

Now FREE



Second Annual Rumble in the Glades

By Jesse Wilson | Chokoloskee Family Church Pastor



Photo Courtesy Jesse Wilson

Rumble In The Glades second annual car and bike show saw even larger crowds this year, making it a successful community event. Hosted by Chokoloskee Family Church, and a number of local sponsors, the event featured classic cars, bikers from around South Florida, lots of food, and various vendors selling everything from custom-made jackets to sailboats. The kids enjoyed free face painting, and with music from the 50's and 60's playing in the background, everyone said they loved this years event more than last years. There was a Best in Show contest for both classic cars and bikes, with 1st,

See **Rumble**, p5



Photo Courtesy Patty Huff



The Tale of Goodland's Bicycle Path Eggs

Have you seen the cool Easter eggs hanging in the trees along the bicycle path along Goodland Drive heading into Goodland? If not, go see!

Every year along the bicycle path in Goodland, colorful Easter eggs mysteriously appear, sparking curiosity and wonder among the visitors. The story behind these eggs is one of love, loss, and community spirit.

Carolyn and Richard Roth, longtime residents of Goodland, have endured their fair share of hardships. Both had children from previous marriages, and tragedy struck twice in April, a month marked by sorrow for the couple. Carolyn's daughter Mary Beth died in a car accident at 17, followed two years later by Richard's daughter Pam, who took her own life at 20. The Roth family struggled through grief, seeking solace in a change of scenery.

In 1983, they found themselves drawn to the tranquility of Goodland after stumbling upon sailing lessons advertised in the area. They sold their belongings and spent four years living on a sailboat, finding temporary respite from their pain.

Eventually, they had to return to Michigan temporarily to handle

See **Eggs**, p8

- Mullet Rapper Sponsors | Thank You! -

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Market & Cafe



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VisitEvergladesCity.com/Sponsors



Saving Lives in Goodland
Marco Firefighters teach use of AED.
p7



Snook & Triggerfish Season Open
Get the Regs.
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Tour Map
Discover the charm of Everglades City and Chokoloskee.
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Local Event Calendar

March 17, 2024 to April 27, 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
March 17  St Patrick's Day AYCE Pancake p2	18	19 P&Z p3 Primary Election p2	20 Wilderness Wed p9 Food Pantry p3	21 Ladies' Coffee HavAnnA Cafe 8:30a Third Thursday p9 Book Club p3	22 Grapefruit Gala p9 BBQ Dinner p3 Produce Stand p3	23 Art In Glades p2
24	25 (Full Moon)	26	27 Wilderness Wed p9 Food Pantry p3 Paint Along p2	28 Ladies' Coffee Island Cafe 8:30a Career Expo p4	29 Good Friday Produce Stand p3	30 - RAPPER Praise Night p3 Eggstravaganza p2
31 Easter Sunday 	April 1	2 City Council p3	3 Wilderness Wed p9 Food Pantry p3	4 Ladies' Coffee City Seafood 8:30a	5 Produce Stand p3	6
7	8 ● New Moon Partial Eclipse p3	9	10 Wilderness Wed p9 Bio Blitz p2 Food Pantry p3	11 Ladies' Coffee Everglades Cafe 8:30a Book Club p3	12 Produce Stand p3	13- RAPPER
14	15	16 P&Z p3	17 Wilderness Wed p9 Food Pantry p3	18 Ladies' Coffee HavAnnA Cafe 8:30a	19 Produce Stand p3	20 Free Park Day p2
21	22 Earth Day 	23 (Full Moon)	24 Food Pantry p3	25 Ladies' Coffee Island Cafe 8:30a	26 Produce Stand p3	27 - RAPPER Praise Night p3 Museum BDay p2 Park Week p2
Park Week p2	Park Week p2	Park Week p2	Park Week p2	Park Week p2	Park Week p2	Park Week p2

Events

March 16 & 17 | 8 am - 11 am
All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast

Join us in Goodland for the last pancake breakfast of the season on Saturday, March 16th, and Sunday, March 17th, from 8 am to 11 am! Indulge in ALL YOU CAN EAT delicious pancakes, sausage, coffee, and orange juice served up by some of the sweetest Goodlanders in the village! Admission is \$5 for Adults, \$3 for Children, and \$1 for Eggs. Don't miss out on the chance to win fun raffle prizes and purchase Goodland merchandise. Join us at the Goodland Community Center, 417 Mango Avenue, Goodland, FL 34140. And, remember, if it's in Goodland, you know it's gonna be Good!

March 19
Primary Election

Visit CollierVotes.com for details.

March 23 | 10 am - 1 pm
Art in the Glades

Join us for ART in the GLADES on Saturday, March 23, from 10 am to 1 pm. at McLeod Park in Everglades City. A delightful Arts & Crafts Sale showcasing unique local creations and a special book signing event. Admission is free. Info: (239) 451-0265.

March 27 | 3 pm - 5 pm
Paint Along at HavAnnA Cafe

Get ready for fun at Havana Cafe's super cool collab with Stroke of

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

March 30 | 10 am - 1 pm
Eggstravaganza

Bring your basket and join us for the Annual Everglades City Eggstravaganza on March 30 from 10 am to 1 pm, where the fun happens in McLeod Park on Copeland Ave and Hibiscus Street West in Everglades City. This event features 4000 candy-filled Easter eggs waiting to be found, inflatables for the little ones to bounce on, cash-filled eggs adding an extra thrill to the hunt, free food to fuel the excitement, amazing giveaways

adding to the joy, face painting to unleash creativity, and lots of happy kids enjoying the festivities and creating cherished memories with their families!

April 10 | 8:30 am - 10:30 pm
Fakahatchee Strand Bio Blitz

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

April 20 - 28
Annual National Park Week

National Park Week is happening April 20 to April 28 this year. Entrance fees will be waived on April 20, 2024, to kick off the celebration and to encourage everyone to enjoy their national parks

in person. National Park Service parks, programs, and partners will host events and activities all week! Big Cypress calendar of events includes Jr Ranger Day, Earth Day and Park Rx Day along with exhibits. Info: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/npscelebrates/national-park-week.htm>

April 27 | 9 am - 2 pm
Museum Birthday Celebration

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

Save The Date

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

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

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Community

Food Pantry

Wednesdays | 9:30 am - Noon

Food is distributed from the rear of Everglades Community Church located at 101 S. Copeland Ave., Everglades City. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Praise Night

Last Saturday | 6:30 pm

On the last Saturday of each month, First Baptist Church of Everglades City will have a Praise Night with a light supper at 6:30 pm, followed by praise music and fellowship.

