

# The MULLET RAPPER



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

November 11, 2023 - November 24, 2023



© 2023, Paradise Web

P.O. Box 513, Copeland, FL, 34137

Volume XXIII · Issue # 443

## Fishing In November

by Captain Mike Merritt



This month you can expect the Redfish and Snook to continue to bite!

Capt. Kyle McMillin has been catching his on the outside Islands during the rising tide. Live bait, cut bait, shrimp and jigs will all produce. Catching the Reds before the tide floods out is critical. Once the tide floods out these fish are back in the roots foraging for crabs and small bait fish. It will be hard to catch them until the tide drops again forcing them out of their cover

Snook fishing has been good both outside and back country. This month is always good in the rivers on the outgoing tides. Look for ambush points and drop a bait in. Hold on because the big ones are around and you might also hook a big Jewfish.

Tarpon are usually here all month as they travel south. Some of my biggest Tarpon have been caught in November. Fish up to nearly 200 lbs. Not that I target these guys a lot but when they get aggressive on the Mullet it gets pretty easy to hook up.

All the winter species should also start showing up. So it is a great month for not just our favorite targets but also a good variety. So get some live shrimp from your local bait store and have a great day on the water!

Good luck fishing, Capt. Mike Merritt

**Mike Merritt, Fishing Guide**  
(561) 252-4324

[SnookFishing1@juno.com](mailto:SnookFishing1@juno.com)

## Welcome Back Talk

Join us on Friday, November 17, at 2 pm for our annual "Welcome-Back" talk, featuring a presentation by renowned architects Rick Gonzalez and Aleli de la Vega from the esteemed REG architectural firm in West Palm Beach.

## What Will It Look Like?

"Visions of the Bank Building"

Presentation by REG Architects

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

**2pm at Everglades Isle**

RSVP to (239) 451-0265 or [ESH@hot.com](mailto:ESH@hot.com)



The event will be held at the lighthouse of Everglades Isles, located just over the bridge as you enter Everglades City. There is no charge for attendance, but we kindly request that you email [ESH@hot.com](mailto:ESH@hot.com) to let us know if you'll be joining us. We are thrilled to share our vision with the community and look forward to your participation.

Following the formal presentation and questions & answers, we will offer an exclusive tour of the historic Bank building. This "20@\$20 Tour" is limited to 20 people, with a donation of \$20 each.

The Bank of Everglades, established by Barron Collier in 1923, served as the financial hub of the community and local government until 1962. At that time, the County relocated to Naples after a referendum, and banking operations shifted to Immokalee.

The old building then took on various roles, including serving as a lodging house and a Bed & Breakfast. In 2021, its elderly owner generously donated the building to the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation (ESH) because he knew they would ensure its care and preservation for posterity.

Don't miss this opportunity to explore the rich history and exciting future of the Bank of Everglades Building and its significance in our community's heritage.

## Stargazing Under the Darkest Night Skies in Southwest Florida

There are experiences in life that leave an indelible mark, and for many, attending the night sky observation events at The Preserve in southwest Florida is one of those awe-inspiring moments. Set against the backdrop of the darkest night skies, these events offer a unique opportunity to witness the celestial wonders in all their glory.

The remote location of The Preserve serves as a natural shield against light pollution, allowing attendees to immerse themselves in the mesmerizing expanse of stars, planets, and other celestial marvels. It's an experience that can only be truly appreciated in such a pristine, unpolluted environment.

What sets these events apart is the expertise of the guides. These passionate astronomers play an instrumental role in making the night a memorable one, offering insights and knowledge that enrich the stargazing experience.

One of the highlights of these programs is the use of a powerful laser to point out stars and constellations. This laser serves as a celestial guide, allowing attendees to effortlessly follow along and navigate the vastness of the night sky.

Attendees don't need expensive equipment to participate in these events. While telescopes and cameras are welcome, even a pair of binoculars or a smartphone can suffice. The goal is to provide dark sky access to both experts and amateurs, ensuring that anyone with an interest in the cosmos can revel in the millions of stars overhead.

Attending one of The Preserve's night sky observation events is an experience like no other. It's a journey through the cosmos and an opportunity to appreciate the breathtaking beauty of the night sky under the darkest of nights. No camera is needed to capture these memories; the experience alone will stay etched in your memory for a lifetime.

For more info on the series and more visit: <https://orchidswamp.org/adventures/>

## RAPPER TABLE OF CONTENTS

Calendar	p.2	Rev. Bob	p. 8
Events	p.3	Museum	p. 9
City Hall	p. 4	Xword/Recipe	p. 10
History	p. 5	Tides/Biz List	p. 11
School	p. 6	Classifieds	p. 12

## EVENT CALENDAR - November 12, 2023 to December 23, 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12 Bazaar p3	13  New Moon	14 Meet The Candidates p3	15 Bio Blitz p4  Food Pantry p3	16 Ladies' Coffee HavAnna Cafe 8:30a Third Thurs p9 Book Club p6 Mail Ballots Due	17 Bank Talk p1	18 Art in Glades p3
19	20	21 P&Z p3	22  Food Pantry p3	23 	24 Meet the Artists p3	25 - RAPPER Praise Night p3
26	27  Full Moon	28  EC Elections	29  Food Pantry p3	30 Ladies' Coffee Island Cafe 8:30a	December 1	2 Swamp Fest p9
3	4	5 City Council p3	6  Food Pantry p3	7 Ladies' Coffee City Seafood 8:30a	8	9 - RAPPER
10	11	12  New Moon	13 Bio Blitz p4  Food Pantry p3	14 Ladies' Coffee HavAnna Cafe 8:30a Book Club p6	15	16
17	18	19 P&Z p3	20 Xmas Dessert p3  Food Pantry p3	21 Ladies' Coffee Island Cafe 8:30a Third Thurs p9	22	23 - RAPPER

### AREA BUSINESS & CLUB HOURS & NUMBERS

AA: Wed., 5p, 1st Baptist Church, 416 School Dr., Everglades City  
 Carnestown Recycle & Trash: 2nd Sat. of month, 9a-12p, 12:30p-2p  
 Everglades City Visitor Center: Open Daily, 10a-2p  
 Lions Club: 2nd Thurs. of month, 6p, Jinkins Fellowship Hall  
 Museum: Open Tues.-Sat., 9a-4p (239) 252-5026  
 Smallwood Store: Open daily 11a-4p (239) 695-2989  
 Everglades Community Church Food Pantry: Wed., 9:30a-Noon  
 Mobile Pet Vet: [hsnaples.org/mobile-veterinary-clinic](https://hsnaples.org/mobile-veterinary-clinic)

