

The MULLET RAPPER



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

Area Information ♦ Tides ♦ Events ♦ Attractions

25¢

JANUARY 25, 2020 - FEBRUARY 7, 2020

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

Volume XII • Issue # 356

Seafood Festival Parking

Parking will be available at the lot adjacent to Holy Family Catholic Church. Handicapped parking is available at Everglades Community Church for a donation. Parking is not permitted on the medians throughout the city.

Support Local Booths!

Don't forget to visit our local booths! Try the delicious cookies at Everglades Community Church's booth in front of the church.

Visit the Everglades Society for Historical Preservation's booth by the Museum!

Try the delicious fresh, homemade mullet dip, burgers and dogs at the Lions Club chuck wagon.

Pick up your collectible beer mug at one of the festival beer booths.

Try the famous and delicious chocolate key lime pie on a stick at the ReachOut booth!

Make sure you buy one of the great seafood festival T-shirts sold to raise money for the School's athletic department.

Enjoy Coca Cola! The proceeds from the sale of Coke helps raise money for Everglades City School and quenches your thirst. Enjoy the festival!

No Coolers, No Pets, and No Golf Carts inside the festival, Please!

Everglades Seafood Festival February 7, 8 & 9

**Our Very Own Parker Oglesby
Will Sing on Friday at 6:30 pm!**

Rides. Food. Arts, Crafts & More!

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!

This year there will be some new food vendors coming to the festival. Some popular food trucks have signed up to attend this year's fair, in addition to numerous, new craft vendors.

Of course, the time-tested favorites will also be on hand!

Here is Friday's Complete Schedule:

5:30 pm: The Lost Rodeo

6:30 pm: Parker Oglesby

7:30 pm: Let's Hang On Band

9:20 pm: Matt Chappell

Saturday, February 8th:

10:30-11:00 Opening Ceremony

11:00 am to 8:30 pm, music throughout day, closing at 8:30 pm.

Sunday, February 9th:

11:00-noon Opening Ceremony

Noon to 6:00 pm, music throughout the day, closing at 6:00 pm

The next edition of the Mullet Rapper will post the entire entertainment schedule for your convenience.

Please do not bring in any bottles or cans or personal coolers. Bicycles and golf carts are not allowed inside the festival.

Please do not bring pets or leave them in your vehicle when you are at the festival! Don't forget the sunscreen!

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.

The New Visitor Center is Ready to Open on February 1st by Kathy Brock



Since the welcome center closed on US41 / SR29, visitors to our area have been on their own to discover new places or figure out what we have going on in town.

That all changes when the Everglades Area Visitor Center opens in the Glades Building at 207 Broadway W., in Everglades City on February 1st.

For over a year, discussions about a new center have been ongoing. The "why" was obvious, but the "where" was the hang-up.

That all changed when Everglades City residents Bonnie & Craig Woodward bought the Glades Building in late 2019.

Shortly after they purchased the building, I approached them about possibly opening a visitor center in the old Glades Realty office...with a caveat. We needed help to do so.

The Woodward's graciously offered to provide the space rent free for the first year to get the center up and going.

Next the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation stepped up to operate the center, and many have volunteered to work at the center, but more help is needed. If you can spare an afternoon to greet visitors, please contact me at 954-662-7003.

Also, please join us at 11:00 am on February 1st for the formal ribbon cutting ceremony.

The Everglades Area Visitor Center is here to help area businesses connect with visitors, and to ensure the visitors to our area have an amazing experience.

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FEATURE: WHITE PELICANS, PAGE 7

JANUARY 26, 2020 — FEBRUARY 29, 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
January 26	27	28	29 Ladies Coffee City Seafood, 8 a	30	31	February 1 Triathlon, p. 8 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.3	15 Bike Ride, See p. 8
16	17 President's Day Heritage Fest See p. 3 & 10	18 Heritage Fest See p. 3 & 10	19 Ladies Coffee Nely's Café, 8 a Heritage Fest See p. 3 & 10	20 Book Club, p.6 Museum Talk, p.10 Heritage Fest See p. 3 & 10	21 Heritage Fest See p. 3 & 10	Rapper 22 Clyde Butcher Open House, 9a-5p, See p. 11 Pancake lyin, p.3
23 New Moon	24	25	26 Ladies Coffee City Seafood, 8 a	27	28	29 Art-in-Glades, See p. 3 ORA Bazaar, See p. 3

March 2: Snakes in Paradise Exhibit March 8: Spring Forward, clocks ahead March 13: Movie Night @ the Museum
 March 19: Museum Talk, 2 pm April 27: Museum Birthday, Trail Celebration

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
 (M-F: 9:30 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 4:30 pm, closed Sat. & Sun.)
 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

ART-IN-THE-GLADES

January 25 & Feb. 29, 10 am to 1 pm



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

There will be 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!