Ladies Coffee

Thursdays | 8:30 am

Ladies Coffee is a casual weekly gathering for women every Thursday at different local breakfast spots or homes. No rules or fees, just a welcoming space to connect and forge friendships in a relaxed atmosphere.

Everglades Area Information

Daily | 10 - 3:30 pm

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

Planning & Zoning Meeting

Third Tuesdays | 6 pm

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

City Council Meeting

First Tuesdays | 7pm

City Council meetings are held every 1st Tuesday of the month @ 7 pm in the City Council room, 2nd floor City Hall. The public is invited to attend. Info: <https://www.cityofeverglades.org>

Produce Stand

Fridays | 9 am - 12 pm

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

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BAR B-QUE CHICKEN DINNER

Everglades Community Church | Fellowship Hall

MARCH 22nd | 5 to 7 P.M.

We're fixin' a mouthwatering meal that combines smoky, tangy, and downright delicious flavors right here at Everglades Community Church! Our BBQ Chicken Dinner is a culinary masterpiece that'll please your taste buds and comfort your heart.

Our BBQ Chicken Dinner:

Tender, juicy chicken marinated to perfection to make certain every bite is an explosion of flavor.

BBQ Sauce:

Our sauce strikes the ideal balance between sweet, savory, and smoky. It clings to the chicken, creating a heavenly glaze.

Grilled to Perfection:

Chef Cecil grills the chicken just right—barely charred edges, juicy, tender, and with that irresistible grill mark.

Sides That Delight:

Creamy Coleslaw, a refreshing contrast to the chicken's richness. Baked Beans, hearty, with a hint of sweetness, and a Dessert. Iced tea and hot coffee.

Family-Style Fun:



Gather your loved ones around our table. This dinner is meant for sharing laughter, stories, and good fellowship!

Takeouts available.

Tickets \$15 per person on sale now

Partial Eclipse of the Sun



Info Visit: <https://www.timeanddate.com/eclipse/in/usa/naples?iso=20240408>

Everglades Book Club 2024

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

Mar. 21 Miss Dreamsville and the Collier County Women's Literary Society by Amy Hill Heath 10 am at the home of Elaine Middelstaedt, 410 Storter Ave. South

April 11 Last Train to Paradise by Les Stand 10 am at the home of Patty Huff, 207 North Storter Ave

Questions Call Diann Lock (812) 361-7402

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MULLET RAPPER

Publisher

Denise Wauters, Paradise Web P.O. Box 513, Copeland FL 34137

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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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Contributors

Patty Huff, Elaine Middelstaedt, Marya Repko, Dr. Cherie Allison, Rev. Dr. Bob Wallace, Captain Mike Merritt, Jesse Wilson, John Nipper & Michael McComas.

Advertising

John Nipper

Publishers Emeritus

Kathleen Brock, K Bee Marketing, Inc. Patricia A. Huff, Snook Publications.

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

Mullet Rapper Merchandise

Now Available!



EVG School Updates

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



Congratulations to our very own Katie Collins for her acceptance into the University of Florida!!! The University of Florida only has a 30% acceptance rate for all applicants so Way To Go Katie!! EVG couldn't be prouder of you.



On Friday, February 16, 2024 the Everglades City fourth and fifth graders went on an amazing field trip to the Marine Lab in Key Largo, Florida. The students spent the day exploring the different habitats that surround Key Largo, including the mangrove ecology, grass bed ecology, and the coral reef ecology. Throughout the day students discovered the amazing plants and animals that live in these fragile ecosystems. The day concluded with two incredible science labs that focused on invertebrates and the incredibly important microorganisms of phytoplankton. The field trip was an incredible experience!

I have not had that much fun in years! Thank you!
- Shiloh Beck



My favorite part of the field trip was snorkeling on the Coral Reef! The corals were beautiful and the water was very clear and cold!

- Briseida Valle

A great memory is when we went

to the coral reef! The coral reef was beautiful and colorful, there were many types of fish, and there were many, many corals! I even saw some Queen Conchs and a stingray. The mangrove ecology was nice too! I liked the starfish race! We got to name and release the starfish!



- Melinda Cruz

The snorkeling was very fun and I saw many different types of animals! This was the best field trip I have ever went on! I loved the zooplankton lab!

- Kevin Cruz

I loved the stingray I saw while snorkeling on the Coral Reef! I loved our instructors Jake and Natalie!

- Violet Henry



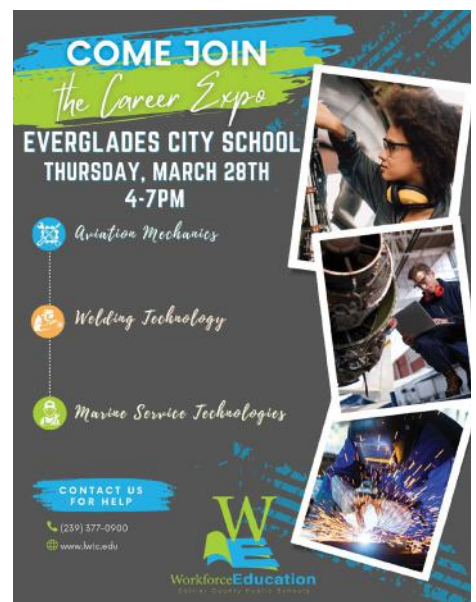
Sixth grade students working on their Solar Cars for the Collier County Solar car challenge!



Congratulations February Students of the Month Madelynn Thoner and Turner Shealy!

Everglades City School's spring Scholastic book fair was a huge success! In addition to earning funds for our media center, the excitement

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



Just as a reminder about the Career Expo at EVG on March the 28th from 4-7 pm. You must hand in the slip of intent to be invited to this event. This form is on the back of the flyer or on the school website. Please hand them in to the front office of the school. Info: <https://www.collierschools.com>

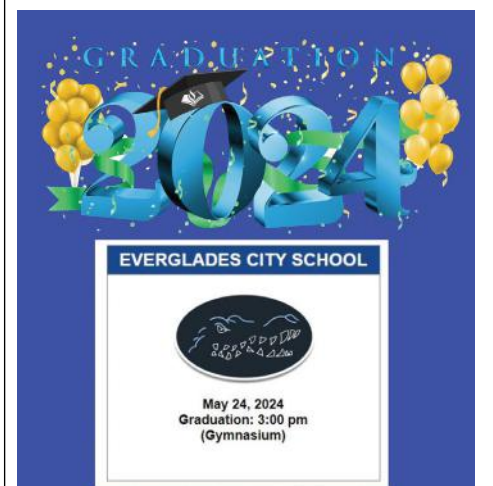


Congratulations Essa Harris for being chosen as the EVG artist for the

Superintendents art show! Essa will be recognized by the superintendent on April the 8th at the Martin Luther King Administrative Building.



