

The MULLET RAPPER

TIDE TABLE &
RESTAURANTS
PAGE 11

What's Happening in the Everglades & 10,000 Islands
SEPTEMBER 22, 2018 - OCTOBER 5, 2018

ONLY
25¢

Blessing of the Stone Crab Fleet, September 29th!

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P O Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume X • Issue # 321

Driving Miss Clipper!



Annual Blessing of the Fleet Schedule
September 29th, 10 a.m.
Rod & Gun Club

- ◆ 10:00 am Arts & Crafts Booths Open
- ◆ 10:30 am Opening Ceremony
Blessing of the Fleet by Local Pastors
- ◆ 11:00 am Contests for Kids
- ◆ 11:00 am Coconut Guava Cake Contest
& Bake Sales, Live Music, Face-painting
- ◆ Raffles ... 50/50 for Great Stuff
- ◆ 12:30 pm Winners of Contests
Announced
& Winners of Raffle Prizes Announced
**EVERYONE IS INVITED. WE HOPE
TO SEE YOU THERE!**

Above: Mitch Blankenship is ready to launch the newly renovated Miss Clipper!

Since the close of last year's stone crab season, Mitchell Blankenship has been working hard to get his boat ready for another stone crab season. Little by little, every part of the vessel was attended to. The final step was a fresh, new paint job...and then the launch.

However the work does not stop there. Mitch is also the president of ABC Lawn Care and his "off season" is a very busy one. ABC does everything from mowing to tree trimming & removal, stump grinding, grading and more.

One may think that the crabbing business is a 7 month endeavor with a nice, relaxing break when the season closes on May 15th. That could not be further from the truth. When the traps are pulled and brought back to shore, they must be cleaned and repaired for the next season.

The elements take a toll on everything, including the boats (and the people on them!). Many off-seasons are spent fixing, tinkering and rechecking engines, decking and equipment. Some years, the boats are "dry docked" so they can be fully repainted like the Miss Clipper was.

In Mitch's case, the offseason for crabbing is the height of the season for lawn maintenance making a perfect complementary business...for someone who doesn't need a day off.

This year's crab season will be kicking off on September 29th with the annual Blessing of the Fleet hosted at the Rod & Gun Club.

This is a great time to assemble as a community to thank our neighbors who leave at 4 am, rain or shine, to bring home the delicious crustaceans. Stone crabs are a Florida specialty with an international fan base.

Florida stone crabs are legal for harvest from October 15 until May 15th. The catch varies from year to year, ranging between 2.0 and 3.5 million pounds, predominantly from the Gulf coast (as opposed to Atlantic coast). This is believed to be the haul potential each season.

The number of stone crabs traps tripled between 1989-90 and 2009-10 without haul increasing (hence, the catch per trap reduced by 66%). However, it is widely believed that the stone crab population is stable and that there is sufficient successful reproduction to keep the population healthy.

Stone crabs live about 5 years and reach maturity by the age of two, which is when a female is ready to breed.

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FEATURE: SHRIMP & STONE CRAB CREOLE, P. 7

**Davonte Detweiler, Class of 2018, Receives Prestigious Award from the
Commissioner of Education, Pam Stewart. See page 5 for details!**

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

SEPTEMBER 23, 2018 – OCTOBER 27, 2018

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
Sept 23	24 full moon ○	25 Health/Dental Bus, see p. 3	26 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am Food Truck & Festival WS, 5 pm	27	28 Fishing Tourney & Red Tide Talk, see p.3	29 Blessing of the Fleet, 10 am Rod & Gun Club, see p.1
30	Oct 1	2 City Council Mtg, 7 pm City Hall	3 Ladies Coffee Island Café 8 am	4	5	6 <u>RAPPER</u>
7 Bike Ride, Shark Valley, See p. 5	8 new moon ● ESHP Mtg., 8:30 am	9 FME Mtg. 4:00, museum	10 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am	11 Lions Club Mtg. Club Everglades 6pm	12 Safe Cities 6 pm	13
14	15 EAT STONE CRAB!	16 P & Z Mtg, 7 pm	17 Ladies Coffee Havana Café 8 am Sawfish Day, see p. 4	18	19	20 <u>RAPPER</u>
21	22	23 Dental Bus, see p. 3	24 full moon ○ Ladies Coffee Island Café 8 am	25	26	27 Halloween Celebration Artist Meet & Greet, see p.3.

Oct 27 & 28 Butcher Swamp Weekend (see p. 3)
November 16: History Talk

November 6: Election Day
November 17: Art-in-Glades

November 12: Veterans Day
November 22: Thanksgiving Day

AREA INFORMATION & NUMBERS:

AA: Wed., 5:00 pm, Evg. Comm. Church, Fellowship Hall
 CARNESTOWN Recycle and Trash: 2nd Saturday, 9 am to 3:30 pm
 DR DEMARTINO: Marco Island office information on p.3.
 DR MARTIN: Call for appointment: 813-787-9738
 LIONS CLUB: Meet 2nd Thursday of Month, 6 pm
 MUSEUM: Open Monday-Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm. 239-695-0008
 PANCAKE FLY-IN: Closed for summer.
 REACH OUT: 3rd Tuesday, 4 pm, City Hall
 SKATING RINK: Now open! Fri. & Sat. 6 to 9 pm
 SMALLWOOD STORE: 11 am to 4 pm, 239-695-2989
 THRIFT SHOP: Open Saturday 11 am to 3, see p.3.
 VETERANS SUPPORT: 2nd & 4th Wed. of month, noon—2 pm

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
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 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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September is Suicide Prevention Month. If you know someone that needs help, contact the national suicide hotline: 800-273-8255.

**Red Tide Discussion
Seafood Depot Lanai**

September 28th, 6 to 8 pm

Come to the Seafood Depot, outside on the lanai, to listen to a discussion about Red Tide and the water quality in the islands, and possible strategies to help combat the issues we face today. Drinks, full bar and food available for purchase.

**Romp in the Swamp Fishing
Tournament, Sept. 28-29**

The Romp In The Swamp Naples Inc, is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization that raises money for local families in need. This event combines a competitive fishing tournament with family friendly fun!! The tournament has paid out top Anglers' Teams in both Spin and Fly over the last 13 years!! To register or for more information, visit the tournament website www.rompintheswampnaples.com, or call Rob Walczak 239-777-4519.

