

# The MULLET RAPPER

**AREA INFO  
TIDES ~ EVENTS  
RESTAURANTS**

**What's Happening in the Everglades & 10,000 Islands  
MARCH 9, 2019 - MARCH 22, 2019**

**NEWS  
25¢**

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## Everglades City Sewer Plant Update

Mayor Howie Grimm recently spent five days meeting with representatives in Tallahassee regarding the appropriations bill that will help fund the Everglades City sewer plant.

Mayor Grimm met with Rep. Bob Rommel, Sen. Kathleen Passidomo and other State leaders to discuss the City's plans in the long-overdo sewer plant upgrade.

The City's current system is operating at maximum capacity and is in sub-standard condition.

Until a new system is put in place, the City's ability to issue permits for new construction is tied to the existing plant's capacity.

The City has been able to stave off fines previously imposed by DEP by demonstrating their willingness to cooperate and function with transparency with the agency. Additionally, the City must demonstrate progress on the process to stay in good standing with the agency.

Since Hurricane Irma, Grimm has been focused on securing funding and a path to move forward with any type of improvement, with the goal being a new plant that could service Everglades City, and eventually, the surrounding areas.

The process is slow but it is expected that a plan for a resolution will happen some time in 2019.

## Owl Drama Has Happy Ending *Thanks to Battalion Chief Morris*

The great horned owl family has become a town favorite this year. Since the first week of February, residents, visitors and photographers have been watching the nest, documenting their every move.

On February 28th the first owlet fledged leaving the younger owlet alone in the nest. Many were concerned that the parents abandoned the owlet left behind, but that was not the case.



On March 3rd, the second baby was ready for flight, but his first flight would be a bit of a misadventure. The owlet flew from the nest and tried to land on the tower over the firehouse. He touched down, then slid and ended up hanging upside down on the tower.

Everglades City resident, H. C. Rackley, saw the entire ordeal. He quickly drove over to my home in town to tell me about it and ask if anything could be done. I said I would make some calls.

Of course, the first call is to City Clerk Dottie Joiner! After hearing about it, Dottie called Greater Naples Fire Department Battalion Chief Caleb Morris. Caleb was off duty but that did not stop him. He left his home in Chokoloskee, and

Tim & I met him at the scene.

Caleb sprang into action, first putting on gloves to prevent a bite, then up the ladder he went. The baby was hanging on by one foot, claspng tightly to the cable. As Caleb approached closer, both owl parents were flying about, clacking their beaks and hooting. They were very, very upset! This put to rest any thought that the parents had abandoned their baby! They were right there watching his every move.

Caleb was able to pry the owlet from the cable and he landed upright on the roof of the firehouse and then descended to the ground.



We ran around to see if he was OK, and he was standing there looking fine. Both parents were swooping by as we came nearer so we backed off. Within minutes, the three were gone. Tragedy averted! Our fire department saved the day!

So this owl saga has a very happy ending...but it may not have been so

without the care of a resident and the action from Battalion Chief Morris. Thank you to everyone who helped make sure that the drama that unfolded was only temporary!

**Photos: Top, Chief Morris climbs the ladder to rescue the owlet. Bottom, the Momma and her babies in late February before leaving the nest.**

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**FEATURE: LIZARD HUNT, P. 9**

**MARCH 10, 2019—APRIL 13, 2019**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
10 Set Clock Ahead 1 hour Bike Ride, see p. 6	11 No School	12 No School	13 Ladies Coffee City Seafood, 8a No School	14 Lions Club Mtg. 6 pm No School	15 No School	16 Pancake Fly-in, See p. 3
17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 P & Z Mtg, 7 pm City Hall Dental Bus, See p. 3	20 Full Moon Ladies Coffee Havana Café, 8a 1st day of spring	21 Book Club, see p. 8	22 Bike/Ped, 3 pm	23 Rapper Art-in-Glades, see p. 3 Dinner at Park, see p. 3
24	25	26	27 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8a	28	29	30
31	April 1 ESH, 8:30a  April Fools Day	2 City Council, 7:00 pm	3 Ladies Coffee City Seafood, 8a	4	New Moon 5	Rapper 6
7	8	9	10 Ladies Coffee Havana Café, 8a	11	12	13

April 14: Palm Sunday  
 April 15: Tax Day  
 April 18: Maundy Thursday  
 April 20: Pancake Fly-in, see p.3  
 April 21: Easter Sunday  
 April 27th: Tamiami Trail Anniversary

**AREA INFORMATION & NUMBERS:**

AA: Wed., 5:00 pm, Evg. Comm. Church, Fellowship Hall  
 CARNESTOWN Recycle & Trash: Dec 1st, Every Sat, 9 am to 2:00 pm  
 DR DEMARTINO: Little Gator Clinic, See info on page 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. 239-252-5026  
 PANCAKE FLY-IN: Mar. 16, Apr. 20. E City Airport, 10 am-noon  
 REACH OUT: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 4 pm, City Hall  
 SKATING RINK: Now open! Fri. & Sat. 6 to 9 pm  
 SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily 10 am to 5pm, 239-695-2989  
 THRIFT SHOP: Open Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 11 am to 3, p.3.  
 VETERANS SUPPORT: 2nd & 4<sup>th</sup> 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 12 pm, 1 pm to 4:30 pm, closed Sat. & Sun.)  
 Ochopee (239) 695-2099  
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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## An ORA Bazaar Thank You!

