

# The MULLET RAPPER



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

December 23, 2023 - January 19, 2024



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

Volume XXIII · Issue # 446

## Christmas in Everglades City ~ Enchanting

by Donnell Richards - Everglades Gators Booster Club President



Our 12th Annual Christmas Parade Fundraiser for our Gator athletes was a resounding success. The judges for the floats were Pastor Jesse from Chokoloskee Family Church, Mr Lockyear from the Everglades Museum, and Taylor Richards Everglades Gator Homecoming Queen 2021.

Our first-place float was designed by Aria Mitchell who won a 75" TV for the best float.

The second-place winner was designed by Diana Potter Cadell of the Chokoloskee Family Church they won \$200.

Third-place and was designed by Mallory and Gary McMillin of Smallwood Store Boat Tours. They won \$100 and generously donated their winnings back to our basketball team's new basketball uniforms.

Thank you to our great community for coming out and supporting our local youth. It is so important for all of us to come together and support these kids.



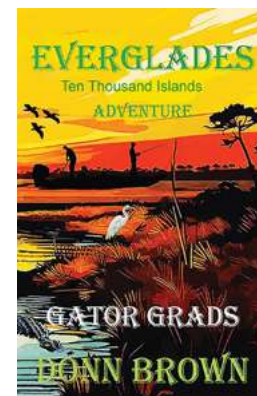
Mayor Howell Grim and his grandson Woods

All Photos Credit: Maria Loup

## Capturing The Everglades In Story

Delving into nostalgic tales of growing up in the untamed beauty of the Everglades, Donn Brown's captivating series arrives as a fresh literary adventure. Donn is a retired photojournalist who has been living in Naples, Florida, for the past 50+ years. He has sailed the SW Coast of Florida, camped in most of the state's campgrounds, and hiked the Big Cypress Trail. Photographing Loren "Totch" Brown was a highlight of the Everglades City and Chokoloskee Island experience.

Wrangling words on paper is new for this first-time author. Recording images on film was not. He began a photography career in the early 1960s in the US Air Force and retired from area newspapers in 2008. With encouragement from family and friends, this new "word slinger" will strive to keep adventures in the Everglades alive and well.



### Gator Grads

Graduating High School in Florida's Everglades is just the beginning for Robbie & Steve-O. The vast Everglades National Park is their playground, and not everyone plays fair. Join them in exploring the Ten Thousand Islands and discover what lies within the River of Grass.



### Grouper Trooper

Robbie is now an FWC Officer and Steve-O was promoted to Rusty's Assistant. Their adventures include a suspicious death, an armed robbery, a ghost ship, and a masked manatee.

### Learn More

<https://www.amazon.com/stores/Donn-Brown/author/B0CJWDC4JK>

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## EVENT CALENDAR - December 24, 2023 to February 3, 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> Xmas Blessing p3 Candlelight Svc p3	25 	26 <b>Full Moon</b>	27 <b>Food Pantry p3</b>	28 Ladies' Coffee City Seafood 8:30a	29	30 Praise Night p3
31 <b>New Years Eve</b>	January 1 	2 City Council p3 School Break Ends	3 Wilderness Wed p9 <b>Food Pantry p3</b>	4 Ladies' Coffee HavAnnACafe 8:30a	5	6
7	8	9	10 Bio Blitz p4 Wilderness Wed p9 <b>Food Pantry p3</b>	11 Ladies' Coffee Island Cafe 8:30a <b>New Moon</b>	12 Roots Festival p3 Early Dismissal	13 Roots Festival p3 Art In Glades p3
14 Roots Festival p3	15 Free Park Day p9	16 P&Z p3	17 Wilderness Wed p9 <b>Food Pantry p3</b>	18 Ladies' Coffee City Seafood 8:30a Book Club p6 Exhibit Lecture p3	19 Closing Reception p9	20 - RAPPER
21	22	23	24 Wilderness Wed p9 <b>Food Pantry p3</b>	25 Ladies' Coffee HavAnnACafe 8:30a <b>Full Moon</b>	26 Garage Sale p12 Opening Reception p9	27 Garage Sale p12 Praise Night p3
28	29	30	31 Wilderness Wed p9 <b>Food Pantry p3</b>	February 1 Ladies' Coffee Island Cafe 8:30a	2 Seafood Fest p3	3 - RAPPER Seafood Fest p3

