



MULLET RAPPER



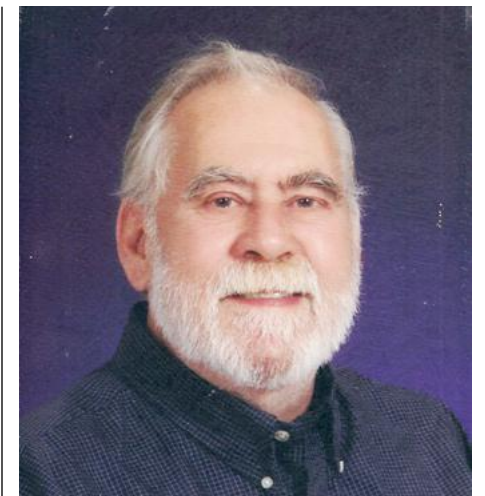
FREE

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March 29 - April 11, 2025

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Vol. XXV • Issue #471 • Free



Obituary A Love Story

Edmund Paul Dalzell (1943-2025)

Edmund Paul Dalzell, 81, of Everglades City FL passed away peacefully on March 10, 2025 at Physicians Regional Hospital in Naples FL. He graduated from Essex Catholic High School and attended Seton Hall University in South Orange NJ while spending time in the Merchant Marine on and off to pay for another semester. It was there that Ed first met and dated Elaine and wooed her with poetry. While he was at sea, a fellow student proposed to her, and she accepted, and they eventually moved to Florida. Ed had three and a half years of sea time in the Merchant Marine, circled the globe and navigated the Suez Canal and the Panama Canal. He proudly served as an able seaman. He did not want to work in a hot and noisy engine room like his father did for thirty years. Instead, he went to work as a Personnel Officer in the Welfare Department in Essex County NJ, from which he retired in 2002.

One day while in Newark Airport, Elaine looked through the Essex County telephone book (remember

See **Airpark**, p4

See **Love**, p5

Potential Closure of Everglades Airpark Raises Concerns

By Dennis Vasey

Collier County Commissioners met on March 11 to hear from Everglades area residents, aviation professionals, and pilots regarding the county's agenda item to seek guidance on the potential deactivation of Everglades Airpark. While county staff initiated this process to determine the costs and obligations of closure, many believe it prioritizes administrative procedures over a full evaluation of the airpark's

long-term value.

Assessing the Airpark's Management and Viability

Everglades Airpark, acquired by Collier County in 1968, has operated at an annual deficit. Unlike Marco Island Executive Airport and Immokalee Regional Airport, which generate positive net revenue, Everglades Airpark has struggled financially.

County staff recommended seeking guidance from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) on deactivation requirements. However, this approach relies heavily on financial data without addressing whether management improvements, increased investment, or operational adjustments could

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EGG-Stravaganza
New this year petting zoo and ponies!

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Local Wins Quilt Show
Dayna Fendrick, took home top honors.

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Bank Rehab Update
Historic landmark being brought back to life.

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Local Event Calendar

March 30, 2025 to May 10, 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
March 30 Fresh Market p3 Rapper Submissions Due #472	31	April 1 City Council p3 Díaz-Balart's p2	2 Food Pantry p2	3 Ladies' Coffee City Seafood 8:30a Book Club p2	4 Fresh Market p3	5 5K
6 Fresh Market p3	7	8	9 Food Pantry p2	10 Ladies' Coffee HavAnnA 8:30a	11 Fresh Market p3	12 - RAPPER #472 (Full Moon
13 Fresh Market p3 Rapper Submissions Due #473	14	15 Tax Day Code + P&Z p3	16 Food Pantry p2	17 Ladies' Coffee Island Cafe 8:30a Third Thursday p7	18 Fresh Market p3	19 EGG-stravaganza p2
20 Easter Sunday	21	22	23 Food Pantry p2 Outreach Prog p3	24 Ladies' Coffee City Seafood 8:30a	25 Fresh Market p3	26 - RAPPER #473 Museum Party p2
27 ● New Moon Fresh Market p3	28	29	30 Food Pantry p2	May 1 Ladies' Coffee HavAnnA 8:30a	2 Fresh Market p3	3
4	5	6 City Council p3 Díaz-Balart's p2	7 Food Pantry p2	8 Ladies' Coffee Island Cafe 8:30a	9 Fresh Market p3	10

Events

Community

April 10 & 11
Florida Greenways & Trails

The Florida Greenways and Trails Council will be having their quarterly meeting in Everglades City, designated a Trail Town in 2019. The public is invited to attend the meeting from 10 am to 3 pm on Thursday, April 10, and 9:15 to 12 noon on Friday, April 11. Details of the meeting and the agenda will be posted online closer to the meeting at: floridadep.gov/parks/ogt/content/florida-greenways-and-trails-council.

April 19 | 10 am - 1 pm
EGG-stravaganza

Bring your basket and join us for the Annual Everglades City EGG-stravaganza on April 19 from 10 am to 1 pm, where the fun happens in McLeod Park on Copeland Ave and Hibiscus Street West in Everglades City. This event features 4,000 candy-filled Easter eggs waiting to be found, inflatables for the little ones to bounce on, cash-filled eggs adding an extra thrill to the hunt, free food to fuel the excitement, amazing giveaways adding to the joy, a petting zoo and pony rides for extra fun, and lots of happy kids enjoying the festivities and creating cherished memories with their families!

Everglades Area Information
Daily | 9:30 am - 4 pm

The Everglades Area Visitor Center is located at 207 Broadway W., Everglades City. The Visitor Center is open daily 9:30 am to 4 pm.

Ladies Coffee
Thursdays | 8:30 am


Ladies Coffee is a casual weekly gathering for women every Thursday at different local breakfast spots or homes. No rules or fees, just a welcoming space to connect and forge friendships.

Food Pantry
Wednesdays | 9:30 am - Noon

Food is distributed from the rear of Everglades Community Church located at 101 S. Copeland Ave., Everglades City. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Rep. Díaz-Balart's in EC Office
First Tuesday | 2:30 pm

Every first Tuesday at 2:30 pm, a member of Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart's team will be at Everglades City Hall to assist with federal casework,



2024-25 Season

Join us for our final book club meeting at 9:30 am.

