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MULLET RAPPER

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JULY 2026

County Eyes EC Land for Boat Ramp, Airport Expansion, Housing

By Fabrizio Gowdy

Collier County commissioners on June 23 discussed removing a requirement that the county obtain municipal consent before buying land with Conservation Collier funds — a change that comes as the board considers acquiring six parcels in Everglades City for a mix of projects.

The second reading of the revised ordinance could appear on the July 14 agenda, though the timing and final language remain uncertain. The change would shift the county's obligation from securing consent to simply notifying municipalities of planned purchases.

Conservation Collier, which voters created by referendum in 2002 and reaffirmed in 2006 and 2020, uses revenue from a 0.25-mill property tax to buy environmentally sensitive land.

The proposed Everglades City purchase — dubbed “Everglades City Outpost” — calls for spending \$6.64 million for 52 acres. The current funding concept includes \$3 million from Conservation Collier, \$3 million from park impact fees, and \$640,000 from the airport fund.

A conceptual layout, which county officials emphasize is only preliminary, shows a new boat ramp, 30 to 50 homes, and an expansion of Everglades Airpark.

Local pushback

Everglades City Mayor Howie Grimm asked commissioners on May 11 not to move forward, arguing a county-run boat ramp would compete with private ramps and cost the city roughly \$8,000 a year in property taxes.

“A lot of citizens that live across from it oppose [a new boat ramp],” Grimm said.

On June 9, the Everglades City Council outlined three conditions:

that part of the land be used for airport expansion, that the city receive full reimbursement for lost ad valorem revenue, and that the county agree not to build a boat ramp

McDaniel defends the plan

Commissioner Bill McDaniel, who represents Everglades City, said Collier County faces a “dire shortage” of public boat ramps. He also argued that property tax revenue from new homes and the city's share of boat ramp fees would soon vastly exceed \$8,000 a year.

McDaniel said he and city officials reached a verbal agreement for the county to reimburse 50% of lost ad valorem revenue until development is complete. He also said the city would receive \$5 from each county resident using the ramp and \$20 from each nonresident.

He described the housing concept as a mix of affordable and market-rate units and acknowledged the property's environmental sensitivity, saying any developer would need to address mangrove mitigation. Other ideas discussed include a daycare, a healthcare facility, and a sunset viewing deck overlooking the airpark.

Airport expansion broadly supported

The one portion of the plan that everybody seems content with is the airport expansion, which Grimm said he “absolutely” supports.

Another key proponent, Airport Manager Bryant Garrett, said



Submitted Photo

expanding the airpark would improve safety and efficiency and help secure future grant funding. He estimated seven additional acres could accommodate up to 20 new tie-down spaces, each generating \$150 to \$200 annually.

“From the world of airport management, land equals revenue,” Garrett said.

Questions about conservation dollars

Everglades City officials aren't the only elected officials raising concerns with the deal, however.

Clerk of Court Crystal Kinzel questions whether a boat ramp

qualifies as a conservation use eligible for Conservation Collier funding. She also urged commissioners to consider private-sector interest in the property.

Both Kinzel and Grimm raised concerns that the project could mirror the county's purchase of the former Port of the Islands Resort and Hotel, which was demolished nearly six years ago but remains without a developer.

Housing could be difficult

Building homes on the site could be challenging because the property includes protected mangroves, which McDaniel acknowledged would likely require costly environmental mitigation and strict state and federal permitting.

Kinzel has warned the specific parcels proposed for housing may not be developable at all, citing Property

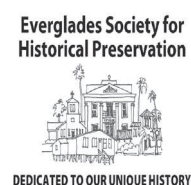
Appraiser classifications. She asks whether it makes sense to use Conservation Collier funds for the purchase when the land will likely remain undeveloped because it is unsuitable for construction.

What's next

The seller initially sought a July 1 closing, but commissioners now appear to be slowing the process. McDaniel said the proposal remains in the letter-of-intent stage — an initial, non-binding framework — and no contract has been drafted.

The Everglades City Outpost proposal is not currently scheduled for any upcoming commission agenda.

