

The MULLET RAPPER



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

June 12, 2021 - June 25, 2021

CONGRATULATIONS EVG CLASS OF 2021!



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

Volume XIII • Issue # 392

**New Museum of the Everglades Display
 Features the Work of Everglades City
 School Students Inspired by the
 Bank of Everglades Building**



The Museum of the Everglades is showing its support of the community and area history with a beautiful new student display inspired by a contest about the historic Bank of

Everglades Building.

The work of the student entries will be on display through August 28th.

Mayor Howie Grimm was present for the awards ceremony that included a delicious selection of sandwiches and all the fixings.

Museum Manager Thomas Lockyear, Friends of the Museum of the Everglades president Jaye Brunner and the rest of the "Friends" were present to make the evening a very special one.

Thank you to Thomas Lockyear and the Collier County Museums for their support of our students!

More Inside!

For contest results please see the article on page 6.

Meet two long-time Everglades City School teachers, article on page 6.

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FEATURED: STUDENT ARTISTS, P. 6

**Everglades City Receives \$4.3 Million Grant
 for New Wastewater Treatment Plant**



Everglades City residents and officials received some great news when Governor Ron DeSantis signed the new budget on June 2, 2021. The \$4.3 million grant that the City needs to replace their aging sewer plant was not on the "veto list" meaning it was approved!

The sewer plant saga has been a thorn in the City's side for several years as news about the failing plant made media headlines. In an April 2016 report, WINK news covered the story by citing a Department of Environmental Protection's fine against the City and the potential environmental impact of a catastrophic failure. The existing City sewer plant was purchased used in the early 1990's and is well past its useful life.

Under Mayor Howie Grimm's leadership, the City has taken steps to bring the current plant into compliance while working on a long-term, permanent solution.

According to Mayor Howie Grimm, the new plant, once operational, can be expanded as needed to bring neighboring communities online.

Currently, unincorporated Collier County's Plantation Island, Chokoloskee Island, Jerome, Copeland, and Ochopee are utilizing septic tanks. The hope is that the new plant will eventually clear the area of septic tanks, especially in areas that abut sensitive lands and national preserves and parks.

With a population of only 425 residents, some may wonder why such a tiny community would "need" such a facility. However, when you consider the number of tourists that visit the area each year (Big Cypress and Everglades National Park draw between 800,000 and 1.2 million tourists per year), it is easy to see that the resident population clearly does not represent the number of individuals such a plant will serve, and thankfully, Governor DeSantis understood this too.

From the day Mayor Howie Grimm took over, just four days before Hurricane Irma, he vowed to straighten out the sewer plant problem. From that moment on Mayor Grimm, City Clerk Dottie Joiner, Assistant Karen Cochran, City Bookkeeper Tammie Pernas and the City's Law Firm Woodward, Pires, & Lombardo have worked tirelessly, along with many others, to find a way to get it done. Now is a good time to say, "job well done." Next, the focus shifts from finding funding sources to approving construction plans...something we can all be happy about.

JUNE 13, 2021 — JULY 17, 2021 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
13	14 Dock Workshop 6:30 pm, see p. 3 Food Truck Workshop, 7:30	15 P & Z, 6 pm	16 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	17 Museum Talk, See p. 8	18	19
20 Father's Day	21	22	23 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	24-Full Moon	25	June 26—Rapper Bank Tour, p. 3 Independence Celebration! See p. 11
27	28	29	30 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	July 1	2	3 Kids event At Museum, See p. 8
4 4th of July!	5 Independence Holiday Day ESHP, 9 am	6 City Council Mtg 7 pm	7 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	8	9-New Moon	June 10—Rapper
11	12	13	14 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	15	16	17

August 7: Kids Event at Museum, page 8 September 1: Snook Season Reopens September 6: Labor 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: Closed for Summer
 MUSEUM: Open Tuesday-Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm, 239-252-5026
 PANCAKE FLY-IN: Closed for summer
 SKATING RINK: Open Friday & Saturday, 7 pm to 10 pm
 SMALLWOOD STORE: Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon 11 am to 5 pm, 239-695-2989
 THRIFT SHOP: Open Thursday. 11 am to 3 pm, more info on p. 3
 VETERANS SUPPORT: Closed until further notice
 VISITOR CENTER: (239)-232-4037 Summer Hours Vary. Please Call!

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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**City Dock Workshop
June 14, 2021, 6:30 pm**

Food Truck Workshop 7:30 pm

The dock workshop will be held on June 14 at 6:30 pm at Everglades City Hall.

Multiple topics will be discussed at the meeting regarding the residential docks. The City previously held workshops for the commercial dock leases.

If you are concerned about the residential city docks or food trucks, please attend the workshops. The workshop is open to the public. The meeting can also be watched be on Zoom.