A big thank you to everyone who attended the ORA Bazaar on Saturday, February 23rd. It was a beautiful day, jam packed with lots of things going on in the area, so we're so happy you took the time to stop out by us. We sincerely appreciate it. We hope everyone enjoyed themselves. Mark your calendars. Next year's Bazaar will be held on Saturday, February 29th.

### Clyde Butcher Gallery Exhibit March 9, 10 am to 5 pm Big Cypress Gallery

Meet Photographer Jacqueline Kramer! Clyde Butcher's Big Cypress Gallery is hosting of the grand opening of Floral Ecstasy, an artistic floral photography exhibit by Jacqueline Kramer. Meet artist March 9th for the opening reception. Jacqueline has been photographing the natural world, with an emphasis on flowers, since the age of 16. Visit the Gallery: 52388 Tamiami Tr., Ochopee, FL. Call 239-695-2428 for information.

### Art-in-the-Glades

Saturday, March 23rd, 10 am-1 pm

Come out to McLeod Park in Everglades City on February & March 23rd. There will be live music, goodies for the kids (and adults) and plenty of local arts and crafts. It's a great time to get some early (and unique) holiday gifts and a great excuse to spend a few hours at the park! Call Marya at (239) 695-2905 for more info.

### Pancake Fly-in

March 16 & April 20, 10 am to noon  
Free Breakfast

Pancakes, Sausage & Beverage Fly-ins and walk-ups welcomed! Future dates: March 16th & April 20th. We hope to see you at the Everglades City Airpark!

### Tamiami Trail Anniversary April 27th, Starting at 10 am

Mark your calendars! On April 27th we will celebrate the anniversary of the opening of the Tamiami Trail.

On the same day, our City will be formally presented as a Florida Trail Town by the Office of Greenways and Trails. More details will be posted as the date draws closer.

For event schedules and area news visit [www.swflgo.com](http://www.swflgo.com).

**Dinner & Music at McLeod Park**  
Saturday, March 23, 5:00 to 8:00 pm  
Save the date! Come to McLeod Park for a community dinner hosted by the Everglades Lions Club with music, 50/50 drawing and much more. Cecil is cooking up pulled pork, and there will also be beans, corn, slaw and dessert. Dinner is only \$12. For tickets call Connie Barker; 419-350-6650.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

**FREE DENTAL, BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INFORMATION FOR ALL**  
March 19, 8 am to 4 pm

The Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida's Health & Smiles Mobile Dental Bus will be in Everglades City on March 19th, from 8 am to 4 pm, in the Everglades Community Church 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 and in Everglades City on Fridays from 1:30 to 4:30 pm. You may call his office to schedule an appointment at either location: (239) 642-5552.

### NATURAL MEDICINE

Dr. John Martin can see patients in Everglades City on Fridays. 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 (in the old council room). They will have advocates there from 10 am to 3 pm on Mondays to assist people still in need of help. Stop in the office or you can call Elaine at 239-695-2695 for more information.

### NEW E-CITY THRIFT SHOP Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday

The new thrift shop is open Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday from 11 am to 3 pm. Come see the new store located between the fire station and community center.



### A Message from Fire-Chief Kingman Schuldt

The past weeks have been largely consumed with efforts to secure the continuation of funding for the operations of Fire Station 63 located at the I-75 (Alligator Alley) Mile Marker 63 rest stop. The Fire Station was originally opened in 2014 as part of the adjacent Rest Area's reconstruction to reduce the 45-minute response time to accidents and medical emergencies along the heavily-travelled I-75. Since the station opened, response times have been reduced by as much as 80%.

Funding for this facility are the result of an agreement between the Fire District and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Approximately 18 cents of each toll collected are directed to the operations of the fire station, totaling \$1.5 million annually. With annual toll revenues exceeding \$30 million, it seems the cost of maintaining this facility will not negatively impact the FDOT's operating budget of an estimated \$10 million. However, the current agreement will sunset on June 30, 2019, and to date the FDOT has expressed their desire to discontinue funding.

The Public Safety Center is located 35 miles east of Naples, and 37 miles northeast of Everglades City. Annually, the fire station responds to more than 500 calls and exclusively serves I-75 travelers.

This past week was spent in Tallahassee working with Senator Passidomo, Representative Rommel, and County Staff to meet with members of the legislature, FDOT, and the Governor's Office to discuss proposed Senate Bill 72/House Bill 6011 that will provide for permanent funding of this uniquely located public safety facility.

We believe the State should still maintain a financial stake in the operation of MM63's Public Safety Center given its location, statewide population it serves, and uniqueness in function/use. Based on the annual average vehicular usage of Alligator Alley, it has been calculated that the Public Safety Center only requires 18 cents of the current \$3.25/vehicle toll to provide safety to travelers, tourists, and commercial vehicles.

**Editors Note: We AGREE!!**



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**SAWFISH NEWS by Tonya Wiley, Havenworth Coastal Conservation**  
**SawSearch goes to the United Kingdom**  
**Not only the most distinctive feature of a sawfish,**  
**the rostrum (saw) also contains vital information.**


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“SawSearch” has taken researchers Kelcee Smith, from Louisiana State University, and Anmarie Fearing and Dr. Nicole Phillips, from The University of Southern Mississippi, to all corners of the U.S. in the search of old sawfish saws over the past five years. Last June, with support from the Shark Conservation Fund and The Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation, this research led them all the way to the United Kingdom. SawSearch is a global initiative to find, photograph, measure, and collect tissue samples from old sawfish saws. Phillips, Fearing, and Smith are extracting DNA from the tissue samples they collect, using the data to assess the relative health of remaining sawfish populations. The DNA from the old saws provides the researchers with baseline information of what sawfish populations were like before they were heavily exploited, which can then be compared to DNA from the sawfish populations of today.

