



The MULLET RAPPER

TIDE TABLE &
RESTAURANTS
PAGE 11

What's Happening in the Everglades & 10,000 Islands
DECEMBER 16 - DECEMBER 29, 2017



ONLY
25¢

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P O Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume X • Issue #301

New Leadership Sworn in During December 5th Ceremony



December 5th marked the first official day for the leadership voted in by the residents of Everglades City in the November 28th election.

Above, City Clerk, Dottie Joiner (center), conducts the swearing in ceremony with the elected officials as shown left to right: Council Member Vicky Wells, Mayor Howie Grimm, (City Clerk Dottie Joiner), Elaine Middelstaedt, and Tim Smith, Sr. Mayor Howie Grimm was voted in overwhelmingly to continue as the permanent Mayor for the next two years after serving a two-and-a-half month term as Pro-Tem Mayor.

The group has vowed to get to work immediately as there are numerous issues the City is currently working on including hurricane damages to infrastructure and the on-going issues with the sewer and waste-water facility. Mayor Grimm also cited the roads as a key need spot.

This is no small task, and the citizens showed their concern by posting impressive voter turnout on election day.

We wish the newly elected, and re-elected, much success in tackling the "issues of the day" for our very special little town.

Congratulations to you all. We look forward to working with you in the coming months and years. ~The Mullet Rapper Team

Volunteers Take to the Streets to Pick Up Remaining Hurricane Debris The Community Cleanup Effort Will Be Repeated Again in January

The weather did not cooperate on Saturday, but volunteers still came out to help cleanup some of the mess still leftover from Hurricane Irma. The goal was to begin at 8 a.m., but the rain did not let up until noon. The group reconvened at City Hall at noon, enjoyed a fantastic lunch provided by *Island Café*, and then took to the streets with bags, shovels, rakes and motivation! Newly elected City Council Member, Tim Smith, was one of the volunteers along with residents, Outward Bound participants and even a visitor (Pat) from Fort Myers!

On Sunday the weather was sunny and bright, but a bit windy and quite chilly. However, the turnout was excellent for the 8 a.m. start. Newly elected Mayor Howie Grimm joined the group along with several residents and folks from Outward Bound. At noon, the group took some time to enjoy the lunch provided by Island Café and then back to the streets to work until the 4 p.m. wrap up.



By the end of the weekend, there is a noticeable difference along the streets, in the medians and in front of homes. A big effort was made to find and dispose of a lot of the broken glass and other debris. Some shards of glass of 3 or 4 inches were found stuck in the mud. Please keep in mind there will still be some glass and nails that could not be uncovered so still use caution when letting children and pets play in the medians.

Prizes were awarded each day that were donated from our local businesses and organizations; Grimm's Stone Crabs donated two 2-pound bags (with mustard sauce), Right Choice Supermarket donated a bottle of wine on each day, and the Lion's Club donated Walgreens and Walmart gift cards!

Final Bulk Hurricane Debris Pick Up On December 16 & 17

The last of the hurricane debris was to be put out by December 15th. On the 16th & 17th, the debris will be cleared, and by the 22nd, the streets will be swept. The County notified the city that they will be taking photos of the cleared areas to verify that it was completed. They also let the city know that any debris after the final pick ups, will be the responsibility of the homeowners.

Another community cleanup will be held on January 20th to eradicate any of the small debris leftover from the final pickups. We will have prizes and provide lunch, water and snacks for volunteers.

Special Thank You! Thank you to Connie Barker for assisting with organizing each day's effort. Connie and Cecil participated each day in pickup and collection of the debris. Thank you to Tim Brock for also helping pickup and dispose of the debris on both days. Thank you to Right Choice Supermarket and Grimm's Stone Crabs for donating prizes. Thank you to the Lion's Club for donating the gift cards. Thank you to Island Café for donating the delicious sandwiches given to the volunteers on both days!

Thanks to, Patty & Steve Huff, Aaron & Joyce Hatton, Pat from Ft. Myers, and the staff at Outward Bound for helping us out.

Photos: Top left: Kathy Brock & Connie Barker show a shard of glass found. Lower left, the group, including Mayor Grimm pose during the cleanup effort.








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

DECEMBER 17 – JANUARY 20, 2018

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
17 	18 new moon ● 	19 	20 Ladies Coffee at Jan Brock's 8 am 	21	22	23
24	25 Christmas 	26 Boxing Day	27 Ladies Coffee Havana Café, 8 am	28	29	<u>DEC 30</u> <u>RAPPER</u>
31	JANUARY 1 full moon ○ Happy New Year!	2	3 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 am	4	5	6
7	8 ESHP Meeting 8:30 am	9 City Council Mtg 7:00 pm	10 Ladies Coffee City Seafood, 8 am	11	12	<u>JAN 13</u> <u>RAPPER</u> Movie Night, Venue TBD Plant Sale 9am-1pm
14 Bike Ride, see p. 3 & 10	15	16 new moon ●	17 Ladies Coffee Havana Café, 8 am	18	19	20 Art-in-Glades Community Cleanup II

February 9-11: Seafood Festival

February 20-26: MSD Festival

THRIFT SHOP: Closed until further notice
 LIONS CLUB: 2nd Thursday of month, , 6 pm
 DR DEMARTINO: Marco Island office information on p.3.
 DR MARTIN: Call for appointment: 813-787-9738
 AA: Wed., 5:00 pm, temporary City Hall bldg.
 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 TBA
 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: 10 am to 5 pm
 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-Sat: 10 am to 3 pm-Truck in circle by City Hall
Chokoloskee (239) 695-4468 (no phone now)	Mon-Sat: 10 am to 3 pm– PO is reopened. Stamps, mail ,no weighing.
Ochopee (239) 695-2099	Mon-Fri: 8 am to 10 am, noon to 4 pm; Sat: 10 am to 11:30 am

SHERIFF: 239-252-9300 CITY HALL: 239-695-3781 PUBLIC LIBRARY: 239-695-2511 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



FRIENDS OF FAKAHATCHEE WELCOME BACK LUNCH December 16th

The Welcome Back lunch will be held at the Naples Botanical Garden on Saturday, December 16th, featuring speaker Nick Ewy. For information call 239-695-1023. Hope to see you there!



