

The MULLET RAPPER



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

Area Information ♦ Tides ♦ Events ♦ Attractions

25¢

MARCH 7, 2020 - MARCH 20, 2020

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P. O. Box 134, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume XII • Issue # 359

OPEN HOUSE FOR LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS

March 19, 6 to 7 pm

A welcome reception will be held for local business owners and management at the Everglades Area Visitor Center on March 19 from 6 to 7 pm.

Business owners or their representatives are invited to come the center to learn about how the center is promoting local businesses in the area. This is a great opportunity to help the center learn more about your business.

Appetizers and beverages will be served. All businesses from Everglades City, Chokoloskee, Plantation, and Ochopee are invited to attend. For information, you may call the center at 239-232-0437.

PLAN AHEAD! ATTEND THE EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE AT EVERGLADES NAT'L PARK

April 12, 2020 7:00 am

There is nothing more beautiful than watching the sun come up and illuminate Chokoloskee Bay as Easter Service is taking place at the pavilion at Everglades National Park's Gulf Coast Center.

Each year area clergy from all denominations, and residents, gather at this picturesque location. If you would like to attend, bring a chair or blanket and plan accordingly for the weather. It can be cool by the water. Everyone is welcomed to attend!

SENATOR RICK SCOTT VISITS EVERGLADES CITY



On February 21st, Senator Rick Scott took time out of his busy schedule to visit Everglades City and some of the surrounding areas.

While in town, Senator Scott stopped by the new Everglades Area Visitor Center (top) where he met with Mayor Grimm and Kathy Brock.

Later that morning, the Senator went to Island Café where he spoke with Café owner Carol Foss and ate lunch with City Clerk Dottie Joiner, and Mayor Howie Grimm.

The Senator is no stranger to Everglades City. Only days after Hurricane Irma, then Governor Scott, came to the City to survey the damage for himself.

He is also has been known to take fun excursions on airboats or go fishing in the area with his grandchildren.

A resident of Naples, Senator Scott is very familiar with some of the struggles the City has had over the years. He vocalized his support for the City during his visit and also echoed support for the City's quest to obtain the grant monies needed to build a new sewer and wastewater facility that can handle not only the City's population, but eventually one that could bring Chokoloskee, Plantation, and Big Cypress online as well.



MARCH 2020 MEETING

There were several interesting topics discussed at the March City Council Meeting.

Mayor Grimm acknowledged his meeting with the Senator commenting that it was a productive meeting.

Fire Chief Caleb Morris announced that the fire department will hold a **CPR information class on Saturday, March 7 at 1 pm at the Community Church.**

The council voted to approve the dock leases for another 6 month interval. The council set a date for a workshop to discuss commercial docks. That meeting will be held on April 7th at 5:30 pm, preceding the council meeting at 7 pm.

A resolution to remove several Everglades Isle parcels from the NFIP (FEMA) map unanimously passed. There are parcels in the park that have chickee huts that violate current FEMA floodplain building requirements. The City will forward the request to FEMA for their input. If they approve it, it would allow the parcels to stay as they are without affecting the City's FEMA rating.

The FEMA rating affects *everyone* because it is used to calculate homeowner flood insurance rates.

Should FEMA grant the City's request, the ongoing issue would be closer to a resolution.

The council approved the first reading of a resolution that would provide an overlay defining RV Park, V.R. Corp's setback requirements. This overlay would essentially grandfather in the current usage at the park as "conforming" as per the park overlay.

If you want more information reach out to Dottie at the City.

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FEATURE: WADING BIRD DILEMA, P. 4

FOR AREA INFORMATION, EVENTS, ETC SCAN THE CODE



MARCH 8, 2020 — APRIL 11, 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8 Clocks ahead 1 hour!	9 Full Moon Fire Dist. Mtg, See p. 10	10 Dental Bus, p.3	11 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 a	12 Lions Club Mtg	13 Movie Night, See p. 3 Chicken Dinner, See p.3	14 1st Baptist event, 6 pm, see p. 3
15 Bike Ride, See p. 8	16	17 Voting Day Primary Election P & Z Mtg	18 Ladies Coffee Nely's Café, 8 a	19 Museum Talk, 2 pm Book Club, p.6 Vis Center, p.1	20	Rapper 21 Pancake Fly-in. See p. 3 Fakahatchee Picnic
22	23	24 New Moon	25 Ladies Coffee City Seafood, 8 a	26	27	28 Art-in-Glades, See p. 3
29	30	31	April 1 Ladies Coffee Havana Café, 8 a	2	3	Rapper 4
5	6 ESHP Mtg, 8:30 am	7 Full Moon Dock Wkshp, 5:30 pm Council Mtg, 7pm	8 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 a	9	10	11

April 12: Easter & Easter Sunrise Service, 7 am ENP

April 16: Book Club, p. 6

April 18: Pancake Fly-in, p. 3

April 18: First Day of National Park Fee Free Week!