**Big Cypress Gallery FALL FESTIVAL
Meet Clyde & Ranger-led Activities
October 27 - October 28
9:00am - 5:00pm.**



Come out to the Big Cypress Gallery and experience the annual fall festival. There will be raffles and ranger-led swamp walks during this fun-filled weekend.

If you would like to book a swamp walk, there is limited space. Get your tickets by visiting the website: www.clydebutcher.com, and click on "events". You can also call us at 239-695-2428.

**Museum of the Everglades
Meet & Greet with Photographer
Matt Stock**

October 27 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Join us for a free meet & greet with photographer Matt Stock, creator of the "Abandoned Vehicles of the Everglades" exhibit on display at Museum of the Everglades. About the Exhibit: Through a series of photographs mainly captured at night, this exhibit explores the interaction between man and nature as seen through environmental portraits.



**Blessing of the Fleet
September 29th**

The annual blessing of the stone crab fleet will take place on September 29th at the historic Rod & Gun Club in Everglades City.

The festivities will start at 10 a.m. and will include, frog races for the kids, a guava cake contest, arts & crafts booths, live music and much more. See the full day's schedule on the front page. For more information call Marya 239-695-2905.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

**FREE DENTAL, BLOOD PRESSURE
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HEALTH INFORMATION FOR ALL
October 23, 9 am to 4 pm**

The Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida's Health & Smiles Mobile Dental Bus will be in Everglades City on October 23rd from 9 am to 4 pm, in the Fire Station parking lot, providing free dental checks, blood pressure screenings and behavioral health information if requested. For more information or an appt: call 239-986-7323.

**THE FOOD BANK IS OPEN!
Wednesdays 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 to see him there: (239) 642-5552.

NATURAL MEDICINE

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

**CEDR Hurricane Disaster Recovery
Assistance is Available**

Communities of Everglades Disaster Recovery works in conjunction with the Salvation Army and have a team set up in Everglades City Hall (right inside the front door). 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.

**NEW THRIFT SHOP
Saturday 11 am to 3 pm**

The new thrift shop is open Saturday from 11 am to 3 pm. Come see the new store! Please do not leave donations on the porch outside where they can get wet or damaged! Please do not drop off damaged or dirty items.



**A Message from Fire-
Chief Kingman Schuldt**

September 10th marked the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Irma's assault on Southwest Florida.

Irma was a Category 5 hurricane for 60 hours, longer than all but one hurricane on record. The storm made landfall seven times, including in the Florida Keys and Southwest Florida, where it arrived as a Category 3 on Sept. 10, 2017. The highest reported sustained wind speed was 112 mph on Marco Island, while the strongest observed wind gust was 142 mph, recorded near Naples.

Irma was one of the strongest and costliest Atlantic hurricanes on record, according to the National Hurricane Center. After devastating the Keys, the storm struck Collier County as a Category 3 hurricane. Several communities in the county suffered extensive damage, especially along the coast.


Throughout the unincorporated areas of the county, 65 homes, including 44 mobile homes, were demolished, while 1,008 homes received major damage. Property damages in unincorporated areas alone reached about \$320 million.

Much of Collier County and the Fire District experienced major damage and loss of resources. Most were without power, potable water and access to much needed resources for days.

As a result of Hurricane Irma, the Fire District was also faced with similar challenges. Because of the anticipated storm surge and wind speeds it was necessary to evacuate six fire rescue facilities during the storm.

Damage caused by the storm left the Fire District with three fire stations and its fleet facility uninhabitable. Two marine facilities used to moor the District's fire boats were also extensively damaged, rendering services inoperable. As of late July, Fire District facilities and marine services were largely returned to full capability, yet many repairs will continue for months to come.

As a result of the many challenges Irma presented our community, your Greater Naples Firefighters and support staff, along with our partners from Collier County EMS and Sheriff's Office responded in exemplary fashion. It was, and remains, our commitment to the community, to respond in a professional and compassionate manner even during the most disastrous of times.



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Sawfish News by Tonya Wiley of Havenworth Coastal Conservation

International Sawfish Day is October 17



Sawfishes are considered the world's most threatened elasmobranchs (sharks, rays, and skates) and yet few people know about these amazingly unique animals. There are five species of sawfish in the world and all are classified as critically endangered or endangered by The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

International Sawfish Day is an annual event held on October 17 to raise awareness of these vulnerable rays and to highlight the threats they face in order to safeguard their future. Founded by the European and American Associations of Zoos and Aquariums and the Sawfish Conservation Society, the first International Sawfish Day was celebrated in 2017.

Last year for the inaugural International Sawfish Day, more than 50 participating organizations from around the world including public aquaria, conservation agencies, and research facilities held celebrations and events, shared messages and images on social media, and helped spread the word about endangered sawfish. "Sawfish Swag" became a popular novelty, and ultimately more than 7500 keychains and buttons were given away at events, conferences, and education outreach programs across the globe. Social media posts and interactive events at public aquaria and zoos reached hundreds of thousands of people in the days leading up to, including, and following International Sawfish Day. Fundraising efforts contributed to sawfish field programs in the Sudan. In addition to the awareness generated for sawfish, International Sawfish Day helped strengthen the collaborative relationships between the public aquarium community and research and field conservation organizations.

On October 17, 2018 the second International Sawfish Day is expected to be even bigger and better! Events will be held online and at aquariums, museums, zoos, schools, and other institutions and organizations around the world. The American Association of Zoos and Aquariums will coordinate a fundraiser to contribute to sawfish research. Information about events and the fundraiser can be found at www.InternationalSawfishDay.org.



Want to get involved? Resources are available from the Sawfish Conservation Society to help you celebrate in style or host your own event, and increase your knowledge about all five species of sawfish. You can print posters and handouts, and discover fun sawfish craft ideas. You can also buy an official International Sawfish Day t-shirt to proudly wear on October 17, and any day, to promote the conservation of sawfishes. Information about scheduled events and other International Sawfish Day resources can be found at www.SawfishConservationSociety.org.

