

# The MULLET RAPPER



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



**September 18, 2021 - October 1, 2021**

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

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## Annual Blessing of the Fleet October 2, 2021, 10:30 am Rod & Gun Club



The annual Blessing of the Fleet, the day we celebrate our hard working stone crab fleet, will take place this year on October 2nd.

Boats will arrive at the docks along the historic Rod & Gun Club at 10:30 am, with the blessing by the local clergy taking place immediately thereafter.

If you are one of the best bakers in town, it's time to show off your skills by entering your favorite coconut guava cake. Anyone wishing to enter the contest should drop their cake off by 10 am so that the judges can select the tastiest guava cake.

This is a great time to thank the captains and crew who work so hard to provide one of the ocean's best delicacies for all of us to enjoy them. We hope to see you there!

**What: Blessing of the Fleet**  
**When: October 2, 2021**  
**Where Rod & Gun Club, Everglades City**  
**Why: Because We Love Stone Crabs!**

For more information, please contact Tod Dahlke at toddahlke@aol.com or by phone at 239-695-4444.

**BLESSING OF THE FLEET  
Everyone is Invited to Attend!**

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**FEATURED: PASTOR BOB, P. 8**

## 4th Annual Hook'em In The Glades Fishing Fundraiser, October 23, 2021 Parkway Motel & Marina, Chokoloskee, FL

The fourth annual Hook'em In The Glades fishing fundraiser will take place on October 23, 2021. This year's fishing fundraiser for Everglades City School will include multiple divisions; Adult Boat Division, Student Boat Division, Paddle Division, and the Student On-Shore Division.

The fishing-fundraiser, developed by Everglades City School Activities & Athletic Director, Jill Whitcomb, was established to create a family-oriented event in the community that helps raise funds for student events, student athletics, and beneficial programs like the Leader in Me Program. Everglades City School one of only two K-12 schools in the state.

Teams and anglers will fish the 10,000 islands for a chance to catch the biggest Snook, Redfish, and Seatrout while supporting Everglades City school.

The Captains Meeting will be held on Friday, October 22 at Parkway Motel & Marina, located at 1180 Chokoloskee Dr, Chokoloskee, FL 34138.

Captain's Check-in & Happy Hour starts at 5:30 pm. Dinner, catered by **Camellia Street Grill**, will be served at 6:30 pm. Captains must attend to receive their official tournament measuring device and tournament rules.

Details about the tournament, tournament rules, and registration information can be found at [www.hookemintheglades.com](http://www.hookemintheglades.com).

You may register and pay online or download the registration form and mail it in with the registration fee.

We look forward to seeing you at the tournament!

Photos: Top: Tournament founder, Jill Whitcomb, shows her big snook! Bottom: two youths in 2019 tournament fish for the big ones!



~ EVENT CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER 19, 2021 - OCTOBER 23, 2021 ~

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
September 19	20-Full Moon	21 P & Z	22 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	30 Museum Event See P.9	October 1	Oct. 2—Rapper  Blessing of the Fleet
3	4 ESHP, 9 am	5 City Council, 7 pm	6-New Moon Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	7 Lions Club, 6 pm	8	9
10	11	12	13 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm	14 Museum Talk, 5-7 pm, See p. 9	15	16
17	18	19 P & Z	20-Full Moon Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm Fak Tour, See p. 8	21	22 Fishing Tourney See p. 1 Clyde Butcher Event, p. 5	23 Fishing Tourney See p. 1 Clyde Butcher Event, p. 5
Oct. 30: Bank Event, see p. 3			Oct. 30: Local Halloween			
Oct. 31: Halloween Day		Nov 6: E City Music Festival, see p. 3		December 11: Killing Mr. Watson		

**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: 2nd Thursday of the month. 6 pm. Island Cafe  
 MUSEUM: Open Tuesday-Saturday, 9 am to 2 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: Wednesdays at the food pantry, 10:30am-1pm  
 VISITOR CENTER: (239)-232-4037 10 am—2 pm, Friday—Sunday, hours may vary. Center is open on Monday holidays.

**The Local Area Code is 239**

**POST OFFICE INFORMATION:**

Chokoloskee (239) 695-4468  
 Mail pickup is at Everglades City Post Office, see times below  
 Everglades City (239) 695-2174  
 (M-F: 9:30 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 4:30 pm, closed Sat. & Sun.)  
 Ochopee (239) 695-2099  
 (M-F: 8 am to 10 am, noon to 4 pm; Sa: 10 am to 11:30 am)

**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  
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**What's  
Happening!**

**Hook 'em in the Glades  
Fishing Tournament  
October 22-23**

Hook 'em is back! This year's tournament will feature great prizes and a fantastic Captains Meeting & Dinner which will be catered by Camellia Street Grill.

Best of all, proceeds from this event support Everglades City School programs including, Leader-in-me, and athletics! Sign up and learn more at our official site [www.HookemintheGlades.com](http://www.HookemintheGlades.com)

**Exclusive Tour of  
Bank of Everglades Building,  
Lunch at Rod & Gun Club  
Oct. 30, 2021**

These exclusive tours include a discussion about the history of the Bank of Everglades Building, lunch at the Rod & Gun Club, and a beautiful Donald Sunshine framed print of the historic building. Tickets are \$150. Each tour is limited to 10 persons. For ticket information, go to [www.SaveBOE.com](http://www.SaveBOE.com), and click on "events".

