

# The MULLET RAPPER

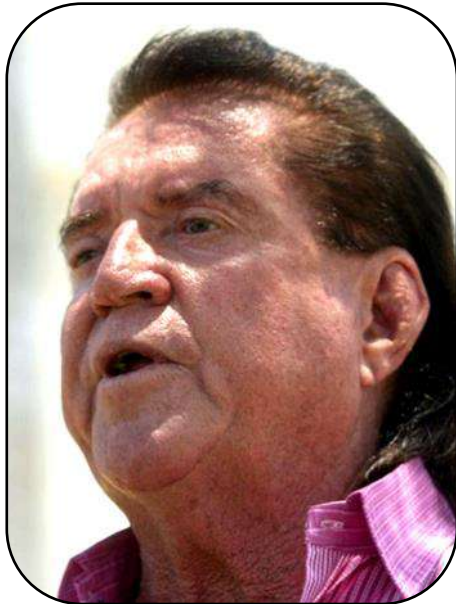
AREA INFO  
TIDES ~ EVENTS  
RESTAURANTS

What's Happening in the Everglades & 10,000 Islands  
AUGUST 10, 2019 - AUGUST 23, 2019

NEWS  
25¢

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## Obituary Sammy Hamilton 1933-2019



Sammy Hamilton was born on October 21, 1933, and proceeded on to heaven Friday August 2, 2019 at 3:10 a.m, while in Hospice in Naples, FL.

His services will be held August 18, 2019, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at Hodges Funeral Home at Naples Memorial Gardens, 525 111th Avenue N., Naples, FL 34108.

## United We Stand, Divided We Fall. Let's Choose Option One, Please by Kathy Brock

In a period of 13 hours, two mass shootings took place in our country. The previous weekend, a gunman entered a festival in California to shoot and kill festivalgoers. Then two days later, a gunman killed 2 at a Walmart in Mississippi. The shooting in Mississippi barely made the headlines it's become so commonplace. Thirty nine innocent people were mowed down while out shopping, attending a festival and going out for an evening with friends for drinks.

My heart is broken. Ponder how you would feel today if one of your family members was one of the victims. What if it was your child? What action would you demand? Then consider that the same thing kept happening over and over again...just like it is. How would that parent feel? **Something just isn't right.**

I am old enough to remember "how things were". I hated when my mother would say that, but here I go anyway...

There have always been social tensions and being on this side or that. But one gigantic difference today is that we live on a 24-hour news cycle. Back in the day, news was a TV station's afterthought. Each day networks were essentially forced to provide a news hour. That was it. If you missed it, try tomorrow's paper. We had many hours totally unplugged.

Today, it is so much different. Millennials and Gen Xers have grown up as a 24-hour information cycle generation. The internet became the ultimate information "provider." It let us all plug in 24-hours a day. All generations have now become accustomed to the 24-hour cycling of information - over and over again. **And, no matter who you listen to, the other side is bad.** That's what we hear. All of us...all day long.

Before we understood the internet's potential, websites with some pretty far-out ideologies popped up. It provided, and provides, a forum for anyone to say anything and for readers to latch on to it. Anyone can do it and they can say anything. Total fabrication. Anything. These same internet "channels" have access to our kids too, and the kids to them. It provides a network for kids and a way to make online friends. It also provides the "channel" owners a way manipulate us and to make money. And often, a lot of it.

Back in the day, news really was newsworthy, and it was delivered in very ordinary terms. Today's news segments are **shows** in competition for ratings. Ratings go up when people are passionate about things. The news networks are totally, financially interested in keeping us tuned in. In fact, their mere survival is based upon it. Getting us worked up about things is a way to keep us engaged. The more engaged we are the more we watch and, the more money **they** make.

Maybe if the rhetoric on the news, by all "sides", is ratcheted down, tensions can ratchet down too? Maybe in our effort to identify the "why," we are overlooking the television in the living room us telling us how we are supposed to think, that is one of the culprits, and the computer in the corner, another?

Unity and acceptance are how we became a great nation. **It is way less stressful too.** Allowing outside forces, who profit off of our angst, by manipulating our thinking to keep us plugged in and engaged - is not doing any of us any good, and it could be very destructive for our children and our society. A society at odds is not a good thing.

Events like these terrible shootings call for a serious evaluation of everything we are doing personally, professionally, and politically. The loss of innocent life is far too great for us to continue down the same path ignoring it because it's inconvenient. The parents of one of the murdered MSD students, Joaquin Oliver, was interviewed. I saw it. The pain they are still in is unimaginable. It is sickening.

Doing nothing is a slap in the face to those parents and everyone else who has experienced this type of tragedy. **We have to try. We are better than this. The victims and their families deserve it.**

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**AUGUST 11, 2019 — SEPTEMBER 14, 2019**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
August 11	12	13 School Begins Perseids Meteor Shower, p. 8	14 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8a Kids Program, Museum, p. 3	15 Full Moon Museum Talk, See p. 3	16	17
18	19	20 Dental Bus, p. 3 Workshops, 5 pm, See p. 5 P & Z, 7 pm	21 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8a	22	23	Rapper 24
25	26	27	28 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8a	29	30 New Moon	31
1 Snook Season OPENS	2 Labor Day	3 City Council Mtg 7 pm	4 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8a	5	6	Rapper 7
8	9 ESHP Mtg., 8:30 am	10	11 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8a	12	13 Meteor Shower, See p. 10	14 New Moon