### 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-5p (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 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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|---|---|



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## Events

**December 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 | 12 - 2 pm  
Santa & Mrs Claus**

Join us for a magical day at Skunkape Headquarters! Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus are making a special stop from noon to 2 pm just for you to capture unforgettable photos. Enjoy free admission to our Reptile Exhibit, indulge in hot cocoa, and tackle those last-minute Christmas shopping needs. Find us at 40904 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee. See you there for festive fun!

**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>

## 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.

**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. 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 13 | 10 am - 1 pm  
Art In The Glades**

Welcome to our Winter Visitors! Join us at McLeod Park for the Art in the Glades event on January 13 from 10 am to 1 pm. Explore a treasure trove of unique gifts crafted by local artisans at our Arts & Crafts Sale and Book Signing. Vendors interested in participating can reach out to Marya at (239) 451-0265.

**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>

**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>

## 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://evergladeseafoodfestival.org/>

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

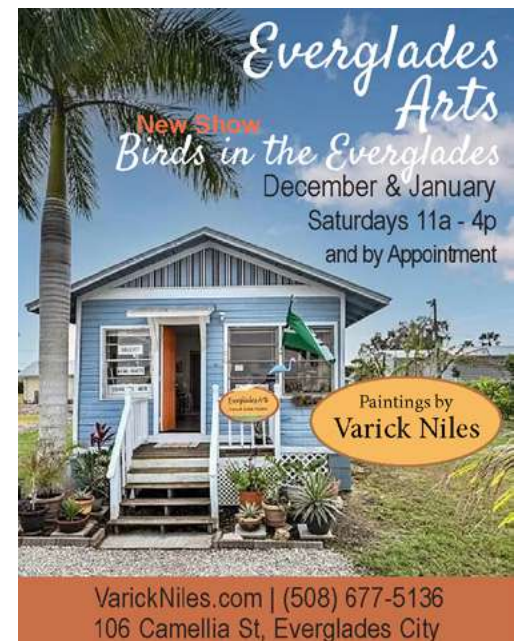
Chokoloskee Family Church is hosting Rumble in the Glades again this year. Featuring Blessing of the Bikes, music, a chili cook off, food trucks, vendors, old cars, and a silent auction in McLeod Park. Info: <https://visitevergladescity.com/venue/chokoloskee-family-church-of-god>

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

WildHogBBQ, 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, Micosoukee 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](mailto: taraogallery@gmail.com).






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**Triad Seafood Market & Café**



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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**  
January 10  
February 7  
[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



At the December 5th Council meeting, Mayor Grimm, Council persons Pernas, and McComas were sworn in for new 4-year terms. Ordinances relating to signs and floodplain received their first reading, and the Mayor nominated Mike Merritt to the Planning and Zoning Board.

Our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting took place on December 9th. Continuing a tradition for the past two decades, each student at our school received a Walmart gift card on the last day before the holiday break. Home-schooled children and those not yet in school picked up their gifts at City Hall.

On December 7th, Mayor Howie Grimm, Finance Administrator Tammie Pernas, and City Attorney Zach Lombardo participated in a panel discussion on the future of Everglades City for the 2024 class of Leadership Collier. Preceding this, a history presentation was given by Barry Collier (grandson of Barron Gift Collier), Rocky Scofield (grandson of Lewis Thorp, the second Sheriff of Collier County), and Councilman McComas.

The class then embarked on a tour, visiting our Museum, the Bank of the Everglades, having lunch at the Rod & Gun Club, and later exploring the Smallwood Store. They received presentations from the ladies of the Florida Stone Crabbers Association, Principal Cherie Allison with her staff and students, before ending the day with Jack Shealy and Jimmy Wheeler at the Skunk Ape campground to learn the history of the Gladesmen.

Hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and best wishes for a Happy New Year from your Staff and elected Officials at City Hall.