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July 2026						
			Wednesday, July 1	Thursday, July 2	Friday, July 3	Saturday, July 4
					Friday Social, Rod & Gun Club 5:00 PM	Fireworks Display Parkway Motel & Marina 9:00 PM
Sunday, July 5	Monday, July 6	Tuesday, July 7	Wednesday, July 8	Thursday, July 9	Friday, July 10	Saturday, July 11
AA meeting 4:00 PM Everglades Community Church		Ladies Coffee 8:30 AM Island Café Diaz-Balart Team Everglades City Hall 2:30 PM				
Sunday, July 12	Monday, July 13	Tuesday, July 14	Wednesday, July 15	Thursday, July 16	Friday, July 17	Saturday, July 18
AA meeting 4:00 PM Everglades Community Church		Ladies Coffee 8:30 AM City Seafood		Third Thursday Lecture 2:00 - 3:00 PM Museum of the Everglades		
Sunday, July 19	Monday, July 20	Tuesday, July 21	Wednesday, July 22	Thursday, July 23	Friday, July 24	Saturday, July 25
AA meeting 4:00 PM Everglades Community Church		Ladies Coffee 8:30 AM Island Café				
Sunday, July 26	Monday, July 27	Tuesday, July 28	Wednesday, July 29	Thursday, July 30	Friday, July 31	
AA meeting 4:00 PM Everglades Community Church		Ladies Coffee 8:30 AM City Seafood				

To list your upcoming event, meeting, or activity free of charge in the calendar, send details to Lynn@coastalbreezenews.com. Deadline for the August edition of the Mullet Rapper is July 17.

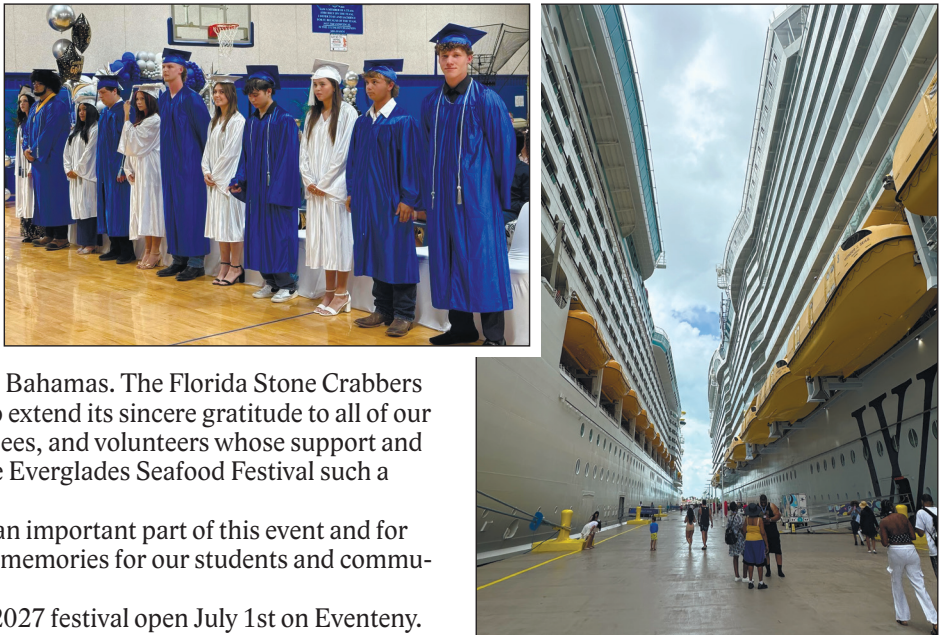
EC Senior Trip

By Holly Dudley

The Class of 2026 had an amazing time on their senior trip to the Bahamas. The Florida Stone Crabbers Association would like to extend its sincere gratitude to all of our sponsors, donors, attendees, and volunteers whose support and dedication help make the Everglades Seafood Festival such a tremendous success.

Thank you for being an important part of this event and for helping us create lasting memories for our students and community.

Applications for the 2027 festival open July 1st on Eventeny.com. Sponsorship opportunities can be found on EventHub.net.



Submitted Photos

America 250: Spirit of the Everglades

Submitted

In this companion lecture to the current temporary exhibit at Museum of the Everglades, American Spirit, American Dream, Museum Manager Thomas Lockyear will discuss the indomitable spirit of the individuals who have called the Everglades area their home – from the region’s indigenous people to early pioneer settlers to the modern-day entrepreneurs. Presented in the context of the America 250 celebration, Mr. Lockyear will share stories of the courage, resourcefulness, fortitude, ingenuity, and vision of those personalities who have lived and written chapters of this nation’s history in and around the Everglades for two and a half centuries.

The Third Thursday Lecture Series is on July 16, 2026, from 02:00 PM - 03:00 PM at the Museum of the Everglades, 105 Broadway Ave W, Everglades City, FL, 34139.



