

The MULLET RAPPER



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



February 20, 2021 - March 5, 2021

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P. O. Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume XIII • Issue # 384

**1st Annual
 Everglades
 City**



March 20, 2021

**McLeod Park, Everglades City
 Starting at 11:30 a.m.**

Come to Eat or to Compete!

Here is how to enter the contest:

- ◆ **\$25 Entrance fee (Non-Refundable)**
- ◆ **Entrance Fee is due by March 1**
- ◆ **Make a big pot of your favorite chili**
- ◆ **Anyone is allowed to participate:**
- ◆ **restaurants, business or individuals.**
- ◆ **The first place winner will receive \$100 and a trophy and shoutouts online!**
- ◆ **The second place winner will receive a ribbon!**

For those of you who are just coming to eat, we will be selling a 2 to 3 oz cup of chili for only \$5, but you will be able to try all the different, yummy chili.

Contact Hazel at 239-719-0368 for more information or if you are interested in entering the contest

We will be following CDC guidelines including frequent hand sanitizing, and by practicing social distancing.

*Sponsored by Chokoloskee Family
 Church of God Ladies Ministry*

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From trickle to torrent: What's up with water levels at Everglades National Park
 By Michelle Collier, Science Communications Liaison, Everglades National Park

This is the first of a three-part series on the recent historic water levels.

Stay tuned for a deeper dive into what effects the high-water levels are having on the park's natural resources.

If you live in South Florida, you are probably aware that we had a very wet fall. Water levels were high even before the passing of Tropical Storm Eta in mid-November, which brought more rain and caused devastating flooding in some South Florida communities. For Everglades National Park, rainfall and restoration-related water management changes caused the trickle of water it had been receiving prior to September to quickly become a torrent. As a result, water levels in the park rose to be among some of the highest on record.



Having worked in and pondered the hydrology of Everglades National Park for a decade, I wanted to see those historic water levels firsthand. So, I packed up my mommy-wagon one bright October day and headed out to the park.

The first thing I noticed when approaching the entrance—that any regular to the park would have noticed—was the standing water on either side of the road, with water even

flowing over the road in some places. It was so deep on a few access roads and on the Shark Valley Loop Road that the park temporarily closed those areas to keep people and the park's resources safe.

That was in October, the very beginning of our abnormally wet fall season. South Floridians should be used to a monsoon-type rainfall pattern. South Florida receives about 70% of its annual rainfall during the six-month wet season, which spans from May to October.

Before September 2020, total rainfall for the wet season was less than average. Remarkably, so much rain fell during the last two months of the wet season that the total rainfall for the 2020 wet season ended up being average compared to other wet seasons.

Although on paper the dry season starts Nov. 1, weather is variable, and precipitation can continue to fall after that date. This is especially true if there is a late-season tropical storm. True to form, 2020 delivered a wallop of a late-season storm. Tropical Storm Eta dumped up to 16 inches of rain on parts of South Florida and made for a very wet start to the dry season.

Photo above: Shark Valley Loop Road had to be closed because of the extremely high water levels. This picture was taken Nov. 24, 2020. Shark Valley reopened recently after water levels decreased. NPS Photo by Mark Parry.

(Continued on page 6)

FEBRUARY 21, 2021 — MARCH 27, 2021 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
21	22	23	24 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm Virtual Ladies Coffee, 9:30	25	26	Full Moon-27
28	March 1 ESH, 9:00 am Snook Season Opens, p. 3	2 City Council. 7 pm	3 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm Virtual Ladies Coffee, 9:30	4	5	6—Rapper
7	8	9	10 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm Virtual Ladies Coffee, 9:30	11 Lions Club, 6 pm	12	New Moon-13
14 Set Clocks 1 hr. Forward!	15	16 P & Z, 6 pm	17 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm Ladies Coffee, 9:30	18 Museum Talk, See P. 9	19	20—Rapper Chili Cookoff See front page Museum Event, See p. 9
Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break
21	22	23	24 Food Bank ECC, 10:30-1pm Virtual Ladies Coffee, 9:30	25	26	27

April 1: April Fools Day

April 2: Good Friday

April 4: Easter Sunday

May 6: National Day of Prayer

AREA INFORMATION & NUMBERS:

AA: Wed., closed until further notice
 CARNESTOWN Recycle & Trash: 2nd Sat. of month, 9a-12p, 12:30p-2:00p
 DR DEMARTINO: Seeing patients in Marco, call: (239) 642-5552
 DR MARTIN: Call for appointment: (813)-787-9738
 LIONS CLUB: Second Thursday of Month, 6 pm
 MUSEUM: Open Tuesday-Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm, 239-252-5026
 PANCAKE FLY-IN: Coming Soon!
 REACH OUT: closed until further notice
 SKATING RINK: Closed until further notice
 SMALLWOOD STORE: Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon 11 am to 5 pm, 239-695-2989
 THRIFT SHOP: Open Thursday, 11 am to 3 pm
 VETERANS SUPPORT: Closed until further notice
 VISITOR CENTER: (239)-232-4037 Fri-Sun, 10 am to 2 pm

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

AIRPORT: (239)-695-2778
 BIG CYPRESS: (239)-695-2000
 CITY HALL: (239)-695-3781
 CURBSIDE TRASH PICKUP (239)-252-2380,
 (CALL TUESDAY FOR THURSDAY PICKUP)
 EVG NATIONAL PARK: (239)-695-3311
 FAKAHATCHEE: (239)-695-4593
 PUBLIC LIBRARY: (239)-695-2511
 SHERIFF: (239)-252-9300

The Local Area Code is 239

POST OFFICE INFORMATION:

Chokoloskee (239) 695-4468
 Mail pickup is at Everglades City Post Office, see times below
 Everglades City (239) 695-2174
 (M-F: 9:30 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 4:30 pm, closed Sat. & Sun.)
 Ochopee (239) 695-2099
 (M-F: 8 am to 10 am, noon to 4 pm; Sa: 10 am to 11:30 am)

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Sunday, March 14, 2021
Spring Forward! Don't forget to set your clocks 1 hour forward!

