



The MULLET RAPPER

TIDE TABLE &
RESTAURANTS
PAGE 11

What's Happening in the Everglades & 10,000 Islands
DECEMBER 29, 2018 - JANUARY 11, 2019



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P O Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume XI • Issue # 328

Christmas Parade Spreads Cheer in Streets of Everglades City

Christmas spirit was the theme of the day and the entire town seemed to join in on one of the many activities going on in town on December 15th.

The evening was a spectacular kicking off with the lighting of the Christmas tree at City Hall, followed by the land parade where several carts and a few trailers participated in the parade. There were lights, music and even some carolers bringing holiday cheer to everyone. The street was lined with families who seemed to fully enjoy the festivities.



During the parade there was an event at the park held by the Everglades City School Booster Club serving hotdogs, then the 5K Glow (in the dark!) run.



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FEATURE: MYSTERY DINER, P. 4

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Third Annual Everglades City Plant Sale Raises Over \$1100 for School

The annual plant sale hosted by the Mullet Rapper achieved the goal of raising at least \$1000 for the school during the 3rd annual event. The sale featured plants & seeds grown by Tim & Kathy Brock and generous donations of plants and crafts by others in the community.

Prior to the benefit, many contributed by donating pots. We now have enough for our next sale! For the day of the sale, Bob and Terri Cull donated several large coconut palms, smaller palms and ornamental plants. Tony Pernas donated many native shrubs, and others dropped off plants, seedlings and seeds. Thank you to Debbie who brought the beautiful devil's trumpet plants and to Jessie and Joyce for helping the day of the sale. So many people helped us on the day of the sale so this was a true community effort.

In just three hours we raised \$1135 making the total donations to the school by the Mullet Rapper in 2018 a whopping \$4209!

In 2017, the Mullet Rapper pledged to donate 100% of the proceeds on the sale of the print edition of the paper to the school to use as needed by the athletic department.

The hurricane interrupted the Rapper's efforts a bit in 2017, but we stayed on track in 2018 and **almost** eclipsed \$5000 for the school.

Next year, we hope to set a new fundraising record to support our wonderful school...the only Pre-K-12 school in all of Florida.

Help us make 2019 an even better year for the Mullet Rapper and our school. When you see the paper at one of our local businesses, please put in your quarter (or more) and take a paper!

Thank you to everyone who helped and to those who came out to our plant sale. We'll do it again soon! (Below: Jim & Patty Ragusa visit with Kathy Brock at the 3rd Annual Plant Sale)



Gone But Not Forgotten in 2018

We lost many of our friends in 2018, and it is very hard to say goodbye. Although they may not be with us any longer the impact they had on our lives and our community will live on in our memories forever.

While we celebrate the beginning of the New Year, let's not forget about those who have passed on.


We remember them for the good times. We cherish the memories and trust they are now at peace. Here is our list of friends to remember:

Larry Wayne Ammerman
Virginia "Jinny" Ball
Bill & Miff Blair
Marian Corinne Brucker
James Kyle Bryan
Susan Elizabeth Daniels
Saul Friess
Ernest Phillip Goff
Howard "Reese" Hamilton
Estelle Branconier Hodges
Robert McBeath
Joan Murray
Ronald Ouellette
Nathaniel Reed
Eddie Raymond Rewis, Jr.
Beatrice "Aunt Bea" Rogers
Rick Scholle
Linda Gail Smith
Madelyn Joan Briggs Stickland
Stephen Wayne Thompson
Dr. Tony Trayling
Dorothy "Mama Dot" Weeks
Anne Wood



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

DECEMBER 30, 2018 – FEBRUARY 2, 2019

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
30	31 New Year's Eve 	January 1st Happy New Year!	2 Ladies Coffee Island Café 8 am	3	4 Museum Event, Rod & Gun History 5-7pm	5 new moon ● Stargazing @ Collier- Seminole Park, see p. 8
6	7 ESHP Mtg., 8:30 am	8 City Council Mtg, 7:00 pm	9 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am	10	11	12 <u>RAPPER</u>
13 Bike Ride See p. 5	14	15 P & Z Mtg, 7 pm.	16 Ladies Coffee Havana Café 8 am	17 Book Club, see p. 10	18 Movie Night at the Museum, 5:30, see p. 3	19 Art-in-the- Glades, see p. 3
20	21 full moon ○	22	23 Ladies Coffee Island Café 8 am	24	25	26 <u>RAPPER</u>
27	28	29	30 Ladies Coffee City Seafood 8 am	31	February 1	2

February 8-10 Seafood Festival (see p. 3)
February 20: Pancake Fly-in, see p. 8

February 14: Valentines Day
February 22: History Talk, see p.3

February 19-23: MSD Festival
February 23: Art-in-the-Glades

AREA INFORMATION & NUMBERS:

AA: Wed., 5:00 pm, Evg. Comm. Church, Fellowship Hall
 CARNESTOWN Recycle & Trash: Dec 1st, Every Sat, 9 am to 3:30 pm
 DR DEMARTINO: Little Gator Clinic, Opening Nov. 30, Fridays 1:30-4:30
 DR MARTIN: Call for appointment: 813-787-9738
 LIONS CLUB: Meet 2nd Thursday of Month, 6 pm
 MUSEUM: Open Monday-Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm. 239-695-0008
 PANCAKE FLY-IN: Feb. 16, Mar. 16, Apr. 20. E City Airport, 10 am-noon
 REACH OUT: 3rd Tuesday, 4 pm, City Hall
 SKATING RINK: Now open! Fri. & Sat. 6 to 9 pm
 SMALLWOOD STORE: 11 am to 4 pm, 239-695-2989
 THRIFT SHOP: Open Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 11 am to 3, see p.3.
 VETERANS SUPPORT: 2nd & 4th Wed. of month, noon—2 pm