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OBITUARY

In Memoriam

With deep sadness, we announce the passing of Millie Jared Wallace. She left us peacefully on Monday, June 22, with her daughter Beth at her side. Millie was a cherished presence in our lives, and her kindness will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her. Arrangements for a Celebration of Life will follow later.



Update on the Bank of Everglades Building Project

by Patty Huff

In June Classic Carpentry, the contractor for the rehabilitation of the Bank Building, completed Phase I which involved the removal of the rear building, removing and storing the original heart-pine flooring, removal of walls and ceilings on both floors, installing additional piles under the building and around the perimeter (including the vault), new front and side porches, exterior staircase with new balcony and elevator shaft.

The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation is very proud that (with the assistance of federal funds and donations from over 100 individuals) we have saved, stabilized, and storm protected this historic structure. We will continue to seek private and public funding to bring this iconic building back to its original grandeur, a place our community



Photo by Patty Huff

can be proud of and celebrate with events and programs. It will also be a resource for visitors to learn about our heritage, our businesses, our amenities, and our environment.

Thank you to all our members, friends, and donors. If you have any questions or wish to learn more and donate, visit our website www.eshp.org.

Welcome to the New Pastor at Everglades Community Church

by Patty Huff

The Everglades community would like to welcome the new pastor of the Everglades Community Church, the “friendly little church on the circle.”

Pastor Gary Haug and his wife Lucinda were both born and raised on farms in North Dakota. They grew up near small towns similar in size to Everglades City. After high school graduation in Adams, ND, Gary attended Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, while Lucinda went to North Dakota State University in Fargo. Gary went on to teach band and choir in public schools for 23 years until 1995 when he felt called to seminary. After seminary, Pastor Gary served the next 22 years in three churches in Minnesota. He retired four years ago and the couple moved to Naples. He felt the Lord calling him back to ministry when

the opening for a new pastor in Everglades City was announced.

Lucinda worked most of her married life as a Registered Nurse, first in Fargo, ND, and then in two rural small-town hospitals where she served in obstetrics, then in medical/surgical as manager, as well as emergency room, surgery, and cardiac care. She pioneered the teaching of the Lamaze method of childbirth in each of those hospitals. She personally established and developed the Home Health nursing department at one of them and traveled in very rural areas to serve patients. When the couple moved to Minnesota for seminary, she then transitioned to managed care and supervised in the transplant arena. She finished up her career with a few years at a clinic-based urgent care before retirement.

Pastor Gary and Lucinda have



Submitted Photo

two grown children; their daughter living just outside of Nashville, and their son close to them in Naples, although he still has a business in Minnesota. They enjoy spending time with their seven grandsons, ages three to 25, and they have one two-year-old great-granddaughter.

Pastor Gary and Luci’s greatest joys besides serving the Lord Jesus are being with family and meeting new friends in the church and in their neighborhood. We welcome them both to our Community Church and to our town.

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Vol. XXVI • Issue #487

The Mullet Rapper is a publication of Coastal Breeze Publishing
1857 San Marco Road, Ste. 216C
Marco Island, FL 34145

Publisher:
Val Simon
239/777-5942
val@coastalbreezenews.com

Editor:
Lynn Alexander
lynn@coastalbreezenews.com

Publishers Emeritus:
Patricia A. Huff
Snook Publications

Advertising Sales
Jeff Dostal
616/284-0638
jeff@coastalbreezenews.com

A special thank you to our contributors:

Patty Huff
Jacentia Kinsey
Fabrizio Gowdy
Jessica Oliver
Scott H. Shook
Craig Woodward

For subscription info please call
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“There are no other Everglades in the world. They are, they have always been, one of the unique regions of the earth; remote, never wholly known. Nothing anywhere else is like them.”
~ Marjory Stoneman Douglas

The Predator of the Sea

MARCO'S COMMERCIAL SHARK FISHING

By Craig Woodward

In the 1970s and 80s, the former Coconut Island was a traditional place to raft up your boat, along with your friends’ boats, on a lazy Sunday afternoon and have a cookout on the beach while everyone swam and simply relaxed. It was a beautiful location – just north of the future Hideaway Beach, due east of Isles of Capri, situated in the mouth of the Marco River with a view to the west of the Gulf of Mexico and the setting sun. Hurricane Donna had created Coconut Island in 1960 by bisecting it and in doing so creating a new pass, now known as Capri Pass, which over time replaced the Big Marco Pass, which had previously followed the north shore of today’s Hideaway Beach, and later closed as Sand Dollar Island advanced to the north. Over time, Coconut Island grew smaller, shifted and moved south, but was mostly stabilized by tall Australian pine trees that dominated the north end of it.