And, as always, to report a smalltooth sawfish encounter call 1-844-4SAWFISH or email sawfish@myfwc.com.

For more information:
Internet: www.SawfishRecovery.org
Facebook: U.S. Sawfish Recovery

Photos: The Official International Sawfish Day Logo: The Sawfish Conservation Society
Sawfish Day Pens & Magnets by Tonya Wiley

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A Message From Principal James Ragusa



Davonte Detweiler Honored by Florida State Board of Education

On Friday, September 14th, Davonte Detweiler, Class of 2018, was recognized by the Commissioner of Education, Pam Stewart, and the entire State Board at their meeting at the district administrative center.

He was among a group of ten students recognized and we could not be more proud of this young man.

Davonte was recognized for his achievement and overcoming obstacles he faced to become an excellent student, and graduate of, Everglades City School.



This is the first time that I am aware of that a student has been recognized with this honor from Everglades City School. We are so proud of Davonte for his success and wish him well as he

moves on this year as a student at Florida Gulf Coast University where he will be majoring in journalism. Davonte epitomizes the value of hard work and striving to attain your dreams.

IT IS ALWAYS A GREAT DAY TO BE A GATOR!

Congratulations Davonte.

The entire community is proud of you!

Second Annual Hook 'em in the Glades Fishing Tournament is a REEL Success!



Above left, Rylee Mayberry celebrates her 2nd Place, 26" Redfish catch with her dad, Robby, and grandma, Joleen. Above right, Teddy Smallwood celebrates his 2nd Place finish in the Snook Category. Naples youth, Ben Mey, took 1st place in both the snook & redfish categories.

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped during the event.

Next Edition: An In-depth Look at the tournament, and what's coming next for Hook 'em in the Glades!



NOTICE TO PARENTS, STUDENTS AND VISITORS REGARDING COLLIER COUNTY SCHOOL SAFETY POLICIES

In our continuing efforts to add layers of security to our school campuses, backpacks, cinch bags, and other large bags are no longer permitted inside CCPS sporting venues, including high school stadiums and gymnasiums. An exception will be made for medically necessary items after proper inspection. This security enhancement is effective immediately and will impact this week's games.

In addition, we have increased security patrols at our upcoming games and competitions. Thank you for your understanding and continued support to help keep our students, staff, and community safe.

Kamela Patton, Ph.D.

School Calendar-No School Days
October 15.....No School
October 16.....Early Release Day
Nov. 21-23.....Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 23- Jan. 3.....Christmas Break



Mullet Rapper Donations to Everglades City School Over \$2300 so far in 2018!!!!

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 the Everglades City School Athletic Department!

When you see the coin receptacle, please put your quarter (or more) into the slot!

When You Buy the Print Edition of the Mullet Rapper, It Helps Everglades City School!



Visit This Website for the School Athletic Calendar

https://www.collierschools.com/ Page/10896#calendar16972/20180903/month

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Cycle Tours through the Everglades
FREE Monthly Tours!

Come join us on our free monthly bicycle tours on and off-road in the Everglades. The next tour will be Sunday, **October 7**, starting at 9:00 am at the visitor center at Shark Valley. This is a 15.8-mile ride along a paved road in the Everglades National Park. Along the way you may see alligators, herons, egrets, deer, turtles, and snail kites. An observation tower at the halfway point provides panoramic views. Bicycles can be rented from the Shark Valley Tram Tour Company. Participants should wear a helmet and bring your own drinks, snacks or purchase at visitor center. If interested in this or any other guided tour, please contact Patty Huff at 239-695-2397 or email info@evergladesrogg.org.

Other tours will include rides through the Big Cypress, the Fakahatchee Strand, Loop Road, Ave Maria / Immokalee, and historic Everglades City / Chokoloskee. The Friends of the River of Grass Greenway has published brochures about these tours and other on and off-road rides. Please visit website www.evergladesrogg.org/events. The bicycle tours are part of FROGG's mission to focus on safety and environmental education and stewardship for those hiking, walking, or cycling through south Florida and the Everglades.



Biking Event Schedule

- ◆ **October 7 – Shark Valley in ENP (15 miles)**
Meet at Shark Valley
- ◆ **Nov. 11 – Loop Rd, Big Cypress (34 miles)**
Meet at West End of Loop Road
- ◆ **Dec. 9 – Everglades City/Chokoloskee (10 miles)**
Meet at McLeod Park in Everglades City
- ◆ **January 13 – Janes Scenic Drive in the Fakahatchee (17 miles)**
Meet at Fakahatchee Strand Headquarters in Copeland
- ◆ **February 10 – Ave Maria (40 miles)**
Meet at McLeod Park in Everglades City
- ◆ **March 10 – Bear Island in the Big Cypress**
Meeting Location TBA



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Solution to September 8, 2018 Puzzle



My Little Slice of Paradise

by Kathy Brock
It's Just My Opinion...

Watching the weather channel this past weekend was very difficult. Hurricane Florence caused a bit of PTSD...if you know what I mean? For those of us who experienced the post-Irma flooding, the images of the Carolinas post-Florence were gut wrenching. The storm was a beast.

Florence flooding is even worse (if that's possible). The type of flooding being experienced by Florence victims is more prolonged, and it could be days before rivers reach their crest, and only after that, will the waters recede so the digging out begin.

The damage left behind will be shocking and devastating to those who do not have first-hand flood experience before. Unfortunately, we know what they are in for.

One thing that really caught my attention over the weekend is that some of our local TV Stations (out of Naples/Ft. Myers) are already collecting items to send up north. One broadcaster was talking about all of the furniture they are collecting to send.

I don't want to be a negative Nelly, but really? Furniture? Now? For flood victims? Anyone who is reading this that went through the Irma flood will chuckle at that. Why? Because right now, the LAST thing these people need is a bunch of furniture to store. It'll be months before furniture can be put back into place. These folks haven't even started gutting their houses yet.

What they need right now are squeegees, bottles of bleach, paper products, feminine products, soap, disinfectant, gloves, boots...things to help them get into these flooded homes and extract out whatever they can. Then they will need garbage picked up over and over again...then rebuilding supplies to put it all back together again. Buying furniture now is like getting a soccer ball for a kid who just broke his ankle.

