

The MULLET RAPPER



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

Area Information ♦ Tides ♦ Events ♦ Attractions

25¢

JANUARY 11, 2020 - JANUARY 24, 2020

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

Volume XII • Issue # 355

Visitor Center Ribbon Cutting February 1, 11 am

The Everglades Area Visitor Center will open its doors on February 1 at 11 am! Expected to attend are area business owners, City Clerk Dottie Joiner, Mayor Howie Grimm, Jack Wert of the Collier CVB and other County officials.

Snacks and beverages will be served at the ceremony.

The new center is located in the Glades Building on 207 W. Broadway and will also serve as the Trail Town headquarters for the area.

The center will be open daily from 9 am to 4 pm to help provide information about attractions and amenities to tourists and visitors of the area.

All Everglades area businesses are encouraged to provide brochures, business cards, menus or other information for distribution at the center.

If you would be interested in volunteering to help staff the Center, or you have information on your business to display at the center, please contact Kathy Brock at 954-662-7003.

Everyone is Invited to Attend

What: Visitor Center Ribbon Cutting
Where: 207 West Broadway, Everglades City, FL 34139
When: February 1, 2020, 11: 00 am

Everglades Seafood Festival February 7, 8 & 9 Parker Oglesby to Sing on Friday!



Rides. Food. Arts, Crafts & More!

The much anticipated annual festival is almost here! The Everglades Seafood Festival and Fair will take place on Friday, February 7th through Sunday the 9th.



The traditional "Family Night" kicks off the festival on Friday with local Parker Oglesby performing. The rest of the weekend will be filled with music, food, art, crafts and much more (see the next edition of the Rapper for the full entertainment schedule).

If you are interested in a booth at the busy festival or in becoming a sponsor, please call us at 239-695-2277 or email us at evgbet2011@aol.com.

Directions: From I-75, take exit 80. Head south on SR29 into Everglades City (21 miles). From Hwy 41, turn at CR 29 into Everglades City. Parking is available in signed lots. No pets, coolers or bottles, please. Bring sunscreen and hats.

4th Annual E-City Plant Sale Benefiting EVG School January 18, 9 am to 12 pm

This year's selection of plants will provide easy-to-grow options that can survive and thrive in our salty and damp environment.

We will have palms, aloe vera, ornamentals, and numerous native species to choose from at **McLeod Park** from 9 am to noon.

This year we also have some vegetable and flowering plant seeds if starting from seed is your preference.

Last year we raised over \$1000 for the school's athletic department. This year we are pledging the funds to help with graduation regalia, trips and prom!

1st annual Everglades City Triathlon/Duathlon February 1, 8 am

♦ Paddle or Run ♦ Bike ♦ Run ♦

Paddle, Ride and Run or Run, Bike, Run your way through the Historic City of Everglades. Recently designated a Florida Trail Town your participation will benefit the youth of the Everglades.

The Tri includes a half mile paddle (Kayak or SUP), 10 Mile Bike and 3.1 Mile Run. The Duathlon includes a 1 Mile Run, 10 Mile Bike and 3.1 Mile Run. Categories include Open, Individual Age Group and Team Competitions. The race is chip timed by Gulf Coast Runners. All participants receive a limited edition race t-shirt and finisher medal.

The race is brought to you by the collaboration of Drug Free Collier, Everglades City, Gulf Coast Runners, Naples Velo, Naples Pathways and the Trek Store.

***Note - Youth Pricing Available at Checkout for Individual Race Events (Under 18)**

For pricing, info & signup:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/fl/>

[EvergladesCity/triathlonandduathlon](https://runsignup.com/Race/fl/EvergladesCity/triathlonandduathlon)

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JANUARY 12, 2020 — FEBRUARY 15, 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12	13	14	15 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 a	16 Garden p.3 Museum Talk, 2 pm, p.10 Book Club, p.6	17 Movie Night, p.10 Museum, 6 pm ECC Dinner, See p. 3	18 Pancake Fly-in See, p. 3 Plant Sale, See p. 3
19	20 MLK Day	21 Dental Bus, See p. 3	22 Ladies Coffee Nely's Corner, 8 a	23	24 New Moon Museum Recept, 6 pm, p. 10	Rapper 25 Art-in-Glades, See p. 3
26	27	28	29 Ladies Coffee City Seafood, 8 a	30	31	February 1 Visitor Center, 11 am, see p. 1
2	3 ESHP Mtg, 8:30 a	4 Council Mtg, 7:00	5 Ladies Coffee Havana Café, 8 a	6	7 Seafood Fest. p. 1	Rapper 8 Seafood Fest. p. 1
9 Full Moon Seafood Fest. p. 1	10	11	12 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 a	13	14 Brick Deadline P. 10 Movie Night, p.10	15 Bike Ride, See p. 8

February 14: Movie Night at the Museum, p. 10 February 17: President's Day February 20: Book Club, p. 6
 February 17-21: History & Heritage Festival February 20: Museum Talk, p. 10 February 22: Pancake Fly-In

AREA INFORMATION & NUMBERS:

AA: Wed., 5:00 pm, Evg. Comm. Church, Fellowship Hall
 CARNESTOWN Recycle & Trash: 2nd Sat. of month, 9a-12p, 12:30p-3:30
 DR DEMARTINO: Little Gator Clinic, See info on page 3.
 DR MARTIN: Call for appointment: 813-787-9738
 LIONS CLUB: 2nd Thursday of Month
 MUSEUM: Open Monday-Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm. 239-252-5026
 PANCAKE FLY-IN: Jan. 18, Feb 22, Mar 21, Apr 18
 REACH OUT: 3rd Thursday of month, 4 pm
 SKATING RINK: Now open! Fri. & Sat. 6 to 9 pm
 SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily 11 am to 4 pm, 239-695-2989
 THRIFT SHOP: Open Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 11 am to 3 pm, p.3.
 VETERANS SUPPORT: 2nd & 4th Wed. of month, noon—2 pm

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

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

The Local Area Code is 239

POST OFFICE INFORMATION:

Chokoloskee (239) 695-4468
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 Everglades City (239) 695-2174
 (M-F: 9:30 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 4:30 pm, closed Sat. & Sun.)
 Ochopee (239) 695-2099
 (M-F: 8 am to 10 am, noon to 4 pm; Sa: 10 am to 11:30 am)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

DINNER & MUSIC
January 11, 5 to 7:30 pm
McLeod Park

Hosted by the Everglades Lions Club...featuring Cecil's famous Low Country Boil. Dinner includes the main course, dessert & beverage for only \$12. Proceeds to go towards Phase III McLeod Park improvements. Everyone is invited.