Here is the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2916297131?pwd=MTJMTlkzMGExUjNlZ2JwQmtnVjRkdz09>



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

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.

Support Your Local Business

Local businesses have collection boxes for the Fireworks Fund and the one with highest donations will receive a trophy. Support you favorite restaurant or gas station by dropping in your contribution!

If you aren't in the area and want to donate, send a check to "Everglades Fireworks Fund" at P O Box 110, Everglades City, FL, 34139.

**Exclusive Tour of the
Bank of Everglades Building
June 26, 11:30 am to 2 pm**

The Everglades Society for historic preservation is offering exclusive tours of the Bank of Everglades Building limited to groups of 10. If you would like to

**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 Information

There are two brochure racks at City Hall with information about local businesses. You can visit City Hall Monday—Friday from 9 am to 4 pm.

You may also go to the area website www.VisitEvergladesCity.com. Here you can access our business directory by category. Each business listing provides a map and link to the business' website.

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



Panther Pulse

The FWC has updated the "Panther Pulse" page with mortality information through May 27, 2021 at 11:30 a.m.

This information can be viewed at: <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/panther/pulse/>

The remains of a 2-year-old male Florida panther (UCFP403) were collected on May 27, 2021 on SR29, three quarters of one mile north of US41 in Collier County. The suspected cause of death was vehicle collision.

To date 2021 has been a deadly year for Florida panthers. The remains of 18 panthers have been found so far in 2021. Nine female and 9 males. Thirteen of the 18 were killed by vehicle collisions, two kittens were found deceased and the remaining cases suspect intraspecies aggression or are unknown.

Biologists gain valuable information by examining panther remains. Report injured or dead panthers to the FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922).

Florida residents can support panther conservation efforts by purchasing a "Protect the Panther" license plate. Fees from license plate sales are the primary funding source for the FWC's research and management of Florida panthers. You can purchase a plate at <https://myfloridaspecialtyplate.com/protect-the-panther.html>.

Panther breeding season runs from November to March. Females give birth in early spring. At 8 weeks kittens start to accompany their mother on hunting trips. The kittens will stay with their mothers for up to two years.

Once the kittens separate from their mother she will become receptive to breeding again.

For more information about panthers go to www.myfwc.com.



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**Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease found at Dry Tortugas National Park
 Coral Response Team begins treatment immediately**

KEY WEST, Fla. – Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease—an infectious, water-borne disease that impacts hard coral species and damages entire reefs—has been found on corals in Dry Tortugas National Park. The park’s Coral Response Team observed it on May 29 while conducting a routine disease survey.

“Until now, Dry Tortugas National Park was the only remaining section of Florida’s Coral Reef to not show signs of the disease,” said Pedro Ramos, superintendent of Everglades and Dry Tortugas national parks. “Finding it early is significant, because without treatment, the disease has the potential to destroy the park’s underwater gardens, as affected corals have a nearly 100% mortality rate.”



First reported near Miami in 2014, the disease appears as white patches where the disease has consumed the live coral tissue, exposing the bright white coral skeleton and removing the brilliant colors that the reefs are known for. Now found throughout Florida’s Coral Reef and the Caribbean, the disease outbreak is unprecedented in its broad geographic range, extended duration, high rates of mortality and number of coral species affected. While the cause of the disease is yet unknown, bacteria likely plays a role, since antibiotic treatments have proven effective.

The Dry Tortugas National Park Coral Response Team observed the telltale white lesions on 11 coral colonies of three highly susceptible coral species *Meandrina meandrites* (Maze Coral), *Meandrina jacksoni* (White Maze Coral) and *Dichocoenia stokesii* (Elliptical Star Coral). These are typical "canary" species that are often the first corals within a reef community to show symptoms of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease during an outbreak. A survey on May 6 showed no evidence of the disease at this location. Several highly susceptible corals in the area still appear to be healthy and only 3% of the susceptible colonies in the area have been impacted at this time. Following an established response plan, the team immediately applied the most effective treatment available, an antibiotic paste, to the infected corals. Currently, the disease appears to be concentrated in one area near the southeastern boundary of the park, approximately 2.5 miles east from Garden Key, where Fort Jefferson is located.

In anticipation of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease reaching the Dry Tortugas corals, the park has regularly monitored 40 sites since September 2020. With matching funds from the state of Florida and park concessions, the park hired six biologists and established a Coral Response Team to focus exclusively on coral monitoring and disease response.

Photo: Above an antibiotic paste is applied to affected corals. Photo by Rachel Johns
 (Continued on Page 5)



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“Corals” Continued from page 4



species, large reproductively-active corals, and those in areas with high coral cover and biodiversity.