You would think that TV stations could do some recon and talk to us down here to see what the needs really are. More importantly, *when* the items will be useful. The "when" is the big issue here because truthfully, everything is needed...but a lot of it just cannot be used *right now*.

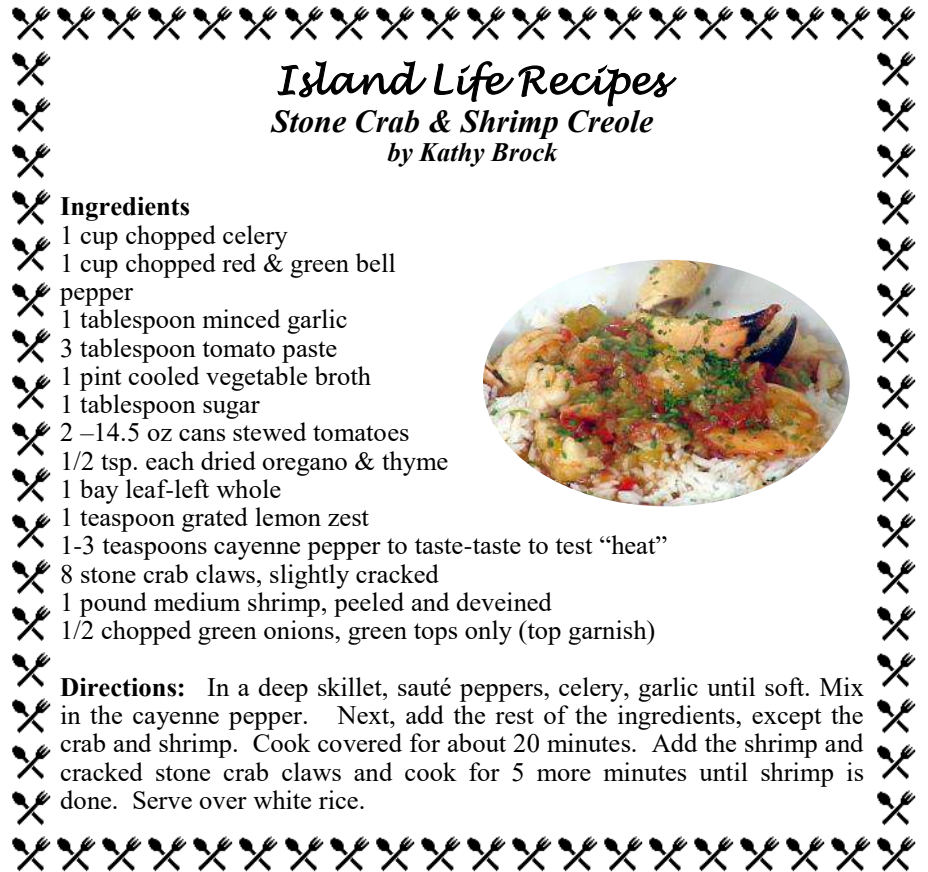
It is amazing to me that after all of the local media coverage about what went on here, the general lack of knowledge about a flood is still so pervasive. It really all comes down to personal experience. If you have lived through something, you understand it. If something has not personally affected you, you tend to ignore it...or at least, not pay really close attention to it.

I guess that is where the famous idiom comes from, "Before you judge a man, walk a mile in his shoes." I am going to try to remember this when I am judging an unfamiliar situation or when I think I know how others feel...even though it's totally opinion based and not experience based. Perhaps that would be good advice for the news media too? A little research goes a long way.

Another thing bugging me is the property tax rebate/reduction offered by Collier County. I stumbled upon it 4 weeks ago and put it in the Rapper. It's nicely "advertised" on the home page of the tax assessors website...where no one who needs it will ever find it. I did by accident one day when looking there for a different reason.

Why couldn't a flyer be included in our trim notices to tell us about this (Hello, we are not difficult to find)? What about Immokalee? Do they know about this? Why was it advertised in the Naples paper and not in the Mullet Rapper? I get that we are not actually on the same "level" as the Naples paper...but the Rapper is more widely read here, and if you really wanted to reach area residents one would think you'd reach out to us in our back yard...and not elsewhere? It makes me wonder IF they really want us to take advantage of this...or if it's just there as an election-cycle bullet point for politicians? Thankfully, our City texted out a message about the tax program to try and get the word out (see p. 8).

To recap: 1) Send bleach now, furniture later. 2) If you had severe damage to your home, file with the county for property tax relief. If you qualify, you can save thousands. Find the documents at: swflgo.com/property-tax-waiver-form.



Island Life Recipes

Stone Crab & Shrimp Creole
by Kathy Brock

Ingredients

- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 cup chopped red & green bell pepper
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 3 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 pint cooled vegetable broth
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 2 -14.5 oz cans stewed tomatoes
- 1/2 tsp. each dried oregano & thyme
- 1 bay leaf-left whole
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon zest
- 1-3 teaspoons cayenne pepper to taste-taste to test "heat"
- 8 stone crab claws, slightly cracked
- 1 pound medium shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1/2 chopped green onions, green tops only (top garnish)



Directions: In a deep skillet, sauté peppers, celery, garlic until soft. Mix in the cayenne pepper. Next, add the rest of the ingredients, except the crab and shrimp. Cook covered for about 20 minutes. Add the shrimp and cracked stone crab claws and cook for 5 more minutes until shrimp is done. Serve over white rice.

