

The MULLET RAPPER

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

TIDE TABLE &
RESTAURANTS
PAGE 11

NOVEMBER 4 - NOVEMBER 17, 2017

**ONLY
25¢**

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P O Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume X • Issue #298

Collier County Supervisor of Elections Begins Mailing Ballots for Everglades City Election Coming up on Nov. 28th

The Collier County Supervisor of Elections office sent its first mailing of Vote-by-Mail ballots on October 24th for the upcoming City of Everglades City Election.

Voters may submit requests online at www.CollierVotes.com under the "Vote-by-Mail" tab. Requests can also be made by phone to the Supervisor of Elections Office at (239) 252-VOTE (8683).

The deadline to request a Vote-by-Mail ballot is 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 22. Voted ballots must be physically returned (not just postmarked) to the City Clerk's office in Everglades City by 7 p.m. on Election Day, November 28, 2017.

Ballots can be dropped off at the Everglades City Hall or may be mailed back in the official ballot return envelope provided by the Supervisor of Elections office. (Please note that the temporary City Hall is in the Community Center Parking Lot near the fire station). The United States Postal Service recommends that voters mail their voted ballots one week before the due date to account for any unforeseen events such as weather issues and to allow for timely receipt and processing by the elections office.

For more information on voting by mail or about the upcoming City of Everglades City Election, visit www.CollierVotes.com.

Please See Sample Ballot on Page 9.

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FEATURE: GOLIATH GROUPER, P. 9

Area Restaurants & Fish Houses Are Open for Business! Despite Irma Setback, Most Make October 15th Opening Date

There have been so many wonderful volunteers in our area offering food and service to assist in the rebuilding effort. But nothing beats a homestyle-cooked meal from one of our local restaurants.

October 15th marks the re-opening of "the season" with our stone crab season kicking into gear...and there was some concern that it may be difficult for any businesses to open "on time" this year. Not so!

In less than one month (from Irma), Island Café was open. This was a Herculean effort by Carol Foss and the rest of her team because her restaurant was severely damaged...but it got done, looks great and we ate!

Grimm's, Triad and City Seafood also opened by October 15th and each were serving or selling chilled stone crabs on opening day.

Even though Chokoloskee got an estimated 9 foot surge, Havana Café was able to open on-time and to a line of customers awaiting their unique Cuban cuisine. Owners Carlos & Dulce Valdes worked day and night to get the property ready to receive visitors. They cleaned and rebuilt the interior and scrubbed the outside seating area to make sure visitors aren't disappointed. The lush vegetation is cooperating with new growth masking any damage left behind by Irma.

"Don't be afraid to come down to Chokoloskee Island. We're ready!" said owner Dulce Valdes. "We are here, we are ready to rock the season down" added Carlos Valdes, Co-owner of Havana Café.



Photo: Havana Café Team on Opening Day by Denise Waiters

We May Look A Little Different But the Crab and Fish Still Taste Great! (Snook Fishing is "off the Charts")

We realize that when you drive into the area for the first time, it may be a bit shocking. Seeing the mountain of trash and piles of debris on lawns is a bit un-nerving. BUT, one thing that is not still in "recovery mode" is the fishing. Captain Mike Merritt says snook are biting better than ever, he has even had a few days where his clients hooked more than 50!



Kenny Brown of Chokoloskee Marina said boats coming in at his marina are telling him that Snook fishing is off-the-charts good.

Captain John Hand reports that his trips are very productive and his clients are very happy with the action! This is great news for those of you planning on visiting the area.

If you can look past the obvious damage (we can, and we are!), every reason why you are here, or why you come here, is waiting for you.

We are still a quiet, no-stop light town (we do not count the temporary light at Chokoloskee bridge). We still have one of the best viewing locations for stars...we are a certified "Dark Sky" area. The migratory birds are back...I am seeing the winter warblers, buntings, and hawks. If the white pelicans are not here yet, they will arrive any day. The people are amazingly nice here.


But most of all, the seafood is the tie that binds us all together...and it is plentiful and delicious and waiting for you on a local plate.

The Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) has retested all of the waters surrounding the area and they tested free of any bacteria or "yuck" that was left behind from the storm meaning the environment has rebounded quickly.

So, if you were thinking about coming, but wavering...because you-know-who slapped us around a little, c'mon down. Everything is still here, especially the seafood at this time of year!

If you have news, photos, announcements, or articles ... email us at: mulletrapper@gmail.com or call us at: 954-662-7003.

NOV. 5 – DEC. 9, 2017

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
5 <i>Expect King Tides</i>	6 ESHP Mtg, Location TBD	7 FME Mtg. 3:30 pm Location TBD City Council Mtg, 7 pm School	8 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am	9	10	11 Veteran's Day FME Recept. Furrer Exhibit, Naples Museum, Noon-2 pm
12 Book Signing see, p. 3 Bike Ride to Port of Islands meet 9 am McLeod Park	13	14	15 Ladies Coffee Havana Café, 8 am Dental Bus in town, see p. 3.	16 Everglades Book Club, 9:30 am, Joan Murray Home	17 History Talk, 5:30 pm City Hall, see p. 3	NOV 18 RAPPER new moon ● Art-In-Glades 10am—2 pm McLeod Pk, see p. 3
19	20	21	22 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am No School	23 Thanksgiving No School	24 No School	25
26	27	28 Voting Day! 	29 Ladies Coffee City Seafood, 8 am	30	December 1	DEC 2 RAPPER
3 full moon ○	4	5	6 Ladies Coffee Havana Café, 8 am No School	7	8	9 Art-in-the- Glades

December 16: Fakahatchee Dinner

December 25: Christmas
February 9-11: Seafood Festival

January 1: New Year's Day

THRIFT SHOP: Closed until further notice
LIONS CLUB: 2nd Thursday of month, , 6 pm, location TBD
DR DEMARTINO: Marco Island office information on p.3.
DR MARTIN: Call for appointment: 813-787-9738
AA: Wed., 5:00 pm, Community Church
MUSEUM: Closed until further notice
CARNESTOWN Recycle and Trash: 2nd Saturday, 9 am to 3:30 pm

SKATING RINK: Closed until further notice
REACH OUT: 3rd Tuesday, 9:30 am, location TBD
LITTLE GATOR CLINIC: Not seeing patients at this time
VETERANS SUPPORT: 2nd & 4th Wed. of month, noon—2 pm
COMMUNITY CHURCH FOOD PANTRY: See p. 3
SMALLWOOD STORE: Closed until further notice
PANCAKE FLY-IN: Opening soon!