**Everglades City Music Festival  
November 6, 2021, 11:00 am—6:00 pm  
At the Historic Rod & Gun Club**

Mark your Calendar! You won't want to miss the Everglades City Music Festival!

The day will feature great local performers, live auctions, and arts and crafts booths. The event is hosted by the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation (ESHP), and proceeds from the event will go towards the renovation of the Bank of Everglades Building, the future permanent home of the Everglades Area Visitor Center and Trail Town Headquarters.

Reserved Seats are \$50/person, includes souvenir program, and general admission is \$40/car or \$20/motorcycle or \$20/pedestrian. **For tickets or more information about the event visit [www.SaveBOE.com](http://www.SaveBOE.com) and click on "events".**

For information about ESHP and the bank building renovation project visit [www.eshp.org](http://www.eshp.org) or [www.SaveBOE.com](http://www.SaveBOE.com).

Thank you for your support!

**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**

The Everglades Area Visitor Center is located at 207 Broadway W., Everglades City.

There are also two brochure racks at City Hall with information about local businesses. You can visit City Hall Monday—Friday from 9 am to 5 pm.

**You may also access the area's  
complete business directory at  
[www.VisitEvergladesCity.com](http://www.VisitEvergladesCity.com).**

**Veterans Assistance**

Every Wednesday the Department of Veterans Affairs Readjustment Counseling Service will have a tent at Everglades Community Church on the circle. **No appointment is needed.** Gloria Salmeron and David Soldano are there to assist and answer any questions.. The Naples Vet Center is located at 2705 Horseshoe Drive South, Suite #204, Naples FL 34104. Office Phone (239) 403- 2377. Office FAX (239) 403-2388.

**~Area Fishing Guide Memorial~  
Your Input is Needed!**

Captain Mike Merritt, longtime resident of Everglades City and fishing guide, is working on a project to photograph and document all of the fishing guides who have worked and fished the 10,000 Islands out of our area.

If you are a guide, or if you know one, who may be interested in this project being spearheaded by Captain Merritt, please call him so he can explain the details. You can call **Captain Merritt at 561-252-4324.**

The guides who share their love and knowledge of the area, and help educate others about the importance of the 10,000 Islands, should be remembered as ambassadors of the Everglades forever. Please contact Mike at **561-252-4324.** with any information.

**Have an Emergency Kit Ready!  
It's Still Hurricane Season**

We are in the midst of hurricane season. Do you have an emergency kit ready in case an evacuation was ordered?

Experts recommend packing a duffel bag with these essential items:

- Water (a 3-day supply of water for each person)
- Food (a 3-day supply of non-perishable, easy-to-prepare items)
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (with extra batteries)
- Flashlight
- First aid kit
- Multi-purpose tool
- Extra cash
- Car and house keys
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- Pet food for each pet for 3 days
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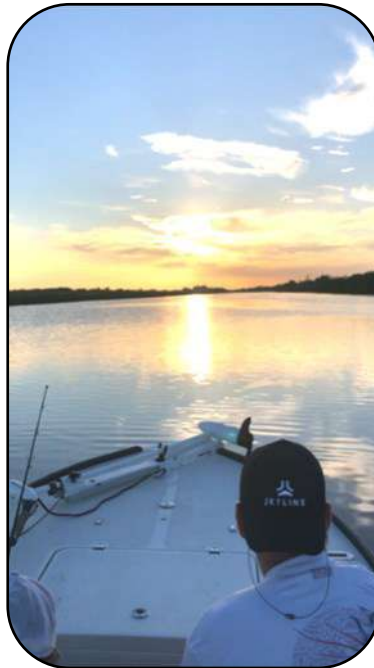
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*Adventures of the Saltwater Cowboy – "Beavertail Sandwich"*

*Jon Edward Edwards*



The sun was low on the horizon as we sliced down the Upper Caloosahatchee Waterway in my 17' Beavertail Skiff. When we came around a bend facing due west, the reflection of the sunbeam off the water looked like a barrel of fire. I lined my eye up with the bright orange sight at the end. Barren and pastoral, mangrove shores on both sides, silver water, still in the near dusk hour. No one said a word. The bow hopped, bouncing wind off the slick water, popping my ears. The four of us focused like a team of Tier One Special Forces Operators.

That may be stretching it a bit, and I'm not trying to steal any valor. However, we did have two gator tags to fill, which qualifies as a Special Operation - with a dangerous and formidable opponent. *We were a team; everyone had a position*

When the sun had set, and darkness fell, we trolled the banks, scanning with powerful headlamps and flashlights, searching for pairs of eyes – red eyes. Coop and I stood on the bow, slapping at mosquitoes; me on the trolling motor holding a light, and Coop holding a stout grouper rod with a 12/0 treble hook and a 2-ounce lead weight.

"Arrigader, one o'clock," I said, taking a knee. Operating the trolling motor in my left hand, I held the flashlight steady on the red dots with my right. Coop fired a cast over my head like a catcher throwing to

second base, but beyond, launching the grappling system well beyond the alligator.

"What did you say?" Bill Murray asked with a laugh. We call Coop's dad Bill Murray due to the slight resemblance. I can kind of see it, but mostly it's just fun to call him that. Although, one such as I must be careful, as this Bill Murray is a former professional hockey player who keeps himself in shape. As such, he could pound me into the ground like a two-pound sledgehammer on a stake. He's kind of like a coach, but a cool one. Not the one that walked the sidelines with a chinstrap, just looking for a reason to wrap someone on the helmet with the button end ..., *BING!*

"That's how they say alligator over there in the backwoods of the Mississippi River Delta," Coop said to his dad as he reeled like a madman until the treble hook was just beyond the prehistoric beast.