Conservation Commission, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration along with other government agencies, academic institutions, and conservation organizations.

“We are fortunate to be part of such a strong partnership working collaboratively to protect Florida’s Coral Reef,” Ramos said. “Not only do our national parks provide unparalleled recreational opportunities, they also serve as living laboratories to conduct science.”

Over the past two years, the park and park partners have also taken preventative measures by collecting healthy corals as part of

the multi-agency Coral Rescue Project. The park’s rescued corals were placed in land-based aquaria to prevent them from becoming infected, to preserve genetic diversity and to serve as breeding stock for future restoration activities.

Even when using the best available treatments, previous efforts to limit the disease spread have not always been successful, and many corals have been lost. Surveillance and intervention may be the best approach to limiting Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease’s impacts while continuing to inform researchers about the disease and its effect on corals.

While the situation is urgent, everyone can still do their part to save this important ecosystem. Corals are resilient when given the chance.

Since the disease has spread through the entirety of Florida’s Coral Reef, the disease response has been a collaborative multi-agency effort. The National Park Service continues to work closely with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Fish and Wildlife

People can help our corals when recreating on or around the water:

- ◆ **Wear reef-safe sunscreen or protective clothing in the water.**
- ◆ **Dispose of trash properly to reduce marine debris.**
- ◆ **Avoid touching, standing on or kicking corals, especially when snorkeling or diving.**
- ◆ **Follow local fishing, diving and anchoring rules.**
- ◆ **Follow clean boating principles.**
- ◆ **Decontaminate dive and snorkel gear.**

Healthy coral reefs are among the most biologically diverse, culturally significant and economically valuable ecosystems on Earth. Coral reefs safeguard against extreme weather, shoreline erosion and coastal flooding.

Florida’s Coral Reef provides more than \$355 million/year in flood protection benefits and protects nearly \$320 million in annual economic activity. Florida’s Coral Reef stretches for over 350 miles and borders five counties that are home to over seven million people.

Located 70 miles west of Key West, Dry Tortugas National Park attracts visitors for both its cultural and natural features, including the colorful corals and the abundant marine life that depend on the reef. Snorkelers and divers may enjoy the underwater scenery, but all visitors are able to view some of the corals and tropical fish from the moat wall that surrounds the iconic Fort Jefferson.

Photos: Top left: An NPS Coral Response Team member is using the best available method of treatment by applying an antibiotic paste (combination of amoxicillin and Base2b) to the lesion margins on a Dichocoenia stokesii (Elliptical Star Coral) colony.

Bottom left: Story Coral Disease Lesion on a Meandrina jacksoni (White Maze Coral) colony. Photo by Melissa Heres

For more information visit the park website:
<https://www.nps.gov/drto/learn/nature/stony-coral-tissue-loss-on-florida-s-coral-reef.htm>

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SCHOOL NEWS—A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As the school year is closing, we would like to pay tribute to two teachers who have made EVG their life work. These teachers have dedicated themselves to our students and we are extremely grateful for all they have done. ~Dr. Allison

Paul Tribble



"I grew up in Hernando, Florida in Citrus County where I attended the schools Booker T. Washington and Citrus High School. I came to EVG by prayer and being led by the Holy Spirit. Even though over the years we have become a smaller school, the best memory was becoming an A+ school. I love working and caring for every single one of our students. The Spirit of God has lead me to stay here for so long. I want to be remembered by loving many and pleasing God through it all. Being here with the students and staff is a mighty blessing from our Lord."

Coach Becky Welch



"I grew up in Falmouth, Massachusetts and I attended Bridgewater State University in August of 1979. I arrived here shortly after and because I had a degree in Health and Physical Education (K-12), I applied for the position here at Everglades City School. Something that also drew me to teach here was the fact that there were three varsity-coaching positions open at the time. For me this school has not changed a bit. It has always been unique with a heart as big as Texas. What I love about my job is getting the opportunity to be a part of the kids' lives and having the chance to watch them all grow up. One of my fondest memories is going to the state finals with the girls' varsity basketball team. We came home to an unbelievable parade and welcoming ceremony. This is just one of the many amazing memories. The biggest reason why I has stayed for so long is the genuine relationship that has occurred over the many years being here. I want to be remembered as someone who really cared for the students, who loved them unconditionally, and who wanted nothing but the best for them."

Creative Gators On Display at Museum!

The Museum of the Everglades held a contest for Everglades City School students who were asked to submit their drawings and stories (fictional or non-fictional) about the historic Bank of Everglades building in Everglades City.

On Friday, June 4th a reception was held to celebrate the exhibit of contest submissions on display at the museum, and to present the awards to the winners of the contest.

