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Local

New stamp showcases Everglades

BY WAYNE K. ROUSTAN
Staff writer

Given a century of creeping encroachment, there were more than a few times when some in Florida wondered if the Everglades would last forever.

Now, the U.S. Postal Service is doing its part to raise awareness about the delicate ecosystem by showcasing the Everglades in one of 16 new Forever stamps being issued to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. Miami photographer and natu-

ralist Paul Marcellini, 31, snapped the picture and was surprised to get a phone call to learn it was chosen because he never submitted it.

"It came out of nowhere," he said. "It didn't hit home until it was finally announced [April 11]."

The stamp features a snapshot of the sun setting behind trees in the pine rocklands that Marcellini calls a "globally imperiled habitat within the Everglades."

"It's only about 22,000 acres left out of an historic 200,000 in South Florida," he said. "It's a more endangered environment."

Spanning the state from Miami to Naples and south to the Florida Keys, Everglades National Park is the largest subtropical wilderness in the U.S.

It consists of 1.5 million acres of sawgrass prairies, tropical hardwood hammocks, pine rocklands, mangrove forests and marine and estuarine waters that provide habitat for a wildlife spectacle that includes crocodiles, alligators, manatees, flamingos, herons and turtles.

Marcellini has a degree in environmental science and has nurtured a lifelong love affair with the

Florida Everglades.

He explained that pine rocklands are the high ground in tropical coastal area and are found in the Everglades, in the Florida Keys and in the Bahamas.

The stamp will be dedicated at 11 a.m. on Thursday at the park's Ernest Coe Visitor Center, 40001 State Road 9336, in Homestead. The event is free and open to the public, but there is a fee to visit the park.

"It's extremely exciting," Marcellini said. "I don't feel like I'm in the [same] league as some of the



PAUL MARCELLINI/COURTESY

other photographers that got a stamp in this series."

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SUSAN STOCKER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kevon Lawson, 12, accompanied by his grandmother Carolyn and uncle David, salutes during a Memorial Day ceremony honoring his father, Army Spc. Daniel C. Lawson, who was killed in Afghanistan in 2009.

Solemn remembrance of every 'true warrior'

BY LISA J. HURIASH
Staff writer

DEERFIELD BEACH — There was the bonding on Saturday mornings over television cartoons. And taking naps together. And going to the park and movies — the typical stuff dads do with their little girls.

But she misses the hugs the most; the kind of hugs only a dad can give.

Still, it was comforting at a memorial service on the Deerfield Beach International Fishing Pier for strangers to shake Kourtney Lawson's hand, offer heartfelt condolences and thank her for her father's service to his country.

"It shows a lot of people care about him," said Kourtney, 14,

who spoke words of praise at the ceremony the city dedicated to her father, Army Spc. Daniel Lawson, on Memorial Day.

Lawson was killed in the mountains of Afghanistan in 2009 by a roadside bomb. Three other combat engineers were also mortally wounded in the attack.

"My dad was different," she said to the packed crowd on the pier. "He decided to join the Army to give us the best life possible. He gave everything he had, just for us."

Deerfield Beach dedicated a granite monument to Lawson and it will be placed alongside another memorial at Deerfield Beach High School. The first memorial is in honor of Navy SEAL James Suh, who was killed during a mis-

sion in Afghanistan in 2005 when insurgents shot down the helicopter he was in with a rocket-propelled grenade. Both Lawson and Suh are alum of the school, although at different times.

It was the most fitting thanks for a "true warrior," city officials said, during Memorial Day, the most solemn of America's holidays, meant to remember the dead who fell fighting for the country.

The origin of the holiday dates back to May 1868, three years after the Civil War ended, when the head of an organization of Union veterans established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war

See **WARRIOR, 2B**

Boca to feature free concerts and movies

BY EMILY MILLER
Staff writer

From Broadway tunes and rock 'n' roll favorites to minions and Jedi, the city of Boca Raton is setting out to keep music and movie lovers entertained with a free concert and movie series on Friday nights.