"Yeah," I made a half turn to Bill Murray and repeated, "Arrigader." He just shook his head. Coop pulled the tackle into the gator with a fast-sweeping motion of the rod, to which it took offense. The hook never hit home, and the angry gator sulked away.

(Continued on Page 5)

[www.bobwellsrealestate.us](http://www.bobwellsrealestate.us)  
[bob@bobwellsrealestate.us](mailto:bob@bobwellsrealestate.us)

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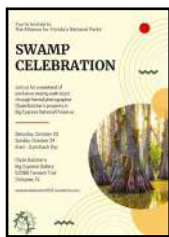
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**Swamp Celebration for the Parks  
8th Annual / Big Cypress Gallery  
October 23 & 24, 8:00 am-3:00 pm**



Our annual two-day swamp walk fundraiser is back once again!

This exclusive event gives supporters of The Alliance for Florida's National Parks an opportunity to explore the private property surrounding Clyde Butcher's Big Cypress Gallery within Big Cypress National Preserve.

These adventurous outings are in support of Big Cypress's youth environmental education program, which serves every 6th-grade student in Collier County each year. With support from The Alliance, around 3,000 kids are able to experience the natural and wild wonders of Southwest Florida through this program.

During the Swamp Celebration, swamp walks will take place on Saturday, October 23, and Sunday, October 24, from 8 am – 3 pm each day.

Each walk will be spaced 30 minutes apart and will be limited to 10 adults and up to five children per walk. Tickets are \$75 per adult and \$25 per child age 12 and under. The first 25 adult tickets purchased can receive the \$50 early bird ticket price using code SWAMP2021.

**This event sells out every year so get your tickets early! Call (305) 665-4769 with questions, or go to [clydebutcher.com](http://clydebutcher.com).**

**ON THIS DATE**

by **Marya Repko**

In 1790, the new republic of the United States decided to move its Congress from Pennsylvania to a more central location, the swampy bank of the Potomac River which separates Maryland and Virginia.

George Washington hired Pierre Charles L'Enfant, an engineer and artist who had moved to America in 1777 and served in the revolutionary army. Colonial Americans had sympathetic links with France after support during the War of Independence and favorable treatment of popular ambassador Benjamin Franklin.

The design of "Congress House" (the name changed to "Capitol" by Thomas Jefferson) was put out for bids and, after squabbles, George Washington laid the cornerstone, amidst celebrations, on September 18, 1793.

During the 228 years since then, the building and surrounding support edifices have grown around the elegant design of the original city.

(Con't from page 4, Saltwater Cowboy)

We continued the hunt as I poured sweat, moving from cove to cove, canal to canal, looking for The Big One, humidity so thick you could cut it with a hatchet.

Stopping in the middle of a large reservoir off the river packed with lily pads, Coop brought out the blue tooth speaker and synced it with his phone. Through the speaker came a series of chirping croaks, the sound made by juvenile alligators; the equivalent to a hail call at a flock of mallards high in a bluebird sky, eyeballing a decoy spread in a flooded rice field. It didn't take long before Ashley spotted a set of eyes the size of Red Delicious apples making way towards us.

I ducked down and held my light on the set of eyes. Coop catapulted the medieval-looking contraption well beyond the alligator. Reelreelreelreel ..., he closed the distance, but the gator darted forward. I followed him with the light. Coop adjusted course with the rod until the egg sinker was directly behind him. Then, Wham! Coop set the hook, and we began to have ourselves a rodeo.

The gator took off towards the river. Big ..., real big - we guessed about twelve feet. I chased it out of the lake and into the main river, Coop keeping steady pressure, gaining line as he could. A long and arduous battle ensued, and Coop nearly had the gator whipped. I was now using the trolling motor in closer quarters, making strategic moves in tandem with the direction of the fight. Ashley, Coop's girlfriend, an accomplished outdoorswoman in her own right, held the light while I kept us in position. It turns out that professional hockey players from Canada have Cowboy skills because Bill Murray lassooed the gator like a team roper.

Then, in an instant, the trolling motor stopped. "What happened!" hollered Coop, changing direction, tugging the giant head in the opposite direction, away from the bank.

I lifted the trolling motor out of the water and turned the handle. The prop spun but barely. "Snapped cotter pin!" I yelled back. The gator had pulled us dangerously close to a steep bank, jagged with rip-rap.

By the time I ran down the gunnel and fired the engine, the gator had twisted tight to the boat and was having a sandwich of the port bow. I can still hear the teeth grinding the fiberglass, Crunch, Crunch, Crunch ... Just like that, repeatedly. "Hey, Man!" I shouted as if someone sprayed sunscreen all over my cushions. I got the motor going and backed us away from the bank. Bill Murray held fast, but the gator swung its head 180 degrees to the other side and chomped at it. "Hey! You're running up a bill here, Man!"

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



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**Living Gulf Coast by Charles Sobczak**

**White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*)** Other names: none / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=LC / Life span: to 7 years / Length: 4.3-5.1 in. (11-13 cm) / Wingspan: 6.7 in. (17 cm) / Weight: 0.4-0.5 oz (10-14 g) / Nests: in the Southeast as far north as southern Iowa / Found: mostly during the peak winter months throughout Southwest Florida.