SawSearch UK might sound like a leisurely holiday, but most of their time in the UK was spent working in the basements of museums, entering data, riding trains, hauling equipment from city to city, and conducting outreach events. After a year of intense planning, the team spent a total of 30 days in the UK, travelled ~12,000 miles, visited 31 collections, collected data and samples from 528 sawfish specimens, and held 11 outreach events. The rewards of the long days of sampling and travelling came with each collection visited, every specimen pulled from a drawer, and every museum curator they met along the way.

Museums play a critical role in all SawSearch expeditions by preserving natural history specimens and revealing the unique stories behind them in their data archives. The people behind these collections, the curators, conservators, and collections managers, dedicate their time to the maintenance of these collections for decades. “We were enthusiastically welcomed into every collection we visited during SawSearch UK and everyone was so excited about our project. After long days sampling, traveling, and conducting outreach, these interactions with the museum staff really kept our energy up,” says Fearing. “During our visits, they went above and beyond by helping us take photographs, record data, searching for extra information, and even connecting us with other curators to help us find more saws. I don’t think there was a museum curator that didn’t offer us tea as soon as we arrived, even though it was 80 degrees outside. They put kindness first and I’ll never forget that,” says Smith. The team also used each visit to a museum as an opportunity to connect with the public, teaching them about sawfish and the importance of natural history collections.

In addition to the museums and universities the research team visited, they were also able to find a few saws at some not-so-traditional venues. During their stay in Edinburgh, Scotland, Fearing and Smith discovered a saw in an unexpected place, at a fish and chips shop across the road from their hotel. “As we walked passed a fish and chip shop, I heard Kelcee gasp and then felt her yank me backwards.” says Fearing. “She told me to look inside the fish and chip shop and there, hanging on the wall, was a green sawfish saw.”

One pervasive idea that the researchers came across was that if specimens do not have location data, they are not useful in research. “These saws are valuable to us and there is a longer-term vision for this initiative. The goal looking forward is to be able to take a tissue sample from a sawfish from an unknown location and be able to determine where that animal came from. Such a tool could be used for enforcement purposes, to improve our knowledge of historic sawfish populations and understand how they have changed over time, You can help! If you own a sawfish rostrum and are willing to donate a small sample for this important research or have seen one somewhere, please call 1-844-4-SAWFISH or email [n.phillips@usm.edu](mailto:n.phillips@usm.edu).

Photo: Anmarie Fearing (left) and Kelcee Smith (right). Photo by Nicole Phillips

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**A Message From the Principal  
by James Ragusa  
A Great Partner**

We have the good fortune of working closely for many years with the Museum of the Everglades to create opportunities for learning that enriches the lives of our students. Thanks has to go to the Museum Manager, Thomas Lockyear, for the outreach he provides to our school. Last week we had another opportunity that really was engaging for our elementary students and staff thanks to his special effort to reach out to us.



Each year, Otter John visits the area to bring wildlife that inhabits our area in an informative and entertaining fashion to our children. The students were enthralled by the animals and the amazing information he provides during his show. From the alligators we see

each day to the snakes and hawks that are found in this area, the students were engaged and his interaction with them brought the majesty of this area to light. It is not a small feat to keep over 90 elementary students hanging on to your every word, but Otter John did so with great skill. It was a highlight of the year for elementary students that I am sure they will always remember.

The partnership with the Museum has been amazing for the school and we look forward to continuing to work with Thomas and his team at the museum for many years to come. It Is Always A Great Day To Be A Gator!

**School Schedule, March 2019**

- March 8-15: Spring Break, No School
- March 18: Return to Class

**Mullet Rapper Donations to  
Everglades City School in 2019 ~\$450**

*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 fund the athletic department.*

*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!*

**TAXING THINGS  
by Mike the Tax Guy**

**IRS Waives Estimated Tax Penalty  
for Fishermen Who File and Pay by April 15**

The IRS will waive the estimated tax penalty for clients who are qualifying fishermen if their 2018 federal income tax returns are filed and taxes due are paid by April 15. To qualify for the waiver, attach Form 2210-F to a 2018 income tax return.

**New Child Tax Credit Rules**



Many people claim the child tax credit to help offset the cost of raising children. Tax reform legislation made changes to that credit for 2018 and later.

The new law increases the child tax credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000. Eligibility factors for the credit have not changed; a taxpayer can claim the credit if all of these apply:

- ◆ the child was younger than 17 at the end of the tax year
- ◆ the taxpayer claims the child as a dependent
- ◆ the child lives with the taxpayer for at least six months of the year

The credit is refundable, now up to \$1,400. If a taxpayer doesn't owe any tax before claiming the credit, they will receive up to \$1,400 as part of their tax refund.

The income threshold to claim the credit has been lowered to \$2,500 per family. This means a family must earn a minimum of \$2,500 to claim the credit.

**New Credit for Other Dependents**

Dependents who can't be claimed for the child tax credit may still qualify for the new credit for other dependents. This is a non-refundable credit of up to \$500 per qualifying person. These dependents may also be dependent children who are age 17 or older at the end of the tax year and includes parents or other qualifying relatives supported by the taxpayer.

**Beware of Unqualified Tax Return Preparers**

The IRS.gov Choosing a Tax Professional page has information about tax preparer credentials and qualifications. The IRS Directory of Federal Tax Return Preparers with Credentials and Select Qualifications can help identify many preparers by type of credential or qualification.