April 3
Doll House
By Fiona Davis
Host: Connie Barker
Location: Home of Host

Info: dmlock333@gmail.com

April 26 | 9 am - 2 pm
Anniversary & Museum Party

This combination celebration of the 97th Anniversary of the completion of the Tamiami Trail and the "birthday" of Museum of the Everglades (opened on the 70th Anniversary of the Trail in 1998) is a fun-filled afternoon with live music, complimentary hot dogs, and the only laundry cart races in the country! Join us early for a complimentary walking tour, sign up and take part in the races, peruse the display of classic cars, or just relax and enjoy the music with a slice of birthday cake!

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including USPS, social security, veterans' benefits, immigration, and other federal issues.

**City Council Meeting
First Tuesdays | 7 pm**

City Council meetings are held every 1st Tuesday of the month at 7 pm in the City Council room, 2nd floor City Hall. The public is invited to attend. Info: cityofeverglades.org

**Code Enforcement + P&Z
Third Tuesdays**

Code Enforcement and Planning & Zoning meetings are held monthly on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. City Council room, 2nd floor City Hall. Info: cityofeverglades.org/Meetings-Agendas

**Fresh Fruit & Vegetables
Friday & Sunday**

Find farm-fresh produce Fridays and Sundays from 10 am to 2 pm next to the Everglades City Post Office.

**Holy Family Church
Outreach Program**

Forth Wednesday | 9 am - 11 am

Volunteers from SVDP San Marco Conference offer financial assistance at Holy Family Church on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 9 to 11 am. Appointments are required—call (239) 259-4591 or (239) 259-4593 or email svdpsanmarco@gmail.com with your name, phone number, and type of assistance needed.

Live Music

Gator Hole Bar (Everglades City)
Friday & Saturday at 7pm

HavAnna Cafe (Chokoloskee)
Thursdays - Sundays

Joanie's Blue Crab Cafe (Ochopee)
Weekends

Little Bar (Goodland) Every night.

Crabby Lady (Goodland) Weekends

Stans (Goodland) Tuesday - Sundays.
Shows start at 1 & 5



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Help Florida's Waterbirds Nest Safely



Photos Courtesy FWC

Nesting season has begun for Florida's shorebirds, seabirds, and wading birds! The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) reminds beachgoers to take simple steps to help these birds nest successfully this spring and summer.

Many shorebirds and seabirds nest directly on beaches, where their eggs and chicks blend into the sand. Wading birds, such as herons, nest in colonies on mangrove islands along the coast. Since nesting dates vary by species and location, some birds start nesting as early as mid-February, while others don't begin until March or April. Protecting these birds during this critical time ensures future generations thrive.

How You Can Help:

Respect Closures: Critical Wildlife Areas (CWAs) are marked zones on

See **Waterbirds, p8**



MULLET RAPPER

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2025 In Stand Dates

January 18

February 1

February 15

March 1

March 15

March 29

April 12

April 26

May 24

June 21

July 19

August 16

September 13

October 11

October 25

November 8

November 22

December 6

December 20

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Publisher's Statement

We cover news and events for Everglades City, Chokoloskee, Plantation Island, Port of the Islands, Copeland, Jerome, Ochopee, Goodland, Lee Cypress, Big Cypress, and the 10,000 Islands. Our aim is accurate and diverse reporting. Opinions expressed may differ from those of the editors or publisher.

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*"The Everglades is a test.
If we pass it, we may get to
keep the planet."
~ Marjory Stoneman Douglas*

**EASTER
EGG-STRAVAGANZA**

**APRIL 19TH
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Airpark

From Page 1

improve sustainability.

Hurricanes and the Question of Infrastructure Resilience

The county has cited hurricane-related damage as a key factor in the airpark’s future. Hurricane Irma (2017) caused substantial damage, which was later repaired—only for Hurricane Ian (2022) to destroy much of those repairs. The county now estimates another \$1.2 million in needed improvements.

Instead of exploring infrastructure resilience grants or structural reinforcements, the county’s agenda includes deactivation as an option. However, hurricane damage is an infrastructure challenge, not necessarily a reason to close an airport—especially

in a hurricane-prone region.

Lack of Engagement Before the March 11 Meeting

Before the March 11 Board of County Commissioners meeting, one of the primary concerns was the lack of engagement with aviation stakeholders and Everglades City officials. The county planned to seek deactivation guidance from the FAA and FDOT before consulting pilots, business owners, or the local community.

At the initial hearing, concerns were raised about ongoing maintenance issues, including:

- Incomplete electrical system repairs that remain unaddressed.



Photos by Patty Huff



- T-hangar assessments and deferred maintenance that have yet to be completed.
- Halted fuel sales due to broadband failures or a lack of action by the Executive Director.

If these operational concerns had been addressed sooner, would the discussion about deactivation still be necessary? The fact that these issues persisted without resolution raises important questions about management oversight and problem-solving efforts.

Alternative Solutions Should Be Part of the Study

If the county proceeds with a study on the airpark’s future, it is essential that the following alternative solutions are explored alongside deactivation:

- Pursuing federal and state grants to fund storm-resistant infrastructure improvements.
- Restoring fuel sales to attract transient aircraft and generate additional revenue.
- Leasing the airpark to a private operator to reduce the county’s management burden while keeping it operational.

See **Airpark, p8**

A mile of roadway takes you a mile—a mile of runway takes you anywhere.

Longtime pilot John Apte, who captured and donated aerial photos to support the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation, hopes county officials recognize the value of Everglades Airpark.

“I was under the impression that federal funds for airports would have to be paid off if the facility was closed, and I’m pretty sure it was sizable. Anyway, I would hope that they see the value in that unique airport. It’s the last gas stop for about 80 miles going to the Keys. Local fish companies delivered stone crabs daily to fly-in visitors—these guys spend a ton, not your average walk-in to grab a couple of pounds. I could go on and on. It will be a sad day if that airport closes. I really hope it stays.”

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Love

From Page 1

those?) and saw that Ed still lived in Orange and took note of his phone number. At age 50, she had the temerity to call him and ask for his birthdate. When she asked him if he knew who was calling him, he replied "I don't know what your name is now, but you used to be Elaine Hoffmann." Ed wrote poetry all his life, and in 1981 he won the Fellowship Award in Poetry from the NJ Arts Council. So naturally Ed once again wooed Elaine with poetry, and they married in 1999. They enjoyed travelling to Boston, Chicago, and Washington DC and civil war battlefields from Antietam to Gettysburg, as well as several trips to Montana where Ed had hoped to retire. In Everglades City, Ed continued his life-long passion for feeding those less fortunate than himself and joined the Everglades Lions Club. He also continued to write poetry. His other interests were history, especially of the Civil War and WWII, and the Tampa Bay Rays. He looked forward to spring training and baseball season.