Identified by its whitish-colored eye, this little bird wears a pair of



yellow spectacles around that bright white iris. It is a fairly common winter resident on the islands but prefers to feed in thick underbrush, making it difficult to spot. It does not sing as much during the summer breeding season,

saving its lovely song, which usually begins with a sharp *chick*, for Floridians to enjoy. The white-eyed vireo's migration range extends as far south as the Yucatan and as far north as Iowa.

Feeding mostly on insects, snails, and spiders, the vireo has also been known to take small lizards, fruits, and berries. It is subject to cowbirds laying their eggs in its nests, but overall is doing quite well throughout its range.

*Charles Sobczak is a writer and photographer from Sanibel Island, FL. You can find his books on Amazon and other booksellers. White Eyed Vireo photo by Dick Fortune.*

**Migratory Birds Arriving Soon!**

Just a few of the birds migrating through and/or into our area (SWFL) starting late September through November: Vireos, warblers, buntings, kestrels, bald eagles, white pelicans and hummingbirds! Get a great pair of binoculars and enjoy them!

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

The Redfish have fired up really good this month. We are catching plenty on the incoming tide and they are getting bigger!

More oversize fish are being caught but there are more fish in the slot than anything else. Live bait, cut bait, shrimp, jigs all producing. If you find one fish chances are you will find more in the same area so search around. They seem to be all along the coast now so where you fish isn't as important as the tide you fish.

Of course it is Snook season and there are lots of smaller fish being caught. Slot size fish are a little harder to find. There are also some oversize fish being caught. Bait has really shown up in great numbers and the bigger the bait the bigger the fish right now.

There are still lots of smaller Tarpon throughout the islands too. We are catching these wherever the bait schools are. A few bigger ones mixed in that are mainly feeding on the Mullet.

**Over all, the fishing is on fire right now.** If you catch a good incoming tide you are going to have a great day! Good luck and stay hydrated! ~**Capt. Mike Merritt**

**Fish With Captain Mike Merritt**  
561-252-4324 or email [SnookFishing1@juno.com](mailto:SnookFishing1@juno.com)

**Be BearWise: Follow FWC's bear necessities this fall**

Fall is approaching and that means Florida black bears are traveling and searching for food. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) reminds you to help protect both people and bears by securing garbage and other items that could attract these animals to your yard or neighborhood.

Throughout the fall, bears require around 20,000 calories per day and will eat anything that's convenient, including items in your garbage.

To keep bears wild and away from your home, follow these BearWise tips:

- Secure household garbage in a sturdy shed, garage or a wildlife-resistant container.
- Put household garbage out on the morning of pickup rather than the night before.
- Secure commercial garbage in bear-resistant dumpsters.
- Protect gardens, bee yards, compost and livestock with electric fencing.
- Feed pets indoors or bring the dishes in after feeding.
- Be aware when walking your dog and use a non-retractable leash.
- Clean grills and store them in a secure place.
- Pick ripe fruit from trees and remove fallen fruit from the ground.
- Remove bird feeders or make them bear-resistant.

See how-to videos and information on securing attractants in the "Brochures and Videos" section at [MyFWC.com/Bear](http://MyFWC.com/Bear).

It is illegal in Florida to intentionally feed bears or to leave out food or garbage that will attract bears and cause human-bear conflicts. If you see or suspect that someone is feeding or attracting bears, please call the FWC's **Wildlife Alert Hotline** at 1-888-404-FWCC (3922).

**The Mullet Rapper Supports the Everglades Community and Everglades City School**  
*Each year, The Mullet Rapper hosts plant sales, and other events, to raise money for Everglades City School. Please help us support our local children by attending one of the school fundraiser events!*

**Clyde Butcher's  
BIG CYPRESS GALLERY**  
Fine Art Black & White Photography



239-695-2428  
23 miles east of Everglades City  
52388 Tamiami Trail East, MM 54.5  
Ochopee, FL 34141  
Open 7 days a week 10 am to 5 pm  
clydebutcher.com

**Shop Amazon and Give to a Local  
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Here's How - in Just a Click!  
(This can be done all year long)**

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!

Contact us by email at  
[mulletrapper@gmail.com](mailto:mulletrapper@gmail.com)  
Call us at:  
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*Jensen Rose Spa at  
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**Haava Blakemore**

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Walk ins welcome, appt. preferred.  
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**Facials, Back Facials, Waxing,  
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EVERGLADES  
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-Guided Swamp Walks  
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Karen Cochran,  
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**PICK UP AND BUY TICKETS  
AT THE NATIONAL PARK OFFICE**  
815 OYSTER BAY LANE,  
EVERGLADES CITY, FL. 34139

Authorized  
Concessioner

**September 18, 2021 Puzzle Solution**

1	S	W	A	T	5	O	R	B									
8	C	H	I	L	I	9	P	O	E	T							
11	D	O	L	C	E	12	E	T	H	E	R						
14	C	O	L	O	R	S	15	C	H	E	M	E					
							16	V	E	T		17	S	P	A		
18	S	P	E	E	D	O	M	E	T	E	R						
23	H	E	X				24	W	O	N							
25	I	N	O	R	D	E	R	T	H	A	T						
31	N	A	D	I	R		32	P	R	A	D	A					
							33	L	U	T	E	34	H	E	L	E	N
							35	S	A	W	36	S	E	E	N		

**Anybody want to buy a slightly used exercise machine?**

By Pastor Bob Wallace



A couple of years ago I thought I needed to lose some weight. I wasn't walking enough. So, I bought a treadmill. I've tried to use it, but I don't like it! It's supposed to simulate a brisk walk through a neighborhood. However, it's not my neighborhood! And when you're standing on a slanted, slippery, moving piece of rubber in front of a tv screen it's not the same. The "walking machine" never wants to slow down. Or, if you do, your balance becomes a problem! It's quite a chore. And I've never managed to do it for more than five minutes.