March 15 through March 19
Spring Break—No School Days
Students Return to School March 22nd

Thursday, March 18, 2 pm
Museum of the Everglades
"Third Thursday Lecture Series"
 The History of Deep Lake, See Page 9 for more details.

Saturday, March 20, 6 to 9 pm
Museum of the Everglades
The Grapefruit Gala
 See page 9 for details!

Saturday, March 20,, 2021, 11:30 am
1st Annual Chili Cookoff
McLeod Park, Everglades City, FL
 If you like chili, make your plans today. Come to compete or just to eat. See complete information on page 1!

Sunday, April 4, 2021
Easter Sunday Worship:

1st Baptist Church of Everglades
 Service at 11: 00

Chokoloskee Church of God
 Service at 11:00 am

Everglades Community Church
 Service at 11:00 am

Holy Family Catholic Church
 Mass held at 10:30

Due to the Covid-19 Virus, there will not be a sunrise service at Everglades National Park.

Find out about events, tides and businesses at:
www.VisitEvergladesCity.com

COMMUNITY SERVICES & INFORMATION

THE FOOD BANK IS OPEN !
Wed. 10:30 am to 1:00 pm

Food is distributed from the rear of Everglades Community Church located at 101 S. Copeland Ave., Everglades City.



Thrift Store
Open Thursday's
11 am to 3 pm
205 Buckner Ave,
Everglades City

Please do not leave items on the porch when we are not open. They get wet from moisture overnight and get ruined. Thank you!

Everglades Area Visitor Center
Open Fri., Sat., & Sunday
10 am to 2 pm

Stop in the Everglades Area Visitor Center to learn about all of the things to do around the area. At the center we also have maps, brochures, art and crafts by area artists, photography and more. We hope to see you there! We are located at **207 Broadway West in Everglades City, FL.**

Yard Debris Pick Up

Yard debris is picked up on Thursdays. Debris must be cut into pieces 4 ft or less and tied together, or put into paper bags (not plastic). Set them in the same area as your trash bins. If you put out unbound debris, they will not pick it up.

Everglades City Hall Contact Info:
239-695-3781

Local News

New Marina Opens in Everglades City
 Everglades Bait & Tackle is now operating the marina located at 200 Collier Ave. in Everglades City. The operating hours are 6 am to 6 pm. Ramp in and out is \$15, parking is available at the lot across the street.

The marina carries live bait and all of your fishing needs. The marina also has Rec90-Fuel at the docks, boat rentals and overnight dock space.

Their former store location at 101 Buckner Ave. in Everglades City has been renamed **BAAKwater**, where they will carry a full line of clothing, hats, caps, gear and gift items. BAAKwater will be open daily 10 am to 6 pm.

Free "Bookshelf" Moved From Chokoloskee PO to Right Choice Supermarket

The large bookshelf with the free books to read and return has been moved to Right Choice Supermarket now that the Chokoloskee Post Office has closed and moved to the Everglades City PO.

Local Artist Varick Niles, Reopens Gallery

Varick Niles has reopened her gallery in Everglades City. The gallery will be open Thursdays 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, or by appointment by calling **508-677-5136.**

The Gallery is located in the historic "shotgun" house at 106 Camellia Street, Everglades City, FL.

Snook Season Will Reopen March 1st
 Daily bag limit of 1 fish

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 Not less than 28" or more than 33"



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Everglades City Trail Town Update

By Patty Huff

Two years ago Everglades City was designated a Florida State Trail Town, the only one in Florida located south of Lake Okeechobee. Since that time the City, businesses and non-profit organizations have added many amenities for cyclists: bike rentals, bike racks around town, a Dolphin bike rack at McLeod Park as well as a Dero bike repair station, brochures, Visitor Information signage and the opening/re-opening of the Visitor Center/Trail Town Headquarters.



Over the past year we have seen an increase in the number of individual cyclists and groups from all over the United States visit and stay here on their way through the Everglades and south Florida. I had the opportunity of talking with one such club just this week: Bicycle Adventure Club (BAC) based in San Diego, CA. It is a non-profit, bicycle touring club for serious cyclists with a current membership exceeding several thousand. Members volunteer to create and lead a variety of bicycle tours, both domestic and foreign. The Club began operating in 1983 and many of their members have been with the club for many years, exploring the world together and cycling with friends on tours developed by club members for other members. I met with the members as they were enjoying breakfast at Island Café just before starting off east across the Tamiami Trail. They began their trip here in Ft Myers, cycling near the coast in Naples, then to Marco Island before arriving in Everglades City where they said they had a great time at the Rod & Gun Club listening to live music and spending the night.

This year, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Friends of the River of Grass Greenway (FROGG) has not offered free guided bike tours but we have been assisting and promoting other bike projects/events in the county. One such event is the upcoming 15th Annual Naples Bike Brunch, a family event scheduled for March 7 with route options of 100, 62, 40, 20 and 5 miles. For more information and to register, visit www.naplespathways.org.



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Adventures of the Saltwater Cowboy - "Coming In Hot"

By Jon Edward Edwards

"Hang on! Coming in hot!" I yelled over the loudness of the antiquated twenty-five horse Yamaha two-stroke. Heading into a break-neck bend in a narrow backwater creek, the steering cable snapped. Skipping and sliding, we careened into the rubbery confines of mangrove. Branches slapping and spider webs draping, we finally came to a stop wedged in there good.