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: Tuesdays, 2 to 5 pm
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Mon–Thurs (9 am to 2 pm); Fri-Sat (9 am to 3 pm)
COLLIER COUNTY: 239-252-8999

POST OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS & HOURS: TEMPORARY HOURS DURING REMODELING
Everglades City (239) 695-2174 (no phone now) Mon-Fri: 10 am to 3 pm; Sat: -Truck in circle by City Hall
Chokoloskee (239) 695-4468 Mon-Fri: 10 am to 4 pm; Sat: Closed
Ochopee (239) 695-2099 Mon-Fri: 8 to 10 am 4 pm; Sat: Closed

SHERIFF: 239-252-9300 CITY HALL: 239-695-3781 PUBLIC LIBRARY: 239-695-2511 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: 239-695-3941
AIRPORT: 239-695-2778 FAKAHATCHEE: 239-695-4593 BIG CYPRESS: 239-695-2000 EVG NATIONAL PARK: 239-695-3311
CURBSIDE TRASH PICKUP (FRIDGES, WASHING MACHINES, TVs): 239-252-2380, CALL TUESDAY FOR THURSDAY PICKUP

What's Happening

In and Around Town

Book Signing for Irma Relief November 12th

A group of local children's authors will be signing books on Sunday, November 12, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Classroom Plus, 650 Goodlette Road, to benefit area children still recovering from the impacts of Hurricane Irma. The authors are teaming with Classroom Plus to donate a portion of book and store sales that afternoon to relief efforts in Everglades City and Chokoloskee Island. Authors expected to attend include Lisa Trebilcock, Andrea Stetson, Karen Bartlett, Jacqueline Buyze, Sandra Sahli and Mindy Kirkley. In addition, each author will donate a copy of her book(s) to the Everglades City School.

Books to be featured are: A (mostly) Kids' Guide to Naples, Marco Island & the Everglades (Bartlett), A (mostly) Kids' Guide to Sanibel & Captiva Islands and the Fort Myers Coast (Bartlett); N is for Naples (Trebilcock) and E is for Everglades (Trebilcock); Lexi Lop and the Best Library Book Ever (Stetson); and others.

Historical Talk

Friday, November 17th

"A Land Remembered" in Everglades City

Patrick Smith wrote a classic when he penned "A Land Remembered" about early Florida. Now, you can hear how the book came about and relive some of the poignant episodes in a multimedia presentation by his son Rick Smith on Friday, November 17, at 5:30 p.m. in Everglades City at City Hall.

The event is hosted by the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation as their annual "Welcome-Back Historical Talk". It takes place in the temporary City Hall, 205 Buckner Avenue North, Everglades City, 34139, behind the old fire station. Reservations are required because of the limited space. RSVP to ESHP@hotmail.com or phone Marya at (239) 695-2905.

Art-in-the-Glades

Saturday, November 18th

Come to Everglades City to see how we're recovering from Irma and enjoy a day browsing among the arts & crafts vendors at Art-in-the-Glades on Saturday, November 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. near McLeod Park on the Circle. You can also enjoy a meal of stone crabs in the local restaurants which opened for the season to serve these delicacies.

Vendors are welcome to set up a tent at no charge. For info, phone Marya at (239) 695-2905.

FOOD BANK REOPENED!

Wednesday's 11 am to 1 pm

The Harry Chapin Food Bank is resuming weekly food distribution in November and December every Wednesday from 11AM to 1PM in the parking lot in front of River Wilderness Waterfront Villas, 210 Collier Avenue, across from the Marathon Service Station. This is a temporary arrangement until Jinkins Fellowship Hall at Community Church has been repaired.

EVERGLADES CITY SEAFOOD FESTIVAL, FEB 9-11

The annual Everglades City Seafood Festival will go on as planned and take place February 9, 10 & 11. The three days of fun will feature foods, carnival rides, arts & crafts and the (almost) famous collectible Budweiser mugs. Great country music will be performed by local artists and national headliners!

COMMUNITY SERVICES



DOCTOR'S CLINIC

Dr. Kirk DeMartino is seeing patients in his Marco Island Office. You may call his office to schedule an appointment to see him there: (239) 642-5552.

NATURAL MEDICINE



Dr. John Martin can see patients in E-City. Call to make an appointment: 813-787-9738.

~ ACCOUNTING SERVICES ~ MIKE "THE TAX GUY"



Local and professional, personal & business tax services in Everglades City. Call 2239-595-4203 to set an appointment. Email: nfn19842@naples.net for more information.

THRIFT SHOP



Sorry...the thrift shop is currently closed for repairs! We are working hard to reopen as soon as possible! Thanks for your patience while we make repairs.

FREE DENTAL SCREENINGS

ALL AGES- NOV. 15

9 am to 4 pm



The Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida's Health & Smiles Mobil Dental Bus is scheduled to be in Everglades City on November 15 from 9 am to 4 pm, in the Fire Station parking lot, providing free dental health screenings. You can also schedule an appointment for cleanings, fillings, extractions and x-rays. For more information or to make an appointment call 239-658-3013.

Seniors & Caregivers

Don't Have to 'Go It Alone'

When Evaluating Medicare Coverage

SHINE volunteers help navigate

Medicare year-round

Choosing Insurance Can Be Confusing, Get the Help You Deserve!

The Medicare Open Enrollment Period is underway through December 7, and the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida reminds Medicare beneficiaries that now is a good time to review their Medicare coverage. For those considering making changes to coverage, SHINE is available to help.

The Agency's SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) program volunteers are specially trained Medicare counselors who are available to provide free, impartial information and personalized assistance throughout Southwest Florida. During the Medicare Open Enrollment Period (Oct. 15-Dec. 7).

SHINE counselors will offer information and assistance at the following Collier County locations and dates:

St. William Catholic Church

601 Seagate Dr., Naples FL 34108

Oct. 25 & Nov. 14

9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

777 Mooring Line Dr., Naples FL 34102

Oct. 27 & Nov. 6

9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Marco Lutheran Church

525 North Collier Blvd, Marco Island FL 34135

Oct. 31

9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Avow Hospice Lyon Center

1223 Whippoorwill Ln., Naples FL 34105

Nov. 30

9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Appointments are not necessary.

To receive optimal assistance, individuals interested in SHINE Medicare counseling should go prepared with a list of current prescriptions including dosages, and their current Medicare plan information. A review of projected next-year prescription costs can sometimes yield a savings of several hundred dollars for Medicare beneficiaries.

Medicare beneficiaries who are unable to attend one of the sessions above may call the Elder Helpline toll-free at 1-866-41-ELDER (1-866-413-5337) and ask for a referral to speak with a SHINE counselor from one of our local counseling sites.

