

Celebrating the Miccosukee

By Thomas Lockyear, Manager, Museum of the Everglades

Museum of the Everglades recently collaborated with the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians to create an exhibit sharing and celebrating their history.

The exhibit, entitled WE ARE STILL HERE, features a collection of striking rare images and artifacts that bring the powerful stories of the Miccosukee Tribe to life: their painful past, their poignant path to Federal recognition, and their modern-day efforts to preserve and protect the Everglades.

Two short, professionally produced videos exploring aspects of the Miccosukee culture have also been added to the selections available in the museum's theater area for the duration of the exhibit.

The opening reception, held on January 26th, was well attended by both local residents of the greater Everglades area and members of the Miccosukee Tribe and Native American community.

Friends of Museum of the Everglades' tasty hors d'oeuvres were augmented by traditional Indian Fry Bread courtesy of the Miccosukee Tribal Government and delivered by Sister Robin Haines-Merrill (who drove from Ft. Lauderdale!) of the Love the Everglades Movement.

The exhibit took on even greater dimension during our annual

See **Museum, p7**



Photos Courtesy of Everglades Museum



EC Welcomes It's First Community Garden

Everglades City, with its breathtaking natural beauty and close-knit community, is embracing sustainability and togetherness with open arms through the launch of its very first community garden. Led by Tod Dahlke, this project is all about fostering connections and cultivating joy amidst the greenery.

Located at Tod's Tour spot at 909 Dupont St., the garden is a haven for anyone who loves digging in the dirt and watching plants grow. It's not just a garden; it's a place where friendships bloom and smiles blossom.

You're invited! Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just getting started, there's a warm welcome waiting for you. Plus, it won't cost you a thing to join in on the fun. People have been so generous, donating seeds, soil, plants—you

See **Garden, p7**

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Paintings

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Annual Egg Hunt
Inflatables, eggs and cash giveaways.
p3



Inshore Offshore Wars
A new era fishing tournament.
Register May 19.
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Tour Map
Discover the charm of Everglades City and Chokoloskee.
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Local Event Calendar

March 3, 2024 to April 13, 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
March 3	4	5 City Council p3	6 Wilderness Wed p9 Food Pantry p3	7 Ladies' Coffee City Seafood 8:30a	8	9 Art & Music p2 Harbor Arts p2 Sun & Fun p2 Sun/Star Gazing p2 Ranger Program p2 Book Signing p2
10 Art & Music p2 ● New Moon	11 Spring Break	12 Spring Break	13 Spring Break Wilderness Wed p9 Bio Blitz p2 Food Pantry p3	14 Spring Break Ladies' Coffee Everglades Cafe 8:30a	15 Spring Break	16 - RAPPER
17  St Patrick's Day	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	23 Art In Glades p2
24	25 ☾ Full Moon	26	27 Wilderness Wed p9 Food Pantry p3	28 Ladies' Coffee Island Cafe 8:30a Book Fair Starts Career Expo p4	29 Good Friday	30- RAPPER Praise Night p3 Eggstravaganza p3
31 Easter Sunday 	April 1	2 City Council p3	3 Wilderness Wed p9 Food Pantry p3	4 Ladies' Coffee City Seafood 8:30a	5	6
7	8 ● New Moon	9	10 Wilderness Wed p9 Bio Blitz p2 Food Pantry p3	11 Ladies' Coffee Everglades Cafe 8:30a Book Club p3	12	13 - RAPPER

Events

March 9 & 10 | 10 am - 4 pm
Harbor Arts & Music Festival

Come to the 12th Annual Harbor Arts & Music Festival on March 9 and 10 from 10 am to 4 pm at MarGood Harbor Park in Goodland. Showcasing top-tier artists, over 25 vendors and diverse cuisines. Enjoy captivating raffle prizes and live performances by Florida's top musicians. Don't miss this blend of great food, art, and music! Info: taraogallery@gmail.com

March 9 | 8 am - 10 pm
First Annual Sun & Star Fest

Bring your chair or blanket and enjoy a day full of events at Collier-Seminole State Park! Go Cats kayak/canoe rentals 8 am – sunset. Nature walk 10 – 11 am. Silent auction 2 – 6 pm. Live music 2 – 6 pm. Miccosukee/Seminole food sale 2 – 10 pm. Multiple campfire programs 6 – 10 pm. Park entrance \$4 – 5. Event fee \$10 cash only (2 – 10 pm), Children under 13 free. Info: <https://friendsofcssp.weebly.com>

