

Photos by Kelly J Farrell

Cleaner Waters Ahead with Everglades City's New Wastewater Treatment Plant

By Kelly J Farrell

After years of leaking sludge due to hurricane damage and mismanagement, a rehabilitated Wastewater Treatment Plant in Everglades City will finally eliminate wastewater leaks into Chokoloskee Bay. The \$14.8 million Plant, plus another \$5.7 million in area lift stations, was a partnership involving city, state and federal dollars bringing politicians who were part of eliminating the proverbial red tape to the Plant's ribbon cutting on June 18.

"The system they had was failing. It was leaking. It was ready to basically explode," said Florida Senate President Kathleen Passidomo (R-Naples) following the ceremonial opening of the Plant.

Everglades City Mayor Howie Grimm, who offered opening remarks about the Wastewater Treatment Plant and other City projects, had begun looking for funding to replace the Wastewater Treatment Plant since approximately 2018. By then, the Plant had already been in need of replacement for several years.

"This wouldn't have happened if we didn't lean on the Senator Kathleen Passidomo. She was a tremendous help getting this off the ground and she trusted us," said Grimm.

In 2021, Florida Department of Environmental Protection had reported a spill of at least 170,000 gallons of wastewater that

Above: Everglades City Mayor Howie Grimm stands atop Everglades City's new \$14.8 million Wastewater Treatment Plant. Funded by city, state, and federal resources, the plant aims to prevent wastewater from contaminating Chokoloskee Bay and other waterways, replacing the outdated, hurricane-damaged plant and leaking septic tanks.

See **Clean Water**, p4

Another Spectacular Independence Celebration

By Denise Wauters



It was HOT, but it was worth it! I hope you got to come. This years celebration started with a BANG, literally a canon, which kicked off the traditional parade in all its flag waving



spangle. The float, competition was fierce. Did you see the Mullet Rapper golf cart, those were my grand-babies,



so proud!

After watching the parade we all gathered under the park shelter where

See **Independence**, p5

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Local Event Calendar

July 21, 2024 to August 31, 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
July 21 (Full Moon	22	23	24 Food Pantry p2	25 Ladies' Coffee Island Cafe 8:30a	26	27 Praise Night p2
28	29	30	31 Food Pantry p2	August 1 Ladies' Coffee City Seafood 8:30a	2	3
4 ● New Moon Free Park Day	5	6 City Council p2 Outreach p2	7 Food Pantry p2	8 Ladies' Coffee Everglades Cafe 8:30a	9	10
11	12	13 First Day of School	14 Food Pantry p2	15 Ladies' Coffee Island Cafe 8:30a Third Thursday p7 Save Your Stuff p7	16	17
18	19 (Full Moon	20 P&Z p2	21 Food Pantry p2	22 Ladies' Coffee City Seafood 8:30a	23	24
25	26	27	28 Food Pantry p2	29 Ladies' Coffee Everglades Cafe 8:30a	30	31 Praise Night p2

Community

Everglades Area Information Daily | 10 am - 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.

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.

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.

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>

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.

Monthly Outreach First Tuesday | 2:30 pm

Every first Tuesday at 2:30 pm, a member of Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart's team will be at Everglades City Hall to assist with federal casework, including USPS, social security, veterans' benefits, immigration, and other federal issues.

Entertainment

Gator Hole Bar (Everglades City) has music every Friday & Saturday starting at 7pm during the summer! K&T Entertainment (DJ/Karaoke) every Friday @ 7pm.

- 7/13-Big Mountain Hodge
- 7/20-Hot Country Band
- 7/27-Matrasa Lynn
- 8/3-Hot Country Band
- 8/10-Hot Country Band
- 8/17-Matrasa Lynn
- 8/24-Aydin Holt
- 8/31-Matrasa Lynn

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

Little Bar (Goodland) has live music every night.

Crabby Lady (Goodland) has live music every weekend.

Stans (Goodland) has music Tues - Sundays. Shows start at 1 & 5.

Save The Date

September 28 Blessing of the Stone Crab Fleet

Mark your calendar for the 14th annual Blessing of the Stone Crab Fleet to be held on September 28th in Everglades City at Camellia Street Grill. Come enjoy live music, free food, great company and local vendor booths!

November 8 & 9 Hook'em in the Glades

The 7th Annual Hook'em in the Glades fishing fundraiser supporting Everglades City Schools is scheduled for November 8-9, 2024! Teams will fish the 10,000 islands for a chance to catch the biggest Snook, Redfish, and Seatrout while supporting our school. Find out more: <https://hookemintheglades.com>

Help Save the Everglades Python Challenge



Photo Courtesy FWC, & Andy Wraithmell

Registration is open for the 2024 Florida Python Challenge®, offering you a chance to remove invasive Burmese pythons from the Everglades and win exciting prizes. This 10-day competition runs from August 9th to 18th, 2024, and welcomes both experienced and novice participants. Visit: <https://flpythonchallenge.org/>

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Vote Nov 5th on Fishing & Hunting in Florida

Amendment 2 on the upcoming ballot aims to protect the right to fish and hunt in Florida. It's a response to concerns about potential bans and restrictions seen in other states. By voting on November 5, 2024, Floridians will decide whether to enshrine these activities, including traditional methods, as preferred ways to manage fish and wildlife. This doesn't change the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Supporters say it preserves Florida's fishing and hunting traditions, which are crucial culturally, economically, and for conservation. The amendment is also seen as a way to promote sustainable wildlife management practices without undoing existing protections or regulations.

Recent debates in other states about bans on hunting and fishing have sparked interest in ensuring these activities remain protected in Florida. If passed, Amendment 2 would align Florida with 23 other states that have similar constitutional protections.

Critics and supporters alike are discussing what "traditional methods" mean in practice. It's meant to include current legal practices without introducing new rules on property rights or trespassing laws.

It's a significant issue for voters concerned about the future of outdoor recreation and wildlife management in the state.