Museum of the Everglades Manager Thomas Lockyear submitted the winners for the "creative response to the bank" contest. They are as follows:

- ◆ First Place: MacKenna Ames – 6th Grade (\$200)
- ◆ Second Place: Kelly Smallwood - 7th Grade (\$100)
- ◆ Third Place: Nora Potter (\$50)
- ◆ Honorable Mention: Hannah Levingston (\$25)
- ◆ Honorable Mention: Chase Stokes (\$25)

According to Lockyear, "winning entries were selected by a panel of judges that included the managers of all five Collier County Museums as well as other member of the leadership team. Submissions were judged on a variety of criteria that included creativity, originality, composition, execution and overall appeal. There were many excellent works submitted and it was quite a challenge for the judges to narrow the field to just this small selection of winners. All entries submitted will be displayed as a part of the new exhibit: Banking on the Past – Saving for the Future through August 28th."



CONGRATULATIONS! STUDENTS

Top Left MacKenna Ames, Top Right Nora Potter, Middle Right, Chase Stokes, Lower Right Hannah Levingston

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

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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Solution to May 29, 2021 Puzzle

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8						
	M	A	C	A	U		T	A	B						
9	B	A	R	R	O	N		10	A	B	A				
11	S	E	R	M	O	N	S		12	K	E	N			
13	A	S	K		14	W	E	A	15	S	E	L	S		
16	G	E	E	17	K			18	I	H	S				
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34	O	T	C			35	A	T	N	O	O	N			
36	T	O	E			37	R	I	D	O	F				

*There's Lots You Can Do,
When You Find You Have Extra Time on Your Hands*

By Pastor Bob Wallace



The strangest thing happened to me a few days ago. I was sitting in my car, stopped at a four-way traffic light, and discovered I could get through that intersection on just one light change. No kidding! I just ripped through. Was it a fluke? Maybe, I thought. Then the next day I found I was going downtown in half the time it had taken me the past six months. Then it hit me. Season is over!

The area I live in is a popular place for people to come during the winter months.

The population doubles for half the year. Then, when season is over, there aren't as many of us trying to get to the same place at the same time. I thought to myself, "Wow, this is really cool!" I realized I would now have some spare time on my hands that had previously been used sitting in my car waiting for the light to change while commuting from one place to another. What used to take 30 minutes now took only 10! In fact, it wasn't many years ago that you could get any place in my town in 10 minutes. But no longer! Now I have to make adjustments in my thinking about where I'm going so, I will get there on time. But now, I have 6 months of extra time. What does one do with the spare time gained from not sitting in traffic?

What do you do with an extra 20 minutes?



Well, you can leave home a little later and not rush about so much. After all, there's nothing quite so frustrating as not having enough time to get somewhere trying to be on time. Plan your next trip so as not to arrive as early as in the past. If it's in the morning, have another cup of coffee and read the newspaper a little longer. Relax!

How about working in the yard a little longer pulling a few more weeds. There's nothing quite like the fresh breeze and physical exercise you get working in the yard. Twenty minutes of bending, stooping, squatting, stretching and walking around the yard can do wonders for your mental and physical well-being, not to mention your waistline.

Talking on the phone and not having to rush to end the conversation would be great, especially if you're talking with a shut-in or someone you haven't seen for a while.

Visiting with a friend or relative for 20 minutes and having time to enjoy the visit could be pleasurable, especially if you don't do it very often. Those few extra minutes applied in that way could bring a lot of happiness and joy to someone who really needs it.

Watching your TV until the end of a program could be a new experience. There's nothing as frustrating as having to leave and go somewhere before the end of a show. Now, you can use those 20 minutes to see the ending if you time it right.

Or just take your good ole' sweet time to get where you're going. Stop and smell the roses. In other words, use those extra 20 minutes to just slow down your pace.

Volunteer your time to make some telephone calls or write some letters for your favorite organization. You can do a lot of good in 20 minutes.



EVERGLADES COMMUNITY CHURCH
The Friendly Little Church on the Circle
NON-DENOMINATIONAL
 101 S. Copeland Avenue, PO Box 177
 Everglades City, FL 34139, 239-784-7318
 The Rev. Dr. Bob N. Wallace, Pastor
 ♦Sunday Worship Service 11:00 am ♦
 www.ever-community-church.com

Read a book. Twenty minutes of reading every day will soon have you through a book, if you stay with it.

This isn't to say we don't enjoy having our out-of-town visitors with us for a while. We do! We really do! It's just that it's great not to feel the pressure of so many people trying to get to the same place at the same time.

Restaurant.
 The sunset over the Gulf of Mexico.
 The airport.