### POST OFFICE INFORMATION

Hours: Mon.-Fri., 10a-3:30p  
**Box**  
 Everglades City: (239) 695-2174  
**Inside Pickup**  
 Chokoloskee: (239) 695-4468  
 Copeland (239) 695-2202  
**Delivery**  
 Ochopee (239) 695-2099

### OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Airport: (239) 695-2778  
 Big Cypress: (239) 695-2000  
 City Hall: (239) 695-3781  
 Curbside Trash Pickup: (239) 252-2380  
 Dr. Demartino, Marco Island: (239) 642-5552  
 EVG National Park: (239) 695-3311  
 Fakahatchee Preserve Office: (239) 961-1925  
 Public Library: (239) 695-2511  
 Visitor Center: (239) 232-0473

### RIGHT CHOICE SUPERMARKET

- ATM
- Groceries
- Shirts/Caps
- Beer/Wine
- Camping Gear
- Meats
- Hardware
- Fresh Produce
- Medicine
- Greeting Cards



\*\*\*\*\*Open 7 Days from 9 am to 7 pm\*\*\*\*\*

**104 S. Buckner Ave., Everglades City, FL. (239) 695-4535**  
[www.RightChoiceSupermarket.com](http://www.RightChoiceSupermarket.com)

## What's Happening

### November 11 & 12 | 10 am - 4 pm Goodland Holiday Bazaar

Experience the 14th Annual Holiday Bazaar at MarGood Harbor Park in Goodland. Explore a variety of fine art, unique crafts, holiday gifts, and more in a historic and picturesque setting.

### November 15 | 6:30 pm Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

Chokoloskee will be having their Annual Thanksgiving & Friends Dinner on November 15 at 6:30 pm. All are welcome.

**CANCELED**  
Construction  
has begun, yay!

### November 17 | 2 pm Bank Welcome-Back Talk

REG Architects will be giving a presentation on our *Visions of the Bank Building* for ESHP's Welcome-Back Talk at 2 pm on Friday, November 17, at Everglades Isles. Please RSVP to (239)451-0265 or email [eshp@hotmail.com](mailto:eshp@hotmail.com). Everyone welcome to learn more about this exciting project.

### November 18 | 10 am - 1 pm Art in the Glades

Join us in McLeod Park for our first arts & crafts show of the winter season to see what our talented locals have created over the summer. There is no charge and vendors are welcome to set up a table. For info phone Marya at (239) 451-0265.

### November 24 | 10 am - 3 pm Meet Clyde & Niki Butcher

Join the Butchers at their Big Cypress Gallery 'Meet the Artists' Holiday event on Friday, November 24th, from 10 am to 3 pm. This event is FREE. RSVP at <https://clydebutcher.com/event/meet-clyde-and-niki-butcher/>

### November 25 | 6:30 pm Praise Night

On the last Saturday of each month, First Baptist Church of Everglades City will have a "Praise Night" with a light supper at 6:30 pm, followed by praise music and fellowship.

### December 2 | 10 am - 3 pm Swamp Heritage Festival

A day full of music, art, food, history, culture, and kids' activities at the Nathaniel P. Reed Visitor Center Festival Grounds in Big Cypress National Preserve, Ochopee, FL.

### December 20 | 6:30 pm Christmas Dessert & Contest

Join us for the Chokoloskee Family Church Annual Christmas Dessert & Ugly Sweater Contest on December 20 at 6:30 pm. Don your ugliest sweater for a chance to win prizes.

### December 24 | 10 am Christmas Blessing Service

Join us for the Chokoloskee Family Church Annual Christmas Blessing Service on December 24 at 10 am. Worship with us and win great prizes as we celebrate the holiday!

## Save The Date

### January 12, 13 & 14 | 10 am Everglades Roots Festival

Join us for the Everglades Roots Festival at Trail Lakes Campground in Ochopee, Florida, featuring Swampy JamGrass, good times, and a celebration of Gladesman culture and heritage. Get your tickets at <https://www.evergladesrootsfestival.com/contact>.

### February 2, 3, & 4 Everglades Seafood Festival

The 54th Annual Everglades Seafood Festival is set to commence Friday, February 2, 2024, at 4:30 p.m., just outside Everglades City Hall at 102 Copeland Ave. North. The festival will conclude at 6 p.m. Sunday, February 4, 2024. The festival will include live music, creative works by local artisans, an array of seafood, a variety of beverages and carnival rides. More Info: <https://evergladesseafoodfestival.org/>

### February 24 | 11 am - 3 pm Rumble in the Glades

Chokoloskee Family Church is hosting a fundraiser that includes blessing of the bikes, music, a chili cook off, food trucks, vendors, old cars, and a silent auction in McLeod Park.

### March 9 & 10 | 11 am - 3 pm Harbor Arts & Music Festival

Celebrate the 12th Annual Goodland Harbor Arts & Music Festival on March 9 and 10 at MarGood Harbor Park. Enjoy fine arts, crafts, delicious food, and live music by Florida's top artists. More info: [taraogallery@gmail.com](mailto:taraogallery@gmail.com)

### Meet The Candidates

November 14th | 6 pm – 8 pm

Everglades City Hall  
Council Chambers

### Election Day is November 28th

The mayor's seat is up for election. Below are the two candidates vying for this seat:

Howie Grimm Jr. (incumbent)

Dulce Valdes

There are three city council seats up for election. Below are the five candidates vying for these seats:

Mike McComas (incumbent)

Parker Oglesby (incumbent)

Tony Pernas (incumbent)

Naiara Rementeria Freeman

Steven Lenz

Join us on November 14th to meet the candidates and learn more about their opinions on important issues in Everglades City.

Candidates will be asked questions that are received from the community members. The candidates will not be given the questions prior to the roundtable. There is a three person volunteer panel that will receive the questions and present them at the roundtable.

If you have a question you would like addressed at the roundtable, please send it in an email to [Evergladesvotes@gmail.com](mailto:Evergladesvotes@gmail.com)

All candidates are invited to attend, however their attendance is optional.

This is a very important election  
and your vote counts!

### Vote-by-Mail Ballots Due Nov 16

Track your ballot, at  
[www.CollierVotes.gov/RequestBallot](http://www.CollierVotes.gov/RequestBallot)  
or Call (239) 252-VOTE (8683).

## Community Services

### Food Bank Wednesdays | 9:30 - Noon

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."

