

The MULLET RAPPER

**AREA INFO
TIDES ~ EVENTS
RESTAURANTS**

**What's Happening in the Everglades & 10,000 Islands
JUNE 14, 2019 - JUNE 28, 2019**

**NEWS
25¢**

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P O Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume XI • Issue # 340

After Seven Years, Principal James Ragusa is Moving On

Wow. It was only a few weeks ago that I learned assistant principal Michelle Wheeler was leaving EVG school for another position. I was saddened but understand that change is inevitable in the school system.

Unfortunately, the change to come was not complete as I recently learned that Jim Ragusa was hand-picked by Superintendent Kamela Patton to become the principal of Pine Ridge High School with a population of 2000 students.

This is a sad day for EVG school but an achievement for Principal Ragusa, and one that is well deserved.

We have enjoyed a great relationship with the school and fully intend on continuing that with the new Principal, Dr. Cherie Allison.

We look forward to working with Dr. Allison and see great things for the school in the future. However, we will always look fondly on the past and remember how instrumental Jim Ragusa was in our community's recovery from the hurricane and how he worked tirelessly to help our local families.

James Ragusa will be missed. We thank him for his service and dedication and wish him the best of luck at his new school.

5-Vehicle Pileup on I-75 After Vehicle Hits Bear

A five-vehicle crash on I-75 left one person with minor injuries after a vehicle hit a 500 pound bear. Four trailing vehicles also hit the animal, with one turning over.

The bear was killed in the accident that could have been much worse.

Travelers on our roads are accustomed to looking out for alligators, panthers and deer, but bears are also found in Collier, Lee and counties north.

Their dark color makes them very difficult to see at dawn and dusk and their girth (500 pounds!) makes for a very dangerous impact.

Encounters with bears are not uncommon, however aggression towards humans is not common.

In January, a north Naples man was injured by a bear when he went outside with his small dog and encountered a mother bear with 2 cubs.

She swiped his face with her paw leaving a nasty gash requiring 70 stitches. Since that time, he has been on high alert when taking his dogs outside, often carrying an air horn and handgun.

Florida Black Bears spend the summer months foraging for food. They are attracted to garbage cans, dog food and any other human foods left where they can access it.

Male bears generally weigh between 400 & 500 pounds and females from 200 to 250 pounds. However, two males over 700 pounds have been documented in Florida and a female over 500 pounds was discovered deceased after a vehicle collision. Their weights can vary dramatically based on the food supply. Bears that forage in garbage generally weigh more.

Bears are omnivores. They eat mostly grasses, plants, seed and berries but will also dine on insect and some animal matter, and of course, human garbage if it is available. To keep them away, limit access to food and garbage outdoors.

Walk on the Wild Side in Everglades City by Patty Huff

You don't have to go far to walk along a boardwalk through the mangroves. On Dupont Island you can stroll along a walkway leading to either Panther Creek to view the manatees or continue in the other direction to learn about alligators.

Ervin and Lynn Stokes with their son Christopher have rebuilt this Everglades attraction which survived Hurricane Irma.

During my recent visit I saw tourists from Germany and Belgium holding a young alligator and learning about our wildlife.



If you have visitors coming or just want to wander in the shade, stop by the Everglades City Boardwalk for a walk through the mangroves.



For more information about the attraction call 239-695-2820 or visit JungleErvAirboatWorld.com.

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FEATURE - FLORIDA GRASSES, P. 7

JUNE 16, 2019 — JULY 20, 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
16 Father's Day	17 Full Moon	18 P & Z Mtg, 7 pm Dental Bus, See p. 3	19 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8a	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8a	27	28	Rapper 29 Independence Celebration, See p. 3
30	July 1	2 New Moon EC Council Mtg 7 pm	3 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8a	4 Independence Day!	5	6
7	8	9	10 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8a	11 Red Snapper Season Closed	12	Rapper 13
14	15	16 Full Moon P & Z Mtg, 7 pm	17 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8a	18 Hot Summer Nights, See p. 10	19	20

July 29 & 30: Build a Chair, p. 10 Sept. 1: Snook Season Reopens Sept. 21: Hook 'em Fishing Tournament, p. 1
 Sept. 28: Blessing of the Fleet Oct. 15: Stone Crab Season Reopens

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: No meetings until fall
 MUSEUM: Open Monday-Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm. 239-252-5026
 PANCAKE FLY-IN: Closed for summer
 REACH OUT: 3rd No meeting until fall
 SKATING RINK: Now open! Fri. & Sat. 6 to 9 pm
 SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily 11 am to 4 pm, 239-695-2989
 THRIFT SHOP: Open Saturday 11 am to 3 pm, p.3.
 VETERANS SUPPORT: 2nd & 4th Wed. of month, noon—2 pm

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

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

The Local Area Code is 239

POST OFFICE INFORMATION:

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FATHER'S DAY IS JUNE 16TH
Plan a day together and create some nice memories!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
THE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION IS JUNE 29TH
DONATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR FIREWORKS FUND



The planning is underway for the annual Independence Day Celebration in Everglades City that will take place on **Saturday, June 29th.**

In addition to the amazing fireworks that we all look forward to, the day is filled with fun things to do with the entire family, and Art-in-the-park!