Sept. 21: Hook 'em Fishing Tournament, p. 3      Sept.28: Blessing of the Fleet      Oct. 8: Safe Community Night  
 Oct. 15: Stone Crab Season Reopens      Oct. 26 & 27: Swamp Walk, p. 10      November 15: ESHP Talk

**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: 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 & 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  
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 EVG NATIONAL PARK: 239-695-3311  
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 PUBLIC LIBRARY: 239-695-2511  
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# UPCOMING EVENTS

**KIDS PRESCHOOL PROGRAM**  
*Invasive Species of the Everglades*  
**August 14, 2019**  
**10 am - 11 am**



Join the **Museum of the Everglades** for a preschool program! This free program is for 2-5-year-olds who have not yet entered kindergarten. Each one-hour program will focus on learning and play, with a specific topic in mind. This month's program will focus on invasive species of the Everglades. Space is limited to 10 children per session, RSVP required. **Museum of the Everglades, 105 Broadway, Everglades City, FL, 239-695-0008.**

**MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES**  
*Edison & Ford in the Everglades*  
**August 15**  
**2 PM - 3 PM**



Join us at the **Museum of the Everglades** every month for our Third Thursday lecture series. Presented by museum staff or local authority, these lectures will explore the lesser known and often-overlooked areas of our region's past.

Every lecture is free, begins at 2 pm and will include an opportunity for questions and discussion. **Museum of the Everglades, 105 Broadway, Everglades City, FL, 239-695-0008. Next Talk: Florida Pirates, Sept. 19th.**

**SNOOK SEASON REOPENS**  
**September 1, 2019**

Sunday, September 1st will mark the opening of the Gulf Coast Snook season.

Anglers must possess a saltwater fishing license and a snook stamp to harvest the fish. Regulations: 1 per harvester per day, or 2 per vessel. Slot size: Not less than 28", not more than 33". For all regulations visit <https://swflgo.com/fishing-regs-2019/>

**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](http://www.hookemintheglades.com)

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

**FREE DENTAL, BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INFORMATION FOR ALL**  
**Aug. 20th, 8 am to 4 pm**

The *Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida's Health & Smiles Mobile Dental Bus* will be in Everglades City on **August 20th**, from 8 am to 4 pm, at the **Everglades Community Center (by Thrift Shop)** parking lot, providing free dental checks, blood pressure screenings and behavioral health information if requested. For more info or to schedule an appointment: call 239-986-7323.

**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*

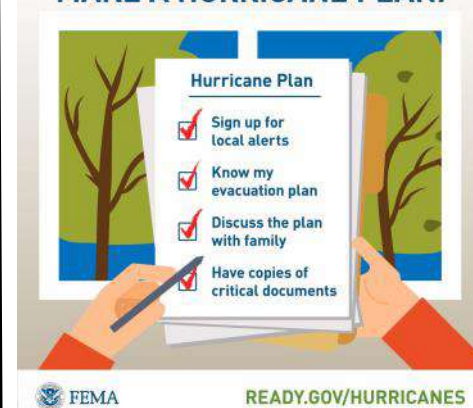
Emergency rooms in South Florida report a number of injuries every hurricane season due to falls from ladders, cuts, and other injuries associated with hurricanes, many times resulting during pre and post storm.

If you have metal panel shutters, only handle them with heavy work gloves. These panels are heavy and the edges can be sharp and cause serious injuries. If you utilize wood panels be sure to be extremely careful when using power tools to cut or install them. When utilizing a ladder to install panels, make sure you have a partner who can assist to stabilize the ladder.

After a hurricane has passed and it's safe to venture outside, remember to immediately remove your storm shutters or plywood from at least one window or door in every room, particularly sleeping rooms. A fully-shuttered house may be safe during a hurricane, but presents a significant life safety hazard by blocking escape routes should a fire occur. Remember, while hurricane shutters are designed to protect you from hurricanes, they can also trap you and your family inside during a deadly fire, or other type of emergency. Establish an emergency escape plan and make sure everyone in the house is aware of the plan.

If you would like additional hurricane preparedness information please visit our web site at [www.GreaterNaplesFire.org](http://www.GreaterNaplesFire.org). Or, if your community would like to host a hurricane season preparedness seminar please contact the District at (239) 348-7540

### MAKE A HURRICANE PLAN.



You can download a complete **hurricane preparedness guide** developed by FEMA by visiting: [www.swflgo.com](http://www.swflgo.com) and clicking on the hurricane preparedness icon on the lower left column.

**SAWFISH NEWS by Tonya Wiley, Havenworth Coastal Conservation  
by guest author Sonja Fordham, Shark Advocates International  
Exporting Sawfish Conservation Success**

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In recent months, U.S. conservationists, scientists, and government officials have made important strides in international cooperation toward saving critically endangered sawfishes. Because the U.S. is one of only a few bright spots for sawfish in the world, proactively sharing lessons from our research and conservation successes can be key to inspiring other countries to take meaningful action and bring their populations back from the brink.

In early June, at a meeting in Honduras, conservationists from Shark Advocates International and Sea Life Law welcomed the listing of the Largetooth Sawfish, *Pristis pristis* (photo left by Eric Hensel) under Annex II of the Cartagena Convention Protocol for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA/W Protocol). Through this action, Caribbean countries commit to strictly protect the species and cooperate regionally to recover populations. The Smalltooth Sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*) was listed in 2017.