At the time, my skiff was a sixteen-foot flat-bottom aluminum hull controlled from the bow with a stick, not unlike an airboat. Custom welded casting deck, sixteen-gallon fuel tank, and bow-mounted trolling motor; it was a backcountry ghost. Which is appropriate considering we disappeared into the mangrove system.

"You alright?" I hollered through a series of rapid spits, "thpp, thpp, thpp," attempting to clear the cobweb from my mouth. "I'm good!" Will, my eleven-year-old son (at the time), yelled from the rear.

After pulling ourselves out with fistfuls of mangrove branches, I began trolling out of the creek to a marked river where we could be rescued.



My dad had his flats boat at Calusa Island Marina. There was still plenty of time left in the day for him to get from his house in Marco to the marina and reach our location before dark. I knew it was big ask for anyone. But since I'd once heard Dad exclaim, "I don't think I've ever NOT run aground," I gave him an out. "No big deal if you don't want to tackle it. I can call Sea Tow. I need to get a membership anyway." I wasn't surprised nor bent out of shape when he took me up on it.

I wasn't off the phone with Sea Tow five-minutes before he called back and told me to cancel Sea Tow."

"Why?" I asked. In a sharp tone, he said, "You'd come get me, wudn't ya?" "Indeed, I would."

Anchored off a deep point adjacent to a massive oyster bar with steady outgoing water, Will was already hooked up. He slung

the keeper-sized mangrove snapper into the boat, jaws steadily snapping, "bap, bap, bap." As he popped the jig from its mouth, my son said something I'll never forget, "It's ok, Dad. It doesn't matter as long as we're together," oblivious to the gravitas of his statement.

With a heavy heart, I replied, "Exactly, Bubba ... Exactly."

One hour went by with no communication. Consummate professionals, Sea Tow, called back to ask if he had made it. I told them that he had not, and I wasn't able to reach him. But I couldn't leave if he was roaming around looking for us, not yet. I told Sea Tow to stand by.

We caught more snapper as the sun sank over distant mangrove islands. Then the no-see-ums came out. Covering up in everything we could find, buffs, raincoats zipped all the way up, they still found a way in. That's it, I called in the Cavalry.

Within forty-five minutes, Sea Tow was there, had us hooked up, and we were on our way back to Goodland. Still no word from Dad. As we turned the corner at Tripod Key, the sky lit up. Chopper canvassing - spotlight scanning, boats from the Sheriff's Department, Wildlife and Fisheries, and Fire Department. Coon Key Pass suddenly seemed small. Then, BOOM, the brightest light I'd ever seen trained on me. Over a bullhorn, I hear, "Jed Edwards?"

Having been no stranger to maritime violations, I threw my hands in the air and declared, "It wasn't me. My son and I have been broken down all afternoon!" I lowered my hands and relaxed a little when the bullhorn blared, "Your dad called 911."

Upon finally reaching him, Dad said, "Oh man ..., I ran the Honey Badger aground ... my phone died ... The tide came up a little - I made it to Coon Key Marina. Somebody was there and let me use the phone to call 911." The Honey Badger was Dad's twenty-six-foot center-console with twins that he kept docked at his house.

"What? I must say, the possibility that you would have attempted to bring the Honey Badger back there never occurred to me. Why didn't you just call Sea Tow?"

"Hell, I don't know! I'd just been on a Chinese fire drill ... I figured y'all would be about dead from inhaling no-see-ums by then. Hey, it would have been more bizarre if I HADN'T run aground." That earned a hearty laugh.

It's not about the win or the loss, or the kill or the catch - it's not about the trophy. That is all ancillary. It's about screaming drags and high fives, the thrill of the hunt, respect for mother nature, love of the outdoors, and a passion for wildlife. Cliché as it may be, my son and I are best friends. I believe that is directly related to the bonds forged during times like these, quests for adventure. Many people fail to understand that or are too ignorant to comprehend. Myself, I try not to speak to things of which I have no understanding.

Jon Edward Edwards is a local author and avid sportsman.

His stories often recount his adventures in and around the 10,000 Islands.

Email Jon at jedmls@mac.com.



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(Continued From Page 1: "From Trickle to Torrent" What's Up With the Water Levels at ENP)

When I visited in October, I stopped at the wayside between the two bridges that span Taylor Slough on Main Park Road. I had intended to walk to the staff gauge on the north side of the road to check the water level and take some pictures. Seeing how deep the water was, I opted for the telephoto lens instead of going swimming.

Looking out over the slough that day, it was easy to imagine traveling by dugout canoes or skiffs like people did in a pre-industrialized world. Don't get me wrong. Wading through a flooded wetland is fun, but the novelty wears off as the distance you travel increases.

Paddling is a much more efficient use of energy, though water levels must be high enough to do so in the freshwater Everglades. In fact, high water levels make the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness, which encompasses over 85% of the park, more accessible for paddling. Thinking of paddling in the pre-drainage Everglades made me wonder if flooding occurred then like we're seeing now. I asked park ecologist Jed Redwine. He said the historic Everglades could only hold up to about three feet of water because physics and geology of the region prevented deeper water levels.

The Everglades as we know it has been compartmentalized. It was re-engineered to contain and move water between its now separated basins using levees, canals, locks and pumps. The only places that water levels can rise to more than three feet are those where people have intervened to contain water.

Everglades National Park is not one of those places. Other than a few roads that may alter its course, the water there flows naturally. In relation to sea level, the highest water levels in the park will always be where water flows into it from the north or falls onto it as rain. Water in the park flows gradually downhill along the elevation gradient toward the ocean.