April 25: Museum Birthday, p. 3

AREA INFORMATION & NUMBERS:

AA: Wed., 5:00 pm, Evg. Comm. Church, Fellowship Hall
 CARNESTOWN Recycle & Trash: 2nd Sat. of month, 9a-12p, 12:30p-3:30
 DR DEMARTINO: Little Gator Clinic, See info on page 3.
 DR MARTIN: Call for appointment: 813-787-9738
 LIONS CLUB: 2nd Thursday of Month
 MUSEUM: Open Monday-Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm. 239-252-5026
 PANCAKE FLY-IN: Jan. 18, Feb 22, Mar 21, Apr 18
 REACH OUT: 3rd Thursday of month, 4 pm
 SKATING RINK: Now open! Fri. & Sat. 6 to 9 pm
 SMALLWOOD STORE: Daily 11 am to 4 pm, 239-695-2989
 THRIFT SHOP: Open Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 11 am to 3 pm, p.3.
 VETERANS SUPPORT: 2nd & 4th Wed. of month, noon—2 pm
 VISITOR CENTER: 239-232-4037 Open daily 9-4. 207 Broadway W.

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

AIRPORT: 239-695-2778
 BIG CYPRESS: 239-695-2000
 CITY HALL: 239-695-3781
 CURBSIDE TRASH PICKUP 239-252-2380,
 (CALL TUESDAY FOR THURSDAY PICKUP)
 EVG NATIONAL PARK: 239-695-3311
 FAKAHATCHEE: 239-695-4593
 PUBLIC LIBRARY: 239-695-2511
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The Local Area Code is 239

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UPCOMING EVENTS

**Grilled Chicken Dinner
Friday, March 13**

Everglades Community Church



Come in and enjoy our (now) legendary grilled chicken dinner served with two sides, dessert and a beverage.

Adults \$12, children under 10, \$6. You can eat in (Jinkin's Hall) or take out! Everyone is invited. We hope to see you there.

**Movie Night @ the Museum
Friday, March 13, 7 pm**

"Mega Python vs. Gatoroid" In this 2011 picture Monster snakes battle a mutant alligator in the Everglades while rival scientists played by former pop-stars Tiffany and Debbie Gibson save the planet. Seating is outside so bring a chair or blanket and a jacket. See you there!

**"Mr. Drama" Trevor Thomas
Saturday, March 14, 6 pm
1st Baptist Church**

Join us at First Baptist Church of Everglades City on Saturday, March 14th at 6:00 p.m. and see Trevor Thomas, "Mr. Drama."

Everything varies from funny to serious; however, all of the material is worshipful, evangelistic, and edifying for the church. Everyone is invited to attend.

Pancake Fly-in

March 21, 10 am to noon

Free Breakfast, Pancakes, Sausage & Beverage!

Fly-ins and walk-ups welcomed!

Next fly-in: April 18th. We hope to see you at the EC Airpark!

ART-IN-THE-GLADES

March 28, 10 am to 1 pm

Come out to McLeod Park in historic Everglades City on March 28th.

There will be goodies for the kids (and adults) and plenty of local arts and crafts. Call Marya at (239) 695-2905 for more info. Booths are available (and free). Please be sure to have your area set up before 10 am!

Museum Birthday

Tamiami Trail Anniversary

April 25th, 10 am to 2 pm

Join us for a classic cars display, live music, birthday cake and our 2nd Annual Laundry Cart Races at the Museum of the Everglades. For info call 239-252-5026.

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Kathy @ 954-662-7003
Or stop in the center!**



**A Message from Fire Chief
Kingman Schultz**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drug overdose deaths continue to increase in the United States. From 1999 to 2017, more than 702,000 people have died from a drug overdose and two out of three drug overdose deaths involve an opioid.

In response to the nationwide opioid epidemic, funding has been made available through the Florida Department of Health (DOH) for emergency opioid antagonists.

DOH has established the Helping Emergency Responders Obtain Support (HEROS) Program for the purpose of acquiring emergency opioid antagonists for agencies that employ emergency responders.

The purpose of this program is to reduce the number of drug/opioid overdose-related deaths and adverse events by providing emergency responders with the appropriate pharmaceutical resources to address this crisis.

The Greater Naples Fire Rescue District has recently received its third award of Naloxone (Narcan) from the HEROS Program to help the first responders stand ready for these types of incidents. Previous awards allowed the District to equip all front line fire engines with this life saving drug. Now, all life safety inspection vehicles and staff support personnel will also be equipped to address incidents of drug overdose.

Opioid Overdose & the Law

According to the Coalition Against Prescription Drug Abuse there are specific signs to look for if you suspect someone may have overdosed on opioid drugs.

"Overdose with opiate drugs causes sedation (sleepiness), low blood pressure, slowed heart rate, and slowed breathing. Pinpoint pupils, where the black centers of the eyes become smaller than normal, are common in opiate overdose. However, if other drugs are taken at the same time as the opiates, they may counteract this effect on the pupils."

A serious risk is that opioid overdose can cause a person to stop breathing. If you suspect someone has taken a drug overdose, call 911. You will not be arrested.

The law states that any person who seeks medical assistance in good faith for a person who is currently overdosing shall not be charged, arrested or prosecuted for a drug violation if the evidence for such criminal proceedings would be based on seeking and receiving such medical assistance.

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Next Visit: March 10, 2020

The Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida's Health & Smiles Mobile Dental Bus will be in Everglades City on **March 10**, from 8 am to 4 pm, at the **Everglades Community Center (by Thrift Shop)** parking lot, providing free dental checks, blood pressure screenings and behavioral health information if requested. For more info or to schedule an appointment: call 239-202-7005.

THE FOOD BANK IS OPEN !