Few of the many visitors to Coconut Island, as they swam off the beach, knew that these waters formerly held hundreds of hooked sharks, and even fewer sun worshipers realized, as they lay on the beach, that they were tanning in an area where the sharks had been pulled ashore, killed, skinned, and the meat butchered for sale.

The son of the local barber in the small village of Marco (now known as Old Marco), Francis Howard, was a fisherman who made his living in the shark business. Francis would take his boat offshore and, with hundreds of feet of chain, set a floating line of 50-gallon drums secured by anchors at the ends, attaching numerous strong fishing lines with large, baited hooks to the chain, creating what is known as a “long-line.” Dave Johnson, who grew up in Old Marco and whose father Roger participated in the early 1960s in some of the “sharking,” describes this type of fishing as “a trout-line on steroids.”

Francis would set his baits and would check the lines daily before returning to Marco. It was important to keep the sharks alive so that their meat would be fresh for processing and, in addition, a hooked shark could be quickly damaged. Male lemon sharks, sensing that other sharks were hooked, would often swim along the line, taking a bite out of almost every other shark, damaging each hide and, upon finding a bait available, would swallow it hook and all. Upon seeing that he had enough sharks attached, Francis would release a long line and drag it with the hooked sharks behind his boat back to the beach at Coconut Island for processing.

After a shark’s skin has been removed and dried, it is known as shagreen. For many years, there was

no commercial market for shagreen as the skin protecting the shark has a hard exterior, horny layer with small denticles (placoid scales) that are impossible to remove by mechanical means. Shark skins were used by Southwest Florida’s native Calusa Indians as coarse sandpaper to polish wood and also by South Pacific natives as the membranes on drums. However, on April 27, 1920, shortly after WWI, a U.S. patent was obtained by Allen Rogers for the “Improvements in Treating of Shark-Skins and the like Preparatory to Tanning” allowing the removal of the “hard or horny coating known as dermal armoring.” Rogers assigned his patent to the Ocean Leather Company of New York who, for over 60 years, held a virtual monopoly on the production of shark skin. The chemical process used was to soak the skin in a solution of salt and hydrochloric acid which, after a couple of hours, dissolved the denticles, and then the hides were colored as part of the finishing process. The result was smooth skins, much more elastic than pigskin, 150 times more resistant, and sturdier than cow leather. The market for shark skin was in making cowboy boots, handbags, belts, key and lighter cases, watch straps, sandals, gun holsters, cigar cases, briefcases, wallets and purses, and the like.

In the Journal of American Leather Chemists Association, Allen Rogers, inventor of this patent, in a 1920 article wrote that after being brought to shore, the sharks were killed using an axe (later they were often shot) and stated, “Dressing starts at once. Fins and tails removed – fins tacked on a rack and allowed to dry in the sun – used by the Chinese for making soup. Fish cut down the back and circular cut around the neck and gills. Skin removed so only the holes of the pectoral fins and rectal opening remain in the pelt. Flayed skins placed in salt for 24 hours.”

Other reports said that saltwater was brushed on the skin’s surface or it was hosed well with saltwater to remove the impurities before the hides were soaked in salt brine. Upon removal, they were dried in racks in the shade overnight, salted more on the flesh side with a preservative, and placed in piles about three feet high. The piles were laid out to dry for up to a week. It was a major problem if it started to rain or fresh water ran on the skins during the drying process as that would create “sour spots” or discolor them and significantly reduce their value. At one time, Ocean Leather Company was paying a 20 percent bonus for hides without any cuts or flaws. After drying, the skins were re-salted and folded into flat bundles, flesh side inwards, with the bundles wrapped so air could get in, usually with burlap, and sold that way.

Faye Dickerson Brown remembers in



A tiger shark weighing over 500 pounds being pulled out of the water by Francis Howard and assisted by Roger Johnson. Francis’ sister, Lois (Howard) Crews is on the dock at the G&G Mercantile store (where today the Pavilion Apartments are in Old Marco).



Photos by Dave Johnson

Francis Howard, with the cap on and standing in the water, next to a makeshift dock at Coconut Island. Just off the dock can be seen the Great White Shark caught that day with a bit taken out of its pectoral fin. Standing on the dock is Francis’ helper Obie Kirkland.