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**Cycle Tours through the Everglades**  
**Bear Island Bike Ride**  
**March 10, 2019**



Join us for a leisurely bike ride in the northwestern portion of Big Cypress National Preserve. The Bear Island area is a fantastic place to observe a variety of plants and animals in prime panther habitat.

You must bring your own fat tire bike - hybrid or mountain bike. It is a 14 mile round trip ride on a hard rock road. (Not suitable for road bikes.)

Please bring snacks and lunch that can fit in your backpack, plenty of water, sunscreen, hat, sunglasses and dress for the weather. This ride is limited to 12 people and a minimum age of 15.

Since this ride is limited to 12 people, please RSVP to Dayna at (239) 777-5806.




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**Directions if coming via I-75:**  
Exit HWY 75 at exit #80 onto Highway 29 going north.  
If coming from the West, there is a \$3.50 toll just after exit #101.  
Travel north from HWY 75 on Highway 29 toward Immokalee 4 miles.  
Watch for the Bike Ride sign on the right side of the road and turn in to the right.  
Come in through the panther fencing to the parking area.

**Biking Event**  
◆ March 10 – Bear Island in the Big Cypress

No registration fees –  
sign up to receive updates:  
[info@evergladesrogg.org](mailto:info@evergladesrogg.org) or  
Visit : <https://evergladesrogg.org/events/>

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Solution to February 23, 2019 Puzzle



**My Little Slice of Paradise**  
by Kathy Brock

On March 17th, St. Patrick's Day, it will mark the three-year anniversary of my becoming an orphan. That was the day I lost my father. Many years earlier, in 1994, my mother passed away from cancer before we could really connect as two adults.

The human psyche is so peculiar. Even in my mid-fifties, I felt a bit lost after my father passed away. After all, I had him for over 50 years...and life without him would never be the same. I simply could not fathom it. He and I were always super close. We discussed things most kids don't or cannot with their parents. I was fortunate.

As is true with most losses, time helps ease the sting. But the sting is still there, and probably always will be.

When I think of my father, I now see him as a man ahead of his time. In his career prime, he managed a large metallurgical organization. Some of the jobs in the factories were very difficult. It was hot, sweaty work, and very physical. Imagine working around furnaces all day in Fort Lauderdale in the summertime...it would be over 100 degrees in the factory. Guys would eat salt tablets just to retain water so they wouldn't dehydrate too quickly. It was a grueling job.

The 1960's & 70's were a much different time, a time when men and women worked in a primarily labor-based workforce. Today it is different. We are much "softer." Working conditions (thankfully) have improved for most of us. Even then, however, it was difficult for my father to fill some positions in the factories.

I remember when he signed up for the second chance program, a program that was sponsored by the Broward Sheriffs office. It was designed to place non-violent offenders in jobs after they did their time and were released back to society. It required a lot of paperwork and regular meetings with parole officers, but he did it undeterred. I am sure that was looked at as a radical thing to do back then. But my father moved by the beat of his own drum.

Dad did not judge someone by the color of their skin, the country they came from or if they made a mistake. He did not judge people, period. To him, people were just people.

Two of his most loyal, and most dedicated employees came from this second chance program. They stayed with him for decades, until they retired. Many others came and went, but those two stayed for over two decades, I am sure, motivated by the trust he put in them.

When situations like this run through your life, at the time you do not see it as how impactful it may be on your life. It is just "normal" for you. However, today as things seem to be getting much more divisive and people grow more and more intolerant, I see my father for the man he really was - which is a man who did not judge others by what others thought, nor was he swayed by "group think" or public opinion.

Instead, Dad looked at each person and each issue from his own standpoint, refusing to let others influence his thinking. He was and individual. He was unique. He was my father, Elton Tullie. I still miss him every day. I think about both of my parents every day. How lucky I was to be raised in a family free of prejudice and free of judgment, a family that inspired free thinking. If we cannot think freely for ourselves, and if we allow ourselves to be swayed by the group or what the talking heads on TV are telling us, we become a member of a herd. Like cattle in a pasture. That was not my dad...nor is it me. Thank you dad...for inspiring me to be an individual. RIP Dad.



**Island Life Recipes**

Zucchini Carrot Casserole  
Submitted by Elaine Middelstaedt



- ✂ 1 cup Bisquick
- ✂ 3 eggs
- ✂ 1/2 cup Vegetable Oil
- ✂ 1 cup shredded carrots
- ✂ 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- ✂ 3 cups shredded zucchini
- ✂ 1 small onion
- ✂ Salt & pepper to taste.

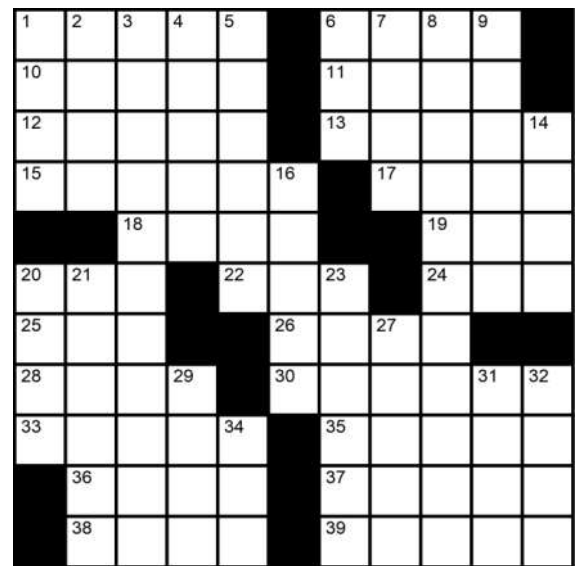
✂ Heat oven to 350°. Grease an 8 x 8 baking pan. In a large bowl mix all ingredients until well blended. Bake for 35 to 45 minutes until set.  
✂ Serve warm. Delish!