The Local Area Code is 239

POST OFFICE INFORMATION:

Chokoloskee (239) 695-4468
 (M-F: 9:30 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 4:30 pm, closed Sat. & Sun.)
 Everglades City (239) 695-2174
 (M-F: 9:30 am to 12 pm, 1 pm to 4:30 pm, closed Sat. & Sun.)
 Ochopee (239) 695-2099
 (M-F: 8 am to 10 am, noon to 4 pm; Sa: 10 am to 11:30 am)

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**Museum of the Everglades
January 4, 2019, 5 to 7 pm**

“Remembering the Rod & Gun” on Friday, January 4th from 5pm to 7pm will be an evening of food, fun, memories & more. The event, hosted by the Friends of Museum of the Everglades, will serve as a reception for the Museum’s exhibit celebrating the local landmark: “The Rod & Gun Club: from Pioneer Homestead to Dignitary Destination” on display in the Pauline Reeves Gallery through February 1st. Come enjoy a little wine, some Everglades-style hors d’oeuvres.

**Movie Night @ the Museum
Friday, January 18th, 5:30 pm**



Come to the museum of the Everglades for a FREE evening of fun and watch one of the all time classics.

The movie starts at 6 pm so please arrive by 5:30 pm to get your seats and settle in so you do not miss one minute. Details about the movie will be in the next issue of the Rapper.

Art-in-the-Glades

Saturday, Jan. 19th, 10 am to 1 pm



Come out to McLeod Park for Art-in-the-Glades on Saturday, January 19th from 10 am to 1 pm.

There will be live music, goodies for the kids (and adults) and plenty of local arts and crafts. It’s a great time to find local crafts and gifts and have fun at the newly landscaped McLeod Park!

**Everglades Seafood Festival
February 8-10, 2019**



The much anticipated annual festival is almost here! The Everglades Seafood Festival and Fair will take place on Friday, February 8th through Sunday

the 10th. The traditional “Family Night” kicks off the festival on Friday, with the rest of the weekend filled with music, food, art, crafts and much more.

If you are interested in a booth or in becoming a sponsor, please call us at 239-695-2277 or email us at evgbet2011@aol.com.

**History Talk
February 22, 2019, 6:00 pm**



Come out to the Museum of the Everglades and learn about our area’s rich history from an area expert and historian. Seating is limited so please plan on arriving a bit early to claim your seat! Hope to see you there!

**New Year’s Eve Celebration!
Bring in the New Year at City Seafood
Dec. 31, 6pm**



Hurricane Irma’s got nothing on this New Year’s Eve Party!

Look out Everglades, Chokoloskee, Plantation and Copeland ‘cause this is the party of all parties in the Glades. Come local, come all, everyone is welcome! Raffle prizes, games, music and dancing. **Party stops when the ball drops...unless you do first. Feel free to bring a dish to share if you wish to!**

COMMUNITY SERVICES

**FREE DENTAL, BLOOD PRESSURE
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HEALTH INFORMATION FOR ALL
Dec. Jan. 22, 9 am to 4 pm**

The Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida’s Health & Smiles Mobile Dental Bus will be in Everglades City on **January 22nd**, from 9 am to 4 pm, in the Fire Station parking lot, providing free dental checks, blood pressure screenings and behavioral health information if requested. For more information or an appt: call 239-986-7323.

**THE FOOD BANK IS OPEN!
Wednesdays noon to 2pm**

Everglades Community Pantry, a proud partner agency of the Harry Chapin Food Bank, is open every Wednesday from noon to 2 in Jinkins Fellowship Hall at Everglades Community Church. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

DOCTOR’S CLINIC

Dr. Kirk DeMartino is seeing patients in his Marco Island Office and in **Everglades City on Friday’s from 1:30 to 4:30 pm**. You may call his office to schedule an appointment at either location: (239) 642-5552.



NATURAL MEDICINE

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



**CEDR Hurricane Disaster Recovery
Assistance is Available**

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

NEW THRIFT SHOP



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



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

As we are in the midst of dry season and experiencing moderate drought conditions, it is important to be prepared for a potential wildfire.



As part of the preparation, the Florida Forest Service conducts prescribed burns which involves intentionally setting fire in a controlled manner to help reduce hazardous fuel buildups in wildland-urban interface areas.

Did you know that fire is an essential process in Florida’s ecosystem? After a prescribed burn is extinguished, the nutrient-rich ash of the old forest becomes fertilizer for new plants to grow. These new plants are tasty and nutritious, which lures plant-eating animals back into the forest. The meat-eating animals will then follow their prey back into the forest. At the same time, dead and dying trees fall. This decay breeds ants and fungus that other animals can eat. The fallen trees become homes to medium-sized animals such as raccoons and foxes. In this way, fire can help rejuvenate, or renew, a forest.

At the same time, prescribed fire helps protect you and your home by reducing the fuel that can cause a wildfire to rage out of control. For more information on prescribed burns visit the GNFD website.



On December 19th we began the toy distribution at Station 73. I would like to once again thank everyone who has contributed to the success of this program as we provide toys for over 1,000 Collier County children this season. On behalf of the

Board of Fire Commissioners and GNFD members, I would like to wish you all a very blessed holiday.



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The Mystery Diner
 (Reviews & Stories About Local Eateries)
 by Alfred B. Eaton



This past week I had the pleasure of visiting the **Havana Cafe** on Chokoloskee Island for lunch. The first thing I noticed was the new chickee that the owner's Carlos & Dulce had built just in time for season. It's situated in a way that connects the kitchen and inside dining area with the beautiful outdoor patio dining area, bringing everything together as one. As I sat at my table I looked up and marveled at the craftsmanship that it takes to create one of these authentic Seminole structures. Hundreds of small palm limbs are each precisely cut to fit between the cypress logs which support the palm fronds used for the roof. The construction is truly incredible and the authentic design definitely adds to the existing lush patio landscaping that Dulce has created.