Ed was preceded in death by his parents Alan Cameron Dalzell and Adeline Dalzell, nee Sosnoski. He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Elaine Middelstaedt of Everglades City FL, and by his brother William Alan

Dalzell, Sr. (Cathy) of Belleville NJ, his nephew William Alan Dalzell, Jr. (Carrie Muller), and his nieces Jamie Dalzell and Jennifer Dalzell Sobrera (Jimmy) and his special friend and companion of nearly nine years, Christopher Herlovich. Ed's funeral service will be held on March 31 at 10:30 am at Holy Family Catholic Church.

Sometimes

by Ed Dalzell

sometimes
in the silence before sleep
I say your name
like a prayer

I watch your eyes
caress an idea
and I cherish
your delight

you are in my thoughts
in my dreams
in my prayers
each moment
you are not in my arms

it still
sometimes startles me
how you speak to me
from my heart

God
how I love you

I cannot think of
any woman

I would rather spend
the rest of my life with 🍷

Eggs, Candy, and Giveaways!



It's that time of year again, when our little community puts on a big event! The annual EGGstravaganza will take place at McLeod Park, in the center of Everglades City on Saturday, April 19, from 10-1 pm.

This year will feature 4,000 candy filled eggs. There will be four different age groups, 0-2 year olds, 3-5 year olds, 6-9 year olds, and 10 and above. New Bikes will be given away via a raffle for those same age groups as well. We will also be hiding cash eggs for the older kids, and for the younger ones, special marked eggs will be worth a toy for the ones who find them.

There will be free food for everyone thanks to the Lions Club, along with free snow cones!

And to make the event even more fun, there will be two waterslides and

a bounce house.

Something that will be new this year will be a petting zoo and ponies for the kids to feed and pet.

This fun filled event is sponsored by and made possible by Chokoloskee Family Church, Everglades City Community Church, First Baptist Church of Everglades City and the Florida Stone Crabbers Association.

It also takes a lot of volunteers from our community to make this event a huge success!

The laughter, the smiles, the joy on each child's face is worth the effort put in to make the annual EGGstravaganza an exciting time. We look forward to seeing the community come out on that Saturday!

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Just Look For The Lighthouse



“Hi-Di-Ho, Neighbor!”

By Pastor Jesse Wilson
Chokoloskee Family Church

There’s an old TV show that ran back in the 90’s called *Home Improvement*. Maybe you heard of it, it was quite popular. It actually was a fun, wholesome family show whose main character was Tim ‘The Tool Man’ Taylor. But the name didn’t fool us, everything Tim touched ended up worse off! Tim also wasn’t very good at reading people, and he often found himself in over his head.

This of course would lead to Tim going outside behind his house where he would be greeted by his neighbor Wilson.

Wilson was somewhat of a philosopher and would greet Tim with his well-known line “Hi-di-ho, neighbor!”

Thanks to his advice, things always ended up better for Tim, well sorta better.

Which got me thinking about our little community hidden within the Ten Thousand Islands. Whether you live on Chokoloskee Island or Plantation Island. Copeland or Ochopee. Everglades City or Jerome. One thing that makes our little slice of Heaven so, well heavenly, is the neighborliness of our neighbors!

We may have different opinions about politics, religion, or the best fish, but when someone needs something, we come together.

This is best seen during hurricane season. It seems hurricanes are more frequent these days. Even the ones that pass us by oftentimes leave behind more water than we can handle or care to experience. But it’s not just when there’s a hurricane, we see that neighborly kindness randomly happen.

Like the other day, coming out from the Chokoloskee Family Church on Chokoloskee, my wife and I noticed someone on the side of the new building going up, holding a chainsaw and making quick work of some rather



Photo by Jesse Wilson

large branches on the ground around the playground.

Our curiosity got the better of us, we walked over to see what activity was taking place. You see at some point a few months ago, someone, unbeknownst to us, had taken it upon themselves to trim the tree that had become quite overgrown around the playground. To say that our small jungle gym was starting to look somewhat like an actual jungle was an understatement.

The limbs that had been cut down had remained where they had fallen, due to the construction that had been going on, and is still in progress.

As we approached the playground, we were greeted by a chainsaw-wielding lady—Ms. Trudy Raffield. Though I won’t share her age, I saw firsthand how proficient she is with a chainsaw. She was busy cutting down limbs and stacking them. Suddenly feeling the urge to help, we joined in, moving the branches to the nearby dumpster.

You see, Trudy had noticed the cut branches and, in her words, “I wanted to clean it up a little bit,” she wasted no time in grabbing her chainsaw and taking care of business. She truly is proficient in handling a chainsaw!

Another person, Maureen, who lives just down the road from the church saw Trudy working and decided to join in.

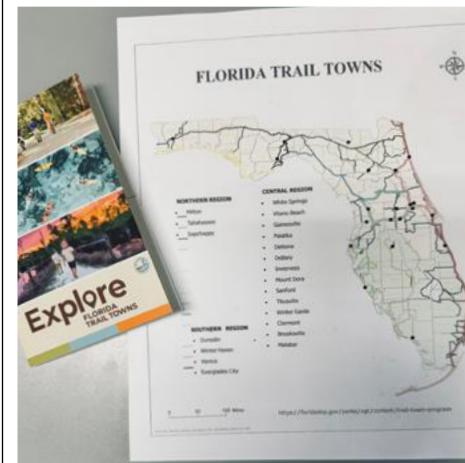
What struck me in that moment was how two people, not members of our church, seeing a need, decided to be, well, neighborly. Trudy is such an amazing and kind person. And what she was doing taught me a lesson. One that we could all learn. Being a neighbor isn’t always about shared beliefs, but something more, something deeper. It’s about finding the time to lend a hand, to be kind, not for recognition or attention, but just out of the kindness of our hearts.

In a world where everything is judged by clicks, likes and reposts, where popularity is judged by how many followers a person has on Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok, it’s nice to live in an area where people still do things because they see a need and want to do something. No selfies, no posts, no livestream, just one neighbor helping another neighbor. When what divides us is given more attention over what unites us, here in the Ten Thousand Islands, we live by a different code of conduct. We’re neighbors, and though we might not know each other on a first-name basis, when there’s a need, a crisis, or an opportunity to help, we lend a hand. Because that’s what neighbors here in the Everglades do.