### Everglades Area Information Daily | 10 - 2 pm

The Everglades Area Visitor Center is located at 207 Broadway W., Everglades City. The Visitor Center is open daily 10 am to 2 pm.

### Planning & Zoning Meeting 3rd Tuesdays | 6 pm

P&Z Board meetings are held monthly on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. City Council room, 2nd floor City Hall. <http://www.cityofeverglades.org>

### City Council Meeting 1st Tuesdays | 7pm

City Council meetings are held every 1st Tuesday of the month @ 7 pm in the City Council room, 2nd floor City Hall. The public is invited to attend.




**Mike Lyne**  
Mercury - Yamaha - Suzuki

- \* 100 Hour / Annual Service On Your Lift
- \* Boat Systems & Electrical Troubleshooting

Serviceing Everglades City to Marco Island  
(305) 619-3774  
lowermatmike@gmail.com

[www.bobwellsrealestate.us](http://www.bobwellsrealestate.us) Office: 239-695-2660  
[bob@bobwellsrealestate.us](mailto:bob@bobwellsrealestate.us) Fax: 239-695-0967

**Bob Wells Real Estate**




Bob Wells, Broker  
Vicky Wells, Sales Associate  
Liza Wells, Sales Associate  
P.O. Box 250 • Everglades City, FL 34139



**Fish Florida's "Last Frontier"**  
With Captain John Hand  
Guide & Master  
Fly Casting Instructor  
Ph: (239) 842-7778

[www.captjohnhand.com](http://www.captjohnhand.com)



Unique Apparel  
Navigational Charts  
Fishing Tackle, Camping  
Biking, Hiking  
Gifts, Books, Souvenirs  
Marine Hardware  
Stainless & More!

209 Collier Ave, Everglades City  
Mon-Sat 8:30 am - 5 pm. (239) 695-3201

**Triad Seafood Market & Café**



Stone Crabs • Shrimp • Conch  
Crab Cakes • Homemade Key Lime Pies  
Orlo & Pam Hilton (239) 695-2662  
Monday - Saturday, 10:30-6  
Sunday 10:30 - 5

**Help Us Count The Animals**  
Participate in the Fakahatchee Strand Bio Blitz series a unique opportunity to help our local wildlife.

**Next Two Wednesdays**  
November 15  
December 13

[Alex.gobel@floridadep.gov](mailto:Alex.gobel@floridadep.gov)  
(239) 961-1925




**First Baptist Church**  
*Knowing Him and making Him known!*

Praise Night, last Saturday of the month, light supper, music, fellowship at 6:30 pm!

All-ages Sunday School: 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship: 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Worship: 6:00 p.m.

416 School Drive / P.O. Box 550, Everglades City, FL 34139, Call Us:(239) 695-3871

**Update from City Hall**

by Michael McComas  
Everglades City Council



Our annual Trunk or Treat was held at McLeod Park on Saturday, October 28. The Lions Club provided the evening's food of grilled Hot Dogs and some excellent Chili! Local residents were joined by several elected officials including Mayor Howie Grimm, City Council members Vicky Wells, Parker Oglesby, Josh Minton, Mike McComas and School Board member Tim Moshier.



Photo Credit: Caryn Wells

Mother nature provided very nice weather, lots of local residents brought candy and treats for the area children to sample and the costume contest was very well attended, all in all another great event.



Photo Credit: Patty Huff

Due to a delay in receiving some critical parts and supplies the new Wastewater treatment plant opening will be delayed from its anticipated ribbon cutting. The new target date from the contractor is on or before November 30. We will keep you informed of any changes here and at City Council meetings.



**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 ♦  
Listen to past sermons online:  
[www.evergladescommunity.church](http://www.evergladescommunity.church)

**New Packaged Goods Service is Now Available**

Everglades Isle RV Resort's Marlin Bar  
Now Offers Packaged Goods!

Order online, select your pick up time, and then pick up at the gate!  
Either scan the QR code below, click below, or go to the link online!

<https://bit.ly/3qUgmMA>

When you reach the gate, push the intercom button to let us know you are here to pick up!



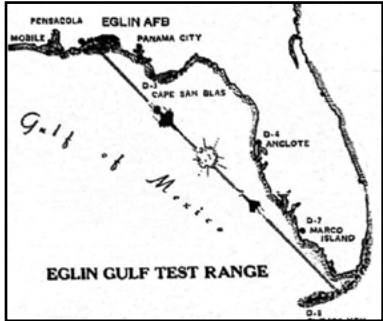
*Note: You must be 21 or older to order and to pick up.*

Everglades Isle  
803 Collier Avenue  
Everglades City, FL 34139

**Just look for the Lighthouse!**

Along Our Shores

by Lila Zuck



In 1958, the United States filled a Canadian order for 56 American-made Bomarc missiles, designed to be fitted with nuclear weapons. Before they could be delivered the missiles had to be tested and those tests took place along our shores.

Earlier that year, the U.S. Air Force flew over the Gulf Coast of Florida, searching for possible locations for several missile tracking stations as part of the ground-to-air Bomarc Missile Program. After sites were selected and legally secured, the U.S. Corps of Engineers prepared them, bulldozing tropical growth, paving roads, and establishing water and electrical systems on each site. The Air Force contracted Vitro Weapons Service, a Division of Vitro Corporation of America, to construct buildings and missile tracking instrumentation on each site.

The test range sites extended southward 450 miles along the west coast of Florida from Eglin Air Force Base in the western Panhandle to Cudjoe Key, 23 miles east of Key West.

The test sites were A-20 on Santa Rosa Island, D-3 on Cape San Blas near Panama City, D-4 near Tarpon Springs, D-7 on Marco Island, and D-8 at Cudjoe Key. Each station's tracking radar and communications antennas tracked targets and weapons within five yards for 500 miles and accurate to one-tenth of one mile and transmitted the data to a centralized control point at Eglin Air Force Base.

Vitro Laboratories, a second Division of Vitro Corporation and the U.S. Navy's Systems Engineering Coordinator, operated the Marco Station, including the hiring of personnel, which at the height of the program reached 108 employees. Vitro's office was at Goodland.

For a brief six years, Vitro employees assimilated effortlessly into the Collier County community, joining the local softball and bowling leagues and civic clubs. The women organized the Vitro Wives Club, which organized committees designed to promote a healthy lifestyle by inviting a diversity of local speakers to their meetings, who covered topics ranging from communicable diseases to landscaping for the smaller home, floral arrangements and even hair styles. The ladies also hosted fun-filled events such as annual Easter egg hunts, Halloween

Costume parties and covered dish suppers at Cambier Park.