Both listings were proposed by the Dutch government and supported by the U.S. The success of the listing depends, of course, on immediate follow-up actions by a variety of players

Just days prior, researchers from Havenworth Coastal Conservation and Florida State University, with help from fishing guides and students, spotted and tagged a 328 cm (10'9") female Smalltooth Sawfish in the Abaco Islands of the Bahamas -- the first sawfish tagging event in this island group. While awaiting information about the animal's movement and DNA make-up, the team warns that this population is very small and vulnerable. Fishing guides with long histories in the region report only seeing a few over the years. At the same time, the word of the tagging quickly spread across the island and prompted more reports of sawfish encounters in the Abaco Islands.



While additional sawfish expeditions are being planned for the Bahamas as well as Cuba, it is important to stress that sawfish remain at serious risk in both of these nations and beyond. Specifically, these and other range countries urgently need clear prohibitions on fishing, retaining, and killing of sawfish, along with educational programs to raise awareness about the species' status, demonstrate protocols for safe release, and ensure the reporting of encounters. The U.S. has excellent examples of sawfish protection regulations and outreach materials, and also ample interest in promoting these tools.

To that end, sawfish will feature prominently at the welcome event when the U.S. hosts the meeting of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) in mid-July. The government is teaming up with conservationists and the Frost Museum of Science to showcase U.S. activities to study and protect Florida's Smalltooth Sawfish, in hopes of sparking greater regional collaboration toward saving the species.

All of these events are cause for hope and yet sawfishes remain relatively low priority species in too many arenas. You can help by thanking U.S. federal and state officials for their groundbreaking sawfish initiatives and by encouraging people in neighboring countries to consider similar actions.

*Sonja Fordham is president of Shark Advocates International, a project of The Ocean Foundation. You can follow her work [www.sharkadvocates.org](http://www.sharkadvocates.org).*

*Photo bottom: The team is all smiles after tagging a 328 cm (10'9") female Smalltooth Sawfish in The Marls of Great Abaco Island: (l-r) Jody Albury, Richard Albury, Tonya Wiley, Enie Hensel, Dean Grubbs, Lukas Heath. Photo by Tonya Wiley.*

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Meet New Everglades City School Assistant Principal Edward Laudise



I am honored and humbled to be a part of Everglades City. Since I started my career with Collier County Schools 10 years ago I wanted to work at Everglades City School. I found the chance to be part of a school in the midst of such a strong independent community irresistible.

Like Everglades City I am humble. Generally I do not like to attract attention or even talk about myself; however I feel the community has a right to know a little about me. I am the youngest of five. Our family history includes fishermen and field hands. After my grandfather's brother died

prematurely, the family got together and everyone worked so my grandfather could go to college. Eventually he became a carpenter and teacher. Once he was set he helped his younger siblings.

I took a little different path by working at the homeless shelter in Immokalee and then working with a foundation that helped Immokalee's children. Eventually I found myself teaching like my grandfather, both grandmothers, mother, and father. I loved teaching and working for the schools but felt like something was missing until I had the opportunity to come to Everglades City.

Prior to coming here I was lucky to have the chance work with Mr. Ragusa, Ms. Wheeler, and many of the Everglades City School team. I was in awe of the team and the momentum they built. I aspire to build on that and continue to work with the community. I found both school and community did "whatever it took" to help our students and community which reminded me of my family's decision about 100 years ago to pool together for the good of the entire group.

Along with Dr. Cherie Allison, our principal, I will work hard to earn your trust, keep your children safe, and teach them. We welcome the community to further embrace and support the school and promise to reciprocate. This year we are adopting the Leader in Me program which is aligned to Ragusa and Wheeler's philosophy and will build on their work, your work, and our students' work. We will be sending updates and inviting your perspective and support moving forward.

I remember my father was huge on personal responsibility and when we made mistakes he would say, "Own it, fix it, and learn from it." This credo has served me and those around me well. I hope I can honor my family and this community the way I was taught. Thank you for the opportunity to serve your children and to be a part of this community.

Parenting Tips for Back-to-School Time

From EmpoweringParents.com

Author Debbie Pincus, MS, LMHC

Educator Debbie Pincus writes about issues that many parents face, especially when a new school year starts. Here are 7 of her tips to developing good habits with your kids. Read the full article at:

https://www.empoweringparents.com/article/10-ways-motivate-child-better-school/

1. Stay Positive: Keep a relationship with your child that is open, respectful, and positive. This will allow you to be influential, which is your most important parenting tool.

2. Create Structure for Your Child: The structure might include scheduled study times, having the computer out in a public place in your home, and saying, "No video games or electronics until after homework is done."

3. Meet With the Teacher: If your child's grades and work habits are not up to par, you can set up a plan by sitting down with him and his teachers.

4. Identify a Study Spot: You may need to sit with your child while she's doing her work or at least to be nearby to help her stay on track. You can help her experiment. But once you find what works best, keep her in that location.

5. Break Assignments Into Manageable Pieces: Decide together whether or not it will be helpful to your child for you to help him break down his assignments into small pieces and organize on a calendar what he should get done each day. You can get him a big wall calendar or a whiteboard.