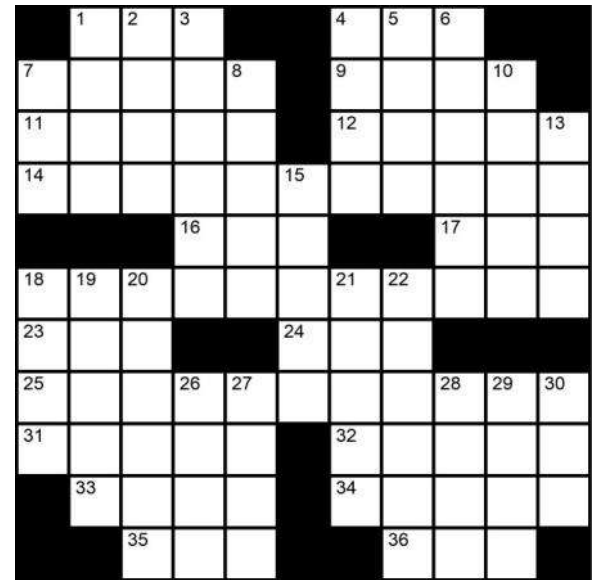
MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Nickname
- 4 Engine speed measure
- 7 Kind of code
- 9 Panache
- 11 Much the same
- 12 B vitamin acid found in spinach
- 14 Under-roof measure
- 16 Zilch
- 17 "The Man --- Would Be King" (Kipling)
- 18 They precede deliveries
- 23 NFL Coach --- Ryan
- 24 John or Jane - could be anyone
- 25 Vision tester
- 31 Largest Flickertail State city
- 32 Thomas Edison, the Wizard of --- Park
- 33 You make sweaters with it
- 34 Finish it all
- 35 Ready
- 36 Enterprise's Captain kept one

Down

- 1 Where to get a turkey on rye
- 2 Such as Yale or Princeton
- 3 Sweltering
- 4 Umps cousins
- 5 Stone-in-pond sound
- 6 Formerly Nyasaland
- 7 Amigo
- 8 Leader before Stalin
- 10 Corner of the market
- 13 Corporate big cheeses
- 15 Forest open space
- 18 College "Teach"
- 19 Settle up
- 20 Unspeaking actors
- 21 Possible response to "Who did this?"
- 22 Grain
- 26 Shrek is one
- 27 Pyrenean peak
- 28 Keen on
- 29 Slimy pest
- 30 Eclipse



09/22/18



Poetry Street

by Katherine Tullie



Every day we awaken and see the new day, it is a new beginning for us. Every day the Sun will shine down its warmth and light. It gives us a chance to start anew. That is the theme of my poem.



The sun will shine for us each day
 Making our lives better in many ways
 It lifts up sadness in our lives, for sure
 In order for us not to endure
 The brightness will shine forth everywhere
 So we will not have a care
 The sun and its rays will soothe our soul
 Now isn't that a positive goal?
 Our hearts will lighten up
 Just like a buttercup
 So when you are sad look to the light
 It will make you feel shining bright
 Positivity will surely set in
 You cannot lose but only win!



Email: Kathythepoet@gmail.com
 Look for #PoetryStreet on Twitter!

Local News

Sign Up for Area Emergency Text Messaging System

Just Text "Everglades" to 474747

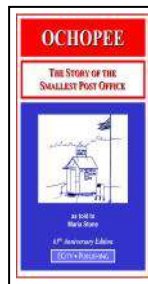


Notifications for Everglades City, Chokoloskee, Plantation Island, Jerome & Copeland Residents. Sign Up Today!

If you would like to be contacted via text of any alerts, notices, engagements & reminders from the City please activate your EZ Texting account by texting the keyword "Everglades" to 474747.

Messages will be sent regarding emergencies, business, water issues, voting, and anything else you may need to know! If you decide you no longer want to receive messages it is easy to be removed from the list.

New Book Highlights Ochopee Get it Now as a Great Holiday Gift



It may be a popular tourist stop now but the Ochopee Post Office is a symbol of growth in southwest Florida and of the resilience of its pioneers.

Before the little building became the "Smallest Post Office in the United States" in 1953 after a disastrous fire burned down the general store, it was a shed in the thriving tomato farm in Ochopee on the Tamiami Trail, the road linking Tampa to Miami which opened in 1928.

These stories were recorded by the late Maria Stone, author of many "written oral histories" that are invaluable to historians. They are reprinted with new material and photos in this edition to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of Ochopee Post Office.

The book can be purchased at Win-Car and the Right Choice market in Everglades City. Or order direct from the publisher by phone at 239-695-2905 on www.ecity-publishing.com.

Regional News

A New Band-Aid for Florida Water

Polluted water flowing into Lake Okeechobee, to the Caloosahatchee River and into Southwest Florida's coastal estuaries, is an environmental disaster that has been decades in the making.

Now an old idea is being reconsidered as a possible "interim solution" until other projects can be completed.

State Rep. Ray Rodrigues is an advocate of deep well injection and believes it can be fast-tracked to begin making a difference in just a couple of years.

When proposed originally, scientists with the federal government, which partners with the state on the restoration plan, ultimately ruled against the plan, calling it unworkable, unsafe or both.

The idea was shelved, but as the water quality in SW Florida has been too dire to ignore, the South Florida Water Management District revisited the idea and decided to press forward without federal funding.

Instead of putting the water underground with the intention of withdrawing it later, the water would be injected deeper, with no plan to recapture, Rodrigues said.

The "plan" would cost about \$330 million and take close to 10 years to complete at the funding level in place late last year, when the project advanced.

The wells are planned to go north of Lake Okeechobee and would be more than 3,000 feet deep, beneath a layer of rock.

Many oppose the plan, arguing, among other things, that once pumped deep underground, the water can't be reclaimed for use during a drought (if desired). There is also the issue of the wells leaking or failing altogether. In the 1990s over 200 deep wells failed in Florida, and there are other similar issues across the country.

But Rodrigues said about 200 municipalities around Florida are using deep well injection to get rid of wastewater.

Let's hope we do not close one Pandora's box to only open another...

(Excerpts from NaplesNews.com)

GATOR EXPRESS. IF YOU NEED IT...CHANCES ARE...WE WILL HAVE IT, PLUS MUCH MORE!



- CONVENIENCE GOODS
- FRESH SANDWICHES
- ICE, BEER, SODA, SNACKS
- MILK, EGGS, PROTEIN DRINKS
- SOUVENIRS, GIFTS, HATS
- T-SHIRTS, FISHING SHIRTS
- SUNBLOCK, REPELLENT
- REC 90 FUEL (NO Ethanol)
- OIL, LUBE
- LIVE SHRIMP, BAIT
- TACKLE, GEAR
- GATOR SKIN HANDBAGS, CASE KNIVES, NOVELTIES
- COSTA SUNGLASSES

COMING SOON! KRISPY KRUNCHY CHICKEN! EAT IN OR TAKE OUT.

