

Courtesy Lisette Morales-McCabe

Betty Osceola

Speaks at the Museum of the Everglades

Miccosukee Environmental Educator Betty Osceola spoke at Museum of the Everglades as part of their *Wilderness Wednesdays* series on April 10th.

The popular series usually features talks about local flora & fauna by ranger staff at the Big Cypress National Preserve, but as the museum extended the schedule into April, Ms. Osceola graciously agreed to be one of the season's final speakers.

A recent recipient of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Defender of the Everglades Award, Betty Osceola's voice has become a powerful force in the struggle to preserve, protect, and ultimately heal the Everglades. Her *Wilderness Wednesdays* appearance was no exception.

The talk had no pre-determined topic, and at the beginning Ms. Osceola informed those in attendance that she hoped what followed would be more of a conversation than a lecture. It was exactly that.

Among the many topics discussed was the recent proposal by the National Park Service to assign a "Wilderness Area" designation to large portions of the Big Cypress National Preserve. The Miccosukee Reservation sits squarely at the center of the Preserve and, with no exception for the region's indigenous people, the initiative would dramatically restrict the traditional use guaranteed to the Tribe by the Preserve's enabling legislation passed in 1974.

Ms. Osceola explained that the designation would not only curtail their continuing stewardship of the region that includes

See **Betty**, p9



EVG Celebrates Prom 2024

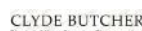
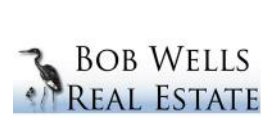
By Dr. Cherie Allison
Principal, EVG,
Everglades City School

We're thrilled to announce the success of the Everglades City School 2024 Prom - A Grand Affair! Hosted at the elegant White Rose in Naples on March 28th, it was a night to remember. Special thanks to Ms. Kristin Fuller and Mrs. Jill Whitcomb for orchestrating this unforgettable



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Trekking Through the Everglades
Rich in history & determination.
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Hooked a Bird? Don't Cut the Line!
What to do if hooked.
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Spring Fishing
The Redfish are biting and the Snook are still plentiful.
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Local Event Calendar

April 27, 2024 to June 8, 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
April 28 Park Week p2	29	30	May 1 Food Pantry p3	2 Ladies' Coffee City Seafood 8:30a	3 Produce Stand p3	4
5 	6	7 ● New Moon City Council p3	8 Food Pantry p3 Bio Blitz p2	9 Ladies' Coffee Everglades Cafe 8:30a MR-Swamp People p3	10 Produce Stand p3	11 Mayor Fish Fry p3 Sports Physicals p5
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15 Food Pantry p3	16 Ladies' Coffee HavAnnA Cafe 8:30a Third Thursday p9	17 Produce Stand p3 Exhibit Opening & Awards p9	18
19 Micro Wrestling p3	20	21 P&Z p3	22 Food Pantry p3	23 (Full Moon Ladies' Coffee Island Cafe 8:30a	24 Produce Stand p3 Graduation p2	25 - RAPPER Praise Night p3
26	27 Memorial Day No School	28	29 Food Pantry p3 Paint Along p2 Parade p2	30 Ladies' Coffee City Seafood 8:30a Last Day of School	31 Produce Stand p3	June 1 Canepole Classic p2
2	3	4 City Council p3	5 Food Pantry p3	6 ● New Moon Ladies' Coffee Everglades Cafe 8:30a	7 Produce Stand p3	8

Events

April 20 - 28 Annual National Park Week

National Park Week is happening April 20 to April 28 this year. Entrance fees will be waived on April 20, 2024, to kick off the celebration and to encourage everyone to enjoy their national parks in person. Info: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/npscelebrates/national-park-week.htm>

April 27 | 10 am - 2 pm Museum Birthday Celebration

Celebrate with us at the Museum of the Everglades on April 27th from 9 am to 2 pm, as we commemorate the 76th Anniversary of the Completion of the Tamiami Trail and the "birthday" of our beloved museum. This celebration promises a festive blend of history and entertainment, featuring live music, complimentary hot dogs, and the only laundry cart races in the country! Arrive early for a free walking tour, register for races, enjoy classic cars, or relax with music and birthday cake. 105 Broadway Ave W Everglades City. Info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1425646205007642>

May 8 | 8:30 am - 10:30 am Fakahatchee Strand Bio Blitz

Help us understand wildlife trends. Volunteers record observations along Janes Scenic Drive from 8:30-10:30 am. Meet at the Park Office at 7:45 am. More Info: Alex.gobel@floridadep.gov or (239) 961-1925

May 24 | 3 pm EVG Graduation

Join us on May 24th at 3 pm at Everglades City School to celebrate the achievements of our graduating class. The ceremony will held in the Gymnasium.

May 29 | 3 pm - 5 pm Paint Along at HavAnnA Cafe

Get ready for fun at HavAnnA Cafe's super cool collab with Stroke of Serendipity – it's a Paint Along! Happening monthly on the last Wednesday of the month, from 3 pm to 5 pm. \$20 for adults (12 and up) and \$10 for kids (5-11). Let's make art, vibes, and memories together. RSVP to lisagsosart@yahoo.com. Info: (239) 877-3998.