6. Be Firm: You want to be positive and helpful to your child. At the same time, though, you have to be firm. You have to consistently enforce the rules you establish. Being firm and consistent sends the message to your child that you know he can succeed. Being firm also means that you do not shield your child from consequences.

7. Don't Over-Function For Your Child: Be your child's coach. Set the strategy and give direction, but stay on the sidelines and let your child play the game. Root for him to win and praise him when he does. But don't be afraid to let him lose. It's all part of growing up and learning to take responsibility.

Mullet Rapper Donations to Everglades City School \$1655 to Date and Counting...

Thank you to everyone who buys the Mullet Rapper every two weeks. Remember, the Mullet Rapper donates 100% of the proceeds from the sale of the print edition of the paper to Everglades City School to help fund the Leader-in-Me Program!

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

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**CITY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

**August City Council Update**

During the August City Council meeting, resident John Wilson made a recommendation that a public comments option be added before any new issue is voted on by the Council.

The existing format included a public comments forum at the end of each meeting, with commentary taking place *after* a vote. Citing that the format gave the residents no option to speak prior to a vote, Mr. Wilson requested that the council consider the format change.

Councilman Tim Smith made a motion and the new format passed unanimously. The new format will be put into place for the September meeting. The new format will raise the issue, hear public comments, then council will discuss the issue, and then vote.

The City will hold **two workshops on August 20th**. Starting at 5 pm at City Hall, a workshop for the Seafood Festival will be conducted to discuss numerous ideas regarding the annual festival including, safety, permitting and City liability.

A second workshop will discuss changes to the City Charter. The current City Charter has not been updated since 1994, this workshop will discuss potential changes to the charter so that they may be placed on the ballot prior to the November elections.

**A copy of the charter is available online at <https://swflgo.com/charter-city-of-everglades-city-2/>.**

If you have recommendations for consideration, please attend the workshops to contribute!



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**Solution to July 27, 2019 Puzzle**

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	V	I	E	W		P	A	G	E				
9	C	A	C	T	I		10	E	V	I	L		
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		35	E	R	A	S		36	R	O	A	R	



*My Little Slice of Paradise*  
by Kathy Brock

Let's talk about renewal. Those of us lucky enough to live in the Everglades/Chokoloskee area have been watching our communities renew right before our eyes.

Almost 2 years removed from Hurricane Irma, the damages left behind are almost undetectable today. Yes. There are still several homes that are to be either knocked down and rebuilt or renovated. But for the most part, if someone who came here for the first time did not know there was a devastating storm, they would not really see anything that would seem abnormal. We look good!

What really amazes me is how the landscape has bounced back. We must have the toughest lawns on the planet! The lawns look amazing. To realize that they were 4 feet (plus) underwater is almost unbelievable. If it did anything to our grass, it helped mitigate some of the weeds.

What I learned from this experience is that if you provide a little assistance, most of the plants and trees can survive...if they have a tolerance to salt (if not forget some of what you are about to read).

When the storm passed and the water receded, it left our ground very "soupy". The soupiness made it very easy for trees and fences to just topple over in the wind.

However, that same "soupiness" made it quite easy to move them back into place if you did it right away. That is one of our key takeaways.

Our fence was collapsed on the south side. We pushed it back up by hand right away. Today it sits firmly in place. Our small trees were all either toppled over or had severely damaged limbs.

We took some time to push them back up and tie them into place. We lost one fruit tree of six. The five survivors are coming back nicely.

My father always used to tell us that it takes two years to see if trees will recover from the stress put on them by the storm. He was right (again).

Two of our royal palms at the dock did not make it, but two did. The two that died hung on for almost a year but it was evident they were struggling from post-storm day one.

Some trees that I thought were hopeless, bounced back. A few others are still in the recovery stage but it is evident that they will survive and eventually thrive. It just takes time.

It is tempting to just yank them all out and start over after going through something like that, but it is not necessary. It is also gratifying to watch them rebound. It requires patience, just like most things in life do.

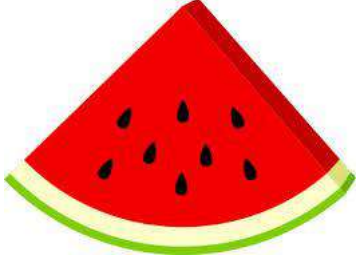
What's really interesting is that the timeline is similar to what it takes for us to "recover". Many of the homeowners are still in the rebuilding stages, but their progress is evident.

Even though we did not personally have nearly the damage of some of our neighbors, we just finished painting over what we are calling "the Irma Grey, that muck that discolored everything it touched. It left a grey tinge on the exterior walls, even after scrubbing.

Painting for us was like the final charge in purging "everything Irma." It's very similar to our little tangerine tree putting out fresh branch work and new, shiny green leaves this year.

The two year timeline explained by my father is also applicable to us. It takes a good two years to get it behind you...but when you do, the beautiful blossoms will reappear, just like what's happening in our communities.