No one can dispute that Havana Cafe has the absolute best coffee around. I ordered a Colada which is strong Cuban coffee with sugar. It's kind of like espresso but much, much better and stronger! Each one is made to order and their machine is positioned between the cash resistor and the kitchen in a way that allows you to witness your coffee's creation. If you prefer a "lighter" coffee just ask for a Cafe Con Leche which is basically a Colada with milk. And if you don't take sugar with your coffee don't worry, they always ask first. Most consider this strictly a morning beverage but I enjoy it anytime before 3pm.

For lunch I decided on the Blackened Shrimp Plate. This comes with the staple Black Beans & Rice and marinated Tomatoes & Cucumbers. The first thing you'll notice is that the shrimp are not blackened in an iron skillet and served dry. Also, most restaurants will serve about six shrimp per serving, which can sometimes be disappointing...not Carlos. The shrimp were prepared perfectly with the house seasoning and served in a savory butter sauce. As Carlos made his rounds to visit the guests at their tables he stopped by and encouraged me to pour the sauce onto my Beans and Rice. WOW....this took things to another level and I then understood his method of serving them in a separate dish. The marinated vegetables were simple, fresh, very tasty and offered a nice cool contrast to my meal. Another thing I must bring to your attention is their homemade hot sauce. I fancy myself as a connoisseur of hot sauces and this is one of the best I had. I believe they use habanero peppers combined with a secret seasoning and the subtle sweetness makes this sauce one of a kind. You'll have to ask for it and they will gladly deliver some to your table in a very unassuming bottle. They also sell it to go packaged in a smart looking glass bottle with a fancy custom label. It is



obviously made with love and you'll want to take some home with you for sure. The bottom line - Havana Cafe is a fantastic restaurant in the far reaches of the 10,000 islands. Yes the food is delicious and the location is beautiful but it is clearly the owner's passion that makes this place so special.

Photos: Top right, Owner/Chef Carlos Valdes prepares and packages his own hot sauce. Below, a view from underneath the new chickee hut at Havana Cafe.

This column will appear from time to time to provide a glimpse into some of the restaurants in the Everglades City, Chokoloskee and surrounding areas.



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A Student Profile

By Athletic Director Jill Whitcomb

Everglades City School's Student Athlete stands out in Collier County!

Everglades City School and the town are very proud of 8th grade student, Billy Smallwood and the entire team, for displaying exceptional sportsmanship during a game this month. The coaches and staff of Everglades City School have been working tirelessly to instill the importance of good sportsmanship, regardless of their opponent or location.



This week, the athletic department received a very special shout out from one of the officials that refereed the middle school boys' game on December 18, 2018. This is the email we received:

"Just a quick note to tell you and the school how impressed I was with the good sportsmanship shown by both teams last night, but specifically Everglades

City and more specifically number 35. It is rare to see someone that age play with such a team spirit. He was obviously the more talented player on the floor, yet he continued to keep his team mates involved in the game and showed great respect for the Oak Creek players. It was a nice game to officiate.

Basketball is a very physical and competitive sport. We are very proud of the maturity and poise our student athletes show when they compete against other schools!

Great job Billy and the entire middle school team! Keep it up! Happy Holidays to everyone out in Everglades City"

School Calendar-No School Days

Dec. 22– Jan. 3



Mullet Rapper Donations to Everglades City School
~\$4209 so far in 2018!!!!

Thank you to everyone who buys the Mullet Rapper every two weeks. Remember, the Mullet Rapper donates 100% of the proceeds from the sale of the print edition of the paper to the Everglades City School Athletic Department!

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

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

TAXING THINGS
by Mike the Tax Guy

MORE TAX RULE CHANGES

Tax Reform Brings Changes to Qualified Moving Expenses



Under previous law, payment or reimbursement of an employee's qualified moving expenses were not subject to income or employment taxes.

The new tax reform legislation requires employers to include all moving expenses, in employees' wages, subject to income and employment taxes.

Tax Reform Creates Opportunity Zone Tax Incentive

Qualified Opportunity Zones were created by the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. These zones are designed to spur economic development and job creation by providing tax benefits to investors who invest eligible capital into these communities. Taxpayers may defer tax on eligible capital gains by making an appropriate investment in a Qualified Opportunity Fund and meeting other requirements.

To qualify for deferral:

- ◆ Capital gains must be invested in a QOF within 180 days.
- ◆ Taxpayer elects deferral on Form 8949 and files with its tax return.
- ◆ Investment in the QOF must be an equity interest, not a debt interest.
- ◆ If a taxpayer holds its QOF investment at least five years, the taxpayer may exclude 10 percent of the original deferred gain. If a taxpayer holds its QOF investment for at least seven years, the taxpayer may exclude an additional five percent of the original deferred gain for a total exclusion of 15 percent of the original deferred gain. The original deferred gain – less the amount excluded due to the five and seven year holding periods – is recognized on the earlier of sale or exchange of the investment, or December 31, 2026. If the taxpayer holds the investment in the QOF for at least 10 years, the taxpayer may elect to increase its basis of the QOF investment equal to its fair market value on the date that the QOF investment is sold or exchanged. This may eliminate all or a substantial amount of gain due to appreciation on the QOF investment.

Tax Reform Law Makes Changes to Employee Achievement Award Rules

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act made changes to several programs that can affect an employer's bottom line and its employees' deductions. This includes employee achievement awards.