Wed. 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 in Everglades City. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

E-CITY THRIFT SHOP

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Loosened Regulations Are A Threat to Wading Birds

By Kathy Brock



Birds, without question, are my favorite species of wild animal. I am sure this adoration started as I was growing up in south Florida. In my childhood, much of Hollywood was still rural or just transitioning towards development. Hence, the wildlife was abundant. Especially the birds. It was then that I learned to really appreciate them.

Later, I would catalog when I'd see birds arrive on migration and then leave. I've always love taking pictures of birds too. And here in the 10,000 Islands, we have a bounty of birds, including the incredible Roseate Spoonbill.

Roseate Spoonbills are wary of humans. Actually, they are wary of anything that is not something that is natural in their environment. When things go awry in their breeding habitats, their breeding numbers are drastically lower.

For example, when a marked channel was placed by a rookery that was a long standing roseate breeding ground, breeding success plummeted. When boats would pass, the birds would leave their nests. Crows learned this behavior and would rob the nests, taking the chicks or breaking the eggs to eat them. Once the channel was relocated, the birds again successfully bred. Tragedy averted.

Water levels affect the breeding cycle too. When water is held back then released in greater than normal volume, breeding areas can become too flooded (for that season of the year) which makes ponds larger and deeper, making it more difficult for them to feed. Smaller ponds are more concentrated and better suited when feeding hungry young.

Earlier this year, more stringent permitting regulations protecting U.S. wetlands were replaced with much looser regulations, and in some cases, permitting is no longer required at all to dump pollutants into the earth.

According to an article on Audobon.com, *"Lakes, steady-flowing streams, and other major water bodies remain protected under the new rule. However, the changes mean a permit is no longer needed to drain or discharge pollution into ephemeral streams—those that flow only after precipitation. The same goes for wetlands and ponds that don't directly abut or have a regular surface connection to a larger, protected water body."*

Why would we want to allow *anyone* to discharge pollutants into the earth? That is just passing on a nightmare to the next generation. Of course it is easier for businesses. They can now just dump as needed costing them nothing...but costing us much, much more.

Toxins in the earth can reach the water supply. They pollute breeding birds populations, land animals and anything else in the area. Pollutants move. They cause illness. Pollutants don't stay within an ownership boundary. What you dump here ends up over there.

Yes. We have a history of disrespecting nature...and the results are often ugly. Hopefully, those using the new loopholes will be monitored so that future generations are not left cleaning up a nightmare justified by increased profits.

Photo by Sandee Harraden, www.sandeeharraden.com.



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From the desk of Dr. Cherie Allison:

March Will be Leader in Me Habit #3 Put First Things First But What Does That Really Mean?

Franklin Covey believes "to live a more balanced existence, you have to recognize that not doing everything that comes along is okay. There's no need to overextend yourself. All it takes is realizing that it's all right to say no when necessary and then focus on your highest priorities." These are excellent words to live by for everyone but what does that look like in the eyes of a student? Habit 3@: Put First Things First, is a habit about priorities. We all juggle multiple hats in our lives, whether it be professional or personal, we need to develop habits that help us manage the day-to-day. Habit 3 talks in-depth about "Big Rocks" and "Little Rocks" in our lives.

"Big Rocks" are the most important things for you to do, such as spending time with your family or getting an education. "Little Rocks" are the less important things for you to do, such as watching T.V., or aimlessly searching the Internet



Everglades City School Lighthouse team has been creatively coordinating how we will implement the Leader in Me Program fully and with fidelity across all grade levels. However, Coach Jill Whitcomb did a fabulous job implementing the Leader in Me qualities in EVG's grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony with our students! Students were given the job of being ambassadors for our dignitaries and honored guests. Students greeted and escorted guests to their seats of honor, complete with signs. The ceremony was excellent and the students' excitement was positively contagious! They are constantly asking when their next "responsibility" will take place.

Next week, principal round table luncheons will take place on Friday in an effort to glean students' perceptions of their learning environment, educational experiences and overall feelings about school. Eight students from each of the three school levels will be chosen to share their unique perspective on the school. We hope not only to gain insight but to come up with action plans to make our school the best experience it can be for our students and allow them to know that we hear their "voices."

Adventures of The Saltwater Cowboy – "When You Can"

By Jon Edward Edwards

The sun was high in the Southwest Florida sky when I banked into the last turn of the narrow backwater creek a little bit too hot. Turning hard to port, the flat bottomed aluminum boat nearly skipped into the mangroves. Quickly I backed off the throttle, regained control, then accelerated into the rest of the turn. From the slender creek I was spit out into an open expansive familiar bay, one in between Goodland and Chokoloskee.

Upon reaching my spot, I spun the boat one hundred and eighty degrees and idled back into an incoming tide inundated with bait being ushered in by a stout southwest wind. I shut down the engine and gently laid the anchor over the bow as not to make any noise. Yet, I forgot to take into account the ten-foot length of chain attached to it. "Dddddddddd," rattling and clanging all the way down it went. Two roseate spoonbills were spooked out of a cluster of deadwood. Unbelievable.

The wind had been blowing out of the West for days, churning up the Gulf and making a mess out of the backcountry, limiting my choices of spots to try. But here I was – this was a time when I could fish. Little did I know that I was on the cusp of the greatest sixty minutes of backwater angling of my life.