Movie Night @ the Museum February 14, 6 to 8 pm

Take your sweetie to the movies this valentines day and see the classic, "Follow that Dream" starring Elvis Presley. The movie will be shown at the Museum of the Everglades. Bring a seat, the movie is shown outdoors!



Everglades History & Heritage Week Museum of the Everglades

February 17-21 -FREE EVENT

Join us for five days of events, talks, demonstrations, and activities exploring the unique character and culture of our region and its inhabitants - from its storied past to the challenges of the future. For more information, contact the Museum at 239-252-5026.

Pancake Fly-in

February 22, 10 am to noon

Free Breakfast, Pancakes, Sausage & Beverage!

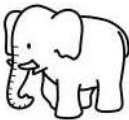
Fly-ins and walk-ups welcomed!

Future dates: March 21, and April 18th. We hope to see you at the EC Airpark!

Annual ORA Bazaar

February 29, Open at 9 am

The Annual ORA Bazaar, will be held on Chokoloskee Island, on Saturday, February 29th. The gates will open at 9:00. There will be fresh bakery and coffee. The bazaar will feature a White Elephant Sale, a "New 2 U Boutique" (featuring slightly used clothing, shoes, and jewelry). There will be local vendors and craft sales. Lunch and ice cream will be available starting at 11:00. Spaces are available for vendors and crafters to rent for \$10 each. A limited amount of spaces are available indoors, so please call early. For more information please phone Sherri Parsons at 239-695-2281.



February 1, 11:00 am
Everglades Area Visitor Center
Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting

Everyone is invited to attend!
207 Broadway W., Everglades City

COMMUNITY SERVICES

FREE DENTAL, BLOOD PRESSURE
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HEALTH INFORMATION FOR ALL

Next Visit: February 18, 2020

The Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida's Health & Smiles Mobile Dental Bus will be in Everglades City on February 18, 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 in Everglades City. 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.



E-CITY THRIFT SHOP

Open Tues., Thurs. & Sat. 11am -3pm

The Everglades City Thrift Store is open Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday from 11 am to 3 pm. Our shop is located in the community center next to the Fire Station in Everglades City.



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A Message From Fire Chief Kingman Schuldt

The Florida Forest Service and Greater Naples Fire Rescue District is encouraging residents to dispose of Christmas trees (and other brush) safely. Dry limbs and needles from discarded Christmas trees and other brush can be an ignition source for fire if not properly cleared away from homes and natural areas.



Trees discarded improperly can quickly turn into wildfire fuel. Make sure to follow the Florida Forest Service's fire safety tips to ensure your brush is disposed of safely.

Some residents may choose to burn their brush Christmas trees (where legally permitted). The Florida Forest Service urges the public to use extreme caution, providing the following tips for safe outdoor burning:

- Never burn on dry, windy days;
- Only burn if significant rainfall has occurred in the last three or four days;
- Select a burn location that is at least 25 feet from your home, 25 feet from natural areas, 50 feet from paved public roads and 150 feet from other occupied buildings;
- Remove all decorations from the tree before burning;
- Cut the brush into manageable sections;
- Clear the area around the brush down to bare soil to prevent the fire from spreading - free of leaf litter, pine straw and other flammable materials;
- Keep a water source and a shovel or suppression tool on-hand;
- Never leave a fire unattended;
- Completely extinguish a fire before leaving;
- Never burn a Christmas tree in a fireplace or wood stove;
- Immediately call 911 to report any fires.

According to Jim Karels, State Forester and Director of the Florida Forest Service, "With a few simple preventative steps, everyone can take a proactive role in wildfire safety." Greater Naples Fire rescue District and Florida Forest Service work hand-in-hand to keep our community #Firewise and safe from wildfires. Please help us to keep your community safe as we enter into the winter dry season.

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**Everglades National Park Announces Fee-Free Days
and No Entrance Fee Increase for 2020**



Homestead, Fla. – The National Park Service has designated five entrance fee-free days for 2020, the first one (was) on Jan. 20 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. On each of these significant days of celebration or commemoration, all national parks will waive recreation entrance fees. Everglades National Park is one of 110 National Park Service sites that charge an entrance fee.