The only empty parking spot.
 Maybe by the time season rolls around again you'll be so good at utilizing your spare time profitably that you will be able to keep those extra 20 minutes in your schedule and still make it on time. Or maybe, you'll be so good at using

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

*What's Happening At The
Museum of Everglades*

Event

Bank of Everglades:

An Investment in Local History

June 17, 2021, 2 pm to 3 pm

This talk explores the storied history of the bank building as well as some of the folklore surrounding it.

The presentation will include a discussion of efforts currently underway to preserve the building by the local historical society as well as the role Museum of the Everglades might play in the community's future and what those in attendance can do to help if they so desire.

Seating is limited so early arrival is recommended for those planning on attending in person. Masks are encouraged. To attend the lecture in person, please follow the directions below to secure your space.

Exhibit

**BANKING ON THE PAST,
SAVING FOR THE FUTURE: THE
LEGACY OF BARRON
COLLIER'S BANK OF
EVERGLADES**

**June 1- August 27, 2021
Museum of the Everglades**

This new exhibit celebrates the Bank of Everglades building—a grand neo-classical structure erected by Barron Collier in 1926. It was the only bank in Collier County for almost 40 years. The exhibit details the history of the institution, including its two previous (and far less impressive) homes and the bank's 1962 relocation to Immokalee, as well as the businesses that later occupied the space. The local effort to save and restore the structure by the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation and the possible ways the preserved structure might serve the community in the future will also be explored.

**FREE SUMMER EVENTS
for Kids At MOE**

July 3: Museum of the Everglades
 "Tamiami Trailblazing" 10 am to 2 pm

August 7: Museum of the Everglades
 "Florida Fishin'" 10 am to 2 pm

*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!*

Living Gulf Coast by Charles Sobczak



River Otter (*Lutra canadensis*) Other names: common otter / Status: FL=stable but extirpated in 11 states and endangered in 13 more, IUCN=LC / Life span: to 20 years / Length (including tail): 26-42 in. (66-106 cm) / Weight: 11-30 lb (5-14 kg) / Reproduces: near water in suitable dens; will often use another animal's burrow or find natural holes in riprap and tree roots / Found: diurnal in all six counties.

There are 12 species of otters worldwide. The mammal appears on every continent except Australia and Antarctica. The largest of the freshwater species is the giant otter of the Amazonian basin, weighing up to 66 pounds; the shorter but heavier sea otter of the north Pacific coastline can weigh up to 90 pounds. Throughout its range, otter populations are declining as a result of continued habitat loss and the harvesting of its meat and fur.

The only aquatic member of the weasel family, the otter is renowned for its playfulness. Curious and entertaining to observe, it is a favorite at zoos and aquariums. Children seem to gravitate to the otter naturally, as they do with the dolphin. In the wild, the otter is far less playful but is still known to slide down a muddy embankment repeatedly or engage in other behavior that can only be described as having fun. Aside from primates, the sea otter is the only mammal known to use tools when harvesting food.

The diet of the river otter is largely made up of fish, both fresh and saltwater species. It prefers slower-moving fish such as gar, panfish, and catfish, but will catch just about any fish it can. It also eats crawfish, horseshoe crabs, frogs, coots, ducks, beetles, and on rare occasions, muskrats and marsh rabbits.



An otter is capable of holding its breath for up to four minutes, diving as deep as 60 feet and swimming as fast as six-miles per hour. Its fur is so dense that its skin never gets wet. Young otters, even though they are born with webbed feet and will eventually spend most of their lives in the water, must be taught how to swim by their parents. The otter is very vulnerable to water quality issues and will quickly abandon any polluted lakes or streams. Poor water quality has been a major factor in the otter's decline worldwide.

The river otter is slowly being reintroduced into states where it once was plentiful, including Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, New Mexico, North and South Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and West Virginia. It was formerly found in all of these states, but over the past few centuries has been trapped for its high-quality fur, causing localized

extinctions. Most states now protect the otter.

The otter is preyed upon by alligators, bobcats, coyotes, and wolves. Because of its unusual method of running, arching its back high into the air as it runs, it is very vulnerable to automobile collisions. Oil spills are especially troublesome for the otter. The *Exxon Valdez* spill in Prince William Sound killed more than 1,000 sea otters and dozens of river otters within days.

By and large the otter is a rare sighting. It is most often spotted in the early mornings and at dusk. Sadly most of the otters we see are those who have been killed in automobile collisions. The best locations to find river otters are in areas with multiple freshwater ponds, where you can sometimes see them crossing over from one body of water to another. In Florida, where otters are protected, the species is making a strong comeback. Many coastal otters were severely impacted by the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons and populations along the coast are currently lower than normal.