March 9 | 2 - 4 pm
Sungazing & Time Telling

Join the Everglades Astronomical Society at Collier-Seminole State Park on March 9 from 2 pm to 4 pm EST, for a unique sun-watching experience. Use specially designed

telescopes to view sunspots and solar prominences safely. Explore sundials and grab take-home activities for kids. Info: Michelle.Craig@FloridaDEP.gov

March 9 | 6 - 9:30 pm
Stargazing Collier-Seminole Park

Experience the magic of the night sky at Collier-Seminole State Park. Bring your chairs and enjoy a presentation by Robyn Pritchard, Mike Usher, and the Everglades Astronomical Society. Following the talk, telescopes will be available for constellation viewing. Weather-dependent, so call (239) 394-3397 on the event day for updates. Remember to bring red-covered flashlights, and please leave dogs at home.

March 9 | 8:30 - 9:30 pm
Night Sky Ranger Program

Experience the Night Sky Ranger Program at Big Cypress National Preserve on Saturday, March 9th from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Bring your own seating, dress warmly, and protect against mosquitoes. Limited indoor seating so arrive early. Free event, no reservation. Info: <https://allevents.in/ochopee/night-sky-ranger-program/200026034889421>

March 9 | 1 - 4 pm
Everglades Authors Book Signing

Join us this Saturday, March 9, from 1pm to 4pm at Smallwood Store on Chokoloskee where Everglades Authors Kent Daniels, *Ghost People of The Everglades*, and Rebecca Renner, *Gator Country*, will be greeting and signing books. Info: (239) 695-2989

March 13 | 10 am - 4 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

March 19 | 10 am
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.

April 10 | 10 am - 4 pm
Fakahatchee Strand Bio Blitz

Help us understand wildlife trends. Volunteers record observations

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www.RightChoiceSupermarket.com

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

Save The Date

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>

May 20 | 6 am - 7 pm
Inshore Offshore Wars VI
Calling all anglers! Prepare for the ultimate fishing tournament where you can compete for inshore and offshore titles and the prestigious grand champion title. Register on May 19th at 5:30 am at Cracklin' Jack's, 2560 39th ST SW Naples. Get ready to reel in the excitement! Register & Info: <https://inshoreoffshorewars.com>

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>

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

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

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EVG School Update

Dr. Cherie Allison
Principal, EVG, Everglades City School

Everglades City School is proud to announce its partnership with Lorenzo Walker Technical college for continuing education. EVG is having a career expo on March the 28th from 4-7 pm to learn more about the exciting prospects of having classes in Aviation Mechanics, Welding Technology or Marine Service Technologies. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please contact the school and give them your contact information and which of the programs you would be interested in attending right here at Everglades City School!

Our 7th grade class at EVG was part of the district wide initiative – College, Career and Life Ready Experience.

The purpose is to promote student interest in pursuing post-secondary education and to assist in ongoing career exploration and planning.



Prior to the trip to Florida Gulf Coast University, students completed a career interest assessment and viewed a series of video

workshop modules that included high school planning, financial aid and scholarships, career and technical education opportunities, college majors and campus life, and high school opportunities in the arts.

Students visited a dormitory, the library, student center, sports facilities, and the College of Business where they were given a mini lecture on what the stock market is all about in front of the Stock ticker display! 🐸

EVG District All-Star | February

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



Senior Teddy Smallwood is an excellent rebounder and defender from his forward/center position on the Everglades City School Gators varsity

basketball team. With the great ability to play inside and outside, Teddy is a clutch three-point shooter. In fact, he hit three consecutive 3's in a game

earlier this season versus Donahue High School. Coaches say Teddy's energy and passion for the game are his most valuable attributes. 🐸



CCPS app is a custom-built mobile communications app for Collier County Public Schools. CCPS app provides a range of essential information and services like data feeds, grades, events calendar, news, sports schedules and directory, all on the go, directly from your mobile devices. Users who download the app can also choose to receive push notifications. <https://www.collierschools.com/mobile>

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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Update from City Hall

By Michael McComas
Everglades City Council



Mayor Grimm nominated and the City Council confirmed the appointment of Diana Potter Valdes to fill the unexpired term of Josh Minton. Ms. Valdes, a lifetime resident of Everglades City, will serve until the next election in 2025. Council approved a resolution amending our Grant Policies and Procedures. We also, hopefully for the last time, extended Ordinance 2023-20 Temporary Moratorium on Additional Wastewater Treatment Plant Connections. By a 4-1 vote council approved Ordinance 2024-2 amending Ordinance 2022-04 Golf Carts, to comply with State and County regulations.