June 1 | 10 am - 1 pm 2nd Annual Canepole Classic

The 2nd Annual Canepole Classic will be hosted June 1 at Trail Lakes Campground. Join us for a fun day of fishing for the kids with Cane poles. Sign Ups will be required to ensure availability. Info: <https://allevents.in/ochopee/2nd-annual-canepole-classic/200026369662128>

Save The Date

June 19 Free Park Day

Celebrate Juneteenth National Independence Day in the national parks June 19! Admission is free. See you there! Info: <https://www.nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/fee-free-days.htm>

June 29 Spammy Jammy

Put on your PJ's and join us the evening of June 29 at Little Bar, in Goodland. We will be celebrating at Spammy Jammy an eclectic bash celebrating the end of the season and the beginning of hurricane season. Don't miss the strange but cool Spam Mold competition. Who will be the 2024 winner this year?

June 29 Parade & Fireworks | 10 am

Celebrate Independence in Everglades City. Join the parade at 10 am, then come to McLeod Park for kiddies' best-dressed contests, free hot dogs, raffles, and prizes. Fireworks start at 9 pm when it gets dark. For more information, phone Karen at City Hall (239) 695-4299

Entertainment

HavAnnA Cafe (Chokoloskee) has Live Music 7 days a week. Happy Hour starts at 1 pm every day till close on Friday and Saturday night.

Gator Hole Bar (Everglades City) has live music on Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays!! Matrassa Lynn 7 - 10 pm.

Joanie's Blue Crab Cafe (Ochopee) has live music on weekends.

Little Bar (Goodland) has live music every night. Damon Fowler 27, 8 pm.

Crabby Lady (Goodland) has live music every weekend. Matrassa Lynn 24 3-6pm, ONE80 Band 28 1 pm.

Stans (Goodland) has music Tues - Sundays. Shows start at 1 & 5. Mark your calendars for great entertainment like Randy McNeeley Band 28, and Steinbeck Way 27.

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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 am - 3:30 pm

The Everglades Area Visitor Center is located at 207 Broadway W., Everglades City. The Visitor Center is open daily 10 am to 3:30 pm.

Planning & Zoning Meeting
Third Tuesdays | 6 pm

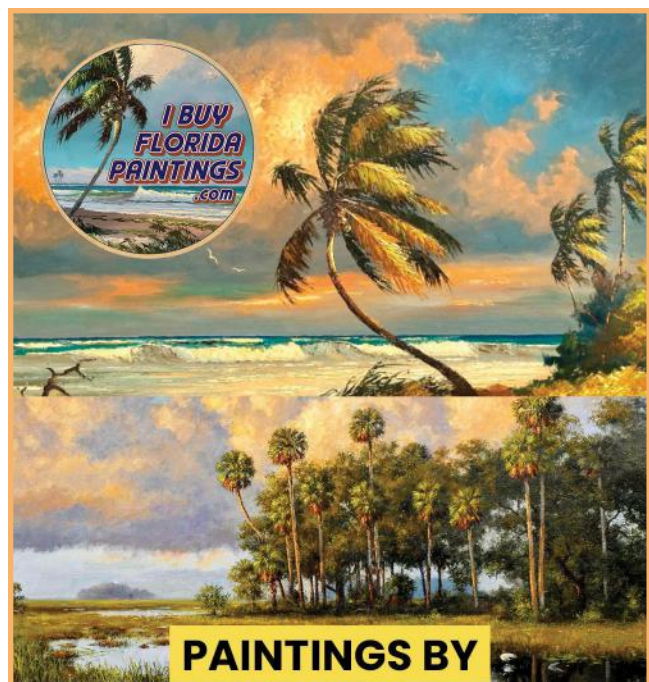
P&Z Board meetings are held monthly on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. City Council room, 2nd floor City Hall. Info: <https://www.cityofeverglades.org>

City Council Meeting
First Tuesdays | 7 pm

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>

Produce Stand
Fridays | 9 am - 12 pm

Stop by the produce stand outside Kirks Fish Company at 417 Papaya St. in Goodland for fresh fruits and veggies. Available Fridays from 9 am to Noon.



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2024 In Stand Dates

- January 20
- February 3
- February 17
- March 2
- March 16
- March 30
- April 13
- April 27
- May 25
- June 22
- July 20
- August 17
- September 14
- October 12
- October 26
- November 9
- November 23
- December 7
- December 21

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Publisher's Statement

We cover news and events for Everglades City, Chokoloskee, Plantation Island, Port of the Islands, Copeland, Jerome, Ochopee, Goodland, Lee Cypress, Big Cypress, and the 10,000 Islands. Our aim is accurate and diverse reporting. Opinions expressed may differ from those of the editors or publisher.