*Charles Sobczak is a photographer and writer from Sanibel Island.
Photo: An Otter Family at Play
by Heather Green*

Fishing the 10,000 Islands With Captain Mike Merritt



It seems the weather is becoming more stable, at least as far as the winds go. It has been windy but not as bad. The Snook fishing has picked up a little. Today, I had clients catch around 20 Snook with 4 being slot size fish. We also saw a school of around 100 Snook cruising a mangrove shore. There were all sizes mixed in. Hopefully the bite continues to get hot!



The afternoon rains have finally started so get out early and be prepared to run back in early if you want to stay dry. So far, there's not too much lightning but this will also change - so be cautious.

Work the shallow shorelines on the incoming tide with top water or jigs to catch these fish. Just remember to get them back in the water as quick as possible. Also if there are sharks around take the time to maneuver those big ones back to some cover away from these predators.

Summer for me is all about the Snook! There should be fish all around and there is nothing better than the fight of a big Snook. Those long runs are hard to beat. Then you add those jumps and head shakes and it's worth all the effort you made in getting that hook up. I landed my first one at 8 yrs. old and 51 years later I am still excited to hook up! Only now it is just as satisfying to see my clients on a good fish.

We have been catching some in the 35" to 38" range lately and hope to see a few 40" plus again this summer. Last year our biggest was 45". So far this year it is a 43". If you put in the time you can catch these fish!

Now, not to leave out the Tarpon, Reds, Seatrout, Snapper, Tripletail and all the others, as they will all be caught this month. Even the Black Drum are still around. Enjoy the bite this month and good luck fishing!

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

City Seafood

702 Begonia Street, Everglades City

OPEN ALL YEAR...

We are one of the most affordable restaurants with one of the most beautiful waterfront locations.

Open 8 am to 3 pm Daily

We Serve
Delicious, Local
Seafood & Cuisine



Want to book a private party?
Call Richard or Candice at 239-695-4700

The Island Life Recipes
Easy Homemade Ice Cream Sandwiches

Ingredients:

- 12 large chocolate chip cookies
- 1 container vanilla ice cream
- 1 package mini semi-sweet chocolate chips or chocolate mint chips



Directions: You can make your own chocolate chip cookies or purchase them from your favorite bakery. No matter how you get the cookies, these ice cream sandwiches will be a big hit. If you want smaller portions, you can always swap out smaller cookies too.

Lay 6 (or more) cookies on a flat surface. Using an ice cream scoop, scoop out ice cream and place it on the cookie. Place another cookie on top and squeeze to spread ice cream evenly. Scrape away any extra ice cream and then roll the edge in small chocolate chips. Wrap each cookie with plastic wrap and store in a zip lock bag or other resealable freezer container so that you can take them out as you need them..

You can modify the recipe by using mint chocolate chips or different types of ice cream. Peanut butter and oatmeal cookies work well too. After individually wrapping them, they will keep in the freezer for a couple of months..if they last that long. Enjoy!



My Little Slice of Paradise
By Kathy Brock

The rains have finally returned. With the rain, we also welcome the return of the "singing frogs".

For those of you who have never spent the warmer, rainier months in the Everglades area, what you are missing the sounds made by the frogs after a big rain. It is quite wonderful!

Last week we had a drenching 3.75 inches of rain on one afternoon. With that came plenty of standing water.

Standing water is the cue that tells the frogs that it's time to breed. That is when the croaking starts...and when it cranks up, it is loud. It is so loud (and unique if you aren't from a "froggy place") that one evening I made a recording and posted it to our area website (www.visitevergladescity.com with the title "sounds of the everglades") so others can enjoy it too.

There are so many little things that make living here a unique and rewarding experience.

As the rains become more frequent, the fresher water pushes out into the river and alligators will venture down the Barron River. We really do not pay attention to them but visitors to our area stop, take photos and get quite excited about it. Their excitement is a good reminder to pay attention to what is happening right around you.

A dear friend of mine visited last Thanksgiving and commented on how she loved the hummingbirds here in the Everglades. I told her that she probably had them at her home too in the spring and summer. I sent her two hummingbird feeders for Christmas. She put them out after the threat of frost passed...and within a few days...hummingbirds, everyday, several times a day!

No matter where you are there is probably something that you could be enjoying right there at home. Sure, it is wonderful going to a new place and enjoying the nature, plants and things to do there...but have you experienced everything your hometown has to offer?