THE EVERGLADES CITY SCHOOL CORNER

239-377-9800 or 239-695-2561 www.evgcollierschools.com

Everglades City School Calendar



School Schedule:

- November 11: Hurricane make-up day. There is school!
- November 23-25: No School. Fall break
- November 29: Interim reports
- December 21: Early dismissal

A Message From Coach Jill Whitcomb



Ashlyn Goff Runs, Qualifies for Regional Meet

The Everglades City School boys and girls cross country teams competed in the 2017 Class 1A District race on Thursday, October 26 at Mackle Park on Marco Island.

Senior, Ashlyn Goff, finished 14th which qualified her to advance to the cross country regional meet on Friday, November 3 in Lakeland, FL. This is the second year in a row that Ashlyn has qualified for the Regional meet in Lakeland. The girls race will begin at 8am on Friday. Good Luck to Ashlyn!

The Girls' basketball tryouts kicked off on Monday, October 30, 2017 and the boys tryouts will begin on Monday, November 6th. Our cheerleaders are practicing and getting ready to cheer our teams on to victory this season!

Sports Events / Schedule

- November 6th: Boys basketball tryouts begin
- Check the EVG website under the athletics tab for all the required paperwork and video requirements.
- November 28th: Boys and Girls basketball games will begin. Stay tuned for the full schedule!

Website: www.collierschools.com/evg

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VENDORS WELCOMED

'Trunk or Treat' Celebration Gets Rave Reviews, Brings Community Families Together



The Halloween celebration was moved due to Irma and then postponed due to rain, but that wasn't nearly enough to dampen the spirits of area children and adults looking for an opportunity to laugh and smile. The first Trunk or Treat held at Seaboard Villas was a huge success. Trunks were decorated, chili and hotdogs were served and beautiful cupcakes topped it all off.

The weather was perfect and everyone was all smiles. This was a great idea, and so many contributed to make it all possible. Thank you to everyone who helped organize this fun family event. Thanks to Sue Gentry for providing this great photo of the event.

FEMA Application Deadline Extended
Disaster Recovery Center Remains Open in Collier County
Even if Your First Application Was Rejected,
You Should Apply Again

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced that the deadline for Hurricane Irma survivors in all 48 designated Florida counties to register for FEMA individual disaster assistance has been extended to Nov. 24, 2017.

The extension agreed upon by the state and FEMA is for survivors living in disaster-designated individual assistance counties: Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Columbia, DeSoto, Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lafayette, Lake, Lee, Levy, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Nassau, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Sumter, Suwannee, Union and Volusia.

Federal disaster assistance for individuals and families can include money for rental assistance, essential home repairs, personal property losses and other serious disaster-related needs not covered by insurance. Individuals can register online at disasterassistance.gov. By phone, call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362 (Voice, 711 or VS) or 800-462-7585 (TTY). Due to high demand, lines may be busy. Please be patient, and try calling in the morning or evening when call volume may be low. The FEMA Helpline is open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. (ET), seven days a week until further notice.

The FEMA Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in Collier County remains open to help Florida storm survivors. The DRC is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week until further notice, at the following location:

Golden Gate Community Center
4701 Golden Gate Parkway
Naples, FL 34116
Hours: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week until further notice

For more information visit www.FEMA.gov/IrmaFL, or follow @FEMARegion4 on Twitter and on FEMA's Facebook page.

Dear Readers, Please check with our local businesses to confirm their hours of operation as many have been impacted by the hurricane. Some are currently closed for repairs, but they are re-opening every day... October 15th marked the re-opening of stone crab season! We may look a little different, but we are open for business!

**Clyde Butcher's
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Fine Art Black & White Photography



239-695-2428
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Ochopee, FL 34141
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clydebutcher.com



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My Little Slice of Paradise

By Kathy Brock

November will be my "get back to as normal as possible" month! Even though the inside work is far from completed, I am determined to do some of the things I normally do at this time of year. For me, that means a planting a garden!

One thing Hurricane Irma did for me that I liked, is spread seeds. Some I do not want (like the mangroves, so I am pulling them out anytime I see them—all over town!) but the volunteer herbs and veggies are very welcomed because I did not plant seeds in October like I usually do. I have tomatoes, dill and basil popping up all over my gardens.

When the starts are small, you can easily move them to a desired location by digging around them carefully and not exposing too many of the roots. I dig the hole where the start is going to be planted before I dig it out and move it. This makes it a bit easier and less stressful on the plant. You can still plant seeds, and you can certainly buy small plants at Home Depot or Lowes to get a garden going this month as well.

My herbs did not survive the salt water...except the chives. The chives show zero sign of setback so that is one herb you can plant and rely on for the long term. I prefer garlic chives. I have some plants that are several years old. Once you get them going, you can keep them for quite a while. These too can be started by seeds, but buying a plant will speed the process significantly.

November is also our prime migratory bird time. If you want to see buntings, catbirds and other visitors, put out some seed in a small bird feeder. If you use a small feeder it will discourage the larger doves and blackbirds. Millet seed is a favorite. A bird bath is also a must. Water is a huge attractant for birds, almost more so than food. As we get into the dry period, fresh water will bring on the birds! Locate it where you can easily watch them without disturbing them. Hummingbirds are also here now. To attract them you will want to have a hummingbird feeder with nectar or tubular flowers, preferably red.

Hummingbirds like the native firebush, firecracker plants, salvia and hibiscus, to name a few. They also like the red bottle brush trees, but most of them were damaged by the storm...so adding a few of these flowers to your gardens will bring them over.

Berries are a big attractant as well. Beautyberry, golden dewdrop and the berries on the native firebush are garden delicacies that many birds like. Buntings, catbirds, mocking birds and many others enjoy berries, and once you get them going, it adds color to your garden and provides food for your feathered friends.

Make sure you take some time to do something you like to do even though you still have work to do at home. I find the work at home to be less daunting when I sprinkle in some "fun time". Enjoy November! It is a fabulous month here in the Everglades area. Fish, garden & be happy!

Attention Landscapers! We Need Your Help

If you have a landscape company, or you have landscaping experience & equipment, and you would like to donate your time and services in the Everglades City area, we need your help...badly!

We have many toppled trees in our medians and common areas, some are still alive, but they desperately need some attention. Chain saws, pole saws and supports (to reset trees) will be required.

If you would like to donate your time, please contact Kathy Brock: 954-662-7003, or send an email to MulletRapper@gmail.com. Thank you.



Recipes for Good Eating

by Bonnie Woodward

Limoncello & Lemon Cream Filled Tart FAST & Perfect for a Thanksgiving Desert!