Here is the schedule of events:

- 10:00 am: Opening Ceremony**
- 10:30 am: Parade, "Hats off to America" is the theme this year**
- 11:00: Booths open at McLeod Park - Art-in-the-Park**
- 11:30: Parade winners announced, contests for the kids**
- 12:30 pm: Raffle winners announced**
- 9:00 pm: Amazing fireworks!**

Everyone is invited to attend, and all of the day's events are free. There will also be hotdogs and refreshments available. Donations are appreciated and help to fund the day's event. To contribute to the Independence Day celebration, please send a check to: Everglades City Fireworks Fund, PO Box 110, Everglades City, FL 34139. You can also use the donation boxes around town. The business with the most collected will be awarded a trophy! All donations are needed and appreciated. Thank you!



BLESSING OF THE FLEET
Saturday, September 28th

Planning for the annual blessing of the stone crab fleet is underway. The event will be held at the historic Rod & Gun Club in Everglades City. The full schedule of events will be included in future editions.



Hook'em in the Glades Fishing Tournament
September 21, 2019

Help support Everglades City School and win great prizes for the longest Snook, Redfish and Spotted Seatrout.

To register visit the website:
www.hookemintheglades.com
See more on page one, left column.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

FREE DENTAL, BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INFORMATION FOR ALL
June 18th, 8 am to 4 pm

The Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida's Health & Smiles Mobile Dental Bus will be in Everglades City on **June 18th**, from 8 am to 4 pm, in the **Everglades Community Center (or by Thrift)** parking lot, providing free dental checks, blood pressure screenings and behavioral health information if requested. For more info or to schedule an appointment: call 239-986-7323.

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 at his Marco office: Call to schedule an appointment: (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 Aid

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

E-CITY THRIFT SHOP

Open Saturday 11am -3pm



The Everglades City Thrift Store is open 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 2019 Atlantic hurricane season began on June 1 and will run through November 30

Did you know; a hurricane is a tropical cyclone with maximum sustained winds of 74 mph or higher. Hurricanes are rated according to intensity of sustained winds on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale. The 1-5 scale estimates potential property damage. A Category 3 or higher is considered a major hurricane.

Now is the time to make preparations for the 2019 season. When it comes to a hurricane, don't "wing it." The flooding rains, behemoth storm surges, and powerful winds can surprise even the most experienced hurricane veteran.

Colorado State University has released its April Atlantic Basin Seasonal Hurricane Forecast for 2019. This forecast is released to inform the general public about the upcoming season and promote hurricane preparedness well in advance. Overall, these experts predict slightly below-normal activity this hurricane season but warn that "it only takes one" storm to make a season active and cause damage.

Researchers predict there will be 13 named storms, including five hurricanes, two of which will be major storms with Category 3-5 winds. Experts also predict a 28 percent chance that at least one major hurricane will make landfall along the U.S. east coast, as well as the Gulf Coast. Researchers also say that just because 2019 is forecasted to have a weaker hurricane season than average now, doesn't mean it will stay that way.

Preparing ahead of a disaster is the responsibility of all levels of government, the private sector, and the public. It only takes one event to devastate a community so now is the time to prepare.

- ◆ Do you have cash on hand?
- ◆ Do you have a plan for your pets?
- ◆ Do you have adequate insurance, including flood insurance?
- ◆ Does your family have communication and evacuation plans?
- ◆ Do you have a "Go Bag" ready
- ◆ Are you prepared to be self sufficient for 72 hours after a storm has passed?
- ◆ Do you have special needs, and registered with local sheltering resources?

To learn more about hurricane preparedness you may visit our website at www.GreaterNaplesFire.org.

Don't delay, prepare today!

Native and Non-native Grasses Thrive in Our Hot, Wet Summer Climate

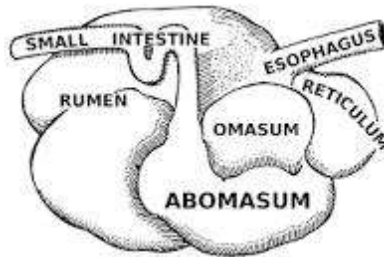
We tend to take it for granted. We walk all over it. We play on it. We mow it weekly in the summertime. Yes, the grass beneath our feet is often overlooked but it plays a very important role in our environment and in our communities.

The Everglades is home to over 100 species of grasses (Poaceae family). The one you probably thought of first, sawgrass, is not a grass at all. Sawgrass is actually a member of the sedge family (*Cladium jamaicense*).

If you ride out to Wagon Wheel Road and look over the prairie, you will catch a glimpse of several types of native grasses. Muhly grass can be easily spotted in the spring when it is in bloom. The blossoms look "fuzzy cotton like" and are a bit pinkish-lavender. Most other grasses are not quite as spectacular but they are there.

Most grasses of the Everglades stand no more than 4 ft tall. They are built to withstand periods of dry (November-April) and periods of inundation (May-October). What's even more impressive is they can appear obliterated by wildfire, then spring up from the earth as soon as the rains begin.

Grasses are a main food for many of the animal inhabitants of the area. Many birds eat the seeds produced by the grasses and then nicely deposit the undigested parts in a small pad of "fertilizer" to help spread the grasses even further.