OPEN DAILY UNTIL 7 PM! 203 COLLIER AVENUE, EVERGLADES CITY, FL 34139, PHONE: 239-695-3937



Living Gulf Coast

by Charles Sobczak

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*)
Other names: none / **Status:** FL=stable, IUCN=LC /
Life span: to 9 years / **Length:** 2.8-3.5 in. (7-9 cm) /
Wingspan: 3.1-4.3 in. (8-11 cm) / **Weight:** 0.1-0.2 oz (2-6 g) / **Nests:** in northern Florida to southern Canada / **Found:** throughout all but the summer months in Southwest Florida.

The regions' smallest bird, the ruby-throated hummingbird is an amazing creature. One of the few birds able to truly hover **and the only bird able to fly backwards and upside down**, the ruby-throated hummingbird beats its wings so fast it creates a humming sound. When in flight its feet virtually disappear into its tiny body, making it more aerodynamically perfect.

In the summer in our area, this bird is found only on occasion and is far more commonly seen throughout its northern range. However, it is quite common during the winter months.

Despite its tiny size, the ruby-throated hummingbird stores enough fat to enable it to fly nonstop across the 600-mile expanse of the Gulf of Mexico twice a year.

The hummingbird is found only in the Americas, from Tierra del Fuego to Alaska. There are an amazing 325 species of hummingbirds, though the vast majority of these birds live in Central and South America.



Unlike humans, the hummingbird is able to see things in the ultraviolet color spectrum, which lies far above our eyesight capabilities. This allows the hummingbird to spot the flowering plants upon which they rely for nectar. Fascinating to observe at feeders, it seems to be attracted to the color red. Sadly, this is also a cause of mortality, since it is attracted to the red tops of certain power-line capacitors and is electrocuted when attempting to feed on them.

The hummingbird is an important pollinator, but it also eats nectar-eating insects and tiny spiders. The high-energy diet of nectar is essential to its metabolic needs, with some hummingbirds known to have heart rates as high as 1,260 beats per minute. That is roughly 1,200 times faster than the heartbeat of a well-trained athlete. As if that isn't enough of an amazing feat, it has been calculated that when flying forward, a hummingbird's wing can exceed 4,500 beats a minute, or 75 beats per second.



The ruby-throated hummingbird will readily come to artificial feeders, attracted by sugar water. Only white granulated sugar has been proven safe to use: a ratio of one cup sugar to four cups water is the most common recipe.

The hummingbird is seldom preyed upon as an adult, but the size of its tiny eggs—smaller than jellybeans—and chicks make them vulnerable to being eaten by predators as small as lizards, mice, and tiny snakes. Some of the

South American species, especially the highly specialized birds, are endangered, but the ruby-throated hummingbird appears to be doing well throughout its range, possibly in part because of the innumerable feeders put out across the backyards of North America every summer.



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- ◆ Dock water & electric
- ◆ Boat lift, Ice

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www.parkwaymotelandmarina.net

Charles Sobczak is a writer and author from Sanibel Island, Florida

Photo top by Blanda
 Photo bottom by Hung



Fishing in the 10,000 Islands

by Capt. Mike Merritt

Well, Snook season opened with a bang! There were lots of boats on the water and the Snook cooperated nicely. I had clients catch some really nice fish that day and we have been catching them every day. The Snook bite has been great and even today I had clients catch over 50 Snook. They were mostly taken on live bait but jigs also produced some nice fish.



The fishing has been best on the outside, and incoming tide has been my preference. You can easily find fish just by watching for the baitfish action. Get right in there where you see the feed and the Snook are biting. There are fish in every size range, from 12" fish to 38" fish this month.

The Redfish bite has not been what I expected so far this month. We have had some good days and some below average days. Hopefully, as the month ends things will pick up even more. We have had some good fish. Jaydin Sprangle caught a nice 42" fish with me last week. Schools have been mixed sizes and one day we will find over sized fish, and the next day under size fish. But, at least we are catching fish! There are plenty of slot size fish too.



Live baits have been the key, and finger mullet seem to catch more than Pilchards when it comes to the Reds.

The Seatrout bite has also been steady on the edges of the grass flats. Popping corks with bait or artificials are both working. Jigs are also producing when worked slow. Plenty of keeper size fish around.

If it is Tarpon you are after then you will see plenty of fish on the outside. The outside points and grass flats have been holding fish. Most I have seen have been 50 lb.- 100 lb. fish. Of course, there are bigger ones around, and that should continue through October.

Smaller fish are in the rivers and back country right now. The bite is on! So, get out and enjoy some great fall weather and fishing!

Good luck Fishing!, ~Capt. Mike Merritt

Catch Fish With Capt. Merritt
 (561) 252-4324
snookfishing1@juno.com

National News

Diaz-Balart Votes for EAA Storage Reservoir, Herbert Hoover Dike Funding, Continued Everglades Restoration

Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart (FL-25), senior member of the House Committee on Appropriations and Founder and Co-Chair of the House Everglades Caucus, issued the following statement after the passage of America's Water and Infrastructure Act of 2018 and the fiscal year 2019 Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act. America's Water and Infrastructure Act of 2018 is a reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

"Today, Congress took another step forward in continued Everglades restoration and protection from flooding and harmful algal blooms in the communities surrounding Lake Okeechobee. The America's Water and Infrastructure Act, which authorizes the construction of the EAA Storage Reservoir, is a much-needed solution as Lake Okeechobee and Southern Florida's coasts continue to suffer from algal bloom. The EAA Storage Reservoir has been a top priority for Florida, and I am glad we could work together with our partners at the local and state levels to address the issue in an effective and expedient manner. WRDA also includes a provision to ensure Lake Okeechobee's water levels coincide with the expedited completion of the Herbert Hoover Dike, reducing the risk of flooding in the surrounding Hendry County communities.