1959 when she was a senior at Naples High School and her good friend Lois invited Faye to go “sharking” with Lois’s brother, Francis Howard, his wife Emily, and Lois’s sister, Lettie, and her three children. At the time, Francis was using the “north beach,” or what is now known as Hideaway Beach, for shark processing. Faye remembers Howard bringing their party to the beach after already having pulled in a long line.

Faye describes what happened: “Francis’s wife Emily sat upon the bow of the boat and cut the shark meat up into steaks which she said they sold to the Rod and Gun Club in Everglades to be sold on the menu as swordfish steaks. Once we found something in a shark’s belly and it was sized and shaped like a man’s lower leg! We all held our breath while Francis split open the stomach and pulled out a smaller shark from the larger shark’s belly. A four-foot shark had taken the fish bait, and the larger shark swallowed the smaller shark behind its head and was caught. I remember eight to ten-foot sharks, mostly Tiger, Nurse and Lemon sharks.”

Of all the Florida sharks fished for, the most sought-after and profitable was the Tiger shark. In 1968, the skin of a 12-foot Tiger shark brought a base price of \$12.50, added was a bonus of 50 percent because it was a Tiger; the meat sold for at least \$10; and the fins (which were small) \$3 additional, resulting in more than \$30 for the one catch.

Faye continues her story about that day in 1959 with her friends on north beach: “We went dressed in our swimsuits and sometimes swam near where the sharks were being skinned

which was a crazy thing to have done.” Apparently, they were simply following local tradition, in the 50 years previous not much had changed.

Julian Dimock, with his father, headquartered their Everglades adventures on Marco, wrote in 1908: “In Marco women and children swim about the dock from which men are fishing for sharks, and more than once, while swimming there with my daughter, fifty feet from shore, I have seen a shark glide between us and the bank.” Clearly, Dimock did not seem the least bit worried about his daughter repeatedly swimming with sharks. Today, this activity seems worrisome as most people are paranoid about sharks. In earlier times, when everyone lived closer to nature, they understood that, for the most part, sharks were pretty harmless, and they held no cause for alarm. However, it is fortunate that humans do not taste as good as a tarpon, as Dimock also writes about fishing for tarpon and ending up with a shark on the line: “A fourteen-foot shark is likely to have taken in half of your six-foot tarpon at a single bite.”

Shark meat that was not good enough to be sold to restaurants could be made into fish scrap for fertilizer as it contains about 15 to 17 percent nitrogen. Another profitable part of the shark was the removal and processing of its liver. One Tiger shark caught was 7’8” long, yielded nine square feet of skin, weighed 128 pounds and its liver weighed 24 pounds – slightly over the average for Tiger sharks whose livers normally weigh about 17.5 percent of their total weight.

Inventor Allen Rogers, in 1920,

Predator continued on pg. 7



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An Unforgettable Encounter



TALL TALES
FROM THE
EVERGLADES

Jessica Oliver

It was 1986, just another day in the Everglades. Hot as usual. Somehow, after the rain, the heat only got worse. The air hung heavy in the swamps, thick enough to choke on, and the bugs? Horrible. Mosquitoes swarmed like clouds, biting through my shirt, buzzing in my ears like they owned the place.

But I couldn't stop. Couldn't turn back. I was looking for something. A python maybe. Treasure buried deep in the Glades. Or perhaps the Skunk Ape himself. Truthfully, I wasn't sure anymore. The Everglades had a way of pulling a man deeper into its mysteries until he became one himself.

The sun was already sinking behind the mangroves, painting the swamp in deep orange and black. Yet somehow, the darkness in the Everglades never felt unnatural. The stars reflected across the black water, giving just enough light to keep moving. Just enough to make you feel safe.

That's the trick of the swamp. It makes you feel safe right before

it reminds you you're not. A twig snapped somewhere behind me. I froze. The sound echoed through the trees, sharp enough to cut through the buzz of insects and the croaking frogs. I told myself it was a panther. Maybe a black bear moving through the brush. I was a hunter after all. I had walked these swamps before. But standing there in the dark, gripping my rifle tighter than I ever had before, I didn't feel like the hunter anymore. I felt like prey.

Still, I kept moving deeper. Smarter men would've turned around hours ago, but pride will carry you farther into the Everglades than common sense ever will. Before long, I realized I was lost. Completely lost. Every cypress tree looked the same. Every trail disappeared into black water and sawgrass.