ART-IN-THE-GLADES December 16th, 10 am to 1 pm

Art-in-the-Glades was rescheduled to December 16th, under the pavilion in McLeod Park (near the majestic City Hall building) from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

There will be everything from jewelry to soaps to photos & paintings so have a fun day out and support local crafters in this laid-back little town. Among the items, local authors will sell and sign their books. When you get hungry there will be baked goods from local charities. And, bring the kiddies who can play on the swings while you shop.

FOOD BANK REOPENED!

Wednesdays 10 am to Noon

The Harry Chapin Food Bank is resuming weekly food distribution in November and December every Wednesday from 10 AM to noon 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 239-595-4203 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- JAN. 16TH 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 January 16th 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 239-986-7323.

Area Weather Observer Needed!

The National Weather Service is Looking For A New Official Weather Observer in Everglades City!

The National Weather Service Miami is seeking a new official weather observer in Everglades City. The Cooperative Observer Program has been around for 120 years with approximately 10,000 observers in the United States, and there has been an observer in Everglades City on and off since 1926.



Rainfall and temperature data collected is used to determine federal disaster declarations for federal aid. The data is also used by the insurance industry to settle claims, energy companies to determine energy costs, local officials to make water resource decisions, and education institutions to study climate. If you have a passion for weather and can dedicate a couple minutes each morning, we'd love to hear from you! Most of our observers across south Florida are retirees, farmers, or individuals that just love weather.

So what exactly would the observer need to do? We're looking for someone to take rainfall measurements each morning at 7am and report any amount into our website. The rain gauge would be provided and maintained by the National Weather Service. We just need a suitable spot in your yard to place the small rain gauge. We operate 365 days a year at the Weather Service so we would need the person to be able to report each morning, or be able to have a friend or family member report for them if you are going out of town or unable to report for any reason.

If this sounds like something you might be interested in, or if you have any further questions about what is expected, don't hesitate to contact Christopher Fisher at the National Weather Service by email at: christopher.fisher@noaa.gov.

Enjoy the Ride on January 14!

The Everglades monthly bike ride will be held on **Sunday, January 14, beginning at 9:00 am** at McLeod Park in Everglades City. This will be an "on-road" bike tour of historic Everglades City, Chokoloskee and Plantation Islands Participants will have the option of riding between 10 to 15 miles. There is no registration fee. This is a self-supported ride. Please remember to wear a helmet and bring water and snacks. We will have lunch together after the ride. Come and experience historic Everglades City!

For more information, call Patty at 239-719-0020 or visit online at <https://evergladesrogg.org>. See p. 10 for the complete winter schedule.

Christmas Day Church Services Schedule

1st Baptist Church of Everglades City
(416 School Dr., Evg. City, FL)
11 a.m. Worship

Copeland Baptist Church
(900 Church St, Copeland, FL)
Christmas Day, 10:00

Chokoloskee Church of God
(1236 Demere Ln, Chokoloskee, FL)
Christmas Day, 11 am

Evg. Community Church
The Annual Christmas & New Year's Services are *cancelled* this year due to church construction following Hurricane Irma


Holy Family Catholic Church
(200 Datura Ave., Evg., City, FL)
Sunday 12/24: 10:30 am Mass
Monday 12/25: 10:30 am Mass
Sunday 12/31: 10:30 am Mass
No Mass on Monday 1/1/18

Dear Readers, Most businesses have reopened. However, a few are still under repair. Please contact them directly to confirm hours of operation.

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13	P	R	E	M	O	N	I	T	I	O	N			
					14	V	I	G	I	L				
15	B	O	I	L	E	D			19	M	O	D		
22	O	R	N	O	T				23	T	E	R	R	A
24	B	E	T	A			25	P	A	S	S	B	Y	
				26	E	T	H	I	C					
28	A	F	G	H	A	N	I	S	T	A	N			
34	S	E	E	E	Y	E	T	O	E	Y	E			
35	H	E	R	D	S					36	B	E	E	T

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A Message From Principal James Ragusa

We enjoyed an amazing visit from students and professors from Florida Gulf Coast University on the afternoon of December 8th. The university's Department of Counseling reached out to us with the desire to donate athletic and physical education equipment as they were aware of the challenges our staff and students are facing in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. Their faculty and students worked with Coach Jill Whitcomb to create an afternoon of fun after a brief ceremony was held in the courtyard. Thanks to Professors Ann Tillman and Abbe Finn for their exceptional work to make this event occur!



Students were able to participate in a series of activities as well as enjoy an ice cream social sponsored by FGCU.



We shared lunch with our guests and they conducted a fun afternoon to assist our students. They also look to develop an ongoing relationship supporting our school community as the recovery process continues. There are many challenges faced by the families in our community yet it is uplifting to see the love and kindness that exists among our fellow residents of Southwest Florida.



We appreciate this partnership and look forward to additional opportunities to work with FGCU. If parents feel they need to share a concern about their child's feelings about the storm or living through the recovery, we encourage them to contact the school (239-377-9800) so

we can work together assisting the students through any issues they may be experiencing.

IT IS ALWAYS A GREAT DAY TO BE A GATOR!