305 Collier Ave., Everglades City, FL 34139

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

Breakfast Served
6:00 am - 11:00 am

Phone: (239) 695-0003
IslandCafeECity.com

An agreement for Professional Engineering Survey Services with Agnoli Barber & Brundage was approved. This is the first selection from the 4 Engineering firms approved by City Council. Two replats were unanimously approved by Council after review by Planning and Zoning.

City Attorney Zach Lombardo explained the need for us to pursue legal action against Verizon in small claims court for an ever growing bill for services we are not receiving and after repeated efforts we are incapable of terminating.

City reports: Councilman Tony Pernas explained the outcome of the February 1st meeting with the Corps of Engineers re maintenance dredging of the Barron River and disposition options for the spoil. Councilwoman Wells discussed the possible retention of a permitting firm and it was agreed to invite the firm, Safe Built, to the March Council meeting so that all members can ask questions. Councilman McComas discussed the effect that Mangrove intrusion into populated areas of the city was creating including increased mosquito infestation.

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Judge Rules Against 404 Permitting

By John Nipper

On February 15th, Judge Randolph Moss, overseeing the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., made a significant ruling regarding Florida's "404 program," which aims to protect federal wetlands. This decision had a profound impact on Florida's environmental conservation efforts.

Judge Moss's ruling invalidated the Environmental Protection Association (EPA's) "assumption decision" and its approval of Florida's assumption application. While Florida's state wetlands regulations and permitting authority remained intact under Environmental Resource Permits (ERPs), this ruling dealt a blow to federal wetland protection endeavors.

Judge Moss argued that the EPA and US Fish and Wildlife Service had made a mistake by applying Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act to the Florida program. This section, which provides protection against incidental harm to endangered species, was incorrectly used to safeguard against incidental impacts within the state program. Moss viewed the creation of a "Programmatic Incidental Take Statement," crafted collaboratively between the Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, as a significant flaw that couldn't be easily corrected.

In his 97-page Opinion, Moss acknowledged that a small percentage of permits issued under the program could potentially harm endangered species, but he also recognized that most permits posed no such threat. Despite this, Moss left open the possibility for a limited exception to his ruling for this subset of permits, provided the EPA presented a specific request outlining the parameters for such consideration. The timeline for these discussions and the potential for an appeal from the EPA remained uncertain.

Meanwhile, Moss's decision had immediate effects on bureaucratic processes, effectively pausing the processing of all federal wetland permits pending with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). To learn about the State 404 Program visit: <https://floridadep.gov/water/submerged-lands-environmental-resources-coordination/content/state-404-program>. To learn more about the judges decision visit: https://ecf.dcd.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/show_public_doc?2021cv0119-163

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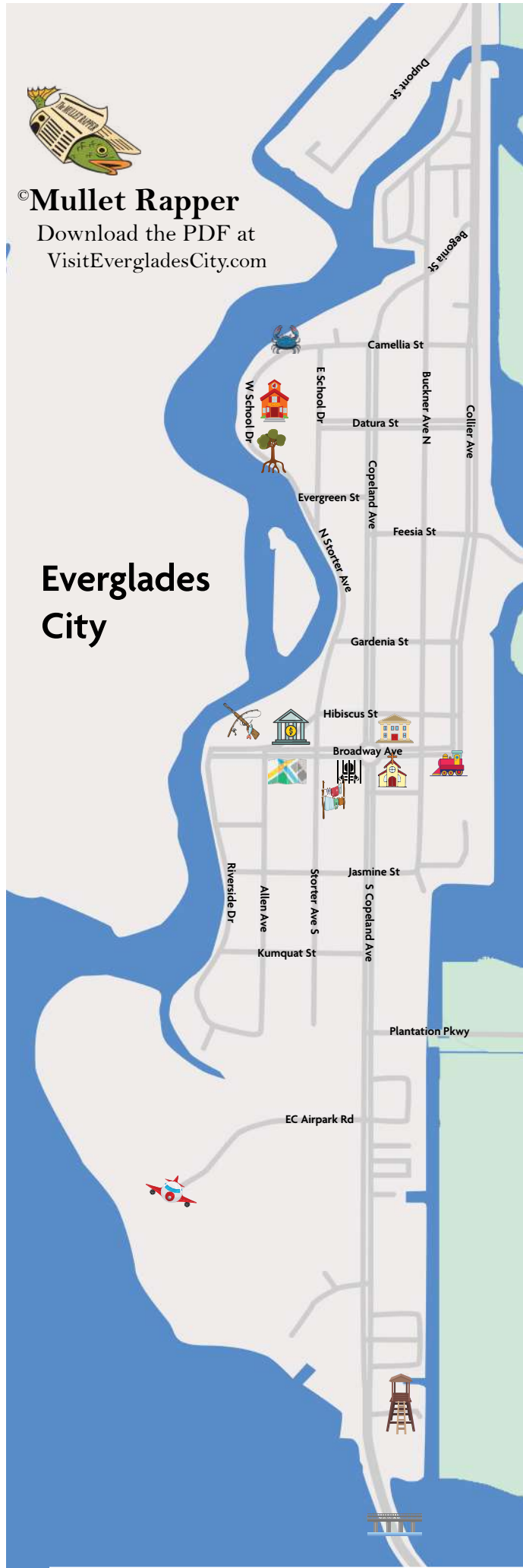
**Note: You must be 21 or older
to order and to pick up.**