Summer in the City: Music and Movies Under the Stars will run Friday through Aug. 19 at the Mizner Park Amphitheater in downtown Boca. The series will feature tributes to David Bowie, Billy Joel, Bob Marley, the Eagles, Led Zep- pelin, and a performance by the Symphonia Boca Raton.

Also on the bill: showings of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" and "Minions."

"It's something reliable if you want to go to downtown Boca," said Amy DiNorscio, Mizner Park Amphitheater's manager. "It's very laid back and casual. Everything is family-friendly."

On nights with concerts, the event will start at 7:30 p.m. Movies are set to begin at 8 p.m. The FAU Summer Concert Band will play a special Father's Day concert at 7 p.m. June 19, the only concert not on a Friday night.

During the tribute-band performances, concertgoers can mosey over to the beer garden starting at 6:30 p.m. to sample a variety of craft beers, learn how to make their own beer, play games and meet experts from Hollywood Brewery.

"We've had [a beer garden] in the past but this is going to be a little more interactive and fun," DiNorscio said. "We try to put a couple new things in too to keep it fresh."

Also new, the food delivery service Delivery Dudes will be on call to deliver meals or snacks from

The lineup

Summer in the City: Music and

Movies Under the Stars runs Friday through Aug. 19 at the Mizner Park Amphitheater in downtown Boca Raton. On nights with free concerts, the event will start at 7:30 p.m., with the exception of Father's Day, when the concert will start at 7 p.m. Movies are set to begin at 8 p.m. Here's a list of the free performances and movie showings:

- June 10:** The Symphonia Boca Raton
- June 17:** Billy Joel tribute by Turnstiles
- June 19:** FAU Old Time Concert in the Park
- June 24:** Led Zepplin tribute by Zoso
- July 8:** "Minions" showing
- July 22:** David Bowie tribute by Stardust Memories
- July 29:** Bob Marley tribute by Ruffhouse
- Aug. 5:** "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" showing
- Aug. 12:** The Eagles tribute by The Long Run
- Aug. 19:** The Symphonia Boca Raton

downtown restaurants to the amphitheater during all of the free events.

Outside food and drinks are otherwise prohibited.

A small selection of concert fare will be on sale at the venue, and chairs will be available to rent for \$5. Pets are not allowed at the amphitheater.

For more information about Summer in the City, visit the Mizner Park Amphitheater website, myboca.us/pages/mizneramphi, or call the city at 561-393-7700.

Plastic glass clears up blight of boarded-up vacant homes

BY LARRY BARSZEWSKI
Staff writer

FORT LAUDERDALE — When it comes to boarding up vacant homes, the city is all for transparency.

Instead of plywood, the city is using a sturdy Plexiglas-type material to cover window and door openings and other entry points — such as holes for air-conditioning wall units — that someone could

use to gain access. It has been placed on more than 100 homes in the past two years.

The see-through material is less noticeable from the street than plywood planks, eliminating a source of blight for neighborhoods. It is durable, does a better job of keeping out vagrants and is easier for police to see inside if they suspect criminal activity.

"Aesthetically, this is beautiful, because the house still blends in

with the neighborhood," City Commissioner Robert McKinzie said.

It is also more expensive.

Doug Neuhaus of 911 Restoration Inc., which does the board-ups for the city, estimated a 4-by-8-foot sheet of plastic glass costs about \$160, compared to about \$30 for a five-eighths-inch plywood of the same size. The company's \$370,000 contract for 2014 was more than twice the low-

est bid, which had been based on using plywood.

The cost has been a deterrent for cities. Fort Lauderdale is the only one in South Florida using the material, Neuhaus said, although Lauderdale Lakes is considering it. Other cities that use it include Phoenix, Chicago, Detroit and Durham, N.C.

Banks and property owners in Fort Lauderdale are still allowed to board up with plywood painted

to match a vacant building. The plastic glass is used when the city is forced to step in.

Government-run mortgage company Fannie Mae has been using plastic glass nationwide since the end of 2014 on foreclosed properties it controls. It has installed the material on 184 South Florida properties so far this year, officials said: 77 in Miami-Dade

See **GLASS, 2B**

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