~Principal Jim Ragusa

Photos: Top, Professor Dr. Alise Bartley. Center, students line up for ice cream treats brought in by FGCU. Bottom, athletic equipment donated by FGCU to Everglades City School.

Marco Island Sunrise Rotary Club Donates Dictionaries to the Entire 3rd Grade Class at Everglades City School!



Above, on December 1st, Craig Woodward (Marco resident, Everglades City homeowner and President of the Rotary Club) visited Everglades City to visit with Mrs. Baumler's third grade class and to present each student with their own dictionary to help with their studies! The Marco Island Sunrise Rotary donates books and dictionaries to the school each year and provides scholarships to graduating students.

In fact, Mrs. Baumler's daughter was a past recipient of a scholarship when she was attending Lely High School. The Sunrise Rotary awards scholarships to students in the Collier County area. Thank you Craig, for visiting with the students and to the Sunrise Rotary for their generous book donation to the school's students again this year.

School Schedule:

- December 21: Early dismissal
December 22-30: No School. Winter break
January 4: Students return to school

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My Little Slice of Paradise

By Kathy Brock

**Grow it and they will come...
2nd Annual Plant Sale Has Been Rescheduled!**

The Mullet Rapper will hold the second annual "plant" sale fundraiser on January 13th from 9 am to 1 pm in Everglades City. Last year we featured orchids, but Hurricane Irma did not like that plan, apparently...so this year we will have all types plants and seeds! Palms, herbs, flowers, vegetables and native plants for hummingbirds and butterflies will be our primary categories.

Of course, we may have some orchids, but not the diverse selection we were so fortunate to have last year. Here are some of the plant varieties that will be available for sale:

Milkweed: We have starts and seeds for both orange and yellow varieties. Milkweed is the host plant for monarch and queen butterflies.

Candlestick Cassia: This beautiful flowering shrub (yellow flowers) is the host plant for butterflies in the Sulphur family and some "whites".

Passiflora Edulis: This passion vine grows fast, produces beautiful flowers, and produces edible fruit. It is also the host for the gulf fritillary butterfly, zebra longwing and Julia butterfly.

Garlic Chives: These are super-easy to grow, great with eggs and potatoes and even survived the storm surge! Best of all, they will easily grow in a container on a porch for easy retrieval.

Super-sweet 100's: These small cherry-type tomatoes are very prolific and delicious! They can be planted in the ground or container grown.

Lemon Grass: This "grass" is a perfect compliment to chicken and used in many oriental dishes. Some claim that it is also a mosquito repelling plant. I prefer it in tea to lemons. Easy to grow is the key here.

Dill: If you eat fish, dill is a great herb to have. Sauté fish in butter with dill and you will know why. This easy herb will seed in spring and the seeds can be used in cooking too or for next year's crop.

Crown of Thorns: This year-round blooming plant is great on a patio where it gives you color without drying out too quickly in between watering. We should have multiple colors to choose from.

Bromeliads: Bromeliads add beauty to any landscape. We will have a couple of different varieties.

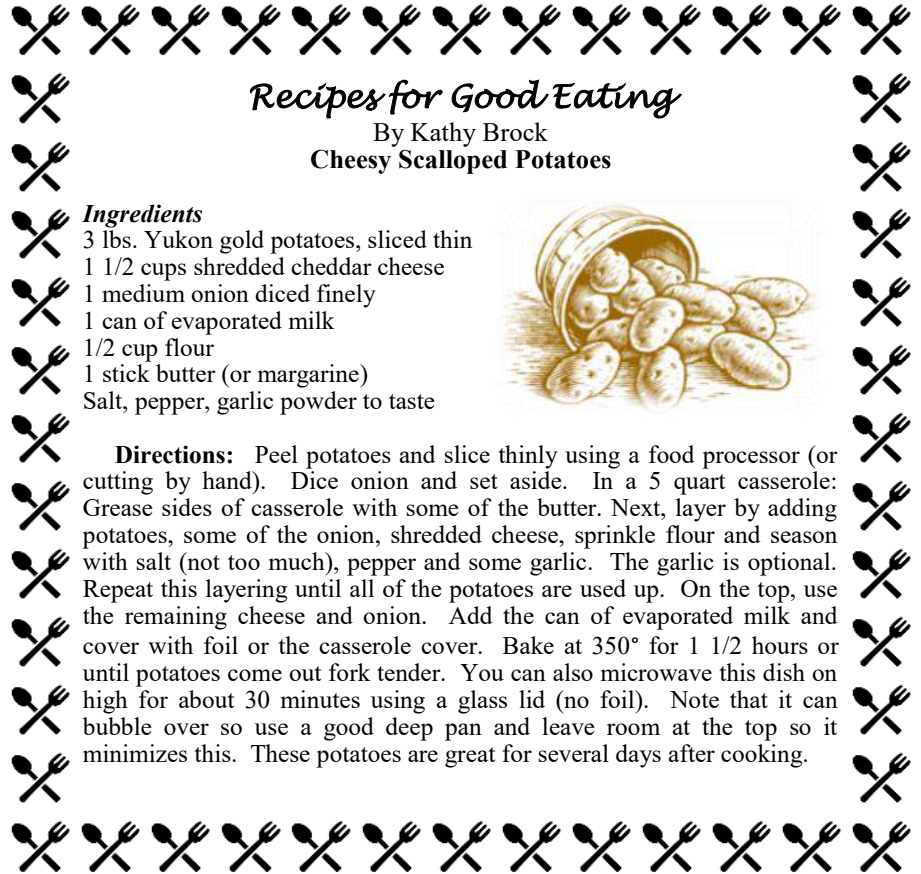
We will also have seeds from various types of herbs and veggies that can be planted next fall for your enjoyment next winter! All veggie seeds are organic and grown in our own neighborhood!