Ingredients



1 store-bought sponge cake tart shell, 12"



2 oz. chilled limoncello liqueur



1 C. heavy cream



1 C. mascarpone cheese, cream cheese can be used as a substitute



1/3 C. lemon curd



1/2 pt. raspberries



1/2 pt. blackberries



2 tsp lemon zest



2 Tbsp. very thinly sliced mint leaves



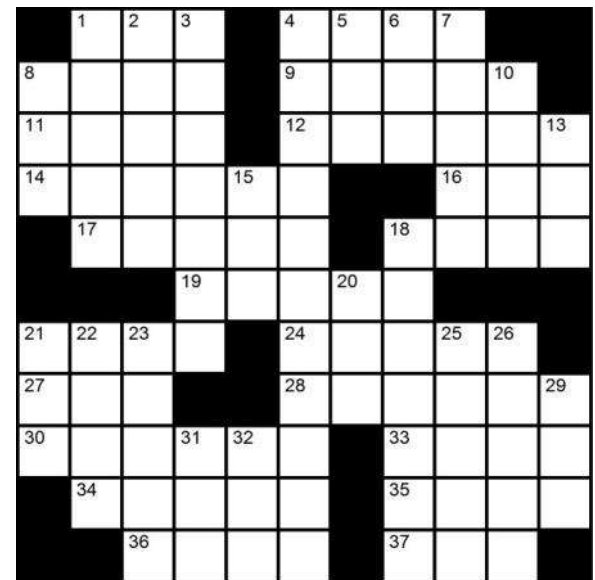
Directions: Put sponge cake on a cake plate and douse with chilled liqueur. In small bowl, whisk cream, mascarpone & lemon curd to combine. Fill tart with cheese mix & top w/berries, zest & mint. Chill and serve! This recipe only takes about 15 minutes to prepare.



MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Fortify with weapons
- 4 Turnpike fee
- 8 Type of bargain in court
- 9 Creative concepts
- 11 Claim on a property
- 12 Where Muhammad went after Mecca
- 14 Legally bind
- 16 Floor covering
- 17 Hayes who sang "Shaft"
- 18 Verge
- 19 Shows approval
- 21 Dads mates
- 24 Mexican moolah
- 27 Org for the environment
- 28 IKEA's homeland
- 30 Eerie sense of recurrence
- 33 Short letter or memo
- 34 Dynamite inventor
- 35 Yucky buildup
- 36 Charge per unit
- 37 Psychic "gift"



11/4/17

Down

- 1 Proof of being elsewhere
- 2 The go with rods
- 3 Crazy people
- 4 Item buried for a future time
- 5 Lyric poem
- 6 Took control
- 7 Scottish landowner
- 8 Org. once led by Arafat
- 10 Cozy
- 13 How old you are

Down Continued

- 18 Spirit
- 20 Church seat
- 21 School for Docs
- 22 Golf or tennis tourney
- 23 Type of league
- 25 They're known to noses
- 26 You do it with new software
- 29 "Game of Thrones" patriarch --- Stark
- 31 Lawyers' group.
- 32 Dog doc





When the World You Know Disappears: How People Overcome Major Loss: Part III

by Author & Therapist Neil Rosenthal

RESILIENCE: THE ART OF BOUNCING BACK

Sometimes people won't let themselves have fun and enjoy life after a terrible tragedy, because they feel they would be dishonoring the enormity of the loss and acting as if they are accepting what is completely unacceptable. By doing this, you may be actively reliving the trauma and keeping it fresh and alive, rather than letting it fade into the past.

No amount of grieving and suffering will change what happened in the hurricane and subsequent floods. So the healthiest thing you could do is to make peace with it. You cannot make anything better by feeling inconsolable for the rest of your life.

How do we heal from major loss or calamity, such as a major hurricane? What is it that helps us cope with life's disappointments, lick our wounds, repair our lives and heal ourselves?

The healing process is remarkably similar no matter what trauma you're dealing with, and all people who wish to heal from a major loss go through certain steps.

So what are those steps? Imagine a scale that starts at zero and goes to 100. Zero is very wounded. When you reach 100 you will be completely healed. This is your Healing Scale. It is a way you can measure how recovered you are from a wound, trauma, disappointment or setback, and how much healing you still have in front of you.

Assign a realistic number to everything you have done to heal up till now. (Example: let's say you are 5% healed. Your task is to climb that scale. To go 5, 10 or 15 points higher.) That's what you can do when you're healing from a painful loss. There are no leaps—only steps—and you climb steps one or at the most two at a time. So what will help you climb that scale? It's clearly different for different people. It may be settling with an insurance company, or finding a new place to live, or clearing out and replacing floors, walls and carpeting. It may require you to replace some of the creature comforts you're used to, such as clothes, your car and some furniture.

Once you begin climbing the scale, you cannot slide backwards. That is, if you get to 25 on your healing scale and then, for instance, have a career reversal, you stay at 25 until something happens that causes you to climb upwards again, because the healing scale measures how healed you are about your loss, not about how perfect your life is in all aspects.

What will assist you in climbing the healing scale? Your answers to that question will largely determine how well you bounce back from the hurricane, how long it will take you to recover and how damaged you will be when all of this is over. Resilience, the art of bouncing back, is the path to recovery. Here's what resilient people do:

- Focus on what you have to look forward to. That's forward looking. Perhaps it is just not healthy or wise to be backward looking at this time—to be gazing too long at what happened in the past. You exercise a great deal of control over choices regarding your future, and absolutely no control whatsoever about events that are in the past.
- Pay attention to the attitudes and emotions that can sabotage you or turn you sour—and don't give into them. I'm referring to behaviors such as lashing out at other people for not "getting it," letting fear, bitterness or defeat get the better of you and giving up on your dreams. You must find a way to not give in to negativity or defeat.
- Let other people in. Focus on the quality of your relationships with those you care about and who are alive—and do everything you can to keep those relationships engaged, vital, close and connected.
- Make decisions that look out for your well-being, your happiness and your peace of mind.
- Live upright, with honor and integrity. Consistently act decent and do the right thing.
- Keep yourself physically active, vital and fit.
- Develop an attitude of gratitude and thanksgiving about what's good in your life—about what your blessings are. It's so easy to focus on what we don't have, what has hurt us and what we have to be unhappy about. It's harder to look for the good in our lives, but as you focus on the good, your mind is taken off the bad. If all you look at is the scarcity, you miss the abundance that is also in your life.
- Write a letter of self-forgiveness. Regarding your tragedy, what are you willing to forgive yourself for?
- What dreams or goals do you have that lie yonder? What would you still like to experience, accomplish, learn or try? Commit to choosing a couple of those things and then go after making them happen.