I played out enough anchor line so that I was positioned just a cast away from the edge of two troughs that converged at an unassuming mangrove point. I could feel the braided line spin under a light thumb as I fired the foul smelling, one-quarter-ounce jig head complete with a soft plastic shad imitation, dark in color, towards the point. The jig fell into the trough and I gave it a couple of bounces. BOUNCE, BOUNCE. STOP. Instinctively, I gave the rod a swift jerk only to have embedded it into a pile of oyster shells. Dang it! Not first cast...I grabbed the line directly in front of the reel with my left hand and pulled out about half an arms length until it was fairly taut but not so much as to dig the hook any deeper. Quickly letting go of the line I snapped it back down. "Snap, Snap, Snap." I repeated the process until the reverberation traveled through the long expanse of fluorocarbon leader and all the way to the hook, pushing out the other side.

One jig hop away from the averted set-back and, "Pow!" Something hit it with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm - no half measures; it was violent. A wide bucket mouth busted through the surface followed by an expanse of silver and black sinew that danced across the water. I rolled my wrists over and turned the big snook's head back down, lessening the chances of having a hook thrown. For several minutes we fought until I horsed the big Soap Fish along the side of the boat, popped the lure out of its rough mouth, and watched it swim off.

The bite was fast and furious for the better part of the next sixty minutes. The snook were biting, the trout were biting, the redfish were biting; everything was biting. I'm not sure how many fish, or species of fish, I ended up catching during that window of time. Had the conditions not been what they were would I have ended up there at the time that I was? Probably not. Would the comedy of errors that I had been "blessed" with normally have resulted in not getting a bite? Most likely.

As dusk drew near and I prepared the skiff for flight something my grandfather told me came to mind. An adage that now carried a certain gravitas. When asked when was the best time to go fishing he replied, "When you can."

Mullet Rapper Donations to Everglades City School

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

When you see the coin receptacle, please put your quarter (or more) into the slot! Remember, When You Buy the Print Edition of the Mullet Rapper, It Helps Everglades City School Students!

*From Nov. 2017 to present


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**EVERGLADES
BOOK CLUB**

Everyone is welcome to join in on the conversation, coffee and comradery.
This year's last two titles are excellent so we anticipate a lively discussion at each meeting. We hope to see you there!
All meetings start at 9:30 am. If you have any questions, please email Diann Lock at: DLock333@yahoo.com.
We look forward to seeing you there!

Book Club Schedule

March 19th
Educated by Tara Westover
hosted by Linda Williams

April 16th
Beneath a Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan
hosted by Diann Lock




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My Little Slice of Paradise
by Kathy Brock
Coronavirus. Panic Doesn't Help.
Information Does

The coronavirus is on the tip of everyone's tongues. I have been bombarded by numerous email chains that are filled with hyperbole and inaccuracies sure to instill fear in even the most evenly minded people. As I am playing my morning solitaire game on my smartphone, the ads I am being served are for respirators and masks. Capitalism at work!

A threat does exist. A virus is out there and there are still many unanswered questions. However, some information is becoming clearer, and it is not all dire. This virus will not wipe humanity off the map!

What is this virus? According to the Wall Street Journal, "This virus belongs to a family of viruses known as coronaviruses. Named for the crown-like spikes on their surfaces, they infect mostly bats, pigs and small mammals. But they mutate easily and can jump from animals to humans, and from one human to another. In recent years, they have become a growing player in infectious-disease outbreaks world-wide."

The name is derived from the shape of the organism which looks like a crown on top. There are seven strains of coronavirus known to infect humans. SARS and MERS from past outbreaks are also coronaviruses. They all infect the respiratory system to varying degrees.

The sick and elderly are at greatest risk. Having said that, the sick and elderly are at the greatest risk from all infections, including influenza.

Researchers say that the disease is transmitted in water droplets from sneezing and coughing and on contaminated surfaces. Avoiding people exhibiting respiratory infection symptoms is always a good idea. Washing hands with warm water and soap (for 20 seconds) frequently is highly recommended. You can also use alcohol based hand sanitizers.

But don't stop there! With all of the hoopla about washing hands, there are other transmission points that need to be considered.

The cellphone. We handle our cellphones constantly. If you are washing your hands and not sanitizing your phone, each time you pick it back up you are coming into contact with germs (or worse) again. It is a germ magnet.

Briefcase handles and steering wheels. These are two surfaces we touch frequently. Are we sanitizing them? I know I was not as often as I should but I am now.

If you are traveling, don't forget about your luggage handles. These gather everything you are coming into contact with at the airport...give them a good wipe-down with Purell or hand sanitizer before you leave the public restroom.

If you are sick, stay home. Going into public when you are sick potentially exposes others to your illness...whatever it may be. Chronically ill people can become severely ill from a simple cold. Staying home is best until the worst of your illness is over (when the sneezing and coughing stop).

Cough into your shirt if possible, at a minimum cough into your sleeve or a handkerchief (if anyone uses those anymore!).

The good coming out of all of this is that it reminds us that practicing good hygiene is never a bad idea! We don't need to go crazy, we just need to remind ourselves what we may have overlooked for a while.

The Island Kitchen
The Best Cornbread
deSha's Tavern Recipe
RECIPE REVIEW

Last issues we published the daSha's recipe for cornbread. At a previous Lions Club charity dinner, the cornbread was a hit. Winter resident Diann Lock brought some and it was delish!

So, the recipe was distributed and several of us decided to make them for another Lions function...

The recipe from H-E double hockey sticks! Each of us struggled to get them right.