**We Are Accepting Crafts, Plant Donations & Pots
100% of All Sales Proceeds Will Be Given to the
Everglades City School Athletic Department**

If you have potted plants or empty plant pots you do not want anymore, I will gladly pick them up and sell them in the fundraiser. 100% of the proceeds is donated to the school, so even if it is small or not that spectacular, we can find a new home for it! We are also looking for local art and crafts to add to our fundraiser, so contact us if you have something to contribute. Contributions should be made by January 6th so that they can be prepped for the event.

If you would like to contribute to our fundraiser or help out on event day, please contact me (Kathy Brock) by email: mulletrapper@gmail.com or phone: 954-662-7003.

Thank you! We hope to see you on January 13th!



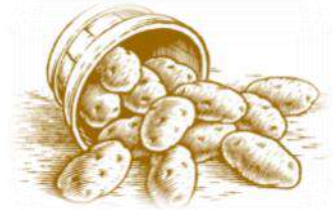
Recipes for Good Eating

By Kathy Brock

Cheesy Scalloped Potatoes

Ingredients

- 3 lbs. Yukon gold potatoes, sliced thin
- 1 1/2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 medium onion diced finely
- 1 can of evaporated milk
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 stick butter (or margarine)
- Salt, pepper, garlic powder to taste



Directions: Peel potatoes and slice thinly using a food processor (or cutting by hand). Dice onion and set aside. In a 5 quart casserole: Grease sides of casserole with some of the butter. Next, layer by adding potatoes, some of the onion, shredded cheese, sprinkle flour and season with salt (not too much), pepper and some garlic. The garlic is optional. Repeat this layering until all of the potatoes are used up. On the top, use the remaining cheese and onion. Add the can of evaporated milk and cover with foil or the casserole cover. Bake at 350° for 1 1/2 hours or until potatoes come out fork tender. You can also microwave this dish on high for about 30 minutes using a glass lid (no foil). Note that it can bubble over so use a good deep pan and leave room at the top so it minimizes this. These potatoes are great for several days after cooking.

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Taffy-like
- 6 Nautical entrance
- 11 You sift flour in it
- 12 Layer in atmosphere
- 13 Belief of more than a billion
- 14 Promotable chessmen
- 15 Czech runner --- Zátapek
- 17 Swiss mountain plant
- 21 TV trophy
- 25 Country whose belief is 13 across
- 27 Easterly projection of a church
- 28 Remove weapons
- 29 Copies
- 31 Aunt's spouse
- 34 Mournful verse
- 39 What not to build a dam on
- 40 A real sight _ _ / _ _ (2 wds)
- 41 Follows orders
- 42 In the lead

Down

- 1 Hit CBS forensic series
- 2 That man's
- 3 Fish which might shock you
- 4 Mountainous state
- 5 Likely to be an adherent of 13 Across
- 6 Squash blossom tribe
- 7 Acid-loving shrubs
- 8 Unspun fibers
- 9 Wolf Blitzer's channel
- 10 Guys
- 16 Maryland fort
- 17 Hungry --- bear
- 18 You get it when you sit

- 18 You get it when you sit
- 19 Sign of infection
- 20 In the best of all possible worlds
- 22 Bus. deg.
- 23 "Peace", which fell to earth in 2001
- 24 Sweet potato, in the South
- 26 --- the occasion
- 30 Dogs & cats
- 31 "The X-Files" vehicle
- 32 Arrest
- 33 Billiards stick
- 35 Wolf Man --- Chaney
- 36 Superlative ending
- 37 "Earth" prefix
- 38 Not nope

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	
11							12				
13							14				
				15	16						
17	18	19	20				21	22	23	24	
25							26				
27					28						
			29	30							
31	32	33					34	35	36	37	38
39							40				
41							42				



SAWFISH NEWS by Tonya Wiley of Havenworth Coastal Conservation

Their odd appearance and awesome size made them a prized catch for recreational fishermen. Their unique elongated, blade-like snouts, studded with teeth on both sides, were often kept as trophies. Net fishermen on the other hand considered them a nuisance because of the damage they would cause to their gear.

Two species of sawfish were once found in the US: the largetooth sawfish, *Pristis pristis*, and the smalltooth sawfish, *Pristis pectinata*. The largetooth sawfish was found throughout the Gulf of Mexico but was more common in western Gulf waters of Texas and Mexico. The smalltooth sawfish ranged from Texas to New York and was most plentiful in the eastern Gulf waters of Florida. Both sawfish species were considered "abundant" and "common" in the early 1900's. Numerous postcards, photographs, and newspaper articles from that era bear the scene of fishermen hauling in countless sawfish to boats, docks, and beaches across the country.

Unfortunately, the largetooth sawfish has not been seen in the United States since the last confirmed record in 1943. The smalltooth sawfish has fared better and still remains in US waters, though at greatly reduced numbers and geographic range. Today the smalltooth sawfish is found predominately in southwest Florida, notably including Everglades National Park (ENP). The vast expanse of natural habitat within ENP, and limited fishing pressure, likely served as a refuge for sawfish as the population was under constant pressure.



What happened to these grand fish? What caused them to vanish from much of our coastal waters? The decline was due to a combination of three primary factors: (1) overfishing, (2) low reproductive potential, and (3) habitat loss.

Fishing mortality contributed significantly to the decline of sawfish in the US. Many sawfish caught recreationally were landed and displayed for photographs. Others were killed as anglers removed their saws for trophies. Commercial fishermen killed sawfish to save their gear, not wanting to cut their valuable nets to remove captured sawfish. And sawfish were over-exploited for a variety of other reasons. Their meat was used for food, their skin for leather, and their liver oil used in lamps and as a source of vitamin A. Their fins are valued for shark fin soup, their rostral teeth used as artificial spurs in cock-fighting, their cartilage ground-up for traditional medicines, and their saws sold as curios and ceremonial weapons.