July Bank of Everglades Update

By Patty Huff

This summer we are looking forward to our Bank of Everglades Building project moving forward. Over the past six months ESHP has been working diligently, completing necessary documents and applying for funding through both state and federal agencies. The following is an update that we wanted to share with you:

- **Environmental Review:** With the acceptance of the \$3 million federal appropriations last year, we were required to complete an Environmental Review to HUD. This was a 16-month process with the ER finally submitted on May 6. We recently received notification that the "environmental review for this project was adequately completed and approved/certified" by HUD. Great news to be able to start the project!
- **Additional Federal Funding Request for \$2 million submitted on March 22:** We received a letter on May 22 from our U.S. Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart that the Appropriations Committee decided that "non-profits are ineligible to apply for Community Project Funding projects for fiscal year 2025." This was a disappointment!
- **Palladian Window:** On May 31 ESHP submitted a matching grant application for \$50,000 (total) to the State Division of Historic Resources to cover the cost of the historic Palladian window. This cost includes installation and estimated price increase.

- **State Funding Request for \$1.559 million:** Our Florida State Appropriations Request was approved by both the House of Representatives and the Senate in May, then vetoed by the Governor when he signed the 2024-25 budget.
- **Construction Documents:** REG Architects has completed the construction documents for permit review and will soon send out bids for a general contractor.

So, we have had some good and some bad news recently. During the upcoming months, we should be able to see great progress and will keep you updated. We would also like to thank you for your past support and appreciate your interest in our Bank of Everglades Building Project.



MULLET RAPPER

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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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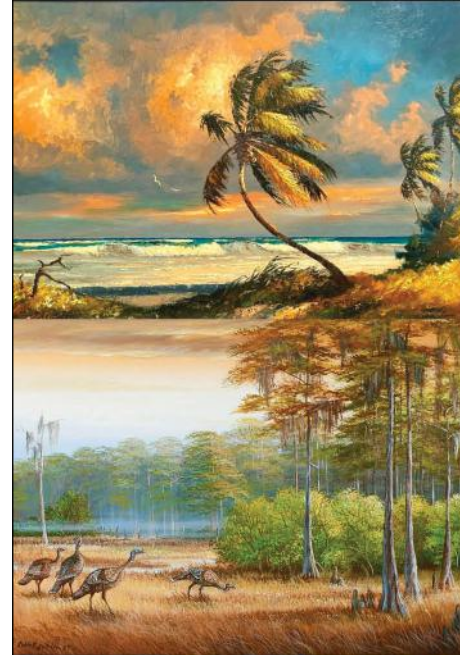
Publisher's Statement

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

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Clean Water

From Page 1



Photos by Kelly J Farrell

went into Chokoloskee Bay. DEP eventually gave the City a loan while awaiting grant funds for the project, Grimm said.

“It’s not just about us, it’s about the water quality,” said Grimm. “We take in about 750,000 to a million visitors a year,” he added.

The new Plant will serve them and approximately 400 residents in Everglades City as well as residents and businesses in Chokoloskee, Carnestown, Copeland and eventually Plantation Island, according to documents provided by Everglades City finance administrator Tammie Pernas.

Many property owners were forced to use septic tanks when the previous Plant was not operating to capacity.

Property owners on septic tanks will be converted to the new Plant to reduce the leaking that those systems are prone to having as well, Grimm said.

Officials further lauded U.S. Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (R-Miami) for his commitment to Everglades City by garnering many of the projects’ funds.

“The City could not be completing these projects if we did not have the support from Congressman Diaz-Balart and his staff. The City will receive \$6,575,000 in grants due to his efforts,” said Pernas in a prepared statement.

“We cannot thank him enough for all his love for this small community,” she added.

Diaz-Balart knew firsthand the need for the Plant after having toured Everglades City in 2017 when Hurricane Irma had left the area flooded and residents living in sewage, contributing to one or more deaths. Septic tanks had no electricity for days, longer than other areas of Collier County, and they leaked in the flood water. People with nowhere to go tried to clean the muck, leading to severe health problems, officials had reported.

Main Plant’s Project Costs and Funding

The main project, the replacing of the Plant, included approximately \$7.5 million in federal funds, granted to the state, 30 percent of which is part of a loan, the remaining 70 percent is grant money.

The State of Florida also gave more than \$4.3 million in grant money toward the Plant. Another \$3 million grant was from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Funding of Lift Stations

HUD also contributed the \$2 million grant for

the Chokoloskee Master Lift Station as well as approximately \$890,000 for the Carnestown and Copeland Lift Stations, Pernas reported. The U.S. Department of Agriculture contributed another \$450,000 toward that Carnestown and Copeland Lift Station project, bringing those lift stations’ project funding to more than \$1.3 million total.

The Everglades City lift station was funded approximately half by a State of Florida grant and half by a USDA grant for the more than \$2.3 million lift station project there.

Further expansion is required to get the residents in Plantation Island off septic tanks and hooked up to the new system, Grimm said.

Due to local economics and the relatively small populations of the areas served, including approximately 400 residents in Everglades City; nearly 1,000 in Chokoloskee; and several hundred combined in Carnestown, Copeland and Plantation Island, the residents of the area could not afford these projects that protect the ground water and Chokoloskee Bay without help from the larger government bodies, officials reported.

Everglades City’s financial woes have been longstanding, as evidenced in-part, when in 2019, Collier County forgave the City of a \$326,000 utility loan citing the City’s losses from Hurricane Irma damage, as well as the City paying approximately \$500,000 to settle a lawsuit related to wastewater mismanagement.

The former mayor, the late Sammy Hamilton, was charged with embezzlement of City funds, including as much as \$50,000, leading to the end of his long tenure in 2017.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant represents an opportunity for the City to clean up the muck and move ahead with cleaner waters on the horizon.

“We’re just going to continue to move forward,” said Grimm. “This is huge not just for Everglades City, but the surrounding areas and the visitors,” he said. 🍌

US Bicycle Route System Surpasses 20,000 Miles

By Patty Huff



Photos by Patty Huff

The US Bicycle Route System has bypassed the 20,000 mile benchmark with three completely new routes and two major extensions!