EVERGLADES GARDEN CLUB
January 16, 10 am



The Everglades Garden Club will hold its first meeting on **January 16th** at 10 am at **Nely's Corner** in **The Everglades Fishing Company Store** in Everglades City. We will meet in the Café area.

4TH ANNUAL EC PLANT SALE
JANUARY 18th, 9 am to noon

Everyone is invited to come to find great herbs, veggies, butterfly plants, ornamentals, seeds and cuttings. All proceeds are donated to Everglades City School in the graduation fund.

We are accepting plants and pots. You can drop them off at 406 Storter Ave. N. or call 954 662-7003,

PANCAKE FLY-IN
January 18, 10 am to noon



Free Breakfast, Pancakes, Sausage & Beverage!

Fly-ins and walk-ups welcomed! Future dates: February 22, March 21, and April 18th. We hope to see you at the Everglades City Airpark!

ART-IN-THE-GLADES
January 25, 10 am to 1 pm

Come out to McLeod Park in historic Everglades City on January 25th, 2020!

There will be music, goodies for the kids (and adults) and plenty of local arts and crafts. It's a great time to find unique treasures and a great excuse to spend a few hours at the park! Call Marya at (239) 695-2905 for more info.

Booths are available (and free). Please be sure to have your area set up before 10 am!

For more upcoming events go to:
www.visitevergladescity.com/events
Tell us about your event &
we will post it to the website.

Pulled Pork Dinner
January 17, 5 to 7 pm
 Everyone is invited to enjoy a delicious pulled pork dinner with fixings at Everglades Community Church. Eat in or take home! Adults only \$12. Children's portion only \$6. We hope to see you there!

COMMUNITY SERVICES

FREE DENTAL, BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INFORMATION FOR ALL
Next Visit: January 21, 2020

The Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida's Health & Smiles Mobile Dental Bus will be in Everglades City on **January 21**, from 8 am to 4 pm, at the **Everglades Community Center (by Thrift Shop)** parking lot, providing free dental checks, blood pressure screenings and behavioral health information if requested. For more info or to schedule an appointment: call 239-202-7005.

THE FOOD BANK IS OPEN!
Wed. noon to 2pm

Everglades Community Pantry, a proud partner agency of the *Harry Chapin Food Bank*, is open every Wednesday from noon to 2 in Jinkins Fellowship Hall at Everglades Community Church. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

DOCTOR'S CLINIC



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

NATURAL MEDICINE



Dr. John Martin can see patients in Everglades City on Thursdays. Appts: from 10 am to 6 pm. Call to confirm: 813-787-9738.

CEDR Hurricane Disaster Recovery Aid

Communities of Everglades Disaster Recovery works in conjunction with disaster case managers from several agencies and have a team set up in Everglades City Hall (in the old council room). They will have advocates there from **10 am to 3 pm** on Mondays to assist people still in need of help. Stop in the office or you can call Elaine at 239-695-2695 for more information.

E-CITY THRIFT SHOP



Open Tues., Thurs. & Sat. 11am -3pm
 The Everglades City Thrift Store is open Tuesday & Saturday from **11 am to 3 pm**. New items come in every day, so stop in to find the perfect treasure! The thrift store accepts donations!

Taxing Things
 by Mike "the Tax Guy" Klein

AVOID A TAX TIME SURPRISE



Taxpayers who paid too little tax during 2019 can still avoid a tax-time surprise by making a quarterly estimated tax payment now, directly to the Internal Revenue Service. **The deadline**

for making a payment for the fourth quarter of 2019 is Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2020.

Income taxes are pay-as-you-go. This means that by law, taxpayers are required to pay most of their tax during the year as income is received. There are two ways to do this:

Withholding from paychecks, pension payments, Social Security benefits or certain other government payments. This is how most people pay most of their tax.

Making quarterly estimated tax payments throughout the year. Self-employed people and investors, among others, often pay tax this way.

Either method can help avoid a surprise tax bill at tax time and the accompanying penalty that often applies. If a taxpayer failed to make required quarterly estimated tax payments earlier in the year, making a payment to cover these missed payments, as soon as possible, will usually lessen and may even eliminate any possible penalty.

This is especially important for anyone who owed taxes when they filed their 2018 return. Taxpayers in this situation may include those who itemized in the past but will now claim the increased standard deduction, as well as two wage-earner households, employees with non-wage sources of income and those with complex tax situations.

Various financial transactions can often have an unexpected tax impact. Examples include year-end and holiday bonuses, stock dividends, capital gain distributions from mutual funds and stocks, bonds, virtual currency, real estate or other property sold at a profit.

Making a quarterly estimated tax payment now can help.

If you need more information and tax assistance, email Mike Klein at nfn19842@naples.net.

For more information about tax deadlines, or with other questions regarding rules and regulations you may find it online at the IRS website's virtual assistant portal:


<https://www.irs.gov/help/ita>

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Living Gulf Coast by Charles Sobczak

Spotted Seatrout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*) Other names: seatrout, speckled seatrout, weakfish / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=NE / Life span: to 18 years / Length: 10-26 in. (25-66 cm) / Weight: 1-4 lb (.45-1.80 kg); Florida record: 17 lb 6 oz, IGFA: 17 lb 7 oz / Spawns: in the inshore waters / Found: All the inshore and estuarine waters of Southwest Florida.

Perhaps the most frequently caught sport fish in SWFL, the spotted seatrout is ubiquitous once you start drifting over three- to five-foot-deep grass flats. It is easiest to catch using a popping cork with light leader and a small #2 or #3 hook and a fresh, live shrimp. Once you discover a school, you can catch 50 of these fish in an afternoon.



The seatrout is not a strong fighting fish, but the larger specimens—those longer than 20 inches—will put up quite a fight. It is a popular eating fish, although the flesh is fairly soft and does not freeze well.