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keep the planet."
~ Marjory Stoneman Douglas*

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EVG School Updates

By Dr. Cherie Allison
Principal, EVG, Everglades City School

Everglades City School's spring Scholastic book fair was a huge success! In addition to earning funds for our media center, the excitement for reading was felt by all! Students were so happy with their new books! We are especially thankful to Deputy Sue and the Police Activities League for purchasing a NEW



book for all the EVG students! Monday, March 4th Deputy Sue shopped with each EVG student! Wow! Plus, she and the Police Activities League supported EVG teachers with a special gift! Deputy Sue delivered special gift bags for our teachers that included books from the fair! Incredible! EVG would also like to thank the Everglades Lions Club for sponsoring the media center! The Everglades Lions Club's sizeable donation enabled us to purchase new books for the library! These exciting new books will benefit all! Thank you for supporting literacy at EVG!



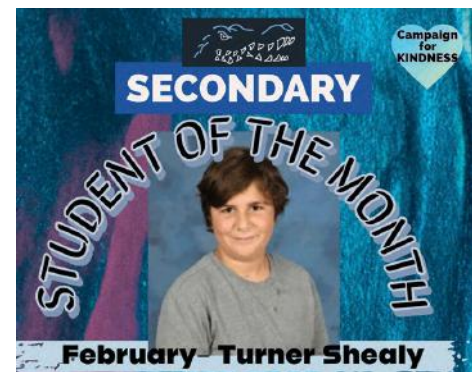
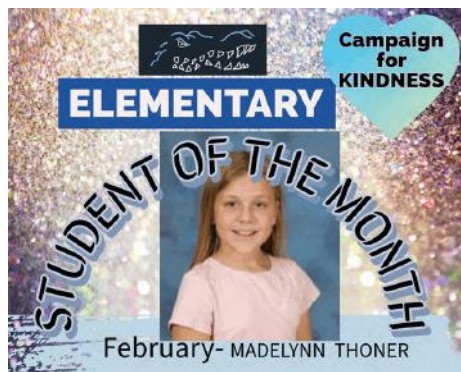
Congratulations to Arabelle Ingley, who was selected as a "Do the Right Thing" recipient. She was nominated for doing a good deed and the Collier County Sheriff's Office honored her on Tuesday April the 2nd. Way to go Arabelle!!

EVG is so proud of our readers! A huge congratulations to third grader Madeline Strickland. Madeline was the first student this year to earn a place on our varsity reading team. Madeline read and wrote over 40 book reports! Wow! In the photo, Madeline is proudly wearing her personalized varsity t-shirt!

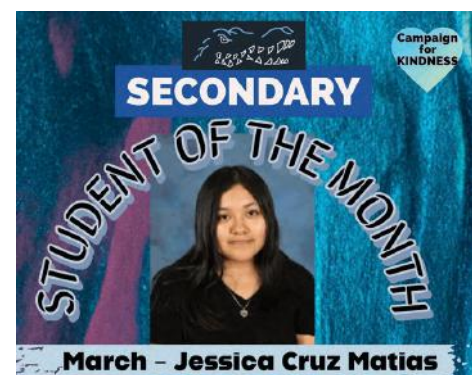


To earn varsity reading team status the students must read 40 books and complete the corresponding "Reading with a Purpose" book report! Then, they submit the report to the media specialist Mrs. Owen and they discuss the book! Quite an accomplishment.

Congratulations to our February Students of the month Madelyn Thoner and Turner Shealy.



Congratulations to the March Students of the month Kevin Calmo Cruz and Jessica Cruz Matias. Your student skills, overwhelming kindness and strong character traits make you a standout at EVG!!



A special shout out to Olivia Johnson and the Nate Edwards Fishing Tournament for a few of the many ways that they are reaching out and supporting our students. The tournament bought furniture for differentiated instruction for some elementary classes that the students love to work at. Science was able to purchase materials to support the 6th grade solar car challenge. Leader in Me leadership banners and 7 Habits of Highly Effective Students were bought for



elementary and secondary hallways to promote students' growth mindsets. A poster maker was given to the media center to promote all school incentives and events and to celebrate students. Tanks, motors, and materials for our science

students were purchased for classes to promote our High School Agriculture and Middle School Science classes. Flexible seating was purchased for some elementary classes, giving students creative options in place of a standard desk. Our 5th-grade students enjoy their flexible seating with an oversized map carpet for creative learning opportunities. These are just a few of the wonderful things this tournament has done for EVG. This spring, five seniors will receive \$5,000 scholarships for continuing education.

By Mayberry Photography

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By Mayberry Photography

Congratulations to our TEACHER OF DISTINCTION - Kristin Fuller! She was recognized at the Golden Apple Awards Ceremony for her incredible work! EVG is so blessed to have her!



Congratulations to Essa Harris who was recognized as EVG's outstanding artist at the Superintendent's Art Gallery.

EVG District All-Star | April

We're thrilled to share that one of our very own EVG School students has been selected as this month's CCPS District All-Star! Join us in celebrating their outstanding achievement as they shine among the best student-athletes in the Collier County Public Schools District.



Ava Ramos is a freshman standout on the Everglades City School softball team. She is enjoying a tremendous season so far, batting .562 with 6 RBIs, 21 stolen bases, and 16 runs scored. Ava also shows her

versatility by playing both infield and outfield and posts an efficient .833 fielding percentage. Coaches say she has stepped up her leadership role and is a driving force for the Lady Gators.

