

The MULLET RAPPER



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

December 9, 2023 - December 22, 2023



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

Volume XXIII · Issue # 445

Update from City Hall

by Michael McComas
Everglades City Council



The November 28 City Council meeting dealt with several housekeeping issues before the election results were announced. To comply with State law, last fiscal year's budget was amended to reflect the balanced result. The ordinances dealing with Wastewater plant hookups and Airboat operations were extended until the plant construction and negotiations with the South Florida Water Management District are completed.

After a brief recess Supervisor of Elections, Melissa Blazier, announced the results of the election for Mayor and City Council and Charter amendments as follows

Mayor

Howell Grimm Jr. 117
Dulce M. Valdes 46

City Council

Naiara Rementeria Freeman 45
Steven Lenz 67
Michael McComas 102
Parker Oglesby 95
Tony Pernas 104

All Charter Amendments were approved by the voters and specifics can be found on the Supervisor of the Elections website www.colliervotes.gov

The newly elected council members were sworn in at the City Council meeting on December 5.

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Annual Boat Parade

Join us for the upcoming Boat Parade on December 16th! This cherished tradition has been sailing strong since 2007 and has seen as many as 17 boats participate in the past. Anticipation is high for an exciting event this year!



Bring your decorated boat and meet us between 5:00 and 5:15. We'll depart shortly after sunset from the mouth of the Barron River near Outward Bound Base Camp, heading towards City Seafood Beach Bar.

The boats will gracefully traverse the Barron River along Riverside Drive, Hibiscus, and N. Storter Ave, with a special stop at City Seafood Beach Bar.

To watch, the best spots are anywhere along the Barron River, including popular locations such as the Everglades Rod & Gun Club, Triad Seafood Market & Cafe, Camellia Street Grill, and City Seafood.

Come celebrate the joy of Christmas with us at this enchanting event!



For the past two decades, the warmth of our community has shone brightly during the holiday season.

Together, we've made sure that every child in Everglades City and the surrounding communities gets a little sprinkle of joy with a Walmart gift card for Christmas.

Look for the flier stuffed in this paper so you can be a part of our community's holiday magic.

Celebrating One Year!

by Denise Wauters



Can you believe it's been a year? I feel so blessed to have the opportunity to run the Mullet Rapper. I have learned so much about our community, the local activities and events, despite having lived here for more than a decade. The support of the team I inherited is such an integral part of our success, and the community has been so supportive and involved. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart!

So, to celebrate... *Drum Roll Please...* we are relaunching the VisitEvergladesCity.com website, the online sister of the Mullet Rapper!



We have been diligently working on revamping this site for the past year. It speaks to both locals with area [News](#) and visitors with [Things to Do](#). We have an [Events](#) calendar that we keep super current and our business [Directory](#) is now working. Reach out to get your basic listing set up. For those of you who are currently connected with the Mullet Rapper you get a free upgraded listing!

Want to get involved? Jump in with both feet, with [Pre-Launch Advertising Package Deals](#) that include both online at VisitEvergladesCity.com and in print in the Mullet Rapper. To dip your toe in, we have one-off ad options for just the online website ads or the Mullet Rapper print ads.



We're starting with 3,500 monthly visitors. Once our press release goes out and the season picks up, those numbers will soar. You'll want to be on the site when this happens.

Please send your events & happenings to us as soon as you have a date. We will get the word out online and in print.

Socially we are focusing on our [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/EvergladesCityNews) so follow and share your content with us there too.

Reach out to MulletRapper@gmail.com.

EVENT CALENDAR - December 10, 2023 to January 20, 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
10	11	12	13 Bio Blitz p4 Paint Party p3	14 Ladies' Coffee HavAnnACafe 8:30a Book Club p6	15 Polar Express Day p6	16 Boat Parade p1 Gift Wrap Fund. p6
		New Moon	Food Pantry p3			
17	18 School Break Starts p6	19 P&Z p3	20 Xmas Dessert p3 Food Pantry p3	21 Ladies' Coffee Island Cafe 8:30a Third Thurs p9	22 Santa In Town p3	23 - RAPPER Santa In Town p3 Holiday Jam p3
24 Christmas Eve Xmas Blessing p3 Candlelight Svc p3	25 	26	27	28 Ladies' Coffee City Seafood 8:30a	29	30 Praise Night p3
		Full Moon	Food Pantry p3			
31 New Years Eve	January 1 	2 City Council p3 School Break Ends p6	3 Food Pantry p3	4 Ladies' Coffee HavAnnACafe 8:30a	5	6
7	8	9	10 Bio Blitz p4 Food Pantry p3	11 Ladies' Coffee Island Cafe 8:30a	12 Roots Festival p3 Early Dismissal p6	13 Roots Festival p3
				New Moon		
14 Roots Festival p3	15	16 P&Z p3	17 Food Pantry p3	18 Ladies' Coffee City Seafood 8:30a Book Club p6 Exhibit Lecture p3	19 Exhibit Reception p9	20 - 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