Maybe those in Washington could come down for a visit and learn something. Politics aside, different viewpoints aside, real happiness and joy are summed up in a simple phrase, “Hi-di-ho, neighbor!”

Florida Trail Towns

By Patty Huff



A Trail Town is a vibrant destination where people come together. It is a place where trail users can venture off a hiking, biking, equestrian or paddling trail to enjoy the amenities and unique heritage of the community, benefiting the town economically and socially.

My first experience with trail towns was in 2008 when my husband and I drove to Virginia to bike around the state, beginning with the Virginia Creeper Trail linking the two trail towns of Abingdon and Damascus in southwest Virginia. The trail has been an economic boom to the area and shows how historic towns can be revitalized with tourism.

I was very excited when Florida established its Trail Town Program in 2018 and for Everglades City to be designated as the state’s 9th trail town in 2019. The following year we were able to have an office located in the Everglades Area Visitor Center at 207 West Broadway. Our volunteer staff provides information about all the amenities that we have to offer in our area and within our seven national and state parks/preserves.

Everglades City will be hosting the next quarterly meeting of the Florida Greenways & Trails Council on Thursday and Friday, April 10-11, at the Everglades Community Church Fellowship Hall. The public is invited to attend and learn more about Florida’s Trail Town Program.

Now, there are 21 trail towns throughout Florida, each one with its own special facilities and opportunities. For more information, visit Floridadep.gov/parks/ogt/content/trail-town-program.




CHOKOLOSKEE FAMILY Church

CHURCH SCHEDULE:

Sun. Worship	10:00AM
Sun. Kids Church	10:00AM
Sun. Renewal	6:00PM
Wed. Youth Renewal	7:00PM
Thurs. Bible Study	7:00PM

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Museum of the Everglades

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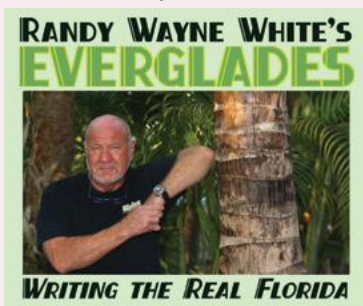


Originally a 1927 commercial laundry, the Museum of the Everglades building testifies to the town's history as a bustling business center and the region's first county seat. Now a museum, it's open

Tuesday to Saturday from 9 am to 4 pm with free admission. Certain events may require reservations. Book your reservation at colliermuseums.com or call (239) 252-5026. Come explore Everglades heritage today!

Exhibits

Randy Wayne White's Everglades - Writing the Real Florida
Jan 14 – May 3



Randy Wayne White, a best-selling South Florida author, spent 13 years as a fishing guide based on Sanibel Island, leading over 3,000 charters. When government regulations ended his livelihood, he turned to writing and created Marion "Doc" Ford, a former national security agent turned marine biologist.

Drawing on his deep knowledge of Florida's waters and culture, White launched a successful series that now spans 27 books, blending thrilling action with the unique spirit of the region.

The Everglades often serve as a central backdrop in White's novels, vividly portraying the challenges of preserving "old Florida." His stories resonate with readers, connecting them to the area's landscapes, people, and history. Our temporary exhibit, Randy Wayne White's Everglades, celebrates his work and its role in bringing the authentic Florida experience to life.

Third Thursday Talk Series

By Boat, By Train, By Car, By Plane — a Brief History of the Everglades City Airport
April 17 | 2 – 3 pm



Museum Manager Thomas Lockyear will discuss the evolution of the Everglades Airpark from a short, private airstrip used exclusively by Barron Collier's sons to its present-day incarnation as a 29-acre public facility bringing an influx of over \$2 million

annually into the local economy. The role of airplanes in the region's unique culture will be discussed in detail — from the fledging flights of Collier County's first airborne law enforcement officer, William Riley "Clyde" Maynard (known as the "Flying Sheriff"), to site-seeing excursions and the involvement of stolen aircraft in illegal trades of the 1980s.

Seeking Mementos



Plans are underway to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Everglades Community Church, founded in 1926. The Historical Committee is organizing the event and researching files and historical materials. The committee is also seeking pictures, letters, or documents.

For more information or to contribute call (239) 784-7318 or text (615) 889-8560.

Cuba-Inspired Quilt Wins

By Denise Wauters



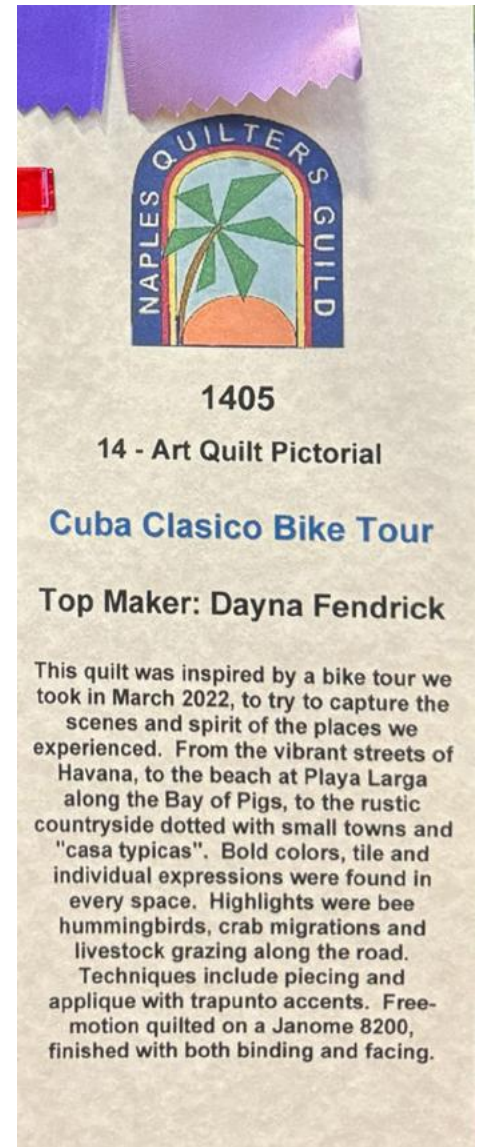
Photo by Patty Huff

The Stitches in Time 2025 Quilt Show, presented by the Naples Quilters Guild, once again showcased incredible talent and craftsmanship. This year's Best-of-Show winner, Dayna Fendrick, took home top honors with a breathtaking quilt inspired by her experiences on the Cuba Clasico Bike Tour.