In 1961, Vitro hosted an open house at the Tracking Station, during which 814 visitors toured the grounds and were briefed on each step in the missile tracking process. That year, the Air Force announced plans to launch the Nike-Cajun rocket, equipped with an infrared measuring device, twice a month at night, from the Marco Missile Tracking Station.

For undisclosed reasons, in October 1961 plans to use Marco as a launch site were dropped and boat warning notices were lifted. Had the launches taken place, they would have been the first from a site other than Eglin, where all the launches were made.

In cooperation with the Collier County Board of Public Instruction and the Florida State Department of Education, Vitro Vocational supplied the teachers and county-wide, adult, 60-hour vocational training programs in advanced mathematics, electronics and Radio-Telephony. The county's fee for adult classes was one dollar and they were held at Naples Junior High School.

Again for undisclosed reasons, and although the Marco station had been involved in other projects, when the Bomarc program was completed the U.S. Air Force closed the Marco Missile Tracking Station in January 1964.

Vitro transferred equipment and employees to other stations and by December 1964 the Vitro Wives Club had disbanded. Regardless of the fact that the annual Vitro payroll was estimated to have infused half a million dollars annually into the local economy, Vitro men, women and school children were missed when they were transferred from Collier County.

In 1989 the remaining buildings were demolished and the 30-acre Marco site, originally leased to the Air Force by the Barron Collier Companies, was prepared for development. The present day condominium community of Cape Marco was developed on the site of Gulf Test Range Tracking Station D-7, along our shores.



**VITRO LABS  
MISSILE TRACKING STA.  
GOODLAND, FLA.**

**ATTENTION TELEPHONE MEN:**

Excellent position for man experienced in cross bar telephony or all relay systems — Min 4 years experience — Interesting work — good pay and benefits.

Men for guards — Min salary 60/wk — Must have previous experience as guard or policeman.



*Hooked on the Old Florida Lifestyle*

**Jennifer Barnett**  
REALTOR®  
**MVP REALTY**

**239-289-4400**

Jennifer@JenniferBarnett.realtor



**Fishermen & Nature Lovers Dream Getaway**  
This home is a 2020 one bedroom one bath built on stilts with boat dock located in a waterfront community. The community has a boat ramp and screened fish cleaning station and additional storage. You are just minutes away from the 10,000 islands and onto the Gulf Of Mexico for some of the best fishing, kayaking, canoeing, wildlife watching and camping.

Property Address: 675 Copeland Ave S, Unit 12 Everglades City Florida  
\$255,000 Beds:1 Baths:1 Sq Feet: 560  
MLS# 223024627

### EVG School Update

Dr. Cherie Allison  
Principal, EVG, Everglades City School

Everglades City School celebrated with an academic pep rally for students who have attained A and A/B honor roll for first quarter! Our elementary leadership students and secondary leadership students ran the celebration and did an outstanding job! We are so proud of our high achieving gators!!



### Candidate Spotlight

Having lived in this close-knit community for nearly 30 years, I have witnessed the hard-work and dedication of the people in this town, which resonates with my core values.

I am embarking on this journey driven by a deep sense of compassion and a sincere belief that every resident of Everglades City deserves a fair opportunity for a better life.

Join me on November 14th at 6 pm at City Hall for the 'Meet The Candidates' gathering. Let's discuss building a stronger future together.

*\*Both mayoral candidates were invited to contribute. We encourage all candidates to share their insights for comprehensive coverage.*



**Dulce Valdes**  
Mayoral Candidate

### Howdy Birds

These charming owls, known as 'howdy birds,' are again emerging



from their hidden burrows. Cowboys dubbed them 'howdy birds' as they seemed to nod in greeting from their burrow entrances. They mate for life, breed from mid Feb to mid July, and raise their young in ground burrows. Keep an eye out for these adorable owls and share your pics if you get some good ones. [MulletRapper@gmail.com](mailto:MulletRapper@gmail.com)

## USPS OPERATION Santa®

Santa is now accepting letters! Send them in before adoption begins on November 20.

**Write to Santa**

Visit: <https://www.uspsoperationsanta.com/>



### Everglades Book Club 23-24

Meetings are open to all. We just read the book, have wonderful discussions and make new friendships.

**Nov. 16** *The Great Book of Florida* by Bill O'Neill  
10 am at the home of Connie Barker, 612 Collier

**Dec. 14** *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus  
10 am at the home of Linda Williams, 943 Panther Creek Lane - DuPont

**Jan. 18** *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott  
10 am at the home of Geri Freiberger, 300 Kumquat

**Feb. 15** *The Brilliant Life of Eudora Honeysett* by Annie Lyon  
10 am at the home of Sharon Nykiel, 301 S. Copeland, Unit 101


**Mar. 21** *Miss Dreamsville and the Collier County Women's Literary Society* by Amy Hill Heath  
10 am at the home of Elaine Middelstaedt, 410 Storter Ave. South

**April 11** *Last Train to Paradise* by Les Stand  
10 am at the home of Patty Huff, 207 North Storter Ave

**Questions**  
Call: (812) 361-7402  
Diann Lock

**Epic EVERGLADES Adventures** Call for availability 239-695-2428

-Guided Swamp Walks  
-Overnight accommodations



Behind Big Cypress Gallery  
23 miles east of Everglades City  
52388 Tamiami Trail East, MM 54.5  
Ochopee, FL 34141  
clydebutcher.com

**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



**RYAN J. REALLY**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW, PLLC

Call 24/7

Fast & Friendly  
FREE  
Phone Consultation

Office: 239.237.0675  
Fax: 239.330.6554  
Email: info@getreallylegal.com

ATTORNEY-TEACHER-VETERAN

www.GetReallyLegal.com  
FloridaBankruptcyVideos.com

**SAWFISH NEWS**

by Tonya Wiley, Havenworth Coastal Conservation

**Critical Habitat for Endangered Smalltooth Sawfish**

Smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*) in the United States faced population decline due to mortality in commercial and recreational fisheries and habitat loss from coastal development. In 2003, the U.S. population was listed as “Endangered” under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), leading to the designation of critical habitat for juvenile sawfish in 2009. But what does this mean and how does it benefit the species?

Critical habitat, as defined by the ESA, includes specific areas within the species’ geographical range at the time of listing, with essential physical or biological features requiring special management or protection. This designation safeguards vital features to prevent extinction and promote recovery, reducing the need for ESA protections.