*Island Life Recipes*  
By Elaine Middelstaedt  
Summer Salad



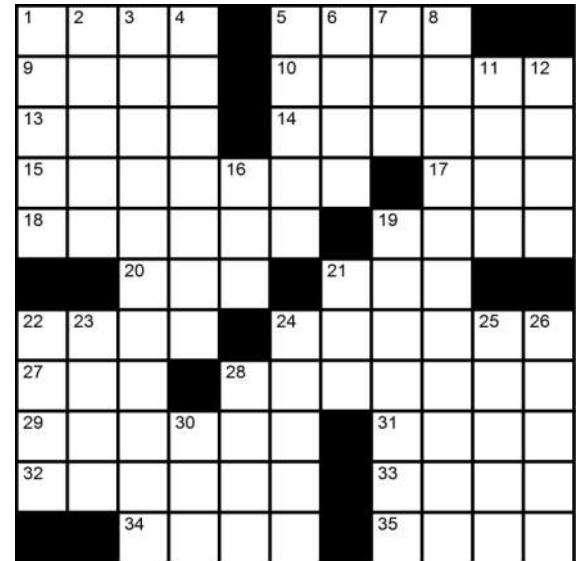
**Ingredients:**  
 1/2 seedless watermelon cut up in to chunks  
 1/2 red onion, cut into small pieces  
 1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese  
 Balsamic vinegar  
 Olive oil  
 Ground pepper to taste

**Directions:**  
 Cut up smaller, round watermelon into chunks and set aside. Cut red onion into small pieces and mix with watermelon. Mix crumbled cheese with the fruit and onion and add vinegar and oil to taste. Add some ground pepper for taste.  
 You can add whatever else you may have on hand to this salad; cucumbers, celery, garbanzo beans. When you are done, chill salad before serving. Delish!

**MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD**

**Across**

- 1 Finn's conveyance
- 5 Rush job letters
- 9 It replaced the franc
- 10 Make over
- 13 Image of a deity
- 14 Kind of recording
- 15 Maidenhair trees
- 17 Confucians' path
- 18 Fanciful idea
- 19 Satiated
- 20 Wager
- 21 Photo, briefly
- 22 Astound
- 24 Type of labor
- 27 Boston Bruins great
- 28 Graceful antelope
- 29 Official count
- 31 Narrative of heroic exploits
- 32 Stick to
- 33 Ollie's mate
- 34 LA Team



**Down**

- 1 Kings "term"
- 2 Pertaining to sound reproduction
- 3 Prime cooking spot
- 4 "The Hobbit" author
- 5 Burning of another's property
- 6 Hardens
- 7 Street partner
- 8 Tiny piece of atmospheric pollutant
- 11 Lunch is one
- 16 Obtained
- 18 Smoothness
- 19 La --- (South American capital)
- 22 Short stocking
- 23 Woody plant
- 24 Sail poles
- 25 Like pond scum
- 26 Tilts or slants
- 28 Southernmost Marianan island
- 30 Mineral spring

8/10/19





Poetry Street™

Everyone encounters sadness, loss and tough times in their life. The key is to move forward from that point. That is what my poem called "Encouragement" is all about.

**encouragement**

Encouragement is a very big word  
 We need it in our lives so let it be heard  
 With hope in our top pocket every day  
 Encouragement may help pave our way  
 When we need a helping hand  
 Because we are sinking in the quicksand  
 Friends and family may help us  
 find our way  
 We can have their support  
 to save the day  
 When we are down and out  
 Just give a shout  
 Don't just sit around and mope  
 When you are on a thin rope  
 Remember sadness may be  
 a temporary thing  
 We can turn it around  
 so that your heart may sing  
 Life can be a funny thing, for sure  
 It seems we sometimes  
 just have to endure  
 It is time for us all  
 to think in positive ways  
 Positive thinking will help save the day  
 In the end we can all win in life  
 We can avoid all the daily strife  
 So I am encouraging everyone today  
 To think positively about ourselves  
 to pave the way!



Look for  
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**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 Releases Film Series: Fire Stories of Big Cypress National Preserve**



Fire and water are the essential elements of Big Cypress National Preserve. The series of three movies will be released over the next two months to share some of the fire stories of the Preserve.

You will find them on the official Big Cypress YouTube and Facebook sites (<https://www.facebook.com/BigCypressNPS>). Each film delivers a unique story about fire, an important but least understood force shaping the biodiversity of Big Cypress National Preserve.

**Released on July 27th:**

'*Fire Swamp*' offers a front row seat to fire flowing through our interwoven ecosystem of high and dry pinelands to cypress swamps with two National Park Service professionals who manage this landscape. Down here in the Big Cypress, the borders between fire, water, people, limestone, plants, and animals creates an exquisite mosaic of beauty.

**Released on August 10th**

'*Burn Boss: A History of Fire & People in Big Cypress*' digs deep into the human history of the Preserve from the early days of hunters burning to lure game to modern day prescribed fires. How does one become the boss of fire? What causes wildfires? This film presents a fascinating look into the relationship between people and a flammable ecosystem.

**Releasing on August 24th:**

'*Behind the Flames*' looks beyond the yellow and green protective clothing on the fire line to the Big Cypress firefighters working to keep the Big Cypress ecosystems vibrant. We feature the powerful insights of two experienced firefighters. What draws these people toward flame? This is their story.

**Decisions that Shape Florida Bay By Antonia Florio, Science Communications Liaison, Everglades National Park, Part 1**

I was invited to go out on Florida Bay in early December 2017. I was pumped and felt like I hit the jackpot. I was just asked to go on a boat for work for the first time in my life.

And Florida Bay did not disappoint. The water was so clear, calm, and blue that you couldn't tell the difference between the water and the cloudless sky.