Registration for the 2024-2025 school year opened on February 1, 2024. If you have an incoming kindergarten student or are NEW to the school district, please complete your registration as soon as possible: www.collierschools.com/registration. You'll find many helpful resources on the site, including required documents, video tutorials, and frequently asked questions. We can't wait to meet our new #CCPSFamily members!



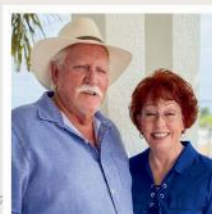
Chokoloskee Family Church

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

Sun. Worship	10:00 am
Sun. Kids Church	10:00 am
Sun. Renewal	6:00 pm
Wed. Youth Renewal	7:00 pm
Thur. Bible Study	7:00 pm

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Rumble

From page 1

2nd and 3rd place winners.

Rumble In the Glades also featured Ms. Hazels Annual Chili Cookoff! The competition was fierce as nearly a dozen participants competed for the coveted 1st place trophy and \$100. Alas, there could only be one winner.

Coming in third place was David and Aaron from HavAnnA Cafe. Second



place was won by Greg Wood, and coming in first, with a delicious chili, was our very own Principal from Everglades City School, Dr. Allison!

People are already talking about next years event which should be even bigger! 🍌

Photos Courtesy Jesse Wilson

305 Collier Ave., Everglades City, FL 34139

Monday - Sunday
6:00 am - 9:00 pm

Breakfast Served
6:00 am - 11:00 am

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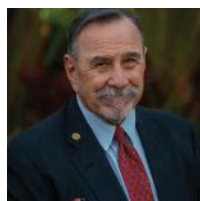
-Guided Swamp Walks
-Overnight accommodations

Behind Big Cypress Gallery

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Update From City Hall

By Michael McComas
Everglades City Council



City Council met on March 5th at 7 PM with all members present. The ladies from the Florida Stone Crabbers Assn. presented their report of the very successful Everglades Seafood Festival which grossed \$603,539.49, had expenses of \$415,393.13 for a net Income of \$188,146.36. Additionally, the Friday night food drive resulted in a donation of over 2400 lbs of food and cash donations of \$1589.25 and received a grateful round of applause from Council and the residents present.

Sheriff's Department Sergeant Robert Reuthe reported on the dump truck enforcement & inspection program at US 41 & CR 29 requested by City residents and the Mayor, multiple tickets for violations were issued and at least two trucks were taken out of service after inspection.

Council held second readings of Ordinance 2024-2/golf carts which passed 4-1 and Ordinance 2024-3/sewer moratorium passed by unanimous vote, as I said previously, hopefully for the last time. An Intention to Bid for the concentrate line project was approved unanimously as were contracts for Professional Engineering Surveying Services with CPY Consulting and McFarland-Johnson while the contract for ABB was amended and assigned to LJA Engineering which recently purchased ABB.

We also approved the Updated Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement & Resolution 2024-3 as well as a Proclamation of support for the rehabilitation of the Bank of the Everglades building. Patty Huff from ESHP requested letters of support be sent to Dottie at City Hall and Finance Administrator Tammie Pernas requested letters of community support for the relocation and construction of the new Community Center above the current pavilion at McLeod Park, new City Councilwoman Diana Valdes will be working to gather letters of support and they can be sent to her at City Hall also. Those letters of support should be addressed to Congressman Mario Diaz Balart.

Councilman Oglesby inquired about the return of ambulance services currently based at Port of the Islands and the Mayor let attendees know that, upon the completion of installation of smoke detectors, the ambulance should be back within 2-3 weeks. Councilman Pernas reviewed the issues relating to the dredging and location of the transmission pipe which will run across Chokoloskee Bay from the Barron River to the causeway and could create some navigational issues for accessing Sandfly Pass, however the Corps of Engineers has agreed to bury the pipe to create passage to Sandfly, something they don't traditionally do.

The City is preparing to begin the process for the design/build of the new Emergency Operations Center and connecting Plantation Key properties to the soon to be completed Wastewater Treatment Plant.



WANTED

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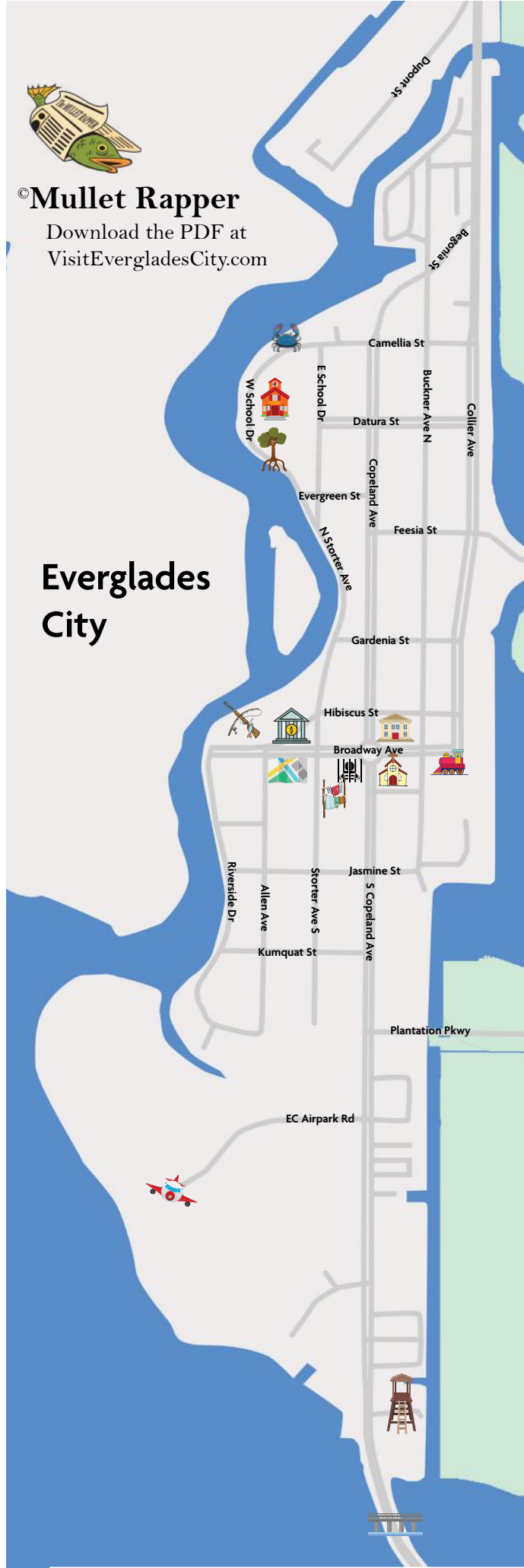
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HAIR	BUCKNER
BUTLER	WALKER
MCLENDON	MORAN

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Tour Everglades City & Chokoloskee

Discover the charm of Everglades City and Chokoloskee by walking, biking, or driving with our tour map, offering a fascinating exploration of local history and uncovering hidden gems along the way.