On the way, the water spreads out and some is absorbed into the porous bedrock. As a result, the water levels in relation to mean sea level decrease generally from north to south.

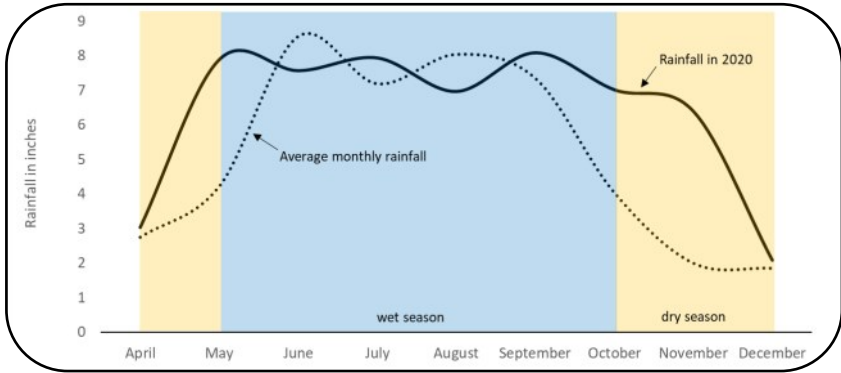
This was how the historic Everglades worked as well.

We changed the Everglades to open up new land to development and agriculture and to maintain our source of drinking water. Now that South Florida has grown into a megalopolis that spills over into areas that are more vulnerable to flooding, the water management of the region is more critical than ever.

Before Everglades Restoration began, Everglades National Park was often an afterthought in water management. It was a place to send water during floods and to cut off during times of drought. But with Everglades Restoration projects moving along, the park's ecosystem is now a consideration in water management practices.

A new water plan implemented in 2020, the Combined Operational Plan, prescribes increased water flow to the park during the dry season, a time when the park's tap was often cut off.

Along with the Combined Operational Plan, new infrastructure installed as part of the Central Everglades Planning Project South is reopening a historic flow path in the park, Northeast Shark River Slough. Sloughs are deep sections of the Everglades that are fundamental to a properly functioning Everglades ecosystem. Restoring flow



here goes a long way to restoring the park.

Looking ahead, the water levels in the park are expected to gradually decrease over the next five months, which are expected to be fairly dry. Until then, there remains plenty to experience in the park. For one, bird activity is very high, making birding exceptional right now. I saw many wading birds hunting along the roadside during my visit. We've also been receiving reports that fishing is currently outstanding in the marine areas of the park.

Chart above: Monthly rainfall in the South Florida Water Management District from April to December of 2020. When the solid line rises above the dashed line, the District received more rainfall than average and vice-versa. The rainy end to the 2020 wet season and very rainy beginning of the 2020 dry season are plain to see. The District covers the entire Everglades from its source at the Kissimmee River to its conclusion in Florida Bay and the Florida Keys. Rainfall data are from the South Florida Water Management District's website: <https://www.sfwmd.gov/weather-radar/rainfall-historical/monthly>.



Left: A staff gauge shows water level in relation to something else. This one just north of Main Park Road, in the heart of Taylor Slough, read 5.18 feet above sea level on October 10, 2020—the date of my original foray into the flooded park. Just 14 days later, it read 5.66 feet. Almost half a foot increase may seem tiny, but the pictures show just how much less "grass" emerges from the River of Grass with that huge-for-the-Everglades increase. NPS Photos by Michelle Collier.

The Mullet Rapper Supports Everglades City School

Each year, The Mullet Rapper hosts plant sales, and other events, to raise money for Everglades City School. Please help us support our local children by attending one of our school fundraiser events!

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If you shop on Amazon, at no additional cost to you, you can support a local charity. Three (that we have been made aware of) have been set up for charities in the Everglades area. All you need to do is click on the link and accept the charity and Amazon does the rest. Below, the links are provided:

Everglades Society for Historic Preservation:
smile.amazon.com/ch/20-2229534

Everglades Lions Foundation:
<https://www.amazon.com/b?node=15576745011>

Everglades Community Church
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-3934843>

If you have a charity that is set up on Amazon, let us know so we can promote the link in the Mullet Rapper!

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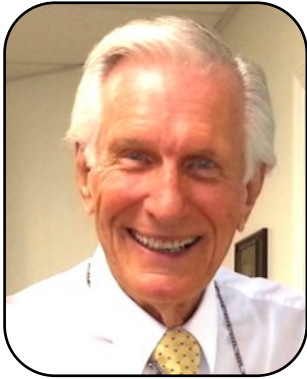
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Solution to February 6, 2021 Puzzle

1	T	E	C	H	5	B	I	A	S				
9	A	L	O	E	10	A	C	T	U	P			
12	F	L	U	X	13	K	E	E	P	A	T		
15	T	E	N		16	W	E	B		17	E	G	O
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			35	S	O	O	T		36	T	S	A	R



It's Easy to Get Bugged by Little Things in Life

By Pastor Bob Wallace

"What's wrong?" my wife asked.
 "Just look at this", I said as I tore a bunch of advertising inserts out of the pages of my new magazine. "You have to get rid of these things before you get the magazine to lie flat!"
 "It does seem like there's a lot more of those in magazines these days," she said, "but don't let it bother you."
 "I'm not letting it bother me. I just don't like it," I said as I flipped through the insert-free pages. As I did, my mind began to wander over some things I've heard which tend to bother a lot of people these days.

I got to thinking about things that are packaged in plastic so tightly you're in danger of damaging the goods inside if you use a knife or scissors to open the packaging. That really gets to me! You can spend an inordinate amount of time just trying to figure it out.