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[www.evergladescommunity.church](http://www.evergladescommunity.church)

**New Packaged Goods Service is Now Available**

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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.*  
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Everglades City, FL 34139  
**Just look for the Lighthouse!**

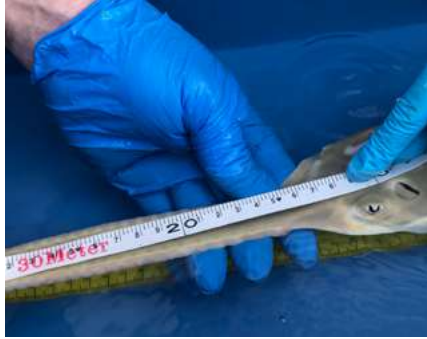


**SAWFISH NEWS**

by Tonya Wiley, Havenworth Coastal Conservation

**SeaWorld Orlando Celebrates the Birth of Endangered Sawfish Pups**

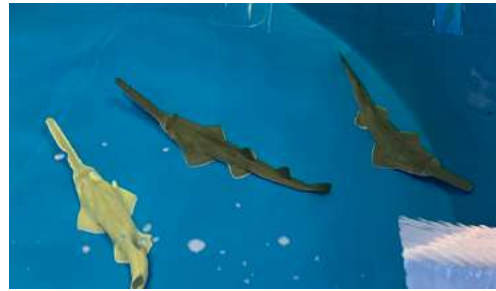
In October, SeaWorld Orlando announced the birth of three smalltooth sawfish pups, marking a historic achievement in global conservation for this endangered species as the only aquarium in the United States showcasing smalltooth sawfish and only the second worldwide to have a successful birth. The two females and one male were born on July 11, 2023, and each measured approximately two feet in length. Following their birth, the pups underwent a comprehensive examination, and continue to receive regular check-ups to ensure their sustained health and expected developmental progress.



Dr. Joseph Gaspard, Vice President of Zoological Operations at SeaWorld Orlando said, “The birth of smalltooth sawfish at SeaWorld Orlando marks a significant achievement, as we become the second aquarium globally to have this success. This is an extraordinary success in the realm of sawfish conservation, and it is our privilege to provide world-class care for this critically endangered species. The birth of these smalltooth pups allows for a greater understanding of how to turn the tide on the declining sawfish populations and spread the message of education to our millions of guests that visit each year.”

“The birth of smalltooth sawfish in captivity for just the second time, and the first within the United States, is historic. These young sawfish will provide a great opportunity for researchers and aquarists to learn more about juvenile growth and development. But equally important, this will be a chance for the public to witness and develop an understanding of these majestic creatures. It is through these opportunities that greater conservation can be achieved”, says Adam Brame, Sawfish Recovery Coordinator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA).

Despite their shark-like appearance, smalltooth sawfish are actually rays, showcasing gills and mouths on their undersides. Named for their saw-like rostrum, smalltooth sawfish inhabit tropical seas and estuaries in the Atlantic Ocean, favoring shallow coastal waters, and occasionally venturing into freshwater river systems, notably in Florida’s coastal areas. While these younglings continue their growth, they’ll receive meticulous care from SeaWorld’s Aquarium Team at the Aquarium Health Center, remaining behind the scenes as they grow and develop under world-class supervision.



Two adult smalltooth sawfish reside at SeaWorld Orlando and have been housed at SeaWorld parks since the 1980s. These sawfish currently reside in the 700,000-gallon Shark Encounter main habitat and boast the title of the largest fish

in the park. In late May, SeaWorld Orlando’s dedicated aquarist and veterinary teams discovered through ultrasound that the female sawfish was pregnant. Recognizing the significance of this development, the female sawfish was relocated to the Aquarium Health Center, an environment where she was able to be closely monitored through the birth of the pups. SeaWorld Orlando is honored to have facilitated the pregnancy and birth in its indoor aquarium, with generated lighting and pristine saltwater conditions. This showcases the unwavering dedication of the aquarium team in providing the best care to aquatic animals, while encouraging marine life conservation and education.