Find The Icons On The Map



Everglades City

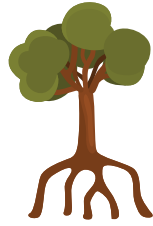
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VisitEvergladesCity.com



Stone Crabbing in Everglades has roots in the '60s, with pioneers like Totch Brown. Every October 5th at midnight, crabbers deploy 1,000 to 5,000 traps in the Gulf of Mexico, strategically placed for the season's start on October 15th. They endure a three-hour journey from the dock to depths of 20 to 150 feet, far from Everglades City, making it a complex task.



Everglades City School, a fixture since 1895, faced challenges, from cyclones to hurricanes. By 1923, it housed 45 kids with two rooms and teachers. PE meant river swimming, with gator watchers. Serving the town until 1948, the current school, established in 1961, underwent a facelift in '95, showcasing resilience. Go Gators!



Everglades National Park's **mangroves** display unique "walking" adaptations, expanding into new areas with prop roots. They serve as natural filters, purifying water and supporting diverse wildlife. Thriving in brackish water, they maintain the delicate balance between freshwater and saltwater ecosystems.



The **Old Collier County Courthouse**, a historic two-story concrete structure in Everglades City, Florida, was built in 1926 by Barron Collier, the visionary behind Collier County's development. Reflecting the Classical Revival style, it served as the county courthouse until 1962 when the seat moved to East Naples. Later, it was repurposed as Everglades City Hall.

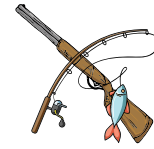


The **County Jail**, dating back to the earliest days of the county's inception in 1883, found its home in Everglades City. This modest, wooden structure served as the initial confinement space, accommodating only a handful of inmates as the county burgeoned. With the establishment of the Collier County Sheriff's Office in 1923, under the stewardship of William Riley "W.R." Maynard as its inaugural Sheriff, the jail's significance grew further. Situated on the southwest corner of the circle, the jail incorporated living quarters for the sheriff and his family on its upper floor. A relic whose remnants still linger in the present-day Captain Morgan's parking lot, serving as a testament to the county's enduring legacy.



Founded by Barron Gift Collier in 1923 near the Barron River before relocating near the Rod & Gun Club in 1926, the **Bank of Everglades** played a pivotal role in Everglades City's development. It served as the sole bank of Collier County until 1949 and survived Hurricane Donna's flooding in

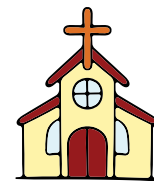
1960 without ever being robbed. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974, the building was gifted to the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation in 2021. It is now undergoing extensive renovation to become the recognized Everglades Area Visitor Center.



The Storter homestead took in paying guests for fishing & hunting until the **Rod and Gun Club** was acquired by Barron G. Collier in 1922. Over the years, it hosted international dignitaries, U.S. presidents, and notable figures like Ernest Hemingway, John Wayne, and Jack Nicklaus. Today, maintaining its Old Florida charm, the club offers cottages for rent, a dining room overlooking the Barron River, and access to fishing in the river and Everglades.



Explore history at the **Museum of the Everglades**, originally a commercial laundry by Barron Collier in 1927. Serving as the region's first County seat, it witnessed key developments like the Tamiami Trail construction in 1923. Restored to its 1920s appearance, the museum offers exhibitions like The Storter Collection, showcasing the region's early history with artifacts and pictures.



Everglades Community Church, established in 1926, is a historic landmark in Everglades City. Completed in April 1940 on land donated by Barron Gift Collier, it played a vital role in the community during the Collier company town era. Meeting Collier's conditions, including non-denominational status, it was dedicated on May 5th, 1940 and was Designated as historically preserved in 2007.



The **Old Railway Depot** in Everglades City, constructed in 1928, served as a vital transportation hub during the area's heyday in the 1920s. Originally part of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, it facilitated the transport of essential commodities like tomatoes and cypress. Featured in the 1957 film "Wind Across the Everglades," it later became the Everglades Seafood Depot Restaurant. Despite recent challenges and calls for preservation, including from Mayor Howie Grimm Jr. and the Everglades Society for Historical Preservation, its fate remains uncertain, adding urgency to its ongoing preservation efforts. Historically preserved in 2007.



Built in the late 1930s by the Collier family, the **Everglades Airpark** began with a 1,000-foot paved strip, bustling with Air Force, Civil Air Patrol, and private pilot activity. President Harry Truman dedicated Everglades National Park here in 1947.



Chokoloskee

Despite Hurricane Donna's 1960 devastation, the Colliers' legacy thrived, leading to Collier County's acquisition in 1968. Today, as an eco-tourism hub, we invite global vacationers to explore the Everglades' wonders. Visit to watch planes, inquire about lessons, and marvel at our rich history and natural beauty. Fun fact: We're the second smallest airport in Florida.



The Ernest Hamilton Observation Tower, erected in 1984 by Thomas Mitchell, offers visitors a stunning perspective, standing 75 feet tall with 108 steps leading to panoramic views. From this vantage point, one can admire the vast expanse of mangroves, Chokoloskee Island, the Everglades, and the picturesque Ten Thousand Islands. Birdwatchers may catch sight of various species, including the elegant Roseate Spoonbill.



Chokoloskee Island, steeped in history since the late 1800s, is connected to the mainland by a causeway built in 1956. Renovation of the Chokoloskee Bridge began in 2007 and was completed in 2017. The new bridge meets modern standards, offering increased width and height while preserving vital seawalls. The island's rich history, including tales of notorious characters and an era of moonshine and plume hunting, is intertwined with this vital causeway.