The seatrout lives out its entire life in the estuaries. It feeds on shrimp, crabs, small fish, sea worms, and other crustaceans. It is eaten by snook, redfish, cobia, sharks, bottlenose dolphins, and grouper, as well as ospreys, herons, and cormorants. It can often be seen swimming along the beaches in the summer months and is easily recognized by its trout-like colors and numerous black dots across the back half of its body. The seatrout is a close relative of both redfish and black drum, although it does not really look like either of these other species.

Gulf Flounder (*Paralichthys albigutta*) Other names: flounder, flatfish / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=NE / Life span: to 5 years / Length: 12-27 in. (30-71 cm) / Weight: 1-3 lb (.45-1.4 kg); Florida record: 20 lb 9 oz, IGFA: 20 lb 9 oz / Spawns: in the offshore waters / Found: All the inshore and offshore waters of Southwest Florida.

The gulf flounder, or flounder as it is more often called, is not a common catch on Sanibel or Captiva. It prefers the cooler waters of the northern gulf. The world record was taken in Nassau Sound in northeast Florida, in 1975. When caught locally, the flounder seldom exceeds 16 inches in length and tends to weigh little more than a pound.

The flounder can also be found offshore in depths of up to 400 feet. It is in the deeper water where anglers find larger specimens. This fish is unusual looking in that both eyes are on one side of its body. Perhaps even more unusual, when it is born the flounder resembles any other small fish larva, but shortly after it matures enough to take up its life along the bottom, one eye migrates to the upper side of the body, and the bottom side, which rests on the sand, is left sightless.

A delicious eating fish, the flounder is more often than not an accidental fish caught when fishing for sheepshead, seatrout, and other species. It is a bottom dweller and is most often hooked with minnows or shrimp sitting on the bottom. The flounder will sometimes take jigs and on very rare occasions strikes a slowly retrieved lure. It is preyed upon by stingrays, nurse sharks, snook, and grouper. It ranges from New England to the upper Caribbean.

Illustrations by Diane Peebles



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MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Kamela Patton

Welcome back and happy 2020! I hope everyone enjoyed the Winter Break and had a chance to make lasting memories with family to end the decade.

We have so many things to look forward to as we kick off the New Year. On January 11th, the 2020 Chamber of Commerce Children's Business Fair will be taking place. I encourage everyone to make time to attend. It is an amazing opportunity for our young entrepreneurs, ages 6-17, to showcase and sell their product or service to the public. Come out and support our #CCPSFamily student entrepreneurs.

As part of Sharing the Commitment, our 2nd ESE Expo this school year is taking place on January 22nd, at Gulf Coast High School. This is a free event providing parents a chance to connect with professionals and discover the many local resources available for preschool through high school transition-aged students with disabilities. A list of local providers and organizations that will be in attendance can be found on the School website.

We will end the month of January with our Virtual Symposium on Preparing Your Child to be Life Ready! Set for January 29th at 6:00pm, this event will feature a panel of experts sharing empowerment strategies, life-ready skills, and work-readiness skills, among several other topics. The panel will be live at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Administrative Center, but satellite video-conference locations will be available. Stay tuned for more information coming very soon.

A reminder that our annual community STEAM event has taken on a new name! The 2019-2020 STEAM Expo will be held on Saturday, February 1st, at Golden Gate High School. We are excited to welcome back Kate the Chemist, who will share another out-of-this-world demonstration! Take a walk through the STEAM Village and participate in many interactive, hands-on STEAM activities. Plus, visit our new artist workshop area and create art in a group activity.

Together, let's make 2020 the best year yet!

~ Dr. Kamela Patton

Important School Dates

- January 13: Report Cards
- January 20: No School, MLK Day
- February 17: No School, Presidents Day
- February 26: Early Dismissal

YOUR INVOLVEMENT WILL HELP OUR COMMUNITY GET NEEDED SERVICES

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – GET HEALTHY Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH)



The PACE-EH framework is a community-based assessment tool and process that identifies factors that contribute to health, social disparities, and inequities, and outlines a holistic approach to improving the health of communities.

Over the past year, the Everglades City volunteer committee has been meeting every month and has identified a few sectors in need of improvement: transportation, access to medical care, promoting healthy diets, organized recreational activities, and community engagement.

Transportation

The goal is to establish regularly scheduled bus service to enhance shopping, medical appointments, prescription fulfillment, day trips to county beaches, and convenience for those with limited transportation means.

County transportation officials are collecting data for a potential fixed bus route and evaluating potential ridership from Port of the Islands, Goodland, Copeland, Chokoloskee, Big Cypress, and other areas along the route.

Healthy Foods

A second area of concern is a project to promote awareness of healthy foods by setting up a local gardening program and implementation of nutrition education sessions at the local food pantry. A brief local survey indicated strong support of the idea of garden boxes in various locations throughout the area.

Education and Information

Everglades City School Principal Cherie Allison continues to express her interest in the work of the committee and is willing to lend her support to promoting school involvement and after school programs.

Health Care

In addition to the monthly county Dental Bus visit, an effort is ongoing to establish scheduled health care and service. Thomas Lockyear is in contact with the Nurse Practitioner Council of Collier County, to explore options for locations within the city.

The committee is asking for volunteers to aid in pursuing these objectives. If you care to join in, please contact Patty Huff, volunteer coordinator, for information and scheduling at Email: snookcity@gmail.com or phone: 239-719-0020.

Mullet Rapper Donations to Everglades City School

~\$6300 to Date and Counting*...

Thank you to everyone who buys the Mullet Rapper every two weeks. Remember, the Mullet Rapper donates 100% of the proceeds from the sale of the print edition of the paper to Everglades City School to help students in need.

When you see the coin receptacle, please put your quarter (or more) into the slot! Remember, When You Buy the Print Edition of the Mullet Rapper, It Helps Everglades City School Students!

*From Nov. 2017 to present


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EVERGLADES BOOK CLUB

Everyone is welcome to join in on the conversation, coffee and comradery.
This year's titles are excellent so we anticipate a lively discussion at each meeting. We hope to see you there!
All meetings start at 9:30 am. If you have any questions, please email Diann Lock at: DLock333@yahoo.com.