Prom

From page 1

event. We extend our gratitude to the Florida Stone Crabbers Association for their generous support, providing delicious dinner at the Camilla Street Grill and ensuring safe transportation with two limo buses. A heartfelt thank you to all the staff and parent volunteers whose dedication made this evening magical for our students. Here's to creating cherished memories together!



Congratulations EVG Prom King & Queen Katie Collins & Carson Foss. (Left)



Free Sports Physicals
May 11 at 9 am | EVG Cafeteria
Everglades City School is offering free sports physicals for 5th - 11th grade students interested in participating in sports next year.
Info: <https://www.collierschools.com/Page/43>



EVG YEARBOOK

The 2023-2024 Gator Yearbook can be purchased for \$40 cash or check until the end of April. Online the cost is \$50 and the school code is 19503.
<https://www.yearbookordercenter.com/jobSearch/displayHome>

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Trekking Through the Everglades

By Captain Mike Merritt



of planning last year and even placing supplies in strategic locations, the time for my attempt was nearing. I scheduled a week off in late April, and then we got that torrential rain that flooded Ft. Lauderdale airport. This also put a ton more water on the prairies and in the Mangroves. I decided to put this Trek off for a year to see if more favorable conditions could be had.

So, after much planning and my son Michael agreeing to accompany me, I set a date to start. I went back and established trails for about 5 consecutive weekends. This included stashing water, food, and supplies. While doing this, it became evident that we would not find much, if any, high ground. With all preparations made as much as possible, it was time to go.

Sometimes in life, you just do something because you've talked about it and the time for talking is over. This is what got me started on planning a walk through the heart of the Mangroves here in the Everglades. As a young man, we always heard the old timers make remarks about how a man could walk from Highlands Beach to the Trail (US41) during the dry season. One such

"Old Timer" was Denny Noble. I had seen him when I was just a kid running around out in the backcountry in my 14ft boat with a 15HP Johnson. Denny would always say, "you Merritt boys are everywhere," to which we would just smile. We loved to explore, and this was before GPS or Google Earth, so we learned by memory.

Later in years, my buddy Ray Culver,

who has since passed away, and I talked about doing this walk. Well, life gets busy, and we were both busy guiding, so we never did undertake this walk. About 2 years ago, I decided I was going to do it. I started planning and even made a lot of preparations last year by marking trails I would follow. I first went on Google Earth and looked at what the terrain was like that I would be traversing. I didn't say much to too many people as it was just something I wanted to do on my own. After weeks

The plan was to walk from Highlands Beach to the Loop Rd. This would take us through all kinds of terrain. We would start in Cabbage palms and then enter a large Mangrove forest. We would traverse muck, marsh, cross over creeks, cross over rivers, needle grass prairies, sawgrass, cypress, and pine before we were all through. It was going to be challenging, but I really wanted to try.

We left my dock on March 30th, and Capt. Kyle McMillin dropped us



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off on Highland Beach at around 8:30 am. We strapped on our 50 lb. loads and started towards the 1st waypoint. I had my Garmin Inreach handheld GPS66i with my plotted course, a compass, food, water, hammock tent, first aid, eating utensils, etc. We quickly walked through the easy high ground that these cabbage palms had grown up on. Shortly after clearing this nice easy walk, we entered the tangled Mangroves that we knew we would be in for the next 6 miles until we reached Rogers River where we would swim across and camp for the night. At least this was the plan.

The progress slowed considerably as the mangroves were intertwined with so much deadfall that we literally had to push and fight for every yard we would make. This kept on for hours with no easy walking. Every step was in water, and below the water was 4"-6" of mud. The ground was wet everywhere. I only hoped as we got into the taller, older part of the Mangroves that it would not be as dense or as wet. But as I was learning, Google Earth did not give a clear understanding of what lies ahead. We were hoping this would get easier. When we were 4 hours into our walk, we came across an area I was hoping was sparse growth and solid ground. I couldn't have been more wrong. We came across what I would describe as some of the toughest terrain I have ever crossed. It was a struggle to walk through this muck as you would not

only fight to keep your balance but fight to pull your foot free from the muck every step of the way.



It took us 2.5 hours to get through about a thousand yards of this. Once we were free from it, we continued on our way. More thick Mangroves with fighting for every yard, but at least we were not in muck anymore. We continued on for 3 more hours and decided we would try to find a dry place to stop. After zigzagging through these Mangroves, it became apparent there was no such dry place. It was getting late, and I knew we were at least still 3 or more miles from where I had planned to make it on day one.

We decided to set up camp, and everywhere we looked, the water was 6" deep. So we wedged our backpacks into some mangrove roots to keep them up out of the water and proceeded to set up camp. We had purchased some hammocks that actually doubled as tents. We found some tree trunks large enough to attach to and got our beds for the night all set up. Unloading the packs had to be done carefully because if you dropped anything, it was going to be soaked. Once this was accomplished, we needed to build a fire. No easy feat in the water. So I found a tight group of tree roots and stacked up some of the plentiful dead wood that was hung up in the trees everywhere. We stacked up enough dry wood to form an elevated area and then built a fire on top of this. It worked great. We also formed some seating in the same fashion so we could actually sit and eat our meal somewhat relaxed. Our feet were never dry until we climbed into our hammocks that evening.