The three new routes are USBR 51 in Arkansas, USBR 76 in Wyoming, and USBR 85 in California. USBR 76 will be Wyoming’s first U.S. Bicycle Route. Additionally, Florida extended USBR 15 to go north-south through most of the state and California extended USBR 95 to finish the coastline.

After two and a half years of collaborating with many counties and cities, the USBR 15 is now a reality. I envisioned a designated route along the west coast of Florida ever since I embarked on my first cross-country bike trip from my home in south Florida to Astoria, Oregon.

My husband and I traveled on many of the roads listed on USBR 15 and were eager to share our route with other cross-country cyclists. This route includes quiet highways, dense wild forests, and small friendly towns. Much of it is away from the hustle and bustle of coastal Florida which makes it even more appealing - to see the real Florida.

Some of the highlights include crossing the historic Suwannee River on the Nature Coast Trail, stopping in rural towns like Inverness and Floral City with its Avenue of Oaks along the Withlacoochee State Trail (the longest rails-to-trails in Florida), the city of Punta Gorda on the Peace River with its beautiful Harborwalk, then south to the historic Tamiami Trail.

After leaving the outskirts of Naples and Marco Island, the Trail traverses through several national and state parks/preserves: Collier-Seminole State Park, the Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park, Big Cypress National Preserve and the Everglades National Park. Everglades City is situated along the USBR15 route which continues along the Tamiami Trail to the Krome Ave Path leading to Homestead and USBR1 which connects with the Overseas Heritage Trail through the Keys. For more information about the route, visit <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/34634828>.



CHOKOLOSKEE FAMILY Church



CHURCH SCHEDULE:

Sun. Worship	10:00AM
Sun. Kids Church	10:00AM
Sun. Renewal	6:00PM
Wed. Youth Renewal	7:00PM
Thurs. Bible Study	7:00PM

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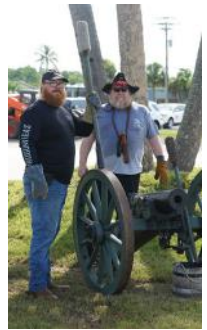
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Independence

From Page 1

we devoured the yummy hot-dogs provided and served by the Lions Club.

Then the kids cooled off on huge water-slides, got their faces painted and posed for photos. There were so many cuties this year. Any of these yours? (More photos: visitevergladescity.com/another-spectacular-independence-celebration/)



Trophies were awarded to the Little Miss & Mr. Fireworks. Parade trophy winners were: 1st place - Lions Club float, 2nd place - Diana Valdes in her golf cart, and 3rd place - Bruce Minton on the Buggy. Best in show went to Greater Naples Fire and Collier County Sheriff. Noel Hollister won the 50/50 raffle, and Lisa Redix won the Scentsy goody bag donated by vendor Denise Johnson.

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Marjory Stoneman Douglas

By Reverend Dr Bob N. Wallace
Everglades Community Church

Marjory Stoneman Douglas (April 7, 1890 – May 14, 1998) was an American journalist, author, women’s suffrage advocate, and conservationist best known for her unwavering defense of the Everglades against efforts to drain it and reclaim land for development. She lived in a small cottage in Coconut Grove, Miami, Florida. This house, located at 3744-3754 Stewart Avenue, served as her home from 1925 until her passing in 1998. From there, she wrote her influential book *The Everglades: River of Grass*, which played a crucial role in saving the Everglades. Although the house is not currently open to the public, Florida State Parks are working toward limited visitation and offsite programming in the future. In April 2015, it was designated a National Historic Landmark.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas used her voice and writing to advocate for South Florida’s environment and people, leaving behind a powerful legacy of social change. According to Wikipedia, she became involved in the Everglades in the 1920s when she joined the board of the Everglades Tropical National Park Committee, led by Ernest F. Coe dedicated to the idea of making a national park in the Everglades. By the 1960s, the Everglades were in danger of disappearing forever in the name of progress, real estate and agricultural development because of gross mismanagement. Encouraged to get involved in 1969 at the age of 79 by the leaders of environmental groups, Douglas founded Friends of the Everglades to protest the construction of a jetport in the Big Cypress portion of the Everglades. She said, “It is a woman’s business to be interested in the environment. It’s an extended form of housekeeping.”

She toured the state giving “hundreds of ringing denunciations” of the airport project and increased membership of Friends of the Everglades to 3,000 within three years. She ran the public information operation full-time from



her home and encountered hostility from the jetport’s developers and backers, who called her a “damn butterfly chaser”. President Richard Nixon scrapped funding for the project due to the efforts of many Everglades watchdog groups.

After declaring “Conservation is now a dead word ... You can’t conserve what you haven’t got” Douglas continued her activism and focused on restoring the Everglades. She directed her criticism at two groups she thought were doing the most damage to the Everglades: a coalition of sugarcane growers, named Big Sugar, and the Army Corps of Engineers. Sugarcane growers were polluting Lake Okeechobee by pumping water tainted with chemicals, human waste, and garbage into the lake which served as the freshwater source for the Miami metropolitan area. And the Army Corps of Engineers, she thought, was damaging the Everglades by diverting the natural flow of water. The Corps was responsible for constructing more than 1,400 miles (2,300 km) of canals to divert water away from the Everglades after 1947. When the Central & South Florida Project (C&SF), run by former members of the Corps of Engineers, was proposed to assist the Everglades, Douglas initially gave it her approval. It promised to deliver much-needed water to the shrinking Everglades; however, the project instead diverted more water away from the Everglades, changed water schedules to meet sugarcane farmers’ irrigation needs, and flat-out refused to release water to Everglades National Park, until much of the land was unrecognizable. “What a liar I turned out to be!” remarked Douglas, suggesting the motivation behind all the digging and diversion by saying, “Their mummies obviously never let them play with mud pies, so now they take it out on us by playing with cement.”

Douglas was not well received by some audiences. She opposed the drainage of a suburb in Dade County named East Everglades. The land had flooded for centuries. And when homeowners demanded the Army Corps of Engineers drain their neighborhoods, she was the only opposing voice. She was booed, jeered, and shouted at by the audience



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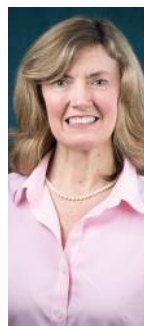


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See **Stoneman, p8**



Should We Fear Artificial Intelligence?