Or how about getting the price tags off new clothes? Trying to find all of them is a trick, especially the labels on the sleeves of a man's suit coat. You must be very careful not to cut the fabric. Just seeing the thread is hard enough, especially if you're wearing trifocals.

What about this one? Did you ever attempt reading the small, fine print at the bottom of a television screen during a commercial that sounds too good to be true? Then, when you get to the store to let them know you wanted to buy what they advertised at such a great price, you couldn't. You were told you should have read the exceptions at the bottom of the advertisement.

"But I couldn't read it! It was too small, and it didn't stay on the screen long enough!"

"Yeah, we've had a lot of complaints about that. But it's there. And you should have read it."

"Thanks a lot," you said as you stomped out of the store. That's one that can really get your dander up.

Better still, it's maddening to see people park in handicapped parking spaces who aren't supposed to park in them. If they only knew how difficult it is for some people to walk, they wouldn't do it.

And, while I'm on handicapped parking, I can't understand why some businesses have their handicapped parking spaces so far from their front doors.

Then, there has to be a way to figure out the driving habits of some people. That's a whole new area of irritation for some people. Why some people drive the way they do and don't get killed is beyond me.

But one of the biggest irritants I hear about these days is telephone service, especially the automated answering services used by businesses. The ones where you never hear a live human voice seem to gall the most. All you do is listen to a bunch of automatic questions and then punch in some numbers for your answer before you're ever connected to the party you called.

It's maddening!

I had been sitting, reading my new magazine which I had just liberated from its advertising inserts, thinking about all these things when my wife asked me to help her with a problem.

"I can't seem to get the top of this bottle of pills," she said. "You'd think they'd make it easier to get these things off. Especially if you're bothered with arthritis."

"I thought they had easy-off lids these days?"
 "They're supposed to. See, you have to squeeze those two little arrows and then push down and twist," she said. "It makes me mad!"

"Now honey, don't let it bother you. Remember what you said to me a while ago about the magazine inserts?" "Yeah, but that was different. This is my problem!"

See what I mean? It's not just me. Little things do seem to bother all of us, and they seem to do so at the most inopportune times. "Here honey, let me get that bottle open for you."

It took a few tries before I got the thing open. Now, I'm adding easy open bottle caps to my list of things that bother me.



EVERGLADES COMMUNITY CHURCH
The Friendly Little Church on the Circle
NON-DENOMINATIONAL

101 S. Copeland Avenue, PO Box 177
Everglades City, FL 34139, 239-784-7318

The Rev. Dr. Bob N. Wallace, Pastor

◆ Sunday Worship Service 11:00 am ◆

◆ Sunday School Oct. 13th—March ◆

www.ever-community-church.com

MUSEUM NEWS



First opened in 1927 as a commercial laundry, the building that now houses Museum of the Everglades is one of several

historic structures still standing as a testament to the town's time as a once-bustling center of business and the region's first County seat. The museum's permanent and rotating exhibits provide visitors with an in-depth look at over 2,000 years of human history in the area and tell the stories of those adventurous enough – and tenacious enough – to settle "Florida's Last Frontier".

Faithfully restored to its original, 1920s Collier-era appearance, the museum is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is located at 105 W Broadway Ave. in Everglades City, FL.

Lecture

The History of Deep Lake
Thursday, March 18, 2 pm

This presentation will dive deep into the history of this strangely mystical place – a sizeable sinkhole surrounded by a citrus grove that has been the home of Native American leaders, site of a bloody battle, a retreat for millionaire moguls, and the location of a wilderness prison known as the "Alcatraz of the Everglades".

Museum Event

The Grapefruit Gala

Saturday, March 20, 6 to 9 pm

A whimsical, Everglades-style country dance with live music celebrating the region's rich history and grapefruit-growing roots (the Deep Lake Grove grapefruit orchard was Barron Collier's first acquisition in what would grow to be Collier County). Come as you are and sample some delicious Florida citrus, hear a tall tale or two and dance away your cares at this gala in the glades where Collier County began. Casual attire encouraged/no ties required at this glades gala. Live music provided by Gator Nate.

For more information:

www.CollierMuseums.com

Click on

"Museum of the Everglades"

Call: 239-252-5026

**Birding in the Everglades Area
This is Prime Osprey Nesting Season**



February is prime nesting season for osprey, hawks and owls.

In Everglades City, there are a handful of nests atop power poles, tall lights and on an osprey tower installed by LCEC last year.

Last year, a pair of osprey started bringing nesting materials into the tower but they ultimately nested atop the communication tower at the school. When the nest was removed from the tower by a work crew, the osprey quickly moved into the tower permanently.

The chicks have hatched and the parents are busy feeding them throughout the day.

On the east side of Everglades City, a nest by the Carlson's home ("the round house") blew down after the high winds we have been experiencing.

Undeterred, the birds sprang into action quickly working to rebuild their nest. Time will tell if it was in time to successfully raise chicks this season.

Towers like the one on the NW end of town are the best options here. They are stable, withstand wind and far away from powerlines. We'd love to get a few more in town to satisfy the needs of our osprey...and to keep them safe and powerlines clear.

**Taxing Things
by Mike the Tax Guy
Pandemic-related tax topics**

Some people with a lower income are not required to file. However individuals should still consider filing for a refund of federal income tax withheld. They may also be eligible for certain tax credits, like the earned income tax credit, the recovery rebate credit and others.

Anyone who is eligible for an Economic Impact Payment but did not get the payments or did not get the full amount, must file a tax return to claim the recovery rebate credit even if they aren't normally required to file.