The mosquitoes were not bad. I was pleasantly surprised by this. Not sure exactly why but there are many factors. Everywhere we saw water, there were

tons of mosquito fish. The weather was still very mild, and rainy season had not yet started.

During this day's walk, we had crossed 2 small creeks that were obviously tidal creeks. These had a slight flow in them which obviously came from the river. We were able to cross them by finding areas where the Mangroves were growing nearly completely across. This is one thing that I made observation of while doing this walk. It is that the Mangroves grow very rapidly and aggressively. They will close up a flowing source of water no matter how deep the channel. The only thing that seems to slow them down is either a freeze or very powerful storms like a hurricane. I believe that is why there was so much dead intertwined in these Mangroves. I remembered the freeze of 2010 and of course several hurricanes. But these trees have definitely overcome all of that and are rapidly spreading.

After going to bed physically exhausted, we needed a good night's sleep. The hammock proved to be somewhat comfortable, and as long as we had something under us to keep the mosquitoes from biting our backs, we slept.

Waking up the next morning and knowing you had to step out of your hammock into 6 inches of water wasn't exactly motivating. I got up, started a fire, and put on some coffee. We had some oatmeal and smoked sausage for breakfast. We packed up camp and started out on day 2 to hopefully make it to the river crossing. I checked the GPS and saw that we had only walked 1.83 miles in 9.5 hours. I was not confident at this point that we could make up the difference and make it to our next source of water. We agreed that we would walk for 6 hours or so and see how far we made it before deciding

what to do next. We only had enough water to make it through one more day.

The walk this day was all Mangroves. We would walk for an hour through dense grueling growth only to find that it got thicker. We kept joking with each other that if you think it can't get any tougher just wait. Anytime we would come across a small area where the growth was not dense, it just didn't last long. I remember planning this trip thinking at worst we would walk 1/2 mile per hour and at best 1 mile per hour. Turns out we were getting less than 1/4 mile per hour. There was no way to increase our speed. We came across the widest creek on the 2nd day. This creek was 15 ft. wide and about 4 ft. deep. It did not show up on my search when planning this trip. We searched along the bank and finally found a way to cross the creek without swimming.

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By Reverend Dr Bob N. Wallace
Everglades Community Church

Barron Gift Collier (March 23, 1873 – March 13, 1939) was an American advertising entrepreneur whose impact on Florida was profound. Collier made his fortune in streetcar advertising and quickly became a millionaire. His business ventures extended far beyond advertising, including a chain of hotels, bus lines, banks, newspapers, and more. He was a visionary who saw potential in undeveloped areas. Barron and his wife, Juliet Gordon Carnes, acquired more than 1.3 million acres of land in Southwest Florida. They became the largest private landowners in the state.

Collier's investments transformed the wilderness, including draining the Everglades and constructing the



Courtesy Wikipedia

Tamiami Trail. Collier was instrumental in the construction of roads, drainage systems, and other infrastructure that opened the area for development. His efforts were crucial in transforming the region into a viable and accessible destination. To recognize his influence and investment in the state's future, the Florida legislature named Collier County after him on May 8, 1923. His impact extended beyond business. He established the Rod & Gun Club at Everglades City. He donated land for Everglades Community Church. He also established the Izaak Walton Club at their Useppa Island Resort, which became one of the most exclusive sporting clubs globally.

Barron Gift Collier was a visionary entrepreneur who left an indelible

mark on Florida's landscape and conservation efforts. His legacy reverberates through various initiatives that continue to benefit the state's environment:

Rural Land Stewardship Program (RSLA): In 2002, Barron Collier Corporation pioneered the RSLA, a land use plan aimed at protecting agricultural areas, natural habitats, wetlands, and flow ways. Over 50,000 acres of Florida habitat have been preserved through this program. The masterplanned community Ave Maria set aside 17,050 acres for conservation under the RSLA.

Florida Panther Protection Program: Collaborating with conservation organizations and local farmers, Barron Collier Corporation established this program. It safeguards over 2.5 million acres of public and private lands for the endangered Florida panther. The Paul J. Marinelli Panther Protection Fund supports conservation through sustainable real estate developments like Ave Maria.

Big Cypress National Preserve: Barron Collier's family conveyed land for the 729,000-acre Big Cypress National Preserve. This preserve protects wetlands that flow clean water across the Greater Everglades ecosystem, benefiting diverse wildlife and the endangered Florida panther.

Collier Seminole State Park: The park, historically known as Royal Palm Hammock, was donated by the Collier family to Collier County in 1947. It covers 7,271 acres, extending south to the Ten Thousand Islands, encompassing mangrove river estuaries and salt marsh preserves.