✂ If you have any recipes you'd like to share, email them to us at mulletrapper@gmail.com!

**MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD**

**Across**

- 1 Andrew Carnegie and Alexander Graham Bell
- 6 Bonny girl
- 10 Case place
- 11 Fairy tale opener
- 12 Rite site
- 13 Like Al Yankovic
- 15 Type of labor
- 17 "--- Only Just Begun" (Carpenters hit)
- 18 "Render --- Caesar ... "
- 19 Like a shiny penny
- 20 Federal public lands agency
- 22 Assist
- 24 A baby may do it
- 25 A Reiner
- 26 Where the pews are
- 28 Unreturned opening shots



3/9/19

- 30 Cold symptoms
- 33 Challenged
- 35 19th century pianist --- Schumann
- 36 Suggestive grin
- 37 Pro wrestler a k a Jeffrey Scullio
- 38 Small whirlpool
- 39 Pub game

**Down**

- 1 Con game
- 2 "Anything Goes" composer --- Porter
- 3 Facing a bigger army
- 4 Work out
- 5 Levels of society
- 6 Down in the dumps
- 7 Once again
- 8 Showcase for nerdy students
- 9 Waiter
- 14 Moist
- 16 Some pork chops
- 20 Thin nail
- 21 Spot
- 23 Twisted?
- 27 Mexico's Pancho ---
- 29 He/she might fire off a lot of 28 Across
- 31 Brotherhood
- 32 Impertinence
- 34 Arid



**Poetry Street**  
by Katherine Tullie



It is never too late to follow our heart and find our purpose in life. If we do so, our life can be more fulfilling. Doors and avenues can be opened to us that we never dreamed possible. That is the theme of my poem today called "This Thing Called Life."

Let us not take for granted our lives, I say  
Think of the small blessings that may come our way  
Life is a breath of fresh air, for sure  
Even on days we must endure  
Taking each day one step at a time is a must  
Let's give life our best shot and learn to trust  
Trusting our inner self and soul  
May be a very good goal  
Life presents itself to us each day  
Let's make it with a positive attitude in our own way  
There are many treasures in life that are free  
Friendships are there for us to see  
This thing called life is a funny thing  
When we are on top of the world we just want to sing  
When things go wrong we may sing out of tune  
With guidance from above we can get back on track soon  
Let's pray in our own way



Email: [Kathythepoet@gmail.com](mailto:Kathythepoet@gmail.com)  
Look for #PoetryStreet on Twitter!  
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**Area Parks**

**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! For details on activities and to make reservations call: 239-695-1201. Reservations are accepted up to 14-days in advance of the activity date. Ranger scheduled activities are **free**. Please download the list of programs at <https://swflgo.com/big-cypress-programs/>

**Popular Pelican Flies Again!**



One of the most popular exhibits at the pre-2017 Everglades Gulf Coast Visitor Center was a life-sized model of a white pelican. Generations of children measured their "wingspan"

against this model, learning how they compare to the third-largest bird in North America, with its eight-foot wingspread.

Then Hurricane Irma swept through town, flooding the Visitor Center along with the rest of Everglades City--and destroying the pelican. For the past year and a half, Park staff have had to tell visitors hoping to revisit this fun experience with their own children that the pelican flew away on hurricane winds.

We're happy to report that a new white pelican now perches on our waterfront. Come check it out and see how YOUR wingspan compares!

For more information on programs and events at Everglades Gulf Coast Visitor Center, visit [nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/calendar](http://nps.gov/ever/planyourvisit/calendar).

**Visit the center:**

815 Oyster Bar Lane, Everglades City. Call for information: 239-695-2391

**Local Happenings**

**Census Jobs! Starting at \$17/hr.**

Hiring is underway for jobs in the Everglades City area working the 2020 U.S. Census, as the Census is committed to having people work in their own communities. Generally, these are part-time jobs with flexible hours, home-based (mileage reimbursed), and pay starting at \$17/hour -All applications must be completed at [2020census.gov/jobs](http://2020census.gov/jobs).

**Job Opportunities at Port of the Islands**

**Full Time With Excellent Benefits**

Port of the Islands has two career opportunities available for the right candidates! Guest Services Supervisor and Guest Services Agent. The right candidates will be team players and have the ability to work flexible schedules. To view each positions requirements, visit <https://swflgo.com/port-of-the-islands-careers/>.

**Book Club Meeting March 21**



The Everglades City Book Club meets monthly during the season. We welcome visitors who are interested in books and discussion. If you would like to check out our club, please come to one of the club meetings. For more details, contact Diann Lock at: 812-361-7402.

**Mar. 21:** Being Mortal by Atul Gawande, Hosted by Judy Jury

**Apr. 11:** Lilac Girls by Martha Kelly, Hosted by Diann Lock

Discover area tours, restaurants & events at [www.swflgo.com](http://www.swflgo.com)

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## Looking for Invasive Species in South Florida

By Antonia Florio, Science Communications Liaison, Everglades National Park

It was my first time in South Florida and I wanted to see an Oustalet's chameleon. My husband knew that this was the only way he'd ever convince me to move here, and so he obliged. After securing permission, we headed to a nearby avocado farm with our headlamps ready.