The reproductive strategy of sawfish doesn't help them withstand these threats. Sawfish bear live young, take many years to reach sexual maturity, and produce very few offspring per reproductive cycle. This doesn't allow sawfish to replenish the population very quickly. This was especially problematic historically as they were being removed far more quickly than they were able to reproduce. And it's why it is now crucial to keep fishing mortality low in order to recover this endangered species.

Born at about 2 feet in length, juvenile sawfish rely on very shallow, coastal and estuarine waters close to shore for safety from predators, such as sharks, during the first years of their life. However, these shallow coastal waters are the same areas that have been converted to waterfront development. Now much of the natural shoreline vegetation has been developed into seawalls, beaches, marinas, roads, canals, and docks. Therefore the natural vegetation and shallow habitats previously used by sawfish as important protective nursery areas have been greatly reduced in quantity and all but eliminated in some areas.

Due to the dramatic decline of the sawfish populations, The Ocean Conservancy petitioned National Marine Fisheries Service in 1999 to protect both species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The smalltooth sawfish was classified as Endangered in 2003, making it the first fully marine fish and first elasmobranch (sharks, skates, and rays) protected by the ESA. The largetooth sawfish was listed as Endangered in 2011.

One of the best methods of monitoring the population as it recovers is the use of public sawfish encounters. If you catch or see a sawfish take a quick photograph of it, estimate its size, note your location, and share the information with scientists. The details of your sightings or catches help to track recovery progress. You can share your information by calling 1-844-4-SAWFISH (1-844-472-9347) or emailing sawfish@myfwc.com. Information about historic catches or the location of any old sawfish saws is also appreciated.

Remember, due to their protected status it is illegal to target, harm, harass, or handle sawfish in any way. While it is technically illegal to catch a sawfish (except with a research permit or in a fishery where incidental take has been authorized) captures do occur while fishing for other species. Any sawfish caught while fishing must be released as quickly as possible. The number one rule to remember when handling and releasing a sawfish is to leave it in the water at all times. Do not lift it out of the water on to your boat or a pier, and do not drag it on shore.

Photo: Florida Archives, The Florida state record was caught by William Bloyd in Florida Bay in 1961, a 648 pound smalltooth sawfish measuring 15 feet 4 inches. .

Support Everglades City Historical Village Please Sign the Petition!

You can help save old historic buildings from the original and very first Collier County seat!

If you would like to rescue little houses damaged by Hurricane Irma to create an

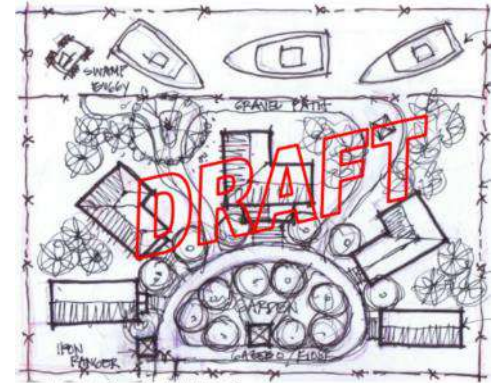


Historical Village that will serve as a tourist attraction as well as a focal point for local life, please

sign the petition that is being circulated by the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation (ESHP).

The ESHP is appealing to the Collier Board of County Commissioners for their Historical Village and hope for financial help but even a resolution endorsing their efforts would be a benefit when applying for grants.

The Society is collecting names on a petition which any tax-payer in Collier County can sign to show that he/she thinks the project is a good idea. The petition and explanatory flyer is on the ESHP website www.evergladeshistorical.org where you can download copies to sign, scan and email back to demonstrate your support. We encourage you to share the



sketch thanks to Dayna Fendrick, Urban Green

information with family and friends!

Please email the signed petition to ESHP@hotmail.com or postal mail them to: ESHP, P O Box 46, Everglades City, FL, 34139

For more information, contact Marya Repko at (239) 695-2905.

Photo captions: Top, the little yellow building above floated off its foundation and ended up on the ground nearby but there was no water or mucky mud inside! It has been donated to ESHP for the Historical Village. Bottom, preliminary sketch of the Village under consideration designed by Dayna Fendrick of Urban Green.



Living Gulf Coast

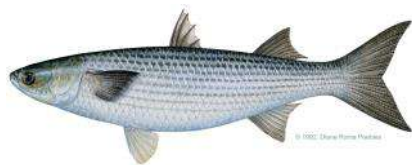
by Charles Sobczak

Striped Mullet (*Mugil cephalus*) Other names: jumping mullet, finger mullet / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=NE / Life span: to 16 years / Length: 4-30 in. (10-76 cm) / Weight: 1-3 lb (0.45-1.3 kg) / Spawns in the near shore waters / Found: SFP, CWFP, MZ,

BB, REDP, GB, OFFSR

The striped mullet once formed the backbone of the Southwest Florida fishing industry. Before the regulation changes that banned the use of gill nets in 1994 there were hundreds of mullet boats working the inshore and near-shore waters of the Gulf. Most of these boats were not interested in the mullet for their meat, but for their roe, which could fetch as much as one-hundred dollars a pound in Japanese fish markets.

Even after the net ban the demand for the roe continued and roe fisherman, using high-speed boats and mullet cast nets, would come into Florida from as far away as south Texas to harvest mullet roe for the Asian markets. There were so many mullet fisherman plying the waters in and around Sanibel and Captiva that the State of Florida stopped issuing permits to harvest mullet to out of state anglers in the early 2000s. On a good night's catch, a skilled mullet cast netter can make more than \$1,000 from the sale of the valuable roe. The fish itself was sold as bait or for use as fish meal.