Everglades Isle
803 Collier Avenue
Everglades City, FL 34139

Just look for the Lighthouse!

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.



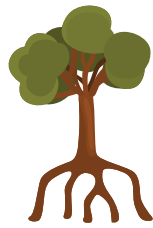
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Stone Crabbing in Everglades has roots in the '60s, with pioneers like Totch Brown. Every October 5th at midnight, crabbers deploy 1,000 to 5,000 traps in the Gulf of Mexico, strategically placed for the season's start on October 15th. They endure 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.

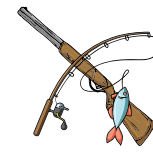


The Collier County Sheriff's Office was created on July 7, 1923, and William Riley "W.R." Maynard was named the first Sheriff of Collier County. The **County Jail** was located on the southwest corner of the circle and included living accommodations for the sheriff and his family on the upper floor. The footprint of the jail can still be seen in the parking lot.



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

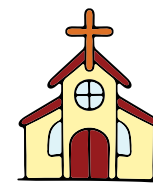
to become the recognized Everglades Area Visitor Center.



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. 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!

Garden

From page 1



Photos Courtesy of Tod Dahlke

name it—to make this garden flourish.

So far, we've had a few eager folks express interest. One's already gotten their hands dirty helping, others have pitched in with supplies.

We're hopeful that more folks will find the time to come down and be a part of something truly special.

Right now, we're busy getting ready for the next big step: planting more vegetable seeds! They'll be popping up in the soil before you know it, adding a splash of color and a whole lot of flavor to our little corner of Everglades City.

Ready to join us on this green adventure? Contact Tod (818) 554-9365. Fresh veggies, homegrown herbs, and a whole lot of community spirit are waiting for you at Everglades City's newest green oasis. 🌱



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- BBQ RIBS
- Seafood Baskets
- Stone Crabs
- Quesadillas
- Fried Alligator
- Beer & Wine

(239) 695-2662



Photos Courtesy of Everglades Museum

Museum

From page 1

Seafood Festival as Miccosukee environmental activist and educator Betty Osceola demonstrated traditional indigenous cooking methods over an open fire directly in front of the Museum.

With the help of friends and family she offered samples of delicious Fry Bread fresh out of the pan to hundreds of visitors over the course of the event. Several Miccosukee artists also demonstrated crafts and offered authentic Native jewelry and patchwork clothing for sale.

More than 1000 guests came through the museum to explore the exhibit and learn more about Miccosukee history and culture during the festival.

This month's Third Thursday talk on February 15th was delivered by William "Popeye" Osceola, the Secretary of the Miccosukee Tribal Business Council. A former teacher at the Tribal School on the Reservation, Popeye added a deep, meaningful perspective to Native history for the standing-room-only crowd.

WE ARE STILL HERE - the Continuing Story of the Miccosukee Tribe will remain on exhibit at Museum of the Everglades through May 11th. 🌱



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Where was the First Bank of Collier County FL?



By Reverend Dr Bob N. Wallace
Everglades Community Church



Right here in Everglades City. The first bank in Collier County was built by Barron Gift Collier, who envisioned an iconic landmark building as the home for the Bank of Everglades. From 1927 the Bank remained in the present building until 1962 when the business relocated to Immokalee forty-two miles to the Northwest of Everglades City.