Research focused on juvenile sawfish habitats due to limited information about adult habitat use. Essential features were identified as red mangroves and



Photo Credit: Nicole Phillips, USM  
Caption: Andrea Kroetz, Sonja Fordham, and Tonya Wiley release a tagged juvenile smalltooth sawfish in the Ten Thousand Islands/Everglades Critical Habitat Unit. Research conducted under ESA permit #22078.

euryhaline habitats with varying salinity in estuaries, bays, and rivers. Ongoing research aims to identify critical habitats for larger juveniles and adults.

Two specific areas were designated for juvenile smalltooth sawfish: the northern Charlotte Harbor Estuary Unit and the southern Ten Thousand Islands/Everglades Unit. Now, let’s explore how the designation is applied, its impact on

See **Sawfish** p8

**Mullet Rapper Merchandise**

Now Available!



Shop Now

**CAPTAIN CRAIG'S ADVENTURES**

1-4 hour Adventures into Everglades National Park!

Our 3 Hour Adventure Tour Is Everything You Want.



**DOLPHINS BIRDING**  
**SHELLING SUNSETS HISTORY**

come see the Dolphins

239-227-7186  
100 SMALLWOOD DR CHOKOLOKEE, FL  
CAPTAINCRAIGSADVENTURES.COM

**October 28, 2023 Puzzle Solution**

1	M	2	U	3	L	4	G	5	A	6	B	7	A	8	S	9	E
10	R	11	E	12	P	13	A	14	I	15	R	16	E	17	R	18	I
19	A	20	L	21	P	22	I	23	N	24	E	25	G	26	U	27	A
28	C	29	O	30	I	31	N	32	S	33	P	34	O	35	M	36	M
37	E	38	N	39	S	40	E	41	A	42	R	43	N	44		45	
46	S	47	H	48	O	49	N	50	K	51	I	52	E	53	S	54	T
55	E	56	G	57	A	58	D	59		60	P	61	R	62	Y		
63	S	64	O	65	L	66	U	67	S	68	E	69	E	70	R	71	I
72	K	73	I	74	E	75	V	76		77	A	78	F	79	R	80	I
81	A	82	L	83	A	84	R	85		86	L	87	U	88	S	89	T
90	T	91	Y	92	P	93	E	94		95	B	96	L	97	E	98	E

### Are Vacations Becoming a Thing of the Past?

by Rev. Bob Wallace



“Eighty-five percent off all our vacation packages.” . . . “Cruise with us and see the world.” . . . “Come, fly with us.” . . . “Book your vacations with us.” . . . “Spend a night with us and you won’t want to leave.” You see and read it everywhere. But are people really doing it? Are vacations really what they used to be?

According to a recent news article, United Airlines has implemented a new boarding policy called WILMA (Window-Middle-Aisle) for economy passengers. This policy allows the airline to seat passengers with window seats first, before passengers with middle and aisle seats. The policy rolled out October 26, 2023 and has been met with mixed reactions from passengers. Some expressed concerns about losing out on overhead luggage space.

Many U.S. air carriers have reduced seat widths to 17 inches from 18.5 inches, with seat pitch—a measure from one point in a seat to the same point in a seat in front or behind—dropping to 31 inches from an average of 35. On some carriers, that distance is now 28 inches. Maybe it’s time to diet before you book your flight!

Auto Train is an 855-mile scheduled daily train service for passengers and their automobiles operated by Amtrak between Lorton, Virginia (near Washington, D.C.), and Sanford, Florida (near Orlando). Auto Train is the only motorail service in the United States. Passengers ride in coach seats, or private sleeping car rooms, while their vehicles are carried in enclosed automobile-carrying freight cars, called auto racks, along with them. The train can carry up to 320 vehicles. The train also includes lounge cars and dining cars. Auto Train allows its passengers to avoid driving Interstate 95 in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida while bringing their own vehicles with them.

But if you’re going to drive, you had better take a bundle of cash with you. Because gasoline isn’t cheap anymore! And you’ll probably have to eat somewhere along the way. But that’s going to cost you an arm and a leg!

I’ve heard a lot of people say they’re never going to go away again. It’s not worth it. Every time they go somewhere they get sick. Some say that when they stay with their kids, who are now adults with children who are their grandchildren, they never get any sleep. They all stay up late watching television. They just want to go to bed at a decent hour so they can visit the next day.

So, whatcha’ gonna’ do?

I’ve heard people say getting ready to go on a vacation is just too much trouble. Stop the mail. Get the yard mowed. What to do with the dog or cat? Is it worth it anymore?

Besides, I’ve always said that if I was going to go on a vacation, this is where I would go. And since I’m already here, I think I’ll just stay home and save my money!

**Reverend Doctor  
Bob N. Wallace**  
Everglades Community Church  
<https://evergladescommunity.church>




**Havana Cafe**  
239-695-2214  
CUBAN & CRACKER CUISINE • CHOKOLOSKEE, FL

Wednesday-Sunday | 8am-8pm  
Full Kitchen Menu  
Live Music & Events Weekly

Delicious Cuban & Cracker Cuisine  
Unique Beer/Wine Inspired Craft Cocktails  
*Just in time for the holidays!*

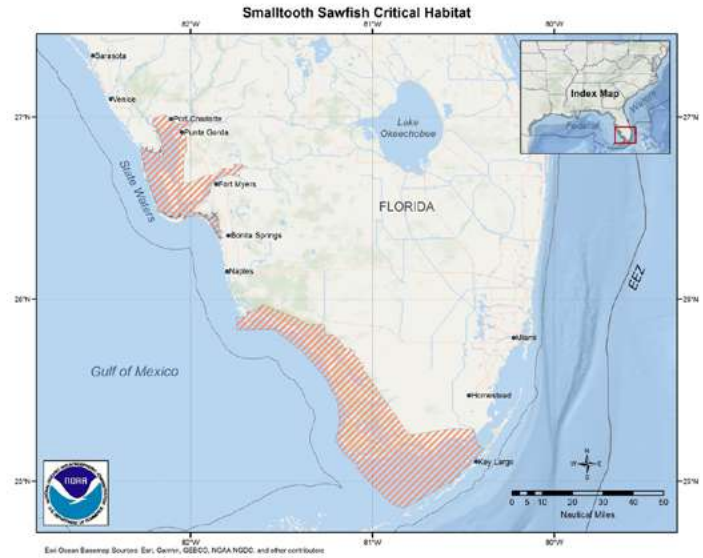


See Events

 Hav.AnnaCafe  HavannaCafe 191 Smallwood Dr, Chokoloskee, FL | (239) 695-2214

### Sawfish

Continued from p7



Credit: NOAA Fisheries Office of Protected Resources  
Caption: The two units of designated smalltooth sawfish critical habitat.

coastal development, recreational activities, and species conservation.