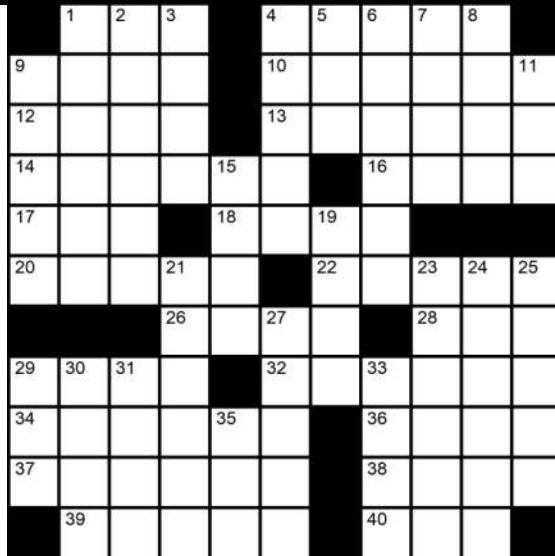
Florida has many parks I have never seen and I have been here my entire life. Tourists come here and tell me about all of the things they've seen and I'll think, "why haven't I done that?"

No matter where you live, there is bound to be something interesting that you have not experienced right by your backyard. Ask yourself, "where would the tourists go," and if you haven't been there yourself, plan a trip!

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Subject of "Take Me Home, Country Roads" (John Denver)
- 4 Mature
- 9 Yoko Ono's son
- 10 Dry up
- 12 Saber handle
- 13 Twins of the zodiac
- 14 Instead
- 16 "... and make it snappy!"
- 17 Sum charged
- 18 Peruse
- 20 "--- Remember" (Song from "The Fantasticks")
- 22 Late actor Ledger
- 26 "Got it!"
- 28 Auto club, up north
- 29 Bridge, in Bordeaux
- 32 Slaps
- 34 Practices
- 36 Singer Michaels
- 37 Uncivilized
- 38 Enticement to a fish
- 39 Annie of the Eurythmics
- 40 "Count me in!"



6/12/21

Down

- 1 "Mad Men" creator Matthew ---
- 2 Depression bet. hills
- 3 Against
- 4 Dispute
- 5 Owing
- 6 Like a teenager's bed?
- 7 Ken girl Lane
- 8 Albacore
- 9 Loose dress
- 11 Apex
- 15 Greek love god
- 19 "Attention please ..."
- 21 Venetian art master
- 23 Gather
- 24 Those with hands out
- 25 Careless speed
- 27 Hudson automobile
- 29 Points
- 30 Spoken
- 31 Part of a church
- 33 With skill
- 35 Save the Children, for example



NOW OPEN!

Kim's Hair Studio
at Everglades Isle
(239) 537-1273

Open Monday, Wednesday, & Friday
9:00 am to 5:00 pm
And By Appointment

EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP

Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands (642-1025): Closed Mon- Tue-Thurs, 5-11 Fri-Sun Noon - 11 pm
Camellia Street Grille (239-695-2003): 11:00 am – 9:00 pm, Daily
City Seafood (239-695-4700): 8:00 am – 10:00 am; breakfast Noon-6pm Lunch & Dinner
Diving Pelican Restaurant (239) 232-0475 Open Sun-Thur 11 am to 8 pm, Fri & Sat till midnight
Everglades Fishing Co. / Nely's Corner Open M-Th 5:30 am to 8pm, Sat Sun till 10 pm 203 Collier Avenue, (239-695-4222)
Havana Café (239-695-2214): Closed for Summer.
Hole in the Wall Pizza (239-695-4444) M-Th 11am-7pm, Fri & Sat 11 am-9 pm
Island Café (239-695-0003): 6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily
Ivey House (239-695-3299) (Private) 7:00 am – 9:00 am; daily (for guests only)
Joanie's Crab Café (239-695-2682): Open Daily 10:30 am to 5 pm, Closed Wed.
Rod & Gun (239-695-2101): 11:30 am - 8:00 pm; daily
Triad Seafood & Café (239-695-2662): Closed for Summer
MARKETS
Right Choice Market (239-695-4535): Open 7 days, 9 am to 7 pm
Grimm's Stone Crab (239-695-3222): Closed for Summer
Fresh Produce
Right Choice Supermarket See listing under "markets"
SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES
Chokoloskee Family Church Sunday: 10 am Sch., 11 am Worship
Copeland Baptist Church Sunday: 10 am School, 11 am Worship
Everglades Community Church 11:00 am Sunday Worship, See ad p. 8
1st Baptist Church of Everglades City 9:45 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship 6 pm Sunday, 6 pm Wed. Bible Study
Holy Family Catholic Church Closed for Summer. Reopening Dec. 5, 2021
St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples Phone: 239-417-2084
San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl. 239-394-5181