To see the full announcement video visit <https://www.facebook.com/seaworldorlando/videos/593449939496582>



**Happy Centennial Holidays, First Century Firsts**

by Lila Zuck

Embark on a captivating journey through Collier County’s rich history, filled with remarkable milestones that have shaped its narrative. While we can’t share all the details here, the complete story penned by author Lila Zuck awaits your exploration in the article titled *Centennial Holidays First Century Firsts* at [VisitEvergladesCity.com](http://VisitEvergladesCity.com).

Step into the vibrant history of Collier County, where every milestone tells a tale of growth and community spirit. From the lively celebrations at Caxambas in 1923 to the founding of crucial institutions like the Juliet C. Collier Hospital, each milestones paved the way for the grand celebration of Collier County’s 100th birthday in 2023, showcasing the resilience and vibrant history defining this incredible region.

**Read Article**

<https://visitevergladescity.com/happy-centennial-holidays-first-century-firsts-by-lila-zuck>



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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

EVG is proud to announce that we are once again an A+ school!! We are so excited for our students, faculty and staff and proud of their hard work.



Congratulations Essa Harris for her beautiful job in their High School Collier Centennial Art Contest. Essa Depiction of the train depot won her \$1000 and the honor of being the ONLY 9th grade High School Student to receive this award. We are so blessed.



Congratulations to our honorable mentions Kelly Smallwood and Ava Potter for their beautiful work.

### EVG Reading News



We are excited to share the results of our nonfiction November reading challenge! Our second, third, fourth and fifth grade participated in the month-long challenge. The students read 93 nonfiction books and reading reports!

Congratulations to our fifth-grade class for reading the most books! They completed 48! The class leader and the

overall grand prize winner was Ivy Cruz with eight books from the fifth grade! Coming in second place was our second grade, who had 100% participation, reading 33 books!

### The Grinch Has Come to EVG!!!



Wishing you all a Happy Holiday and A Blessed New Year from Everglades City School.

### 6th Graders Explore Big Cypress Swamp

The 6th-grade class from Everglades City School took a cool trip



with guides from Big Cypress. They walked through three different eco systems of the swamp: the pine forest with tall pine trees, wide-open grassy areas, and a swamp filled with cypress trees. It was a fun way to learn about how different parts of nature fit 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)

### Everglades Book Club 2024

Meetings are open to all. We just read the book, have wonderful discussions and make new friendships. Meeting are 10 am - 11 am.

**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



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### Fishing The 10,000 Islands

by Captain Mike Merritt



December fishing so far this month has been awesome! We started the month with warm temps and calm winds. This allowed us to catch some nice Tarpon and to also target some nearshore Permit. We were able to sight cast to both species which was even better. Since then we had a minor cold front come through and winds picked up. This changed things, but the fishing remains strong. Snook fishing in the backcountry has picked up and we have landed some really nice fish this past week up to 35". They shut down for a couple days but then came back with a vengeance! A couple days after the front gives these fish time to adjust and they are hungry! Redfish are still being caught amongst the Islands. There are plenty of small fish but you can find legal-size fish mixed in or at least in the same area. Live shrimp will be your best bet for these fish. But the live bait will produce too. There is still plenty of Pilchards schooling in the Islands. This is what these fish are honed in on. Smaller live baits for the Reds is what I suggest. Seatrout are on the flats. Getting a day with light winds can be the hardest part. The fish are biting on that incoming tide and taking a variety of baits. Fishing corks or getting it to the bottom? This can change and it pays to change up if what you are doing is not producing a bite. I know our winter species should be showing up in better numbers as the month progresses and these guys all love Shrimp! So for lots of bites and great fun, this is a sure way to get some action. Whether you're fishing deep holes or mangrove shorelines or even the flats a live Shrimp is hard to beat this time of year. get in on the action and enjoy the bite! Good luck fishing! Capt. Mike Merritt

**Mike Merritt, Fishing Guide**  
 (561)252-4324  
[SnookFishing1@juno.com](mailto:SnookFishing1@juno.com)

**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)**  
 Details:  
<https://myfwc.com/education/programs/fish-art>

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**December 9, 2023 Puzzle Solution**