POST OFFICE INFORMATION

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

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

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Events

**December 9 | 5 pm
Christmas Tree Lighting & Parade**

Everglades City and the Booster Club are hosting the Christmas Tree Lighting and Parade! Get ready for a festive family evening with Christmas lights, raffle prizes, food, and plenty of holiday cheer. Info: <https://visitevergladescity.com/event/christmas-tree-lighting-light-parade/>

**December 9 | 10 am - 1 pm
Art in the Glades**

Do your holiday shopping at the Art in the Glades event on December 9th from 10 am to 1 pm at McLeod Park! Discover a treasure trove of unique gifts crafted by local artisans. Vendors call Marya (239) 451-0265.

**December 13 | 3 - 5 pm
Paint Party**

Come paint with local artist, Lisa Gilmore, at HavAnnA Cafe on Dec 13 from 3 to 5pm. Adults \$20, Children \$10. Paint a 6 x 6 canvas, coconut, metal or seashell or bring your own. Children will be given child safe paint. Info: (239) 695.2214

**December 16 | 5 pm
Annual Christmas Boat Parade**

Decorate your boat and meet at the mouth of the Barron River by Outward Bound Base Camp at 5:00-5:15. We set sail after sunset, heading to City Seafood Beach Bar. Info: <https://visitevergladescity.com/event/annual-christmas-boat-parade-everglades-city-2023/>

**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. Info: <https://visitevergladescity.com/venue/chokoloskee-family-church-of-god/>

**December 22 & 23 | 2 - 4 pm
Santa Is Coming To town**

Santa Claus will be making a special stop at Captain Morgan's on December 22 & 23 from 2 to 4 pm. Stop by to tell Santa what you want for Christmas. Don't forget your camera. Info: <http://www.captainmorgansseafoodgrill.com>

**December 23 | 6 - 11:30 pm
Grateful Holiday Jam**

Get ready to groove and jingle at this swampy Holiday Jam, an epic event with Crazy Fingers at the Skunkape Headquarters. Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/grateful-holiday-jam-tickets-731907173057>

**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! Info: <https://visitevergladescity.com/venue/chokoloskee-family-church-of-god>

**December 24 | 7 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Join us at the Annual Christmas Candlelight Service at Everglades Community Church! After the service, gather with friends in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments. Don't miss this festive occasion! Info: <https://evergladescommunity.church/>

**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. Tickets at <https://www.evergladesrootsfestival.com/contact>.

**January 18 | 2 pm
Lecture by Tami Ebbets Hahn**

Join us for a captivating lecture by Tami Ebbets Hahn, Daughter of 1920s photojournalist Charles C. Ebbets whose works are currently on exhibit at the Everglades Museum. Info: <https://colliermuseums.com/event/charles-c-ebbets-the-history-mystery-behind-a-pioneer-in-american-photography>

Save The Date

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

The 54th Everglades Seafood Festival starts Friday, Feb 2, 2024, 4:30 p.m. till Sunday, Feb 4, 2024, 6 p.m. Enjoy live music, local crafts, yummy seafood, drinks, and carnival fun! Info: <https://evergladesseafoodfestival.org/>

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

Chokoloskee Family Church is hosting Rumble in the Glades again this year. Featuring Blessing of the Bikes, music, a chili cook off, food trucks, vendors, old cars, and a silent auction in McLeod Park. Info: <https://visitevergladescity.com/venue/chokoloskee-family-church-of-god>

**February 24 | 10 am
Wild Hog BBQ**

Wild Hog BBQ, a one-day event. Advance tickets: \$20 adults, \$10 kids. At the gate: \$25 adults, \$12 kids. Ticket includes entry, wildlife show, live bands, swamp buggy rides, Miccosoukee culture, and more! Enjoy local vendors, activities, raffles, and delicious food. Info: <https://evergladesconservationsportsmanclub.com/wildhogbbq-1>

**March 9 & 10 | 10 am - 4 pm
Harbor Arts & Music Festival**

Catch the festival Mar 9-10 at MarGood Harbor Park. Enjoy art, food, prizes, and live Florida music. Info: taraogallery@gmail.com.

Community

**Food Pantry
Wednesdays | 9:30 am - 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.

**Praise Night
Last Saturday | 6:30 pm**

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.

**Ladies Coffee
Thursdays | 8:30 am**

Ladies Coffee is a casual weekly gathering for women every Thursday at different local breakfast spots or homes. No rules or fees, just a welcoming space to connect and forge friendships in a relaxed atmosphere.