Mullet eat zooplankton, bottom dwelling organisms and detritus. They consume vast amounts of marine algae and plant waste. They are the grazers of Southwest Florida and form the basis of the food

chain in large part created by the falling leaves and detritus of the red mangrove. While the smaller finger mullets (juveniles) are consumed by ladyfish, jacks and a host of other predators, the adult mullet are a favorite target of bottlenose dolphin, sharks, large snook, mackerel and cobia.

A fascinating aspect of the striped mullet is the fact that they jump. These leaping mullet are the fish most often seen in Ding Darling. While some people claim that they jump to escape predators, studies have indicated that this is not the case. Other theories involved the removal of parasites from the gills of jumping mullet but that too has not been verified. A more recent theory is that mullet jump to somehow obtain oxygen from the air. The trouble with this theory is that there does not appear to be any physiological mechanism in the fish that would allow it to take in this oxygen. The last theory is that mullet jump simply for the fun of it.

The truth is that no one has yet to be able to explain why mullet jump. They do jump however and generally clear the water by at least a foot, tending to jump in patterns of three consecutive leaps. I have had several striped mullet jump into my jon-boat, with one rather large one hitting me in the chest.

For food, mullet are best smoked as they have an earthy taste similar to freshwater suckers or carp. Being almost entirely herbivores they are nearly impossible to catch on hook and line. Some people claim you can catch them using frozen corn kernels but the thought of baiting a hook with corn seems silly. The best method of catching them is by throwing a special, wide meshed cast net aptly called "a mullet net." Regular baitfish can swim through it because its mesh is very large and the sinkers used along the perimeter of the net are heavy, causing the net to sink quickly.

Cut mullet is a favorite for tarpon fisherman in the spring and can also be used for shark, cobia and bottom fishing. Mullet fishing is still a viable commercial activity along the west coast of Florida, though not at the same level of harvest it was before the net ban of 1994.

This article is an excerpt from *Living Sanibel-A Nature Guide to Sanibel & Captiva Islands* by Charles Sobczak. The book is available at all the Island bookstores, Baileys, Jerry's and your favorite online sites.

Old Tamiami Trail Modifications Environmental Assessment Available for Review

The National Park Service (NPS), in cooperation with the Jacksonville District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), announces the release of the Old Tamiami Trail Modifications Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA is available for review and comment at the NPS website <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/OTT>.

This EA evaluates options for modifying an original 5.7-mile segment of Old Tamiami Trail located along the northern boundary of Everglades National Park (the park) as proposed in the USACE Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in 2014.

The purpose of the Old Tamiami Trail Modifications Project is to enhance sheet flow from Water Conservation Area (WCA) 3A into the park's Shark River Slough via the S-12C and S-12D water control structures, as envisioned in the CEPP. The purpose is also to enhance the natural resources of the park and WCA 3A by improving marsh connectivity and wetland functioning.

The EA evaluates two action alternatives, describes the environment that would be affected by the alternatives, and assesses the environmental consequences of implementing the alternatives.

Alternative 1 would remove 4.0 miles of the 5.7-mile roadway and modify the adjacent canal to connect it to the Everglades. A 1.7-mile segment of roadway would be retained, cleared of vegetation, and made available for visitor use and interpretation of the role of Old Tamiami Trail in South Florida's transportation history.

The NPS proposed action, **Alternative 2**, would remove 5.45 miles of the roadway and modify the adjacent canal to connect it to the Everglades. A 0.25-mile segment of roadway would be retained, cleared of vegetation, and made available for visitor use and interpretation of Old Tamiami Trail's role in South Florida's transportation history.

Under both alternatives, the retained segment would be adjacent to, and accessible from, the park's Shark Valley Entrance. The EA also evaluates the impacts of a no-action alternative, which would not alter the 5.7-mile segment of the Old Tamiami Trail.

Written comments will be accepted through January 13, 2018 and may be entered on the project website at the link above. Comments may also be mailed to the address below:

Everglades National Park

Attn: Agnes McLean, Old Tamiami Trail EA
950 N. Krome Avenue
Homestead, FL 33030

A limited number of compact disk (CD) and paper copies of the EA are available upon request by contacting Agnes McLean at agnes_mcLean@nps.gov.

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: Closed December 1, 2017 through February 28, 2018.
Reopening March 1, 2018

*Please refer to the official regulations for your guidance at: <http://myfwc.com/media/4219696/QuickChart.pdf>



**Angels of the Swamp
Our Very Own
Holly Levingston-Dudley**

Every now and then a situation reaches out and pulls you in. For some of us, this happens infrequently, but for Holly Levingston-Dudley this is an everyday occurrence.

Holly noticed a man walking with a dog on US41 near 29. She knew that he was not a familiar face and sensed that he may need some help. Holly stopped to talk to him to find out if he needed anything. During their chat, Holly learned that his name was Abe and his dog, Bayou.



Seems Abe has walked all the way here from California, finding Bayou along the way. Abe had very few belongings in a broken, very small cart. He said he was heading towards Key West.

When Holly left, she immediately sprang into action, first by posting Abe's situation on Facebook. She then set out to obtain some of the things he would need for his journey; dog food, and a few articles from Goodwill. Holly's friend Alicia donated a bicycle. Her other friend, Rebecca donated a new pull behind cart for them.

All of this effort for a man with his dog that she never met before that day. Holly's Random Act of Kindness is a wonderful way to start the Holiday Season of Giving. Thank you, Holly for being a great role model for us all.

Pictured above: Left, Bayou (dog), Abe, Holly and her daughter.