For the first time in my life, I wondered if I'd ever make it back out. Maybe I'd become one of those stories told around campfires. Another man swallowed by the swamp. Another mystery hidden beneath the mangroves. Then I saw it. A towering shadow stepped between the trees ahead of me.

At first, I thought it was a bear standing upright, but no bear moved



Photos by Jessica Oliver

like that. This thing was taller. Broader. Its shoulders nearly brushed the hanging moss above it. And the smell... dear God, the smell hit me before the creature did. Rotting meat mixed with wet animal fur and sulfur, strong enough to burn my nose. Two glowing eyes stared at me through the darkness. Not curious eyes. Not afraid eyes. Predator's eyes. I had stepped into his territory. The Skunk Ape. The Everglades' most elusive creature.

I had searched for him, hunted him, dreamed about finding him face to face. But standing there in the swamp

with those glowing eyes locked onto mine, I realized something terrifying. Some mysteries aren't meant to be found. The creature let out a low growl that vibrated through the trees and into my chest. Slowly, it stepped closer, massive feet sinking into the mud without a sound. I raised my rifle, hands shaking so badly I could barely hold it steady.

Then the swamp exploded with noise. Birds burst from the trees overhead. Something splashed violently in the water beside me. And before I could even blink, the creature charged. I ran. Branches tore at my arms and face as I crashed through the mangroves. I could hear it behind me, heavy footsteps shaking the ground, getting closer every second. I didn't care where I was going anymore. I just wanted out.

I don't remember how long I ran for. Minutes maybe. Hours maybe. In the Everglades, time disappears. But eventually the sounds stopped. No footsteps. No growling. Nothing except the insects and the distant cry of something deep in the swamp. I collapsed against a tree, gasping for air, too afraid to even look behind me.

When the sun finally rose the next morning, I found myself only a few hundred yards from my truck. To this day, nobody believes what I saw out there. Maybe that's for the best. Some things are better left hidden in the Everglades.

Still, every now and then, late at night when the swamp goes quiet, I swear I can still smell that creature lingering somewhere in the darkness. Watching. Waiting.

But I guess it's just another day in the Everglades.

Jessica Oliver is a wife and mom of two who has always enjoyed storytelling. Her column, Tall Tales of the Everglades, is a collection of original fictional stories inspired by the mystery and beauty of the Everglades. She hopes each story gives readers a chance to escape into a new adventure and see Florida's wild places in a different way.

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Predator from pg. 4

again describes the process: “Livers go into a barrel to disintegrate them in steam jacketed kettles and heated to boiling for about one hour. From kettles the oil is run into washing and settling tanks where the gurry is separated, oil runs into a tank, is washed and then stored for shipment.”

Sharks are unique sea animals as they have no swim bladder and their buoyancy in water is maintained by their large livers saturated with oil. The processed oil from shark livers was used as fine machine oil or as a lubricant as it has a very low melting point and a very high boiling point. It was also used in cosmetics, skin healing, and for health products. During WWII, a large boom in the

business occurred as it was discovered that shark oil could be used to produce Vitamin A which helped the night vision of fighter pilots. That market collapsed when synthetic Vitamin A was discovered in 1947.

Ocean Leather Company started production around 1923 in the Florida Keys where, by 1930, they were catching and processing an average of 100 sharks a day. Almost everything connected with the sharks was used; the oil being processed by Hydenoil Products. One comment at the time about the harvesting process of sharks was that “the odor was quite strong.” By 1964, Ocean Leather Company, in its northern plant, was processing about 16,000 shark hides annually. Because 98 percent of its production was sold in Texas, the company

did not try to market elsewhere as they could hardly keep up with the demand from the Lone Star State.

Dave Johnson mentioned one spectacular day of Marco sharking: “The day they brought in the Great White was quite an event. Nobody had ever seen one before. It was 19-feet long and as you can see from the photo, something pretty big as well had bit a large chunk out of its pectoral fin before it was harvested.” Presumably, that bite was from a male lemon shark.

On Marco, the sharking business died off around 1963 or 1964. Dave mentions living on the north end of the Island at the time: “A little downside to the enterprise was the fact that when the wind blew from the west, the smell of those drying shark fins

was strong enough in Old Marco to make you think twice about ever trying the soup!” Development was coming to Marco Island and Coconut Island itself was divided up into 100-foot strips of land and sold off as privately-owned parcels by the mid-1960s.