The dates for 2020 are:

- **Saturday, April 18 – First Day of National Park Week**
- **Tuesday, August 25 – National Park Service Birthday**
- **Saturday, September 26 – National Public Lands Day**
- **Wednesday, November 11 – Veterans Day**

The entrance fee waiver for the fee-free days does not cover amenity or user fees for activities such as camping, transportation, and guided tours.

Additionally, the proposed entrance fee increase at Everglades National Park for 2020 will be delayed until 2021.

“Until we have a full complement of services in Flamingo, including overnight lodging, we will maintain our entrance fees at the 2019 level in keeping with the standardized fees for the National Park Service,” said Superintendent Pedro Ramos. “These entrance fees are vital to providing and maintaining the facilities and activities our visitors expect at a world-renowned national park.”

Eighty percent of the collected entrance fees remain in the park’s budget, while the other 20% support National Park Service units across the nation that do not charge fees, such as Biscayne National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve. Revenues are used to provide visitor amenities, with at least 55% of the fees used to fund deferred maintenance projects. Everglades National Park has some ambitious plans over the next few years to improve visitor facilities and services.

Since January 2019, visitors entering through the park’s maritime boundary by boat, paddle craft or guided tour are also required to have an appropriate entrance pass. Private vessels pay fees consistent with motor vehicles, including the ability to use the annual pass, which covers every passenger in a vehicle or vessel

Standard entrance passes are valid for a full week across all park locations. Free or discounted passes are available for senior citizens, current members of the U.S. military, families of fourth grade students, and disabled citizens.

Additionally, the annual \$80 America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass allows unlimited entrance to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including all national parks.

Entrance passes may be purchased at Everglades National Park’s main entrance in Homestead, Shark Valley entrance, Gulf Coast Visitor Center (Everglades City), and online. For more information: <https://www.nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/fees.htm>



First Baptist Church

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

All-ages Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Worship: 6:00 p.m.

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The 4th Annual Plant Sale Raises \$690 for Everglades City School



The 4th Annual Everglades City Plant Sale sponsored by the Mullet Rapper raised \$690 for Everglades City School on January 18th. 100% of the proceeds will be donated to the school, and are earmarked for graduation related activities for the students.

We would like to thank Bob & Terry Cull for donating plants for the sale again this year, and the many other individuals that dropped off plants, pots and cuttings at the Brock's house, where many of the plants are grown for the sale.

Although we fell short of our goal to eclipse the \$1000 mark the day was still a huge success.



Any plants that did not sell at this fundraiser will be lovingly cared for so that they can grow bigger for the next fundraising plant sale.

The most requested plants were herbs, vegetables and flowering plants.

We also sold some palms and seeds, and we had many requests for orchids.

We will work on increasing the orchid inventory for future sales and we will also work on increasing the inventory of the other most frequently requested items as well.

If you are in the area and have plants you no longer want or cuttings, seeds or starts that you do not need or want, contact us and we will take them off of your hands and grow them for a future fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who came to the sale and supported us.

Important School Dates

- February 17: No School, Presidents Day
- February 26: Early Dismissal
- Mar. 9-Mar 13: Spring Break, no school
- Mar. 16: No School

Information about the 2020 Census It is Crucial That We Have An Accurate Count



Collier County has grown quite a bit over the last ten years and the United States Census Bureau is making every effort to ensure that we accomplish a complete and accurate count of that growth in the upcoming 2020 Census.

In the Spring of 2020, residents will be asked to complete the Census survey. The 10 questions on this brief survey provide the data used to determine representation at both the federal and state level, to allocate resources for local schools, roads and more, and to allocate and mobilize resources responding to hurricanes and other emergencies. These are just a few examples illustrating the importance of this census survey. Because this count is taken only every 10 years, it is critical that we get a complete picture of our area's population.

This is the 24th decennial census. The first Census was completed in 1790 as mandated by the U.S. Constitution and every ten years since, the Census has been completed. As you can imagine, the method of collecting this information has changed over the years. In 2020, new technology allowing us to respond online, by phone, or by mail will make responding to the census easier than ever.