1	O	R	T	S	5	C	L	A	U	S	E		
11	H	E	R	A	12	W	A	L	L	E	R		
13	O	V	A	L	14	T	I	L	T	E	R		
15	I	D	E	A	17	C	A	R					
18	C	L	I	M	B	S	20	H	A	D	J		
23	P	E	T		24	O	A	T		26	M	O	A
27	A	D	I	T	29	D	I	S	A	R	M		
31	O	I	L	33	P	E	R	M					
34	D	O	N	E	E	S	37	D	I	A	L		
39	A	N	A	R	C	H	40	A	N	N	E		
41	B	O	L	S	H	Y	42	N	E	T	T		



### Looking Forward to the New Year

by Rev. Bob Wallace



According to a Forbes Health/OnePoll survey conducted in October of 2023, 61.7% of respondents said they feel pressured to set a New Year's resolution. Additionally, many respondents are planning on setting multiple goals with 66.5% stating they plan on making three or more resolutions for the year ahead.

It's kinda' like a young girl who lived in a small town. Every year on New Year's Eve, she would make a list of resolutions she wanted to accomplish in the coming year; however, as the year went on, she would forget about her resolutions. She never followed through with them.

And that happens to a lot of us.

One year, she decided to do something different. She made a resolution to help others in need. So, she started volunteering at a local homeless shelter. She spent time with the elderly in her community. She also helped her neighbors with their chores. She even ran errands for them and took them to their doctor. As the year went by, she realized helping others was making her a happier person. She felt fulfilled. She was content knowing she was making a difference in someone's life. So, she continued to volunteer and help others. And after a time, it became a part of her daily routine. It was her life!

Then, on the following New Year's Eve she made a new resolution. She decided to continue helping others and making it her lifelong commitment. She had realized resolutions were not just about achieving personal goals. They were about making a positive impact on the world around her.

So, remember, resolutions are not just about self-improvement. They are also about making a difference in the world. It's okay if you're not good at making New Year's resolutions. Many people try it and struggle with keeping their resolutions. It's not unusual to feel overwhelmed or discouraged about it. However, there are ways you can make resolutions that may be more achievable and realistic for you. Here are some tips that might help you:

1. **Set specific goals:** Instead of making vague resolutions, try to set goals that are definite and significant. For example, instead of saying "I want to lose weight," try setting a goal like "I want to lose 10 pounds in the next three months."
2. **Make a plan:** Once you have set your goals, make a plan on how to achieve them. Write them down. Break down your goals into smaller, manageable steps. Then create a timeline for each step.
3. **Be realistic:** It's important to set goals that are realistic and achievable. Don't set yourself up for failure by setting goals that are too difficult or unrealistic.
4. **Track your progress:** Keep track of your progress. And celebrate your achievements along the way. Give yourself a treat! That will help you stay motivated and focused on your goals.
5. **Don't give up:** Remember, setbacks are a normal part of the process. If you slip up, don't give up. Get back on track and keep working towards your goals.

I hope these tips will help you make and keep your New Year's resolutions. Remember, the most important thing is to be kind to yourself. And to keep trying.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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



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

<b>Sunday Worship</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>Sun. Kids Church</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>Sunday Renewal</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>
<b>Wed. Youth Renewal</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>
<b>Thur. Bible Study</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>

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## 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 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 -7 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. **Opening Reception January 26, 2024 | 5 -7 pm.**

#### Third Thursday Talk Series

Learn about a wide range of topics at an exhibit companion lecture happening every third Thursday of the month from 2 – 3 pm.

#### The Miccosukee: Past, Present, & Future February 15, 2024 | 2 - 3 pm



For this companion presentation to the "WE ARE STILL HERE" exhibit, our guest speaker will be William "Popeye" Osceola, the Secretary of the Miccosukee tribal business council. An accomplished artist and former educator at the Miccosukee School, Mr. Osceola — one of the five heads of the tribal government — will share his insights on tribe's history and culture as well as his thoughts on the new collaborative exhibit.