Under previous law employers could deduct the cost of certain employee achievement awards. Deductible awards were excludible from employee income.

Under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act there is now a prohibition on cash, gift cards and other non-tangible personal property as employee achievement awards.

Special rules allow an employee to exclude certain achievement awards from their wages if the awards are tangible personal property.

The new law clarifies that tangible personal property doesn't include cash, cash equivalents, gift cards, gift coupons, certain gift certificates, tickets to theater or sporting events, vacations, meals, lodging, stocks, bonds, securities, and other similar items.

MIKE "THE TAX GUY" Klein provides local and professional, personal & business tax services in Everglades City and surrounding areas. Call 239-595-4203 to set an appointment, or email: nfn19842@naples.net for more information.

To contact the Internal Revenue Service:

For live telephone assistance, you can call the IRS at **1-800-829-1040** between the hours of 7AM and 7PM, Monday thru Friday. This phone number is for individual taxpayers who have questions their Federal taxes.

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Cycle Tours through the Everglades
Next Ride: January 13th

Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park is just 7 miles north of Everglades City off of SR29 in Copeland. Our bike tour for **January 13** starts at the Fakahatchee Headquarters where you'll find restrooms, a water fountain, maps and a donation box (\$2 for hikers/bicyclists).

Hybrid or mountain bikes are needed. Be sure to wear a helmet, bring sunscreen, extra tube or patches, and lots of water (with electrolytes). We will ride approximately 6 miles north off-road along beautiful Janes Scenic Drive (an old railway bed constructed in the 1940s to log out the old-growth Bald Cypress trees used during WWII to build flight decks for aircraft carriers).

At Gate 12 you can decide to return to the Headquarters or bike another few miles along one of the smaller tram roads, arriving at the "Fakahatchee Hilton", an old cabin situated on a gator lake. Come join us for a lot of fun exploring wonderful wild south Florida. For more information, contact Patty Huff at 239-695-2397 or email info@evergladesrogg.org.

Biking Event Schedule
(All rides start at 9:00am)

- ◆ **January 13 – Janes Scenic Drive in the Fakahatchee (17 miles).** Meet at Fakahatchee Strand Headquarters in Copeland
- ◆ **February 17 – Ave Maria (40 miles)** Meet at McLeod Park in Everglades City
- ◆ **March 10 – Bear Island in the Big Cypress** Meeting Location TBA

*No registration fee – sign up to receive updates:
info@evergladesrogg.org
call Patty at 239-695-2397*

Visit the website: <https://evergladesrogg.org/events/>



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Solution to December 15, 2018 Puzzle



My Little Slice of Paradise
by Kathy Brock
Goodbye Old House

We finally did it. Our relocation is complete. The house I was born and raised in, and the one Tim and I have owned the majority of our life together is now someone else's.

To say it feels strange would be a colossal understatement. That house has been a part of me for every minute of my memory. Of course, we have had our home away from home in Everglades City since 1993...and we really have always considered this "home". But the family home was still there, still a part of me...and now it is no longer.

Every bush and tree has a memory. The layers of paint were all applied by my parents, my brother or by us. There was not one single thing there that wasn't "of us".

Today, I cannot say that anymore. Someone else is in my home getting ready to celebrate the New Year in their New Home.

That is just the way life is. No matter how important something or someone seems to be, when they are gone, life does go on. And life will continue to thrive in the old house that my parents built without the family who put it there...

I loved everything about that house except one little thing...the congestion. The east-side just grew too much for our comfort. So away we went...fleeing to little Everglades City, population 400!

Selling that house was bitter-sweet. The excitement of having it all behind us is combined with the sadness that we slept in my family home for the very last time on December 20, 2018.

So many things we amassed over the years are gone with the house - or going soon! It's only "stuff" but it feels like a divorce of sorts. All of this stuff was important at one time or another. Looking back, we could have done without 90% of it begin with.

In our move-out we discovered that we had duplicates of almost everything...sometimes we found 3 or more. We must be the prototypical consummate consumers? Buying up stuff to fill space. When you run out of space, you create more space for more stuff. Then, you reach an age when the stuff just doesn't do it for you anymore...it lacks true meaning and value...and it requires dusting, which is something I want to do less of...

That's where we are now. We have reached that crossroad where memories matter - but what's ahead matters more. Being bogged down by stuff seems so silly. We got caught up in it like most others do. All of the "gotta haves" that really never were. It's just more stuff.

Now we find ourselves purging the stuff for cents on the dollar, fully knowing how much was wasted on it. It's tempting to keep it but it is time for it to become someone else's stuff now. Let someone else fuel the economy by buying up all of the stuff so they can hold on to it for 30 or so years until the *urge to purge* gets a hold of them too.

It's a funny cycle...you gotta have it, can't wait to get it...then you can't wait to get rid of it. Next, I will be reusing zip lock bags, foregoing trash bags for grocery sacks and double dipping tea bags. What's happening to me? *Phew!* I Googled it. Apparently, it's quite normal. It's called settling in to a type of retirement. Deal me in. I am almost ready!

Goodbye old house. I will miss you.

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Island Life Recipes
Smoked Mullet Dip
By Kathy Brock

Ingredients:
 2-3 smoked mullet fillets, well seasoned
 1/2 cup mayo
 1/2 cup sour cream
 8 oz softened cream cheese
 Dash Worcestershire sauce
 Jalapeno pepper de-seeded and chopped.
 (optional)

Directions: Smoke mullet (or obtain smoked mullet) seasoned on both sides of the fillet with Old Bay, garlic, and black pepper to taste. Once cooled, mash into small bits making sure no bones are left behind.
 Mix softened cream cheese, mayo, sour cream and Worcestershire sauce until fully blended and creamy. If desired, add in jalapeno pepper, and then mix in fish well and refrigerate.
 Serve with crackers (we like water crackers, but any will do) and hot sauce for those who like it hot!
 We have also used smoked trout, jack and mackerel in the same base...and they are all very tasty. But locals know you cannot beat the mullet. This is a great side to bring to any party. It is usually the first hors d'oeuvres to disappear when we do. Avoid the temptation to over season the dip. The well seasoned and smoked fish provides all the flavor you need! Enjoy!