The critical habitat designation places an obligation on Federal agencies to ensure their actions do not harm critical habitat, considering potential effects on designated features. It plays a pivotal role in proactive conservation efforts, involving federal agencies, State and local governments, and organizations.

The designation doesn’t necessarily restrict homeowners from building docks, repairing seawalls, or impose new regulations but adds a review process to protect essential features. The 2009 critical habitat designation hasn’t closed areas or limited recreational opportunities but has safeguarded crucial habitats, benefiting not only smalltooth sawfish but also other species.

For more information about the designation of critical habitat for smalltooth sawfish visit:  
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/critical-habitat-us-dps-smalltooth-sawfish>

For more information about sawfish management and conservation visit [www.SawfishRecovery.org](http://www.SawfishRecovery.org)



**Museum of the Everglades**

105 West Broadway Avenue Everglades City, FL



Originally a 1927 commercial laundry, the Museum of the Everglades building testifies to the town's history as a bustling business center and the region's first county seat. Now a museum, it's open Tuesday to Saturday from 9 am to 4 pm with free admission. Certain events may require reservations. Book your reservation at [colliermuseums.com](http://colliermuseums.com) or call (239) 252-5026. Come explore Everglades heritage today!

**Exhibits & Events**

**Ebbets in the Everglades: The Unusual Story of the World-Famous Photographer You Never Heard Of**  
September 12 – January 20

Charles C. Ebbets, a versatile 1920s photojournalist, blended his diverse interests like outdoor pursuits, aviation stunts, racing, and wrestling with photography, elevating his craft. His iconic "Lunch atop a Skyscraper" photo earned a spot in TIME magazine's "100 Greatest Images." Ebbets explored the Tamiami Trail early, capturing wildlife and landscapes, and developed a close bond with Seminole tribal leader Ingraham Billie. On January 18th there will be a lecture by Ebbets' daughter, Tami Ebbets Hahn, who will share personal insights into her father and his work.



**We Are Still Here: The Past & Present of the Miccosukee Indians**  
January 23 – May 11



Pauline Reeves Gallery will present both the past and present of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida. Created in collaboration with the tribal council, the exhibit explores the Miccosukee's culture and heritage while celebrating their unique achievements in self-governance, education, environmental protection, and more. During the Seafood Festival (February 3rd & 4th) there will be demonstrations of traditional crafts, cooking, and even alligator wrestling on and around the museum grounds.

**Third Thursdays Talk**

**11/16 at 2 pm – Roadside Reservations: Seminole Tourist Camps Along the Tamiami Trail**

For Native American Heritage Month, Museum Manager Thomas Lockyear will explore the evolution of Seminole and Miccosukee communities along the Tamiami Trail after its 1928 completion. This transition from tourist camps to residential compounds reshaped their culture and livelihoods. The presentation will also discuss the changing perception of Native American handicrafts from souvenirs to recognized art.

**12/21 at 2 pm – Low Bush Lightning: Illegal Liquor in the Everglades**

Prohibition fueled the illicit liquor trade in the Everglades, but moonshining has deep roots in gladesman culture. For those in the 10,000 Islands, distilling spirits wasn't just about income; it was a way of life. Some even profited from smuggling Bahamian rum. Museum Manager Thomas Lockyear will cover the area's rum runners, moonshiners, and the Sheriff's office's efforts to combat lawlessness in Florida's last frontier and maintain a dry Collier County.

**2023 Swamp Heritage Festival**



**WHEN:**

December 2nd, 2023  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**WHERE:**

Big Cypress National Preserve  
Nathaniel P. Reed Visitor Center  
Festival Grounds  
33000 Tamiami Trail E., Ochopee, FL



**WHAT:**

A day filled with music, arts, crafts, food, history, culture and fun. Loads of activities for kids.

This is a **FREE** event!



**SWAMP FAMILY PHOTO CONTEST**

Does your family love the swamp? Do you hunt in the sawgrass, fish in the backwater, hike across the Hammocks, or picnic under cypress domes? Is your other family car a swamp buggy? Have you ever ridden an airboat to school?

Friends of Museum of the Everglades are sponsoring a Swamp Family Photo Contest in conjunction with the return of the Swamp Heritage Festival at Big Cypress National Preserve on December 2nd.

Whether you were born in the Everglades or just like to visit, we want you to share a photo that shows your family's connection to our region and its unique wetlands. You can submit old photos, new photos, or even antique vintage photos. Pose for a family photo on a swamp buggy or an airboat, or with everyone knee deep in the mud! Anything that shows a family connection to the swamp is fair game. Use your imagination – the possibilities are endless!

The contest is open to all students in grades K through 12. Entries should be submitted digitally.

Send to [GladesHistorian@gmail.com](mailto:GladesHistorian@gmail.com)  
or Museum of the Everglades staff can scan during regular hours.  
**Submission Deadline**  
**Saturday, November 25th.**

All photos submitted will be displayed at the Swamp Heritage Festival on December 2nd where winners will be selected by a panel of local judges. Cash prizes (\$200, \$100, two \$50, and four \$25) will be awarded to the winners on the day of the festival. All entries will be included in an exhibit at the Big Cypress National Preserve Visitor Center following the contest.