Oustalet's chameleons, or Malagasy giant chameleons, have only ever been found in two places: Madagascar, where they are native, and Homestead, Florida, where they are non-native. I had spent time a few years prior in Madagascar studying these giant chameleons. After I took my last trip there in 2012, I worried I'd never see another in the wild again. So when my husband got a job in Homestead, and I found out there were Oustalet's chameleons found here, I said, "Alright. Maybe I could live there."

Searching through those avocado trees did remind me of searching for lizards in Madagascar. Especially at night, these two places—Madagascar and South Florida—seemed similar to me. The air was humid even though it was chilly. Once the sun went down, the night became alive just as I had remembered in Madagascar. I could hear the calls of frogs and the sounds of insects flying. I looked around the avocado trees and saw some perfect nighttime perches for sleeping chameleons. No wonder these lizards survived here in Homestead.

We didn't find any Oustalet's chameleons that night. Although I went back to our hotel room disappointed, I knew it was great news for Florida. The fewer invasive species found here, the better.

We didn't give up. The next night we went out to another location in hopes I could see some cool lizards, maybe even an Oustalet's chameleon, before I headed home to New York City. What I didn't expect was to find mostly invasive species! We found a Cuban knight anole (native to Cuba), a veiled chameleon (native to Yemen and Saudi Arabia), brown basilisks (native to Central America and Colombia) and green iguanas (native to Central and Southern America). Where were all the natives?

Invasive species are bad news. They are able to spread aggressively outside their natural range, and can cause local extinctions of native species. Invasives are plentiful in South Florida because the subtropical environment allows for many non-native species to thrive, and Miami acts as a port of entry. Local ornamental and pet industries breed animals and plants here that have the potential to escape and survive.

The cost of invasive species is high. One study in 2005 found that invasive species cost the United States more than \$120 billion in damages each year. Prevention is key. Once an invasive species becomes established, eradication is incredibly difficult. For example, an infestation of oriental fruit flies in Miami-Dade County in 2015 took six months to eradicate from crops and cost at least \$4.1 million in direct crop damages.

And the economic costs of invasive species are small compared to the ecological ones. Burmese pythons are one example of an invasive species that has had disastrous effects on the Everglades ecosystem. Burmese pythons were introduced from the pet trade into the Everglades by the 1980s. They are known predators of many native birds and mammals. One study in 2015 also found that Burmese pythons were most likely leading to the decline of marsh rabbits in Everglades National Park.

"Over the last twenty years, the State and Federal government, along with local partners, have invested millions of dollars and countless hours in developing effective python control methods, but we still have yet to find the best solution," explains Tylan Dean, Everglades National Park Biological Branch Chief. But that doesn't mean the python fight is over.

Bryan Falk, the Supervisory Invasive Species Biologist at Everglades National Park, is realistic but also cautiously optimistic about the python issue. "It seems unlikely that we will be able to completely eradicate Burmese pythons from the park in the near future, but we are hopeful that continued research on Burmese pythons and other invasive species will help us lessen their impacts on the Everglades ecosystem."

Burmese pythons get a lot of attention, but there are many other invasive species that concern park staff. The New Guinea flatworm puts native snails at risk, and there's a small possibility they could spread disease to humans. Brazilian pepper was brought to Florida as an ornamental plant, but it turned into an aggressive invader that easily outcompetes native plants. Non-native apple snails outcompete the Florida apple snail and put that species at risk for extinction. Exotic fish outnumber native fish in some places in the park. Invasive species are a big problem in Florida, and they're not going away anytime soon.

As for me, I have yet to find an Oustalet's chameleon in Homestead. The longer I'm here, the less I want to see one, anyway. I've learned that our native species have a lot more to offer.

If you can longer care for your pet, find someone who can. You can request help from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) by calling 1-888-IveGot1.



## The Backcountry Experience with Capt. Rodney Raffield

Hi Mullet Rappers Capt. Rodney here with another round of fishing yarns.

We are finally into Snook season and we are putting legals in the boat.

Weather through February was extremely comfortable with temps running on the warm side which was great for both anglers and Fish.

We are catching good numbers of Snook, Redfish, and Trout all on soft plastics lures. The warming trend moved Trout out of the holes and spread them out more, but they can be found on the oyster reefs as well as outside points.

Snook are still in the backcountry, but I am catching good fish on the oyster bars as well.



Hot baits continue to be soft plastic lures such as Mr. Wiffelure and Zman paddle tails. All in all, fishing is very good so get out there and put that favorite lure into action and most of all have FUN.

**Fish With Captain Rodney Raffield**  
**Call to Book Your Dates:**  
**Office: 239-695-4626**  
**Visit Rodney's Website:**  
**EvergladesBackCountry**  
**Experience.com**

**Download the Fishing Limits Guide**  
<https://swflgo.com/florida-saltwater-fishing-regulations-2018/>



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**Regional News**

**FWC reminds the public: Nesting Waterbirds Need Room to Breed**

Give waterbirds room to breed this nesting season. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Audubon Florida are reminding boaters and beachgoers to watch out for nesting birds.

"It is very important to limit the disturbance of nesting waterbirds," said FWC biologist Nancy Douglass. "When these birds are forced to leave their nests, their eggs and chicks are left vulnerable to heat and predators. By respectfully sharing our beaches and waterways with these birds, people can help ensure their survival."

Shorebirds and seabirds build shallow nests out of sand and shells on beaches in spring and summer, and eggs and chicks are difficult to see. Shorebird nests, eggs and chicks are well-camouflaged and can easily be missed and even stepped on unless people know to look out for them. The snowy plover, least tern, black skimmer, American oystercatcher and Wilson's plover are several of Florida's beach-nesting bird species facing conservation challenges.