Book Club Schedule

January 16th
My Stroke of Insight by Jill Bolte Taylor
hosted by Elaine Middelstaedt

February 20th
The Swamp by Michael Gunwald
hosted by Geri Freiburger

March 19th
Educated by Tara Westover
hosted by Linda Williams

April 16th
Beneath a Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan
hosted by Diann Lock




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Solution to December 28, 2019 Puzzle

1	A	G	E	D	5	W	A	S	P	S				
10	S	U	R	E	11	A	B	O	R	T				
12	S	I	R	E	13	T	E	N	O	R	14	S		
15	A	D	A	P	T	E	D	17	V	I	A			
18	M	E	T	E	O	R	19	D	I	P	S			
			20	I	S	T	H	21	M	U	S			
22	23	T	A	C	T	24	E	A	S	I	N	G	25	26
27	A	L	A	28	C	A	R	T	O	O	N			
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		34	T	Y	L	E	R	35	F	L	E	E		



My Little Slice of Paradise

by Kathy Brock

The news out of Australia is so dire I cannot bear to even read about it. Today, a report said that over one billion animals have perished in the fires that are raging throughout the region. One billion.

I cannot even fathom how devastated Australians feel right now. Trying to wrap my head around it, I have tried to compare it to the flooding we had here, or the fires in California in 2019, and although it was a devastating event for us and them, it pales in comparison.

I know I was deeply affected by seeing our beautiful little town so devastated, garbage piled up everywhere. California fires were raging gobbling up homes, and everything else in the path of the fire, as we watched on TV, seeing interviews of those who were barely able to get out in time to survive. It leaves me speechless.

Surviving these types of disasters leaves a lasting mark. It stays with you because you know if it happened once, it can happen again. Hopefully, not in our lifetime, but the way things are looking, it probably will.

There are numerous theories about why these types of disasters are occurring with such frequency but little debate that they are happening. Stronger storms. Fires. Floods and rising waters.

Perhaps it is a natural cycle where the earth warms and cools over time, and our lifespan is just too short to see the pattern for ourselves?

Perhaps it is not a natural cycle and we the people are ultimately responsible for creating the cycle by deforestation and pollution as chief contributors? Or maybe it is a combination of the two?

In my lifetime, I have seen rivers become polluted by people...and then cleaned up by people so the river can thrive again.

We have seen the osprey on the brink of disaster, almost pushed to extinction by the use of DDT that permeated our environment contaminating the fish the birds eat. The result was a paper-thin egg that crushed when the momma bird sat to brood the eggs, meaning no more baby birds.

These events were created by us. There is no debating that. Just because a notion may be inconvenient to accept as fact does not mean that it is not a fact.. At the time when DDT was being used, it was hailed as a way to improve crop yield with all the down-the-line benefits like lower food prices, and better looking fruits and veggies. We thought that way because we were basically told that was the way it is...by the chemical companies.

A similar story unfolded about RoundUp. We now see that the convenience of a weed and grass killer with little effort also happens to be a people killer as it is known to cause things like deadly pancreatic cancer.

Maybe the old adage "if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is" is something we should consider the next time another one of life's shortcuts is being peddled to the masses?

I am certainly not saying that the fires in Australia are man-made. But I am also not just chalking it up to nature-made. There is enough evidence for me at this point to know that humans have caused, are causing and will cause problems for the planet. What if we are both responsible? Couldn't it be that a natural cycle is exacerbated by our actions? And as such, shouldn't our leaders be turning over every leaf looking for ways we can reduce our impact on an already downward cycle? Or are they just making too much money on these phony solutions to care?

The Island Kitchen

Useful Kitchen Tips

By Kathy Brock

Keeping Snapware covers clean: If you use Snapware containers you know how difficult it can be to clean the covers when things like tomato sauce get into the seals. You can stop that by putting a layer of plastic wrap between the container and the top. It makes cleanup a snap and extends the life of the lid seals too!

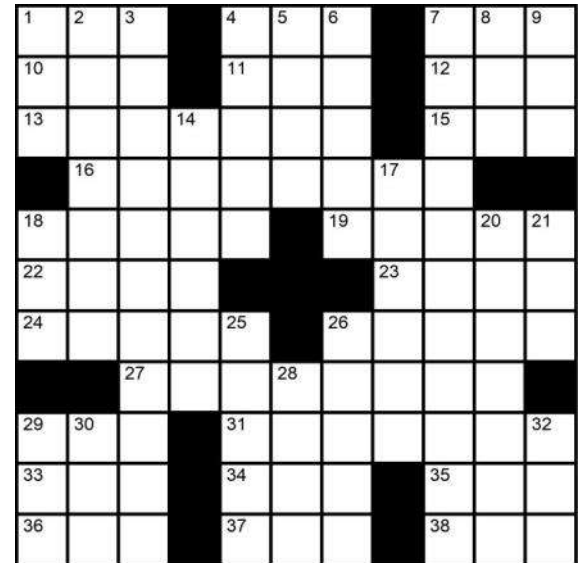
You know how plastic wrap pops up in the microwave when you cook with it and then suctions onto your food making a big mess? You can remedy this by putting several tiny holes in it with a toothpick before heating your food. It prevents the expansion and contraction of the plastic wrap and keeps it out of direct contact with your food.

Freezing leftovers: When making large portions, freeze some of the food right away instead of waiting days to determine there is more than needed. You will find that your leftovers taste much fresher and less like leftovers. This is especially true with things like soups, stews, and roasts with gravy. You will appreciate it the next time you don't feel like cooking!