The 2020 Census goal is to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place. Since many area residents spend part of the year elsewhere, the question of where to respond is common in Southwest Florida. People who live or stay at more than one place should be "[counted at the residence where they live and sleep most of the time. If they cannot determine a place where they live most of the time, they are counted where they are staying on Census Day [April 1, 2020]." (Source: Final 2020 Census Residence Criteria and Residence Situations, Federal Register, Feb. 8, 2018, FR Doc. 2018-02370).

The Census Bureau takes data confidentiality and safety very seriously. Federal law protects your census responses. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics. By law, your information cannot be shared with immigration enforcement agencies, law enforcement agencies, or used to determine eligibility for government benefits. Please consider helping the Census Bureau by becoming a Census taker and helping your community while getting paid. The Census Bureau is committed to hiring census takers to work in their own communities. We especially need workers in this area. A variety of field positions need to be filled for our community. Work schedule depends on your availability and on your position. Hours are flexible, days are flexible, and pay is competitive. In addition to being paid during training, field employees are reimbursed for authorized work expenses, like mileage, incurred while conducting Census work.

Census workers must be at least 18 years old, have a valid email address, have a valid Social Security number, and be a U.S. citizen. For more information and to complete an application, go to 2020census.gov/jobs

Mullet Rapper Donations to Everglades City School

~\$7000 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

February 20th
The Swamp by Michael Grunwald
(available at Win-Car)
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 January 11, 2020 Puzzle

1	N	2	F	3	C	4	I	5	C	6	E	7	S	8	I	9	S
10	E	R	A	11	N	O	N	12	C	O	P						
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18	C	H	O	S	E	19	F	I	F	20	T	21	Y				
22	P	E	L	T					23	R	O	V	E				
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36	Y	A	M	37	T	N	T	38	G	E	L						



My Little Slice of Paradise
by Kathy Brock
The Majestic White Pelican



The American White Pelican makes its way to the 10,000 Islands each Fall. We usually start seeing them flying overhead in the classic "V" formation in November.

Once they arrive, I am compelled to go and see them clustered together, facing into the wind on the outer islands. They are spectacular!

This year, it seems like there are more of them, but maybe not? We have seen them in large numbers from Indian Key to Pavilion Key on a regular basis. On breezy days they often find refuge on the backside of the islands.

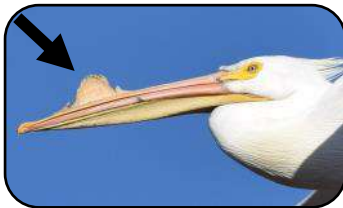
They are unbelievable beautiful, and huge in comparison to our native brown pelican.

The white pelicans breed in northern North America. They over-winter in southern North and Central America.

White pelicans will venture inland to ponds and lakes. I have seen them up inside Jane's Scenic Drive, but most often on the outer islands.

The birds are large weighing from 10 to 19 pounds, and with a wingspan that can stretch from 96 to 114 inches! They can live up to 25 years.

During breeding season, they grow an odd protuberance on their bill, often called a "horn". This lets others know they are ready to breed!



White pelicans are almost two times larger than our native brown pelicans. And, unlike the brown pelican, the white

pelican does not dive for their food. Instead, they bob as they swim in the water much like a duck.

If you have the good fortune to see these beautiful birds, you will often see other water birds in the same vicinity. The last time we watched them on Indian Key, there were also common terns, a small flock of least sandpipers and a juvenile red egret hunting close by.

Taking a trip out onto the waters to see them is well worth the trip. If you do not have your own boat, there are several tours and guide services that can take you out to see them. If you go, bring a good camera! If you approach too closely, they will fly, so you will want a camera with good zoom lens so you can photograph them.

If you take a trip to see them, please give them space and try not to spook them by navigating by them too closely with your boat, especially at high speeds. These majestic birds will wade calmly as you motor past them at a distance, but will fly away if you get too close.

Photos: Top by Kathy Brock, Lower from Wikimedia

The Island Kitchen
Mediterranean Salad

By Elaine Middelstaedt



Salad:

- ✕ 1/2 cup diced red onion\
- ✕ 2-15 oz cans chickpeas
- ✕ 1 1/2 cups parsley, diced
- ✕ 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- ✕ 1/2 large cucumber, seeded
- ✕ 1/2 cup feta cheese

Dressing:

- ✕ 3 tbs olive oil, 3 tbs red wine vinegar
- ✕ 2 cloves garlic, minced
- ✕ 1 1/2 tsp oregano
- ✕ 1 tsp kosher salt
- ✕ 1/2 tsp black pepper