"A high station in life is earned by the gallantry with which appalling experiences are survived with grace." ---Tennessee Williams

*Neil Rosenthal is a licensed marriage and family therapist in Colorado.
Contact him at 303-758-8777 or visit neilrosenthal.com.*

"We must live misfortune out."—David Copperfield by Charles Dickens.



Making A Difference!

After Hurricane Irma, **Captain Mike Merritt** sent out an email to his clients to explain the severity of the damage in the area. The response he received was overwhelming. He had clients sending donations to help out, so many that it inspired him to register as a non profit 501(c)3 corporation.

The first thing Mike did was purchase some generators and supplies and bring them down to the area. He also brought gas and cans, grills, charcoal, lights, cleaning supplies, first-aid, water, and tarps valued at over \$8,000. Mike then helped clean up debris with his bobcat without charging anyone a fee. Next, he purchased hot water heaters, washers, dryers, cabinets, and other appliances.

There are now eight more people on the list that will be receiving these items and appliances. All of this is due to the generosity of his clients. To date, Mike has raised over \$39,000. He has used half of the money so far and is hoping more donations will continue to come in so he can give to more people in the community. The Marco Island Fishing Club donated \$11,000. Mike has also teamed up with Capt. Brian Sanders who has been selling "Everglades Strong" and "Chokoloskee Strong" T-shirts.

Shirt sales have raised \$3,000 so far and they will be selling these shirts at the Island Café and at the Seafood Festival. The name of the charity is **Everglades City Hurricane Relief Fund**. "The more we raise the more people we can help. 100% of the proceeds go to helping people. There is no administration or office charges. I spent the money to set it up. I want people to know their money will be used to help," says Merritt.

To donate, mail checks to 13009 Collecting Canal Rd., Loxahatchee, Fl., 33470, or donate through PayPal at echurricanerelieffund@gmail.com.

Mr. Finer's Food Truck has been serving free hot meals from the food truck parked at McLeod Park since September 24th. Doug Meyer drove his truck into the area from their hometown in Minneapolis after hearing about the devastation caused by Hurricane Irma. Once here, Doug knew he made the right decision when he saw the damage for himself.

His assistant Dave, also from Minnesota, volunteered to come with him to help, and says this has been a life-changing experience for him. Back home he has 3 boys, his youngest is 17.

When his kids were younger, Dave would not leave for any long periods, but now that they are pretty much grown the call of volunteer work pulled him south. What is so amazing is that these two men came here as complete unknowns and now they can rattle off names like long-time residents.

Doug is aware of the pressure area restaurants are under to recover and regain customers. He understands why there may be some angst about his still being here giving away food, but he is committed to it until he knows the need no longer exists. As he sees it, there are people that do not have homes to cook in, who are still waiting on insurance money that still need the help and others that are more fortunate do not. He would like to find a way to stay and help those that need it most.

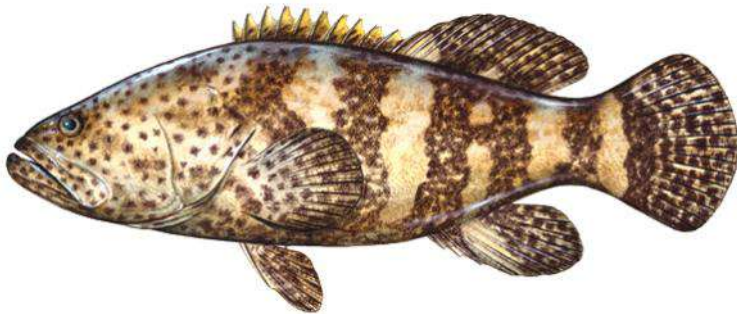
Doug is also working on setting up a charity to do even more for the community.

Thank you to Mike Merritt and Mr. Finer's Food Truck for helping our community!



Living Gulf Coast
by Charles Sobczak

Goliath Grouper (*Epinephelus itajara*) Other names: jewfish, giant grouper, guasa / Status: FL=threatened (goliath grouper is a protected species), IUCN=CR / Life span: to 37 years / Length: 1-8 ft (.45-2.4 m) / Weight: 5-800 lb (2.25-362 kg); Florida record: 680 lb, IGFA: 680 lb / Spawns: in the offshore waters / Found: In deep holes inshore and over wrecks and ledges throughout the offshore waters of Southwest Florida.



Regionally, only the great hammerhead shark is larger than this immense grouper. In the 1800s there were reported catches of goliaths that weighed an unbelievable 1,500 pounds! A goliath this size would be more than 10 feet long and capable of swallowing a 50-pound fish whole! Sadly, because of over-harvesting by spear fishermen using explosive power heads or bang sticks, the goliath grouper population in Florida's waters was brought to the brink of extinction. There is a **complete ban** on the taking of any goliath grouper, juvenile or adult, in the state of Florida. The IUCN (World Conservation Union) has recently placed the goliath grouper on its critically endangered list. In Florida the fish is recovering from decades of excessive fishing.

The goliath grouper is vulnerable to red tide and water pollution, and can sometimes be found washed up on the beach. It is sometimes caught by shark fishermen at night from the Sanibel and causeway fishing piers. The adult grouper has sharp spines in its first dorsal fin, which it erects when alarmed. Because of its size and power, the goliath should be handled with the utmost care.

Although many of the biggest goliaths are found well offshore, it is almost as common inshore. A large school of goliaths is known to live under the causeway spans, though catching one on normal tackle is impossible. Catch-and-release fishing for goliath grouper should be discouraged because of possible damage to the internal organs of the fish. It should never be taken up and out of the water, as doing so can cause serious injury or death to the fish.

The goliath eats almost anything it wants to eat or can catch. Its primary food is crab, fish, octopus, and slower-moving bottom fish such as burrfish, toadfish, lizardfish, and stingray. Underwater it makes a loud, booming noise when approached; this is believed to be a warning to anyone or anything getting too close.

Today, because of its recovery, it is not at all uncommon to catch juvenile goliath grouper inshore. It feeds in the mangroves, under docks and bridges, and is often taken when fishing for gag grouper. If caught, it must be released. If the fish has a tag, note the information on the tag, leave the tag on the fish, then safely return it to the water. Researchers at Florida State University are conducting a long-term study of the Florida goliath grouper population and can be notified of these tagged fish and any catch-and-release events by e-mailing the information to ifre@bio.fsu.edu.

Charles Sobczak is a writer & photographer from Sanibel Island



Fishing in the 10,000 Islands
by Captain Mike Merritt

Well, as far as the fishing goes post Irma, it has been spectacular. The Snook bite has been as good as I have ever seen. I guess for me this is the rainbow in the middle of the chaos. I hate to see so many going thru such hardship. Together we can make it thru this! Back to the fishing, which as I said has been really good.