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Rams league?
- 4 Cocktail necessity
- 7 Aunt, to Mom
- 10 Period of history
- 11 Sometimes precedes existent
- 12 You may do it with a plea
- 13 The everglades is one
- 15 Some
- 16 Flaunts
- 18 Opted
- 19 Milestone birthday
- 22 Animal fur
- 23 Wander aimlessly
- 24 Come together
- 26 1965 civil rights march site
- 27 He sought the Seven Cities of Gold
- 29 Snow runner
- 31 Showing strong feelings
- 33 Greetings
- 34 Elevator chamber
- 35 Zip
- 36 Orange tuber
- 37 Explosive
- 38 Take shape



1/11/20

Down

- 1 "So, what else is -- _ ?"
- 2 Rejuvenate
- 3 Vatican faith
- 4 Amazed
- 5 Cheats
- 6 "The --- the beginning"
- 7 Construction site framework
- 8 An atom, plus or minus an electron or two
- 9 One under cover
- 14 --- the world (Out of it)
- 17 Shoot
- 18 Apple core?
- 20 Flick made for the boob tube
- 21 Affirmative reply
- 25 Put up
- 26 Nasal grunt
- 28 Toe of the Arabian Peninsula
- 29 Bashful
- 30 Hyundai rival
- 32 Annex, maybe





Poetry Street
By Katherine S. Tullie

All around us we see the beauty of nature. Its beauty enriches our lives. It is something we want to leave to our children. It isn't infinite, however. We must be nature's custodians so our children can enjoy it as we have. That is the theme of my poem called "Our Nature."

Hear the sounds of nature all around
The birds are chirping
with melodic sounds

Doves are flying in the sky
They are soaring ever so high
Nature is such a special thing

See the hawks flying
on their expanded wings
The squirrels are on the fence
playing around

The wonders of nature
are everywhere to be found

With high hopes nature is here to stay
Our attention to nature
may save the day

We must not let nature fade away

We must be nature's custodian today
We must all do our part

to keep nature alive
Otherwise our land
will go on a downward dive

Let's hope and pray
for the people in charge
That they see the importance
of nature by and large

We must not let
the natural beauty slip away
It would make for a very sad day!



Look for
PoetryStreet on Twitter
or at PoetryStreet.com
Kathythepoet@gmail.com

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Katherine S. Tullie,
Poetry Street, Inc.

FREE GUIDED BIKE TOURS
Bike Rides Through the Everglades

Loop Road Bike Ride, February 15th
By Patty Huff



One of the all-time great bike rides in south Florida is located in three separate counties: Collier, Monroe and Miami-Dade.

Loop Road, located south of the Tamiami Trail, has an interesting history in itself but the beauty of the environment is one of its outstanding features. We hope to see lots of wildlife as we bicycle through this off-road rural area 17 miles east of Everglades City. Plan to meet and park at 9:00 a.m. at Monroe Station and we'll cycle a little over two miles to the Gator Hook Hiking Trail.

As we continue along this gravel lane, we'll pass by the southernmost point of the 1,400-mile long Florida National Scenic Trail. There are many culvert crossings in this area where we should find alligators to photograph. At 16.5 miles we will reach the paved section of Loop Road where we will turn around and travel back to Monroe Station, a total trip of 33 miles. This is a self-supported bike tour so bring spare tube, etc. What you'll need for the ride: off-road bicycle, lots of water, sunscreen, snacks, and please wear a helmet!

To sign up and receive more information, contact Patty at 239-719-0020 or email snookcity@gmail.com. Come join us for a fun filled day of cycling the Everglades!

For more detailed information about Loop Road, visit the National Park Service website: <https://www.nps.gov/bicy/planyourvisit/upload/bicy-loop-road-scenic-road-final-2.pdf>

Schedule of Rides

January 11.....Janes Scenic Drive
in the Fakahatchee

February 15.....Loop Road in
Big Cypress

March TBA.....Bear Island in the
Big Cypress

Please email
info@evergladesrogg.org
or call (239) 719-0020

Self-Help Center Provides a Resource to
Individuals Representing Themselves in Civil
and Family Court Matters

Since opening one month ago, the Self-Help Center at the Collier County Courthouse in Naples has been a hub of activity, providing resources to individuals who are acting on their own behalf in certain civil court cases, without attorney representation (known as pro se representation).

The Self-Help Center, which is the first of its kind in the county, is available to anyone regardless of their financial situation and is especially beneficial to those who cannot afford an attorney.

Operated by the Collier County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, the center provides approved forms for civil and family court matters involving:

- Small Claims
- Family Law
- Child Custody/Child Support
- Paternity
- Divorce
- Landlord/Tenant issues, (evictions)

Also provided at the center are instructions for completing the forms and computers for filing automated forms electronically. Staff at the center cannot provide legal advice so it is advisable to those who are unsure how to proceed to consult with an attorney.

Services for criminal and traffic law matters are not offered at the center.

The Self-Help Center is opened Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and is located at the Collier County Courthouse - Government Center, 3315 Tamiami Trail East, 3rd floor annex, Naples, Florida 34112.

To learn more, please view our informative video or contact Mike Sheffield, Director of Community Relations and Outreach at (239) 252-6879, or via email at Mike.Sheffield@CollierClerk.com.

2019 Florida Panther Statistics

There were fewer panther deaths reported in 2019 compared to 2018. In total, there were 27 panther remains collected by FWC in 2019. Of the 27, 14 were female and 13 were males.

In 2019 five litters were documented with a total of 6 male kittens and 5 female kittens.

In 2018, three litters were documented with a total of 9 kittens.

Although these numbers are positive, FWC has issued statements suggesting that the reduction in deaths reported may not be a positive sign. They fear that the reduction in deaths reported may actually be a sign that the overall population of Florida Panthers is decreasing with fewer going into harms way because there are fewer of the big cats.

One thing is certain, we know that the panther population is small and the breeding pool is less than ideal. Please use caution on the roads when traveling, especially at dawn and dusk when they are most active.

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**SAWFISH NEWS by Tonya Wiley, Havenworth Coastal Conservation
Cruising the Coastline: A Sawfish's Journey by guest author Jasmin Graham
A Dubious Detection?**

As part of an ongoing collaborative research project, scientists have been tracking the movements of smalltooth sawfish using passive acoustic telemetry. As the name may suggest, instead of actively following a sawfish around, data are collected using stationary receivers whenever the sawfish swims by. This technique allows for less labor-intensive and more long-term tracking, but the trade-off is that scientists don't know if a sawfish has passed a station until the receiver has been recovered and downloaded. This makes downloading receivers a highly anticipated event.