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Form
- 6 Most of the US Army holds this rank
- 9 Where sailors go
- 10 His 'n ---
- 12 Murder
- 15 That's ridiculous!
- 16 Reward for waiting
- 17 Reproduced without correction
- 18 Sushi wrap
- 19 What breadwinners bring home
- 22 Little ones are allegedly made of sugar and spice
- 23 Type of metal
- 24 It sucks, in short
- 25 Recyclables container
- 26 Connecting
- 30 Amy Winehouse's last recording, with Tony Bennett
- 32 Type of amphibian
- 33 Eastern religion
- 34 Look for Superman here
- 35 Extra map

Down

- 1 Male only
- 2 Essential on a fire truck
- 3 Helper for short
- 4 She played Snoop in "The Wire"
- 5 Start gently
- 6 Jackson of NBA coaching fame
- 7 Marshland
- 8 Meteorite pockmark
- 11 Home whiskey maker
- 13 Type of fly
- 14 He played Dr. Foreman in "House"
- 18 Starts being effective
- 19 Crisp lettuce
- 20 Very funny
- 21 Buyable apartments
- 22 Female Indian Prime Minister
- 24 Car serial number
- 26 "The --- is a Tramp"
- 27 They are always charged
- 28 Au naturel
- 29 Surfeit
- 31 Jabber

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			

12/29/18





Poetry Street
by Katherine Tullie

The New Year is right around the corner! A new year can give us hope for many positive new beginnings and changes in our lives. If we go forward with a positive attitude we can achieve important things in our lives and achieve happiness. That is the theme of my poem "High Hopes In The New Year."



A new year is about to appear
So let us move forward in gear
We will hope for the best
For ourselves and all the rest
The sky can be the limit
in what we achieve
Big dividends we can receive
It is a new time to begin
It is a time we may win
Win in Love
Win in Hope
Win for the greater scope
So as we go into another year
Let's do it with high hopes
And plenty of cheer!
Wishing love, peace
and understanding to all today!

Happy New Year to All!



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

Local News Extra

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Stargazing at Collier Seminole State Park



Come to Collier Seminole State Park on **January 5th at 5 pm** to watch the stars!

The city lights map to the left shows why our skies are so starlit...we have almost no ambient light to interfere with the stars! Note that the park (and Everglades City, Chokoloskee and surrounding areas) is in the dark area. **You must take time to enjoy the stars while you are here!**

Collier Seminole State Park is located on US41 (Tamiami Trail). For more information visit the website: www.FloridaStateParks.org.

Updated statewide abundance estimate for the Florida manatee

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) accomplished an important conservation goal by publishing the results from the second statewide population estimate of the Florida manatee. Results from the 2015-2016 manatee abundance survey suggest there were between 7,520 and 10,280 manatees in Florida, totals higher than an earlier abundance estimate suggested. This exciting news contributes to the conclusion that conservation measures implemented by the FWC and its partners continue to create an environment that allows the manatee population to recover.

This survey represents an important benchmark achievement in research and conservation of Florida manatees by describing the level of uncertainty surrounding the population estimate and accounts for limitations that can be caused by environmental conditions, such as sea surface roughness, as well as the ability for observers to detect manatees under various conditions. The latest approach uses updated survey information collected in 2015-2016 and makes several advancements over the earlier estimate of abundance published by the FWC and collaborators in 2015.

A single measure of the population, such as this estimate, is not sufficient to evaluate the status of a species. For FWC researchers and partners to accurately estimate population growth rates over time, multiple sources of information, such as manatee abundance, survival rates and reproductive rates, will be combined within a population model.

You can show your support for manatees by purchasing a manatee license plate at BuyaPlate.com and a manatee decal through your local tax collector's office or at MyFWC.com/ManateeSeaTurtleDecals.

To report a dead or distressed manatee, call the FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922).

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Living Gulf Coast by Charles Sobczak



Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) Other names: chicken hawk / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=LC / Life span: to 19 years / Length: 17-24 in. (43-61 cm) / Wingspan: 37-44 in. (94-111 cm) / Weight: 1.1 lb (0.5 kg) / Nests: throughout Florida / Found: AC, coastal, near coast, mainland / Months found: jfmamJJASOND (lower case indicates breeding and nesting season).

When you spot a hawk anywhere in Florida, odds are that it is a red-shouldered hawk. Sightings of other hawks, such as the Cooper's hawk, peregrine falcon, and red-tailed hawk, are infrequent at best. The medium-size red-shouldered hawk is often seen in almost every preserve and park identified in this book. Its auburn shoulders and brightly patterned wings and tail feathers make it unmistakable. It is a truly beautiful raptor.



Mice, cotton rats, marsh rabbits, snakes, amphibians, worms, snails, and an occasional bird are all on the menu of the red-shouldered hawk. It is a perch hunter, sitting on high Australian pine branches or other lofty vantage points, then quickly pouncing on prey spotted below. It can often be heard, at a considerable distance, repeating a loud, rapid keeyah, keeyah. It has a disdain for the great

horned owl, which has been known to raid red-shouldered hawk nests, and it will shag the owls off when discovered in its area.