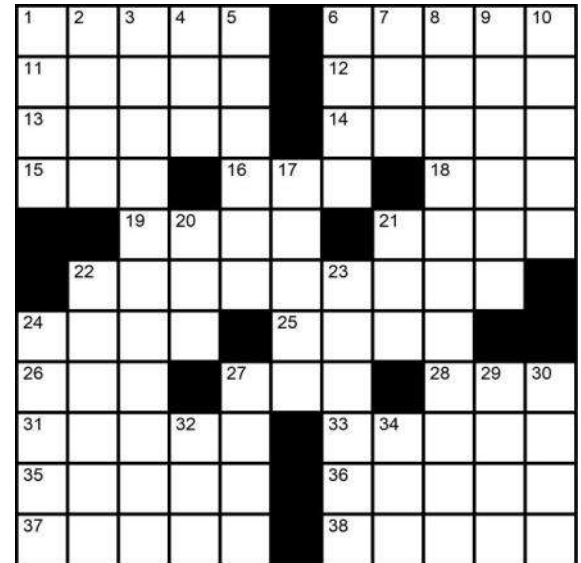
✕ **Directions:** Place chopped onions in water while you prepare the rest (removes bitterness). Prepare and mix all salad ingredients, adding in the drained onion last.

✕ Mix dressing ingredients and pour over the salad. If you have time, put the salad in the refrigerator for 30 minutes to let it marinate a bit (optional). This is delicious as a side or can be a main dish by adding avocado or grilled chicken. Delish!

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Serengeti equine
- 6 Reduces
- 11 Sewing machine inventor --- Howe
- 12 You can see one on the Barron River
- 13 Manhattan Project product
- 14 Tennis legend Agassi
- 15 Fall behind
- 16 The tide does this
- 18 Doctrine
- 19 Thorny beauty
- 21 "Dead man's hand"
- 22 Kind of infection
- 24 Retained
- 25 Civil wrong
- 26 Mathematical degree?
- 27 Made in ___
- 28 Comcast, for example
- 31 Spheres of interest
- 33 Turn rancid
- 35 Total house-cleaning
- 36 Lone Ranger side kick
- 37 Mexico penny
- 38 Showing attitude



1/25/20

Down

- 1 Ardor
- 2 Boney's exile isle
- 3 "Life" writers
- 4 Plow into
- 5 "We did it --- we could"
- 6 Sign of healing
- 7 PC linkup
- 8 Tangible signs
- 9 Tasty bit
- 10 Appears
- 17 Borscht base
- 20 Ghost & goblin mo.
- 21 Ventilate
- 22 "To thine own self ---" (Shakespeare, "Hamlet")
- 23 Friars Club events
- 24 The --- Commission on alleged N Y P D corruption
- 27 Employs
- 29 Rests
- 30 Ruse
- 32 Gone by
- 34 "You must ask us how much it costs"





Poetry Street
By Katherine S. Tullie

A future of peace and tranquility is what our children deserve. A world where they could move forward in their own lives in happiness and prosperity. My poem today is called "A Sign of Peace."

PEACE

A sign of peace appeared
in the clear blue sky
A flock of soaring white doves was seen
by everyone's eyes
It was a sign, indeed
We must have peace around the world
to succeed
In a world of turmoil and unrest
We must all place our best foot forward
and do our best
Peace is what is needed all around
Let's glide with the doves in flight with
harmonious sounds
The sounds of peace are in the distance
Going for peace is our insistence
As the white doves reappear
in the clear blue sky
A sight for every passerby
Peace washes over the land
Getting us out of the sinking quicksand
Pray for peace all over the land
Let harmony around the world
go hand in hand
Let's all join our hands together
for peace today
Go for a movement of peace
to save the 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 a loop road guide go to:
<https://visitevergladescity.com/loop/>

Schedule of Rides

**February 15.....Loop Road in
Big Cypress**
**March 15.....Bear Island in the
Big Cypress**

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

**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 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 (Under 18) Available at Checkout for Individual Race Events**

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

Taxing Things

by Mike "the tax guy" Klein



While many people are required to file a tax return, it's a good idea for everyone to determine if they should file.

A few questions for taxpayers to ask themselves:

- ◆ Did the taxpayer's employer withhold federal income tax from their pay?
- ◆ Did the taxpayer make estimated tax payments?
- ◆ Did they overpay last year and have it applied to this year's tax?

If the answer is "yes" to any of these questions, they could be due a refund. They must file a tax return to get their money.