So, I got a new exercise machine! It's supposed to get rid of my bulging middle by increasing the size of my abdominal muscles. I haven't quite figured that one out yet. But the thing came with an instructional CD video which I immediately sat down and watched on my computer. What a hoot! All I can say is, watching a superbly muscle-toned athlete performing exercises in a video that I'm supposed to do on my own machine is funny!

This new-fangled thing for my bulging middle had me lying flat on the floor, lifting my back with my arms, all while simultaneously elevating my legs off the floor. This is supposed to reduce my middle? Well, let me tell you, watching it being done, and then doing it myself, is laughable!

I was trying out my new automatic "tummy-tuck" machine the other day when my wife walked through the room and asked, "How'ya doin' with all those exercises?"

"This isn't the time to talk about it!" I moaned as my legs were going one way and my back another being guided by my flailing arms going another way.

"But I thought you liked doing exercises?"

"I do! I do! But there's gotta' be an easier way to stay in shape than with these contraptions", I said breathlessly.

You see, I still believe that word "yard" continues to be one of the best forms of exercise. You know, you walk behind your lawnmower for 20 minutes or more once a week mowing the yard. You stoop and kneel down to pick weeds as you work in the yard in the flower beds. And there's plenty of lifting as you gather up the yard waste to take it curbside for pickup by the trash removal company. You don't get any of that on those machines. No siree! See what I mean? Who needs all those expensive gadgets?

I have, however, thoroughly convinced myself that exercise machines are made in "the devil's workshop". They have become implements of torture sold to us in moments of desperation and weakness. My VISA card is evidence to that. Advertising, and 1-800 numbers, can become tricky tools of deception for those who succumb to moments of temptation. And apparently, I'm not the only one who feels this way.

A lot of people who have tried exercise machines have given up on them. Drive by almost any garage or yard sale and you'll see a stationary bicycle, or some other contraption, luring some unsuspecting person into the "unused" snare. But that's not all bad. It's created a second-hand exercise equipment market, most of which look very slightly used. In fact, they look almost brand new! Really, losing weight and maintaining a fairly svelte figure can be accomplished, if you try.

Sitting in front of a TV munching on goodies all day long doesn't quite get the job done. A person needs to be active to burn calories. But, if that's not possible, count your calories. It's as simple as that! If you really want to do it right, figure out how many calories you need to maintain the weight you desire. There are a lot of good apps available these days. Look at one of their charts, figure out what exercise you like that burns up the calories you need to burn, and then do it! That's it! Fewer calories. More exercise. Equal a trimmer you!

The day finally came when I said to myself, I didn't need that walking machine or tummy tuck machine anymore. So, I decided to have a garage sale! I opened the garage door and put-up a FOR SALE sign. What I actually meant was, anybody want to buy a couple of exercise machines – cheap?

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**Moonlit tram tour of Fakahatchee  
Oct.20 Kicks Off  
Friends of Fakahatchee Fall Tours**



The Friends of Fakahatchee will offer their first tour of the fall season the evening of Wednesday, October 20 with their Moonlit Tram tour. The

three-hour tour lets visitors experience Florida's largest state park under the illumination of a full moon. The Moonlit tours sell out rapidly, so early reservations are essential. Additional tours are offered Nov. 18 and 19 and Dec. 19 as well as next year.

Starting time for the October tour is 4:30 pm, prime time for photography and spotting some of the mammal residents and birds settling in for the evening.

The 12-passenger tram allows for social distancing and provides an excellent platform for viewing park features by moonlight. City-dwellers will be amazed at how their vision changes as their eyes adapt to the light the moon provides.

Experienced naturalists lead tours and demonstrate communication with denizens of the night, including fireflies, bats and owls. The tram is wheelchair accessible and some seats face backwards. Participants will be required to sign a standard release of liability form.

**For complete details, starting time and reservations at \$35 per person, visit [www.orchidswamp.org](http://www.orchidswamp.org) and click "Tours and Events."**



**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](http://www.ever-community-church.com)



## What's Happening At The Museum of Everglades

### → Exhibit

#### Pioneering the Past:

#### The Story of the Brickell Family

September– November 27, 2021

Museum of the Everglades

Guest curator Cesar Becerra a noted Florida historian and "Everglades Evangelist", created this traveling tribute to William and Mary Brickell: early pioneer settlers in South Florida whose story has been largely diminished or even ignored in favor of a more romantic narrative. The exhibit explores the marginalization of the couple's role as the co-founders of Miami as well as their contributions to the birth and growth of commerce in South Florida as a whole. Mr. Becerra was the speaker for September's Third Thursday lecture and discussed the topic in depth. Copies of his new book "Orange Blossom 2.0" was available at the talk.

### → Event

#### Stories of a Sportsmen's Paradise: A Folk Art Experience October 14, 5:00 –7:00 pm

Step back in time at Museum of the Everglades, where you'll hear rich stories of how the Ten Thousand Islands became a magnet for avid anglers and enthusiastic adventurers—including why Everglades City just might be the birth-place of the modern fishing lure. But this experience offers much more than fanciful fish tales.