- ◆ \$1,200 per person and \$500 per qualifying child for the first payment
- ◆ \$600 per person and \$600 per qualifying child for the second payment
- ◆ Unemployment benefits are taxable. People should watch their mail for a Form 1099-G.
- ◆ There's a new rule to help people who lost their job or had a change in income in 2020. Filers can use their 2019 earned income to figure their earned income tax credit, if their 2019 earned income was more than their 2020 earned income. This new rule also applies to the additional child tax credit.

Eligible educators can deduct unreimbursed expenses for COVID-19 protective items to stop the spread of COVID-19 in the classroom. COVID-19 protective items include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ face masks;
- ◆ disinfectant for use against COVID-19;
- ◆ hand soap;
- ◆ hand sanitizer;
- ◆ disposable gloves;
- ◆ tape, paint or chalk to guide social distancing;
- ◆ physical barriers (for example, clear plexiglass);
- ◆ air purifiers; and
- ◆ other items recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to be used for the prevention of the spread of COVID-19

Mike Klein helps individuals and businesses with tax preparation in the Everglades area. Contact Mike at: nfn19842@naples.net

If you are a taxpayer with specific individual or business account questions you should contact the International Taxpayer Service Call Center by phone or fax. The Call Center is operational M-F, from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. EST (Eastern Time): Tel: 267-941-1000 (not toll-free) Fax: 681-247-3101

**Fishing the 10,000 Islands
With Captain Mike Merritt**



At this time we are experiencing a warm trend and the water temps are rising. Fish are moving and this is the time of transition

for a lot of our fish. I have even seen some big Tarpon showing up. There are more fish being caught outside in the islands now as compared to a month ago when they were all up in the rivers.

I am still catching everything on the jigs. From 1/8 oz. to a 1/2 oz. depending on where you fish and the presentation you want. Color and style of tail also depends on the presentation you want. Don't get so hung up on your favorite bait that you don't switch up once in a while.



Of course shrimp are still producing plenty of action. And if you want some great eating fish then shrimp is hard to beat. Sheepshead, Black drum, and Mangrove Snapper are biting really good and you better have plenty of shrimp for these!

Redfish are still biting and they can also be caught easily with shrimp. But a jig will catch plenty. And if you are using live bait they will be eager to take these too! If the Reds are feeding they can be some of the most aggressive fish we have. Not easily spooked makes them a great target.

Snook are showing up on the outside too and these fish are very silver in color which lets us know they just came in from offshore. The bite should continue to get better from here on as long as the fronts are not too severe.

The bite in general is on so enjoy and remember to be aware of other boaters as we are seeing more traffic on the water than I can ever remember. Good luck fishing! Capt. Mike Merritt

**Fish With Captain Mike Merritt
561-252-4324 or email
SnookFishing1@juno.com**

City Seafood

702 Begonia Street, Everglades City

OPEN ALL YEAR...

We are one of the most affordable restaurants with one of the most beautiful waterfront locations.

Open 8:00 am to 3:00 pm Daily

We Serve
Delicious, Local
Seafood & Cuisine



Want to book a private party?
Call Richard or Candice at 239-695-4700

**VIRTUAL LADIES COFFEE ON
WEDNESDAYS AT 9:30 AM. FOR
INFORMATION ON HOW TO JOIN IN
CALL PATTY HUFF AT
239-695-2397.**

The Island Life Recipes

Leftover Magic—Super Easy Fried Rice by Kathy Brock

Ingredients:

- 2-3 cups cooked rice (leftover rice works best)
- 2 celery stalks, chopped
- 1 onion
- Any leftover vegetables you have like:
broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, mushrooms or what you like
- 2 cups chicken or Beef (leftover) and cut into small pieces
- 1/4 cup chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 tbs cooking oil (peanut or whatever you have)
- 3 eggs, scrambled
- 1 tbs chopped ginger root

Directions: I use this recipe for using up leftovers, but you can certainly use fresh ingredients and make this from scratch. Cold rice works best, but if you make fresh, it works fine too.

In a large sauce pan or wok, heat oil and add celery, onion cook until tender. Add in any leftover vegetables (or cook fresh until tender), and ginger.

Next, add in your meat and rice and stir until completely mixed. Add broth and soy and mix well. In a separate pan, cook eggs using the spatula to break it into small pieces. Add this into the rest of the stir fry and mix together. Serve hot with soy.



My Little Slice of Paradise by Kathy Brock

The Mullet Rapper hosted the second date of 4th Annual plant sale on Saturday, February 13. Over the two events we raised \$1656 for Everglades City School (EVG)!

Many people have asked us where we get the plants for the plant sale. Some of the plants (or cuttings) are donated to us throughout the year. When we receive them, we replot them and grow them in a section of our yard dedicated to this project.

Most of the plants we sell we start by seed or cuttings and we grow them until they are ready for sale. Some plants are growing for several years (like palms or orchids) before they are sold.

This year, we had the wonderful opportunity to provide FREE TREES that were grown by Naples Botanical Gardens, in addition to the many plants we had available.

The botanical gardens, in cooperation with the Community Foundation, grew over 3000 trees for distribution throughout Collier County. The Everglades area was the recipient of 500 of those beautiful trees.

We are very thankful that Naples Botanical Gardens was so gracious to include our area in the tree giveaway, and we are very excited to watch them grow and beautify our area.

I would like to thank everyone who came out to the sale to support the school. Due to Covid-19, we scaled down the sale and have continued sell them from our home for donations after the actual "sale".

If you are still interested in any plants, we have them! We have several types of palms, herbs, terrestrial orchids, ornamentals, aloe vera, bananas, plantains, and others.

In addition, if there are plants you would like us to have available in the future, please let me know. We can add these into our growing inventory (pun intended) of plants we have for our fundraising efforts.

If you would like to donate plants, pots or soil for upcoming sales, we do accept them by appointment. Please contact me by email or by phone to arrange to drop them off.