#### Wilderness Wednesdays at the Museum Series January 3 - April 17 | 2 – 3 pm

Embark on a captivating journey into the heart of the Everglades with Wilderness Wednesdays, an enriching lecture series held every Wednesday from 2 to 3 pm at the Museum of the Everglades. In collaboration with the Big Cypress National Preserve, this seasonal program features presentations by ranger staff and esteemed partner organizations, delving into the distinctive flora, fauna, and remarkable biodiversity of this unique ecosystem. Spanning January to April, each week unveils a new topic presented by the National Park Service, promising an immersive exploration of the Everglades' natural wonders. For further details and updates on scheduled talks, contact the Museum of the Everglades at (239) 252-5026 or visit [CollierMuseums.com/events](http://CollierMuseums.com/events)

#### History & Heritage Days at Everglades Seafood Festival February 3 & 4, 2024 | 9 – 4 pm

This year on history and heritage row at Everglades City's Annual Seafood Festival Museum of the Everglades will focus on our partnership with the local indigenous tribe of Miccosukee Indians. Several artisans from the tribe will provide crafting demonstrations and offer their creations for sale. There will also be cooking demonstrations and an alligator wrestling exhibition in the museum parking lot. Collier County Museums will have an information booth with kids' activities and the museum will be open for visitors to enjoy and explore the new "WE ARE STILL HERE" exhibit in the front gallery and our permanent exhibits (including the 1929 Harley-Davidson motorcycle) in the back.

#### Everglades National Park Fee Increase in 2024

Everglades National Park will increase entrance fees starting January 1, 2024. Vehicle and vessel fees will increase to \$35 for a seven-day pass, while other modes of entry will go up by \$5. The annual pass will cost \$70.

See below for Fee Free Days in the park. The fee waiver for the fee-free days applies only to entrance fees and does not cover amenity or user fees for camping, boat launches, transportation, special tours, or other activities.

#### Fee Increase Details:

<https://www.nps.gov/ever/learn/news/fee-increase-2024.htm>

#### Free Days At The Park

January 15: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

April 20: Start of National Park Week

June 19: Juneteenth

August 4: Great American Outdoors Day

September 28: National Public Lands Day

November 11: Veterans Day

Learn More: <https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/fee-free-parks.htm>

## Butterscotch Martinis

### Ingredients

- Ice cubes
- 2 ounces clear Creme De Cacao
- 2 ounces Creme De Cacao
- 1-1/2 ounces Vodka
- 1-1/2 ounces Butterscotch Schnapps Liqueur
- 6 Semisweet Chocolate Chips
- Soft Butterscotch candies, optional

### Directions:

Fill a shaker three-fourths full with ice. Add the Creme De Cacao, Vodka and Schnapps.

Cover and shake until condensation forms on outside of shaker, 10-15 seconds. Divide chocolate chips between 2 chilled cocktail glasses; strain butterscotch mixture over chips. If desired, garnish with butterscotch candies.



Image by brgfx on Freepik

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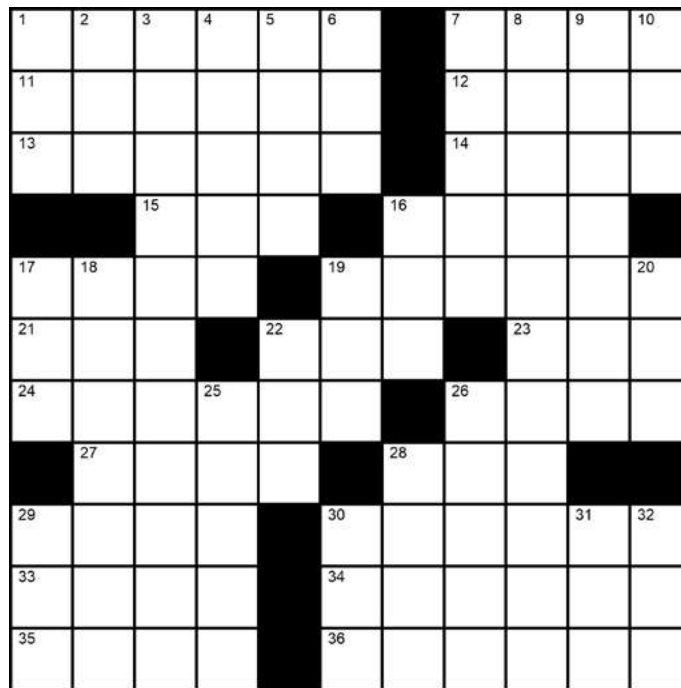
**(239) 784-6936**