Located on Chokoloskee Island's southern tip, the Smallwood Store has embodied Ted Smallwood's vision since 1906. Once a hub for Seminole Indians, fishermen, and farmers arriving by various vessels, it now stands as an immersive museum showcasing the area's rich history. Its exhibits capture the enduring spirit of pioneers, reflecting old Florida's resilience and allure.



Visit the Everglades Visitors Center at the Glades Building. Originally built by Jan and Tony Brock of Glades Realty after Hurricane Donna in 1960, the building underwent extensive renovations by Craig and Bonnie Woodward in 2019. In February 2021, part of the building became the Everglades Visitor Center, offering insights into the area's rich history. Explore the wonders of the Everglades and 10,000 Islands with information, maps, event updates, and knowledgeable staff to guide your experience.

Have Fun Exploring!

Saving Lives in Goodland: The Introduction of Automated External Defibrillator

By John Nipper

"A big thank you goes out to the Marco Island Fire-Rescue, who came out and gave a demonstration on the importance of and how to use our Automated External Defibrillators," says Mike Barbush, President of the Goodland Civics Association.

On February 20th, the Marco Island Fire-Rescue came to the monthly meeting of the Goodland Civics Association. Here they gave a demonstration on the AED machines. In a revolutionary step towards saving lives, the town of Goodland has



implemented a groundbreaking initiative by introducing Automated External Defibrillators (AED). With two successful deployments already and three machines in total, Goodland stands at the forefront of safeguarding its citizens. AED machines have quickly become indispensable tools in the fight to save lives. An Automated External Defibrillator, abbreviated as AED, serves the purpose of assisting individuals undergoing sudden cardiac arrest. This advanced yet user-friendly medical device has the capability to analyze the heart's rhythm and, if required, administer an electrical shock, known as defibrillation, to aid in restoring a proper and effective heart rhythm.

The 3 AED machines located in Goodland are currently at Drop Anchor, Goodland Boat Park, and MarGood Harbor Park. There is also Narcan made available if needed at these locations for an overdose emergency. The implementation of these AED machines in Goodland reflects a proactive approach towards public health and safety. By making this life-saving tool freely available to the community, the town authorities have demonstrated their commitment to preserving lives and fostering a supportive community environment.

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Unit 1: Beds:3 Bath:2 SqFt:1492 | Unit 2: Beds:2 Bath:2 SqFt:1388
MLS# 223088994

Where is the Smallest Post Office In The US?

By Reverend Dr Bob N. Wallace
Everglades Community Church



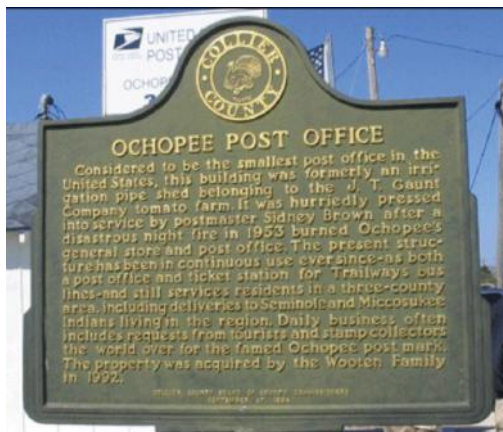
According to the U.S. Postal Service, the largest post office in the United States is the Old Chicago Main Post Office located in Chicago, Illinois. At its peak, this impressive facility was capable of moving 19 million letters in a single day. While it's not necessarily the largest in terms of physical size, its operational capacity sets it apart.

But, if you're driving along U.S. Hwy 41 in southwest Florida and you come to a little place called Ochopee slow down, or you'll miss it. According to Postal Facts, "the smallest Post Office is in Ochopee, FL (34141) and is 61.3 square feet situated on U.S. Route 41, just 3 miles east of the intersection with State Road 29, proudly serving the locals with a unique charm and history."



Postal Facts tells us "the building used to be a storage facility for irrigation pipes of an adjacent tomato farm. It was converted into a Post Office in 1953, after a fire that destroyed the previous Post Office and general store. There's a sign beside the office that reads: "OCHOPEE POST OFFICE".

According to World Atlas the dimension of the Ochopee Post office is 7x8 feet. Due to the small dimensions, the post office has been described as a closet. The mail slots of this post office are located on the back wall of the building. The small structure only has a single fluorescent tube, which is used to illuminate the poorly ventilated and lighted room. The counters are cramped. It has a pair of sliding screen doors. Outside the post office is a small parking space that can accommodate a few cars.



Photos Courtesy of USPS

Considered to be the smallest post office in the United States, this building was formerly an irrigation pipe shed belonging to the J.T. Gaunt Company tomato farm. It was hurriedly pressed into service by postmaster Sidney Brown after a disastrous night fire in 1953 burned the Ochopee general store and post office. The

present structure has been in continuous use ever since – as both a post office and ticket station for Trailway's bus lines – and still services residents in a three-county area, including deliveries to Seminole and Miccosukee Indians living in the region.

Daily business often includes requests from tourists and stamp collectors the world over for the famed Ochopee postmark. The property was acquired by the Wooten Family in 1992.



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The Rev. Dr. Bob N. Wallace, Pastor

◆ Sunday Worship - 11:00 am ◆

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www.evergladescommunity.church

Eggs

From page 1

financial matters, but Goodland had left an indelible mark on their hearts. In 2000, they purchased a cottage in Goodland, becoming active members of the community. Carolyn, with her warm demeanor and tireless volunteer work, endeared herself to many, including Betty Bruno, a prominent figure in Goodland's history.

Betty Bruno had advocated for a bike path along Goodland Road before her passing, and her dream was realized in 2002, though she never got to see it. Inspired by Betty's legacy, Carolyn saw an opportunity to honor her daughter Mary Beth's memory. Mary Beth, born on Christmas and tragically passing away on Easter Sunday, found her tribute in the stars and Easter eggs that began adorning the bike path in 2003.

Initially, Carolyn and Richard hung the stars and eggs themselves, quietly commemorating their loved ones. Over the years, however, the community rallied around them. In 2016, when Carolyn's health declined, Goodlanders stepped in to help. Despite setbacks like Carolyn's stroke and Hurricane Irma, the tradition persisted, a testament to the resilience and compassion of the community.



In 2017, after Irma destroyed the Easter eggs, the Drop Anchor Mobile Home Park community rallied to replenish them, ensuring that Carolyn's memorial remained intact. With their dedication and generosity, they not only restored

the eggs but also uplifted spirits in the wake of disaster.