**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. Info: <https://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. Info: <https://www.cityofeverglades.org>




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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
December 13
January 10
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



Visions of the Bank Building

On November 17 we welcomed over 40 people to see and hear what architect Rick Gonzalez, REG Architects, has planned for the old Bank of Everglades.

Rick opened his talk by saying what a “unique, very special place” Everglades City is and mentioned its “wonderful city plan with a circle in the middle” thanks to the foresight of Barron Collier’s team.

Besides the Visitor Center, our building will have mostly open space to provide multi-purpose use as a gathering place for events and art shows on the ground floor. He praised the “really cool vault” that will screen films for small groups. Upstairs will have rooms for our office with historical archives and for meetings or classes.

The presentation included an illustration of plantings envisioned by local landscape architect Dayna Fendrick of Urban Green Studios in Naples.

But, it will be at least a year before that finishing touch can be completed. We first have to shore up the foundations and replace the windows with replicas of the originals.

Our thanks to Rick and Dayna for speaking to us, to Sherry Geiger and Debbie Dowacter for the delicious food and to Everglades Isle for hosting this event.

If you were not able to attend or want to review the plans, see <https://eshp.org/projects/bank-of-everglades>.



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www.evergladescommunity.church

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Either scan the QR code below, click below, or go to the link online!

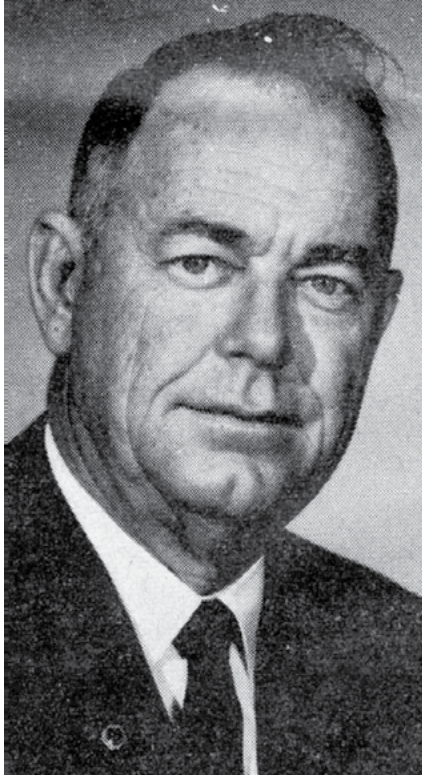
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803 Collier Avenue
Everglades City, FL 34139
Just look for the Lighthouse!

Norman A. Herren ... A Life of Service

by Lila Zuck



“When I first came to Everglades, back in 1938, I thought it was one of the most beautiful spots I had ever seen,” recalled Norman Herren, decades after a lifetime of service to Collier County and Florida.

As a native Floridian, born in Miami on December 11, 1914, he was a natural steward of the Land of Flowers. The Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration he earned in 1937 from the University of Miami opened the door the following year to a lifelong career with the enterprises of Barron G. Collier, committed to “putting all improved land to its best possible use under good management practices.”

It was when Herren joined the Collier team as administrative assistant

to engineer D. Graham Copeland, general manager of the Collier Companies, that he discovered they shared a passion for historic research about the land which became Collier County. Together with Copeland, he said in a 1976 Naples Daily News interview, they translated early Spanish documents and interviewed pioneer settlers. Herren typed what became known as The Copeland Papers, six volumes of 1,820 single-spaced legal-size pages of the early history of Collier County

Herren succeeded Copeland after his retirement from the Collier Companies in 1947 and for most of his tenure there was vice-president. By 1976 he was a board member of six Collier companies and the chief executive officer of five. He felt very strongly about the protection of the state’s land, citing the Collier Companies’ greatest accomplishment was setting aside land for preservation.

In 1958, the Florida Forest Service established the reforestation seedling Herren Nursery. Located on the Tamiami Trail, eight miles south of Punta Gorda, this state nursery cultivated about five million slash pine seedlings a year which were sold at cost, \$10 per thousand, to landowners and to Collier County 4-H Clubs.

In 1974, the nursery produced about 305,000 Eucalyptus seedlings, about 300,000 “tropicals” annually, and in 1980 shipped more than

one million container-grown seedlings. Although not the first to ship seedlings in boxes, the Herren Nursery is believed to have been the first to pack extracted seedlings, seedlings wrapped in bundles and boxed several hundred to a box.

The Herren Nursery was converted to a container nursery in 1973 and was relocated in 1977 to Lake Placid, Florida.