The red-shouldered hawk not only reuses the same nest year after year, but also has been known to remain in the same territory, though multiple generations, for more than 45 consecutive years. It is generally monogamous and builds solitary nests.

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) Other names: chicken hawk, buzzard / Status: FL = stable, IUCN = LC / Length: 18-26 in. (45-65 cm) / Wingspan: 43-57 in. (110-145 cm) / Weight: 1.5-3.5 lb (.68-1.6 kg) / Life span: to 29 years / Nests: throughout SW Florida / Found: AC, near coast, mainland / Months found: JfmamJJASOND (lower case indicates breeding and nesting season).



The red-tailed hawk is the largest hawk in Florida. It weighs slightly more than its cousin, the osprey, and has a wingspan that approaches five feet. There are 14 recognized subspecies found throughout North and Central America. The largest concentration of these birds in the world occurs in El Yunque National Forest in Puerto Rico. Although it is one of the most widely distributed hawks in the Americas, it has never been abundant in Florida and is a fairly uncommon sighting here.

The red-tailed hawk, when gathered young, is readily trained in the art of falconry. The endangered status of the North American falcon population has led to the red-tailed hawk as a suitable replacement, though it is larger than and not as quick as a falcon. In the wild it is both a perching bird

and a soaring diver. Its broad wings allow it to float high in the air looking for suitable prey. When it spots a rabbit, duck, or small rodent, the red-tailed hawk swoops down at a speed that can exceed 120 miles per hour and makes the kill. Its screaming, shrill cry is unmistakable.

In many ways this hawk is the diurnal equivalent of the nocturnal great horned owl. In fact, these two birds are fierce rivals, both for nesting sites and hunting ranges. If a great horned owl finds an active red-tailed hawk nest, it will invariably destroy the eggs or chicks. The great horned owl is also fond of using the red-tailed hawk nest to raise its own clutch.

The adult red-tailed hawk is almost never preyed upon, since it weighs more than the largest owls, and a mature female can weigh nearly as much as a bald eagle. The eggs and chicks are preyed upon by raccoons, crows, and great horned owls.



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Charles Sobczak is an author and photographer from Sanibel Island, Florida.

Photos: Red-shouldered Hawk and Red Tailed Hawk by Bob Gress.

Fishing in the 10,000 Islands by Capt. Mike Merritt



Well, I recently returned from Brazil and what a difference in temperature! The water has cooled off considerably since I last fished. But that didn't stop the fish

from feeding!

The Redfish are everywhere and the bite on the incoming tide is great. Mostly small fish but there are still some keeper size fish, and a few really nice ones too. I have caught them on the outside and in the back country with 30-40 Reds each day the last few days.

The Snook are also biting but the bite is a lot slower since the water cooled down. It seems the small fish are plentiful right now also. Jigs tipped with shrimp or live shrimp are both working good for these fish. Fishing a shrimp under a cork will get the Snook, Reds and the Trout right now.

The trout are biting on the grass flats but there are also plenty being caught around the bars and deeper shorelines too. Try a DOA shrimp under a cork on the flats and you will find the fish. I prefer the 1/2 oz. Glow Shrimp. Seems to out fish live shrimp most days for bigger Trout.

The trout are biting on the grass flats but there are also plenty being caught around the bars and deeper shorelines too. Try a DOA shrimp under a cork on the flats and you will find the fish. I prefer the 1/2 oz. Glow Shrimp. Seems to out fish live shrimp most days for bigger Trout.

It was good to get back on the water after being gone for 2 weeks in the Amazon, and I was especially happy to see such a good bite happening. I have fished the last 2 days as of writing this, and each day has produced 50-60 fish all on live shrimp.



The fishing should remain steady depending on fronts, of course. Also looking forward to the Black Drum and Sheepshead that are starting to show up. It always seems to work that way when the water cools off. So, get some live shrimp and get in on the action!

Species	Legal Size	Daily Limit
Black Drum (slot)	14" - 24"	5 / harvester
Black Grouper	24"	1 / harvester
Cobia	33" fork	1 / harvester, 2 / boat
Flounder	12"	10 / harvester
Gag Grouper*	24"	***Season Closed***
Permit (slot)	11" - 22" fork	1 / harvester, 2 / boat
Pompano	11" fork	6 / harvester
Redfish (slot)	18" - 27"	1 / harvester
Seatrout (slot)	15" - 20"	4 / harvester, 1 over 20
Sheepshead	12"	8 / harvester
Snook (slot)	28" - 32"	***Season Closed***
Spanish Mackerel	12" fork	15 / harvester
Tripletail	18"	2 / harvester

*Closure as of January 1, 2019

Obituaries

Larry Wayne Ammerman

February 21, 1939– December 12, 2018



Larry Wayne Ammerman, 79, beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather, Brother, Uncle, & Friend passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on December 21, 2018 at 10:00 am at Avow Hospice in Naples, FL.

Larry was born February 21, 1939 in Falmouth, KY son of the late James Kenneth & Miriam (Webster) Ammerman. He graduated from Holmes HS in 1957 having grown up in Covington KY. Larry moved to Ft. Lauderdale, FL immediately after high school to pursue his love of the water which included scuba diving, teaching waterskiing, charter boat captain and most of all fishing.

Along with family Larry's greatest passions were Kentucky Wildcat Basketball & fishing. He retired from the Ft Lauderdale Post office in 1992 after 28 years of service. Larry's love of fishing inspired his move to Chokoloskee, FL in 1993 knowing it was the best place to enjoy his love of water, nature and of course fishing.