"Similarly, with passage of the Appropriations bill, Southern Florida will continue to see dividends as the bill contains provisions that further the expedited completion of the dike, as well as Everglades restoration. Specifically, it provides the dike with \$96 million, \$14 million above last year's level. These funds, combined with the \$514 million I helped secure this July from the hurricane relief and recovery funding package, are anticipated to complete this much-needed rehabilitation project by 2022-2023. I look forward to this achievement being reached and am proud to have had a part in securing the necessary funding from Congress. As an Appropriator and Founder and Co-Chair of the House Everglades Caucus, I will continue to be a stalwart advocate for Everglades restoration and ensure the necessary funds are delivered to our state.

"I thank Speaker Ryan, Chairman Shuster, Chairman Frelinghuysen, and Subcommittee Chairman Simpson for their support in getting these bills to the floor. By approving these bills, Congress has proven it prioritizes Florida's waterways and ecosystem."

Included in this portion:

\$67.5 million for South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (which includes projects from the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (CERP))

\$96 million for Herbert Hoover Dike

Park News

Reservations Open for Fakahatchee Swamp Walks & Tram Tours



Reservations are now open for three adventures in Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park. The park, east of Naples, is Florida's largest and has been called "the Amazon of North America."

The season begins Wednesday October 24 at 5:30 p.m. with a three-hour Moonlit Tram Tour of the park. The \$35 evening tour sells out rapidly and will be repeated on Saturday, December 22 at 4:30 p.m.

Ghostrider Tram Tours of the park from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. get underway Nov. 8. The tours are offered for \$25 per person most Thursdays in November and December and are named for the famous ghost orchid found in the park.

The Naturalist Led Tram Tour and Swamp Walk begins Tuesday, Nov. 6 at 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This \$60 adventure is offered on most Tuesdays during the season.



For directions, complete details and required reservations for all Fakahatchee adventures, visit www.orchidswamp.org and click on Tours and Events.

Please note that tours sell out fast so book your reservations early to secure your dates!

TAXING THINGS

by Mike the Tax Guy

Oct. 15 is almost here, and it's the last day to file for most people who requested an automatic six-month extension for their 2017 tax returns. Taxpayers should remember that they can file any time before Oct. 15 if they have all their required tax documents.

As extension filers prepare to file, here are some things they should know:



IRS Free File. Nearly everyone can e-file their tax return for free through IRS Free File available now through Oct. 15.

A refund may be waiting. The sooner someone files, the sooner they'll get it;

and consider direct deposit into your checking or savings account..

Taxpayers who owe taxes can pay with IRS Direct Pay. It's the simple, quick and free way to pay from a checking or savings account. Taxpayers can just click on the 'Pay' at IRS.gov.

Here's what taxpayers should do about a missed deadline. Anyone who did not request an extension by this year's April 17 deadline should file and pay as soon as possible. This will stop additional interest and penalties from adding up. IRS Direct Pay offers a free, secure and easy way to pay taxes directly from a checking or savings account.

There is no penalty for filing a late return for people who are due a refund.

Taxpayers should remember the Oct. 15 Deadline. Taxpayers who aren't ready to file yet should remember to file by Oct. 15 to avoid a failure-to-file penalty.

Taxpayers who owe and can't pay their balance in full should pay as much as they can to reduce interest and penalties for late payment and apply for more time to pay or set up an installment agreement. In most cases, the failure-to-file penalty is 10 times more than the failure-to-pay penalty.

You Can Find Mike "the Tax Guy" Klein's contact information on page 3.

Opening October 15th!

Havana Cafe

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Serving Dinner Friday & Saturday



Enjoy an Authentic Dining Experience in Historic Chokoloskee, Florida Prepared by Chef Carlos Valdez

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Phone: 239-695-2214

www.HavanaCafeoftheEverglades.com



EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP



EVERGLADES CITY - BARRON RIVER TIDES
LAT: 25.87° N LONG: 81.37°W

Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands (642-1025): Monday - Wed 5 to 11 pm, Thurs to Sun Noon - 11 pm
Camellia Street Grille (695-2003): 11:00 am – 9:00 pm daily
City Seafood (695-4700): 8:00 am – 10:00 am; breakfast Noon-6pm Lunch & Dinner
Glades Haven Deli (695-2091): Deli Closed for Repairs Live bait available at marina
Havana Café (695-2214): We are Opening October 15th! See our ad on page 10!
Island Café (695-0003): 6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily
Ivey House (695-3299): 6:30 – 9:30 am; daily
Joanie's Blue Crab Café (695-2682): 11:00 am – 4:00 pm Open: Mon., Fri., Saturday & Sunday
Oyster House Restaurant (695-2073): Currently closed Please check back!
Rod & Gun (695-2101): 11:30 am - 8:00 pm; daily
Tastes of the Everglades Closed for summer.
Triad Seafood & Café (695-2662): Opening October 1st See our ad on page 4
MARKETS
Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535): 9:00 am – 7:00 pm; daily
Grimm's Stone Crab (695-3222): We are opening on Oct. 15th.
Fresh Produce 1181 Hamilton Ln, Chok. Closed for Summer By E City Post Office, Closed for Summer
SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES
Chokoloskee Church of God Sunday: 10 am Sch., 11 am Worship Wed. 7 pm Hr. of Prayer
Copeland Baptist Church Sunday: 10 am School, 11 am Worship
Everglades Community Church 11:00 am Sunday Worship
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 Closed for Summer, see San Marco below
St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples Phone: 239-417-2084
San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl. 239-394-5181