The earned income tax credit

A working taxpayer who earned less than \$55,592 last year could receive the EITC as a tax refund. They must qualify and may do so with or without a qualifying child. Taxpayers need to file a tax return to claim the EITC.

Taxpayers can claim the child tax credit if they have a qualifying child under the age of 17 and meet other qualifications. Other taxpayers may be eligible for the credit for other dependents. This includes people who have:

- ◆ Dependent children who are age 17 or older at the end of 2019
- ◆ Parents or other qualifying individuals they support

There are two higher education credits; one is the American opportunity tax credit and the other is the lifetime learning credit. The taxpayer, their spouse or their dependent must have been a student enrolled at least half time for one academic period to qualify. The taxpayer may qualify for one of these credits even if they don't owe any taxes.

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Living Gulf Coast by Charles Sobczak



Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) Other names: sawbill, fish duck, hairy-head / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=LC / Life span: to 9 years / Length: 20-25 in. (51-64 cm) / Wingspan: 26-29 in. (66-74 cm) / Weight: 2.5 lb (1.2 kg) / Nests: in the far north all the way to the edge of the Arctic Ocean / Found: All Counties, coastal, near coast, mainland / Months found: JFMAMJJASOND (note: mergansers migrate north during the summer where they breed and raise their chicks).



A good-sized diving duck, the red-breasted merganser is quite common and prefers the saltwater estuaries to lakes and ponds when in Florida. The female merganser can often be found in midwinter feeding in the tidal flows found

in estuaries all along the coast. The male tends to prefer the offshore habitat to the back bays and estuaries and as a result is much harder to find.

Its annual migration takes the merganser to the far north all the way to Hudson Bay and the coast of Greenland. In the summer, the male merganser sports a black head and crest with iridescent, greenish overtones and a clear white band around the neck. This breeding plumage is almost never apparent while the bird is wintering in Florida.

One of the fastest flying ducks, it has been clocked at more than 100 miles per hour. An extremely adept swimmer, it feeds primarily on fish but has been known to eat shrimp and crabs as well. The merganser is equipped with a serrated mandible, which greatly enhances its ability to hold on to slippery fish.

The red-breasted merganser is primarily monogamous and a solitary ground nester. Predation occurs mostly in the breeding grounds from gulls, coyotes, foxes, hawks, and owls. Because of the fishy flavor of its meat, the merganser is seldom a target of duck hunters.



Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) Other names: didapper / Status: FL= stable, IUCN=LC / Life span: to 5 years / Length: 12-15 in. (34-38 cm) / Wingspan: 17.7-24.4 in. (45-62 cm) /

Weight: 9-20 oz (.25-.57 kg) / Nests: along the northern tier of North America from the Ohio Valley into far northern Canada / Found in all coastal Southwest Florida counties.

A small water bird, the pied-billed grebe is a fairly common sighting along Wildlife Drive in the "Ding" Darling refuge in midwinter. It seldom takes flight when threatened or approached, preferring instead to dive for cover. Although it swims and behaves like a duck, the grebe does not have webbed feet; instead each toe has lobes that flare out when paddling.

This bird is seldom found far from shore and prefers much shallower water than does the loon or boobie. It is an omnivore and opportunistic, consuming equal amounts of minnows, crustaceans, and vegetative matter, as well as marine insects. During the winter tourist season the tiny pied-billed grebe should be an easy addition to your Sanibel and Captiva life list. The name pied-billed refers to the multicolored bill, which develops a dark ring during breeding season. When wintering on the islands, however, the grebe will not display this ring.

This article is an excerpt from "The Living Gulf Coast – A Nature Guide to Southwest Florida." Photos by Dick Fortune.



Fishing the 10,000 Islands With Captain Mike Merritt

February is a great month here! You have all the species including the winter fish. The year has been unseasonably warm, and I suspect the Tarpon will show up early if this pattern holds. They will be along the outside points and River mouths. They usually show up hungry, but you know Tarpon. Some days will be tougher than others.

The Snook fishing continues to be good on the outside and in the backcountry. The majority of the fish are small. Your best bet for catching a big one will be the lure fishing. This allows you to cast stretches of shoreline in your search. Rivers and back bays are holding some good fish, but as I said, you will catch lots of small fish while keeping on the move.