In October 2019, Tonya Wiley (Havenworth Coastal Conservation) and Dr. Jayne Gardiner (New College of Florida) spent several days in the field downloading their receivers in the greater Tampa Bay area for their projects studying sawfish and sharks, respectively. The grueling work was made worth it when a sawfish detection was recovered on one of the sawfish project receivers in lower Tampa Bay. The excitement was quickly dampened, however, by the fact that it was only a single detection. Scientists are typically wary of single detections as they could be erroneous and due to mechanical error in the receiver, not from the presence of a tagged animal. However, a detection of a sawfish in Tampa Bay is not outside the realm of possibilities. To determine whether this detection should be considered valid or erroneous, we had to examine what we know about sawfish in Tampa Bay as well as what we know about this tagged sawfish in particular.

Examining the Evidence

The questionable detection was attributed to a female sawfish that was tagged on April 11th, 2017 in the lower Florida Keys. When she was tagged, she was 364cm (11ft) in length, which means she was likely just starting to mature. She was first detected a few weeks later April 27th, 2017 and was still in the Keys, where she likely remained until May. She was last detected in the Keys on May 6th, 2017 and then appeared to move north where she was detected in the Caloosahatchee River on May 12th, 2017. She was detected with regularity in the Charlotte Harbor area for about a week. While there aren't many detections from her for the next few months, it appears she may have ventured further north as she was detected near Venice Beach on July 23rd, 2017 and then Tampa Bay on October 3rd, 2017. Another detection in the Charlotte Harbor area on October 10th, 2017 suggests she began moving south again in early October. By November, she had returned to the Keys and was detected somewhat regularly from November 7th, 2017 through March 28th, 2019 in the Keys, except for a two-day period July 12th-13th, 2018 where she ventured into the coastal waters of Everglades National Park.

Currently, there are no data available regarding her whereabouts from March 28th, 2019 until the detection in question in Tampa Bay, which occurred September 17th, 2019, although there could be some detections along the Gulf coast on receivers that haven't yet been downloaded. Due to the gap between detections, we had to look at previous behavior of this sawfish. In the fall of 2017, she was detected in Tampa Bay, so it is not unreasonable that she may have returned in fall of 2019. The fact that she didn't return to Tampa Bay in 2018 could be explained by sawfish biology. Researchers hypothesize that sawfish may reproduce biennially (only every other year), so an alternating pattern of movements between years based on whether the female is or isn't mating makes biological sense. Particularly since it was known at the time of capture in 2017 that she was at the cusp of maturity, and it is highly likely she would be mating the following year.

Exciting Results

Not only that, she isn't the only sawfish to spend time in Tampa Bay! In total, five sawfish have been detected in Tampa Bay including two other females. In addition, in the summer of 2019 a couple of sawfish were caught in permitted turtle relocater trawls during a dredging in the Tampa Bay ship channel. All in all, while single detections should be taken with a grain of salt, these data suggest that a fall visit to the Tampa Bay area is in-line with this individual's behavior and reasonable given what we know about sawfish. The receivers are still in the water listening for tagged sawfish which swim near them. Wiley plans to add more receivers in 2020 in hopes of getting a better understanding of the use of the Tampa Bay area by these endangered rays.

For more information about sawfish research, conservation, and management in the United States visit www.SawfishRecovery.org.



**Everglades Backcountry Experience
With
Captain Rodney Raffield**

Fishing this past month has been fairly productive with good numbers of Snook, Reds, and Trout.



I feel like fishing will improve even more as we get into the colder months of our winter season.

The deep holes both out front as well as the Backcountry are not as productive as they were last year at this time. I am catching most of my Snook casting the structure in the Backcountry with most fish running on the small side.



Reds are there with limits on most trips. We are catching these fish best on shrimp tipped jigs with Mr. Wiffelures and Zman paddle tails working best. We are also catching some Snapper on smaller jigs but most of these rascals are too small to keep.

One last thing, if you like Blue Crab they are plentiful in the Backcountry and will readily grab a chunk of almost anything.

So there it is my friends, lots of fun to be had out here in beautiful Everglades National Park so get out there and make a memory. ***Until next time, tight lines my friends!***

Fish With Captain Rodney Raffield
239-695-4626
captrodney@centurylink.net

Download Fishing Regulations at:
www.visitevergladescity.com/fishing
Get Tide Predictions for SWFL
for the Next Full Year at
www.visitevergladescity.com/tides



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LOCAL EXTRA

New Spotted Seatrout Rules Go Into Effect on February 1st

New rules for Spotted Seatrout will go into effect for the south region, which includes the 10,000 islands (South: Fred Howard Park Causeway in Pinellas County near the Pasco County line through Broward County), on February 1st.

The **bag limit** will now be **3 fish per harvester**. The **slot size** is also changing as follows: **More than 15" and less than 19" total length (may possess one over 19 inches per vessel included in bag limit)**.

Another new rule change will affect charters as follows: Zero captain and crew bag limit when on a for-hire trip (starting Feb. 1, 2020). Also note that areas north of Gordon Pass (near the county line) are catch and release only.

Areas south that include Everglades City and Chokoloskee are NOT a part of the catch and release only rules.

COMMERATIVE BRICKS ARE GREAT VALENTINES GIFTS!

The perfect symbol of your love or respect is a beautifully engraved, generations lasting brick in front of Everglades City Hall.

The brick walk is organized by the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation (ESHP), a local non-profit whose mission is to help preserve the rich culture and history of the Everglades area.

The winter campaign has started just in time for holiday gift-giving. ESHP will send you a gift card that you can give to the recipient of the brick. When the bricks are installed, you will be notified by email.

Order forms are available in City Hall or online where you can download a form to send with a check.

To download the form go to www.evergladeshistorical.org

Gov. DeSantis Prepares State for Census Tallahassee, Fla.: Governor Ron DeSantis announced the designation of Florida's 2020 Census Statewide Complete Count Committee. The United States Census will be conducted from March to June 2020 and Florida's Complete Count Committee will coordinate with the U.S. Census Bureau to ensure Floridians are accurately reflected in the federal count.

The Governor also announced his appointment of Lt. Governor Jeanette Nuñez as Chair of the Complete Count Committee, in addition to the appointments of a diverse group of committee members representing local governments, business and community stakeholders. Staffing and operations of the Complete Count Committee will be funded from existing state resources at no additional expense to Florida taxpayers.