By Dr. Chrissann Ruehle, DBA, MBA, CPM
AI Consultant and Strategist, & Management
Faculty at Florida Gulf Coast University

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a part of our daily lives, even if we do not always realize it. When we shop on Amazon, choose movies on Netflix, type emails in Microsoft Outlook, select music on Alexa, or use Google Maps for directions, we are interacting with AI. These applications are called “narrow AI” because they help us accomplish specific tasks. They examine our past behaviors and those of others to provide recommendations, generally aiming to make our lives easier and more efficient. Recently,

Traditional AI is broader. Traditional AI is rule-based, excels at analyzing data, and performs well-defined tasks. Generative AI, on the other hand, relies on unstructured data like social media posts and videos to create new content like mass communications, images, video, and audio.

So, what exactly is AI? Simply put, it is a software program designed to perform functions typically done by humans, like analyzing large data sets quickly and providing recommendations. The term



Common AI Applications Image generated by Microsoft Co-Pilot and Dall-E3

“intelligence” is somewhat misleading because today’s AI is not truly intelligent as we commonly understand it. AI still relies on humans to provide detailed instructions and set expectations for the desired output. It is not smart enough to make decisions requiring critical thinking, emotions, or ethical awareness. Humans remain crucial in overseeing both Traditional and Generative AI.

sophisticated “broad AI” applications have helped track weather and monitor pandemics globally.

To address fears about AI, it is important to understand what it is and is not. Contrary to popular belief, AI is not new. It was developed in the late 1940s and has seen ups and downs in public interest and research funding since then. When most people hear “AI,” they think of “Generative AI,” but

Many AI programs use algorithms, which are just sets of directions for accomplishing specific tasks – like following a recipe to bake cookies. AI can be thought of as an umbrella term with various subcategories underneath. Three important ones are:

- 1. **Machine Learning (ML):** This technology uses algorithms and large training data sets to build models and analyze big data sets quickly. ML can

See **AI, p8**

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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

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.

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

Hurricanes Happen – A Brief History of Tropical Storms and their Aftermath in the Everglades Area August 15 | 2 – 3 pm



As we cruise into the heart of Florida's "storm season", Museum Manager Thomas Lockyear will explore the history of hurricanes that have impacted our area and how they have shaped the communities and culture of the region. Mr. Lockyear will also include a detailed account of his experiences with the

restoration of the museum in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma and discuss planning and procedures associated with protecting the building and its collection. Members of the Collier County Museums Education Team will be on site prior to the talk with a "Save Your Stuff" clinic, providing demonstrations and supplies for salvaging storm-damaged family heirlooms and other items.

Save Your Stuff

How to Protect Your Family's Treasures from a Hurricane

August 15 | 11 am to 2 pm | Museum of the Everglades



Photo Courtesy of FEMA and the Save Your Family Treasures Program

The impact hurricanes like Irma and Ian have had are immeasurable, with the livelihood and infrastructure damage taking center stage in the aftermath. There is another kind of loss that occurs after a hurricane though, and that is the loss of beloved family treasures. Visit the Museum of the Everglades for information and to see demonstrations on how to salvage water-damaged family valuables and heirlooms, using conservation-minded techniques. Take-home kits will also be available to add to your hurricane supplies, while supplies last. Join us for this FREE drop-in program August 15, from 11 am to 2 pm.

CALLING ALL PYTHON HUNTERS



Photo by JohnBob Carlos

Museum of the Everglades wants to tell your story! Whether you are a celebrity snake hunter or just collecting a few bounties on the side to augment your income, we would like to include your contribution to the fight to save the Everglades from invasive reptiles in our upcoming exhibit.

Protecting Paradise One Snake at a Time

The exhibit will feature photos, stories, and interviews with local python hunters. It will open Set 17th and remain on display through Mid-January of 2025.

For more information or to discuss details of how to be included in the exhibit, please call Museum Manager Thomas Lockyear at (239) 252-5027 or email Thomas.Lockyear@colliercountyfl.gov

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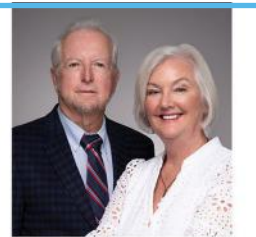


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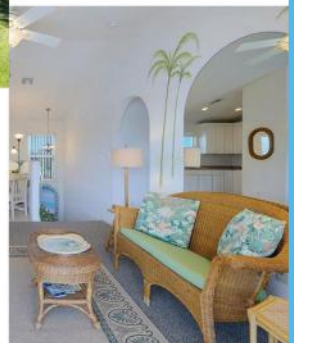
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Adventures of the Saltwater Cowboy

Letter to the Board

By Jon Edward Edwards

I hit the lottery on memorable events somewhere because I can't go one week without an oddball occurrence, mishap, run-in, fight, folly, or near miss. It's the self-satisfaction and confidence earned through the triumphs that are sprinkled in that gives me strength and keeps me going. My craft's beauty is that it is all at my disposal. Like colors to a painter, my failures are as useful as my wins.

Lest anyone think I exaggerate or embellish, "No way he has THAT much drama..." Let me give you a glimpse. Below is a note to (let's call him) Pete, the former President of the Homeowner's Association of the condominium complex where I reside, after learning of the accusations stated from my friend and landlord, Lucky Lang. Many of you are aware of my unnatural opposition to authority. Pete, as an authority figure, had run-ins with me before.

Pete,

I heard you were coming over for the water heater inspection, so I figured I'd write you a note. I regret we got off on the wrong foot. It happens. Believe it or not, I've made many friends that way. Once you cut past the bullshit and two guys who butt heads get to know one another, the next thing you know, you have someone you can trust. I'm not saying that's going to be me and you. That's up to you, I reckon. You seem like a cool enough dude to me. Everyone else seems to like you. I don't have problems with anyone else that I know of. Therefore, theoretically, there's no reason you and I shouldn't get along.