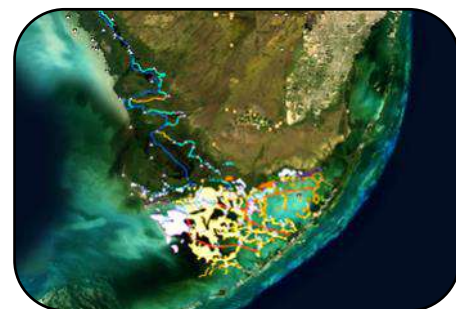
We saw dolphins and manatees. I had my first glimpse at the seagrasses I had been reading and hearing about so much. There was hardly any wind so I could easily hear wading birds talking to one another in their high pitched voices.

We were out there because Hurricane Irma had passed through just a few months prior, and I was helping inventory damaged channel markers. This was a park priority because these channel markers help to protect seagrass beds.

Florida Bay is not easy to navigate, even for experienced boaters. The bay is made of shallow basins separated by even shallower banks of mud and seagrass.

Seagrass beds are easily damaged if boat propellers contact the bottom. Channel markers help prevent that from happening by defining a trail network through the bay.

Seagrass needs protection because all life in Florida Bay depends on it. These flowering plants are food for animals ranging from manatees to sportfish like tarpon. Different seagrass species protect the babies of some fish species by allowing them to hide to escape predators.



Seagrass even improves water quality by taking up nutrients from the water, prevents coastal erosion, and keeps the water clear by stabilizing sediments.

When seagrass isn't doing well, the health of the entire bay suffers. So when planning how to manage Florida Bay, the park makes decisions that minimize damage to resources like seagrass, but still aims to provide opportunities for people to get on the bay.

See Part 2 in the next edition...

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*Living Gulf Coast by Charles Sobczak*

**Crown Conch** (*Melongena corona*) Other names: king's crown / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=NE / Life span: n/a / Length: 1.5-2.5 in. (4-6 cm) / Weight: n/a / Reproduces: in the inshore waters / Found: All Southwest Florida Counties / Common.



Next to the oyster, the crown conch, or king's crown as it is more commonly referred to, is probably the easiest live shellfish to find in southwest Florida, but it requires patience. Unlike the highly cleaned and polished shells you find in an island shell shop, a wild gastropod is often covered in growth or partially buried in the soft muddy bottom of the mangrove intertidal zone. It looks more like a slow-moving rock than a live animal.

In the J.N. "Ding" Darling Wildlife Refuge the best viewing areas are the mangrove overlook on Wildlife Drive, located just before milepost 1, or the freshwater side of the cross-dike path (in the brackish water on the western side), located 1.85 miles from the entrance. The best way to spot one is to lean over, preferably with polarized sunglasses on, and scan the bottom carefully for two to three minutes. If you don't see one at the first spot, walk down the cross-dike a bit farther and try another area. The crown conch tends to congregate in small colonies, so once you locate one living specimen you are likely to see more.

Just remember that you cannot take one home with you, as the taking of live shells in Everglades National Park, and on Sanibel and Captiva is strictly prohibited. With more than half a million visitors driving through "Ding" Darling a year, and even more in the Everglades, if everyone took just one shell each, how could they survive?

The crown conch is related to the lightning whelk, and like most of the gastropods, is predatory in nature. It is unusual in that it is able to adapt to a wide range of salinity and water temperatures, allowing it to thrive in low-oxygen and high-salinity conditions.

Some birds feed on the crown conch, as do any number of competing gastropods. It is sometimes odd to think of the shellfish world as a vicious, predatory bloodbath, because all of these creatures move at less than one mile per hour and eat only monthly. It is the sedentary nature of their primary prey—immobile (oysters and mussels) or barely mobile (scallops)—that allows for a very slow capture.

**Fighting Conch** (*Strombus alatus*) Other names: Florida fighting conch / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=NE / Life span: to 10 years / Length: 3-4 in. (7.6-10 cm) / Weight: n/a / Reproduces: in the nearshore waters / Found: All Southwest Florida Counties / Common.



Oddly enough, the common name of this species might lead one to believe that it is the toughest, meanest carnivore of all the gastropods out there, but that's not the case. The fighting conch is an omnivore, dining in large colonies on algae growth along the sandy bottom in depths from 5 to 25 feet.

When Carl Linnaeus, the father of modern taxonomy, gave this shell its tough-sounding name in the 1700s, he thought the points on the top of the fighting conch resembled the spikes worn by ancient gladiators. It turned out to be a good choice. Although it is not a predatory, carnivorous gastropod, the fighting conch will fight hard for survival, as anyone who picks one up will discover when the shell starts kicking about wildly in an attempt to escape.

Because it grazes in deeper water, most of the fighting conchs you find onshore have been damaged in the surf zone. Finding a live specimen is rare but more likely in the spring when the fighting conch migrates closer to shore to breed and lay eggs. Related to the queen conch of the Bahamas, the fighting conch is edible but seldom taken as table fare because of its smaller size. It is heavily preyed upon by carnivorous gastropods such as lightning whelks and horse conchs, as well as sharks and rays. Young fighting conchs are eaten by various fish.

*Charles Sobczak is an author and photographer from Sanibel Island that authored the book, "Living Sanibel, a Nature Guide to Captiva and Sanibel". Photo of the crown conch by Blake Sobczak. Photo of the fighting conch by Charles Sobczak.*



*Fishing in the 10,000 Islands with Captain Mike Merritt*

Summer has been hot as usual and so has the Snook bite! We have continued to catch big Snook each day. Some days are better than others, but each day has produced at least a couple good ones.