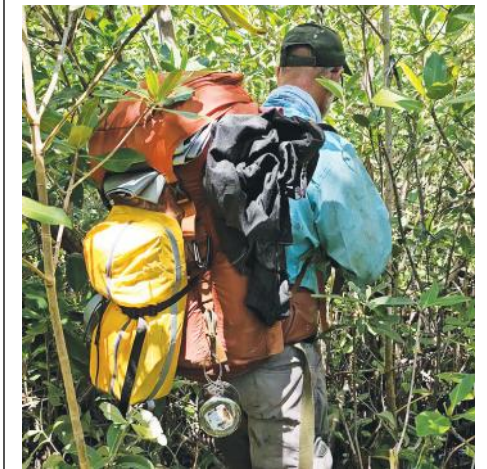
Habitat Conservation Plan: Permanently preserving approximately 150,000 acres in Eastern Collier County, this plan ensures the protection of true Florida habitat and threatened species.

Barron Gift Collier's commitment to conservation continues to shape Florida's natural heritage, benefiting both present and future generations. Barron Gift Collier's vision and dedication continue to shape Florida's landscape and economy, leaving a lasting mark on the region.

Trekking

From page 7

This ate up about 30 minutes of our day. Time was valuable, so I was a little disappointed in this. But, it was part of the walk, and we managed to cross.



At about 3 pm, I checked our progress and knew that we would not make it to our water. We were down to a 1/4 of a gallon between us, so I decided we would make our way to the edge of Rogers River and send a message to inform my wife of our decision. We found a small clearing and sent a GPS text message. We told her we would send coordinates when we reached the river. We then turned towards Rogers River and encountered the most dense growth yet coupled with deadfall that was completely wrapped in vines and briars. At one point, I was searching for some easier route and I could not see 3 ft. ahead. We pushed through and eventually made it to Rogers River and the first high ground we had seen since starting. We sent the coordinates, and being unsure of them being received, we prepared to spend the night.

Capt. Kyle McMillin showed up in surprisingly good time to extract us, and we headed home. I am disappointed in not being able to complete this journey. But I intend to pursue it again next year and experience what the rest of the trail has for me. This was an extremely physical hike but also seeing the vast and difficult terrain was very cool. Along the way, the plant life can seem very mundane, but when you really pay close attention, you see how it changes drastically depending on sunlight, air penetration, density, soil, and of course, the height of the ground. I figured out that the trek I had planned to accomplish in 6 or 7 days will actually take a month if it is possible at all. I don't think the Everglades get as dry as they used to when I was a kid and the old timers made their comments. The Everglades are in a battle for their very existence, and it is scary to think about all the irreversible damage that has been done. I love these Everglades, and that is a big part of why I chose to attempt this hike.

One day I hope to talk about how it is possible and encourage others to do the same.

Capt. Mike 🐉

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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 or call (239) 252-5026. Come explore Everglades heritage today!

Exhibits

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.

Thank You for Your Service – A Salute to Everglades Veterans

May 14 – Sept 14



This year's annual collaboration between the museum and local students will be a tribute to veterans from the greater Everglades area – from the distant (back to the Civil War) and recent past up to present day. Students will submit a creative response to the topic in a medium of their choice (painting, drawing, writing, video, photographs, etc.). Their contributions will consist of both tributes to specific veterans – friends, family, ancestors – and more general pieces honoring all veterans. For their part, the museum will present profiles of area residents who have served and information about the ways in which local people and businesses supported the war efforts in many of our country's armed conflicts.

Third Thursday Talk Series

War Stories – Profiles in Courage and Lesser-known facts about Everglades' contributions our Country's Armed Conflicts

May 16 | 2 – 3 pm

Museum Manager Thomas Lockyear will share a collection of anecdotes and stories about Everglades residents who served in the U.S. Military and how local businesses contributed vital resources to our country's armed conflicts. The talk will also include profiles of hometown heroes like Peg & Totch Brown who were both Bronze Star recipients in WWII and the story of Phineas B. Meyers who was thrown in the brig for cursing at a General during the Civil War among others.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH 10^{AM} - 2^{PM}



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FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 239-252-5026

Exhibit Opening & Student Award Ceremony for



Friday, May 17th | 5pm - 7pm

Museum of the Everglades

105 West Broadway Avenue Everglades City

Betty

From page 1

removal of invasive species like the Burmese Python, but also cut off access to areas that have traditionally been used for religious ceremonies like the annual Green Corn Dance.

Betty Osceola was also the initial catalyst for the museum's current exhibit: WE ARE STILL HERE – The Continuing Story of the Miccosukee Tribe". She suggested the possibility



to Museum Manager Thomas Lockyear and arranged for him to meet with the Tribal Secretary, William "Popeye" Osceola,

with whom he collaborated to create the exhibit sharing the Tribe's unique history. The exhibit will remain on display through May 11th.

The *Wilderness Wednesdays* talk lasted almost 90 minutes, with Ms. Osceola fielding questions and providing thoughtful responses to an enthusiastic audience that included local residents and drew visitors from both coasts - including one guest who drove from St. Petersburg.

Thomas Lockyear commented "I'm incredibly grateful that Betty agreed to speak at the Museum on such short notice – and for the opportunity she facilitated for us to collaborate with the Tribe and include more indigenous history in the stories we share. I'm very much looking forward to working together again."