Wading birds, such as herons and egrets, and pelicans are also nesting now. They typically nest in mangroves and on tree islands around the state. Nesting waterbirds can be easily disturbed if people approach too closely. Such disturbance can cause birds to abandon their nesting sites, exposing eggs and chicks to predators, sun exposure and other harm.

"With last year's double-whammy of red tide and Hurricane Michael, coastal-nesting birds could be facing a challenging 2019," said Julie Wraithmell, Executive Director of Audubon Florida. "Beachgoers and boaters can do their part by respecting posted areas—giving the birds some breeding room."

The FWC has established Critical Wildlife Areas to protect congregations of one or more species of wildlife from human disturbance during critical life activities such as nesting, feeding or migration.

Spread the word. If you see people disturbing nesting birds, gently let them know how their actions may hurt the birds' survival.

If they continue to disturb nesting birds, report it to the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922), #FWC or \*FWC on a cellphone or by texting Tip@MyFWC.com. You may also report nests that are not posted to our Wildlife Alert Program.

**Fakahatchee Strand News**

**Winter Fakahatchee Tram Tours Are the Perfect Day-Excursion!**

Cooler temperatures make winter the perfect time to experience a swamp walk or tram tour in **Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park**. The park, east of Naples, is Florida's largest and has been called "the Amazon of North America."

Ghostrider Tram Tours of the park are from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The naturalist led tours are offered for \$25 per person most Thursdays in March and are named for the famous ghost orchid found in the park.

The Naturalist Led Tram Tour and Swamp Walks are from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This \$60 excursion takes visitors into knee-high water and is offered on most Tuesdays during the season.

For directions, complete details and required reservations for all Fakahatchee adventures: [www.orchidswamp.org](http://www.orchidswamp.org) and click on Tours and Events. **Please be advised that tours sell out quickly so it is recommended to call and schedule your dates as soon as possible!**

You can reach us by phone at (800) 362-8590. We look forward to seeing you there!

**About the Fakahatchee Strand**

The Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park is perhaps the best example of a subtropical, strand swamp in the United States. The Fakahatchee Strand is a linear swamp forest, approximately twenty miles long by five miles wide and oriented from north to south. The Strand harbors one of the largest concentrations and diversity of native orchids in North America, and supports numerous rare and endangered animal species. It is also one of the core areas of the current range of the Florida Panther.

The Strand's 85,000 acres are part of the main drainage slough of the Big Cypress Swamp. The Fakahatchee Strand is linked hydrologically to the Everglades system and is particularly important to the estuarine ecosystem of the Ten Thousand Islands area.

**Local Happenings**

**E C Resident Dayna Fendrick Wins Quilting Blue Ribbon!**



Everglades City Resident Dayna Fendrick took home the blue ribbon at the **Stitches in Time Quilt Show in Naples** for her gorgeous, 3 piece, scenic quilt shown above. There were 188 entries in several categories competing for the top prizes. Congratulations Dayna, well deserved!

**New Card Racks at E-City Hall Feature Businesses & Attractions**

There is a great new resource at



Everglades City Hall. The card racks on the first floor by the entry have free brochures about area businesses and attractions for visitors.

If you would like your information added to the racks, please contact Kathy Brock at 954-662-7003, or via email at [mulletrapper@gmail.com](mailto:mulletrapper@gmail.com).

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[www.HavanaCafeoftheEverglades.com](http://www.HavanaCafeoftheEverglades.com)

**EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP**

**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 Marina (695-2091):**

Deli Closed. Marina is open.  
Live bait available at marina

**Havana Café (695-2214):**

Open Daily, 7 am to 4 pm  
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

**Rod & Gun (695-2101):**

11:30 am - 8:00 pm; daily

**Tastes of the Everglades**

Open Tues.—Sunday 3 pm till closing

**Triad Seafood & Café (695-2662):**

Open Every Day  
10:30 am-5 pm

**MARKETS**

**Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535):**

M-Th 9 am– 7 pm, Fri-Sun, 7 am to 7 pm

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

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**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, See ad p. 11

**1<sup>st</sup> 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**

Sunday Mass, 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

Get More Tides on: [www.SWFLGO.com!](http://www.SWFLGO.com!)