Step behind the scenes with the museum's curator, and explore an exclusive archive of previously unseen works of local folk art. To complete the adventure, each participant will receive their own personal rustic masterpiece as a souvenir of the experience. This immersive experience redefines how stories are told and will leave you wanting more and ready to explore. \$35 per person includes intimate guided tour, exclusive access to rare artifacts, and the opportunity to make a piece of personal folk art (all materials provided). Minimum of 4, maximum 12 participants.

**This a ticketed event and requires registration.** For tickets, dates, and times go to [colliermuseums.com](http://colliermuseums.com)

### → Third Thursday Lecture Series:

#### The Skunk Ape, "South Florida's Bigfoot" OCTOBER 21 @ 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

The roots of the Bigfoot/Yeti archetype in cultures around the world will be examined along with local Native American legends and historic sightings of this odiferous, swamp-dwelling furry humanoid. A Q&A session following the talk will feature local authors and experts on the topic.

### → Third Thursday Lecture Series:

#### Trading Posts of South Florida- Early Commerce on Florida's Frontier November 18, 3:00-5:00 pm

In recognition of National Native American Heritage Month, this presentation will focus on the role of frontier trading posts in the development of relationships between the indigenous people of South Florida and white settlers who came to live in the region. The evolution of trade and commerce in frontier society—beginning at remote outposts accessible only by water and later all but eradicated by the building of the Tamiami Trail—will be discussed at length.



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

## The Not-Gladesman II by Diallo Xia



Once in a blue moon, I go for a walk in the night to pick up food from a restaurant. If you see a shadowy figure on the sidewalk, that may be me. And because I am a curious figure, sometimes I find things while I think and whistle at the stars not present in the wake of electromagnetic radiation. That's where I can find a place where dragonflies land on the brink of my nose for a moment and fly away the next.

But this night, in the parking lot of the said restaurant, I saw a little thing, scuttling around. At first sight, I thought I found one of those smiley-faced crabs that hide in holes as big as your finger, but on closer inspection, under the dim streetlight it turned out to be a tiny turtle about as wide as a ping pong ball, with three black spots on its back.

"Well, hello there," I said, picking up the baby turtle. It shrank its head back in fear, likely thinking I was some strange bird about to peck its eyes out for dinner. In fact, I was there for a shrimp alfredo pasta, but that's another point entirely.

"You're too cute to die," I thought, looking around at the parking lot. If I left it here, it'd probably get crushed. So, I walked up to the Cafe to see if anyone knew what to do with a baby turtle in a parking lot, and a pair of men dining told me it was probably going towards the streetlights, likely trying to follow the moon but ending up a little lost. That was when I decided to help it, and crossed the mostly-quiet highway to place it in the dark grass, facing the river.

Hopefully, that little turtle made it back. We all get a little lost sometimes, and I think we could all use a little help. I certainly made it back, with dinner.

*- Diallo Xia, 16, is a writer and student living in Everglades City.  
You can find his blog at <https://flotus.micro.blog>.*

## September City Council Meeting Highlights



The City of Everglades held its September council meeting on September 7th. All council persons were in attendance.

The council unanimously approved the following:

- The council voted to accept the \$4,340,160 grant to construct a new sewer plant. Mayor Grimm indicated that the design plans are in process and will be completed in the next few weeks. Once plans are approved, permitting and scheduling can begin.
- The council pass a formal proclamation supporting the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation efforts to renovate the Bank of Everglades Building.
- Sewer rates will increase slightly (6%), and water rates will increase (5.7%) in accordance with Rural Florida Water's recommendation. Adjusting the rates is necessary to keep pace with rising costs for repairs and maintenance, and to generate funds for reserves for future repairs.

Other matters were also discussed. The Tower is supposedly on track to be replaced in the center circle sometime later this year.

The City's Assistant Attorney suggested the review of the historic district, and asked whether it should be revamped to identify specific structures versus "a district".

Mayor Grimm states at each meeting that any public documents can be requested by contacting City Hall. You can reach City Hall at 239-695-3871 to inquire about such documents.

*The Island Life Recipes*  
**One Ingredient "Banana Ice Cream"**  
 Submitted by Elaine Middelstaedt

**Start with soft, very ripe bananas.** Peel the bananas and chop into small pieces. It doesn't matter what shape or size the pieces are in, as long as they are evenly sized. Place in a freezer-safe glass bowl or freezer bag. Freeze until solid, at least 2 hours but ideally overnight.

Transfer the frozen banana pieces into a small food processor or high-speed blender. (We've found that a small food processor or chopper works best.) Pulse to break up. The banana will look crumbly. Keep pulsing. At first the banana pieces will look crumbled or smashed. Scrape down the food processor.

Switch to blending. It will look gooey, like banana mush. Scrape down the food processor. Keep blending - the banana will look like oatmeal. Keep blending. It will get smoother but still have chunks of banana in it. Scrape down the food processor.

**Watch the magic happen!** Suddenly, as the last bits of banana smooth out, you'll see the mixture shift from blended banana to creamy, soft-serve ice cream texture. Blend for a few more seconds to aerate the ice cream. (If adding any mix-ins, like peanut butter or chocolate chips, this is the moment to do it.)

Transfer to an airtight container and freeze until solid. You can eat the ice cream immediately, but it will be quite soft. You can also transfer it back into the airtight container and freeze it until solid, like traditional ice cream. ENJOY!



*My Little Slice of Paradise*  
 By Kathy Brock

Oh my. We adopted a puppy! We named him "Odie". Tim and I have always had a dog, or a couple of them in our 40 years (wow!) together.