Unless, of course, one party has a skewed sense of the rules. Suppose I do have a wayward sense of the regulations. If so, it's not on purpose or in malice. It's usually, sometimes inadvertent, in support of one of my activities, as I am an active guy. That said, my being here is predicated on one thing as far as I can see: not being on your wrong side. Therefore, I'd like to address the issues I've heard floating around in the ether and hopefully get everything straightened out.

A little setup before delving into the first item: Pete and another Board member accosted Will, my son, for skateboarding in the parking lot. They were aggressive and mean to him for

the wrong reasons. Will had it on video; I watched it. Those who know me can guess how I reacted – not favorably. It took me three evenings to replicate the result. Finally, I drew out half of the opposition. Let's just say that the conversation went in a different direction than it had with Will.

Skateboarding – This goes back to the beginning with an incident with my son in the parking lot. Dr. Brown and I had a good conversation in which I explained the nature of skateboarding and how it's no different than riding a bike, scooter, or these motorized things you see everywhere. For some reason, skateboarders are held to a different standard. Lucky told me that skateboarding came up in a Board meeting, and the consensus was that nowhere did it say you "can not" skateboard in the parking lot. However, in good faith, I'm more than willing to concede and agree to obey some kind of rule about not skating in the parking lot.

Pool Shower – I came unglued when I heard this accusation, for I have never, ever, not showered. Then I asked my son, Will. He told me that, upon returning from the Keys this summer after an exceptionally nonproductive lobster season, he had gotten in the pool without showering. He never uses the pool. However, I ended up with COVID while down there and couldn't perform the cleaning and rinsing protocol associated with the gear for such an activity. Therefore, Will did it for me. It was during this time that he committed the infarction at least once. I scolded him, reminding him that such a thing was forbidden and that he should not do it again, and sent him to his room. Yes, that's a joke. I hope you're laughing. I must clarify that however satire-heavy this may be – it is sincere. It's just that it's hard not to write what comes into my head when I'm writing. I guess that's why they call me a "creative writer."

Boat in the parking lot – I'm guilty of this one. Lucky said there's something in the rules about a temporary trailer. I should have looked into that before I took it upon myself. The thing is, Pete, I just got my boat running, the fish are biting, and I had a charter. My folks sold their place on the island and

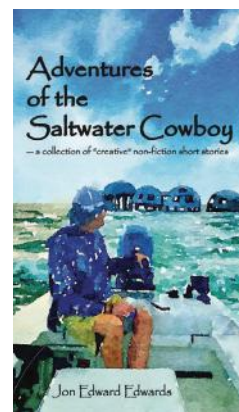
moved. Along with them went my place to keep my boat. Therefore, I keep it at my friend's in town. Considering I fish out of Goodland, about 10 minutes from here, I elected to keep it here overnight (a couple of nights) instead of traveling back and forth to Naples (65 min round trip). I did that, and I'm sorry. I won't do it again. However, I would appreciate discussing a possible "temporary" scenario.

Poopoo in the dumpster – I am from the Piney Woods of North Louisiana, and I reckon we were a little late in the indoor plumbing concept. That said, wouldn't it make more sense for a fisherman to be seen putting something stinky in the trash to be fish entrails? Which is what you saw. I put the bucket in a plastic bag, tied it up, and then put it in a bag – set in the dumpster. I got down the road and thought, Naw, I better get that out. Not because you saw me but because it was the right thing to do. But when I opened the dumpster and leaned in to grab it, I realized the smell wasn't any worse than regular trash – or so I thought. Therefore, I left it. Again, wrong choice. This won't happen again.

Please ask if I've left something out or if you have any questions. I hope this sheds some light and cheer, maybe win me some points with you. Like I said, you're the one guy it pays not to piss off. No wonder I'm in perpetual debt.

Jed Edwards

Pete never got the note, and the Board of Directors had a change in membership before I got around to delivering it, rendering it moot aside from #3 (Boat in the parking lot) – which I am in the process of negotiating. Pete is different without the responsibility. We fist-bumped the other day. It's a start.



Book Available Sunshine Booksellers on Marco & soon on Amazon

AI

From Page 6

learn and refine its model based on input and feedback. It is often used in financial services, like when applying for loans.

2. **Neural Networks:** These programs process information similarly to the human brain, rapidly analyzing big data sets to identify patterns.

3. **Chatbots and Virtual Agents:** These programs interact directly with humans, receiving input, processing questions or instructions, and providing responses. They can adapt to different personalities and communication styles.

Given AI's prevalence in our lives, should we fear it? While AI can enhance many aspects of our daily routines by freeing us from repetitive tasks, and allowing us to focus on being creative, strategic, and ethical, there are some concerns to consider. These include potential bias in training data sets, lack of transparency in algorithms, privacy concerns with personal data, and questions about accountability for algorithm failures.

It is important to develop a balanced perspective on this technology. We should be cautiously optimistic about AI, recognizing its benefits while being aware of potential risks. As we continue to integrate AI into our lives, it is crucial to stay informed and engage in discussions about its ethical implications and responsible use.

AI is a powerful tool that is already changing how we live and work. By understanding its capabilities and limitations, we can harness its potential while mitigating risks. As with any modern technology, education and open dialogue are key to ensuring AI benefits our local community and society as a whole. 🍷

Stoneman

From Page 6

of residents at the hearing in 1983. "Can't you boo any louder than that?" she said, eventually making them laugh. "Look. I'm an old lady. I've been here since eight o'clock. It's now eleven. I've got all night, and I'm used to the heat," she told them.

Later, she wrote, "They're all good souls—they just shouldn't be out there." Dade County commissioners eventually decided not to drain. Florida Governor Lawton Chiles explained her impact, saying, "Marjory was the first voice to really wake a lot of us up to what we were doing to our quality of life. She was not just a pioneer of the environmental movement, she was a prophet, calling out to us to save the environment for our children and our grandchildren." 🍷



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EVG School Supply List

Head over to the Collier County Public Schools EVG website to download the 2024-2025 school supply list!
<https://www.collierschools.com/Domain/24>

Arts Programs Thriving

CCPS wants to assure parents there are no cuts to music and arts programs. The district remains committed to a strong arts education, from Pre-K violin lessons to high school band and orchestra. They're even hiring new music educators!