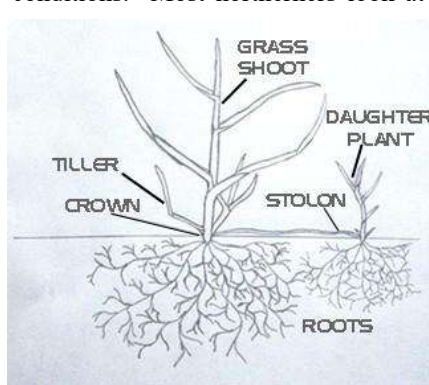


Ruminants like deer and cattle rely on grass as a main food source. Ruminants have a specialized stomach (the Rumen) that helps them acquire nutrients from plant-based food by fermenting in this specialized stomach prior to digestion, principally through microbial actions (good bacteria).

Grass also helps prevent erosion and provides shelter for the smallest critters in the forest. At home we prefer different types of grass to develop a lawn.

The two most common types are Bermuda grass and St. Augustine. Bermuda grass is similar to the type of a golf course. It's small blades and compact shape make for a beautiful carpet-type lawn. Bermuda grass is very hardy. It can withstand heat, drought, sun and even saltwater. It grows evenly and not as tall as the more common St. Augustine lawn grass. Bermuda spreads by both seed and rhizomes underneath the soil. When damaged it recovers quickly which is why it is used so frequently on athletic fields and golf courses.

St Augustine grass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*) is the lawn of the deep south. It is neither cold nor drought tolerant. It likes full sun and will grow quickly in optimum conditions. Most northerners look at St. Augustine and do not see what they are used to



seeing on lawns up north...and they are right! But guess what? As a native south Floridian, I look at **their grass** and see the same thing!

St. Augustine spreads by stolens or "runners" on top of the soil and by seed. If you pause between mowing you can often wait for it to come to seed. Many of our local finches and sparrows love the seeds from St. Augustine grass, and so do the migratory birds when they visit.

To really appreciate St. Augustine and Bermuda grasses all one would have to do is see how quickly they both recovered after being completely flooded by saltwater (and whatever else was in there). Local lawns were covered by muck once the water subsided and it looked questionable for a while....but the grass persevered.

The "weeds" fared worse than the grass after hurricane Irma leaving most of us with nice, green, lawns after the mud finally washed away.

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A Message From Principal James Ragusa Change

As I prepared my speech for graduation a few weeks ago I looked at including the importance of embracing change. I wanted to share this message with our seniors

who were moving on to the next chapter of their lives.

Little did I know at the time that a tremendous change was in store for me the Tuesday after our seniors graduated. That morning I reported to the district office and it was shared that my assignment for the next year was changing due to unforeseen circumstances the district was forced to address at another high school. It was bitter-sweet to learn that my work would take me away from a school and community that I grew so attached to over the last seven years. Moving to a high school with 2,000 students is a daunting challenge but one that is also exciting at the same time.

The last seven years have been an amazing time due to the students, staff, families, and members of the community. It has been a blessing to have served and worked here with you all. I will remember some great times as well as the very challenging time we experienced a couple of years ago. I have grown to love the community and people but realize I need to follow the same advice that I prepared to share with our seniors. Change is inevitable but it will not remove the heartfelt appreciation I feel for the opportunity to serve this community. My time here will always hold a special

place in my memory and heart.

On a positive note, I am proud to introduce the next principal at Everglades City School. Dr. Cherie Allison will move into this role and it is reassuring that someone who is so focused on supporting every student and providing them the support they need to be successful will be at the helm. I would be thrilled to have Dr. Allison as my child's principal and I know you all will support her so she can continue to serve this wonderful community.

Please accept my deepest thanks and gratitude for a great seven years! ~James Ragusa

Mullet Rapper Donations to Everglades City School in 2019 ~ \$1260

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 Leader-in-Me Program!

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

Free Summertime Activities for the Kids are Just a Click Away



The website, www.thecrazycouponlady.com is always jam-packed with money saving ideas and coupons. When summer hits, she really gets busy looking for ways you can treat your kids to a great day...without overspending, or in some cases, spending at all.

Here are some of the top suggestions for very cost-friendly summer activities for the family:

1. Go bowling. Visit www.kidsbowlfree.com. Click on Florida, then "Naples". There are two participating centers in Naples, you will need to sign up as instructed or call the centers.
2. Get free mini-build instructions from Lego for a fun summer project. Download the instructions from the website <https://shop.lego.com/en-US/MiniBuilds> and let the kids do the rest!
3. Fourth graders and their families can visit any national park for free with the Every Kid in a Park Program. Go to <https://www.everykidinapark.gov/> and follow the instructions to obtain your free pass!
4. Sign the kids up for a free Home Depot building project. Geared for kids ages 5 -12, this free workshop happens every first Saturday of the month between 9 AM and noon. Each child receives a kid-sized orange apron, workshop kit and an achievement pin. Visit the website to get started www.homedepot.com/workshops.
5. Go on the worlds largest treasure hunt on www.Geocaching.com. With more than 2 million geocaching sites worldwide, let your kids find hidden treasures in their own communities. All they need is a phone or GPS.
6. Apple Camp teaches kids how to make a movie and more for free. Visit <https://www.apple.com/today/camp/> and follow the instructions on screen.
7. Enjoy free activities at Bass Pro. Visit them online to see their summertime event schedule at <https://www.basspro.com/shop/en/family-summer-event>
8. Chuck E. Cheese has numerous free activities. Visit the website www.chuckecheese.com and click on "family fun activities". Here you can download multiple items including coloring pages. On this same tab, you can also download an activities calendar. When your child completes the calendar, they get 10 free play points.