The recipe called for 30 minutes at 400 degrees. After 45 minutes, I pulled mine and one tray was cooked, the other was still liquid.

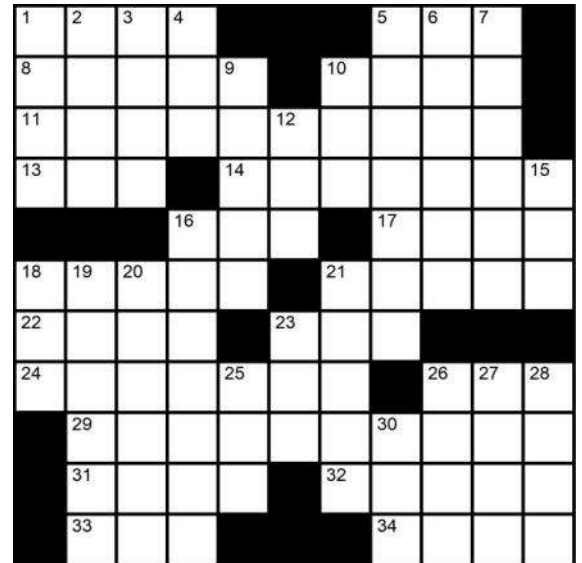
Our cooking times varied from 45 minutes to well over an hour. Yes. They are delicious. However if you are going to make them, you will need to watch them and test them until you are certain they are done! You may also want to try muffin pans versus 9 x 13's.

We need your recipes! Let us know by mail or email: mulletrapper@gmail.com.

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Jack of old oaters
- 5 Spread
- 8 Dessert with a hole
- 10 Convergence points
- 11 Sociable
- 13 Longbow wood
- 14 Moves rapidly, deflecting her lust
- 16 Egg drink
- 17 "--- Romeo slain himself?" (Shakespear, "Romeo and Juliet")
- 18 The ---, seat of the International Court of Justice
- 21 --- Neiman, sports artist
- 22 Speck
- 23 Used to be
- 24 Took the helm
- 26 Mister in Mumbai
- 29 Descendants of Jacob
- 31 Dime or nickel
- 32 Texting alternative
- 33 Last resting place in Virginia
- 34 Actress Hathaway



3/7/20

Down

- 1 Nervously irritable
- 2 Collective wisdom

- 3 Once more
- 4 Assault
- 5 Mollifies
- 6 Eye-related
- 7 Aware of
- 9 Heavy Chevy
- 10 Evergreen tree
- 12 Top gear?
- 15 Bashful
- 16 Digital
- 18 Possesses
- 19 Prison in New York
- 20 Occurs
- 21 Soup scoop
- 23 Minuscule
- 25 Stood for office
- 26 Laurel or Musial
- 27 Bit strap
- 28 Sea key
- 30 Well, --- monkey's uncle!



Poetry Street
By Katherine S. Tullie



Our New Visitor Center

Everglades City is a wonderful town
And we want you to come on down!
You'll see EC is a town with a heart

Now we have a Visitor Center
filled with beautiful art
Artists from all around
share their talent for all to see
The new Visitor Center is the city's
special cup of tea

You'll also see historic photos
on the walls

The Visitor Center is a place
to be enjoyed by all

So, come to the Visitor Center
and have a great day

You'll see plenty of nice people there
and meet new friends, I say

So, tell all your friends and family
to come and take a look around

Our new Visitor Center
is a great addition to this special town!

*Above sketch by Hannah Ineson. You
can see Hannah's artwork at the
Everglades Area Visitor Center*



Look for
PoetryStreet on Twitter
or at **PoetryStreet.com**
Kathythepoet@gmail.com

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Katherine S. Tullie,
Poetry Street, Inc.

City Seafood

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OPEN ALL YEAR...

We are one of the most affordable
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Delicious, Local
Seafood & Cuisine



Want to book a private party?
Call Richard or Candice at 239-695-4700

FREE GUIDED BIKE TOURS
Bike Rides Through the Everglades

Bear Island Ride
March 15th
By Patty Huff



Join us for a leisurely bike ride in the
northwestern portion of Big Cypress
National Preserve. The Bear Island area
is a fantastic place to observe a variety
of plants and animals in prime panther
habitat.

You must bring your own fat tire
bike - hybrid or mountain bike. It is a
14 mile round trip ride on a hard rock
road. (Not suitable for road bikes.)

Please bring snacks and lunch that
can fit in your backpack, plenty of
water, sunscreen, hat, sunglasses and
dress for the weather. This ride is
limited to 12 people and a minimum
age of 15.

*We'll meet at the Bear Island
Entrance on Hwy. 29, 4 miles North of
Hwy. 75 on the right.*

There will be a sign out by the
road. Enter the chain link panther fence
to park.

The ride will start at 8:30 we
estimate finishing at 1:30.

Please bring plenty of water and a
lunch or snack as we'll stop at the
halfway point for a picnic.

This ride limited to 12 so please call
and make a reservation to make sure
you get a slot. Call 239-695-1164.

HOUSEHOLD TIPS

Preparing to Leave
By Marya Repko

When you are packing up to leave our
area for the summer, here are some
ideas.

- Canned goods or dry food (like pasta or rice) that has not been opened can be given to the Food Pantry at Everglades Community Church. Stop in on Wednesday from noon to 1:30pm or phone Annie at 239-695-2009.