Over the past 2 weeks my clients have been catching on average 25-30 Snook per day with as many as 50 for a lucky few. These fish have all been on the outside and we have been catching them on a variety of baits. This does not mean that the fish are not in the back country. As the water temps drop more fish will move back there. The bite was really good on jigs for the first week and this last week we have been using Threadfin Herring and Pilchards for bait. The bite has been good on rising water and falling water. It seems as long as you have movement you have feeding fish. Getting your baits to the bottom will produce the best action. This is why the jigs work so well. I am using a knocker rig on my live baits. Size of the sinker depends on current and size of the bait. Just make sure you get it to go down.

The Redfish bite has been hit or miss. Some days you will get on a nice school of fish and some days you will find scattered fish. There are plenty around and cooler water temps should allow this bite to continue. We were catching really good fish before the storm and it took a while for them to show back up. Hopefully this continues thru November as it historically does. The reds are also feeding on jigs, and as always, a scented tail works best. If your using live bait then smaller baits work best. We have had days where we catch 30 Reds and then the next day we might catch 3 or 4, and anywhere in between. So there are plenty of fish to target. It just seems they are on the move a lot right now.

Tarpon were around in very impressive numbers right after the storm. There are still some fish around at the time I am writing this, but colder water temps will send them on their way. There have been fish in the river mouths and on the edges of the flats feeding on all the baitfish that came in. The Seatrout bite should be getting better on the grass flats. Thankfully our grasses seem to have survived the storm. I still prefer to use a popping cork with a 3/4 oz. DOA shrimp. We should start catching some nice trout this month. I must say that since the Snook bite has been on fire I have not fished for trout. As long as the fishing is half as good as it has been we are in for a great November.



Fishing Regulations Snapshot
*Southwest Gulf Coast**

-  **Cobia:** 33" at fork, 1/day/license. 6/vessel/day max
 -  **Drum, Black:** 14-24" slot, 5/day/license 1 over 24" permitted per day
 -  **Drum, Red:** 18-27" slot, 1/day/license
 -  **Flounder:** 12", 10/day/license
 -  **Grouper, Black:** 24" min., 4/day/license
 -  **Grouper, Gag:** 24" min., 2/day/license (open June-Dec.)
 -  **Grouper, Red:** 20" min., 2/day/license
 -  **NOTE:** 4 of any/combo grouper/day/license limit
 -  **Mangrove Snapper:** 10" min., 5/day/license
 -  **Florida Pompano:** 11" at fork
 -  **Seatrout:** 15-20" slot, 4/day/license. 1 over 20" permitted per day/vessel
 -  **Snook:** 28" to 33" slot, 1/day. Permit + saltwater license required.
- *Please refer to the official regulations for your guidance at: <http://myfwc.com/media/4219696/QuickChart.pdf>



Sample Ballot Election Day is Nov. 28th



Below is a sample ballot for the upcoming local election. Please note that the polling location will be announced closer to the election and based on whether City Hall has reopened by election day. We will post the location in the 11-18 issue!

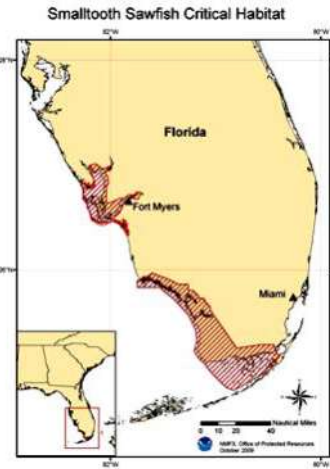
A		Collier County, Florida
11	INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTE, COMPLETELY FILL IN THE OVAL (●) NEXT TO YOUR CHOICE. USE A BLACK OR BLUE BALLPOINT PEN. IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE, DON'T HESITATE TO ASK FOR A NEW BALLOT. IF YOU ERASE OR MAKE OTHER MARKS, YOUR VOTE MAY NOT COUNT.	
21	INSTRUCCIONES PARA VOTAR, RELLENE COMPLETAMENTE EL ÓVALO (●) JUNTO A SU SELECCIÓN. USE UN BOLÍGRAFO DE TINTA NEGRA O AZUL. SI COMETE UN ERROR, POR FAVOR, PIDA OTRA BOLETA. SI BORRA ALGO O HACE OTRAS MARCAS, ES POSIBLE QUE NO SE CUENTE SU VOTO.	
	MAYOR (Vote for One)	
	ALCALDE (Vote por Uno)	
40	<input type="radio"/>	Howell Grimm Jr
41	<input type="radio"/>	Billy Snyder
42		
43	CITY COUNCIL (Vote for up to Three)	
	CONSEJAL DE LA CIUDAD (Vote por hasta Tres)	
	<input type="radio"/>	Wayne Krystopa
	<input type="radio"/>	Elaine H. Middelstaedt
	<input type="radio"/>	Johnnie Potter
	<input type="radio"/>	Tim Smith Sr
51	<input type="radio"/>	Vicky Wells
	<input type="radio"/>	Joseph "Joe" West

SAWFISH NEWS by Tonya Wiley, Havenworth Coastal Conservation What Does the Smalltooth Sawfish Critical Habitat Designation Mean? The 10,000 Islands are a Part of This Designation

Following a listing as “Endangered” under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the US population of smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*) in 2003, NOAA Fisheries (NMFS) designated critical habitat for the species in 2009. But what exactly does that mean and what does that do?

The primary reason for the decline of the smalltooth sawfish population in the United States was mortality following capture in various commercial and recreational fisheries. The secondary reason for the decline was habitat loss largely associated with coastal development and degradation. So the preservation of habitat is an important consideration for conserving the species.

For the purpose of the ESA, critical habitat is defined as the specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species at the time of listing, that contain physical or biological features (1) essential to conservation, and (2) which may require special management considerations or protection. The definition also includes a provision for specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species at the time of listing if the agency determines that the area itself is essential for conservation.



A critical habitat designation protects certain features, particular attributes, of an area that are necessary to ensure the species does not go extinct and can recover to the point that protections of the ESA are no longer necessary. For smalltooth sawfish the features determined to be essential to the conservation of the species are red mangroves and shallow, euryhaline habitats characterized by water depths between the Mean High Water line and 3 feet measured at Mean Lower Low Water. Euryhaline means the area can have a wide range of salt content, or salinity, due to tidal fluctuations and freshwater input as occurs in estuaries, bays, and lower reaches of rivers. These features were determined to be essential because they provide nursery habitat for small, young sawfish providing both shelter from predators and an abundant source of prey.