Today, Carolyn no longer worries about the fate of her beloved memorials. The community has embraced her, ensuring that her tradition of remembrance lives on. In Goodland, the Easter eggs along the bicycle path symbolize not just the arrival of spring but also the enduring bonds of love and support that unite neighbors and friends.

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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 & Events

WE ARE STILL HERE - the Continuing Story of the Miccosukee Tribe January 23 – May 11



Pauline Reeves Gallery will present both the past and present of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida. Created in collaboration with the tribal council, the exhibit explores the Miccosukee's culture and heritage while celebrating their unique achievements in self-governance, education, environmental protection, and more.

Third Thursday Talk Series

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

Where Did He Find the Time?- Barron Collier, Visionary Businessman March 21 | 2 – 3pm



Mr. Collier's development of the Radium Springs Spa and Resort in Georgia and Luna Park Amusement Center at Coney Island, New York.

Best-known in our region as the founder and developer of Collier County, Barron Gift Collier was a prodigious and prolific businessman in every sense of the word. In this (almost) birthday tribute, Museum Manager Thomas Lockyear will celebrate Mr. Collier's uncanny commercial acumen and explore some of his lesser-known ventures that included a chain of hotels, bus lines, banks, newspapers, a telephone company, and even a steamship line. Also included will be a discussion of

Paved With Good Intentions: How the Road Through the Everglades Harmed the Seminole and Miccosukee April 18 | 2 – 3 pm



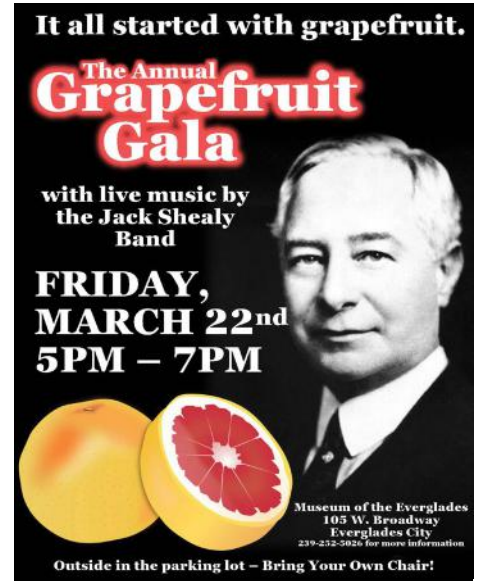
While we celebrate the construction of the Tamiami Trail as a "miracle of modern engineering" that connected Florida's coast and opened Southwest Florida to tourism, we often fail to acknowledge the reality that there were indigenous people living in the lands the road was built through. The Tamiami Trail not only displaced the native population, but it also had devastating and irreparable effects on their culture — socially, economically, and spiritually. In this talk, Museum Manager Thomas Lockyear attempts to tell "the other side of the story" and explores the concept of the Everglades as "stolen land".

Wilderness Wednesdays at the Museum Series

January 3 - April 17 | 2 – 3 pm



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



Annual Grapefruit Gala

March 22 | 5 – 7 pm

Join us in the parking lot at Museum of the Everglades for our annual whimsical country dance with live music by a bluegrass incarnation of local favorites The Jack Shealy Band.

Enjoy tasty finger foods and complimentary wine and local citrus as we celebrate the birthday of county founder Barron Gift Collier.

Dress casual, bring a chair and don't forget your dancing shoes.

More Information: colliermuseums.com or call (239) 252-5026.

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Berrylicious Cinnamon Roll Casserole

Ingredients:

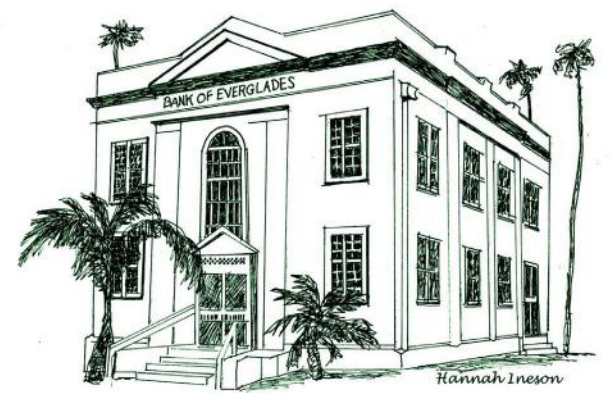
- 1 can refrigerated cinnamon rolls
- 1 cup Florida blueberries
- 1 cup diced Florida strawberries
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- 2 eggs



Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray an 8x8 baking dish with cooking spray and set aside.
2. Open the cinnamon rolls and cut each roll into quarters.
3. In a medium mixing bowl combine the milk, eggs, and maple syrup. Mix well.
4. Add the cinnamon roll quarters and berries to the bowl with the milk and egg mixture. Gently stir to make sure all pieces are coated. Pour into prepared baking dish.
5. Bake for 30-40 minutes until cooked throughout.
6. Top with icing from cinnamon roll package.

First Grant Funds Arrive



ESHP's President, Patty Huff, recently announced that the first federal grant money flowed into the organization's bank account. Hard work by the Board, specifically by the President and Director Hydie Friend, over many months, was required to bring this to fruition.

Work on the building will begin in the next few months, cause for much celebration by the Board and ESHP members.

President Huff thanked all who have contributed to the effort, volunteers and donors alike. She provided her famous Calamondin Cake (Cupcakes) for all to enjoy!




March 2, 2024 Puzzle Solution															
1	U	N	L		R	O	D		7	I	N	K			
10	V	I	E		E	S	O		12	B	O	O			
13	E	S	C		S	U	M	M	15	I	T	S			
16	A	S	H		U	N	E	A	17	S	E				
18	S	A	W	G	R	A	S	S							
				20	N	E	A	R		21	T	O	G	A	
						24	S	E	M	25	I	N	O	L	E
				27	I	P	E	C	A	C		29	S	P	A
30	A	D	A	S	T	R	A			31	S	A	T		
32	M	E	N			33	E	D	T		34	I	C	E	
35	O	A	T			36	D	I	E		37	P	A	N	