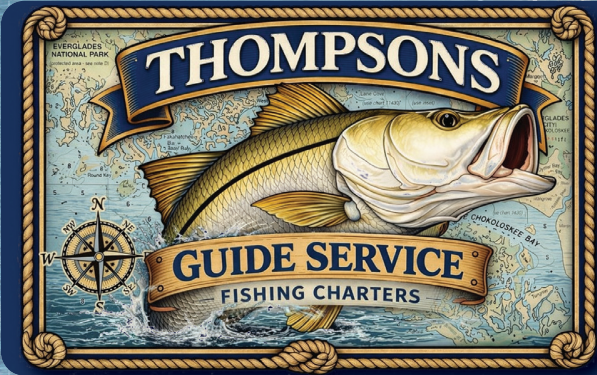
A major change also happened in the shark skin business: while Francis and other fishermen of his time had caught a few sharks by hooks and lines, the industry was changing. After shark fishing on Marco had ceased, it became routine for large vessels to net hundreds of sharks at a time. In fact, by the mid-1980s, from its world production of shark hides, Ocean Leather Company was handling around 50,000 shark

Predator continued on pg. 8

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**CAPT DRU
MILLER**

(239) 588-0239

Predator from pg. 7

skins annually. That number probably pales by the number of sharks caught for their fins by the Chinese.

Meanwhile, the growing environmental movement did not bode well for the growing shark industry. Research revealed that sharks have a very slow growth rate, come to sexual maturity late in life and have relatively few offspring after a long gestation period. For a number of years, the number of sharks harvested was twice the number of new sharks born, creating an alarming situation.

Between 2004 and 2008, an estimated 800,000 sharks were killed by recreational fishermen off the Gulf coast and the Atlantic Ocean. Researchers from North Carolina found that when the shark population declined, the ray population increased from having no natural predators. As a result, more rays ate more bay scallops creating an economic loss of local

commercial scallop fisheries. As the predator of the seas, sharks keep fish populations healthy by eating the sick or injured and by scavenging the dead.

While it is rare to see a great white shark in local waters, a large one named “Nova” weighing 1186 pounds and 11 ½ feet long, who had been first tagged in Canada waters near Nova Scotia, was in January of 2013 tracked heading south approximately 150 miles west of Marco Island, and by early March was south of the Dry Tortugas feeding in the Florida Current. The great white shark received its public notoriety as the most dangerous shark in the world in the 1975 movie JAWS and, other than man, an adult great white has no predators. The tiger shark ranks second and the bull shark third in the list of dangerous sharks. Because of the water depth and available food sources the east coast of Florida has many more confirmed unprovoked shark attacks, while the Florida Gulf Coast has relatively few.

Statistics kept since 1882 show that in the last 144 years, Collier County has recorded eight unprovoked shark attacks, none of them fatal.

There are now Federal and Florida laws protecting sharks with Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) listing 29 different varieties as protected species that are prohibited from all harvest, possession, landing, purchase, sale, or exchange because their populations have declined by over 50 percent. The FWC enacted numerous regulations protecting local sharks, included a required annual shore-based shark fishing permit for all anglers, a requirement that sharks cannot be removed from the water (which crushes their internal organs and causes suffocation), and an immediate release of the protected varieties of sharks, a list that includes the great white, tiger sharks, lemon sharks, hammerheads, etc.

Ocean Leather Corporation (as it was later known) no longer exists. The

decline of business in shark skins was attributed to an increased popularity of eating shark meat which required that the shark be put on ice, which spoiled the hides while the skin remained intact to protect the meat. Today, many shark products including shark skin, as well as shark cartilage pills (presumably to ward off cancer) are produced in China.

Coconut Island continued to grow smaller and smaller and shifted to the south and then completely disappeared in 2005. Coconut Island had existed for 45 years, from 1960 to 2005, and in similar fashion, the knowledge that there once was commercial shark fishing on Marco has also faded away.

I want to thank David Johnson, Faye Brown, and Lois Crews for sharing their memories of Marco commercial “sharking” with me, Kay Francis for identifying some of the people in the photographs and Kathy Brock for her information on the great white shark known as Nova.

CLASSIFIEDS

Restaurants & Bars

Everglades City

Camellia Street Grill
Open all week 11 am - 9 pm
239-695-2003

Triad Seafood Market & Cafe
Closed June 15 - October 1

Island Cafe
7 days per week 6 am - 9 pm
239-695-0003

Chokoloskee

HavAnna Cafe
Summer Session
June 14 through July 26
Thursday 11 am-10 pm Karaoke Night
Friday & Saturday 8 am-8 pm
Sunday 8am-3pm

Markets

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

Glades Haven General Store
Daily 9 am – 7 pm
(239) 232-0486

Grimm’s Stone Crab
(239) 695-3222

Goodland.