- Deposit unwanted medicines in the Drug Dropbox in City Hall, just left of the front door as you come in

- Donate clothing, household goods, and books to the Thrift Shop which is located behind the fire station in Everglades City.

Have a great summer and stay on
top of everything happening online at
www.VisitEvergladesCity.com.

We will see you next season!

Everglades National Park
Gulf Coast Center

**There Are Many Events at Everglades
National Park Now Through April 2020**

**No Entry Fee for National Parks Week:
April 18-April 26, 2020**

There is a full schedule of educational events
this season at the Gulf Coast Center located at
815 Oyster Bar Lane, Everglades City. Learn
about the wonders of the Everglades from one
of our local experts.

Stop in the at the Gulf Coast Center to pick
up a schedule or obtain it by download:
<https://visitevergladescity.com/enp/> The
Park opens at 8:00 am daily.

Everglades Area Visitor Center
& Art Gallery

The new Everglades Area Visitor Center has
been busy each day since its grand opening on
February 1st.

If you have not visited because "you know
the area" you may want to stop in anyway.
Why? The center not only stocks rack cards
and brochures for area businesses, it also has
a nice assortment of local art and artists' work
with a local flair.

There is some beautiful aerial photography,
nature photography and nature prints. There
are prints with historical relevance. There are
some abstract pieces from local artists. You
can also view the Everglades Society for
Historic Preservation's art collection that
includes work by Bob Klotz.

There is pottery, and some jewelry from
local artisans and more items arriving
regularly.

The center's hours are 9 am to 4 pm daily.
If you are an artist interested in having your
art in the center, you can call the center at 239-
232-0473.

New Ball Field Is Great For ALL Kids



Kudos to Collier School District for building
this gorgeous, multi-use field that can now
accommodate both the boys and girls teams.

EVG girls softball had been playing at a
makeshift field behind the Catholic Church.
This year the county dug out the existing
school field and constructed the new artificial
turf field.

Above: Two students, Principal Dr. Cherie
Allison, and Athletic Director Jill Whitcomb
cut the ribbon before the first official pitch.

**Living Gulf Coast by Charles Sobczak
The Unexpected Beauty of Harns Marsh**



Harns Marsh, a storm-water retention facility located at the headwaters of the Orange River in Lehigh Acres, is an unlikely destination for naturalists and birders. It is not included in the South Florida Birding Trail, though no one has informed the countless birds that frequent this large freshwater marsh of that omission. It offers no amenities, no interpretive center, not even any signs directing visitors to the marsh. Now under the jurisdiction of the East County Water Control District, Harns Marsh is slated to become a Lee County regional park, which will bring restrooms, picnic tables, and other amenities to this undiscovered treasure.



The site is roughly one square mile (578 acres). In 2007, some 182 acres along the north marsh were dredged and cleared of invasive plants, which improved water quality and wildlife viewing. Hiking and bicycling, but no motorized vehicles, are allowed on the four-mile sandy impoundment road encircling the marsh.



Scores of birds, snakes, snails, and small mammals are found here. Two species of particular interest are the snail kite (aka the Everglades kite) and the limpkin. Birders who might spend years trying to catch a glimpse of either of these species can cut their search short with a single visit to Harns Marsh. These hard-to-find birds are attracted by the tens of thousands of snails that live in the marsh, including both

the native apple snail and the invasive island apple snail. The island apple snail (*Pomacea insularum*) is from South America and has, through accidental releases, invaded many of Florida's freshwater marshes. These enormous snails, many as large as a small apple, litter the edge of the marsh. Snail kites and limpkins are adapting to dining on these foreigners, which have also become an important source of food for turtles, great blue herons, alligators, and other animals.

Other sightings at Harns Marsh, especially during the winter months, might include redwing blackbirds, cowbirds, various migratory duck species, and sparrows. Sightings of sandhill cranes are common along the western edge of the marsh. Visiting the marsh is best just after dawn and before sunset. Be sure to bring bug spray and a hat, since areas of shade are in short supply. Harns Marsh is an undiscovered treasure in Lee County that hopefully, once made into a park, will get the recognition it deserves.

Photos: Top, Harns Marsh by Charles Sobczak. Snail Kite by Judd Patterson

Charles Sobczak is a nature writer and photographer from Sanibel Island. He has published several books including The Living Gulf Coast, Alligators, Sharks & Panthers and other interesting titles.

**Everglades Backcountry Experience
with
Captain Rodney Raffield**



Hi Mullet Rappers Capt. Rodney here with another fishing tale from the beautiful Everglades National Park.

We have had an unusual winter with plenty of warm weather with an occasional cold front. Fishing has been fair with good numbers of Snook in the Backcountry and quite a few Reds and Trout in the Islands.

There are Trout in the deep holes but they are not everywhere, so you will have to search them out. I am seeing quite a few Tarpon in the deep holes and they are HUGE.



We have hooked some of these giants on jigs but have yet to touch a leader. The waters of the Park are alive right now with wildlife such as Dolphins, Sea Turtles, and multitudes of native birds so enjoy where you are at because it is much more than a fishing trip.