Larry is survived by his devoted wife of 34 years Chris Ammerman; Son, Kenneth (Cindy) Ammerman Ft. White, FL; Daughter, Jeannette Ammerman Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Daughter, Maria Rodriguez Naples, FL; Daughter, Melissa Berry Chokoloskee, FL; Sister, Phyllis (Karl) Brueggeman Cincinnati, OH; Granddaughters, Leslie, Ashley, & Chrissy; and many in-laws, nieces, nephews & friends.

A celebration of Larry's life will be at the **Everglades Community Church on Saturday January 12, 2019 at noon** - in Lieu of Flowers the family requests donations to Everglades Community Church, PO Box 177, Everglades City, FL 34139. Arrangements have been entrusted to Naples Funeral Home at 3107 Davis Blvd, Naples, FL.

Beatrice Brown Rogers

May 31, 1919—December 24, 2018



Beatrice Rogers "Aunt Bea", 99, of Chokoloskee, FL passed away on December 24, 2018.

Beatrice retired from the Everglades City school system after many years of service. She was a long time standing member of the Chokoloskee Church of God.

Beatrice is survived by 3 daughters, Caroline Robinson, Vonice Rigney, and Alma House; 3 sisters, Belle, Birdie Mae, and Iris; and 99 grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Beatrice is preceded in death by her first husband and father to her 6 children, Walter Brown; her second husband who she married later in life, Henry Rogers; and 3 children, Naomi Lewis, Lucille Browning, and Floyd Brown.

Visitation and services were held on Thursday, December 27, at Hodges Funeral Home at Naples Memorial Gardens.

Fakahatchee Strand News

Winter Fakahatchee Tram Tours Are the Perfect Day-Excursion!

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

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

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

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

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

About the Fakahatchee Strand

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

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

Local Happenings
Dignitaries Come Out for Dedication of New Chokoloskee Bridge



Local and county officials came out for a celebration to "officially dedicate" the new Chokoloskee Bridge completed earlier this year.

The new bridge is higher and has safe paths for bikes and pedestrians. The project took almost two years to complete and even featured a street light at times during construction...big news for an area with zero signalized intersections!

The bridge was under construction during Hurricane Irma but the sturdy structure did not suffer any significant damage or setbacks allowing the project to finish on time and within the original budget.

Thank you to all of the diligent crews who worked to complete this project so important to our community.

Photo: Above, Everglades City Mayor Howie Grimm (far right) listens to a speaker during the dedication ceremony. Photo by Tim Brock.

Book Club Meeting January 17th

The book club in Everglades City is back for the season! Anyone interested is invited to join in. We will provide meeting locations in the paper as the dates draw closer.

Jan 17: Undaunted Courage by Stephen Ambrose, Hosted by Sadie Stroud

Feb. 21: Watership Down by Richard Adam, Hosted by Linda Williams

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

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

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Regional News

Red Tide Not Detected in Collier...But Officials Will Not Signal the "All Clear" Yet

Just in time for Christmas Day there were no signs of Karina brevis, the algae that causes "red tide" on Naples beaches.

Fortunately for the southern portion of the 10,000 Islands including Everglades City and Chokoloskee, the naturally occurring algal bloom never reached this far south.

For months, beaches from Naples all the way north to Tampa struggled with red tide, keeping many tourists and day visitors from venturing to the beaches.

Red Tide can cause upper respiratory distress for many humans, and also affects manatee, sea turtles and other marine life.

The affected areas have been dealing with the red-brown water discoloration, dead sea life and issues from the tide for a large part of 2018.

The tide actually started forming back in 2017 around the time Hurricane Irma hit...and stayed active until just recently.

Local officials are not yet ready to signal the all clear as there is no way to be certain if the tide has in fact subsided...or if it is a temporary easing of the algae.

Red Tide occurs naturally mostly in the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico. It forms off-shore and is blown in by winds, edging closer to shore where it causes health issues for humans, and even some cats, dogs and birds.

When the red tide is active, sea life is starved of oxygen causing mass die-off. The algae can also cause nervous system problems in sea mammals which has led to numerous manatee and sea turtle deaths. Some sick animals have been rescued and rehabilitated, but the majority unfortunately succumb to the sickness before they can be helped.

Although red tide is naturally occurring, scientists concur that run-off from fertilizers and other contaminants exacerbate the problem as the tide moves closer to shore.

If you want to check the status of area beaches and waterways, visit www.myfwc.com/redtidestatus.

Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands (642-1025): Monday - Wed 5 to 11 pm, Thurs to Sun Noon - 11 pm
Camellia Street Grille (695-2003): 11:00 am – 9:00 pm daily
City Seafood (695-4700): 8:00 am – 10:00 am; breakfast Noon-6pm Lunch & Dinner
Glades Haven Marina (695-2091): Deli Closed. Marina is open. Live bait available at marina
Havana Café (695-2214): Open Daily, 7 am to 4 pm See our ad on page 10!
Island Café (695-0003): 6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily
Ivey House (695-3299): 6:30 – 9:30 am; daily
Joanie's Blue Crab Café (695-2682): 11:00 am – 4:00 pm Open: Mon., Fri., Saturday & Sunday
Rod & Gun (695-2101): 11:30 am - 8:00 pm; daily
Tastes of the Everglades Open Tues.—Sunday 3 pm till closing
Triad Seafood & Café (695-2662): Open Every Day 10:30 am-5 pm
MARKETS
Right Choice Supermarket (695-4535): M-Th 9 am– 7 pm, Fri-Sun, 7 am to 7 pm
Grimm's Stone Crab (695-3222): Open Mon.-Sat. 8 am to 5 pm
Fresh Produce 1181 Hamilton Ln, Chok. See ad on p.12 By E City Post Office, Weekends 8 am-4 pm
SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES
Chokoloskee Church of God Sunday: 10 am Sch., 11 am Worship Wed. 7 pm Hr. of Prayer
Copeland Baptist Church Sunday: 10 am School, 11 am Worship
Everglades Community Church 11:00 am Sunday Worship, See ad p. 11
1st Baptist Church of Everglades City 9:45 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship 6 pm Sunday, 6 pm Wed. Bible Study
Holy Family Catholic Church Sunday Mass, 10:30 am
St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples Phone: 239-417-2084
San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl. 239-394-5181