As vice-president of the Florida Board of Forestry in 1956, Norman Herren served his state. He served the citizens of Collier County, mostly simultaneously, as:

President: the Greater Naples Area Chamber of Commerce, the Blood Bank of Collier County, the Collier County Unit of the American Cancer Society, the Collier County Parks and Recreation Board, the Naples Lions Club, the Everglades Chamber of Commerce, the Collier County Cattlemen’s Association, and the 1973 Collier County Semi-Centennial Committee.

Vice-president: the Collier County District of the Historical Association of Southern Florida, the Manhattan Mercantile Corporation, the Collier County Historical Society, and the Collier County Chapter of the American Cancer Society.

Chairman: the Collier County Coastal Area Planning Commission, the Collier County Tuberculosis Association, the Collier County Board of Public Instruction, the Agriculture Committee of the Naples Chamber of commerce, the Collier County Civil Defense Unit, the Southwest Florida Council of Boy Scouts-Collier District, and the Collier County Zoning Board

Director: the Collier County Taxpayers League, the First National Bank of Naples, the Bank of Everglades, Citizens National Bank of Naples, and the Naples Civic Association.

Member of the following boards: the Collier County Planning Board, the Naples Memorial Hospital founding board, Naples Community Hospital Board of Trustees Secretary, the Joint County-City Water Conservation Committee, the Naples Cruise Club, the Collier County Forest Fire Prevention Committee, the Collier-Seminole State Park Advisory Council, and the United Fund of Collier County.

Norman Herren served as City Manager of Everglades City and as the parent of Judith and Norman, Jr. he served as an officer of the Everglades Parent-Teacher Association when they were students. The Barron Collier Corporation relocated its offices to Naples on November 1, 1960 and Herren and his wife Jane followed suit in 1961.

In addition to Norman A. Herren’s service to his state and his community, as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy he served his country during world War II. He was stationed on the USS Baldwin during anti-submarine missions in the North Atlantic, and participated in the invasion of Normandy before heading for the Pacific.

We commemorate Norman A. Herren this Centennial Year for a lifetime of service until his passing on August 20, 2003.



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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

November is a very busy month at EVG. Basketball season is in full swing and we are very proud of all of our Gators. Students will be on Winter Break from December 18th and will return to school on January the 2nd. All students will be celebrating Polar Express Day on December the 15th and are able to wear their pajamas to school. January 12th is the end of Quarter 2 and will be an early dismissal for students. Please also know that our Student Advisory Counsel meets the second Monday of each month in the media center at 8:30 am and we would love to have you.

Everglades City School Science is HANDS ON! Biology students studying the cell! (right)



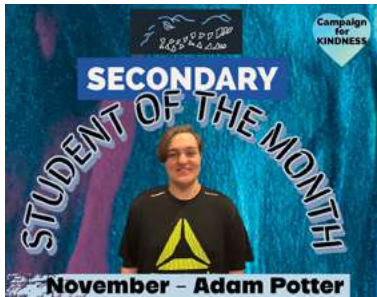
Our sixth-grade students are studying electric conductivity. Thank you, Mr. Cartamil!! (above)



On December the 16th in the EVG cafeteria our Cheerleaders will be doing a gift wrap fundraiser so bring your unwrapped gifts and they will wrap them for you. Please enter through the back bus loop cafeteria doors.



Congratulations to our November students of the month Melinda Cruz for Elementary and Adam Potter for Secondary. These students show exemplary kindness and are excellent students. Thank you, Adam and Melinda!!



Everglades City School wishes everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!



EVG Jr Class Offers
Christmas Grams for \$2 Each
Personalize a message for your loved ones.
Sales end Dec 11, delivery on Dec 14.
Spread holiday cheer!

6th Annual Hook'em in the Glades

Fishing Fundraiser Tournament

The Everglades Lions Club organized the successful 6th Annual Hook'em in the Glades fishing fundraiser, held from November 3-4. The event attracted around 163 eager anglers for an exciting fishing contest. Over 200 attendees joined the Captain's meeting and Angler Check-in to kick off the event. The participation included 38 adult team boat captains, 2 Jr. Angler Team Boat Captains, 6 Kayakers, and 34 On-Shore Junior Anglers.

This year's winners are:

Adult Team Boat Division Winner 71 points:
Capt. Ernie Small

Kayak Division 32 points:
Teddy Smallwood

Junior Team Boat Division Winner 27 points:
Landon Lenz
Joey Lenz

Junior Individual Species Division
32" Snook-Rhiley Thompson
26" Redfish-Hayden Zipper
17" Seatrout-Rylee Mayberry

Junior On-Shore Division
1465 points-Chase Stokes

Junior On-Shore Pee Wee Division
48 points-Landon Gaskill



Over the years, event funds have been used to purchase a digital scorers table, new padded chairs, gym championship banners, pitching machines, equipment, and more for the school. Additionally, the proceeds from the annual raffle are donated to the student groups supporting the tournament!