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**New Bike Racks Installed
All Around Town!**

If you are riding a bike around town, it is now much easier to find a place to “park” it thanks to Patty Huff and FROGG.



New, rust-resistant galvanized bike racks are now set up at most area businesses and restaurants, and a very fancy, blue dolphin bike rack will soon be installed at McLeod Park.

Town leadership has been making a concerted effort to keep Everglades City a bike-friendly and pedestrian friendly community. During the winter season, tourists can be seen walking and riding around town on one of the many rentable bicycles available to visitors. In the coming years, Everglades City will be receiving a sidewalk from the circle to the Chokoloskee bridge in a project funded by Collier County.

There are other projects being looked into for additional improvements to make our City’s roads safer to navigate for bikes and pedestrians. The focus is to provide a safe environment for residents and visitors to move around town by foot, pedal or by vehicle. In addition to pathway improvements, the City will also be replacing the streetlights with a new, solar light system in about 90 locations throughout town which will greatly improve safety. For more information on the streetlights see the City Council update on page 8.

**Photo: Bike rack at Triad Seafood
By Patty Huff**




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Solution to June 1, 2019 Puzzle



My Little Slice of Paradise
by Kathy Brock

A few issues back I wrote about a personal experience I was having with my finger. I called it a finger "funk". Starting in April, I was having a painful, not very pleasant, reaction on my right ring finger. Since it was on my skin, I went to a dermatologist in Marco Island. I explained to the doctor at the time that I am frequently working in the garden and it was my belief that I picked up something when I had some minor cuts on my hands from weeding. The dermatologist said it was an allergic reaction and prescribed a cream. I asked how it could be on just one finger when I was using the entire hand...but she was certain, so I left certain too.

I applied the cream as directed for a number of days, but the condition worsened, and it appeared infected. A stop at the emergency room would surely fix it! I went to one of the hospitals in Naples and the doctor there told me it was not contact dermatitis, instead he diagnosed cellulitis or an infection of the skin. Again, I explained to this doctor that I was working outside in the dirt, I told him how itchy it was. He prescribed antibiotics for 10 days and topical applications of anti-bacterial cream.

After 10 days, the problem was still with me and seemingly spreading. I decided I needed to visit another doctor. When I visited him, I went back through my explanation, and mentioned that I thought it was fungus. He told me he was 100% sure it was contact dermatitis and not fungus, and he took my hand and rubbed it on his face to demonstrate his confidence. I left his office relieved. It will go away; it is just a matter of time...or so I thought.

Two weeks later the issue seemed to be getting better, but the finger was very red. Then one day the entire process started happening again and I was back to where I started with a swollen, sore, itchy, oozing finger. A friend suggested I see one of her friends who is a dermatologist from the East Coast when he was in town for the weekend. He said I needed a biopsy on the finger. When the test results came in it revealed that I had Tinea Manuus, or ringworm on the hand. It was atypical in that it is under the skin rather than on top of it. Ringworm is not a worm but is a type of fungus you can get from digging in the soil or by coming into contact with someone or something that has been exposed to it.

It took four doctor appointments to get a pretty common ailment diagnosed. I took antibiotics that were not needed and applied plenty of cream that was doing nothing at all. Worse, it was obvious that none of the first three medical professionals I spoke to listened to anything I said about how all this came about. I told them all about having minor cuts and working in the garden. The one doctor even rubbed my hand on his face...to show me how certain he was in his diagnosis...that was 100% wrong. I am sure he would not feel comfortable knowing he rubbed a hand with ringworm on it all over his face.

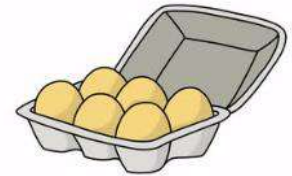
I have not given names because my goal is not to embarrass anyone or to suggest that these are not good doctors. My purpose is to show how important it is to advocate for your own health and not to take what someone tells you as the gospel if you feel it is off-base. Situations like this are probably a big part of the reason why medical expenses, and the cost of medical insurance, is so high. I am sure the cost to treat this finger ran close to \$1000 when it could have been cured for a \$15 prescription and over the counter cream - if the first three doctors heard what I was telling them rather than tune me out.

Island Life Recipes
Sausage & Egg Breakfast Casserole
By Elaine Middelstaedt

Ingredients:
 ✕ 1 pound sausage (hot or reg.)
 ✕ 1 medium onion
 ✕ 1 green pepper
 ✕ 1 stalk of celery
 ✕ 8 large eggs
 ✕ 2 cups milk
 ✕ 1/2 tsp. salt, & pepper
 ✕ Bag of croutons (more if desired)

Preheat oven at 325°. Sauté onions, green pepper & celery until softened. Add in sausage and cook until done. Whisk eggs, salt pepper, and milk and set aside.