COME RIDE WITH US!

Join our group as we cycle through the beautiful Everglades and enjoy the nature and comradery of our fellow riders.

For more information, please email info@evergladesrogg.org or call Patty at: 239-695-2397. You can also review the schedule online at www.evergladesrogg.org/events.

January 14 – Everglades City / Chokoloskee (on-road). Meet at McLeod Park, Everglades City

February 11 – Loop Road in the Big Cypress & ENP (off-road). Meet at west end of Loop Road

March 11 – Ave Maria (on-road). Meet at McLeod Park, Everglades City

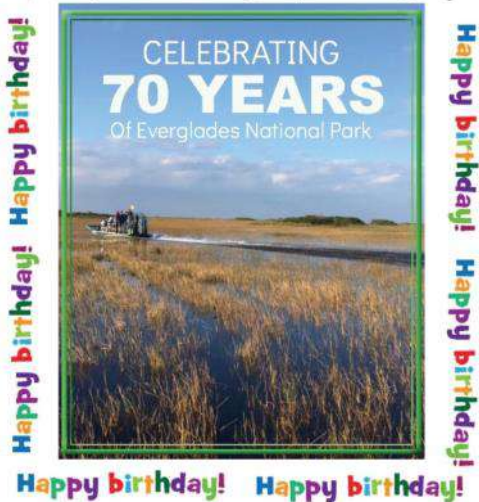
April 8 – Bear Island in the Big Cypress (off-road). Meet at Bear Island (end of Turner River Road)

Meet at McLeod Park, Everglades City

Meet at Bear Island (end of Turner River Road)



**Happy Birthday ENP!
Everglades National Park Celebrates
70th Anniversary**



The month of December, Everglades National Park celebrates its 70th anniversary.

On Wednesday, December 6, the park, Everglades Association and Superintendent Pedro Ramos celebrated the 70th birthday with cake, at the Ernest F. Coe Visitor Center in Everglades National Park in Homestead, FL.

At Everglades National Park's dedication, on December 6, 1947, President Harry S. Truman gave a moving depiction of this distinctive national treasure:

"Here are no lofty peaks seeking the sky, no mighty glaciers or rushing streams wearing away the uplifted land. Here is land, tranquil in its quiet beauty, serving not as the source of water, but as the last receiver of it. To its natural abundance we owe the spectacular plant and animal life that distinguishes this place from all others in our country."

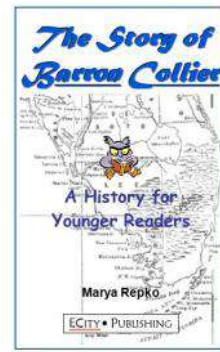
The celebration will continue on **Sunday, December 17**, at 2:00 pm, when the park and Artists in Residence in Everglades Inc. (AIRIE) invite all to enjoy an outdoor piano performance and painting demonstration by AIRIE Fellows. This public program, part of AIRIE's Sundays in the Park series, will be held on the Great Lawn at the Royal Palm Visitor Center within Everglades National Park.

December is always an especially beautiful time to enjoy the park – and the cake and concert stand to only make the experience sweeter.

More information on Everglades National Park can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/ever>.

Note: Boat Tours have resumed at the Everglades National Park Gulf Coast Center. The temporary ticket center is currently located at 900 S. Collier Avenue (across from ENP entrance). Tours will still leave from the ENP marina, but tickets must be purchased across the street prior to each tour. Call 1-866 -NAT-PARK for more information.

**Great New Book About Area Pioneer
Released in Time for Holidays!
The Story of Barron Collier**



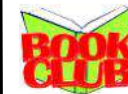
Read about the amazing man who bought over 1 million acres of South Florida land and had a county named after him.

Besides completing the Tamiami Trail across the swamp and helping develop Everglades City, he also owned a group of resort hotels which attracted the rich and famous to Useppa, Tampa, West Palm Beach, Boca Grande, Lakeland, Bradenton, Punta Gorda, Sarasota, and the most renowned one, the Rod & Gun Club. But that's not all -- he operated a telephone service, published newspapers, and provided transportation on ships and buses.

And, he was a big player during the Roaring Twenties in New York City where he hobnobbed with important people and reduced traffic accidents with his "Aunty J. Walker" campaign. He had grown up in Memphis and made his fortune in streetcar advertising which he used to promote charitable causes such as the Boy Scouts.

The new book *The Story of Barron Collier* by local historian Marya Repko summarizes it all for younger readers (and older ones who like a quick synopsis) just in time for holiday gift-giving. It has a plethora of historic photos and suggestions for Further Reading. To order online, see www.ecity-publishing.com or for more information, call the author at (239) 695-2905.

**Support our
Local Authors!**



Join us as our annual book club meets each month to discuss an interesting title. Below is our winter schedule. For more details, contact Patty at: 239-695-2397.

Jan. 18: Granny D's Walk Across America at Age 90 hostess to be announced

Feb. 15: The Orphan Train, hostess to be announced

Mar. 15: A Girl Named Tommie, author will attend and Elaine Middelstaedt will lead discussion

Apr. 19: The Tale of Edgar Sawtelle, Hostess Diann Lock, 498 Collier Ave., phone: 812-361-7402



EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP



Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands

(642-1025): Mon.– Wed. 5 -11 pm,
Thurs. to Sun noon - 11 pm;

Camellia Street Grille (695-2003):

We have reopened! Call to verify hours!

City Seafood (695-4700):

8:00 am – 6:00 pm; daily
Supper upstairs is
currently closed

Glades Haven Deli (695-2091):

Sorry, Closed for Repairs
Live bait available at marina.

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):

We Have Reopened!
Please call to verify hours!