EVG District All-Star | June

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.

Sophomore Josey Ryder is a talented catcher

on the Lady Gators softball team at Everglades City School. Josey led the team in batting average (.722), home runs (2), RBIs (11), and on-base percentage (.833). She was just as strong defensively with her ability to block softballs and throw runners out on base with her strong arm. Coaches say Josey not only led the team with talent and effort, but she also demonstrated strong moral character on and off the field.

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Help raise money for Everglades City School athletics and activities while enjoying friendly competition in the 10,000 Islands.

Early Registration ends Nov. 1

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Cheesy Seasoned Shrimp & Grits

Submitted by Janet Hamm

Ingredients:

- 3 cups water to cook Quick Grits
- 1 pound/25 count boiled Shrimp
**option: substitute Scallops*
- 4 Bacon strips cooked & chopped
- 1 Tbs Everglades Seasoning
- Poultry Seasoning to taste
- 1 Tbs Parsley
- 1/3 cup Butter
- 1/3 cup Shredder Cheese
- 1/2 tsp Chives
- 1/2 tsp Paprika
- 1 cup shredded Cheese for topping

Directions:

Separately cook the Shrimp, Bacon and Grits then combine on individual plates or in a serving dish in this order (bottom to top): Grits, Shrimp, topping Cheese.



Spinning Fish Die-Off in Tampa

Hope turns to heartbreak as first spinning sawfish dies in Tampa Bay area.

A team of researchers set out to tag sawfish in Tampa Bay, hoping to find healthy specimens to compare with sick and dying sawfish in the Florida Keys. Their initial excitement turned to dread when they received a report of a large sawfish acting strangely near Bay Pines.

The research crew spent hours searching for the sick sawfish but came up empty-handed. Sadly, the sawfish was later found dead, marking the first confirmed death in Tampa Bay and the northernmost death in the state.

The die-off began in November 2023 with reports of odd fish behavior, like pinfish spinning erratically. By January, dead sawfish were washing ashore in the Keys. The cause remains unknown, but harmful algal blooms are a leading theory.

The mysterious illness has affected over 50 species, with hundreds of reports of fish kills and strange behavior. Researchers are working tirelessly to identify the cause and prevent further deaths.

This event highlights the precarious situation of sawfish, already listed as endangered. With the die-off moving north, scientists fear for the future of these magnificent creatures.

June 22, 2024 Puzzle Solution										
B	A	S	S		S	U	C	R	E	S
I	D	L	E		I	N	H	E	R	E
O	H	I	O		P	L	I	A	N	T
P	E	P	U	P		I	N	L	E	T
S	R	I	L	A	N	K	A			
Y	E	N		V	I	E		M	A	T
			C	E	L	M	A	T	E	
P	R	O	A	M		Y	E	N	T	A
R	A	P	P	E	R		L	I	E	S
O	N	E	O	N	E		E	L	S	E
M	I	D	S	T	S		E	A	T	S



Captains For Clean Water

By Capt. Steve Riley

Attention all Everglades Boat Captains, all Anglers, all Guides, all Crabbers and to all of you that love, work, or play or live in or near the "Everglades".

A very important issue has come to light in the hard work that is being done to save our waters and return the natural flow of it back to the "days of old". Good CLEAN water, not what is being pushed out of Lake Okeechobee south towards us now.

"Captains For Clean Water" a 501-C3 Florida Organization has been heading up the fight to save and restore the historic flows of water back to when the "Sea of Grasses" naturally ran through the world we love – The Everglades! They have hit a road block in this hope of going back to a time when clean pure water flowed south in Florida to return the Everglades back into that time that you can only read about today.

Please take a moment to [watch their video](#), and if you are so moved by it follow the instructions they provide and sign "The Petition" to help save the "Everglades".

Membership is optional, but supporting this Organization in any way that you can will help to turn the "Everglades" around in the future and return our back yard into what it once was.

<https://captainsforcleanwater.org/dropthelawsuit>

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1973 World Series stadium
- Game stick
- Benjamin Disraeli, e.g.
- Lots
- Pronoun in a Hemingway title
- Depths
- More impertinent
- ___ green
- Aircraft compartment
- Insignificant
- Deceived
- Hollow tubes
- Alternative to Windows
- Carbonium, e.g.
- Decline
- Like some sweaters
- Butchers' offerings
- Annul
- Dissolved matter
- Tim of "WKRP in Cincinnati"
- Take back to the lab
- Jared of "Panic Room"

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

Down

- Puts in stitches
- "Funny!"
- "Aeneid" figure
- Donation receptacle
- Brooklyn's ___ Island
- Big laugh
- "That's ___ ..."
- Blunder
- Calm
- Attempts
- "At Seventeen" singer Janis
- Ringlet
- Sheen
- Allow
- Excavate
- "MS. Found in a Bottle" writer
- Atlas enlargement
- Docs for dachshunds
- "Trick" joint
- Cut, maybe
- Birdbrain
- Dumfries denial



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Snook Bonanza

By Captain Mike Merritt

Summer is in full swing! With the heat and the hot water temps, it is that time of year when an afternoon rain is welcome! Sometimes those afternoon rains will get the fish biting. Fishing tends to slow down in the midday heat, but after the rains fall and things clear back up, it can make for an exciting bite, especially inshore where the rains can temporarily cool the water down.

I had a day last week where this exact thing happened. I was fishing with a client, and the morning bite was pretty decent. The hotter it got, the slower the bite was. By noon, it was slow, but there was a rain coming that we could see. We ate a quick lunch before getting poured on. This shower lasted a good 45 minutes. Right after it stopped, I saw a couple of fish feed directly across from us, so we quietly troll-motored into casting range to check it out.

We started catching Snook and kept on catching for about an hour. The water temp had dropped,



and even though it was a little stirred up, we ended up having a banner day. By day's end, she had landed over 40 Snook, with some nice 32 and 33 - inch

fish to boot. I have seen this time after time during my years of inshore Snook fishing. We have been landing some rather large fish this month, with three fish breaking the 40-inch mark. Things are looking good for a good spawn, and I hope this is what happens this year.

