species is no longer threatened.

Allowing some harvesting to take place would help keep their population in check. Some rules for harvesting will help keep the humans in check too.

Prohibiting the use of spearguns or bang sticks is a prudent measure. The Goliath are so docile they are very easy prey for divers.

Bag limits can help as well. What is clear to most of us who fish here is that the Goliath's population is now so strong that other reef fish where they are present are in peril...they are voracious eaters.

A balanced approach is what is needed now. Let's hope FWC opens the harvest of Goliath Grouper with reasonable measures in place. They should monitor the population as needed to insure that it remains vibrant and healthy.

Next issue will I "eat my words" or be eating the fish? Your guess is as good as mine...

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at Everglades Isle

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9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
And By Appointment

# The Island Life Recipes

Cooking Tips from Greatist.com

- 1. Keep potatoes white:** Cover shredded or diced potatoes with cold water before cooking to prevent the spuds from turning that gross grayish/brown caused by the release of a starch that makes them oxidize.
- 2. Slow down rotting:** Store tomatoes stem end down to keep them from spoiling as quickly. This prevents air from entering and moisture from exiting the scar where the tomato once attached to the vine.  
Oh, and the advice to never store a tomato in the fridge? Debunked! Recent research revealed that the method of storage (fridge versus countertop) didn't significantly affect taste or juiciness of tomatoes. Trusted Source
- 3. Give bananas a longer life** Keep bananas fresh for longer by wrapping the end of the bunch with plastic wrap. Better yet, separate each banana. Both tactics block ethylene gases from releasing out of the stem, thereby ripening the fruit too fast.
- 4. Speed up ripening:** Be a total magician and morph a banana from green to yellow (or a peach from crunchy to juicy) with the help of a paper bag. When fruit is tossed into the bag, concentrated ethylene gas helps it ripen faster.
- 5. Save cut fruit from browning:** You've probably heard that a little squeeze of lemon juice can keep apple slices from looking unappetizing. A mixture of 1 part honey to 2 parts water works much the same way to keep fruit from browning. Ever wonder why this works? The citric acid and vitamin C in lemon juice and a peptide in honey slow down the oxidation process that causes discoloration.

## MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

**Across**

- Musical Mama, who died young
- Feverish ailment
- Not manual
- Havana Café rice dish
- Troublesome
- Anatomical pouch
- "--- we there yet?"
- Batter's stat
- Make sweaters
- Such as Shakespeare
- Vine house?
- City in Ark.
- Thin rope
- Reply to a busy-body, "\_\_\_ / \_\_\_ life!"
- As well
- Abu Dhabi is its capital
- UK aces?
- Seller's hoped-for figure
- Multi-hit Wonder
- Kournikova of tennis
- 1970" rock band T-\_\_\_
- Someone like you

**Down**

- Baseball hats
- Halo
- Securities dealer
- Cry
- Renown
- Meadow
- Rural inmate turned blue
- Sassy
- Seventh sign of the zodiac
- Some are amino
- Den
- Doze off
- Nevertheless
- Pretend to be
- Perch
- Obscure
- Measuring instrument
- AT&T computer operating system
- Teenager's torment
- Dread
- "--- changed my mind"
- Music genre

5/15/21



### My Little Slice of Paradise by Kathy Brock

This issue is dedicated to my mother. Twenty seven years ago on May 15th, 1994 my mother lost her personal battle with breast cancer.

I have mentioned my father on several occasions but I will admit there have been too few words written about my mother, Catherine.

Catherine spent her formative childhood years in an orphanage for girls. From ages five to seventeen, Catherine and her sister Mary were placed at St. Mary's in Providence, Rhode Island, which is still in operation today.

In 1929 at the age of five, Catherine and her younger sister Mary were left at the orphanage by their father. Their mother was ill and could no longer care for the children. The children never fully understood what happened to their mother or why they were left there.

Their father would visit the children on occasion but they were never brought home nor were they put up for adoption.

Catherine left St. Mary's in 1946 at the age of 17. At some point Catherine reconnected with her mother who had spent years in a sanitarium for a bout of depression after losing two of her children within a year's span. Yes, it sounds like a plot for a soap opera.

My relationship with my mother was never quite right. In my younger years, I just could not understand why my mother was disconnected or at a minimum, less connected than "other mothers". She and I were at odds from as far back as I can remember.

My relationship with her was strained because I did not understand how much her past influenced her present. I only saw the relationship from *my personal vantage point*.

When I wrote the above paragraphs that briefly describe her childhood experiences, it made me cry. Of course she was sad, disconnected, and "different". Who wouldn't be?

When your father drops the kids off (except for one daughter who stayed home) the message to the children is pretty clear...*to them*.

The point is that your perspective *is your perspective only*. It is only when you seek to understand the other person's perspective that you can begin to understand their interpretation of the events.

Now as a mature woman I understand the "why". It's painfully obvious. Catherine had good years. We had good years. There were just too few of them when my eyes could truly see.