## Sweet Potato-Coconut Pie

### Ingredients

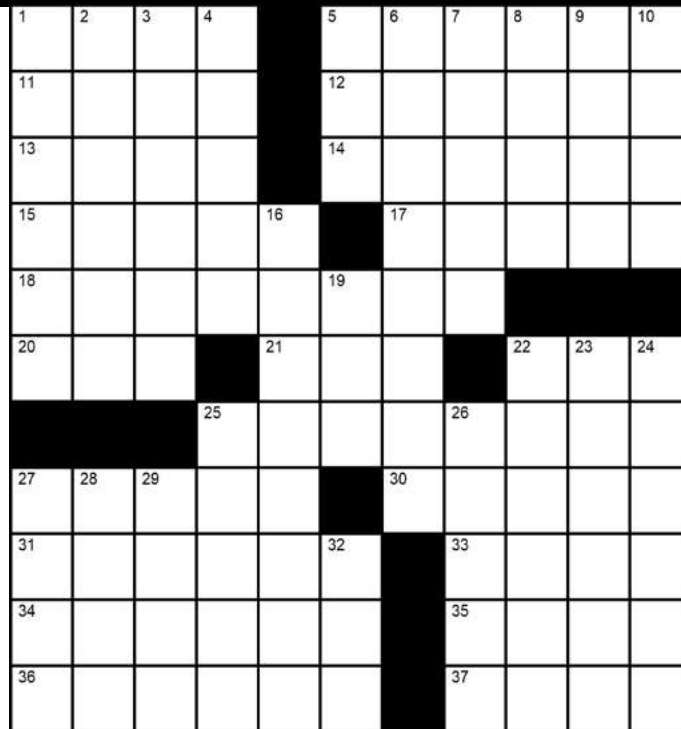
- 2 cups sweet potatoes
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 cup shredded coconut *\*optional*
- 1 uncooked pie crust



### Directions:

*Pre-heat oven to 350°*  
 Boil 3 to 4 sweet potatoes skin on about 40 min. Remove, drain and cool. Blend all ingredients except the coconut until smooth. Fold in coconut. Pour into uncooked pie crust. Cover crust edges with foil to prevent burning. Bake in preheated oven for 55 min. Remove foil for the last 15 min. The pie will puff up and then settle down once cooled. Serve with whipped cream!

### MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD



#### Across

1. Junkyard dogs
5. Astronomer's light ratio
11. Again
12. Ancient earth built grave mound
13. Asiatic palm tree
14. "Mourning Becomes Electra" playwright
15. Biting
17. Highlanders, e.g.
18. Part of a grandfather clock
20. Lizard, old-style
21. Grassland
22. An end to sex?
25. Poshness
27. \_\_\_ lazuli
30. Aromatic solvent
31. High point
33. Challenge for a barber
34. Gentle breeze
35. Brews
36. English cathedral city
37. Home, informally

#### Down

1. Appetite whetter
2. 1965 Peace Prize winner
3. Feel remorse for
4. Grassy expanse
5. \_\_\_ system
6. English or French
7. European freshwater fish
8. Border lake
9. "Mama" speaker
10. Birds in barns
16. Archer's objective
19. "Malcolm X" director
22. "...but I didn't \_\_\_"
23. Spectacles
24. Least
25. Black billiard ball
26. Hindu life principle
27. Idle
28. Crown
29. Bishop of Rome
32. "To \_\_\_ is human ..."

11/11/23



1236 Demere Lane, Chokoloskee, FL  
 Phone: 239-232-0098

- Sunday Worship** 10:00 am
- Sun. Kids Church** 10:00 am
- Sunday Renewal** 6:00 pm
- Wed. Youth Renewal** 7:00 pm
- Thur. Bible Study** 7:00 pm

**Doing Life Together**



305 Collier Ave., Everglades City, FL 34139

**Monday - Sunday**  
 6:00 am - 9:00 pm

**Breakfast Served**  
 6:00 am - 11:00 am

Phone: (239) 695-0003

[IslandCafeECity.com](http://IslandCafeECity.com)



**Glades Realty, Inc.**

Karen Cochran,  
 Licensed Real Estate Broker

**New Location!**  
 City Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
 Everglades City, FL 34139

Serving Everglades City  
 Since 1988

**Residential • Commercial • Rentals • Land**

Visit us online to view our full portfolio of listings in Everglades City, Plantation Island, Chokoloskee and the surrounding areas.

[www.GladesRealty.com](http://www.GladesRealty.com)

Office: (239) 695-4299 Cell: (239) 777-6614  
 Fax: (239) 695-3849

Email: [Karen@GladesRealty.com](mailto:Karen@GladesRealty.com)

**EATERIES**

<b>Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands</b> Wed 4 pm – 11 pm Thur-Sun 12 am – 11 pm (Kitchen Closes at 9pm)
<b>Camellia Street Grill</b> Daily 11 am – 9 pm (239) 695-2003
<b>Captain Morgan's Seafood Grill Corp.</b> Wed-Sun 11 am – 8 pm (239) 232-0041
<b>City Seafood</b> Mon-Fri 8 am – 3 pm Sat & Sun 8 am – 4 pm (239) 695-4700
<b>Diving Pelican Restaurant</b> Sun-Thur 11 am – 8 pm Fri & Sat 11 am – 8:30 pm (Outside bar to 11 pm) (239) 232-0475
<b>The Hangout</b> Thur-Mon 11 am – 3 pm Closed Tue & Wed (239) 232-0461
<b>HavAnnA Cafe</b> Wed-Sun 8 am – 8 pm (239) 695-2214
<b>Island Cafe</b> Daily 6 am – 9 pm (239) 695-0003
<b>Joanie's Crab Cafe</b> Thur-Tues 10:30 am – 4 pm Sat & Sun 10:30 am to 5 pm (239) 695-2682
<b>Nely's Corner (Inside EFC)</b> Fir-Sun 6:30 am – 4 pm (239) 695-4222
<b>Rod &amp; Gun</b> Mon-Thurs 11:30 am – 4 pm Fri-Sat 11:30 am – 8 pm (239) 695-2101
<b>Triad Seafood Market &amp; Cafe</b> Daily 10:30 am – 4 pm (239) 695-2662

**MARKETS**

<b>Right Choice Market</b> Daily 9 am – 7 pm (239) 695-4535
<b>Grimm's Stone Crab</b> Mon-Sat 8 am – 5 pm (239) 695-3222

**AREA WORSHIP**

<b>Chokoloskee Family Church</b> Sun: 10 am School & Worship, 6 pm Renewal Wed: Youth Program 7 pm
<b>Copeland Baptist Church</b> Sun: 10 am School, 11 am Worship
<b>Everglades Community Church</b> Sun: 11 am Worship
<b>1st Baptist Church of Everglades City</b> Sun: 9:45 am School, 11 am Worship & 6 pm Svc Wed: 6 pm Bible Study