Fendrick's design featured a series of scenes she encountered during her journey, expertly stitched into fabric. The quilt depicted Cuba's diverse landscapes, including bustling streets, serene waterfront beaches, rolling fields, and picturesque farms. Each section captured the country's vibrant colors and rich textures, offering a glimpse into its natural beauty and cultural charm.

Fendrick, a landscape architect, splits her time between Naples and Everglades City, where she has been deeply involved in community projects. She designed the landscaping at the Bank, contributed to the city's Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan, and served on the Trail Town committee. A longtime supporter of the area, she has even donated a quilt for a past museum fundraiser.

Celebrating its 30th annual event, the Stitches in Time Quilt Show is a professionally judged exhibition of members' quilts and quilted art pieces. The show promotes artisan education



and philanthropy through quilting, honoring the artistry and storytelling that make this craft so special.



Photo by Tara Saathoff-Wells

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Airpark

From Page 4

- Developing aviation training partnerships to increase use and financial stability.
- Exploring funding partnerships with Everglades City to share operational costs.

Ensuring these options are thoroughly considered in the study would provide a more balanced understanding of Everglades Airpark’s potential role in the community.

A Larger Pattern of Cost-Cutting?

The discussion surrounding Everglades Airpark fits into a broader trend of government cost-cutting—one where perceived financial burdens are targeted for reduction without fully



assessing long-term community value.

Without public oversight, there is concern that deactivation could become a self-fulfilling prophecy, where past neglect is used to justify closure rather than looking at ways to improve the airpark’s financial health. If efficiency is the county’s true goal, then problem-solving—not elimination—should be the priority.

The Importance of a Transparent Process

The county has stated that its study is intended as a fact-finding effort. However, some residents worry that deactivation is already being positioned as the most likely outcome rather than one of several options.

Everglades City Stands Behind Everglades Airpark

Mayor Howie Grimm confirms Everglades City’s commitment to keeping the Everglades Airpark open.

“We will do everything we can to keep the airpark open and make it a success. As a possible solution, I suggested adding rental hangars, following Marco Island’s example, where the investment proved profitable.”

Additionally, there is concern that the county is evaluating each airport separately rather than considering them as part of a unified aviation system. While the county consolidates the airport system’s overall budget,

decisions about operational viability appear to be happening in isolation.

What’s Next?

Aviation professionals and community members are calling for a thorough and transparent study that includes input from local pilots, business owners, and Everglades City officials. The county has indicated a willingness to increase transparency in the process, and residents will be watching closely to ensure all potential solutions are given due consideration.

For now, the future of Everglades Airpark remains uncertain. However, one thing is clear: those who value the airpark must remain engaged to ensure their voices are heard before a final decision is made.

Waterbirds

From Page 3

beaches or coastal islands where birds nest in high concentrations. These areas are closed to public access to prevent disturbances. Look for posted signs and avoid entering CWAs.

Give Birds Space: Shorebirds and seabirds nest in shallow scrapes in the sand, making them vulnerable to being stepped on. Keep at least 300 feet away from nesting areas, avoid posted zones, and walk around resting birds. Disturbances cause birds to fly off, leaving eggs and chicks exposed to predators and the elements.

Keep Pets at Home: Even well-behaved dogs can scare birds, forcing parents to abandon their nests. If you bring a pet to the beach, visit a dog-friendly area and always keep them leashed and far from nesting or resting birds.

Minimize Noise: Loud noises and sudden movements can stress nesting birds, causing them to leave their nests unprotected. Keep music and other disturbances to a minimum, especially near nesting areas.

Dispose of Trash Properly: Garbage and food scraps attract predators like raccoons, crows, and gulls that prey on eggs and chicks. Litter can also entangle birds, turtles, and other wildlife. Use proper trash or recycling bins, remove personal belongings from the beach before nightfall, and dispose of fishing lines in designated monofilament recycling bins.

Florida’s beaches and shorelines provide vital nesting, resting, and feeding grounds for many bird species. By following these simple guidelines, beachgoers and boaters can help protect the state’s unique coastal wildlife.

For more information on nesting waterbirds, visit MyFWC.com/Shorebirds.



Obituary

Madison Bell Scott “Sonny”

(1944-2025)



Sonny was born on March 11, 1944 in Sarasota, Florida. When he was five the family relocated to Lakeland, Florida where he attended Lake Morton Elementary, Southwest Middle and Lakeland High School where he was homecoming king and Quarterback on the Dreadnaughts Football team. He attended the University of Florida where he was an ATO and was a huge Gator fan all his life.

He spent his career dealing in heavy duty equipment ending his career selling mobile concrete mixers for Zimmerman Industries out of Ephrata, Pennsylvania covering the state of Florida.

He enjoyed grilling and was a member of an award winning team at Pig Fest one year. But his main love was fishing and the Everglades where he spent his retirement years. When he was not out on the water looking for the elusive snook, he was volunteering as the head of the homeowners association on Plantation Island. He was instrumental in getting Collier County to commit to cleaning up the canals on the Island.

He is survived by his daughters, Dhanno Weaver(Shane) and Shelly Scott.

There are no plans for a service at this time. If you would like to remember him if some way, please make a donation to Friends of the Everglades.

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Moving Right Along - Bank of Everglades Update

By Patty Huff

The Bank of Everglades restoration is making great progress! ESHP is so happy that the rehabilitation is moving along on schedule and would like to thank our architect, REG, and Classic Carpentry for their dedication and personal interest in this project. These photos highlight key stages of the work as this historic landmark is brought back to life.



First floor restoration in progress – After removing the wainscoting (which will be cleaned up and reinstalled) and plastered walls, the structural integrity of the Bank of Everglades is clear. Built in 1927 with high-quality materials and expert craftsmanship, the building remains remarkably sound.



Removing the non-historic addition – This demolition clears the way for restoring the original Bank of Everglades building. The historic structure remains intact as part of the preservation effort.

Photos by
Patty Huff



Uncovering the past – As the second-floor walls were removed, the original back window of the Bank of Everglades was revealed. This window had been hidden since 1956 when the rear addition was built, offering a glimpse into the building's original design.