BARRON RIVER TIDES

6/12/2021	Sat	5:35 AM	2.17	H
6/12/2021	Sat	11:15 AM	0.93	L
6/12/2021	Sat	3:30 PM	2.91	H
6/13/2021	Sun	12:28 AM	-0.19	L
6/13/2021	Sun	6:23 AM	2.19	H
6/13/2021	Sun	11:51 AM	0.95	L
6/13/2021	Sun	4:02 PM	2.87	H
6/14/2021	Mon	1:09 AM	-0.15	L
6/14/2021	Mon	7:11 AM	2.22	H
6/14/2021	Mon	12:34 PM	0.96	L
6/14/2021	Mon	4:44 PM	2.8	H
6/15/2021	Tue	1:52 AM	-0.07	L
6/15/2021	Tue	7:59 AM	2.27	H
6/15/2021	Tue	1:26 PM	0.96	L
6/15/2021	Tue	5:40 PM	2.68	H
6/16/2021	Wed	2:40 AM	0.03	L
6/16/2021	Wed	8:46 AM	2.33	H
6/16/2021	Wed	2:37 PM	0.92	L
6/16/2021	Wed	6:50 PM	2.54	H
6/17/2021	Thu	3:34 AM	0.16	L
6/17/2021	Thu	9:28 AM	2.41	H
6/17/2021	Thu	4:04 PM	0.81	L
6/17/2021	Thu	8:31 PM	2.39	H
6/18/2021	Fri	4:31 AM	0.29	L
6/18/2021	Fri	10:08 AM	2.51	H
6/18/2021	Fri	5:16 PM	0.62	L
6/18/2021	Fri	10:06 PM	2.31	H
6/19/2021	Sat	5:27 AM	0.42	L
6/19/2021	Sat	10:46 AM	2.63	H
6/19/2021	Sat	6:17 PM	0.37	L
6/19/2021	Sat	11:30 PM	2.29	H
6/20/2021	Sun	6:21 AM	0.56	L
6/20/2021	Sun	11:25 AM	2.79	H
6/20/2021	Sun	7:15 PM	0.11	L
6/21/2021	Mon	12:49 AM	2.32	H
6/21/2021	Mon	7:15 AM	0.67	L
6/21/2021	Mon	12:07 PM	2.96	H
6/21/2021	Mon	8:10 PM	-0.14	L
6/22/2021	Tue	1:57 AM	2.37	H
6/22/2021	Tue	8:07 AM	0.76	L
6/22/2021	Tue	12:50 PM	3.15	H
6/22/2021	Tue	9:02 PM	-0.35	L
6/23/2021	Wed	2:54 AM	2.38	H
6/23/2021	Wed	8:56 AM	0.81	L
6/23/2021	Wed	1:33 PM	3.31	H
6/23/2021	Wed	9:53 PM	-0.48	L
6/24/2021	Thu	3:49 AM	2.36	H
6/24/2021	Thu	9:43 AM	0.84	L
6/24/2021	Thu	2:16 PM	3.42	H
6/24/2021	Thu	10:43 PM	-0.53	L
6/25/2021	Fri	4:44 AM	2.32	H
6/25/2021	Fri	10:31 AM	0.85	L
6/25/2021	Fri	3:01 PM	3.43	H
6/25/2021	Fri	11:32 PM	-0.5	L

Mark Your Calendar!
Join the Parade
Independence Day Celebration
June 26, 2021, 10 a.m.. Everglades City



This year's Independence Day celebration will be held on **June 26th**.

The creativity was at an all time high in 2019, and 2020 was expected to be the best ever...but we were forced to wait a year...

We can only imagine what a year's worth of pent up creativity will bring out! We expect to see some pretty amazing carts and trailers....so start creating now!

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


The opening ceremony will take place at 10 am on the steps of City Hall with the parade following immediately afterwards.. 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 239-695-4558.

For Events, Maps, Visitor Information:
www.VisitEvergladesCity.com



Chokoloskee Family Church

"Doing Life Together"

Sun. Marriage Class-9:00 am
Sun. Worship-11:00 am
Sun. 5:30 pm-Celebrate Recovery
Kids Program-Wed 7:00 pm
Kids Program- Sun. 11:00 am
Wed. Bible Study -7:00 pm
at Island Café-Free Coffee & Pie
Phone: 239-232-0098

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.

UNWANTED PLANTS? Don't throw them away! We can recycle them for the annual plant sale benefiting the school. Call before you discard them. One person's trash is another's treasure! Call 954-662-7003.

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. The center is located in Everglades City across from the Rod & Gun Club. Summer hours vary.

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.

HELP WANTED: 25- 30 hours per week. Multi-tasker: Cleaning, Laundry, light maintenance. Contact Jaye at River Wilderness 239-695-4499.



Help Save the Bank of Everglades Building. Learn how you can help:

www.SaveBOE.com www.ESHP.org

The MULLET RAPPER

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

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We strive to present the facts accurately

We encourage contrasting points of view

The views expressed in signed articles are not necessarily those of the editors or publisher.

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"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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