Pets of the Everglades

Scarlett
in Big Cypress

Owner: Mathew &
Deanna Anderson



MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

1. Cut
5. Perry Como's "___ Loves Mambo"
9. Malicious
11. Bad look
12. On the ground, in ballet
13. Corporeal channel: Comb. form
14. 1970's Tony Musante series
15. Disappointing grade
17. African on the Red Sea
19. 2010 World Cup host country: Abbr.
20. Desert land: Abbr.
21. Severe discomfort
24. Common insect in the Everglades known for its bite
26. Italian motorcycle maker
29. Democratic National Committee in plural
30. "Idylls of the King" character
31. Chicken parts
33. Andes capital
34. Bronx Bomber
35. Final, e.g.
36. Proud, loyal

		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					

Down

1. Everglades Swamp swimmers
2. Lack of vigor
3. Classic Fender guitar, briefly
4. Opposite of vert.
5. Everyday
6. Long, long time
7. Andean land
8. ___ and sciences
9. Essential component that covers a large portion of the Everglades
10. ___ is the mother of invention, proverb
16. Queensbury title, briefly
18. Brawl
21. Chinese ornamental tree
22. Cravings
23. People chasing son trapped by model
24. 'Dear sir or ___ ...'
25. Italian city at the foot of the Venetian Alps
26. Drop
27. Alternative to Windows
28. Dome on the range
32. Sinister 2001 character is well short

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Sailor Baked Whole Red Snapper



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3/16/24

Fishing The 10,000 Islands March

By Captain Mike Merritt



Well here we are with March upon us and the winds have been blowing since January! March is typically the windy month so I can't wait to see how it goes. We have had fronts all the way up to the end of February which has made fishing challenging. No 2 days are the same and you just never know what's going to happen.

We have continued to catch plenty of Seatrout with some nice 20" fish being taken on the DOA Glow Shrimp. If you find a school of Trout this can help you catch the bigger fish in the school. Use the 1/2 oz. Shrimp on a popping cork and your chances for keepers gets better.

Redfish are also biting good when the weather permits and the waters clear up some. There seems to be a lot of undersized fish but we are catching some good ones mixed in. I haven't caught any over size Reds lately but some 23" to 26" fish are mixed in with the smaller ones.



Snook have been the toughest to catch. There are areas that have decent numbers of fish but there are plenty of areas where they normally are plentiful but they are not there. March is always the transition month for these fish. We normally have them coming back out of the back country into the Islands as the baitfish also move in. And we get Snook coming in from offshore also this time of year. If we get some weather allowing the water to clear up it is a great month to sight cast these fish in shallow water. I am looking forward to seeing some bigger fish move in this month.

Sheepshead and Snapper have kept a lot of fishermen busy this winter and they continue to cooperate. Live shrimp on the bottom of a deep rock hole is the ticket. If you want some fish for the table then this is a great way to get them. Once they start biting just cut your shrimp up and use a small piece as these fish will be easier to hook with a piece. And don't forget the Black Drum. We usually see schools of big fish this time of year so we are keeping our eyes open for these guys.



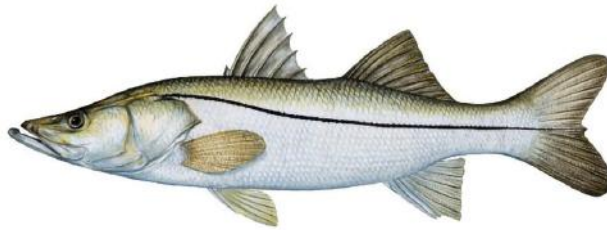
I did have a client get a 33" Black Drum in the back country but we never saw the school.

They are great fun and will eat a Gulp bait and of course shrimp! Looking forward to fishing some warmer weather and getting on some great bites!

Good Luck Fishing, Capt Mike Merritt.

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

Snook Season Opens



It's that time again – snook season is here, inviting anglers to grab their gear and head out for a thrilling day of fishing adventures! Here are the things you need to know before you hit the water.

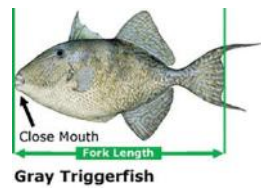
Open season: March 1 – April 30
 Bag limit: One fish per person per day.
 Slot limit: 28–33 inches total length.

For more information on recreational snook regulations, visit MyFWC.com/Snook.

Triggerfish Season Opens

Triggerfish season once more – time for some bottom fishing! Here are the things you need to know before you hit the water.

Open season: March 1 – May 31
 Bag limit: One fish per person per day.
 Slot limit: 15" fork length.



For more information on recreational snook regulations, visit MyFWC.com/Triggerfish.

New Alligator Harvest Opportunity Approved by FWC

At its February meeting, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) approved rule changes to establish a special-use alligator harvest opportunity, which will take effect for the 2024 alligator harvest season.

The new opportunity will complement the existing statewide alligator hunt and create a flexible alternative that allows permittees to hunt at multiple alligator management units during a longer season than the statewide hunt.

This opportunity is similar to other special-opportunity hunts the FWC implements in that applicants pay for each application and can apply as many times during the application period as desired to increase their chances of being drawn. The 2024 application period will run from May 3 – June 3.

The number of permittees will be established annually and will be selected through a random drawing process. Up to two alligators may be harvested per permit and selected permittees will be allowed to hunt at any legally accessible alligator management unit from Aug. 15 – Dec. 31.

“This option will give our stakeholders an exciting new opportunity to hunt at multiple alligator management units throughout the state,” said FWC Vice Chairman Steven Hudson. “I hope the Commission will continue to expand statewide alligator hunting opportunities.”

To learn more about alligator management in Florida, visit MyFWC.com/Alligator.