12/29/18	Sat	3:05 AM	0.4	L
12/29/18	Sat	8:14 AM	2.02	H
12/29/18	Sat	3:22 PM	0.26	L
12/29/18	Sat	8:48 PM	2.32	H
12/30/18	Sun	4:19 AM	0.26	L
12/30/18	Sun	9:39 AM	1.87	H
12/30/18	Sun	4:24 PM	0.42	L
12/30/18	Sun	9:37 PM	2.38	H
12/31/18	Mon	5:24 AM	0.09	L
12/31/18	Mon	11:14 AM	1.83	H
12/31/18	Mon	5:24 PM	0.54	L
12/31/18	Mon	10:26 PM	2.45	H
1/1/19	Tue	6:22 AM	-0.07	L
1/1/19	Tue	12:42 PM	1.88	H
1/1/19	Tue	6:20 PM	0.62	L
1/1/19	Tue	11:15 PM	2.51	H
1/2/19	Wed	7:14 AM	-0.21	L
1/2/19	Wed	1:38 PM	1.93	H
1/2/19	Wed	7:12 PM	0.65	L
1/3/19	Thu	12:00 AM	2.57	H
1/3/19	Thu	7:59 AM	-0.32	L
1/3/19	Thu	2:16 PM	1.96	H
1/3/19	Thu	7:59 PM	0.66	L
1/4/19	Fri	12:40 AM	2.62	H
1/4/19	Fri	8:41 AM	-0.39	L
1/4/19	Fri	2:44 PM	1.96	H
1/4/19	Fri	8:42 PM	0.65	L
1/5/19	Sat	1:16 AM	2.64	H
1/5/19	Sat	9:20 AM	-0.42	L
1/5/19	Sat	3:11 PM	1.98	H
1/5/19	Sat	9:22 PM	0.64	L
1/6/19	Sun	1:49 AM	2.63	H
1/6/19	Sun	9:59 AM	-0.41	L
1/6/19	Sun	3:42 PM	2	H
1/6/19	Sun	10:00 PM	0.62	L
1/7/19	Mon	2:22 AM	2.6	H
1/7/19	Mon	10:36 AM	-0.38	L
1/7/19	Mon	4:15 PM	2.03	H
1/7/19	Mon	10:38 PM	0.61	L
1/8/19	Tue	2:56 AM	2.53	H
1/8/19	Tue	11:13 AM	-0.31	L
1/8/19	Tue	4:51 PM	2.06	H
1/8/19	Tue	11:16 PM	0.59	L
1/9/19	Wed	3:32 AM	2.43	H
1/9/19	Wed	11:48 AM	-0.22	L
1/9/19	Wed	5:29 PM	2.09	H
1/9/19	Wed	11:54 PM	0.58	L
1/10/19	Thu	4:13 AM	2.29	H
1/10/19	Thu	12:23 PM	-0.1	L
1/10/19	Thu	6:08 PM	2.1	H
1/11/19	Fri	12:37 AM	0.56	L
1/11/19	Fri	4:59 AM	2.12	H
1/11/19	Fri	12:57 PM	0.05	L
1/11/19	Fri	6:48 PM	2.1	H
1/12/19	Sat	1:29 AM	0.52	L
1/12/19	Sat	5:54 AM	1.93	H
1/12/19	Sat	1:33 PM	0.2	L
1/12/19	Sat	7:29 PM	2.11	H



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The Rev. Dr. Bob N. Wallace, Pastor
Sunday Worship Service 11:00 A.M.
Sunday School Nov. 17th – April, 9:45 A.M.
www.ever-community-church.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

NEW FOR RENT: Large studio apartment with kitchen, W/D, bathroom and use of boat dock. No pets. Call Sandy at 239-253-3942 or 239-232-0443.

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.

NEW BOAT for SALE: 14 ft. Sea Arc, 20 hp Suzuki Motor, Trailer Trolling Motor. All new 2013, excellent shape. Can be seen at ORA. Call Dave: 937-638-8781, \$5500

BOAT for SALE: 1988 20 ft. Boston whaler outrage cc, 2004 Yamaha 4-stroke 150 hp motor 343 hrs. Bow pulpit * electric windlass * trim tabs, fortress anchor * marine radio * fish finder. Single axle EZ Loader trailer w/ electric winch. This is an unsinkable boat and perfect for offshore fishing! Price \$7,500, boat is kept at ORA. Call 239-695-2789 or 231-218-3641 for more details

NEW FOR SALE: Condo #418 in Captain's Table, 1bed/1bath, totally renovated, fully furnished, new appliances, high impact windows/door, community pool. \$109,500. Call Vivian 786-395-9253. MLS 218025142

Get area info at www.swflgo.com!

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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

NEW 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: 6 x 12 utility trailer, ramp and new wood floor, \$300 OBO. 1998, 90 HP Yamaha, 2 stroke, new powerhead, \$1500 OBO. 7 cubic foot freezer, only 1 year old, \$75. If you are interested in any of the items please call 561-283-9641.

NEW 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.

NEW FOR SALE: White Wicker King Headboard. Good condition. \$50,. Baby gate for doorway, metal w/ walk-thru, \$35. Call, 954-662-7003.

The MULLET RAPPER

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

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We strive to present the facts accurately

We encourage contrasting points of view

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

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