Most all fish are being caught on shrimp tipped jigs with Mr. Wiffelure soft plastics working the best. So get out there and put a line in the water and make the memory of a lifetime. Till next month, be blessed my friends. ~Capt. Rodney

Fish With Captain Rodney Raffield
239-695-4626
captrodney@centurylink.net

**Get Accurate 2020 Tides for Individual
Southwest Florida Rivers
& Fishing Hot Spots at:**
www.visitevergladescity.com/tides/

Parkway Motel & Marina
(239) 695-3261

- ◆ Valvtect Marine,
- Rec 90 gas at the dock
- ◆ Dock water & electric
- ◆ Boat lift, Ice

Rental Rooms,
Efficiencies &
2/2 Cottage

1180 Chokoloskee Dr., Chokoloskee, FL
www.parkwaymotelandmarina.net

LOCAL EXTRA



A Typo In the Rapper!

In the last edition of the Mullet Rapper in the "City Council Update" we inadvertently stated that the grant awarded to Everglades City by the State towards sewer repairs was \$295 Million. The actual sum is \$295 Thousand. Although, we wish that the State had granted the City "millions" we do apologize for the error! We strive for perfection but we do fall short sometimes...we are human after all.

Notice of Public Meeting

Ochopee Fire Control District Advisory Committee Collier County, Florida

Monday, March 9, 2020, 4 p.m.



Notice is hereby given that the Ochopee Fire Advisory Committee will meet at 4

p.m., Monday, March 9, at the Greater Naples Fire Rescue Station 61 (Port of the Islands) 525 New Port Dr. Naples, FL 34114

About the public meeting:

Two or more members of the Board of County Commissioners may be present and may participate at the meeting. The subject matter of this meeting may be an item for discussion and action at a future Board of County Commissioners meeting.

All interested parties are invited to attend, and to register to speak. All registered public speakers will be limited to three minutes unless permission for additional time is granted by the chairman.

Collier County Ordinance No. 2004-05 requires that all lobbyists shall, before engaging in any lobbying activities (including, but not limited to, addressing the Board of County Commissioners, an advisory board or quasi-judicial board), register with the Clerk to the Board at the Board Minutes and Records Department.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or other reasonable accommodations in order to participate in this proceeding, should contact the Collier County Facilities Management Division, located at 3335 Tamiami Trail E., Suite 101, Naples, Florida 34112, or (239) 252-8380, as soon as possible, but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event. Such reasonable accommodations will be provided at no cost to the individual.

For more information, call Greater Naples Fire Rescue District Deputy Chief Wayne J. Martin at (239) 348-7540.

Fakahatchee Strand News

Winter Fakahatchee Tram Tours Are the Perfect Day-Excursion!

Cooler temperatures make this the perfect time of year 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 March 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 excursion takes visitors into knee-high water and is offered on most Tuesdays during the season.

For directions, complete details, pricing and required reservations for all Fakahatchee adventures: 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!

The Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park is perhaps the best example of a 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.

FREE Ranger Led Programs at

Big Cypress. Reserve Your Spot Now

Join us as we get out and explore the wonders of the Big Cypress Swamp! Protecting over 729,000 acres of this vast swamp, Big Cypress National Preserve contains a mixture of tropical and temperate plant communities that are home to a diversity of wildlife, including the elusive and majestic Florida panther.



Museum of the Everglades Events March-April 2020

◆March – May 30th EXHIBIT – "Snakes of the Everglades – Predators in Paradise"

◆Friday, March 13th – Mid-Month Movie (in the parking lot) featuring "Mega Python vs. Gatoroid"(2011) Monster snakes battle a mutant alligator in the Everglades while rival scientists played by former pop-stars Tiffany and Debbie Gibson save the planet.

◆Thursday, March 19th – The Python Problem – How Bad is it and What Can Be Done?

◆Saturday, April 25th 10am-2pm Tamiami Trail Celebration/MoE Birthday Party Saturday – Join us for classic cars, live music, birthday cake and our 2nd Annual Laundry Cart Races!

◆Thursday, April 16th – Dynamite, Dredges, & Determination: Building the Tamiami Trail

ORA Bazaar A Huge Success!

A big thank you to everyone who attended the ORA Bazaar on Saturday, February 29th.

It was a beautiful day and we're so happy so many of you took the time to stop out by us. We sincerely appreciate it. We hope everyone enjoyed themselves. Mark your calendars. Next year's Bazaar will be held on Saturday, February 27th, 2021.

Please Watch Out for Panthers

This has started out as a deadly year for our endangered panther. So far eight panther remains have been discovered in 2020.

Seven died by vehicle collision, one was hit by a train in Polk County. Five of the 8 deaths were in Collier County.

Please be alert when driving, paying special attention at dawn and dusk when panthers are most active.

Havana Cafe



Check Us Out on TripAdvisor!

Open Daily: 7 am to 4 pm



Enjoy an Authentic Dining Experience in Historic Chokoloskee, Florida Prepared by Chef Carlos Valdes

Breakfast. Fresh-Caught Seafood. Cuban Delicacies. Sandwiches & More.

191 Smallwood Drive, Chokoloskee, FL 34138

Phone: 239-695-2214

www.HavanaCafeoftheEverglades.com

EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP

Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands

(642-1025): Closed Mon– Tue-Thurs, 5-11
Fri-Sun Noon - 11 pm

Camellia Street Grille (239-695-2003):

11:00 am – 9:00 pm, Mon to Sat

City Seafood (239-695-4700):

8:00 am – 10:00 am; breakfast
Noon-6pm Lunch & Dinner

Everglades Fishing Co. / Nely's Corner

Open Daily 6 am to 10 pm

203 Collier Avenue, (239-695-4222)

Havana Café (239-695-2214):

Open Daily 7 am to 4 pm

See our ad on page 10!