9/22/18	Sat	2:10 AM	2.74	H
9/22/18	Sat	8:53 AM	0.81	L
9/22/18	Sat	1:54 PM	3.18	H
9/22/18	Sat	9:20 PM	0.39	L
9/23/18	Sun	2:35 AM	2.85	H
9/23/18	Sun	9:28 AM	0.7	L
9/23/18	Sun	2:30 PM	3.25	H
9/23/18	Sun	9:54 PM	0.4	L
9/24/18	Mon	3:01 AM	2.95	H
9/24/18	Mon	10:01 AM	0.59	L
9/24/18	Mon	3:03 PM	3.28	H
9/24/18	Mon	10:27 PM	0.44	L
9/25/18	Tue	3:27 AM	3.01	H
9/25/18	Tue	10:36 AM	0.49	L
9/25/18	Tue	3:37 PM	3.26	H
9/25/18	Tue	10:59 PM	0.51	L
9/26/18	Wed	3:50 AM	3.05	H
9/26/18	Wed	11:13 AM	0.39	L
9/26/18	Wed	4:14 PM	3.19	H
9/26/18	Wed	11:31 PM	0.59	L
9/27/18	Thu	4:11 AM	3.07	H
9/27/18	Thu	11:52 AM	0.32	L
9/27/18	Thu	4:56 PM	3.08	H
9/28/18	Fri	12:03 AM	0.69	L
9/28/18	Fri	4:30 AM	3.07	H
9/28/18	Fri	12:35 PM	0.27	L
9/28/18	Fri	5:45 PM	2.92	H
9/29/18	Sat	12:36 AM	0.8	L
9/29/18	Sat	4:56 AM	3.07	H
9/29/18	Sat	1:23 PM	0.26	L
9/29/18	Sat	6:44 PM	2.74	H
9/30/18	Sun	1:11 AM	0.93	L
9/30/18	Sun	5:32 AM	3.04	H
9/30/18	Sun	2:19 PM	0.27	L
9/30/18	Sun	7:59 PM	2.58	H
10/1/18	Mon	1:52 AM	1.05	L
10/1/18	Mon	6:20 AM	2.99	H
10/1/18	Mon	3:29 PM	0.29	L
10/1/18	Mon	9:23 PM	2.48	H
10/2/18	Tue	3:09 AM	1.16	L
10/2/18	Tue	7:32 AM	2.92	H
10/2/18	Tue	4:44 PM	0.28	L
10/2/18	Tue	10:43 PM	2.48	H
10/3/18	Wed	4:55 AM	1.16	L
10/3/18	Wed	9:43 AM	2.92	H
10/3/18	Wed	5:53 PM	0.25	L
10/3/18	Wed	11:55 PM	2.56	H
10/4/18	Thu	6:10 AM	1.06	L
10/4/18	Thu	11:09 AM	3.04	H
10/4/18	Thu	6:55 PM	0.23	L
10/5/18	Fri	12:50 AM	2.69	H
10/5/18	Fri	7:12 AM	0.9	L
10/5/18	Fri	12:22 PM	3.2	H
10/5/18	Fri	7:51 PM	0.22	L
10/6/18	Sat	1:28 AM	2.83	H
10/6/18	Sat	8:06 AM	0.7	L
10/6/18	Sat	1:22 PM	3.36	H
10/6/18	Sat	8:41 PM	0.25	L

Obituaries

Estelle Branconier Hodges, 1962-2018
Estelle Branconier Hodges, 56, of Copeland, Florida, passed away on September 9, 2018.



Estelle was a wonderful wife, sister, friend, she cherished her family.

Anyone who knew her was drawn to her loving and giving personality and beautiful smile.

She will be greatly missed. Her loving family includes her husband, Edward Hodges, her sister Linda Rain, niece, Valerie Rain, nephew, Michael Rain.

Visitation and Service were held at Chokoloskee Church of God, Friday, September 14th.

Robert E. McBeath, 1924-2018



After being discharged from the Air Force in 1946, Robert brought his family to live in Hialeah, Florida where he went to work at Eastern Air Lines as an aircraft mechanic. He advanced to a member of the flight crew as a flight engineer and spent about 35 years in the airline industry working for various companies. He retired from Pan American.

He and his wife then moved to Everglades City. They were avid fishermen. His wife passed away suddenly on May 9, 1988. He then met his second wife, Rachel O. Coleman. They were married and she came to live with him in Everglades City. He is survived by his wife Rachel O. McBeath, his son Charles E. McBeath and his wife Maria C. McBeath and his step son Frank Fogle and his wife Leanne Kinsella, his nephew Steve Graham, his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

A memorial to his life will be held on Sunday October 7, 2018 at Everglades Community Church.

Reverend Bob Wallace will conduct 11 AM church services 12 Noon food will be serve in the kitchen. 1:00 PM the memorial service will be held. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the church, PO Box 177, Everglades City, FL 34139.



EVERGLADES COMMUNITY CHURCH

The Friendly Church on the Circle

Non-Denominational

101 South Copeland Avenue

P.O. Box 177, Everglades City, FL 34139

(239) 695-4787

The Rev. Dr. Bob N. Wallace, Pastor

Sunday Worship Service 11:00 A.M.

Sunday School October – April, 9:45 A.M.

www.ever-community-church.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

WANTED TO LEASE: In Everglades City or Chokoloskee area. Full time resident looking for a home, condo or trailer for long term lease. Please contact John @ 954-422-3469.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Electricians helper. Experience preferred, but not necessary. Must be reliable and honest. Call Herb @ 239-398-5093.

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

FOR RENT: One bedroom apartment in the Glades Building across from the Rod & Gun Club on the corner of Allen Ave. For more information call: 239 293 3033.

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT: Two office spaces for rent in the Glades Building across from the Rod & Gun club. For more information or to set an appointment call: 239 293 3033.

WANTED PYTHON SKINS: I want to buy tanned, black Python skins for bag and wallet making experimentation. Contact: Scott snick75@earthlink.net.

CLASSIFIED ADS

ONLINE LISTINGS: List your item in the **NEW ONLINE CLASSIFIEDS**. Swflgo.com basic listings are **free** with a paid ad in the Rapper. Deluxe listings, with photos & more, are only \$10 for 2 weeks. Contact us at info@swflgo.com for more details. You can also call: 954 662 7003.

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

RV LOT FOR SALE: 30'X70'. 30/50 amp service. Sewer, city water, 8 x 10 shed. Site is suitable for an RV, stilted trailer or motor home. In Fisherman's Cove. For info call Bob: 912-665-2354.

NEW! HELP WANTED: Two positions available. Full time housekeeper, and a part-time handyman for the Captains Table Resort. To inquire and apply, contact JoAnn at 239-695-1011.

CAR FOR SALE: 2001 Subaru. \$1200. Located in Everglades City. For more information call 239-300-3792.

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The MULLET RAPPER

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

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We strive to present the facts accurately

We encourage contrasting points of view

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