ATTRACTION NEWS

Museum Exhibit,

"Americana" by Local Artist, Dick Jay

Winter is a great time to visit the beautiful Museum of the Everglades. Throughout January the work of local artist, Dick Jay will be on display.

Dick is a war veteran and longtime resident of the 10,000 islands. His art features scenes of everyday life experienced in the 10,000 islands.

The Museum is open daily from 9 am to 4 pm and is located at: 105 W. Broadway, Everglades City. www.colliermuseums.com

Visit: www.evergladesmuseum.org

FREE Ranger Led Programs at Big Cypress. Reserve Your Spot Now

Join us as we get out and explore the wonders of the Big Cypress Swamp! Protecting over 729,000 acres of this vast swamp, Big Cypress National Preserve contains a mixture of tropical and temperate plant communities that are home to a diversity of wildlife, including the elusive Florida panther.

Fakahatchee Strand Preserve Tours Get Rave Reviews, Earn Award

Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park has earned a 2019 Certificate of Excellence from TripAdvisor, the international travel website. The award recognizes the Park's "consistently great reviews from travelers."

The Ghost Rider Tram Tour is the best introduction to Florida's largest state park, located east of Naples. The 2 1/2 hour tour includes a walk down an old logging path to see air plants, a variety of ferns, and seasonally blooming orchids. Tours begin at 10 a.m. on Thursdays at \$37 per person.

The Fakahatchee Tram Tour and Swamp Walk combines a guided tram tour of the park's main road with a 90 minute swamp walk. This four hour adventure is offered Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. for \$60. For details of reservations, www.orchidswamp.org and click on "tours and adventures." Reservations are required!

Museum of the Everglades Events

(January & February 2020)

Thurs., Jan.16, 2 pm, FL Folk Art

Friday, January 17th 6pm – 8pm Mid-Month Movie Night (in the parking lot) featuring "Beneath the 12 Mile Reef" (1953).

Friday January 24th at 6pm - 8pm - Closing reception for "Everglades Americana – the Art of Dick Jay": meet the artist, wine & hors d'oeuvres

February 3rd – February 29th EXHIBIT – Black History 2020: locally-focused exhibits at all five Collier County Museums.

Friday, February 14th at 6pm – 8pm Mid-Month Movie Night featuring "Follow that Dream" (1962) starring Elvis Presley.

February 17th – February 21st – "Everglades History and Heritage Week" Five days of presentations, tours, activities, and explorations of our region's rich past

Monday, February 17th 10am – 2pm President's Day Picnic – family fun/field

Tuesday, February 18th 11am to 1pm – Annual Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Luncheon at Everglades Isle.

Wednesday, February 19th EVERGLADES EXPO 10am – 11am - Otter John's Everglades Wildlife Show 10am – 2pm - activities, exhibitions, stories.

Thursday, February 20th – Third Thursday 10am – 11am Karen Yvonne Hamilton – Lostman's Heritage: the True Story of an Everglades Pioneer Family

2pm – 3pm Voncell Whitaker – Growing up in Dupont

Friday, February 21th 10am – Free Historic Walking Tour

11am – Free Historic Bike Tour

1pm CRPT Cemetery Restoration and Preservation Training

Boat Trip to Daniels Cemetery/ Fakahatchee Island (must purchase tickets) **TENTATIVE**




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EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP

Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands

(642-1025): Closed Mon– Tue–Thurs, 5-11
Fri-Sun Noon - 11 pm

Camellia Street Grille (239-695-2003):

11:00 am – 9:00 pm, Mon to Sat

City Seafood (239-695-4700):

8:00 am – 10:00 am; breakfast
Noon-6pm Lunch & Dinner

Everglades Fishing Co. / Nely's Corner

Open Daily 6 am to 10 pm
203 Collier Avenue, (239-695-4222)

Havana Café (239-695-2214):

Open Daily 7 am to 4 pm
See our ad on page 10!

Hole in the Wall Pizza (239-695-4444)

M-Th 11am-3pm, Fri & Sat 11 am-9 pm

Island Café (239-695-0003):

6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily

Ivey House (239-695-3299) (Private)

7:00 am – 9:00 am; daily (for guests only)

Joanie's Crab Café (239-695-2682):

Open Daily 10:30 am to 5 pm, Closed Wed.

Rod & Gun (239-695-2101):

11:30 am - 8:00 pm; daily

Triad Seafood & Café (239-695-2662):

Open M-Sat, 10:30 to 6pm, Sun. 10:30-5

MARKETS

Right Choice Market (239-695-4535):

Open 7 days, 9 am to 7 pm

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

Open 8-5, Mon—Sat. Closed Sunday.

Fresh Produce

Right Choice Supermarket

See listing under "markets"

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

Chokoloskee Family Church

Sunday: 10 am Sch., 11 am Worship
Sun. 6 pm & Wed. 7 pm Bible Teaching

Copeland Baptist Church

Sunday: 10 am School, 11 am Worship

Everglades Community Church

11:00 am Sunday Worship, See ad p. 11

1st Baptist Church of Everglades City

9:45 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship
6 pm Sunday, 6 pm Wed. Bible Study

Holy Family Catholic Church

Mass at 10:30 am

St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples

Phone: 239-417-2084

San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl.

239-394-5181

BARRON RIVER TIDES

LAT: 25.87° N LONG: 81.37°W

More Tides On: www.visitevergladescity.com!