Barron River Tides				
3/16/2024	Sat	3:22 AM	-0.13	L
3/16/2024	Sat	9:39 AM	1.58	H
3/16/2024	Sat	12:49 PM	0.88	L
3/16/2024	Sat	7:27 PM	2.43	H
3/17/2024	Sun	4:38 AM	-0.06	L
3/17/2024	Sun	2:03 PM	1.75	H
3/17/2024	Sun	4:24 PM	0.99	L
3/17/2024	Sun	9:13 PM	2.28	H
3/18/2024	Mon	5:51 AM	-0.03	L
3/18/2024	Mon	2:21 PM	1.89	H
3/18/2024	Mon	6:06 PM	0.96	L
3/18/2024	Mon	10:45 PM	2.25	H
3/19/2024	Tue	6:56 AM	-0.02	L
3/19/2024	Tue	2:40 PM	1.98	H
3/19/2024	Tue	7:19 PM	0.86	L
3/20/2024	Wed	12:03 AM	2.32	H
3/20/2024	Wed	7:50 AM	-0.02	L
3/20/2024	Wed	2:47 PM	2.04	H
3/20/2024	Wed	8:11 PM	0.73	L
3/21/2024	Thu	1:02 AM	2.44	H
3/21/2024	Thu	8:34 AM	-0.01	L
3/21/2024	Thu	2:38 PM	2.13	H
3/21/2024	Thu	8:51 PM	0.59	L
3/22/2024	Fri	1:47 AM	2.55	H
3/22/2024	Fri	9:11 AM	0.01	L
3/22/2024	Fri	2:41 PM	2.26	H
3/22/2024	Fri	9:26 PM	0.46	L
3/23/2024	Sat	2:24 AM	2.61	H
3/23/2024	Sat	9:45 AM	0.07	L
3/23/2024	Sat	2:56 PM	2.39	H
3/23/2024	Sat	9:59 PM	0.33	L
3/24/2024	Sun	2:58 AM	2.62	H
3/24/2024	Sun	10:16 AM	0.14	L
3/24/2024	Sun	3:15 PM	2.51	H
3/24/2024	Sun	10:31 PM	0.21	L
3/25/2024	Mon	3:32 AM	2.58	H
3/25/2024	Mon	10:45 AM	0.23	L
3/25/2024	Mon	3:36 PM	2.58	H
3/25/2024	Mon	11:04 PM	0.1	L
3/26/2024	Tue	4:07 AM	2.49	H
3/26/2024	Tue	11:12 AM	0.33	L
3/26/2024	Tue	3:54 PM	2.63	H
3/26/2024	Tue	11:37 PM	0.02	L
3/27/2024	Wed	4:44 AM	2.35	H
3/27/2024	Wed	11:37 AM	0.44	L
3/27/2024	Wed	4:10 PM	2.64	H
3/28/2024	Thu	12:13 AM	-0.04	L
3/28/2024	Thu	5:26 AM	2.19	H
3/28/2024	Thu	11:57 AM	0.55	L
3/28/2024	Thu	4:25 PM	2.64	H
3/29/2024	Fri	12:52 AM	-0.06	L
3/29/2024	Fri	6:15 AM	2	H
3/29/2024	Fri	12:12 PM	0.66	L
3/29/2024	Fri	4:47 PM	2.64	H

Eateries

Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands
Wed 4 pm – 11 pm
Thur-Sun 12 am – 11 pm
(Kitchen Closes at 9pm)

Camellia Street Grill
Daily 11 am – 9 pm
(239) 695-2003

Captain Morgan's Seafood Grill Corp.
Wed-Sun 11 am – 8 pm
(239) 232-0041

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

Diving Pelican Restaurant
Sun-Thur 11 am – 8 pm
Fri & Sat 11 am – 8:30 pm
(Outside bar to 11 pm)
(239) 232-0475

Everglades Cafe
Daily 6:30 am – 3:30 pm
Closed Sun
(239) 351-4875

The Hangout
Thur-Mon 11 am – 3 pm
Closed Tue & Wed
(239) 232-0461

HavAnnA Cafe
Daily 8 am – 8 pm
(239) 695-2214

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

Joanie's Crab Cafe
Thur-Tues 10:30 am – 4 pm
Sat & Sun 10:30 am to 5 pm
(239) 695-2682

Nely's Corner (Inside EFC)
Fri-Sun 6:30 am – 4 pm
(239) 695-4222

Rod & Gun
Mon-Thurs 11:30 am – 4 pm
Fri-Sat 11:30 am – 8 pm
(239) 695-2101

Triad Seafood Market & Cafe
Daily 10:30 am – 4 pm
(239) 695-2662

Markets

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

Grimm's Stone Crab
Mon-Sat 8 am – 5 pm
(239) 695-3222

Worship

Chokoloskee Family Church
Sun: 10 am School & Worship, 6 pm Renewal
Wed: Youth Program 7 pm

Copeland Baptist Church
Sun: 10 am School, 11 am Worship

Everglades Community Church
Sun: 11 am Worship, 9:45 Sunday School

1st Baptist Church of Everglades City
Sun: 9:45 am School, 11 am Worship
& 6 pm Service
Wed: 6 pm Bible Study

Holy Family Catholic Church
Sunday: 10:30 am Mass (Dec - April)

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: Fishermen's Paradise 2014 Travel Trailer furnished. Set up on lot 34 in Chokoloskee Island Resort. Has a 12x40 patio with furniture and an 8x8 wood shop complete with equipment and tools. Also a 13' Gheenoe boat, trailer and fishing gear. \$22,500 takes all and includes six months of pre-paid lot rent. Available immediately. Call Dave Rice at (315)399-6613



GET YOUR FREE CLASSIFIED: Attention, Business Owners! We are offering a FREE Classifieds space for companies seeking talented individuals to join their team. This opportunity is good for the next issue, #453, only. Maximum of 20 words, additional words billable. Act fast – Deadline for submissions is March 31

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

PET PHOTO CALL: If you have cute, crazy or just lovable pets please send their photo to the Mullet Rapper and we'll put them in the paper for all to enjoy. They'll be Famous!

MulletRapper@gmail.com

WANTED: Florida Highwaymen paintings. Backus, Newton, Buckner, Moran, Hair, Butler, Walker, McLendon, Carroll. Call or text Walter at (863)517-1986.



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Mike Lyne Ph:(305)519-3774
lowermatmike@gmail.com

Showcase your skills and offerings in the Services section of our classifieds! Our community is eager to discover your services. List your service today and let the Mullet Rapper help you grow your business!
MulletRapper@gmail.com
(941) 999-1237

Area Clubs

AA: Wednesday | 5p
1st Baptist Church 416 School Drive
Everglades City

Lions Club: 2nd Thursday of month | 6p
Jinkins Fellowship Hall behind the
Everglades Community Church
101 Copeland Ave, Everglades City

History & Info

EC Museum: (239) 252-5026
Tuesday - Saturday | 9a-4p
Smallwood Store: (239) 695-2989
Daily | 10a-5p
EC Visitor Center: (239) 232-0473
Daily | 10a-3:30p

Helpful Numbers

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

Post Office

Everglades City: (239) 695-2174
Chokoloskee: (239) 695-4468
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

First Baptist Church
Knowing Him and making Him known!

Praise Night, last Saturday of the month, light supper, music, fellowship at 6:30 pm!

All-ages Sunday School: 9:45 am
Sunday Worship: 11:00 am & 6:00 pm
Wednesday Worship: 6:00 pm

416 School Drive | P.O. Box 550 | Everglades City, FL 34139
Call Us: (239) 695-3871