What started out as a fundraiser tournament has turned into a community and family event that has helped us bring families together, and introduce fishing to kids, bringing smiles to everyone around!

Everglades Book Club 23-24

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

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
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Diann Lock

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 FloridaBankruptcyVideos.com

Fishing The 10,000 Islands

by Captain Mike Merritt



Well, I just got back from the Amazon and jumped right in to some really good Snook fishing! It seems they are still in the Islands and Rivers. The water temps haven't gotten so low yet to send these fish all deep into the back country. This will eventually happen, but for now the outside is still a great place to catch the big Snook.

I was booked my first day back here with Dave Lawrence and he had a phenomenal trip with his biggest Snook being a 35.5" fish! The next 2 days were equally great as I had clients land over a dozen slot size Snook. The biggest being a 40" beauty. These fish were all caught on live bait and all on the outside Islands and coves. This fishing should continue until a front pushes the fish into the back country. The back country does have plenty of fish also but things have been so productive on the outside I have not ventured back yet.

The Redfish were also biting on the outside but tides this week were falling so most of my Redfish action was early morning on the high falling. The incoming tide will produce more Reds but that was late this week. It is nice to be back here with some cool mornings. Hopefully these temperatures hold out for a while so we can enjoy the red hot fishing out in the Islands.

The Seatrout are really biting good also. The problem I had was the amount of small fish and Ladyfish we had to go through to get some keeper size Trout. This is loads of fun for the novice anglers and kids. Popping corks or even a knocker rig with a 1/4 oz lead is producing tons of action on the flats. Jigs and DOA shrimp are producing tons of bites, but so will shrimp and live bait.

Tarpon are still abundant in the Rivers and edges of the flats. They should continue until cold fronts push them all south. There are lots of smaller fish but I am seeing some decent fish in the 60lb to 100lb range in the Rivers.

The offshore bite is good with the winter bite turning on. Capt. Bobby Johnson said they caught lots of Sheepshead and Spanish Mackerel offshore this week. The winds have been cooperative to allow this so take advantage of the great weather and enjoy the bite! Good Luck Fishing!

Mike Merritt, Fishing Guide
 (561)252-4324
SnookFishing1@juno.com

Congratulations!

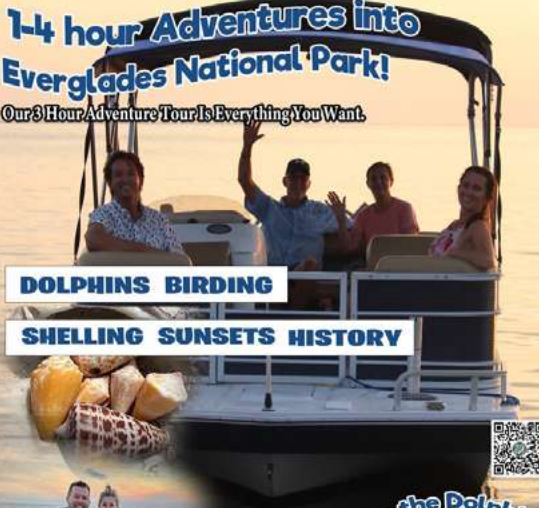
ESHHP

Everglades Society for Historic Preservation, Inc. Announced its NEW website!
 Check it out at <https://eshp.org/>

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November 25, 2023 Puzzle Solution

1	V	2	I	3	O	4	L	5	T	6	O	7	P	8	E							
9	G	E	N	R	E	10	H	A	R	M	S	11	S									
12	A	T	O	M	S	13	A	R	U	B	A	14	M	O	N	O	S	K	I	N	O	S
17	L	E	U	18	R	U	S	H														
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24	I	C	K	25	A	U	D	I	T	O	R											
29	F	R	E	E	D	31	I	M	A	G	O											
32	T	E	R	R	A	33	D	E	R	R	O											
34	T	S	A	R	35	A	N	T	E													

It's That Time Again!

by Rev. Bob Wallace



Shopping for the holidays used to be fun. As a little boy, I remember going downtown in Tulsa, Oklahoma and looking in the store windows on Main Street. They had been decorated for Christmas. There were a lot of stores. And a lot of windows. You could be amazed with the music being played by mechanical toys and animals. The colors of clothes on display. And the Salvation Army bell ringers were on every corner. But that's all changed. It's all gone! Now, you must drive out to the malls to get into the spirit and do your shopping.

Or better still, you don't have to go anywhere. You can do your shopping from the comfort of your own home. On-line. On your computer.

So, here are some tips to help you shop safely on-line.