Just remember to get those big ones back as quickly as possible and be careful while reviving them, as the Sharks are also big right now. I always try to troll motor over to the edge of the mangroves when reviving and releasing a big Snook that has fought to exhaustion. We have to make our best efforts as fishermen to protect our resource. I also hear about fish being lost to sharks. It happens. But when it does, it is wise to move on as once they get a fish, they will not leave. So I try not to feed the sharks even though some clients might not understand.

My main target in the summer is Snook. They like the warm water, and there are plenty of big fish roaming around. It just happens to be my favorite target, so I love summer fishing! This being said, there are still Reds around, and of course, Tarpon are here all summer long. The offshore fishing has been reported as staying steady. Snook, Permit, Cobia, and of course, big Goliaths (Jewfish) are on the nearshore wrecks. Add Grouper and Snapper to that by going farther out, and this can all make for some great fishing and awesome eating!

It's a great time for some family fun inshore and offshore, so get out and have fun. Plan for heat and plan for rain showers. Be safe and be courteous. We all love these Everglades and what they provide for us.

Capt. Mike Merritt

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

Barron River Tides									
7/20/2024	Sat	3:44 AM	2.28	H	8/3/2024	Sat	4:00 AM	2.3	H
7/20/2024	Sat	9:18 AM	1	L	8/3/2024	Sat	9:34 AM	0.93	L
7/20/2024	Sat	2:00 PM	3.3	H	8/3/2024	Sat	2:27 PM	3.27	H
7/20/2024	Sat	10:25 PM	-0.31	L	8/3/2024	Sat	10:23 PM	-0.08	L
7/21/2024	Sun	4:22 AM	2.37	H	8/4/2024	Sun	4:10 AM	2.36	H
7/21/2024	Sun	10:03 AM	0.94	L	8/4/2024	Sun	10:15 AM	0.86	L
7/21/2024	Sun	2:42 PM	3.44	H	8/4/2024	Sun	3:06 PM	3.27	H
7/21/2024	Sun	11:08 PM	-0.32	L	8/4/2024	Sun	11:01 PM	-0.02	L
7/22/2024	Mon	4:59 AM	2.44	H	8/5/2024	Mon	4:30 AM	2.45	H
7/22/2024	Mon	10:50 AM	0.85	L	8/5/2024	Mon	10:55 AM	0.79	L
7/22/2024	Mon	3:27 PM	3.49	H	8/5/2024	Mon	3:43 PM	3.23	H
7/22/2024	Mon	11:51 PM	-0.27	L	8/5/2024	Mon	11:37 PM	0.07	L
7/23/2024	Tue	5:36 AM	2.51	H	8/6/2024	Tue	4:55 AM	2.55	H
7/23/2024	Tue	11:40 AM	0.75	L	8/6/2024	Tue	11:34 AM	0.73	L
7/23/2024	Tue	4:19 PM	3.42	H	8/6/2024	Tue	4:22 PM	3.14	H
7/24/2024	Wed	12:33 AM	-0.14	L	8/7/2024	Wed	12:12 AM	0.18	L
7/24/2024	Wed	6:11 AM	2.58	H	8/7/2024	Wed	5:24 AM	2.63	H
7/24/2024	Wed	12:32 PM	0.64	L	8/7/2024	Wed	12:13 PM	0.68	L
7/24/2024	Wed	5:20 PM	3.24	H	8/7/2024	Wed	5:03 PM	3	H
7/25/2024	Thu	1:15 AM	0.06	L	8/8/2024	Thu	12:44 AM	0.32	L
7/25/2024	Thu	6:45 AM	2.66	H	8/8/2024	Thu	5:54 AM	2.68	H
7/25/2024	Thu	1:26 PM	0.53	L	8/8/2024	Thu	12:52 PM	0.64	L
7/25/2024	Thu	6:26 PM	2.98	H	8/8/2024	Thu	5:47 PM	2.81	H
7/26/2024	Fri	1:58 AM	0.3	L	8/9/2024	Fri	1:14 AM	0.48	L
7/26/2024	Fri	7:21 AM	2.73	H	8/9/2024	Fri	6:24 AM	2.7	H
7/26/2024	Fri	2:28 PM	0.43	L	8/9/2024	Fri	1:33 PM	0.6	L
7/26/2024	Fri	7:38 PM	2.66	H	8/9/2024	Fri	6:35 PM	2.6	H
7/27/2024	Sat	2:44 AM	0.55	L	8/10/2024	Sat	1:41 AM	0.64	L
7/27/2024	Sat	8:01 AM	2.8	H	8/10/2024	Sat	6:53 AM	2.69	H
7/27/2024	Sat	3:39 PM	0.34	L	8/10/2024	Sat	2:21 PM	0.57	L
7/27/2024	Sat	9:01 PM	2.35	H	8/10/2024	Sat	7:31 PM	2.37	H
7/28/2024	Sun	3:37 AM	0.78	L	8/11/2024	Sun	1:59 AM	0.8	L
7/28/2024	Sun	8:47 AM	2.85	H	8/11/2024	Sun	7:23 AM	2.67	H
7/28/2024	Sun	4:53 PM	0.23	L	8/11/2024	Sun	3:25 PM	0.55	L
7/28/2024	Sun	10:33 PM	2.12	H	8/11/2024	Sun	8:44 PM	2.15	H
7/29/2024	Mon	4:40 AM	0.96	L	8/12/2024	Mon	2:06 AM	0.93	L
7/29/2024	Mon	9:42 AM	2.9	H	8/12/2024	Mon	7:55 AM	2.66	H
7/29/2024	Mon	6:02 PM	0.12	L	8/12/2024	Mon	4:38 PM	0.49	L
7/30/2024	Tue	1:19 AM	2.07	H	8/12/2024	Mon	10:09 PM	2.02	H
7/30/2024	Tue	5:47 AM	1.06	L	8/13/2024	Tue	2:13 AM	1.04	L
7/30/2024	Tue	10:44 AM	2.95	H	8/13/2024	Tue	8:45 AM	2.67	H
7/30/2024	Tue	7:07 PM	0.02	L	8/13/2024	Tue	5:46 PM	0.39	L
7/31/2024	Wed	2:44 AM	2.18	H	8/13/2024	Tue	11:50 PM	2	H
7/31/2024	Wed	6:54 AM	1.09	L	8/14/2024	Wed	2:27 AM	1.14	L
7/31/2024	Wed	11:51 AM	3.02	H	8/14/2024	Wed	9:56 AM	2.73	H
7/31/2024	Wed	8:06 PM	-0.06	L	8/14/2024	Wed	6:48 PM	0.26	L
8/1/2024	Thu	3:25 AM	2.24	H	8/15/2024	Thu	2:00 AM	2.13	H
8/1/2024	Thu	7:56 AM	1.06	L	8/15/2024	Thu	6:18 AM	1.19	L
8/1/2024	Thu	12:54 PM	3.12	H	8/15/2024	Thu	11:10 AM	2.87	H
8/1/2024	Thu	8:57 PM	-0.1	L	8/15/2024	Thu	7:44 PM	0.12	L
8/2/2024	Fri	3:50 AM	2.27	H	8/16/2024	Fri	2:18 AM	2.28	H
8/2/2024	Fri	8:48 AM	1	L	8/16/2024	Fri	7:25 AM	1.16	L
8/2/2024	Fri	1:45 PM	3.21	H	8/16/2024	Fri	12:17 PM	3.08	H
8/2/2024	Fri	9:42 PM	-0.1	L	8/16/2024	Fri	8:34 PM	-0.01	L