Just as the Eiffel Tower was an iconic landmark for Paris, so was the Bank of Everglades to Everglades City. Barron Collier built several other buildings to serve his employees, which included a laundry building, a post office, a telegraph, a bakery, the Everglades Inn, administration offices, a department store, a pharmacy, and a restaurant. The bank today will soon become a Visitor Center.

And the laundry is now The Museum of the Everglades located a block from the bank building at 105 West Broadway Avenue, Everglades City. It's part of the Collier County Museums system and is devoted to displaying local history from early Native American times to the present. 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".

In 1979, the bank building was purchased by Reba "Rusty" Rupsis, who published the Everglades Echo newspaper in the building until 1990. After that, Patty Flick restored it as a Bed & Breakfast. There were several leaseholders for the B&B until it closed in 2017. The building has remained vacant since that time and has deteriorated somewhat.

A movement to restore the original building of the Bank of Everglades in Everglades City began March 2021 when Naples resident and owner Robert Flick gifted the building to The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation to restore the historic landmark. Flick was an extra in the 1958 film, "Wind Across the Everglades" that starred Burl Ives, Christopher Plummer, and Gypsy Rose Lee. The movie plot followed a game warden who had arrived in Florida in the hopes of enforcing conservation laws. He soon found himself up against Cottonmouth, the leader of a fierce group of bird poachers.



The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation, a nonprofit, has been working for the past three years applying for grants and raising funds to rehabilitate the historic building. With a \$3 million federal grant ESHP is now working with an architectural firm who has the experience and expertise in historic preservation to complete the project. Learn more about the project at [ESHP.org](https://www.eshp.org).

Marya Repko, ESHP secretary and author of some fifteen regional history books, says facilities will be updated to meet accessibility requirements, including the installation of an elevator. Envisioned downstairs is a visitor's center with plans to turn the original bank vault into a room where the classic "Wind Across the Everglades" plays on a continuous loop. The second-story rooms include a historical library, conference room, and offices.

"We're unique in Everglades City," says Repko. "There aren't many villages that look today like they did 100 years ago."

The original goal was to unveil a fully restored bank building on May 8, 2023, the centennial anniversary of the founding of Collier County. "I had a dream it'd be open by then, but that didn't happen," Repko added. The renovation of the building is now in the design stage with an expected completion date late 2025.

If you are interested in helping with this endeavor, please contact: The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation. Call (239) 719-0020. Or send your request by mail to PO Box 46, Everglades City, FL 34139. The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation, Inc. was founded by a group of community citizens who were concerned about the historic and cultural attributes of Everglades City and its surrounding area. 207 Broadway W, Everglades City, Florida 34139, United States. <https://evergladescommunity.church>



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 - 11:00 am** ◆

Listen to past sermons online:
www.evergladescommunity.church

Celebrating Art and Conservation

At this year's Alliance for Florida's National Parks Annual Wine & Wildlife event, Paul Arsenault, a noted Naples artist, was awarded *The Clyde Butcher: A Better Florida Award*.



With over five decades of artistic experience and a profound connection to nature, Paul's work deeply resonates with audiences.

Born in Montreal and raised near the sea in Hingham, MA, Paul's artistic journey led him to Florida in 1974, where he has since made Naples his home.

Throughout his career, Paul has embarked on painting expeditions across the globe, capturing the essence of coastal communities and diverse landscapes. His paintings, infused with passion for storytelling and history, create immersive experiences for viewers.

Additionally, Paul's commitment to giving back to the community is evident through annual fundraising shows benefiting various nonprofit organizations dedicated to health, environmental protection, and historic preservation.

This event pays homage to the legacy of Clyde Butcher, celebrating individuals who embody a deep commitment to preserving Florida's natural beauty and heritage.

Daily | 8am-8pm
Full Kitchen Menu
Live Music & Events Weekly

Delicious Cuban & Cracker Cuisine
Unique Beer/Wine Inspired Craft Cocktails

Just in time for the holidays!



See Events

Hav. Anna Cafe | HavannaCafe | 191 Smallwood Dr, Chokoloskee, FL | (239) 695-2214

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



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

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



Photos Courtesy of Everglades Museum

It all started with grapefruit.

The Annual Grapefruit Gala

with live music by the Jack Shealy Band

FRIDAY, MARCH 22nd
5PM – 7PM

Museum of the Everglades
105 W. Broadway
Everglades City
239-252-5026 for more information

Outside in the parking lot - Bring Your Own Chair!