1. Shop only from trustworthy retailers. Shop directly with who you know and trust. Bookmark your favorite shopping sites. You can then get to them quickly and safely. Avoid typing the name of the retailer into your browser bar. A tiny typo could land you on a fake site that looks just like the real one.

In 2019, the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center got an average of 1,300 online theft complaints per day, totaling \$3.5 billion in losses to individuals and businesses. Recently, the FBI has received a lot of complaints about consumers not receiving goods purchased online. Many buyers fell for "deals" that were advertised on social media or search engine shopping pages. They either got nothing, or they received a substitute item, like a box of disposable face masks which could be returned only by paying a high international shipping charge. Scammers really can take the joy out of shopping!

2. Verify the legitimacy of the website. Is it for real? Scrutinize the details of any online store you're not familiar with. Check for the padlock in the URL bar. That will give you evidence of a secure website. Routinely check your bank statements for unknown transactions.

3. Only use safe payment services such as PayPal, Apple Pay, or Google Wallet. Avoid using debit cards or direct bank transfers. Make sure the site you buy from uses safe payment services such as credit cards or PayPal. Most credit card companies have \$0 fraud liability policies. That means you won't be on the hook for fraudulent charges. Plus, unlike using your debit card, a hacker can't access your bank account with a stolen credit card and wipe you out.

4. Learn the warning signs of a scam email or social media ad. Be suspicious of emails, or social media ads which offer deals that are too good to be true. They might be phishing attempts or scams. Fraudsters create fake online stores and then use social media ads to lure you in to becoming a customer. But the products either don't arrive, aren't what you expected, or come with huge hidden fees. Criminals can even use your name, address, and credit card details to steal your identity and drain your bank account. The good news is you don't have to stop shopping online to stay safe. Get protection from online scams, identity theft, and fraud. Enable multi factor authentication (MFA) whenever possible. MFA adds an extra layer of security to your accounts by requiring additional verification beyond your password. This can help prevent unauthorized access to your accounts. Check out online shopping safety tips so you can avoid becoming a victim.

5. Always check shipping costs and terms before making a purchase. Some retailers might offer free shipping, while others might charge a fee.

I hope these tips help you shop safely online and will make your holiday shopping a pleasant experience in order for you to have a Merry Christmas.

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



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Everglades Arts
New Show
Birds in the Everglades
December & January
Saturdays 11a - 4p
and by Appointment

Paintings by
Varick Niles

VarickNiles.com | (508) 677-5136
106 Camellia St, Everglades City

FWC's Catch a Florida Memory Adds New Categories

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is introducing new Saltwater Fishing Record categories in 2024. Starting January 1, 2024, anglers



can apply for three new record categories: Youth Weight for anglers 15 and under, and Youth and Adult Length categories designed for catch-and-release records. See Details at CatchaFloridaMemory.com/Records or call (850) 487-0554.

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



See Events

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 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 from 2 - 3pm for the Third Thursday** talk there will be a lecture by Ebbets' daughter, Tami Ebbets Hahn, who will share personal insights into her father and his work. **Closing Reception January 19, 2024 | 5:00 pm-7:00 pm.**

WE ARE STILL HERE - the Continuing Story of the Miccosukee Tribe



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

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.

Museum Friends Hear Big Cypress Plans

by Marya Repko

There are so many interesting things to do and see in our part of southern Florida but do visitors know about them?

As part of an effort to spread the word, Museum Manager Thomas Lockyear and Scott Pardue, Chief of Interpretation at Big Cypress National Preserve, have been working together to promote our environmental and historic heritage.


At their Annual Luncheon on December 4, the Friends of the Museum heard from Pardue about plans to enhance the entrance to Big Cypress. He said the old visitor center (the "A-shaped" building in Carnestown at the corner of US-41 and SR-29) looks abandoned, which it is. The Preserve will demolish the structures there and build a big sign so families can take photos to show where they've been. Eventually, there will



also be a replica of the original Trail Arch which Barron Collier built to mark the Collier/Dade County line.

It is appropriate that this work will be mostly done in 2024 which is the 50th anniversary of the establishment of first National Preserve, thanks to Nathaniel Reed who pressured the federal government to save the Big Cypress from development in 1974.

Scott said he was glad to cooperate with other local organizations and the County Tourist Development Board to stress that the area is not *Disneyland* but well-worth visiting because of its respect for the unique environment.



Join The Fish Art Contest!
Submit your form, creative writing, and original fish-themed artwork featuring Florida's native species.
Deadline Feb 28, 2024 | K-12 (ages 5-18)

Thanksgiving Giveaway Success Again

Once again, Thanksgiving in Everglades City and Chokoloskee was made extra special this year with a heartwarming turkey giveaway to local families, continuing the cherished tradition initiated by the Miccosukee community back in the '90s. The Community



Church's pantry, assisted by devoted volunteers, distributed the turkeys. Immense gratitude goes out to these exceptional helpers whose dedication made this memorable day possible. In addition to distributing turkeys, the community gathered for a joyful Thanksgiving dinner, creating a day of gratitude and togetherness.