Two specific areas (units) located along the southwest coast of peninsular Florida were included in the critical habitat designation for smalltooth sawfish: the northern Charlotte Harbor Estuary Unit and the southern Ten Thousand Islands/ Everglades Unit.

So, now that we’ve described why sawfish critical habitat was designated and defined, let’s look at how this affects coastal residents. How is the designation applied and what does it mean for coastal development or recreational activities? And how does the designation conserve the species?

The designation of critical habitat provides a significant regulatory protection—the requirement that Federal agencies ensure, in consultation with NOAA Fisheries under section 7 of the ESA, that their actions are not likely to destroy or adversely modify critical habitat. The Federal Government, through its role in water management, flood control, regulation of resource extraction and other industries, Federal land management, and the funding, authorization, and implementation of a myriad other activities, may propose actions that are likely to affect critical habitat. The designation ensures that the Federal Government considers the effects of its actions on critical habitat and avoids or modifies those actions that are likely to destroy or adversely modify critical habitat.

Critical habitat can contribute to the conservation of endangered species in several ways. Designation under the ESA triggers a federal agency’s obligation to use their authorities to further the purposes of the Act which includes proactive conservation efforts. Designation also helps focus the conservation efforts of other partners, such as State and local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and individuals.

The critical habitat designation for smalltooth sawfish does not necessarily prevent a homeowner from building a dock or repairing a seawall, result in new slow motor zones, close an area to fishing, or limit access to areas. What the designation does do is add levels of review to ensure that any project which could alter those essential features is carefully considered before federal permits are authorized or funds are allocated. In the case of smalltooth sawfish, critical habitat was designated in 2009 and has not resulted in any closed areas or lost recreational opportunities. But it has led to the protection of shallow, mangrove-lined habitats which are important to the recovery of the smalltooth sawfish population.

For more information about the designation of critical habitat for smalltooth sawfish visit: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/19425120.2012.676606>

Map Courtesy: NMFS Office of Protected Resources



EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP



Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands

(642-1025): Tuesday thru Sunday,
Noon - 9 pm; Closed Monday

Camellia Street Grille (695-2003):

Closed for Repairs

City Seafood (695-4700):

8:00 am – 6:00 pm; daily
Supper upstairs is
opening after Thanksgiving

Glades Haven Deli (695-2091):

Sorry, Closed for Repairs
Please Check Back!

Havana Café (695-2214):

7 am to 3 pm daily

Island Café (695-0003):

6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily

Ivey House (695-3299):

6:30 – 9:30 am; daily

Joanie's Blue Crab Café (695-2682):

Due to hurricane damage
closed for repairs

Oyster House Restaurant (695-2073):

Sorry, Closed for Repairs
Please Check Back!

NEW! Right Choice Pizza (695-0102)

Local Delivery!

Closed for repairs.

Rod & Gun (695-2101):

Closed for repairs

Sweet Mayberry's Café is Closed

We have enjoyed serving you.

Tastes of the Everglades (695-0075)

Closed, reopening soon!

Triad Seafood & Café (695-2662):

8 am to 5 pm

MARKETS

Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535):

Open 9 am to 7 pm Daily

Grimm's Stone Crab (239-695-3222):

Open for Business!

Fresh Produce

Next to Post Office– Currently Closed

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

Chokoloskee Church of God

Sunday: 11 am Worship, Wed. 7pm Hour of Prayer

Copeland Baptist Church

Sunday: 10 am School, 11 am Worship

Everglades Community Church

9:30 am Sunday Worship

1st Baptist Church of Everglades City

Sunday School 9:45 am, Worship 11 am

Evening Services: Sun. & Wed. 6 pm

Holy Family Catholic Church

Closed Until December 3, 2017

St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples

Phone: 239-417-2084

San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl.

Phone: 239-394-5181

EVERGLADES CITY TIDES

LAT: 25.87° N LONG: 81.37°W

Check: www.weather.gov for conditions

11/4	Sat	2:33 AM	3.4	H
11/4	Sat	10:29 AM	-0.2	L
11/4	Sat	3:50 PM	3.1	H
11/4	Sat	10:38 PM	0.6	L
11/5	Sun	2:02 AM	3.5	H
11/5	Sun	10:15 AM	-0.3	L
11/5	Sun	3:40 PM	3	H
11/5	Sun	10:20 PM	0.7	L
11/6	Mon	2:34 AM	3.5	H
11/6	Mon	11:02 AM	-0.3	L
11/6	Mon	4:38 PM	2.9	H
11/6	Mon	11:04 PM	0.8	L
11/7	Tue	3:13 AM	3.4	H
11/7	Tue	11:52 AM	-0.3	L
11/7	Tue	5:40 PM	2.7	H
11/7	Tue	11:52 PM	0.9	L
11/8	Wed	4:01 AM	3.3	H
11/8	Wed	12:47 PM	-0.2	L
11/8	Wed	6:46 PM	2.6	H
11/9	Thu	12:51 AM	1	L
11/9	Thu	5:09 AM	3	H
11/9	Thu	1:48 PM	0	L
11/9	Thu	7:52 PM	2.6	H
11/10	Fri	2:07 AM	1	L
11/10	Fri	6:49 AM	2.8	H
11/10	Fri	2:56 PM	0.1	L
11/10	Fri	8:56 PM	2.6	H
11/11	Sat	3:32 AM	0.9	L
11/11	Sat	8:24 AM	2.6	H
11/11	Sat	4:04 PM	0.2	L
11/11	Sat	9:57 PM	2.6	H
11/12	Sun	4:48 AM	0.7	L
11/12	Sun	9:50 AM	2.6	H
11/12	Sun	5:07 PM	0.3	L
11/12	Sun	10:47 PM	2.7	H
11/13	Mon	5:49 AM	0.6	L
11/13	Mon	11:07 AM	2.6	H
11/13	Mon	6:02 PM	0.4	L
11/13	Mon	11:26 PM	2.8	H
11/14	Tue	6:41 AM	0.4	L
11/14	Tue	12:09 PM	2.7	H
11/14	Tue	6:52 PM	0.5	L
11/14	Tue	11:59 PM	2.9	H
11/15	Wed	7:27 AM	0.2	L
11/15	Wed	12:57 PM	2.7	H
11/15	Wed	7:36 PM	0.6	L
11/16	Thu	12:29 AM	3	H
11/16	Thu	8:10 AM	0.1	L
11/16	Thu	1:36 PM	2.7	H
11/16	Thu	8:18 PM	0.7	L
11/17	Fri	12:57 AM	3.1	H
11/17	Fri	8:49 AM	0	L
11/17	Fri	2:11 PM	2.7	H
11/17	Fri	8:56 PM	0.7	L
11/18	Sat	1:25 AM	3.1	H
11/18	Sat	9:27 AM	-0.1	L
11/18	Sat	2:46 PM	2.7	H
11/18	Sat	9:32 PM	0.8	L

Obituaries

Walter Erben Hoffman, Jr. "Wally" 95, of Winter Haven and Everglades City, passed away Monday Oct 16 at home surrounded by family and friends.