**Info@EvergladesIT.com**

## MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

### Across

1. Steamed dish
7. \_\_\_ line (major axis of an elliptical orbit)
11. Sort of
12. Five-time U.S. Open champ
13. Memorial Day event
14. At sea
15. "Don't give up!"
16. Actor Green of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer"
17. Bone-dry
19. For end consumers
21. Last word of "America, the Beautiful"
22. Caught
23. Clock standard: Abbr.
24. Out of the shell



12/23/23

### Down

1. First-rate
2. "\_\_\_ Ng" (They Might Be Giants song)
3. Weaponless self defence systems
4. Cy Young, e.g.
5. Disney dog
6. #13
7. Lace tip
8. Leading character of a literary work
9. "Jiro Dreams of Sushi" pieces
10. Newt, once
16. Undertake, with "out"
17. \_\_\_ Wednesday
18. Noted news agency
19. Pistol, slangily
20. Inc., abroad
22. Come together
25. Minimal
26. Computer woe
28. Fast feline
29. Chucklehead
30. "I see!"
31. "Fancy that!"
32. Make sense, with "up"

### Captain Morgan's Seafood Grill



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**EATERIES**

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

**MARKETS**

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

**AREA WORSHIP**

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

**BARRON RIVER TIDES**

12/23/2023	Sat	6:54 AM	-0.25	L	1/6/2024	Sat	5:47 AM	0.04	L
12/23/2023	Sat	1:20 PM	2.03	H	1/6/2024	Sat	11:46 AM	1.59	H
12/23/2023	Sat	6:51 PM	0.77	L	1/6/2024	Sat	5:17 PM	0.78	L
12/23/2023	Sat	11:36 PM	2.71	H	1/6/2024	Sat	10:04 PM	2.3	H
12/24/2023	Sun	7:44 AM	-0.4	L	1/7/2024	Sun	6:38 AM	-0.16	L
12/24/2023	Sun	2:13 PM	2.04	H	1/7/2024	Sun	12:57 PM	1.71	H
12/24/2023	Sun	7:41 PM	0.79	L	1/7/2024	Sun	6:16 PM	0.83	L
12/25/2023	Mon	12:19 AM	2.77	H	1/7/2024	Sun	10:52 PM	2.42	H
12/25/2023	Mon	8:30 AM	-0.49	L	1/8/2024	Mon	7:26 AM	-0.35	L
12/25/2023	Mon	2:54 PM	2.02	H	1/8/2024	Mon	1:44 PM	1.83	H
12/25/2023	Mon	8:26 PM	0.79	L	1/8/2024	Mon	7:09 PM	0.83	L
12/26/2023	Tue	12:59 AM	2.8	H	1/8/2024	Mon	11:41 PM	2.58	H
12/26/2023	Tue	9:14 AM	-0.52	L	1/9/2024	Tue	8:12 AM	-0.52	L
12/26/2023	Tue	3:27 PM	1.99	H	1/9/2024	Tue	2:25 PM	1.93	H
12/26/2023	Tue	9:09 PM	0.77	L	1/9/2024	Tue	7:57 PM	0.81	L
12/27/2023	Wed	1:36 AM	2.8	H	1/10/2024	Wed	12:26 AM	2.77	H
12/27/2023	Wed	9:56 AM	-0.51	L	1/10/2024	Wed	8:57 AM	-0.65	L
12/27/2023	Wed	3:57 PM	1.98	H	1/10/2024	Wed	3:05 PM	2	H
12/27/2023	Wed	9:51 PM	0.75	L	1/10/2024	Wed	8:42 PM	0.76	L
12/28/2023	Thu	2:13 AM	2.75	H	1/11/2024	Thu	1:10 AM	2.93	H