Christmas Gumdrop Nougat

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp Butter
- 2 bags of White Chocolate Chips
(2 of the 225 gram bags)
- 2 bags of Mini Marshmallows
(2 of the 250 gram Bags)
- 1.5 cups chopped Red
& Green Gumdrops



Directions:

Line an 8x8 pan with parchment paper
Melt the marshmallows, butter, white chocolate chips together in a double boiler, stirring continuously until smooth. Remove from heat.
Stir in any additional mix-ins, like colorful gumdrops or sprinkles.
Quickly spread the nougat into the prepared pan using lightly greased parchment paper. Press down firmly.
Chill in fridge for at least 2 hours.
Remove from pan, peel off parchment.
Cut into small squares with a greased knife.



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

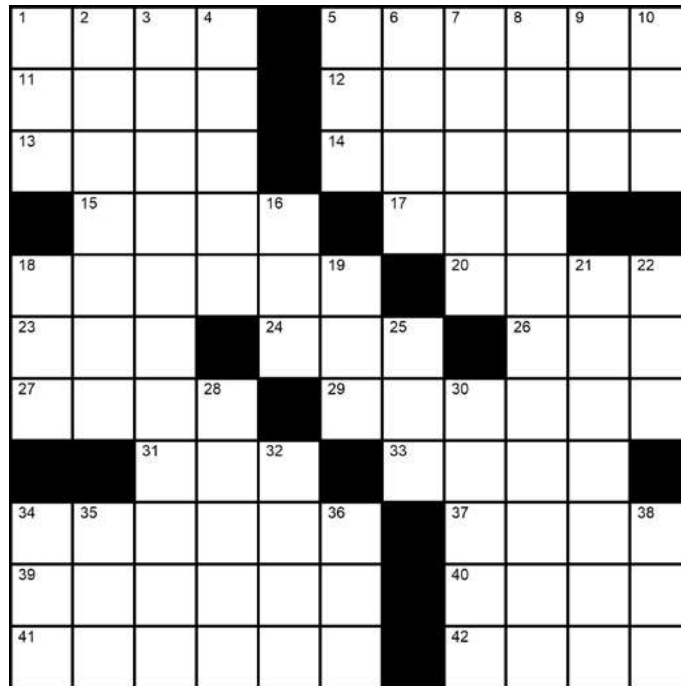
- Sunday Worship** 10:00 am
- Sun. Kids Church** 10:00 am
- Sunday Renewal** 6:00 pm
- Wed. Youth Renewal** 7:00 pm
- Thur. Bible Study** 7:00 pm

Doing Life Together

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1. Crumbs
- 5. Contract provision
- 11. Bickerer in the "Iliad"
- 12. "Ain't Misbehavin'" composer
- 13. Elliptical
- 14. Joust combatant
- 15. "I had no ___!"
- 17. "Wheels"
- 18. Ascends
- 20. Muslim pilgrimage
- 23. Darling
- 24. ___ grass
- 26. Bygone bird
- 27. Mine entrance
- 29. Render harmless



12/9/23

Down

- 31. Black gold
- 33. Make waves
- 34. Charitable organizations
- 37. Call
- 39. Old-style revolutionary
- 40. "Green Gables" girl
- 41. Deliberately combative
- 42. Profit, in England
- 18. Bean counter, for short
- 19. Blue
- 21. Idle
- 22. Wing it, musically
- 25. End
- 28. Layers
- 30. Alternative to a convertible
- 32. Poland's Walesa
- 34. Apply gently
- 35. "Walking on Thin Ice" singer
- 36. Diffident
- 38. Affranchise



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

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EATERIES

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

MARKETS

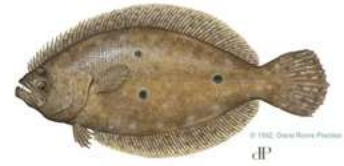
Right Choice Market Daily 9 am – 7 pm (239) 695-4535
Grimm's Stone Crab Mon-Sat 8 am – 5 pm (239) 695-3222

AREA WORSHIP

Chokoloskee Family Church Sun: 10 am School & Worship, 6 pm Renewal Wed: Youth Program 7 pm
Copeland Baptist Church Sun: 10 am School, 11 am Worship
Everglades Community Church Sun: 11 am Worship
1st Baptist Church of Everglades City Sun: 9:45 am School, 11 am Worship & 6 pm Svc Wed: 6 pm Bible Study
Holy Family Catholic Church Sunday: 10:30 am Mass (Dec - April)