Eateries

Everglades City

Camellia Street Grill
Mon-Thurs 12-9
Fri-Sun 11-9
(239) 695-2003

Captain Morgan's Seafood Grill Corp
Thur-Sat 11 am – 8 pm
Sun 12 pm-8 pm
Closed on Holidays
(239) 232-0041

City Seafood
Mon-Fri 8 am – 3 pm
Sat & Sun 8 am – 4 pm
(239) 695-4700

Diving Pelican
Sun-Thur 11 am – 8 pm
Fri-Sat 11 am – 8:30 pm
Gator Hole Bar to – 11 pm Fri-Sun
(239) 232-0475

Everglades Cafe
Wed-Sat 7 am – 3:30 pm
(239) 351-4875

Island Cafe
Daily 6 am – 9 pm
(239) 695-0003

Nely's Corner (Inside EFC)
Fri-Sun 6:15 am – 3 pm
(239) 695-4222

Rod & Gun
Daily 11:30 am - 7:30 pm
(239) 695-2101

Triad Seafood Market & Cafe
Opens October
(239) 695-2662

Wildman's Pizza Pasta & Pythons
Wed & Thurs 12 pm – 8 pm
Fri-Sat 12 pm – 9 pm
(239) 426-9453

Chokoloskee

HavAnnA Cafe
Opens October
(239) 695-2214

Goodland

Crabby Lady
Tues-Sat 11 am – 6 pm
Sun 11 am – 5 pm
(239) 394-5663

Kirks Fish House
Opens October
(239) 394-8616

Little Bar
Mon-Sat 11:30 am – 12 am
Closed Sundays
(239) 394-5663

Paradise Found
Opens October
(239) 330-7773

Stans Idle Hour
Opens October
(239) 394-3041

Ochopee

Subway
Daily 7 am – 7 pm
(239) 695-0949

Ochopee

Joanie's Blue Crab Cafe
Closed Wednesdays
Mon, Tues, Thur 10:00 am – 4 pm
Fri-Sun 10:30 am – 5 pm
(239) 695-2682

Port of the Islands

Angler's Cove
(Closed for Maintenance)

CR92 & US41 (Naples)

Gator's Crossing
Daily 11 am – 11 pm
(239) 394-0288

Markets

Right Choice Supermarket
Daily 9 am – 7 pm
(239) 695-4535

Grimm's Stone Crab
Opens Oct 15
(239) 695-3222

Worship

Chokoloskee Family Church
Sun: 10 am School & Worship, 6 pm Service
Wed: Youth 7 pm
1236 Demere Ln, Chokoloskee

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
Opens December
200 Datura St E, Everglades City

Goodland Baptist Church
410 Mango Ave. Goodland
Sunday: 10 am Worship
Wed 6 pm Bible Study

Services

Mike's Outboard Service
Servicing
Mercury - Yamaha - Suzuki
Anything Electric
Installs and Repairs
(305) 619-3774

Volunteer

VOLUNTEER: The Big Cypress National Preserve is currently seeking volunteers for our Reed Visitor Center docent and park ambassador. For those interested, please reach out to Annie Kilby, the Visitor Services Program Manager at (239)719-0207 annie_kilby@nps.gov.

VOLUNTEER: Our Everglades Area Visitor Center is looking for volunteers. Call Patty at (239)719-0020 or email snookcity@gmail.com for information.

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(941) 999-1237

Clubs

AA
Wednesday | 5 pm
First Baptist Church
416 School Drive, Everglades City

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
3rd Tuesday of the month | 6:30 pm
Goodland Community Center
417 Mango Ave, Goodland
(239) 776-1372

Helpful Numbers

EC Airport: (239) 695-2778
EC City Hall: (239) 695-3781
EC Public Library: (239) 695-2511
EC Trash Pickup: (239) 252-2380
EC Visitor Center: (239) 232-0473
Carnestown Recycle: (239) 695-4331
Goodland Recycle: (239) 252-2380

Post Office

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

Local Parks

Big Cypress: (239) 695-2000
EVG National Park: (239) 695-3311
Fakahatchee Preserve: (239) 961-1925

Reopens October
Full Kitchen Menu
Weekly Events
Live Music



Delicious Cuban & Cracker Cuisine
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Craft Cocktails



See Events

191 Smallwood Dr
Chokoloskee
(239) 695-2214

 [HavAnnaCafe](https://www.instagram.com/HavAnnaCafe)
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