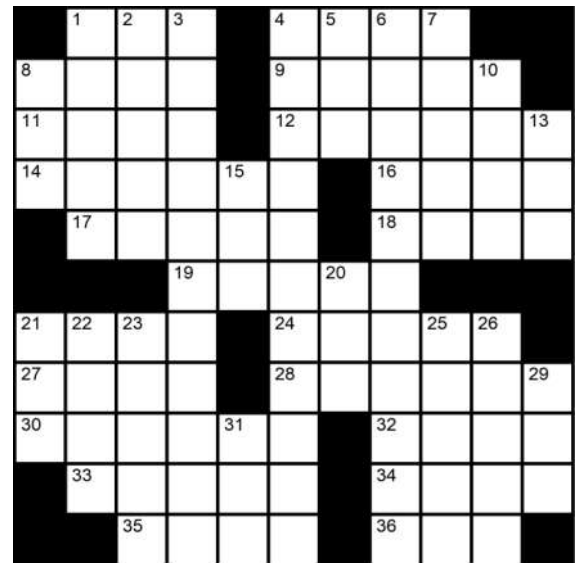
Grease 9 x 13 pan, line bottom with croutons. Layer sausage mix on top of the croutons. Place the grated cheese on top of the sausage mix and then pour the egg mixture on top. Let stand for 8 hours in the refrigerator over night. Bake at 325° for 25 to 30 minutes in middle of oven. Increase heat to 350° and bake for additional 30 mins. Check for doneness with a knife in the center. Let stand for 10 minutes then serve. Delish!



MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

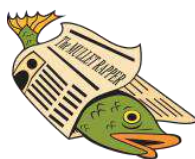
- 1 Wood problem
- 4 Funds for the future
- 8 Quartet
- 9 Morticia, to Fester
- 11 Capable of
- 12 Overseas
- 14 Come back
- 16 About
- 17 Jewish cleric
- 18 Consider
- 19 Hop named after a pilot
- 21 Aggressive anger
- 24 Croons
- 27 Black cuckoos
- 28 Rip to pieces
- 30 Andean capital
- 32 One of the Three Bears
- 33 An island, according to John Donne
- 34 Jump --- the deep end
- 35 Modern communication style
- 36 National health watchdog



Down

- 1 Polling pioneer Elmo ---
- 2 "(If You're Not in It for Love) I'm --- Here!" (Shania Twain)
- 3 Annoying worry
- 4 Right away
- 5 Tease
- 6 Relating to the study of moving air
- 7 Ballpark feat
- 8 Controversial coat
- 10 Abate
- 13 Mr. DeLuise
- 15 Diamond statistic
- 20 Casino cube
- 21 Beater for mixing mortar with hair
- 22 Unknown author
- 23 Leg of lamb
- 25 K
- 26 Tanning material
- 29 What you may do to a pet
- 31 Burden

6/15/19

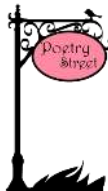




Poetry Street
by Katherine Tullie

As a former Teacher I like to emphasize children's issues. We need to give them all the love and give them the tools to succeed in this complex world we live in. That is the theme of my poem today called "Our Children."

Treat our children with loving hands
Their hearts need our attention on demand
Children and their needs
should be a priority
This plea is of utmost
importance in society
Children are our future
so treat them with care
Let's give them positive tools
of life to share
They will become the backbone of society
They're our future voice.
Make them a priority
Always listen to what a child has to say
Let their voices be heard in every way
Society has its priorities upside down
It's enough to knock many children
to the ground
Let's help them stand on their own
Let's pray them and set the right tone
Let's not be blind to what is going on
Let's help the children be strong
Changes must come about
in our society, for sure
Let's guide the children
with an emotional cure



Look for
#PoetryStreet on Twitter
or at PoetryStreet.com
Kathythepoet@gmail.com
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Poetry Street, Inc.

Area Parks & Recreation

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

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

For general information call 239-695-4111.
For reservations call 239-695-4758.

Big Cypress Nat'l Preserve Issues Annual
Temporary ORV Recreational Use Closure



Big Cypress National Preserve is closing all Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) trails, for recreational use, effective 12:01 a.m., Monday, June 03, 2019 for all units of the original Preserve as required by policy. This closure will be rescinded on 12:01 a.m., Friday, August, 02, 2019. All

units of the original Preserve will be closed temporarily to all ORV recreational use during this time.

The annual closure is necessary for visitor and resource protection as outlined in the 2000 Final Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Recreational Plan Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

Big Cypress National Preserve staff have consulted with our partners in the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission regarding this matter and have agreed to implement this closure.

Signs will be posted in appropriate
places throughout the Preserve.
www.nps.gov/BICY



June City Council Update

The City Council unanimously approved moving forward with the replacement street lights presented at the May meeting.

The City is working with FEMA on a grant that would provide over \$400,000 towards the project.

This grant applies only to the streetlights in the medians and City easements throughout town. There are approximately 90 lights that will be replaced with a new, 100% solar light.

Although the new lights do not have the decorative charm of the originals, they do meet all FEMA standards for flood and hurricane impact zones (which is critical if you want to receive the funding). They require zero underground wiring (they are solar), the batteries have a long life (5 years) and they can withstand hurricane winds when installed properly.

What's more, the lights cast the light downward so they are a dark-sky approved model!

This is a big win for the city as it was estimated at over \$800,000 to replace the existing electrically wired structures which could succumb to flooding all over again.