Our last three have been rescues and adult-age by the time we adopted them. Sunny, our 6-year-old, was about 3 when we got her and she seemed quite frisky and playful. Well, that was until we adopted Odie at the age of 6 months.

As of today, Odie has been in our home for 8 days. The first few days he was quite timid and nervous.

Sunny was "underwhelmed" when we brought him home. She went with us to Homestead where Odie was living for 6 weeks after being dumped on the side of the road with a sibling.

He sat stoically in my lap for the 2-hour drive home never making a sound or attempting to wriggle away. She sat next to me with him in my lap wondering why he was in it and not her...

Once home, we let them both out of the car, and Sunny chased him around the yard a bit and then grew tired of it and walked away.

For the next few days, she watched him, interacted a bit but never attempted to play with him again. As the days passed, they settled into their "new normal". On day 7 she initiated play, a breakthrough of sorts! She likes him!

There is nothing quite like the adoration you get from a puppy. They shower you with affection and kisses. They want to please you and be with you. They are always bouncy and happy. They wake up ready to play and keep playing unless they are sleeping.

Everything is new to Odie. As his confidence grows so does his naughtiness. The silk plant in the corner? Yep. It must be a toy. Socks? Those are fun to play with too. A stern voice is all that is needed to let him know that we are not happy. His reaction to that voice lets you know that someone, before he was rescued, was very mean to him. Such is the case with rescue dogs, even very young ones.

Of course, it can be frustrating having a baby dog zooming around while you are trying to concentrate on producing the Mullet Rapper! But making the decision to bring a young (or older) pet home should come with the understanding that everything will not be easy-peasy. There will be a few bumps (and piddles) along the way. Rescues often have some issues they need to get over before they round into the dog they will become.

I am so very thankful that my dear husband is so understanding and patient. We are both experienced pet owners and our expectations for Odie are reasonable...which allows us to fully enjoy every minute of what's left of his very short puppyhood.

Today, and every day, our furries make us smile and laugh as they frolic without a care in the world. Dogs are not in everyone's future but for those of us who choose to coexist with them, the love of a puppy is something you will never grow tired of. Welcome home Odie!

**MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD**

**Across**

- 1 Doe's beau
- 5 Draconian
- 10 Prolonged unconsciousness
- 11 Actress --- Loren
- 12 Nail polish brush?
- 14 --- Air, Los Angeles
- 15 "Friends" actress Courteney ---
- 16 Lair
- 17 "Peekaboo, I ---"
- 19 Coin
- 20 Type of sanctum?
- 22 Smack
- 25 Hate
- 29 Prefix with West
- 30 Address beginning "http://"
- 31 Narrow beam of light
- 32 Jakarta natives
- 35 Sell to end users
- 36 "Marching --- war"
- 37 Board flaws
- 38 Intend

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

9/18/21

**Down**

- 1 Signs of healing
- 2 Pith sun helmet
- 3 Plentiful
- 4 "Has Anybody Seen My --- ?" (1920s song)
- 5 Hoodwink
- 6 Part of an address?
- 7 --- Island Sound
- 8 Beautiful woman
- 9 Is lacking
- 11 Dishonest person
- 13 Clickable image
- 18 "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" lyricist --- Harburg
- 19 Old-style computer screen
- 21 Long fish
- 22 Self-satisfied smile
- 23 Fabric woven from flax
- 24 Embellish
- 26 Rub out
- 27 Christmas guy
- 28 Chicken brand
- 30 "Les États- ---" - that's us to a Quebecer!
- 33 Cereal grain
- 34 "--- a Rock" (Simon & Garfunkel hit)



**EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP**

**BARRON RIVER TIDES**

**OBITUARY**

**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):**

Open All Year  
8 am to 3 pm

**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 Fri, Sat., Sunday, 6:00 am to 4:00 pm  
203 Collier Avenue, (239-695-4222)

**Havana Café (239-695-2214):**

Re-opening on October 15th!

**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)**

The Restaurant is Closed

**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):**

Re-opening on October 1st!