12/28/2023	Thu	10:36 AM	-0.46	L	1/11/2024	Thu	9:42 AM	-0.71	L
12/28/2023	Thu	4:28 PM	1.99	H	1/11/2024	Thu	3:44 PM	2.05	H
12/28/2023	Thu	10:32 PM	0.73	L	1/11/2024	Thu	9:28 PM	0.69	L
12/29/2023	Fri	2:51 AM	2.66	H	1/12/2024	Fri	1:54 AM	3.03	H
12/29/2023	Fri	11:16 AM	-0.37	L	1/12/2024	Fri	10:26 AM	-0.7	L
12/29/2023	Fri	5:01 PM	2.02	H	1/12/2024	Fri	4:23 PM	2.1	H
12/29/2023	Fri	11:13 PM	0.71	L	1/12/2024	Fri	10:16 PM	0.6	L
12/30/2023	Sat	3:33 AM	2.54	H	1/13/2024	Sat	2:43 AM	3.01	H
12/30/2023	Sat	11:55 AM	-0.25	L	1/13/2024	Sat	11:11 AM	-0.61	L
12/30/2023	Sat	5:37 PM	2.06	H	1/13/2024	Sat	5:00 PM	2.14	H
12/30/2023	Sat	11:55 PM	0.69	L	1/13/2024	Sat	11:07 PM	0.49	L
12/31/2023	Sun	4:21 AM	2.38	H	1/14/2024	Sun	3:41 AM	2.88	H
12/31/2023	Sun	12:33 PM	-0.11	L	1/14/2024	Sun	11:54 AM	-0.43	L
12/31/2023	Sun	6:14 PM	2.1	H	1/14/2024	Sun	5:35 PM	2.19	H
1/1/2024	Mon	12:40 AM	0.64	L	1/15/2024	Mon	12:00 AM	0.38	L
1/1/2024	Mon	5:15 AM	2.17	H	1/15/2024	Mon	4:45 AM	2.63	H
1/1/2024	Mon	1:08 PM	0.09	L	1/15/2024	Mon	12:37 PM	-0.2	L
1/1/2024	Mon	6:47 PM	2.14	H	1/15/2024	Mon	6:11 PM	2.24	H
1/2/2024	Tue	1:35 AM	0.59	L	1/16/2024	Tue	12:58 AM	0.27	L
1/2/2024	Tue	6:17 AM	1.95	H	1/16/2024	Tue	5:56 AM	2.31	H
1/2/2024	Tue	1:46 PM	0.26	L	1/16/2024	Tue	1:22 PM	0.07	L
1/2/2024	Tue	7:26 PM	2.16	H	1/16/2024	Tue	6:49 PM	2.29	H
1/3/2024	Wed	2:44 AM	0.51	L	1/17/2024	Wed	2:05 AM	0.17	L
1/3/2024	Wed	7:33 AM	1.75	H	1/17/2024	Wed	7:16 AM	1.97	H
1/3/2024	Wed	2:29 PM	0.43	L	1/17/2024	Wed	2:11 PM	0.34	L
1/3/2024	Wed	8:05 PM	2.17	H	1/17/2024	Wed	7:30 PM	2.33	H
1/4/2024	Thu	3:53 AM	0.38	L	1/18/2024	Thu	3:20 AM	0.05	L
1/4/2024	Thu	8:53 AM	1.61	H	1/18/2024	Thu	8:46 AM	1.69	H
1/4/2024	Thu	3:21 PM	0.58	L	1/18/2024	Thu	3:10 PM	0.57	L
1/4/2024	Thu	8:43 PM	2.19	H	1/18/2024	Thu	8:17 PM	2.36	H
1/5/2024	Fri	4:52 AM	0.22	L	1/19/2024	Fri	4:32 AM	-0.09	L
1/5/2024	Fri	10:15 AM	1.55	H	1/19/2024	Fri	10:40 AM	1.54	H
1/5/2024	Fri	4:18 PM	0.7	L	1/19/2024	Fri	4:16 PM	0.73	L
1/5/2024	Fri	9:22 PM	2.23	H	1/19/2024	Fri	9:10 PM	2.38	H

**CLASSIFIED ADS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

HELP WANTED: Our Everglades Area Visitor Center is looking for volunteers to greet tourists from around the world and share their knowledge of our local businesses and recreational opportunities. Call Patty at (239)719-0020 or email [snookcity@gmail.com](mailto:snookcity@gmail.com) for information.

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