Planning the restoration – Architect Aleli de la Vega, Board Member Hydie Friend, and contractor John Brechel review the rehabilitation plans for the historic Bank of Everglades, ensuring every detail preserves its rich history.



Exposing the vault's foundation – Removing the floor of the rear section of the building uncovered how an additional structural wall was poured next to the original foundation of the bank vault, a key feature of this historic building



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Orange Creamsicle Cocktail



Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 ounces vanilla or whipped cream vodka
- 1/2 ounce triple sec
- 1 ounce half-and-half
- 1 ounce orange juice
- Orange slice, for garnish

Directions:

- Fill a shaker with ice.
- Add vanilla or whipped cream vodka, triple sec, half-and-half, and orange juice.
- Shake well.
- Strain into a glass with fresh ice.
- Garnish with an orange slice and serve.

How to Keep Your Oranges Fresh

Got a bunch of fresh oranges and want to make them last? Whether they're from your own tree or the grocery store, storing them the right way can keep them juicy and delicious for weeks. Here's what you need to know:

Keep Them in the Fridge

Oranges stay fresh the longest when stored in the fridge. The crisper drawer is the best spot since it keeps them cool and at the right humidity. Aim for a temperature between 40-45°F, and they can last up to a month!

Use a Mesh Bag

Toss your oranges in a mesh bag instead of a plastic one. This lets air circulate and helps prevent mold from forming. Also, don't overcrowd them—give your oranges a little space so they don't get squished

Wait to Wash

Washing oranges before storing them might seem like a good idea, but extra moisture can make them spoil faster. Instead, wait until you're ready to eat or use them before giving them a rinse.

What About Cut Oranges?

If you've already sliced one open, wrap it tightly in plastic wrap or put it in an airtight container before refrigerating. This keeps it from drying out and helps it stay fresh for up to a week.

Room Temperature Storage

If you're planning to eat them within a few days, leaving oranges out on the counter is fine. They'll stay good for about a week, but if you want them to last longer, the fridge is the way to go.

Keep Them Away from Certain Fruits

Oranges don't play well with apples and bananas! These fruits give off ethylene gas, which can make oranges ripen and spoil faster. Store them separately to keep them fresh as long as possible.

Works for Most Citrus Fruits

These storage tips apply to most citrus fruits, whether you have navel oranges, mandarins, or tangerines. Keeping them cool and dry will always help extend their shelf life.

Follow these easy tips, and you'll always have fresh, tasty oranges ready to enjoy!



Collier County's premier water park, Sun-N-Fun Lagoon, will transition to weekend-only operations from Saturday, March 29, through Sunday, May 18, 2025. During this period, guests can enjoy the park on Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at a reduced admission rate of just \$5.00 per person.

Located within North Collier Regional Park at 15000 Livingston Road, Naples, FL, Sun-N-Fun Lagoon will resume full-season operations on Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday, May 24, 2025, with all attractions reopening for the summer.

For more information, call Peg Ruby at (239) 252-4000 or visit napleswaterpark.com.

March 15, 2025 Puzzle Solution

A	D	O	S		A	F	I	R	E		
L	E	V	I		S	N	O	R	E	S	
O	V	E	N		H	A	B	I	T	S	
W	A	R	E	P	I	C		D	O	E	
				D	E	V	O	T	I	O	N
	E	M	I	T		N	O	C	K		
K	N	E	E	P	A	D	S				
H	A	D		E	L	A	S	T	I	C	
A	M	U	L	E	T		O	I	L	Y	
K	O	S	O	V	O		U	K	E	S	
I	R	A	T	E			T	E	X	T	

How do you keep a fool in suspense?

I'll tell you the answer tomorrow.

Happy April Fool's Day

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

- Across**
1. Big blowout
 5. Stellar
 11. Eye layer
 12. Murder mystery themed board game
 13. South American monkey
 14. Present and future
 15. Big fishhook
 17. 1999 Pulitzer Prize-winning play
 18. Not completely
 20. Chanel of fashion
 23. "___ any drop to drink": Coleridge
 24. Big galoot
 26. Cold and wet
 27. Jersey, e.g.
 29. "___ playing allowed!"
 31. Bully
 33. Abbr. after many a general's name
 34. Picturesque
 37. Copter's forerunner
 39. Any of the kids in a 1985 comedy-adventure
 40. Acknowledge
 41. Become buff
 42. Rare state bird of Hawaii

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12					
13					14					
	15			16		17				
18					19		20		21	22
23				24		25		26		
27			28		29		30			
		31		32		33				
34	35				36		37			38
39							40			
41							42			

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 4. Israeli port | 16. Away | 30. Started |
| 5. Appear | 18. Publicity, slangily | 32. Console that sounds like two pronouns |
| 6. Knocked off, in a way | 19. "The Joy Luck Club" author | 34. ___ Hulka ("Stripes" role) |
| 7. "Spartacus" getup | 21. Where witches brew | 35. Bill and ___ |
| 8. Capable of renewing strength | 22. Hooter | 36. Fleshy mushroom |
| 9. "Fables in Slang" author | 25. In favor of | 38. "I ___ you one" |
| 10. "___ Olvidados" (1950 Luis Buñuel film) | 28. 1,000 kilograms | |

- Down**
1. Except
 2. City on the Rhone
 3. Appraise



Fishing Heats Up

By Captain Mike Merritt

The waters are finally warming up again and I am hopeful this trend continues. I would like to think we are done with the colder water temps and that our inshore Snook bite continues to improve as the water continues to warm up! We should start seeing



some big fish move inshore as the bait moves in, and this happens with warmer water. The winds will probably continue through April as they have in years past. We just hope to get a few days of low winds or a good S.E. direction every once in a while. This always helps with the water clarity. As I mentioned last time we have lost all of our turtle grass and as a result the water gets stirred up so much easier than it used to. This is definitely something that needs to be addressed as our grasses are critical to the abundant life we have here. I am confident this can be addressed and changed with an effort from all who have a stake here.

Another thing we normally see as spring arrives is the Tripletail as I stated last time. I am constantly on the lookout for these fish as I run and while fishing shorelines. They are usually eager to eat well placed



live shrimp or artificial shrimp. Sometimes you have to put it right in their face, so casting skills always help. Permit can also be found moving in closer to the Islands this time of year. Calm days will be optimal and can add tons of fun to a charter. Live crabs are hard to beat but these fish will take artificial baits when they are feeding. You may find just a few or get lucky and come across large schools of fish. Again, keep your eyes scanning the waters while running and it can pay off big time!