Born in NY, NY and growing up in NY, NJ and PA, he attended Wheaton College before enlisting in the US Army Air Corps. During WW II, he flew gliders and trained glider pilots in England, Belgium and the Ardennes. He also flew Dakotas to bring wounded back to England.

Continuing his aviation career, he flew for Pan American World Airways, retiring after 26 years with the rank of B-747 Captain. He also founded, developed and operated Birchwood Resort in the Pocono mountains of PA and founded and operated a commuter airline Pocono Air. In addition to his business activities, he was a Rotarian and on the board of directors of Kings College.

Wally is survived by his wife Gail Davenport and her children Grant and Annette Griffis, his daughter Tana Hoffman of Jackson WY, sister Ruth Field of Enterprise FL and was predeceased by his daughters Betty Jean Hoffman and Casey Hoffman Day, sisters Elizabeth Thompson, Lorraine Lowe and brother John Davis. He had many nieces, nephews, "greats" and countless friends who loved him. Services were held Friday, Oct 20th.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests either a donation to the building fund of New Horizon Church, 400 Orchid Drive, Haines City FL 33844 or to the Pocono Leadership Prayer Breakfast, c/o Jack Muehlhan, PO Box 999, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Marilyn J. Valkema, age 85, went home to be with her Lord on Saturday, October 14, 2017. Marilyn was born May 28, 1932 in Kalamazoo, the daughter of Clarence and Ethel (Havens) Noble. On February 21, 1964, she was united in marriage



to H. Roy Valkema. For many years she helped Roy run the family business Tri City & Commercial Waste Disposal. Marilyn was a longtime member of Westwood Christian Reformed Church, and Everglades Community Church in Florida. The most important part of Marilyn's life was her family.

Surviving are her husband Roy Valkema; children Mark (Susan) Nap, Carol (Randy) VanDyke, Henry (Colleen) Valkema; grandchildren Gregory (Maddison) Nap, Angela (Christopher) Reiter, Mellisa (Damien) Kakarian, Brad (Olivia) VanDyke, Henry Valkema, Heath Valkema, Anna Valkema; several great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents and a brother Robert Noble. Memorials in Marilyn's memory may be directed to Everglades Community Church or Rose Arbor. Please visit Marilyn's personalized guest book at www.langelands.com



Memorial Service Notice
Martin Weeks passed away Oct 27. A memorial service will be held at 1st Baptist Church in Everglades City November 4th at 2 pm.

CLASSIFIED ADS

RV HOOKUPS, Everglades City. Two Sites, 30 and 50 amps. Service, water, no sewage. Rent nightly or weekly. Rough boat ramp, 100 ft. dock. Private & secure. Contact Capt. Wayne of Fish Hunt Charters at 239-695-2445.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: River Wilderness Waterfront Villas. Part-time housekeeper position. Call or stop by the office located across from Win-Car. Office hours noon-6pm M-Sat. Addr: 210 Collier Ave. Call: 239-695-4499.

LOOKING FOR LOST ITEMS? Did Irma move something that you are still looking for? Post it in our lost & found area of the next edition of the Rapper!

EXPERIENCED CAREGIVER: Providing companionship, shopping & errands, light housekeeping, dog or cat sitting. Home checks & other tasks. References. Call Chris: 954-589-7220.

REDUCED! 2 stilt houses EC: NOW \$239,900 for 408 Buckner; NOW 339,900 for 309 S. Storter. GREAT shape! Call Steve 910-599-2698. Available dock.

FOR RENT: Studio apartment. Includes water, electricity and garbage pick up. \$700/mo annual lease. 1st, last, security to move in. Call 239-340-4770.

SCREENED PORCH REPAIR: Need repairs or rescreening? Call for a fast, free estimate: 814-777-5524.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR LEASE: Deep water commercial dock and lot on Barron River at 909 DuPont St. in Everglades City. Perfect for business, commercial fishing or restaurant with chickee bar and tourist gift shop attraction, \$1000 / month. Contact: Rancho T Properties LLC, (727) 480-1640.

FOR SALE: RV Lots with docks. Please call Bob Wells Real Estate @ 239-695-2660 for more information.

FOR SALE: New Forest Wolf Pup Toy Hauler. Ltd Pkg. 13.5 K A/C, 14" alum wheels, 20 BTU furnace, 6 gallon gas/elec DSI water heater, friction hinge door, high gloss seamless countertop, LED pancake lights, night shades, RV fridge, spare tire, stabilizer jacks, stereo with in and outside speakers, upgraded, hypoallergenic evergreen mattress, all hoses and propane tank. Brand new, never used. Brought from Indiana for someone in need of housing. Will sell "at cost", \$13,000. Can be seen in Everglades City. Call 812-327-7195.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Become an election worker. Qualifications: Be a registered voter in Collier County. Be able to read and write English. Complete the orientation and training. You must be available to work a 12-14 hour shift. Get started today! Complete an application at www.CollierVotes.com. Questions? Contact us at: ElectionWorker@colliergov.net. or (239) 252-VOTE (8683).

The MULLET RAPPER

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

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PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

We provide local news of interest to the extended communities of Everglades City, Chokoloskee, Plantation Island, Lee Cypress, Copeland, Jerome & Ochopee

We strive to present the facts accurately with no political or social bias.

The views expressed in signed articles are not necessarily those of the editors or publisher.

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November 22nd Deadline to Apply

Irma-Recovery Small Grants for Recreational Fishing Industry

The Maverick Boat Group, manufacturer of Cobia, Pathfinder, Maverick and Hewes boats, is working with the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida to distribute \$20,000 in small grants of up to \$2,000 each to Florida fishing guides and others in the recreational fishing industry who have sustained significant physical or revenue losses during Hurricane Irma. Principal focus is on the South Florida Gulf Coast recreational fishing community.

The Foundation is requesting applicants complete a simple form outlining the nature of their business or work in Florida's recreational fishing industry and the extent of their uninsured physical or revenue losses due to the hurricane. Applicants with physical damage are also encouraged to submit up to five pre- and post-Irma photographs documenting their damage.

Business and individuals can apply at www.wildlifeflorida.org and are encouraged to submit their applications by Wednesday, November 22nd. Decisions will be made and funds distributed on or before Friday, November 30th.

Our best wishes to everyone in the greater Everglades City area in your continued recovery from Hurricane Irma.