### Everglades Arts

Winding down in May

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Let's keep in touch

varick@varickniles.com

Exciting happenings coming in Fall



**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>Diving Pelican Restaurant (239) 232-0475</b> Open Sun-Thur 11 am to 8 pm, Fri & Sat till midnight
<b>Everglades Fishing Co. / Nely's Corner</b> Open M-Th 5:30 am to 8pm, Sat Sun till 10 pm 203 Collier Avenue, (239-695-4222)
<b>Havana Café (239-695-2214):</b> Closed for summer.
<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 Daily 10:30 am to 5:00 pm
<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
<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**

5/15/2021	Sat	12:46 AM	-0.13	L
5/15/2021	Sat	6:32 AM	2.1	H
5/15/2021	Sat	11:52 AM	0.92	L
5/15/2021	Sat	4:15 PM	2.74	H
5/16/2021	Sun	1:29 AM	-0.08	L
5/16/2021	Sun	7:30 AM	2.06	H
5/16/2021	Sun	12:21 PM	0.97	L
5/16/2021	Sun	4:51 PM	2.67	H
5/17/2021	Mon	2:18 AM	-0.02	L
5/17/2021	Mon	8:33 AM	2.07	H
5/17/2021	Mon	1:03 PM	1.02	L
5/17/2021	Mon	5:40 PM	2.56	H
5/18/2021	Tue	3:15 AM	0.05	L
5/18/2021	Tue	9:32 AM	2.13	H
5/18/2021	Tue	2:25 PM	1.05	L
5/18/2021	Tue	6:46 PM	2.44	H
5/19/2021	Wed	4:17 AM	0.11	L
5/19/2021	Wed	10:22 AM	2.23	H
5/19/2021	Wed	4:39 PM	0.98	L
5/19/2021	Wed	8:49 PM	2.35	H
5/20/2021	Thu	5:16 AM	0.17	L
5/20/2021	Thu	11:06 AM	2.35	H
5/20/2021	Thu	5:49 PM	0.81	L
5/20/2021	Thu	10:29 PM	2.37	H
5/21/2021	Fri	6:11 AM	0.23	L
5/21/2021	Fri	11:46 AM	2.49	H
5/21/2021	Fri	6:46 PM	0.57	L
5/21/2021	Fri	11:47 PM	2.45	H
5/22/2021	Sat	7:02 AM	0.31	L
5/22/2021	Sat	12:21 PM	2.66	H
5/22/2021	Sat	7:38 PM	0.29	L
5/23/2021	Sun	12:56 AM	2.55	H
5/23/2021	Sun	7:51 AM	0.4	L
5/23/2021	Sun	12:54 PM	2.84	H
5/23/2021	Sun	8:28 PM	0.01	L
5/24/2021	Mon	1:55 AM	2.63	H
5/24/2021	Mon	8:37 AM	0.5	L
5/24/2021	Mon	1:26 PM	3.03	H
5/24/2021	Mon	9:16 PM	-0.24	L
5/25/2021	Tue	2:49 AM	2.64	H
5/25/2021	Tue	9:21 AM	0.6	L
5/25/2021	Tue	1:57 PM	3.21	H
5/25/2021	Tue	10:05 PM	-0.43	L
5/26/2021	Wed	3:44 AM	2.57	H
5/26/2021	Wed	10:04 AM	0.69	L
5/26/2021	Wed	2:31 PM	3.33	H
5/26/2021	Wed	10:54 PM	-0.54	L
5/27/2021	Thu	4:42 AM	2.45	H
5/27/2021	Thu	10:48 AM	0.77	L
5/27/2021	Thu	3:08 PM	3.36	H
5/27/2021	Thu	11:45 PM	-0.55	L
5/28/2021	Fri	5:43 AM	2.33	H
5/28/2021	Fri	11:34 AM	0.83	L
5/28/2021	Fri	3:51 PM	3.3	H



**Seafood Festival Workshop**  
May 17, 2021, 6:00 pm  
**City Dock Workshop**  
June 14, 2021, 6:00 pm

The City Council set two meetings during the May session.

On **May 17th at 7 pm** the City will discuss the Seafood Festival. With the passing of former organizer Carol Foss, the fate of the festival has been up in the air.

However, the City acknowledged that there is another group interested in continuing the 50-year old festival. Now it is up to the City to decide whether the festival will continue, and if so, how that continuation will look.

If you are interested in this issue, please attend the workshop.


The workshop is open to the public and will be held at Everglades City Hall.

The second workshop scheduled will be regarding the City Docks. The dock workshop will be held on **June 14 at 6:00 pm**.

There are several issues pertaining to the City docks that will be discussed. This meeting will be primarily devoted to the resident docks. The City has already held workshops for the commercial docks.

If this is an issue of concern for you, please attend the workshop.

For more information about the workshops, please contact City Hall by calling 239-695-3781. Both meetings will also be on ZOOM.



**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 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.

GOLF CLUBS 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 239-719-0020, The center is currently open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 2 pm.

BOAT FOR SALE: 2004 Pathfinder 2200V. 200HP Yamaha 2-stroke, power pole, trolling motor, GPS, fully loaded. Aluminum trailer. Asking \$26,000. Contact Dan: 352-455-3687.

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The MULLET RAPPER

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

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Lee Cypress, Copeland, Jerome & Ochopee

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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