The weekly *Wilderness Wednesdays* series will resume next January, while the monthly Third Thursday history lectures will continue throughout the year.

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Springtime Fishing

By Captain Mike Merritt



The Snook fishing has continued to be really good. The weather keeps adding difficulty as these winds keep on blowing. Every time I put up my jacket thinking the cold fronts are done, I end up regretting it. I for one am ready for some stable weather patterns.

When we get a few days in a row of favorable weather, we get some really good action going on the outside Islands. We have finally been catching some oversize Snook with a little more regularity. Looking forward to what is to come!

The Redfish bite has definitely slowed quite a bit. I did have some really nice fish early and mid-April, but now it seems much slower. We usually find a lot of small Reds this time of year so I am also looking forward to that action. These guys usually will be spread out in the Islands and up in some of the deeper backcountry waters.

Seatrout are still plentiful and if the waters clean up a bit we are catching some good ones. These fish are still on the flats and if you find any grass you have a chance at catching these guys. I sure miss the days when the Turtle Grass was everywhere. Not sure if we will ever see this again. I don't know if the National Park does any kind of restoration. I have never seen them do any. But, maybe someone at the State level will get motivated and see the importance of replanting this great natural resource. The Seatrout, and other species really rely on these grasses for cover.

Going offshore when the winds allow it should start producing some nearshore Permit bites. Can't wait to be able to cast at some schooling Permit. But, we can't really do this until we can get some calmer days and see these guys. Crabs or live shrimp will get eaten by these beauties. But, they can also be taken on a well-placed artificial.

Tarpon, of course, will continue to be here throughout the summer. These fish will be scattered around and you never know where you may find them. Offshore, in the Islands, Rivers, and Bays, they are around. Maybe not in the large numbers we saw early this year, but enough fish are here to make it fun!

The bottom line is we have some great fishing starting to fire up here as hopefully this weather pattern gets a little more predictable. I hope you have the chance to get out and enjoy a great day on the water! Good luck fishing

Capt. Mike Merritt

Guide | (561)252-4324 | SnookFishing1@juno.com



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The Rev. Dr. Bob N. Wallace, Pastor

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Listen to past sermons online:
www.evergladescommunity.church