I was out today and we landed 5 big Snook with 4 of them over 36". These big females should give us a good spawn this year. Keep this in mind when handling these big fish. A quick picture and back in the water to make sure they are healthy. If big sharks show up in your spot you are better off to just leave. Better to not catch that Snook then to have her get eaten! These fish continue to bite on the outside and incoming water still is the best bite.

Reds seem a little harder right now but there are still a lot of them around. They are also biting on the incoming tide. Shrimp, small baitfish, or jigs are your best bet. Most seem undersize but there are legal size fish around.

Seatrout continue to feed on the grass flats. I have been catching them on rising and falling tides. The DOA shrimp is still out fishing most other baits when fished under a popping cork. There are also plenty being caught up around the bars and deeper drop offs by the islands.

Tripletail are also being caught inshore. Either floating around or hiding around some logs. These guys can be super aggressive. But they can also be spooky. You never know. They will take the DOA Shrimp and just about any smaller baitfish.

Tarpon are also still around as we jumped 2 today and landed one. This was while Snook fishing. We are seeing a lot of smaller fish this time of year especially in the passes. But, there are some big ones around. Whatever you decide to chase, stay hydrated and enjoy the least amount of boat traffic all year!

~Capt. Mike Merritt

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

Download the Fishing Limits Guide  
[/swflgo.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/fishing-reg-2019.pdf](http://swflgo.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/fishing-reg-2019.pdf)

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EXPERIENCE THE SWAMP!

CLYDE BUTCHER SWAMP WALKS

October 26 & 27, Big Cypress Reserve Your Spot Today!



Vermont has its leaf-peepers. Munich has Oktoberfest. Here in South Florida, we celebrate the fall season with swamp walks in the

Big Cypress National Preserve. Join us on October 26 & 27 at Clyde Butcher's Big Cypress Gallery and take a walk on the wild side!

Clyde and Niki Butcher host a fall festival at their Big Cypress Gallery in October every year. As part of the fun, special swamp walks behind the gallery are available for the brave (and not-so-brave) at heart.

The walks are \$50 per person (kids 17-and-under are free, no tickets required) with 100% of the proceeds supporting the Swamp Water and Me Program (SWAMP) in Big Cypress National Preserve. SWAMP is an outdoor science education program that introduces thousands of 6th-grade students from Collier County to the Big Cypress every year on school field trips.

Walks are offered both days in the morning and afternoon. Sign up to arrive between 9 AM and 12 noon for a morning walk, or between 12 noon and 3 PM for an afternoon walk, and you'll be assigned to the next available walk when you arrive on Saturday or Sunday. Walks will leave every half hour, rain-or-shine.



What to know: Be prepared to get wet. The walks are approximately 2-hours long and water levels may be waist deep in places with submerged obstacles and uneven terrain. Wear closed-toe shoes, clothes that can get wet and/or muddy (long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, and shoes with laces that will stay on your feet), and bring some dry clothes to change into after your walk. Children must be over 48 inches tall for the standard 2-hour walk. We will have special walks that are less strenuous for families with young children.

Questions? Call office for details 305.665.4769. Visit the Gallery (location of the swamp walk): Clyde Butcher's Big Cypress Gallery, 52388 Tamiami Trail, Ochopee, Florida 34141

Vacation Bible Study A Huge Success With Local Children! July 29- Aug. 2



Pastor Jesse Wilson and Chokoloskee Church of God recently hosted the Vacation Bible Study (VBS), a.k.a., Bible Bootcamp, for children ages 4-11 during the school summer break. Director Dawn Harvey Espinoza was the camp leader, accompanied by 6 other local ladies.

During the camp the kids enjoyed numerous activities lead by the amazing camp counselors. During the final night of VBS, the group gave away a Nintendo Switch game system, 3 Nintendo DS's and \$40 to several of the children so that they could purchase various school supplies.



Overall, the VBS was a tremendous success! The kids are already looking forward to next summer! Pastor Wilson thanks everyone who contributed to VBS, and those who attended.

Visit the Museum of the Everglades to See Incredible Artwork & Artifacts

Summer is a great time to visit the beautiful Museum of the Everglades. The museum routinely changes their feature displays, so you will want to schedule multiple visits each year to see what's new in the everglades!

Did you know that the Museum of the Everglades is one of the most visited in all of Collier County? There's good reason. The Everglades and its' history is fascinating. The word "everglades" is one of the most Googled terms about our State!

Check out the new Edison & Ford exhibits on display now.

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

Stargazing in the Everglades Meteor Showers Light Up the Sky On August 13th!



August 13th, The Perseids are arguably one of the best meteor showers to see in 2019. The Perseids are comprised of dust particles from the Comet Swift-Tuttle that shoot through the sky at up to 60 meteors per hour, especially at its peak after midnight on August 13th. Although the radiant is within the constellation Perseus, it is possible for meteors to shoot through any part of the night sky. Because the Perseids Meteor Shower produces a lot of bright meteors, this a great opportunity for budding astro-photographers to capture a meteor shower, as long you are in a dark sky location (Note: Everglades City & Chokoloskee and the surrounding areas are recognized dark sky locations!).