Why We Do This

Everglades City School relies on donations from the Everglades Seafood Festival, Hook'em in the Glades Fishing Tournament, our sales and other local events.

This year, due to Covid-19, the Seafood Festival was cancelled. The festival is a critical source of funds for the school.

Now, we must try to make up for that shortfall in any way we can by supporting local events that benefit EVG.

Details are being finalized for the next Hook'em in the Glades Fishing Tournament benefiting the school. We hope you will support that event when this year's tournament is announced. *Thank you for your support.*

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Windy City "L" operators
- 4 Feminine half, in Eastern thinking
- 7 28-28, for example
- 10 "--- Latest Flame" (Elvis Presley)
- 11 Flightless bird
- 12 "... --- a bottle of rum"
- 13 Try
- 15 Old witch
- 16 Director upset Soviet loner
- 18 Venus's Earthly sibling
- 19 Careful attention
- 20 Market segment
- 22 Caspian and Caribbean
- 25 "... When Autumn leaves begin ---" (Jacques Prévert/Johnny Mercer song)
- 29 May remembrance time
- 31 Type of retirement account
- 32 Artist's medium
- 33 "--- the season ..."
- 34 Vehicle fluid
- 35 Go astray
- 36 Short for "he is"

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				38		

2/20/21

Down

- 1 Total disorder
- 2 Name
- 3 Awake
- 4 Mocha native
- 5 Not the best way
- 6 Loco
- 7 Nevada lake
- 8 Cockamamie
- 9 Defeated by a nose
- 14 "Still, ..."
- 17 1958 Vincent Price movie thriller
- 21 Result of shouting too long or loud
- 22 One who shapes metal
- 23 Very strange
- 24 Gather
- 26 Harmonica virtuoso Larry ---
- 27 Scottish landowner
- 28 Sportswear fiber
- 30 Anger



EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP

BARRON RIVER TIDES

COLLIER COUNTY NEWS

**Growth Management Department
Offers Virtual E-Permitting Training
March 29 through April 9**

Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands (642-1025): Closed Mon- Tue-Thurs, 5-11 Fri-Sun Noon - 11 pm
Camellia Street Grille (239-695-2003): 11:00 am – 9:00 pm, Mon to Sat
City Seafood (239-695-4700): 8:00 am – 10:00 am; breakfast Noon-6pm Lunch & Dinner
Everglades Fishing Co. / Nely's Corner Open Daily 6 am to 10 pm 203 Collier Avenue, (239-695-4222)
Havana Café (239-695-2214): Open Daily 9am to 4 pm See our ad on page 3
Hole in the Wall Pizza (239-695-4444) M-Th 11am-3pm, Fri & Sat 11 am-9 pm
Island Café (239-695-0003): 6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily
Ivey House (239-695-3299) (Private) 7:00 am – 9:00 am; daily (for guests only)
Joanie's Crab Café (239-695-2682): Open Daily 10:30 am to 5 pm, Closed Wed.
Rod & Gun (239-695-2101): 11:30 am - 8:00 pm; daily
Triad Seafood & Café (239-695-2662): Open M-Sat, 10:30 to 6pm, Sun. 10:30-5
MARKETS
Right Choice Market (239-695-4535): Open 7 days, 9 am to 7 pm
Grimm's Stone Crab (239-695-3222): Open 8-5, Mon—Sat. Closed Sunday.
Fresh Produce
Right Choice Supermarket See listing under "markets"
SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES
Chokoloskee Family Church Sunday: 10 am Sch., 11 am Worship See our ad on page 11
Copeland Baptist Church Sunday: 10 am School, 11 am Worship
Everglades Community Church 11:00 am Sunday Worship, See ad p. 8
1st Baptist Church of Everglades City 9:45 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship 6 pm Sunday, 6 pm Wed. Bible Study
Holy Family Catholic Church Mass at 10:30 am
St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples Phone: 239-417-2084
San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl. 239-394-5181

2/20/2021	Sat	4:25 AM	0.1	L
2/20/2021	Sat	10:11 AM	1.41	H
2/20/2021	Sat	12:38 PM	0.8	L
2/20/2021	Sat	8:52 PM	2.05	H
2/21/2021	Sun	5:28 AM	0	L
2/21/2021	Sun	2:24 PM	1.61	H
2/21/2021	Sun	5:18 PM	0.9	L
2/21/2021	Sun	10:04 PM	2.1	H
2/22/2021	Mon	6:24 AM	-0.11	L
2/22/2021	Mon	1:49 PM	1.71	H
2/22/2021	Mon	6:24 PM	0.87	L
2/22/2021	Mon	11:10 PM	2.24	H
2/23/2021	Tue	7:13 AM	-0.23	L
2/23/2021	Tue	1:32 PM	1.84	H
2/23/2021	Tue	7:14 PM	0.8	L
2/24/2021	Wed	12:02 AM	2.43	H
2/24/2021	Wed	7:56 AM	-0.33	L
2/24/2021	Wed	1:52 PM	1.99	H
2/24/2021	Wed	7:55 PM	0.7	L
2/25/2021	Thu	12:46 AM	2.63	H
2/25/2021	Thu	8:36 AM	-0.4	L
2/25/2021	Thu	2:18 PM	2.13	H
2/25/2021	Thu	8:34 PM	0.57	L
2/26/2021	Fri	1:24 AM	2.79	H
2/26/2021	Fri	9:15 AM	-0.41	L
2/26/2021	Fri	2:45 PM	2.25	H
2/26/2021	Fri	9:13 PM	0.42	L
2/27/2021	Sat	2:03 AM	2.89	H
2/27/2021	Sat	9:53 AM	-0.38	L
2/27/2021	Sat	3:13 PM	2.35	H
2/27/2021	Sat	9:55 PM	0.27	L
2/28/2021	Sun	2:45 AM	2.89	H
2/28/2021	Sun	10:31 AM	-0.27	L
2/28/2021	Sun	3:41 PM	2.43	H
2/28/2021	Sun	10:39 PM	0.12	L
3/1/2021	Mon	3:33 AM	2.79	H
3/1/2021	Mon	11:09 AM	-0.11	L
3/1/2021	Mon	4:09 PM	2.49	H
3/1/2021	Mon	11:25 PM	0	L
3/2/2021	Tue	4:28 AM	2.57	H
3/2/2021	Tue	11:47 AM	0.09	L
3/2/2021	Tue	4:38 PM	2.54	H
3/3/2021	Wed	12:16 AM	-0.09	L
3/3/2021	Wed	5:30 AM	2.29	H
3/3/2021	Wed	12:24 PM	0.32	L
3/3/2021	Wed	5:08 PM	2.56	H
3/4/2021	Thu	1:13 AM	-0.12	L
3/4/2021	Thu	6:44 AM	1.97	H
3/4/2021	Thu	1:03 PM	0.55	L
3/4/2021	Thu	5:45 PM	2.54	H
3/5/2021	Fri	2:23 AM	-0.13	L
3/5/2021	Fri	8:17 AM	1.71	H
3/5/2021	Fri	1:51 PM	0.75	L
3/5/2021	Fri	6:35 PM	2.48	H