Redfish continue to be tough but this should start changing again as spring progresses. Shallow waters are the best bet but we are still catching them in the rivers too. Even right here close to Everglades City

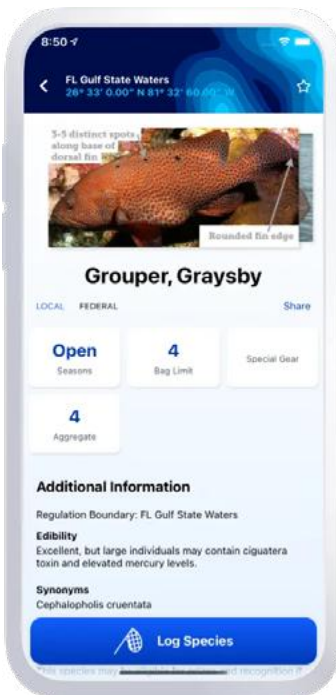
we have seen good Redfish action. Jigs tipped with shrimp are producing action when fished close to the Islands. A live shrimp of course is hard to beat. On a cork or on a knocker rig, depending on where you are and water depth.

Seatrout continue to bite well. And it seems we are catching a lot more good sized fish right now. In times past February was always the month we caught the biggest fish, but it seems that right now it is the time! We are catching a limit of fish from 17"-19" pretty consistently now. This makes for a nice fish fry for the clients and an especially good time for kids and novice anglers. We are fortunate to have many options here in these Islands.

Let's not forget the Silver King! We have a lot of people that come to our area and book trips with the guides just to experience hooking a Tarpon. When the bite is on it is absolutely thrilling. But Tarpon fishing is more like a hunt. You may see plenty of fish and never get a "shot" at one. Or, you may fish and never even see one. But this time of year definitely offers a great opportunity for a hookup. If you put in enough days on the water you will eventually have that epic day. After all that is what our goal is, to put our clients on that epic fish they will always remember

Whatever you decide to chase this month here in the Ten Thousand Islands, you will not be disappointed. Enjoy the fishing and the beauty of what is around you. And for goodness sake don't be in such a rush that you can't slow down and be courteous to someone else on the water. Good luck fishing!

Capt. Mike Merritt, Guide
(561) 252-4324 | SnookFishing1@juno.com



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Wednesday Worship: 6:00 pm

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Barron River Tides				
3/29/2025	Sat	3:11 AM	2.99	H
3/29/2025	Sat	10:26 AM	0.11	L
3/29/2025	Sat	3:16 PM	2.81	H
3/29/2025	Sat	10:47 PM	-0.22	L
3/30/2025	Sun	4:01 AM	2.86	H
3/30/2025	Sun	11:04 AM	0.27	L
3/30/2025	Sun	3:40 PM	2.93	H
3/30/2025	Sun	11:35 PM	-0.36	L
3/31/2025	Mon	4:56 AM	2.63	H
3/31/2025	Mon	11:41 AM	0.45	L
3/31/2025	Mon	4:08 PM	3	H
4/1/2025	Tue	12:25 AM	-0.42	L
4/1/2025	Tue	5:57 AM	2.33	H
4/1/2025	Tue	12:17 PM	0.62	L
4/1/2025	Tue	4:41 PM	3	H
4/2/2025	Wed	1:19 AM	-0.39	L
4/2/2025	Wed	7:05 AM	2.03	H
4/2/2025	Wed	12:50 PM	0.77	L
4/2/2025	Wed	5:21 PM	2.9	H
4/3/2025	Thu	2:18 AM	-0.29	L
4/3/2025	Thu	8:30 AM	1.8	H
4/3/2025	Thu	1:20 PM	0.9	L
4/3/2025	Thu	6:12 PM	2.74	H
4/4/2025	Fri	3:28 AM	-0.16	L
4/4/2025	Fri	7:43 PM	2.52	H
4/5/2025	Sat	4:45 AM	-0.06	L
4/5/2025	Sat	1:23 PM	1.9	H
4/5/2025	Sat	4:52 PM	1.02	L
4/5/2025	Sat	9:42 PM	2.41	H
4/6/2025	Sun	5:55 AM	0.01	L
4/6/2025	Sun	1:42 PM	2.02	H
4/6/2025	Sun	6:18 PM	0.9	L
4/6/2025	Sun	11:09 PM	2.4	H
4/7/2025	Mon	6:55 AM	0.07	L
4/7/2025	Mon	1:51 PM	2.13	H
4/7/2025	Mon	7:23 PM	0.74	L
4/8/2025	Tue	12:23 AM	2.46	H
4/8/2025	Tue	7:46 AM	0.12	L
4/8/2025	Tue	1:52 PM	2.25	H
4/8/2025	Tue	8:12 PM	0.56	L
4/9/2025	Wed	1:20 AM	2.53	H
4/9/2025	Wed	8:28 AM	0.19	L
4/9/2025	Wed	1:59 PM	2.39	H
4/9/2025	Wed	8:53 PM	0.4	L
4/10/2025	Thu	2:04 AM	2.57	H
4/10/2025	Thu	9:06 AM	0.26	L
4/10/2025	Thu	2:15 PM	2.53	H
4/10/2025	Thu	9:29 PM	0.24	L
4/11/2025	Fri	2:40 AM	2.57	H
4/11/2025	Fri	9:40 AM	0.34	L
4/11/2025	Fri	2:34 PM	2.65	H
4/11/2025	Fri	10:04 PM	0.12	L

LOCAL SERVICES & CLASSIFIEDS

Restaurants & Bars

Everglades City

Camellia Street Grill

Mon-Thurs 12-9
Fri-Sun 11-9
(239) 695-2003

Captain Morgan's Seafood Grill Corp

Thur-Mon 11 am – 8 pm
(239) 232-0041

City Seafood

Mon-Fri 8 am – 3 pm
Sat & Sun 8 am – 4 pm
(239) 695-4700

Diving Pelican

Sun-Thur 11 am – 8 pm
Fri-Sat 11 am – 8:30 pm
(239) 232-0475

Gator Hole Bar

Wed-Thur 11 am - 7pm
Fri-Sat 11 am – 12 am
Sun 11 am – 7 pm
(239) 232-0475

Island Cafe

Daily 6 am – 9 pm
(239) 695-0003

Nely's Corner (Inside EFC)