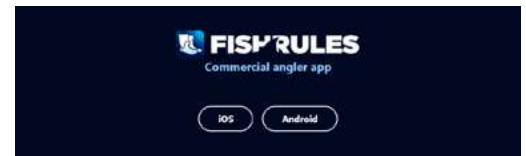
BARRON RIVER TIDES

12/9/2023	Sat	7:08 AM	0.06	L
12/9/2023	Sat	12:48 PM	2.13	H
12/9/2023	Sat	7:01 PM	0.76	L
12/9/2023	Sat	11:45 PM	2.66	H
12/10/2023	Sun	7:48 AM	-0.13	L
12/10/2023	Sun	1:33 PM	2.19	H
12/10/2023	Sun	7:40 PM	0.79	L
12/11/2023	Mon	12:14 AM	2.77	H
12/11/2023	Mon	8:29 AM	-0.3	L
12/11/2023	Mon	2:17 PM	2.21	H
12/11/2023	Mon	8:18 PM	0.82	L
12/12/2023	Tue	12:41 AM	2.88	H
12/12/2023	Tue	9:10 AM	-0.44	L
12/12/2023	Tue	3:04 PM	2.21	H
12/12/2023	Tue	8:55 PM	0.84	L
12/13/2023	Wed	1:11 AM	2.99	H
12/13/2023	Wed	9:54 AM	-0.52	L
12/13/2023	Wed	3:54 PM	2.2	H
12/13/2023	Wed	9:36 PM	0.85	L
12/14/2023	Thu	1:45 AM	3.06	H
12/14/2023	Thu	10:40 AM	-0.55	L
12/14/2023	Thu	4:46 PM	2.17	H
12/14/2023	Thu	10:21 PM	0.85	L
12/15/2023	Fri	2:26 AM	3.06	H
12/15/2023	Fri	11:27 AM	-0.52	L
12/15/2023	Fri	5:36 PM	2.16	H
12/15/2023	Fri	11:11 PM	0.83	L
12/16/2023	Sat	3:17 AM	2.96	H
12/16/2023	Sat	12:15 PM	-0.41	L
12/16/2023	Sat	6:25 PM	2.16	H
12/17/2023	Sun	12:08 AM	0.79	L
12/17/2023	Sun	4:22 AM	2.77	H
12/17/2023	Sun	1:06 PM	-0.23	L
12/17/2023	Sun	7:12 PM	2.18	H
12/18/2023	Mon	1:14 AM	0.72	L
12/18/2023	Mon	5:46 AM	2.52	H
12/18/2023	Mon	2:01 PM	-0.02	L
12/18/2023	Mon	7:57 PM	2.23	H
12/19/2023	Tue	2:34 AM	0.6	L
12/19/2023	Tue	7:26 AM	2.27	H
12/19/2023	Tue	3:02 PM	0.2	L
12/19/2023	Tue	8:40 PM	2.31	H
12/20/2023	Wed	3:51 AM	0.4	L
12/20/2023	Wed	8:59 AM	2.09	H
12/20/2023	Wed	4:03 PM	0.41	L
12/20/2023	Wed	9:22 PM	2.41	H
12/21/2023	Thu	4:58 AM	0.17	L
12/21/2023	Thu	10:29 AM	1.99	H
12/21/2023	Thu	5:01 PM	0.57	L
12/21/2023	Thu	10:04 PM	2.52	H
12/22/2023	Fri	5:59 AM	-0.06	L
12/22/2023	Fri	12:06 PM	1.99	H
12/22/2023	Fri	5:57 PM	0.7	L
12/22/2023	Fri	10:50 PM	2.62	H



Flounder Season Reopened Dec. 1

The recreational harvest of flounder in all Florida state and federal waters reopened December first. The minimum size limit is 14 inches total length and the daily recreational bag limit is five fish per person. To learn more about current recreational flounder regulations, visit <https://myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/recreational/flounder> or download the Fish Rules App. Imagery: Courtesy of FWC



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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

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

FOR SALE: A Metal shed that is 10' X 12' with a roll up door at one end and 2 windows & 1 service door. Brand new valued at \$4900.00. Located in Everglades City, you haul it. Beige w/white Trim. All metal except Floor which is treated Plywood. Set up on skids. \$4,500.00 OBO. Call: (410) 829-7156

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We provide news for the communities of Everglades City, Chokoloskee, Plantation Island, Port of the Islands, Copeland, Jerome, Ochopee Lee Cypress, Big Cypress and the 10,000 Islands.

We seek accuracy & diversity in reporting.

Views expressed may not reflect those of the editors or publisher.

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