1/11/2020	Sat	1:43 AM	2.86	H
1/11/2020	Sat	10:13 AM	-0.66	L
1/11/2020	Sat	4:02 PM	2.11	H
1/11/2020	Sat	10:02 PM	0.61	L
1/12/2020	Sun	2:24 AM	2.9	H
1/12/2020	Sun	10:57 AM	-0.63	L
1/12/2020	Sun	4:44 PM	2.14	H
1/12/2020	Sun	10:50 PM	0.55	L
1/13/2020	Mon	3:12 AM	2.83	H
1/13/2020	Mon	11:41 AM	-0.53	L
1/13/2020	Mon	5:25 PM	2.17	H
1/13/2020	Mon	11:41 PM	0.48	L
1/14/2020	Tue	4:11 AM	2.67	H
1/14/2020	Tue	12:26 PM	-0.35	L
1/14/2020	Tue	6:06 PM	2.19	H
1/15/2020	Wed	12:36 AM	0.41	L
1/15/2020	Wed	5:21 AM	2.42	H
1/15/2020	Wed	1:14 PM	-0.13	L
1/15/2020	Wed	6:48 PM	2.22	H
1/16/2020	Thu	1:41 AM	0.32	L
1/16/2020	Thu	6:41 AM	2.13	H
1/16/2020	Thu	2:06 PM	0.12	L
1/16/2020	Thu	7:33 PM	2.25	H
1/17/2020	Fri	2:57 AM	0.21	L
1/17/2020	Fri	8:11 AM	1.88	H
1/17/2020	Fri	3:06 PM	0.35	L
1/17/2020	Fri	8:20 PM	2.3	H
1/18/2020	Sat	4:11 AM	0.06	L
1/18/2020	Sat	9:43 AM	1.71	H
1/18/2020	Sat	4:10 PM	0.53	L
1/18/2020	Sat	9:11 PM	2.35	H
1/19/2020	Sun	5:18 AM	-0.11	L
1/19/2020	Sun	11:36 AM	1.68	H
1/19/2020	Sun	5:14 PM	0.65	L
1/19/2020	Sun	10:06 PM	2.41	H
1/20/2020	Mon	6:19 AM	-0.26	L
1/20/2020	Mon	1:13 PM	1.78	H
1/20/2020	Mon	6:16 PM	0.7	L
1/20/2020	Mon	11:05 PM	2.48	H
1/21/2020	Tue	7:15 AM	-0.38	L
1/21/2020	Tue	2:04 PM	1.85	H
1/21/2020	Tue	7:13 PM	0.69	L
1/21/2020	Tue	11:59 PM	2.56	H
1/22/2020	Wed	8:04 AM	-0.46	L
1/22/2020	Wed	2:38 PM	1.89	H
1/22/2020	Wed	8:04 PM	0.66	L
1/23/2020	Thu	12:46 AM	2.62	H
1/23/2020	Thu	8:48 AM	-0.49	L
1/23/2020	Thu	3:02 PM	1.92	H
1/23/2020	Thu	8:48 PM	0.6	L
1/24/2020	Fri	1:27 AM	2.66	H
1/24/2020	Fri	9:29 AM	-0.49	L
1/24/2020	Fri	3:24 PM	1.95	H
1/24/2020	Fri	9:30 PM	0.55	L

Martha Hutcheson Leaving the Museum of the Everglades



After 16-plus years, Martha Hutcheson is leaving her job at the Museum of the Everglades to take a position with one of the airlines.

"There will be a noticeable void in the museum, Martha is deeply rooted in the community, her story telling was captivating to visitors from all over the world," said Jaye Brunner President of the Friends of the Museum of Everglades.

During Martha's tenure, she has greeted thousands of visitors with her warm and friendly smile.

The Museum of the Everglades is consistently ranked either first or second in visitation for Collier County museums and has one of the highest favorability scores throughout the Collier museum system.

During a luncheon in December (photo below), the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades honored Martha for her years of dedication to the museum and our community.



Martha, you will be missed at the museum but since you still live here...we will see you around town! Good luck on your new, exciting adventure.



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www.ever-community-church.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIED ADS

The MULLET RAPPER

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

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We provide local news of interest to the extended communities of Everglades City, Chokoloskee, Plantation Island,

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We strive to present the facts accurately

We encourage contrasting points of view

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

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LOCAL HANDYMAN SERVICES:
Very experienced, local, trustworthy and available for small or larger projects. Call me anytime and I will gladly stop by and give you a hand. Please call John at 931-675-1300.

VOUNTEERS NEEDED: The new area visitor center opening on February 1 is looking for volunteers. Responsibilities will include greeting visitors, and providing information about the area. If interested, call 954-662-7003.

FOR SALE: Fisherman's Cove #1 Park model with large enclosed addition. Property includes boat dock. Asking \$99,000. For info call Karen at Glades Realty (239) 695-4299.

FOR SALE TRUCK: White Dodge Ram 1500 Pickup. Single Cab, 6.5 foot bed, HEMI engine, cold AC, and runs great. ~84000 miles. Asking \$9000. Call Steve for more information at 239-695-2397.

SEASONAL RENTAL: Cozy 2/1 home on N. Buckner Ave. Available on November 1st. Call 508-677-5136.

FOR SALE: Large Outdoor Resorts waterfront lot #149 w/ aluminum boat lift. Overlooks Chok Bay, new Trex deck, steps for kayak launch, custom landscape + ORA amenities. Call Jennifer brown at 239-494-7270 or Dan at 954-579-2364.

FOR SALE: Two canal lots side by side in Chokoloskee. For more information call 561-622-6011.

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 at 239-695-2445.

FOR SALE: Canal front vacant lot on Lopez Ln, Chok. Quick & easy access to the Bay and Gulf w/no bridges! . Zoned for homes or mfg. homes. Asking \$99,000. Glades Realty 239-695-4299 www.GladesRealty.com.

RV PAD FOR RENT: In E-City RV park. Full hook-up, 30 amps, 25 x 35 pad, restroom, shower, laundry & rec. privileges, 55+. Wkly, Mthly. Call 269-214-8623 or 941-374-0277.

FOR SALE: Condo @ The Estuary. Corner unit, 2 BR 2 BA + den. Nicely furnished. Large double car garage. Boat ramp & pool onsite. Glades Realty, 239-695-4299, www.GladesRealty.com, \$274,000.

FOR RENT: Efficiency apartment in Everglades City. Monthly, or seasonal for 2 adults; kitchenette, W/D, includes all utilities and use of dock. No smoking or pets. Call 239-232-0459 or 239-253-3942.

FOR SALE: 2005 Action Craft Flats Master Boat with 115 HP Yamaha and trailer. 17' fiberglass hull. In exc condition w/trolling motor, marine radio, baitwell, & more. Just serviced. Runs great. Priced below bk value at \$14,500 OBO. Tom (406) 595-1453.



THE MULLET RAPPER
P.O. Box 134
Everglades City, FL 34139

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