**BARRON RIVER TIDES**

11/11/2023	Sat	12:34 AM	2.92	H
11/11/2023	Sat	8:13 AM	0.16	L
11/11/2023	Sat	1:40 PM	2.7	H
11/11/2023	Sat	8:18 PM	0.76	L
11/12/2023	Sun	12:56 AM	3	H
11/12/2023	Sun	8:49 AM	0	L
11/12/2023	Sun	2:19 PM	2.67	H
11/12/2023	Sun	8:49 PM	0.81	L
11/13/2023	Mon	1:14 AM	3.06	H
11/13/2023	Mon	9:26 AM	-0.12	L
11/13/2023	Mon	3:01 PM	2.61	H
11/13/2023	Mon	9:20 PM	0.87	L
11/14/2023	Tue	1:33 AM	3.13	H
11/14/2023	Tue	10:07 AM	-0.21	L
11/14/2023	Tue	3:50 PM	2.52	H
11/14/2023	Tue	9:52 PM	0.93	L
11/15/2023	Wed	1:57 AM	3.17	H
11/15/2023	Wed	10:51 AM	-0.26	L
11/15/2023	Wed	4:46 PM	2.42	H
11/15/2023	Wed	10:27 PM	0.99	L
11/16/2023	Thu	2:29 AM	3.17	H
11/16/2023	Thu	11:38 AM	-0.25	L
11/16/2023	Thu	5:47 PM	2.33	H
11/16/2023	Thu	11:07 PM	1.04	L
11/17/2023	Fri	3:10 AM	3.11	H
11/17/2023	Fri	12:29 PM	-0.19	L
11/17/2023	Fri	6:52 PM	2.28	H
11/17/2023	Fri	11:57 PM	1.08	L
11/18/2023	Sat	4:04 AM	2.98	H
11/18/2023	Sat	1:27 PM	-0.08	L
11/18/2023	Sat	7:57 PM	2.28	H
11/19/2023	Sun	1:11 AM	1.08	L
11/19/2023	Sun	5:17 AM	2.78	H
11/19/2023	Sun	2:33 PM	0.05	L
11/19/2023	Sun	8:53 PM	2.33	H
11/20/2023	Mon	2:53 AM	1.01	L
11/20/2023	Mon	7:22 AM	2.6	H
11/20/2023	Mon	3:40 PM	0.18	L
11/20/2023	Mon	9:39 PM	2.42	H
11/21/2023	Tue	4:15 AM	0.81	L
11/21/2023	Tue	9:07 AM	2.54	H
11/21/2023	Tue	4:42 PM	0.32	L
11/21/2023	Tue	10:20 PM	2.54	H
11/22/2023	Wed	5:20 AM	0.55	L
11/22/2023	Wed	10:32 AM	2.54	H
11/22/2023	Wed	5:38 PM	0.45	L
11/22/2023	Wed	10:57 PM	2.68	H
11/23/2023	Thu	6:16 AM	0.28	L
11/23/2023	Thu	11:49 AM	2.58	H
11/23/2023	Thu	6:30 PM	0.57	L
11/23/2023	Thu	11:33 PM	2.83	H
11/24/2023	Fri	7:08 AM	0.02	L
11/24/2023	Fri	12:52 PM	2.61	H
11/24/2023	Fri	7:17 PM	0.68	L



**Everglades IT**

- A+ Certified Technician
- Advanced Troubleshooter
- Mobile Device Repair Specialist
- Purchase Consultant
- Trainer
- Remote Services Available
- Managed IT Services

**(239) 784-6936**

**Info@EvergladesIT.com**



**Capt. Joshua D. Lewis**  
(239) 719-7907  
CaptainJDLewis@gmail.com  
LewisIslandExcursions.com

**GROUP MOTOR BOAT TOURS**

**2-Hour Eco/Sight-Seeing Tour**  
Adults (Ages 16 and up)... \$100  
Youth (Ages 7 to 15)... \$80  
Children (Ages 6 and under)... Free

**3.5-Hour Eco/Sight-Seeing Tour**  
Tour will be the same as the 2-hour eco tour but will include a 1-hour island stop where guests can swim, shell, and explore the beach!  
Adults (Ages 16 and up)... \$150  
Youth (Ages 7 to 15)... \$110  
Children (Ages 6 and under)... Free

**3.5-Hour Shelling Tour**  
This tour will include a 2.5-hour island stop for shelling along the beach and if desired another island can be explored!\*  
Adult (Ages 16 and up)... \$150  
Youth (Ages 7 to 15)... \$110  
Children (Ages 6 and under)... Free

\*Guests should consider travel time to another Island will deduct from total allotted shelling time.

**CLASSIFIED ADS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SEEKING APPLICANTS:** The Goodland Civic Association is seeking applicants for its 12th Annual Harbor Arts & Music Festival, a two-day, juried fine art event, March 9 & 10, 2024. The application deadline is December 18, 2023.

**PET PHOTO CALL:** If you have cute, crazy or just lovable pets please send their photo to the Mullet Rapper and we'll put them in the paper for all to enjoy. They'll be Famous!

[MulletRapper@gmail.com](mailto:MulletRapper@gmail.com)

**HELP WANTED:** The Visitor Center is looking for volunteers. We give visitors a map of Everglades City and Chokoloskee as well as point them to the Big Cypress where they can see alligators and hike.

To Volunteer visit 207 West Broadway, opposite the Rod & Gun, or call Patty at (239) 719-0020



**Pets of the Everglades**



**Rio The Gingerbread Man**  
Owners: Gary & Casey Thompsom

**Mullet Rapper Publisher**  
Denise Wauters, Paradise Web  
P.O. Box 513, Copeland FL 34137  
[MulletRapper@gmail.com](mailto:MulletRapper@gmail.com)  
(941) 999-1237

**Subscribe to the Mullet Rapper**  
Email: \$20/yr | Mail: \$50/yr  
To Subscribe Visit: [MulletRapper.com](http://MulletRapper.com)

**Publishers Emeritus**  
Kathleen Brock, K Bee Marketing, Inc.  
Patricia A. Huff, Snook Publications

**Contributors**  
Patty Huff, Elaine Middelstaedt,  
Michael McComas, Capt. Mike Merritt,  
Lila Zuck, Rev. Dr. Bob Wallace, Tonya  
Wiley, Dr Cherie Allison, Dulce Valdes.

**Printer**  
Palm Printing, Naples, FL

**Publisher's Statement**  
We provide news for the communities of Everglades City, Chokoloskee, Plantation Island, Lee Cypress, Copeland, Jerome, and Ochopee. We seek accuracy & diversity in reporting. Views expressed may not reflect those of the editors or publisher.

©2023, Paradise Web  
All rights reserved. Reproduction without written permission is prohibited.



*MULLET RAPPER*  
Subscribe to the

~ Marjory Stoneman Douglas  
"The Everglades is a test. If we pass it, we may get to keep the planet."

*The MULLET RAPPER*  
P.O. Box 513  
Copeland, FL 34137