Fri-Sun 6:15 am - 3 pm
(239) 695-4222

Rod & Gun

Daily 11:30 am - 7:30 pm
(239) 695-2101

Triad Seafood Market & Cafe

Thur-Sat 10:30 am – 8 pm
Sun-Wed 10:30 am – 4 pm
(239) 695-2662

Wildman's Pizza Pasta & Pythons

Wed & Thurs 12 pm – 8 pm
Fri-Sat 12 pm – 9 pm
(239) 426-9453

Chokoloskee

HavAnnA Cafe

Daily 8 am – 8 pm
(239) 695-2214

Goodland

Crabby Lady

Tues-Sat 11 am – 6 pm
Sun 11 am – 5 pm
(239) 394-5663

Kirks Fish House

Mon-Sat 10 am - 5 pm
(239) 394-8616

Little Bar

Daily 11:30 am – 12 am
(239) 394-5663

Paradise Found

Thur-Sun
(239) 330-7773

Stans Idle Hour

Fri-Sun 11 am - 6:30 pm
(239) 394-3041

Port of the Islands

Saigon to Paris Cafe

Thur-Mon 8 am - 3 pm
Thur-Mon 6 pm - 10 pm
(239) 970-0020

Ochopee

Subway

Daily 7 am – 7 pm
(239) 695-0949

Joanie's Blue Crab Cafe

Mon, Tues, Thur 10:30 am - 4 pm
Fri-Sun 10:30 am - 5 pm
(239) 695-2682

CR92 & US41 (Naples)

Gator's Crossing

Daily 11 am – 11 pm
(239) 394-0288

Markets

Right Choice Supermarket

Daily 9 am – 7 pm
(239) 695-4535

Glades Haven General Store

Daily 9 am – 7 pm
(239) 232-0486

Grimm's Stone Crab

Mon-Sat 8 am - 5pm
(239) 695-3222

Worship

Chokoloskee Family Church

Sun: 10 am School & Worship, 6 pm Service
Wed: Youth 7 pm
1236 Demere Ln, Chokoloskee

Everglades Community Church

Sun: 11 am Worship
101 Copeland Ave, Everglades City

First Baptist Church

Sun: 9:45 am School, 11 am Worship & 6 pm Service
Wed: 6 pm Bible Study
416 E School Dr, Everglades City

Holy Family Catholic Church

Mass Sun: 10:30 am
200 Datura St E, Everglades City

Goodland Baptist Church

Sun: 10 am Worship
Wed: 6 pm Bible Study
410 Mango Ave. Goodland

For Sale

FOR SALE: 60 hp Tohatsu outboard motor. Engine has 1,000 hrs. Runs perfectly. Tiller steer. Spare propeller. \$3,200. Call (239) 302-8610.

FOR SALE: 40 Ft. Shipping container, water tight, good floors, located on Chokoloskee Island, \$1950 or best offer. Call Gar (954) 695-1284

For Lease

FOR LEASE: Deep water commercial dock and lot on Barron River. Premium sought-after location at 909 DuPont St. in Everglades City. Perfect for, eco-tour business, commercial fishing or even a restaurant with chickee bar and tourist gift shop attraction. Newly refurbished Dock Available now. Email E010101@aol.com, Call (727) 480-1640

FOR LEASE: Annual Lease of 600 sq. ft. Cafe space next to the Everglades City Visitors Center, with heavy tourist traffic. Restaurant equipment also available for sale. Also potential use as a gift shop, tourist office, etc. Email us for details at bonniewoodward@gmail.com.

Housing

FORRENT: Second floor 2-bedroom/1 bath apartment, WiFi, washer/dryer, screened-in porch, fully furnished. Great location in Everglades City. Annual rental. Email us for details at bonniewoodward@gmail.com.

Help Wanted

WANTED: Ad Sales Person. Join our team and help local businesses shine in our beloved community paper. Ideal candidates will have great communication skills, a knack for building relationships, and a passion for community engagement. Commission-based pay. Contact: Info@MulletRapper.com

Wanted

WANTED: Bridge Players wanted! If you are a beginner or a professional bridge player, come join our group for a fun afternoon of bridge. Call Patty at (239) 719-0020.

VOLUNTEER: The Big Cypress National Preserve is currently seeking volunteers for our Reed Visitor Center docent and park ambassador. For those interested, please reach out to Annie Kilby, the Visitor Services Program Manager at (239)719-0207 annie.kilby@nps.gov.

Clubs

Everglades Lions Club

2nd Thursday of the month | 6 pm
September - May
Jinkins Fellowship Hall behind Everglades Community Church
101 S. Copeland Ave, Everglades City
evergladeslionsclub@gmail.com

Ladies Coffee

Thursdays | 8:30 am
Rotates Everglades City Restaurants
snookcity@gmail.com
(239) 719-0020

Goodland Civic Association

3rd Tuesday of the month | 6:30 pm
Goodland Community Center
417 Mango Ave, Goodland
(239) 776-1372

Helpful Numbers

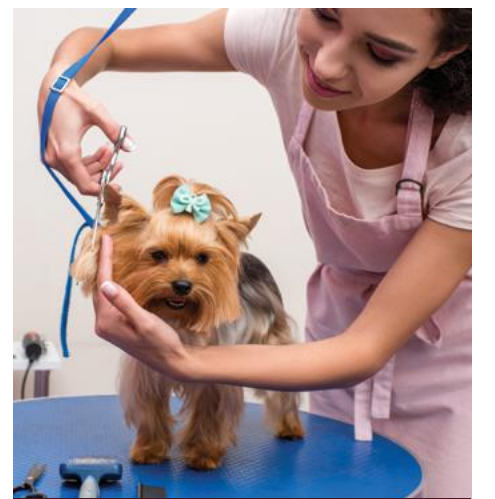
EC Airpark: (239) 252-6298
EC City Hall: (239) 695-3781
EC Public Library: (239) 695-2511
EC Trash Pickup: (239) 252-2380
EC Visitor Center: (239) 232-0473
Goodland Recycle: (239)252-2380

Post Office

Everglades City & Chokolossee: (239) 695-2174
Ochopee: (239) 695-2099
Goodland: (239) 394-7387

Local Parks

Big Cypress: (239) 695-2000
EVG National Park: (305) 242-7700
Fakahatchee Preserve: (239) 961-1925



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