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):

We are open! Call for hours

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):

8 am to 5 pm Mon—Sat, Closed Sunday

Fresh Produce

Chokoloskee, see p.5, E-City, Marathon Gas

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

Sunday Mass 10:30 am

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

12/16	Sat	12:32 AM	2.9	H
12/16	Sat	8:32 AM	-0.2	L
12/16	Sat	2:08 PM	2.3	H
12/16	Sat	8:33 PM	0.8	L
12/17	Sun	1:04 AM	2.9	H
12/17	Sun	9:10 AM	-0.2	L
12/17	Sun	2:38 PM	2.3	H
12/17	Sun	9:10 PM	0.8	L
12/18	Mon	1:34 AM	2.9	H
12/18	Mon	9:46 AM	-0.3	L
12/18	Mon	3:12 PM	2.3	H
12/18	Mon	9:45 PM	0.8	L
12/19	Tue	2:03 AM	2.9	H
12/19	Tue	10:22 AM	-0.3	L
12/19	Tue	3:49 PM	2.3	H
12/19	Tue	10:19 PM	0.8	L
12/20	Wed	2:32 AM	2.8	H
12/20	Wed	10:58 AM	-0.2	L
12/20	Wed	4:31 PM	2.3	H
12/20	Wed	10:52 PM	0.8	L
12/21	Thu	3:00 AM	2.8	H
12/21	Thu	11:34 AM	-0.2	L
12/21	Thu	5:15 PM	2.3	H
12/21	Thu	11:28 PM	0.8	L
12/22	Fri	3:33 AM	2.6	H
12/22	Fri	12:11 PM	-0.1	L
12/22	Fri	6:01 PM	2.3	H
12/23	Sat	12:11 AM	0.8	L
12/23	Sat	4:14 AM	2.5	H
12/23	Sat	12:51 PM	0	L
12/23	Sat	6:47 PM	2.3	H
12/24	Sun	1:06 AM	0.7	L
12/24	Sun	5:10 AM	2.3	H
12/24	Sun	1:35 PM	0.1	L
12/24	Sun	7:33 PM	2.4	H
12/25	Mon	2:17 AM	0.7	L
12/25	Mon	6:35 AM	2.1	H
12/25	Mon	2:26 PM	0.3	L
12/25	Mon	8:18 PM	2.4	H
12/26	Tue	3:33 AM	0.6	L
12/26	Tue	8:15 AM	1.9	H
12/26	Tue	3:26 PM	0.4	L
12/26	Tue	9:04 PM	2.5	H
12/27	Wed	4:40 AM	0.4	L
12/27	Wed	9:44 AM	1.9	H
12/27	Wed	4:28 PM	0.5	L
12/27	Wed	9:50 PM	2.6	H
12/28	Thu	5:37 AM	0.1	L
12/28	Thu	11:03 AM	2	H
12/28	Thu	5:27 PM	0.6	L
12/28	Thu	10:35 PM	2.7	H
12/29	Fri	6:30 AM	-0.1	L
12/29	Fri	12:09 PM	2.2	H
12/29	Fri	6:23 PM	0.6	L
12/29	Fri	11:20 PM	2.9	H
12/30	Sat	7:21 AM	-0.4	L
12/30	Sat	1:04 PM	2.3	H
12/30	Sat	7:17 PM	0.7	L

OBITUARY

Jerry Walter Hall
December 1945-November 2017



A Tribute to Jerry by Peggy Sue Hall

Jerry Walter Hall, resident of Everglades City, Florida, formerly of Springfield, Ohio, suffered cardiac arrest and went to be with The Lord Jesus Christ, whom he dearly loved, on November 2, 2017. He was 71 years old.

Jerry was born in Dayton, Ohio to Carl and Grace Hall on December 6, 1945. He was employed most of his working career at Navistar (International Harvester). He enjoyed life tremendously. He loved boating, fishing, bowling, dancing, and biking. He was the kindest man I knew, and everyone loved him. He was happy and active up to his dying moment.

Jerry will be sadly missed and lovingly remembered by his wife of 22 years, Peggy Sue, Step sons, Christopher Zerkle (Sue), and Curtis Zerkle, seven grandchildren, Cameron, Anna, Bethany, Charity, Deborah, Esther, and Caden. Special Cousins that were more like a brother and sister, Wayne Hieatt (Janet), Brother-in-law, Bill Drummond, Brother-in-law, Gary Drummond (Reba), Sister-in-law, Sherry Roberts (Ronnie), Sister-in-law Debbie Shelpman (Ned), and numerous other cousins and family members, and many precious friends.

Jerry was predeceased by his father Carl and mother Grace.

Memorials may be made in Jerry Hall's name, to Everglades Community Church, Irma Relief, PO Box 177, Everglades City, FL 34139.

Honor Your Lost Loved Ones

If you have lost a loved one and would like to have a memorial included in our publication, please email it to us at MulletRapper@gmail.com. Memorials, and memorial photos are always inserted in our publication free of charge. Email it to mulletrapper@gmail.com.

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.

BOAT FOR SALE: 2016 Carolina Skiff 24 DLX. 2016 Yamaha F115 motor. 2nd Bimini top, Garmin 740, front bench/cooler. Used 3 months. Perfect boat for the Everglades. Very stable and perfect for commercial use, boating, guiding or photography. Mint. Asking \$28,000. Call Sandee Harraden @239-250-4662.

FOR SALE OR LEASE: 1700 SQ FT commercial building in Everglades City. Repairs are underway. For more information, please call 239-253-3942 or 239-232-0443.

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.

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

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The MULLET RAPPER

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

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PRODUCTION

DEB Printing & Graphics, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

25¢ per issue, \$40 annual by US Post, \$10 email

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