3/9/19	Sat	3:52 AM	2.4	H
3/9/19	Sat	11:14 AM	0.17	L
3/9/19	Sat	4:15 PM	2.41	H
3/9/19	Sat	11:42 PM	0.12	L
3/10/19	Sun	5:32 AM	2.25	H
3/10/19	Sun	12:39 PM	0.29	L
3/10/19	Sun	5:32 PM	2.4	H
3/11/19	Mon	1:23 AM	0.08	L
3/11/19	Mon	6:20 AM	2.07	H
3/11/19	Mon	1:03 PM	0.43	L
3/11/19	Mon	5:51 PM	2.4	H
3/12/19	Tue	2:13 AM	0.06	L
3/12/19	Tue	7:23 AM	1.87	H
3/12/19	Tue	1:26 PM	0.58	L
3/12/19	Tue	6:21 PM	2.39	H
3/13/19	Wed	3:18 AM	0.04	L
3/13/19	Wed	8:53 AM	1.72	H
3/13/19	Wed	1:52 PM	0.72	L
3/13/19	Wed	7:03 PM	2.37	H
3/14/19	Thu	4:34 AM	-0.01	L
3/14/19	Thu	10:28 AM	1.68	H
3/14/19	Thu	2:35 PM	0.86	L
3/14/19	Thu	8:11 PM	2.34	H
3/15/19	Fri	5:45 AM	-0.1	L
3/15/19	Fri	12:04 PM	1.77	H
3/15/19	Fri	5:38 PM	0.9	L
3/15/19	Fri	10:11 PM	2.39	H
3/16/19	Sat	6:49 AM	-0.2	L
3/16/19	Sat	1:14 PM	1.94	H
3/16/19	Sat	6:55 PM	0.82	L
3/16/19	Sat	11:44 PM	2.55	H
3/17/19	Sun	7:48 AM	-0.3	L
3/17/19	Sun	1:53 PM	2.12	H
3/17/19	Sun	7:56 PM	0.67	L
3/18/19	Mon	12:54 AM	2.77	H
3/18/19	Mon	8:39 AM	-0.34	L
3/18/19	Mon	2:24 PM	2.29	H
3/18/19	Mon	8:47 PM	0.48	L
3/19/19	Tue	1:50 AM	2.96	H
3/19/19	Tue	9:26 AM	-0.34	L
3/19/19	Tue	2:54 PM	2.44	H
3/19/19	Tue	9:35 PM	0.28	L
3/20/19	Wed	2:40 AM	3.06	H
3/20/19	Wed	10:10 AM	-0.26	L
3/20/19	Wed	3:23 PM	2.57	H
3/20/19	Wed	10:22 PM	0.09	L
3/21/19	Thu	3:28 AM	3.03	H
3/21/19	Thu	10:53 AM	-0.13	L
3/21/19	Thu	3:53 PM	2.68	H
3/21/19	Thu	11:08 PM	-0.05	L
3/22/19	Fri	4:18 AM	2.88	H
3/22/19	Fri	11:34 AM	0.03	L
3/22/19	Fri	4:25 PM	2.74	H
3/22/19	Fri	11:56 PM	-0.14	L

**Snook Season Reopened  
In Southern Collier County March 1st**

Snook season reopened in Collier County south of Gordon Pass on March 1st. In areas north, Snook and redfish are catch-and-release only in areas affected by red tide through May 10, 2019. This includes all state waters from the Pasco/Hernando county line south through Gordon Pass in Collier County, including all waters in Hillsborough County.

There is a limit of one per harvester per day, with a minimum length of 28 and a maximum length of 33 inches.

**It's Official! The Seafood Fest  
Attracted a BIG Crowd**

When the weather forecasters predicted beautiful weather for the weekend of the seafood festival, one would expect an excellent turnout.

Well, the official numbers from the Collier Sheriffs Office confirmed what we already knew...a whole lot of people showed up for the festival!

There is no way to get an exact number of attendees, but we do know how many cars entered the City during the weekend:

- ◆ Friday: 2,366 vehicles
- ◆ Saturday: 5,653 vehicles
- ◆ Sunday: 4,646 vehicles

Based on national averages of 2.7 persons per vehicle, that is 34,195. There were an additional 1,200 in RV's bringing that total to 35,395. These numbers do not include any local attendees during the festival so if you add in local attendees over the three-day period, that number is pretty close to 40,000 festival-goers.

That is a great turnout for ANY festival. Especially impressive considering people have to drive many miles to attend ours! Great Job Everyone!



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CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Condo #409 at Captains Table, 1 bed, 1 bath, fully furnished, newer appliances, new porch, windows, community pool, \$105,000 call Bill 763-443-7419.

FOR SALE: Completely remodeled mobile home with lot (9000sf) in Copeland. 2/Br, 2/Bath, large living room, open kitchen and back porch. Fenced property with large shed, city water & sewer. \$42000, negotiable. 241 Swain Street. Call 941-203-0694

FOR SALE- Great commercial investment - The Oyster House Restaurant and Glades Haven Marina and Store in Everglades City.

The Marina Store also had a deli, bait & tackle, dockage, boat rentals and much more. Plenty of uses! The Oyster House had seating capacity of 200. Dining room, bar / lounge, banquet room with private bar. Buy separately or together! Hurricane Irma damage, being sold As Is.

Call Karen at Glades Realty 239-695-4299 for more information.

FRESH VEGGIES DELIVERED! Pre-Order. Get Exactly What you Want! Visit the new Noland's Old Country Market website to order a box of fresh local produce, homemade baked goods, farm fresh eggs, and raw local honey. Orders are available for pick up or delivery! Pick-up on Saturdays from 9am to 1pm at 1181 Hamilton Ln, Chok. Deliveries made after 1 pm Saturday. Visit: http://mariljw64.wixsite.com/nolandsmarket

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.

RV LOT FOR SALE in VR Corp in Everglades City, # 22. Electric & sewer hookup. Concrete pad is ready for your RV. Call 954-261-3550 for info.

RV PAD FOR RENT: In Everglades City RV park. Full hook-up, 30 amps, 25 x 35 pad, restroom, shower, laundry & rec. privileges, 55+. Quiet time 10 pm. Weekly, monthly-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: Condo #418 in Captain's Table, 1bed/1bath, totally renovated, fully furnished, new appliances, high impact windows/door, community pool. \$109,500. Call Vivian 786-395-9253. MLS 218025142

FOR SALE: Club Everglades home. A fisherman's paradise & weekend retreat, \$299,500. Built in 2006. 2 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Call Jim Prange for information at 239.642.1133 Premier Sotheby's International Realty.

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,

Lee Cypress, Copeland, Jerome & Ochopee

We strive to present the facts accurately

We encourage contrasting points of view

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$40 annual by US Postal Mail, \$10 by email

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www.swflgo.com



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