**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

**1<sup>st</sup> 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

9/18/2021	Sat	2:27 AM	2.68	H
9/18/2021	Sat	8:28 AM	0.86	L
9/18/2021	Sat	1:37 PM	3.39	H
9/18/2021	Sat	9:08 PM	0.2	L
9/19/2021	Sun	2:45 AM	2.78	H
9/19/2021	Sun	9:14 AM	0.71	L
9/19/2021	Sun	2:22 PM	3.44	H
9/19/2021	Sun	9:49 PM	0.28	L
9/20/2021	Mon	3:05 AM	2.88	H
9/20/2021	Mon	9:56 AM	0.58	L
9/20/2021	Mon	3:02 PM	3.42	H
9/20/2021	Mon	10:27 PM	0.37	L
9/21/2021	Tue	3:27 AM	2.98	H
9/21/2021	Tue	10:36 AM	0.47	L
9/21/2021	Tue	3:40 PM	3.34	H
9/21/2021	Tue	11:03 PM	0.49	L
9/22/2021	Wed	3:51 AM	3.04	H
9/22/2021	Wed	11:15 AM	0.39	L
9/22/2021	Wed	4:19 PM	3.21	H
9/22/2021	Wed	11:37 PM	0.61	L
9/23/2021	Thu	4:16 AM	3.06	H
9/23/2021	Thu	11:54 AM	0.35	L
9/23/2021	Thu	5:00 PM	3.04	H
9/24/2021	Fri	12:09 AM	0.74	L
9/24/2021	Fri	4:42 AM	3.03	H
9/24/2021	Fri	12:34 PM	0.34	L
9/24/2021	Fri	5:45 PM	2.85	H
9/25/2021	Sat	12:39 AM	0.88	L
9/25/2021	Sat	5:08 AM	2.97	H
9/25/2021	Sat	1:16 PM	0.36	L
9/25/2021	Sat	6:35 PM	2.66	H
9/26/2021	Sun	1:02 AM	1	L
9/26/2021	Sun	5:33 AM	2.88	H
9/26/2021	Sun	2:03 PM	0.41	L
9/26/2021	Sun	7:35 PM	2.47	H
9/27/2021	Mon	1:09 AM	1.11	L
9/27/2021	Mon	6:01 AM	2.78	H
9/27/2021	Mon	3:03 PM	0.47	L
9/27/2021	Mon	8:49 PM	2.33	H
9/28/2021	Tue	1:07 AM	1.19	L
9/28/2021	Tue	6:41 AM	2.68	H
9/28/2021	Tue	4:16 PM	0.49	L
9/28/2021	Tue	10:10 PM	2.28	H
9/29/2021	Wed	1:23 AM	1.26	L
9/29/2021	Wed	8:57 AM	2.61	H
9/29/2021	Wed	5:25 PM	0.47	L
9/29/2021	Wed	11:34 PM	2.33	H
9/30/2021	Thu	5:47 AM	1.27	L
9/30/2021	Thu	10:25 AM	2.67	H
9/30/2021	Thu	6:25 PM	0.43	L
10/1/2021	Fri	12:38 AM	2.46	H
10/1/2021	Fri	6:47 AM	1.19	L
10/1/2021	Fri	11:33 AM	2.81	H
10/1/2021	Fri	7:18 PM	0.37	L



**Fred Ford  
1936-2021**

Fred Ford, who lived on Plantation Island during the winter, passed away on September 3 at his home in W. Lafayette, Indiana. He leaves his wife Mary and many relatives. To read his full obituary, see [Frederick Ross Ford Obituary - Journal and Courier \(jconline.com\)](http://FrederickRossFordObituary-JournalandCourier(jconline.com)).

**Collier County Recycling Rules  
And Garbage Guidelines**

Everglades Area garbage days are Monday and Thursday. Recycling and bulk pickup is on Thursday. Here is a recap of Trash 101:

**Recycling:**

What goes in the recycle buggy must be clean dry and loose. DO NOT BAG RECYCLABLES.


Here is what can be put into the container:

- Paper, cardboard, boxes, mail, newspapers, books, magazines.
- Dairy & juice cartons (prefer flattened)
- Aluminum, tin and steel cans. Rinse cans, please.
- Plastic bottles or containers labeled as # 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 7.
- Glass and bottles. Clear, brown and green glass.

**Garbage Collection:** Place household waste in the green buggy, and any overflow in black garbage bags next to the buggy.

**Yard Waste:** You may put yard waste in bags, tied bundles, or a 45 gallon personal container. No more than 10 per household. NO plastic bags are accepted.

**Bulky Item Pickup:** Place bulky items at the curb on your recycle day (Thursday). You must call 48 hours prior to your Recycle Day (call on Tuesday) to obtain this pickup service. Customer Service: 239-252-2380.



**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: 936 Panther Creek Lane, DuPont Island. Rare find in Everglades City! Waterfront single family three bedroom / two bath stilt home in the Commercial Fishing District. 80 feet of water frontage on almost half acre of land. Plenty of storage / workshops / garage and a Quonset hut. Asking \$469,000.

FOR SALE: Glades Haven Cozy Cabins. Your vacation get-away! One bedroom / one bathroom (RV) cabin with docks. Quick easy access out the Ten Thousand Islands and Gulf of Mexico. A fisherman's paradise right here in the famous Everglades. Rental potential. Multiple cabins available with different amenities. Asking \$119,000.

For more information contact Glades Realty 239-695-4299. GladesRealty.com Karen@Gladesrealty.com

FOR SALE: Air conditioner, window unit. 14,000 BTU, 120 volt. Still under factory warranty. Only used for 3 weeks. Asking \$429. For more information, please call 239-695-2208.

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.

NOW HIRING: Retail associate needed for the Big Cypress Preserve Oasis Visitor Center.

Position is part-time to full-time. Pay rate is \$12 per hour. Email resume to monique@evergladesassociation.org or call 305.247.1216.

HOUSE FOR SALE: Unique 3 bedroom, 2 bath home in Everglades City. Original Collier home with upstairs addition and upgrades. Impact windows & doors. Free standing 2 car garage, built in swimming pool. City dock with lift. Asking \$650,000 as is. Call 239-450-2376 for more information or to set an appointment to see the house.

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

FREE BOAT HULL

FREE 33ft Viking cabin cruiser . Both engines need work, but the hull would make an excellent crab boat. For more information, please contact Sabrina. Please call 239-877-7788.

FOR SALE: 3 Bedroom / 2 Bath Mobile Home for sale in Chokoloskee Island Park. Great family neighborhood, Boat ramp included in lot rent only \$650 per month. Assigned dock is available. Perfect opportunity for affordable housing in the Everglades. Condition is ok but not perfect. Central A/C. Asking \$12,000 OBO. Call or text (239) 222-5202.

The MULLET RAPPER

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

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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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