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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Guava Smoothie

Ingredients:

- Almond milk
- Guavas – Use 3 ripe guavas, with the seeds removed.
- A Frozen Banana
- Strawberries
- Maple Syrup – 1 tablespoon
- Hulled hemp seeds – (optional)



Directions:

If you don't have a frozen banana, slice and freeze it on a baking sheet for an hour.

Core and slice the strawberries

Cut the guavas after scrubbing them to remove any wax from the rind.

Remove the seeds from the guavas.

Combine all ingredients in a blender.

Blend until smooth.

Optionally, garnish with a slice of strawberry or guava before serving.

Guava Tips

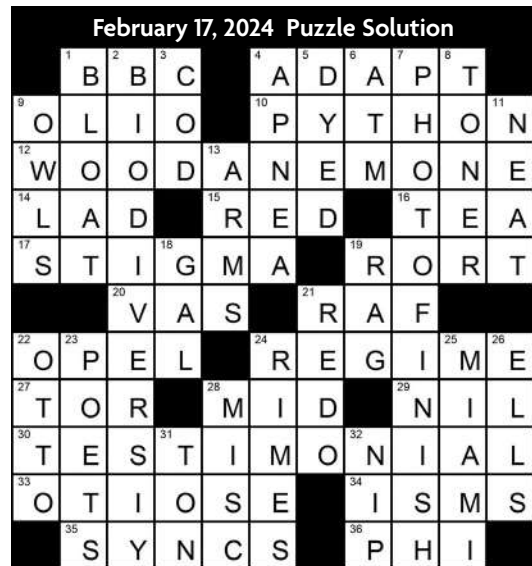
Guava, with its delightful and distinctively sweet flavor, is a tropical fruit that captivates the taste buds of many. Often described as a fusion of strawberry and pear, its sweetness varies depending on the particular variety. For newcomers eager to delve into the world of guavas, here are some helpful tips to navigate your selection and savor this tropical treat to the fullest.

Tips:

- Green guavas, will ripen on your counter-top.
- Every part of the guava is edible – the rind, flesh, and seeds.
- Look for ones that smell sweet.
- Choose by texture first, then color. They should be somewhat tender when gently squeezed, like an avocado. The rind can be yellow, white, or pinkish-red.

Studies suggest that guava may help lower blood sugar levels. It's rich in antioxidants and potassium, guava promotes heart health. With 12% of the recommended daily intake of fiber it also aids in digestion. Packed with vitamin C, guavas can give your immune system a boost.

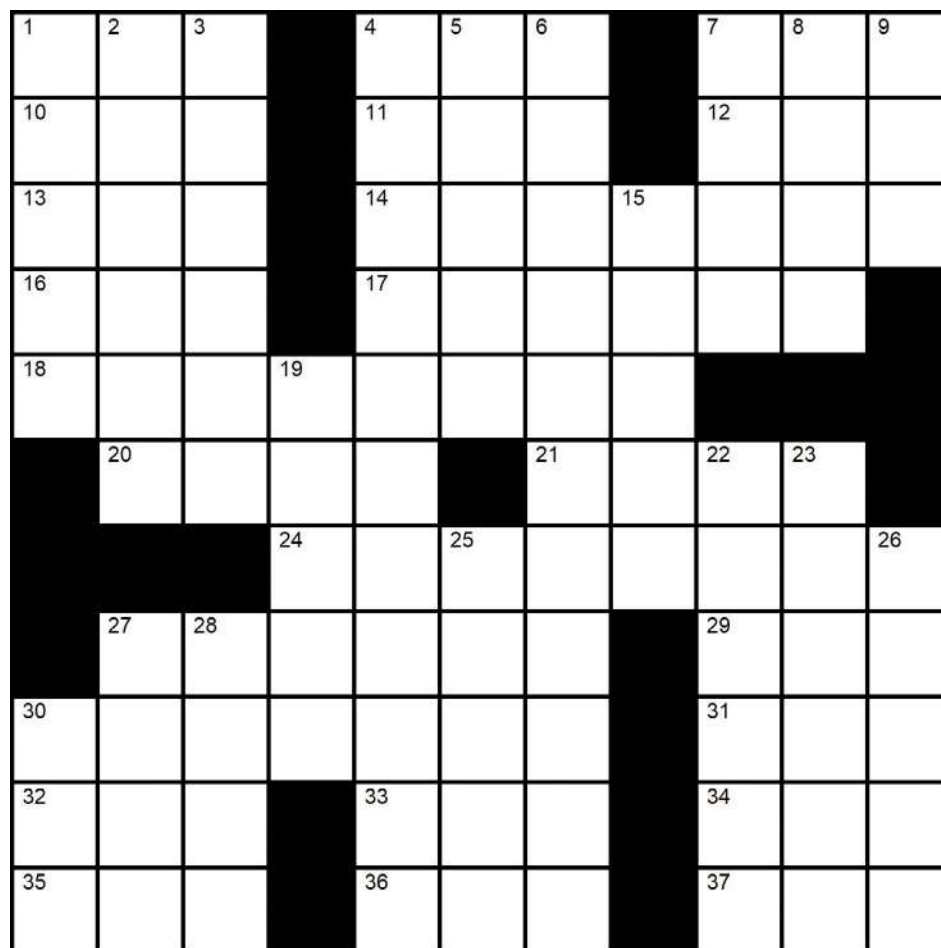
Whether as a snack, dessert ingredient, or addition to savory dishes, guavas are sure to add a touch of tropical sweetness to your life. 🍷



MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- Infinite: Abbr.
- 16 1/2 feet
- Publicity, slangily
- Compete
- "___ Beso" (Paul Anka hit)
- Ghost's cry
- Bailout key
- Important meetings
- Baseball bat wood
- Anxiety
- Common plant in the Everglades with sharp-edged leaves
- Warm, so to speak
- Forum wear
- Native American tribe historically associated with the Everglades
- Medicinal syrup
- Marienbad, for one
- 2019 Brad Pitt sci-fi film
- Convened
- Checkers, e.g.
- Buffalo's summer hrs.
- "Rocks"
- Bit in a horse's mouth
- Conk out
- Calphalon product



Down

- Eye layers
- Maxima maker
- A South African antelope with long, lyre shaped horns
- Brought back from dead

- Winner of tennis US Open in 1963
- Make familiar, tame
- Type of bird often seen in the Everglades
- Do, for example
- Bout enders, for short
- Kind of jar
- Some are inert
- Grapevine contents
- Petting zoo animal
- ___ Gras
- Consumed
- Brainstorm
- Breathe hard
- "Yo te ___"

3/2/24

Captain Morgan's Seafood Grill



Located On The Circle



Open Wed - Sun | 11 am to 8 pm
Spanish Cuisine & Seafood
(239) 232-0041



102 South Copeland Ave Everglades City



Photo Courtesy of FWC

Prized pink-tagged bass are swimming in these Florida waters!

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) TrophyCatch program has deployed bright pink research tags in bass across five waters throughout the state: the Northwest Winter Haven Chain of Lakes, Lake Lochloosa, Lake Beauclair, Lake Okeechobee and Porter Lake. Each of the tags is on a trophy bass weighing 8 pounds or more. Designed to provide valuable data about bass movements and growth rates, these conspicuous pink tags offer one other unique advantage: special prizing for the angler who catches, cuts and properly reports the tag.

"Seeing a flash of pink as you land that giant bass will make an extraordinary experience even more memorable," said Tom Graef, Director of FWC's Division of Freshwater Fisheries Management. "TrophyCatch data also shows us that anyone fishing these waters might be the lucky one to catch a trophy - and a pink tag!"

Prizing is still being finalized and will be announced soon. To claim their reward, anglers must cut and keep the pink tag, and document the bass at TrophyCatch.com. An integral requirement of the program is that all bass must be released alive to allow other anglers the opportunity to experience a lifetime catch.

For more information about the TrophyCatch program, email KP Clements at KP.Clements@MyFWC.com.



FISHBRAIN

Fishbrain is the ultimate tool for anglers, offering access to over 14 million verified catches to help you discover new fishing spots in your area. With features like depth maps, contour lines, and underwater structures, you can strategically plan your next fishing trip. Connect with over 15 million anglers, share your catches, and access fishing forecasts to optimize your time on the water. Plus, Fishbrain provides up-to-date fishing regulations. Download today.





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Photo Courtesy of Inshore Offshore Wars

Inshore Offshore Wars VI

A new era fishing tournament. This is the chance for all anglers to prove who is the best and also decide who can consistently catch big fish. There will be ONE inshore champion and ONE offshore champion. We will also have an overall grand champion. The grand champion will have the team name and trophy displayed at one of our retail sponsors. Trophy and team picture will stay displayed for one year until you get a chance to defend your title at Inshore Offshore War VII!