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



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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, see ad on p. 6

**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) (Private)**

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

**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

**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**

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!](http://www.SWFLGO.com)

8/10/19	Sat	1:26 AM	2.21	H
8/10/19	Sat	6:27 AM	0.98	L
8/10/19	Sat	11:25 AM	2.92	H
8/10/19	Sat	7:28 PM	0.17	L
8/11/19	Sun	2:28 AM	2.29	H
8/11/19	Sun	7:27 AM	0.98	L
8/11/19	Sun	12:25 PM	2.99	H
8/11/19	Sun	8:21 PM	0.11	L
8/12/19	Mon	3:00 AM	2.35	H
8/12/19	Mon	8:20 AM	0.95	L
8/12/19	Mon	1:16 PM	3.08	H
8/12/19	Mon	9:06 PM	0.07	L
8/13/19	Tue	3:15 AM	2.39	H
8/13/19	Tue	9:05 AM	0.9	L
8/13/19	Tue	1:58 PM	3.16	H
8/13/19	Tue	9:47 PM	0.06	L
8/14/19	Wed	3:31 AM	2.45	H
8/14/19	Wed	9:45 AM	0.85	L
8/14/19	Wed	2:35 PM	3.21	H
8/14/19	Wed	10:25 PM	0.07	L
8/15/19	Thu	3:53 AM	2.52	H
8/15/19	Thu	10:23 AM	0.8	L
8/15/19	Thu	3:10 PM	3.23	H
8/15/19	Thu	11:01 PM	0.11	L
8/16/19	Fri	4:21 AM	2.6	H
8/16/19	Fri	11:00 AM	0.75	L
8/16/19	Fri	3:44 PM	3.21	H
8/16/19	Fri	11:36 PM	0.17	L
8/17/19	Sat	4:51 AM	2.66	H
8/17/19	Sat	11:36 AM	0.71	L
8/17/19	Sat	4:20 PM	3.14	H
8/18/19	Sun	12:09 AM	0.26	L
8/18/19	Sun	5:24 AM	2.7	H
8/18/19	Sun	12:13 PM	0.67	L
8/18/19	Sun	4:58 PM	3.02	H
8/19/19	Mon	12:41 AM	0.38	L
8/19/19	Mon	5:57 AM	2.72	H
8/19/19	Mon	12:51 PM	0.64	L
8/19/19	Mon	5:39 PM	2.87	H
8/20/19	Tue	1:10 AM	0.5	L
8/20/19	Tue	6:29 AM	2.72	H
8/20/19	Tue	1:32 PM	0.62	L
8/20/19	Tue	6:25 PM	2.69	H
8/21/19	Wed	1:37 AM	0.64	L
8/21/19	Wed	7:00 AM	2.7	H
8/21/19	Wed	2:22 PM	0.6	L
8/21/19	Wed	7:21 PM	2.49	H
8/22/19	Thu	2:02 AM	0.78	L
8/22/19	Thu	7:30 AM	2.69	H
8/22/19	Thu	3:27 PM	0.56	L
8/22/19	Thu	8:36 PM	2.32	H
8/23/19	Fri	2:30 AM	0.91	L
8/23/19	Fri	8:10 AM	2.69	H
8/23/19	Fri	4:39 PM	0.49	L
8/23/19	Fri	10:00 PM	2.22	H

**Obituary**

**Candys "Candy" Powell**



On Sunday July 28, 2019 at 8:57pm Candy Powell; a loving wife, daughter, aunt, and sister passed away, at the age of 62 surrounded by family.

Candy Marie Foster was born February 12, 1957 in Sarepta, Louisiana the first child of Hildred and John Foster. On June 26, 1978 she married Paul Powell and became a loving wife and step-mother. Candy worked with Paul in businesses until he retired and they moved to Chokoloskee, Florida.

After several years of retirement she decided to go back to work part time and soon became the assistant manager at Hanes Outlet in Naples, Florida. Candy loved people and helping people anyway she could and her passion was fulfilled when she became a member of Chokoloskee Church of God. Through her growth in the Church Candy found her extended family that helped her to fulfill her passion in serving the Lord. It was through this true faith that Candy was able to keep her Cancer at bay for seven years and be an inspiration to family, friends and acquaintances.

Candy is survived by three siblings Kim Kaun, John Foeter, and Sandy McConnell, her step-mother Jan Foster, stepson Mike Powell, step-nephew Dean Conely, and several nieces and nephews. **The service will be Saturday August 17th at 11 am at the Chokoloskee Church of God.**

Following the Memorial Service will be lunch for Family and friends at Everglades Community Church, Everglades City.



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**Sunday Worship Service 11:00 A.M.**  
**Sunday School Nov. 17th – April, 9:45 A.M.**  
[www.ever-community-church.com](http://www.ever-community-church.com)

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIED ADS

The MULLET RAPPER

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

**JOB:** Florida National Parks Association is seeking a sales associate for our store in Big Cypress National Preserve. This is a part-time, year-round position and candidates are expected to be available to work weekends and Holidays.

Qualifications: excellent customer service skills, strong communication and computer skills, sales and cash handling experience. Email resume to corey@evergladesassociation.org.

**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 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 flooded. 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.

**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:** Two bayfront lots in Chokoloskee, side by side, For more information call 561-622-6011.

PUBLISHER

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PUBLISHER EMERITUS

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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 & Ochoppee

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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P.O. Box 134  
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