Redfish are still abundant and there are fish everywhere. I have been catching them on the outside, in the rivers, and in the backcountry. Again, if you're searching because you don't have any go to spots then being on the move is best. A jig is typically best. These can be fished with such a wide variety of tails. Tip it with a small piece of shrimp and you will definitely find Reds. Be sure to work it slow along the bottom as these guys are mostly feeding on crabs and such.

Seatrout? They are spread out too! Most guys are catching them in grasses but lots of good size fish are being caught in the deeper troughs around the islands. The back country has produced some of my biggest Trout this year but they have been cooperative everywhere. There are lots of smaller fish, but February is known for some of the biggest Trout of the year. Be sure to double check the new regulations. 3 per angler. 1 fish over 19" per boat. No guide limit.

Whatever you decide to fish for you can add Black Drum, Sheepshead, Mangrove Snapper to the list and it doesn't take long to have enough fish for a dinner.

Good Luck Fishing! And please practice safe boating. ~Capt. Mike Merritt

Fish With Captain Mike Merritt
Call: 561-252-4324
SnookFishing1@juno.com

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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www.parkwaymotelandmarina.net

LOCAL EXTRA

Right Choice Supermarket is a Cut Above
The local market in Everglades City has more than meets the eyes.

Did you realize that you can request your favorite items? Have you tried any of their meats lately? They carry quality meats!

We had dinner at a friend's house and commented on how delicious and tender the steaks were. They told us they asked Petra (the store owner) to prepare ribeye steaks earlier in week to be ready on Friday. They also said that Petra stocks the type of wine they like to have on hand, something Petra did after speaking to them.

I have bought fresh vegetables including potatoes, onions and peppers and they are always excellent and good quality.

Before you decide you have to drive 35 miles one-way into town because you do not see an item on the shelf, ask store personnel if it is something they can obtain or carry in the future. You will be glad that you did! Whenever possible, please support our local stores, shops and eateries!

New Spotted Seatrout Rules Go Into Effect on February 1st

New rules for Spotted Seatrout will go into effect for the south region, 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 (ESHPP), a local non-profit whose mission is to help preserve the rich culture and history of the Everglades area.

The winter campaign is underway. There is still time to order yours before the window closes on February 14th! ESHPP 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

ATTRACTION NEWS

Museum Exhibit, 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.

Gala Benefits Fakahatchee, Honors Lavern Norris Gaynor

The Friends of Fakahatchee, along with Paul and Eileen Arsenault will hosted a "Five Faces of Fakahatchee" gala on January 16 at the Arsenault Studio & Banyan Arts Gallery in Naples.



The event honored Lavern Norris Gaynor, whose father Lester was instrumental in preserving the land for Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk. The Boardwalk has been maintained by the Friends of Fakahatchee for the past 20 years.

"There is no doubt that without the generosity and foresight of the Norris family, this National Natural Landmark would have been lost forever," said Glen Stacell, President of the Friends of Fakahatchee.

Paul Arsenault donated 100% of the proceeds from this auction of his original 20 x 24 oil on linen "Boardwalk Reflection" to the Friends of the Fakahatchee to benefit the Fakahatchee Boardwalk Expansion Project.

"My hope is that my artwork will inspire more people to visit the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park, and support the Friends mission" said Paul Arsenault. Pictured: "Boardwalk Reflection" oil on linen.

Museum of the Everglades Events (January & February 2020)

The Museum of the Everglades has a **FULL winter schedule** with something on it for everyone!

The Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9 am to 4 pm, and is located at 105 West Broadway Avenue, Everglades City, FL 34139.

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 21st 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*



Havana Cafe

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191 Smallwood Drive, Chokoloskee, FL 34138
Phone: 239-695-2214
www.HavanaCafeoftheEverglades.com

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!