In addition to the streetlights, the council agreed to move forward with a lawsuit against former Mayor Sammy Hamilton to position the City as a claimant against the former Mayor as his legal issues are untangled.

The Sheriff's update indicated 350 extra patrols, 25 traffic stops, 7 details, 6 suspicious incidents, 3 disturbances, and 3 arrests for the month. (Our) District 7 includes all of the Tamiami Trail from 951 to the Dade County line, and State Road 29 all the way to I-75

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WITH AMAZING LOCAL KNOWLEDGE & STORIES
ABOUT LIFE IN THE 10,000 ISLANDS



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Living Gulf Coast by Charles Sobczak

Moonflower (*Ipomoea alba*) Other names: moon vine, tropical white morning-glory / Status: Florida=stable, IUCN=Least Concern / Life span: Established colonies can survive for years / Height: a climbing vine that can reach 30+ feet / Reproduces: alba flowers are pollinated by several species of moth / Found: In moist soils throughout south and central Florida.



A member of the morning glory family, the moonflower is one of very few *Ipomoea* species that does not bloom in the morning but waits until the evening to open its large, alabaster-white flowers. There are more than 100 varieties of flowering morning glory plants currently recognized. They have been used in the production of medicines, hallucinogens and even as a catalyst for changing latex into rubber by the Meso-American Indians more than 3,000 years ago.

During the daytime and absent of its conspicuous flowers, the moon vine, with its four to eight-inch heart-shaped leaves looks similar to a stand of the invasive kudzu. In fact, moon vine is considered an invasive species in Arizona and Arkansas. Like kudzu, moon vine is a rapid growing, "foot-a-night vine" that coils and winds its way over sable palms, Brazilian pepper and fencing in a thick, blanket-like fashion. Unlike kudzu, the moon vine is native to Florida and blooms a delicate white flower that can be as large as a saucer, measuring between five and six-inches across. Its pure white color, along with its round, symmetrical shape lends it the namesake—moonflower.

The most amazing aspect of this plant is this: you can stand next to the buds and actually watch them open. I refer to this diversion as "watching flower's bloom," which, when you think about it, is usually pretty difficult to do. Because each moonflower opens within one to three-minute's time, it's easy to stand over a thick stand and watch a half-dozen moonflowers opening all around you. The trick is finding some nearby moonflowers, then waiting for the perfect time to visit them.

Fading daylight is the trigger for moonflowers to open. The flowers bloom only once, with each bloom destroyed by the following day's sunlight. As soon as twilight begins to set in, generally fifteen-minutes before sunset, or even earlier if the cloud cover is heavy, to roughly twenty-minutes after sunset, the large, two to three-inch buds will open. Look for buds with white and lime-green candy-cane stripping, as these are mature and ready to bloom. As they begin to open the very first thing you will notice is a swelling of the bud, then the tip starts to ruffle as the five white petals begin to show. Within a minute of that happening the bud springs open, as if you were watching one of those unforgettable time-lapse sequences you see in documentaries like Planet Earth or Life. If the wind hits a moonflower just right, it can open in ten-seconds flat. It should be said that watching moonflowers bloom can be terribly addicting, not to mention exquisitely beautiful. As if their free floorshow isn't enough, they give off a delightful fragrance.

On Sanibel, where I live, there is a large swath of moonflowers located along the old Island Inn Road just across from Tarpon Bay Road in the Sanibel Gardens Preserve. The plant is common throughout southern and central Florida in moist but not swampy areas. All six counties, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Glades and Hendry included in The Living Gulf Coast harbor moonflowers.

The plant is widely cultivated as an ornamental and its seeds can be ordered on the Internet for as little as \$2.95 a package. It grows well as an annual during the summer months. Given that fact, anyone in North America, from Anchorage, Alaska to Arcadia, Maine can now watch their personal moonflower plants bloom. So take a few minutes off some quiet evening, find a stand of moon vine, and go out and watch the flower's bloom. You'll love it.



Fishing the 10,000 Islands with Capt. Merritt

This month is a great month to catch big Snook on the outside islands. The fishing has been good and should continue throughout the month. We have been using Thread fin Herring which have been schooled up all along the coast here. We have also been getting some nice fish on top water lures in the early mornings. Buck tail jigs are a great way to get action during the day. Incoming tide seems to be the best right now.

Redfish are still biting on the same incoming tide. We are catching fish between 15" and 24". Live shrimp are your best bet. Fish them under a cork or on a knocker rig. Scented jigs also work or just tip your favorite tail with a small piece of shrimp.

Seatrout are still around but they seem to have spread out more. We are catching some on the grass flats, around the bars and even just fishing around the perimeter of the islands.

There have been plenty of fish offshore also. We are seeing Permit, Cobia, Grouper, Snapper, Goliath and even big sharks for those interested. The weather has been very cooperative lately, but the afternoon storms are not too far away!

The bottom line is that it is Hot! But the fishing is too! Stay hydrated, get out early, come in early, but enjoy the great fishing! And don't forget to respect the other boats out there. I see more and more boats that have no kind of etiquette. I figure they just don't know better. It's a big area and there certainly is no reason to pull up close to other guys to fish. Unless of course you ran out to a wreck where there is no choice. But even then, you can be respectful on how you anchor up. Be respectful and enjoy your day! Good luck fishing! Capt. Mike

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

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

Need area information?
Find maps, directions, places to eat and things to do all in one place!