As part of the transition to a fully electronic submittal process for building, zoning, and development review permit applications, the Growth Management Department (GMD) will offer virtual training classes for electronic permitting.

The virtual classes will be available weekdays, **March 29 through April 9**, with both morning and afternoon sessions available. The classes will last approximately one hour, and staff will allow time to answer questions.

Registration is required. The schedule of training classes and instructions on how to register will be posted on the **E-Permitting webpage:** www.colliercountyfl.gov/E-Permitting. Anyone unable to participate in one of the scheduled sessions may contact Dianna Perryman at (239) 252-2965, or at GMDTraining@colliercountyfl.gov for assistance.

Additionally, training materials have been updated recently and cover topics such as portal registration, uploading documents, and how to handle resubmittals/corrections. The training videos and guides can be accessed via the E-Permitting webpage: www.colliercountyfl.gov/E-Permitting.


Our team is dedicated to improving the GMD Public Portal experience.

Contacts:

For training questions, contact Training Coordinator Dianna Perryman at GMDTraining@colliercountyfl.gov or 239-252-2965.

For Paperless Permit Project questions, contact Sr. Op Analyst Danny Condolina at: danny.condolina@colliercountyfl.gov or 239-252-6866.

General Information:
www.colliercountyfl.gov



Chokoloskee Family Church
"Doing Life Together"

Sun. Marriage Class-9:am
Sun. Worship-11:am
Sun. 5:30 pm-Celebrate Recovery
Kids Program-Wed 7pm
Kids Program- Sun. 11:am
Wed. Bible Study -7:pm-
at Island Café-Free Coffee & Pie
239-232-0098

CLASSIFIED ADS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOR SALE: Incredible! This waterfront home was the old Juliet Carnes Collier five room hospital in Everglades City until 1963 when it was converted into a private residence. Located next door to the Historic Rod & Gun Club, this home is zoned City Historic Preservation which allows various uses. This home still has original wood floors, bead board walls, ceilings and original doors throughout. The potential is there! Asking ... \$549,000.. Glades Realty 239-695-4299 Karen@GladesRealty.com

FOR SALE: Everglades City Captain's Table Hotel room. Great getaway or income investment. Includes the use of the pool, boat ramp, and boat parking. Asking \$33,900. Please call 954-435-8896 for information.

FOR SALE: Big Cypress Fly-in Retreat: The historic Popenhagen Camp, a 21-acre oasis of natural beauty, complete with an FAA approved airstrip and, an adorable, modern cabin, This stunning parcel is secluded on a high and dry prairie, and is completely off grid. The price on this private piece of paradise is \$2.5 million. Take a tour of the camp www.popenhagen.com. For more information call 786-258-2227.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Local Electrical Contractor needs electrician or helper. No experience necessary, will train. Candidate must speak English and have transportation to jobsite. Call Herb Kehoe, MARSON Electric, LLC 239-398-5093.

FOR RENT: Efficiency apartment in Everglades City. 2 bdrm, 1.5 bath. Monthly or seasonal, for 2 adults; includes W/D, utilities and use of dock. No smoking or pets. For more information call Sandy, 239-253-3942 or 239-232-0459.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED: If you love meeting people, this is the perfect fit! The Everglades Area Visitor Center, operated by the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation, is looking for volunteers to staff the center.

Knowledge about the area and a pleasant attitude is essential! If you would like to volunteer at the center, please contact Kathy Brock at 954-662-7003 or Patty Huff at 239-717-0020, The center is currently open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 2 pm.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS: If you are a local artist interested in showing your work to the visitors of our area, we need to hear from you. The Everglades Area Visitor Center carries art by local artists on a consignment basis. The busy center attracts visitors from near and far and they are always interested in genuine local art and crafts. If you are interested, please contact Kathy Brock at 954-662-7003 or Patty Huff at 239-717-0020, or you can stop by the center during operating hours which are Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 am to 2 pm.

Get Area Info, Tides & Back Issues: www.VisitEvergladesCity.com

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades & 10,000 Islands

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We strive to present the facts accurately

We encourage contrasting points of view

The views expressed in signed articles are not necessarily 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 Visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/evergladescitynews/ or Online at www.visitevergladescity.com



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