Kirk Fish House
Last Day for Season!
June 2: 10 am - 5 pm

Volunteer Opportunity

If you enjoy meeting people from around the world and telling them about our wonderful community and the things to do here, then you would enjoy volunteering at the Everglades Area Welcome Center next

to Dulce’s Café.

High School Students who are interested in fulfilling their volunteer service hours should also contact Patty Huff at 239-719-0020

Worship

Chokoloskee Family Church
Sunday: 10 am
Sunday Renewal: 6 pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 pm
1236 Demere Lane Chokoloskee

Everglades

Community Church
Sun: 11 am Worship
101 Copeland Ave, Everglades City

First Baptist Church

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

Holy Family Catholic Church

200 Datura St E, Everglades City
Sunday Mass at 10:30

Goodland Baptist Church

Sun: 10 am Worship
Wed: 6 pm Bible Study
410 Mango Ave. Goodland

Copeland Baptist Church

908 Church Street, Copeland
Sunday Services: 11:00 AM-12:30 PM
Sunday School: 10:00-11:00 AM
Bible Study:
Wednesday 6:00-7:00 PM

Lot for Sale

305 Storter Ave. S, Vacant lot. Save impact fees and utilities because property was previously improved. \$120,000 possible owner financing. 239-340-4770.

For Rent

Second Floor Studio Apartment with WiFi, washer/dryer, screened in porch, fully furnished in Everglades City for an annual rental. Great location.

Questions:
Email: bonniewoodward@gmail.com or call 239-860-6369.

Room for Rent

Chokoloskee Island Park \$500/month. Access to everything (kitchen, garage, etc.) Has a dock for a boat. Happy hour bar. 239-307-8964.

Help Wanted

Office Help - Customer service
Computer skills. Full time, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Call 239-695-2414

Clubs

Everglades Lions Club

2nd Thursday of the month | 6 pm
September - June
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 Airpark: (239) 252-6298
EC City Hall: (239) 695-3781
EC Public Library: (239) 695-2511
EC Trash Pickup: (239) 252-2380
EC Visitor Center: (239) 232-0473
Goodland Recycle: (239)252-2380
Mullet Rapper/Coastal Breeze News Office (239) 393-4991.

Post Office

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

Local Parks

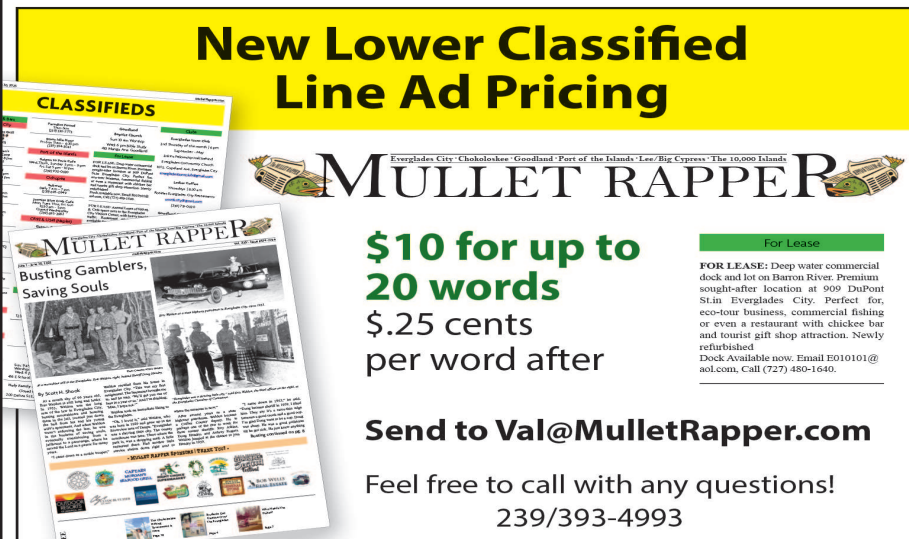
Big Cypress: (239) 695-2000
EVG National Park: (305) 242-7700
Fakahatchee Preserve:
(239) 961-1925
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CLASSIFIEDS

For Lease
FOR LEASE: Deep water commercial dock and lot on Barron River. Premium sought-after location at 909 DuPont St in Everglades City. Perfect for eco-tour business, commercial fishing or even a restaurant with chickee bar and tourist gift shop attraction. Newly refurbished.
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