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Recreational Red Snapper Season Starts June 11 in Gulf state and Federal Waters

The recreational red snapper season started June 11 in Gulf state and federal waters and will remain open through July 12, closing July 13.

Anglers fishing from private recreational boats will need to sign up as a Gulf Reef Fish Angler to target red snapper and several other reef fish in Gulf state and federal waters (excluding Monroe County), even if they are exempt from fishing license requirements. Sign up as a Gulf Reef Fish Angler at no cost at GoOutdoorsFlorida.com or by visiting any location you can purchase a license.

For-hire operations that do not have a federal reef fish permit may also participate in this 32-day season but are limited to fishing for red snapper in state waters only. These operators must have State Gulf Reef Fish Charter on their license to target red snapper and other reef fish in Gulf state waters (excluding Monroe County). This can be done at no cost at a local tax collector's office.

Gulf Reef Fish Anglers might receive a questionnaire in the mail regarding their reef fish trips as part of Florida's Gulf Reef Fish Survey.

For anglers who want to share catch information with FWC electronically, the Angler Action Foundation has developed a smartphone app for logging red snapper fishing trips. This app is available on your phone's app store by searching for iAngler Gulf Red Snapper for private anglers or iAngler Gulf Red Snapper Charter if you are a charter operation. By using iAngler to log catches during red snapper season and beyond, anglers can provide FWC researchers with valuable insights about their trips. Learn how to use this app in a webinar led by the Angler Action Foundation at 6 p.m. Monday, June 10, at FWC.AdobeConnect.com/mfm.

Whether you use the iAngler app, provide data dockside to FWC staff or receive a Gulf Reef Fish Survey in the mail, the data you provide helps us learn more about the fisheries we all enjoy. If you receive a survey in the mail, please respond whether you fished this season or not.

To learn more about the recreational red snapper season in Gulf state and federal waters, including season size and bag limits, visit MyFWC.com/Marine and click on "Recreational Regulations" and "Snappers," which is under the "Regulations by Species - Reef Fish" tab.

The federal season for for-hire operations with federal reef fish permits is June 1 through Aug. 1.

Fakahatchee Strand News Spring Fakahatchee Tram Tours June is Beautiful at the Park!

June is 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 June 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 through June.

For directions, complete details and required reservations for all Fakahatchee adventures: 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.

CCSO Sponsored Activities For Summer Fun for Kids!

Each summer the Collier County Sheriff's Office sponsors activities for kids during the summer break.

This year's Build-a-Chair event is scheduled for July 29 & 30 at the Everglades Community Center. This activity is for kids ages 10-13. Reservations are required! Please call the Youth Relations Office to reserve your child's spot: 230-252-0144.

Hot Summer Nights will be held at McLeod Park on July 18th at 6pm. No reservations are required and kids of all ages are invited to attend.

For more information, contact the Youth Relations office.

Visit the Museum of the Everglades to See Incredible Artwork by Everglades City School Students

Summer is a great time to visit the beautiful Museum of the Everglades. Currently, you can see some of the amazing artwork submitted by Mr. Tribble's art students at Everglades City School.

Check out some of the summertime activities for adults and kids at the museum!

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

Visit the website for event info: www.evergladesmuseum.org

1st Baptist Church Educational Series "The Apostles Doctrine" A 22-Week Series Wednesday Evenings @ 6:00 PM



We are closed for the summer. See you in October!



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Phone: 239-695-2214

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, Mon to Sat

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):

Closed for Summer. See you in October!
See our ad on page 10!

Island Café (695-0003):

6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily

Ivey House (695-3299):

7:00 am – 9:00 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

Triad Seafood & Café (695-2662):

We are Closed for Summer
See You in October

MARKETS

Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535):

Open 7 days, 9 am to 7 pm

Grimm's Stone Crab (695-3222):

Closed Until October

Fresh Produce

Right Choice Supermarket

See listing under "markets"

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

Chokoloskee Family Church

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

Copeland Baptist Church

Sunday: 10 am School, 11 am Worship

Everglades Community Church

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

1st Baptist Church of Everglades City

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

Holy Family Catholic Church

Closed for Summer, See San Marco

St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples

Phone: 239-417-2084

San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl.

