**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Everglades Seafood Festival celebrates**

**50th anniversary Feb. 7-9, 2020**

The Everglades Seafood Festival not only serves up great food and outdoor entertainment, but it also will leave you feeling warm and fuzzy on the inside.

The 50th anniversary of the annual festival February 7, 8 and 9 showcases the best of historic Everglades City and gives attendees the opportunity to feel good about giving back to the tiny fishing village. Proceeds from the event benefit the local community.

“It’s actually a one-of-a-kind festival. It was started by the local fishermen to help the locals in town,” said festival organizer Carol Foss. “We live in a small town and we do this festival for our town. Everything we do we do for our little town.”

Festival-goers benefit, too. The popular annual festival includes three days of food, fun, beer and live bands – and there’s no entry fee.

“We have a full fair midway with carnival rides and games. We have about 200 arts and crafts vendors,” Foss said. “We’ll see 40,000 to 60,000 people in town over the course of the festival.”

The highlight, of course, is fresh seafood. Foodies can expect stone crabs, shrimp po’boys, grilled fish, blackened seafood, shrimp scampi and even fried frog legs and alligator. You’ll also find native Indian food, a barbecue truck and other surprises such as edible cookie dough, ice cream and chocolate-covered key lime pie slices on a stick.

Friday night is Family Night with gates opening at 5:30 p.m. and festival fun until 10 p.m.

Festivities continue Saturday starting at 10 a.m. with the official opening ceremony and run until 10 p.m. Gates open at 11 a.m. Sunday and the festival ends at 6 p.m.

The festival takes place on the circle in front of Everglades City Hall, 102 Copeland Ave. Limited free parking is available and several charitable organizations offer parking for a small fee. Handicapped parking is available at Everglades Community Church on the circle.

To reach Everglades City from Naples, drive southeast on U.S. 41 East, turn right onto State Road 29, and drive about 4 miles south to the festival. From Interstate 75’s Alligator Alley, take Exit 80 south onto State Road 29.

Last year, the festival was able to give $15,000 to local schools, churches and charities, including a couple thousand dollars in academic scholarships, Foss said. That included money to refurbish the Everglades City School playground damaged by Hurricane Irma. Chokoloskee Church of God will be raffling off a custom-made motorcycle this year.

For more information call 239-695-2277 or go to EvergladesSeafoodFestival.org.

**SUMMARY**

**WHAT:** Everglades Seafood Festival’s 50th anniversary

**WHERE:** Everglades City on Florida State Road 29 in Collier County

**WHEN:** Friday, Feb. 7, through Sunday Feb. 9, 2020

**HOW MUCH:** Entry and live music are free; a la carte fees charged for food, beverages and fair rides

**WHY:** Why not? Fun opportunity to enjoy fresh seafood on the edge of the Gulf.

**WHO:** For more information call 239-695-2277 or go to EvergladesSeafoodFestival.org.

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