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

CAPTAIN'S MEETING

Friday May 19, 2023

Registration Starts at 5:30pm.

Captains Meeting will begin at 7pm

Cracklin' Jack's 2560 39th ST SW Naples

TOURNAMENT DAY

Saturday, May 20

CHECK-IN

All anglers will check in May 20th between 6:00am - 7:00am with the tournament official. May leave after check-in from your assigned dock.

5 Boat Ramp locations:

Everglades City, Goodland, 951, Bayview, and Wiggins

CEREMONY

This years ceremony will be Saturday, May 20 at 7PM

at K-Rico Mexican Grill

475 Bayfront Pl Naples, FL 34102

Come for the Food, Stay for the Raffles and watch this years Inshore Offshore Wars Champion be crowned!

ADDITIONAL INFO

4 Anglers including Captain with paid boat registration.

All anglers of team must be present at check-in. Additional anglers may be purchased for \$100 each

Pictures must be in by 6pm, rulers in by 7pm or you will be DISQUALIFIED.

REGISTER TODAY

<https://inshoreoffshorewars.com/registration/>



Barron River Tides				
3/2/2024	Sat	2:01 AM	0.06	L
3/2/2024	Sat	7:45 AM	1.51	H
3/2/2024	Sat	12:14 PM	0.69	L
3/2/2024	Sat	5:40 PM	2.33	H
3/3/2024	Sun	3:20 AM	0.03	L
3/3/2024	Sun	9:33 AM	1.44	H
3/3/2024	Sun	12:22 PM	0.8	L
3/3/2024	Sun	6:28 PM	2.31	H
3/4/2024	Mon	4:35 AM	-0.06	L
3/4/2024	Mon	7:53 PM	2.31	H
3/5/2024	Tue	5:41 AM	-0.18	L
3/5/2024	Tue	1:33 PM	1.8	H
3/5/2024	Tue	5:28 PM	0.97	L
3/5/2024	Tue	9:57 PM	2.43	H
3/6/2024	Wed	6:40 AM	-0.3	L
3/6/2024	Wed	1:18 PM	1.96	H
3/6/2024	Wed	6:36 PM	0.85	L
3/6/2024	Wed	11:21 PM	2.66	H
3/7/2024	Thu	7:31 AM	-0.39	L
3/7/2024	Thu	1:36 PM	2.11	H
3/7/2024	Thu	7:30 PM	0.67	L
3/8/2024	Fri	12:23 AM	2.91	H
3/8/2024	Fri	8:16 AM	-0.41	L
3/8/2024	Fri	1:58 PM	2.26	H
3/8/2024	Fri	8:17 PM	0.44	L
3/9/2024	Sat	1:15 AM	3.08	H
3/9/2024	Sat	8:59 AM	-0.36	L
3/9/2024	Sat	2:23 PM	2.4	H
3/9/2024	Sat	9:03 PM	0.21	L
3/10/2024	Sun	3:04 AM	3.12	H
3/10/2024	Sun	10:40 AM	-0.24	L
3/10/2024	Sun	3:48 PM	2.54	H
3/10/2024	Sun	10:50 PM	-0.01	L
3/11/2024	Mon	3:54 AM	3.02	H
3/11/2024	Mon	11:20 AM	-0.06	L
3/11/2024	Mon	4:15 PM	2.66	H
3/11/2024	Mon	11:37 PM	-0.17	L
3/12/2024	Tue	4:48 AM	2.79	H
3/12/2024	Tue	11:58 AM	0.15	L
3/12/2024	Tue	4:43 PM	2.74	H
3/13/2024	Wed	12:27 AM	-0.26	L
3/13/2024	Wed	5:45 AM	2.47	H
3/13/2024	Wed	12:34 PM	0.36	L
3/13/2024	Wed	5:14 PM	2.77	H
3/14/2024	Thu	1:18 AM	-0.28	L
3/14/2024	Thu	6:46 AM	2.12	H
3/14/2024	Thu	1:08 PM	0.57	L
3/14/2024	Thu	5:48 PM	2.72	H
3/15/2024	Fri	2:15 AM	-0.22	L
3/15/2024	Fri	7:58 AM	1.79	H
3/15/2024	Fri	1:37 PM	0.75	L
3/15/2024	Fri	6:28 PM	2.6	H



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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

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!

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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

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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

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