239-394-5181

BARRON RIVER TIDES

LAT: 25.87° N LONG: 81.37°W

More Tide Locations On: www.SWFLGO.com/

6/15/19	Sat	2:42 AM	2.33	H
6/15/19	Sat	8:51 AM	0.7	L
6/15/19	Sat	1:39 PM	3.07	H
6/15/19	Sat	9:38 PM	-0.22	L
6/16/19	Sun	3:26 AM	2.3	H
6/16/19	Sun	9:34 AM	0.75	L
6/16/19	Sun	2:14 PM	3.12	H
6/16/19	Sun	10:21 PM	-0.27	L
6/17/19	Mon	4:08 AM	2.27	H
6/17/19	Mon	10:17 AM	0.78	L
6/17/19	Mon	2:48 PM	3.11	H
6/17/19	Mon	11:04 PM	-0.28	L
6/18/19	Tue	4:50 AM	2.24	H
6/18/19	Tue	10:58 AM	0.81	L
6/18/19	Tue	3:22 PM	3.06	H
6/18/19	Tue	11:46 PM	-0.24	L
6/19/19	Wed	5:31 AM	2.23	H
6/19/19	Wed	11:40 AM	0.83	L
6/19/19	Wed	3:59 PM	2.97	H
6/20/19	Thu	12:27 AM	-0.17	L
6/20/19	Thu	6:13 AM	2.24	H
6/20/19	Thu	12:22 PM	0.85	L
6/20/19	Thu	4:41 PM	2.84	H
6/21/19	Fri	1:08 AM	-0.07	L
6/21/19	Fri	6:56 AM	2.26	H
6/21/19	Fri	1:06 PM	0.87	L
6/21/19	Fri	5:29 PM	2.69	H
6/22/19	Sat	1:50 AM	0.05	L
6/22/19	Sat	7:41 AM	2.29	H
6/22/19	Sat	1:55 PM	0.89	L
6/22/19	Sat	6:24 PM	2.53	H
6/23/19	Sun	2:35 AM	0.19	L
6/23/19	Sun	8:28 AM	2.33	H
6/23/19	Sun	2:58 PM	0.87	L
6/23/19	Sun	7:28 PM	2.36	H
6/24/19	Mon	3:24 AM	0.33	L
6/24/19	Mon	9:14 AM	2.39	H
6/24/19	Mon	4:11 PM	0.81	L
6/24/19	Mon	8:42 PM	2.21	H
6/25/19	Tue	4:18 AM	0.46	L
6/25/19	Tue	9:58 AM	2.45	H
6/25/19	Tue	5:16 PM	0.69	L
6/25/19	Tue	9:54 PM	2.11	H
6/26/19	Wed	5:10 AM	0.57	L
6/26/19	Wed	10:40 AM	2.52	H
6/26/19	Wed	6:11 PM	0.54	L
6/26/19	Wed	11:03 PM	2.06	H
6/27/19	Thu	5:59 AM	0.66	L
6/27/19	Thu	11:21 AM	2.6	H
6/27/19	Thu	7:02 PM	0.37	L
6/28/19	Fri	12:14 AM	2.07	H
6/28/19	Fri	6:47 AM	0.73	L
6/28/19	Fri	12:02 PM	2.7	H
6/28/19	Fri	7:49 PM	0.18	L

Governor DeSantis Proves His Commitment to Everglades Restoration

Governor Ron DeSantis has held true to his campaign promise to keep attention on the Everglades and Florida's water quality.

On June 3rd, the governor announced that the U.S. Department of Transportation has matched the state of Florida's \$40 million for the Tamiami Trail by awarding an additional \$60 million to fully fund and allow for the completion of the Tamiami Trail Next Steps Phase II project, which is critical to the Governor's plan to help restore the water flow.

By elevating the Trail, it will allow an additional 75 to 80 billions of gallons of fresh water to flow south into the Everglades and South Florida.

The construction of Alligator Alley (now I-75) and the Tamiami Trail function as dams that stop the natural sheet flow of the Everglades. This coupled with runoff by agriculture has created a serious water quality situation punctuated by last years blue-green algae and red-tide double whammy on the area.

Areas north of Gordon Pass (in N. Collier) were besieged by both problems for most of the summer, fall and winter seasons.

Countless marine mammals and sea life succumbed to the toxins and poor water quality washing up on shore dead, making a bad situation even worse.

Having an advocate for the Everglades in the Governor's mansion is a win for all of Florida and the country. The Everglades are one of nature's "diamonds" and protecting it is all of our jobs and one Ron DeSantis takes seriously.

Thank you for taking action Gov. DeSantis. We have taken notice!



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Non-Denominational

101 South Copeland Avenue

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The Rev. Dr. Bob N. Wallace, Pastor

Sunday Worship Service 11:00 A.M.

Sunday School Nov. 17th – April, 9:45 A.M.

www.ever-community-church.com

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 RENT: Newly renovated modular home on Plantation Island canal lot. Long term lease 6 month minimum. Sleeps 2-3. See it on: https://tinyurl.com/y96k2c73 For more information contact Chip Chipman 281-358-7884 or Bob Chipman at 239-695-0007.

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.

FOR SALE: Concrete Block Home @ 1213 Chokoloskee Dr. Chokoloskee. 2Br. 1.5 Ba Ground Level Home that has never been Flood, Small screen front porch & large screen side porch. 960 sq. ft. On corner lot. Can be seen on Zillow & Trulia with photos. Asking 174,900. Call: 813 763 1944.

JOB: Miami-Dade Auxiliary Airport Specialist. Full-time, great benefits. For details: https://swflgo.com/airport-job/

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.

FOR SALE: Canal front vacant lot on Lopez Ln, Chokoloskee. Quick & easy access to the Chok. Bay and Gulf no bridges! A stilt home could offer views of the Bay. Zoned for homes or mfg. homes. Asking \$115,000. Glades Realty 239-695-4299 www.GladesRealty.com

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 218025142For Rent:

FOR SALE: Newly renovated modular home on Plantation Island canal lot. Long term lease 6 month minimum. Sleeps 2-3. Call Chip @ 281-358-7884 or Bob @ 239-695-0007.

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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