1/25/2020	Sat	2:05 AM	2.65	H
1/25/2020	Sat	10:08 AM	-0.45	L
1/25/2020	Sat	3:49 PM	2	H
1/25/2020	Sat	10:11 PM	0.51	L
1/26/2020	Sun	2:42 AM	2.59	H
1/26/2020	Sun	10:45 AM	-0.37	L
1/26/2020	Sun	4:18 PM	2.05	H
1/26/2020	Sun	10:51 PM	0.47	L
1/27/2020	Mon	3:20 AM	2.5	H
1/27/2020	Mon	11:21 AM	-0.26	L
1/27/2020	Mon	4:50 PM	2.1	H
1/27/2020	Mon	11:30 PM	0.43	L
1/28/2020	Tue	4:02 AM	2.36	H
1/28/2020	Tue	11:55 AM	-0.12	L
1/28/2020	Tue	5:23 PM	2.13	H
1/29/2020	Wed	12:11 AM	0.4	L
1/29/2020	Wed	4:47 AM	2.18	H
1/29/2020	Wed	12:28 PM	0.04	L
1/29/2020	Wed	5:58 PM	2.13	H
1/30/2020	Thu	12:55 AM	0.38	L
1/30/2020	Thu	5:36 AM	1.98	H
1/30/2020	Thu	12:57 PM	0.21	L
1/30/2020	Thu	6:34 PM	2.12	H
1/31/2020	Fri	1:49 AM	0.34	L
1/31/2020	Fri	6:36 AM	1.75	H
1/31/2020	Fri	1:23 PM	0.37	L
1/31/2020	Fri	7:12 PM	2.09	H
2/1/2020	Sat	2:56 AM	0.29	L
2/1/2020	Sat	7:52 AM	1.56	H
2/1/2020	Sat	1:41 PM	0.53	L
2/1/2020	Sat	7:55 PM	2.07	H
2/2/2020	Sun	4:04 AM	0.19	L
2/2/2020	Sun	9:16 AM	1.45	H
2/2/2020	Sun	2:00 PM	0.66	L
2/2/2020	Sun	8:42 PM	2.07	H
2/3/2020	Mon	5:06 AM	0.06	L
2/3/2020	Mon	10:47 AM	1.45	H
2/3/2020	Mon	4:26 PM	0.76	L
2/3/2020	Mon	9:37 PM	2.12	H
2/4/2020	Tue	6:03 AM	-0.1	L
2/4/2020	Tue	12:17 PM	1.57	H
2/4/2020	Tue	5:43 PM	0.8	L
2/4/2020	Tue	10:36 PM	2.23	H
2/5/2020	Wed	6:55 AM	-0.27	L
2/5/2020	Wed	1:08 PM	1.74	H
2/5/2020	Wed	6:45 PM	0.78	L
2/5/2020	Wed	11:33 PM	2.41	H
2/6/2020	Thu	7:43 AM	-0.43	L
2/6/2020	Thu	1:45 PM	1.89	H
2/6/2020	Thu	7:35 PM	0.72	L
2/7/2020	Fri	12:21 AM	2.62	H
2/7/2020	Fri	8:27 AM	-0.56	L
2/7/2020	Fri	2:19 PM	2.02	H
2/7/2020	Fri	8:21 PM	0.63	L

Meet Clyde and Niki Butcher
Saturday, Feb. 22nd 10 am – 4 pm



Come out and meet Clyde & Niki Butcher at their Big Cypress Gallery.

They will both be in the gallery all day for a meet & greet and book

signing. This event is FREE and open to the public.

They have 2 new highlights featured at this Springs Open House.

They will be introducing Margaret and Garry Albritton's artwork. These artists are old-time friends of Clyde and Niki. Big Cypress Gallery will be the only gallery that will be representing their work. They have a nice variety from painted silks to ceramics.

Come and view Clyde's new Platinum Palladium Photographs. For years Clyde has been very interested in Platinum photographs. Following his stroke, Clyde realized it was now or never. After much research, Clyde found a master printer that he could work with personally. This summer, through months of extensive testing, they developed the perfect formula that Clyde was looking for. This collection of Platinum Palladium photographs are produced by hand using some of Clyde's iconic analog images; each captured on film over the years with various view cameras. The edition size and selection of these images are extremely limited.

Clyde & Niki look forward to spending time with you at the Spring Open House!



EVERGLADES COMMUNITY CHURCH

The Friendly Church on the Circle

Non-Denominational

101 S. Copeland Avenue

PO Box 177, Everglades City, FL 34139

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Sunday School Oct. 13th—March

www.ever-community-church.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

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.

FOR SALE: 3/2 Trailer in Chok. Isl. Pk. Partially furnished, leather sleeper sofa, 2 Q beds, tables. Remodeled after Irma. New central AC. Sleeps 6. Paid 30K, make reasonable offer, moving! Call/text: 907-888-4004, email: wwrmm@aol.com.

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.

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 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 SALE by Owner: 3/2 stilt home at 440 Riverside Drive on Tarpon Creek in Everglades City. Private dock, boat ramp. High & dry in move in condition. See the listing on Zillow. \$449K. Call 954-235-1913.

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

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

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PRODUCTION

The Print Shop, Marco Island, FL

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

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

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