Barron River Tides

4/27/2024	Sat	12:36 AM	-0.19	L	5/11/2024	Sat	12:42 AM	-0.36	L
4/27/2024	Sat	6:26 AM	2.06	H	5/11/2024	Sat	6:40 AM	2.06	H
4/27/2024	Sat	11:46 AM	0.86	L	5/11/2024	Sat	12:19 PM	0.91	L
4/27/2024	Sat	4:10 PM	2.88	H	5/11/2024	Sat	4:40 PM	2.94	H
4/28/2024	Sun	1:23 AM	-0.17	L	5/12/2024	Sun	1:32 AM	-0.22	L
4/28/2024	Sun	7:34 AM	1.97	H	5/12/2024	Sun	7:40 AM	1.98	H
4/28/2024	Sun	12:14 PM	0.94	L	5/12/2024	Sun	1:04 PM	0.97	L
4/28/2024	Sun	4:50 PM	2.84	H	5/12/2024	Sun	5:35 PM	2.73	H
4/29/2024	Mon	2:18 AM	-0.12	L	5/13/2024	Mon	2:26 AM	-0.06	L
4/29/2024	Mon	8:51 AM	1.95	H	5/13/2024	Mon	8:45 AM	1.97	H
4/29/2024	Mon	12:51 PM	1.02	L	5/13/2024	Mon	2:07 PM	1.02	L
4/29/2024	Mon	5:42 PM	2.75	H	5/13/2024	Mon	6:51 PM	2.51	H
4/30/2024	Tue	3:24 AM	-0.06	L	5/14/2024	Tue	3:26 AM	0.09	L
4/30/2024	Tue	10:03 AM	2.01	H	5/14/2024	Tue	9:43 AM	2.03	H
4/30/2024	Tue	2:05 PM	1.08	L	5/14/2024	Tue	3:45 PM	1.01	L
4/30/2024	Tue	6:54 PM	2.62	H	5/14/2024	Tue	8:22 PM	2.34	H
5/1/2024	Wed	4:34 AM	-0.01	L	5/15/2024	Wed	4:29 AM	0.22	L
5/1/2024	Wed	11:00 AM	2.12	H	5/15/2024	Wed	10:29 AM	2.13	H
5/1/2024	Wed	4:46 PM	1.01	L	5/15/2024	Wed	5:12 PM	0.92	L
5/1/2024	Wed	9:04 PM	2.53	H	5/15/2024	Wed	9:43 PM	2.25	H
5/2/2024	Thu	5:37 AM	0.05	L	5/16/2024	Thu	5:26 AM	0.33	L
5/2/2024	Thu	11:44 AM	2.26	H	5/16/2024	Thu	11:08 AM	2.24	H
5/2/2024	Thu	6:01 PM	0.82	L	5/16/2024	Thu	6:15 PM	0.77	L
5/2/2024	Thu	10:46 PM	2.56	H	5/16/2024	Thu	10:54 PM	2.21	H
5/3/2024	Fri	6:34 AM	0.12	L	5/17/2024	Fri	6:18 AM	0.42	L
5/3/2024	Fri	12:19 PM	2.42	H	5/17/2024	Fri	11:43 AM	2.37	H
5/3/2024	Fri	7:01 PM	0.55	L	5/17/2024	Fri	7:05 PM	0.6	L
5/4/2024	Sat	12:06 AM	2.64	H	5/18/2024	Sat	12:02 AM	2.21	H
5/4/2024	Sat	7:26 AM	0.22	L	5/18/2024	Sat	7:04 AM	0.51	L
5/4/2024	Sat	12:51 PM	2.6	H	5/18/2024	Sat	12:17 PM	2.5	H
5/4/2024	Sat	7:55 PM	0.26	L	5/18/2024	Sat	7:49 PM	0.43	L
5/5/2024	Sun	1:14 AM	2.72	H	5/19/2024	Sun	1:01 AM	2.25	H
5/5/2024	Sun	8:14 AM	0.33	L	5/19/2024	Sun	7:47 AM	0.59	L
5/5/2024	Sun	1:20 PM	2.8	H	5/19/2024	Sun	12:48 PM	2.62	H
5/5/2024	Sun	8:44 PM	-0.02	L	5/19/2024	Sun	8:28 PM	0.25	L
5/6/2024	Mon	2:11 AM	2.74	H	5/20/2024	Mon	1:50 AM	2.28	H
5/6/2024	Mon	8:58 AM	0.46	L	5/20/2024	Mon	8:25 AM	0.66	L
5/6/2024	Mon	1:49 PM	2.99	H	5/20/2024	Mon	1:17 PM	2.73	H
5/6/2024	Mon	9:32 PM	-0.25	L	5/20/2024	Mon	9:04 PM	0.09	L
5/7/2024	Tue	3:03 AM	2.67	H	5/21/2024	Tue	2:32 AM	2.29	H
5/7/2024	Tue	9:39 AM	0.58	L	5/21/2024	Tue	8:59 AM	0.73	L
5/7/2024	Tue	2:18 PM	3.13	H	5/21/2024	Tue	1:43 PM	2.82	H
5/7/2024	Tue	10:19 PM	-0.4	L	5/21/2024	Tue	9:41 PM	-0.06	L
5/8/2024	Wed	3:54 AM	2.54	H	5/22/2024	Wed	3:12 AM	2.28	H
5/8/2024	Wed	10:19 AM	0.68	L	5/22/2024	Wed	9:30 AM	0.78	L
5/8/2024	Wed	2:48 PM	3.21	H	5/22/2024	Wed	2:06 PM	2.9	H
5/8/2024	Wed	11:06 PM	-0.47	L	5/22/2024	Wed	10:18 PM	-0.17	L
5/9/2024	Thu	4:47 AM	2.36	H	5/23/2024	Thu	3:55 AM	2.24	H
5/9/2024	Thu	10:58 AM	0.77	L	5/23/2024	Thu	10:00 AM	0.83	L
5/9/2024	Thu	3:20 PM	3.2	H	5/23/2024	Thu	2:26 PM	2.97	H
5/9/2024	Thu	11:54 PM	-0.45	L	5/23/2024	Thu	10:58 PM	-0.26	L
5/10/2024	Fri	5:43 AM	2.19	H	5/24/2024	Fri	4:43 AM	2.2	H
5/10/2024	Fri	11:38 AM	0.85	L	5/24/2024	Fri	10:30 AM	0.88	L
5/10/2024	Fri	3:56 PM	3.11	H	5/24/2024	Fri	2:48 PM	3.03	H
					5/24/2024	Fri	11:40 PM	-0.31	L

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Everglades Cafe
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Fri-Sat 11:30 am – 8 pm
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Sun 11 am – 6:30 pm
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Wed: Youth 7 pm
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Everglades Community Church
Sun: 11 am Worship
101 Copeland Ave, Everglades City

First Baptist Church
Sun: 9:45 am School, 11 am Worship & 6 pm Service
Wed: 6 pm Bible Study
416 E School Dr, Everglades City

Holy Family Catholic Church
Sunday: 8 am & 10:30 am
Sat: 5:30 pm
200 Datura St E, Everglades City

Goodland Baptist Church
410 Mango Ave. Goodland
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Everglades Lions Club
2nd Thursday of the month | 6 pm
September - May
Jinkins Fellowship Hall behind Everglades Community Church
101 S. Copeland Ave, Everglades City
evergladeslionsclub@gmail.com

Ladies Coffee
Thursdays | 8:30 am
Rotates Everglades City Restaurants
snookcity@gmail.com
(239) 719-0020

Goodland Civic Association
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Goodland Community Center
417 Mango Ave, Goodland
(239) 776-1372



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- EC Visitor Center:** (239) 232-0473
- Carnestown Recycle:** (239) 695-4331
- Goodland Recycle:** (239) 252-2380

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- Everglades City & Chokoloskee:** (239) 695-2174
- Copeland:** (239) 695-2202
- Ochopee:** (239) 695-2099
- Goodland:** (239) 394-7387

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