Hole in the Wall Pizza (239-695-4444)

M-Th 11am-3pm, Fri & Sat 11 am-9 pm

Island Café (239-695-0003):

6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily

Ivey House (239-695-3299) (Private)

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

Joanie's Crab Café (239-695-2682):

Open Daily 10:30 am to 5 pm, Closed Wed.

Rod & Gun (239-695-2101):

11:30 am - 8:00 pm; daily

Triad Seafood & Café (239-695-2662):

Open M-Sat, 10:30 to 6pm, Sun. 10:30-5

MARKETS

Right Choice Market (239-695-4535):

Open 7 days, 9 am to 7 pm

Grimm's Stone Crab (239-695-3222):

Open 8-5, Mon—Sat. Closed Sunday.

Fresh Produce

Right Choice Supermarket

By the EC Post Office on Weekends

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

Chokoloskee Family Church

Sunday: 10 am Sch., 11 am Worship

Sun. 6 pm & Wed. 7 pm Bible Teaching

Copeland Baptist Church

Sunday: 10 am School, 11 am Worship

Everglades Community Church

11:00 am Sunday Worship, See ad p. 11

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

Mass at 10:30 am

St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples

Phone: 239-417-2084

San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl.

239-394-5181

BARRON RIVER TIDES

LAT: 25.87° N LONG: 81.37°W

More Tides On: www.visitevergladescity.com!

3/7/2020	Sat	12:11 AM	2.73	H
3/7/2020	Sat	8:04 AM	-0.41	L
3/7/2020	Sat	1:48 PM	2.22	H
3/7/2020	Sat	8:05 PM	0.54	L
3/8/2020	Sun	1:01 AM	2.94	H
3/8/2020	Sun	9:48 AM	-0.43	L
3/8/2020	Sun	3:17 PM	2.35	H
3/8/2020	Sun	9:50 PM	0.35	L
3/9/2020	Mon	2:48 AM	3.06	H
3/9/2020	Mon	10:30 AM	-0.38	L
3/9/2020	Mon	3:46 PM	2.47	H
3/9/2020	Mon	10:36 PM	0.16	L
3/10/2020	Tue	3:36 AM	3.06	H
3/10/2020	Tue	11:12 AM	-0.26	L
3/10/2020	Tue	4:17 PM	2.57	H
3/10/2020	Tue	11:23 PM	0	L
3/11/2020	Wed	4:28 AM	2.93	H
3/11/2020	Wed	11:53 AM	-0.07	L
3/11/2020	Wed	4:48 PM	2.65	H
3/12/2020	Thu	12:12 AM	-0.12	L
3/12/2020	Thu	5:25 AM	2.69	H
3/12/2020	Thu	12:34 PM	0.14	L
3/12/2020	Thu	5:22 PM	2.68	H
3/13/2020	Fri	1:03 AM	-0.18	L
3/13/2020	Fri	6:26 AM	2.38	H
3/13/2020	Fri	1:14 PM	0.36	L
3/13/2020	Fri	5:58 PM	2.67	H
3/14/2020	Sat	1:58 AM	-0.17	L
3/14/2020	Sat	7:35 AM	2.05	H
3/14/2020	Sat	1:55 PM	0.58	L
3/14/2020	Sat	6:39 PM	2.6	H
3/15/2020	Sun	3:03 AM	-0.11	L
3/15/2020	Sun	8:59 AM	1.79	H
3/15/2020	Sun	2:48 PM	0.77	L
3/15/2020	Sun	7:34 PM	2.47	H
3/16/2020	Mon	4:17 AM	-0.06	L
3/16/2020	Mon	10:54 AM	1.68	H
3/16/2020	Mon	4:14 PM	0.89	L
3/16/2020	Mon	8:57 PM	2.35	H
3/17/2020	Tue	5:31 AM	-0.04	L
3/17/2020	Tue	1:43 PM	1.83	H
3/17/2020	Tue	5:42 PM	0.9	L
3/17/2020	Tue	10:24 PM	2.29	H
3/18/2020	Wed	6:38 AM	-0.05	L
3/18/2020	Wed	2:18 PM	1.97	H
3/18/2020	Wed	6:56 PM	0.83	L
3/18/2020	Wed	11:42 PM	2.33	H
3/19/2020	Thu	7:37 AM	-0.06	L
3/19/2020	Thu	2:38 PM	2.06	H
3/19/2020	Thu	7:56 PM	0.72	L
3/20/2020	Fri	12:48 AM	2.42	H
3/20/2020	Fri	8:25 AM	-0.06	L
3/20/2020	Fri	2:43 PM	2.13	H
3/20/2020	Fri	8:42 PM	0.6	L

Taxing Things by Mike Klein
Updates for filing 2019 returns

Credit for other Dependents: A taxpayer can claim this credit if they can claim the person as a dependent. Taxpayers can use the credit for other dependents in addition to the child and dependent care credit and the earned income credit. They cannot use the dependent to claim the child tax credit or additional child tax credit

The maximum credit amount is \$500 for each dependent who meets certain conditions: Dependents who are age 17 or older, and who have individual taxpayer identification numbers. Dependent parents or other qualifying relatives supported by the taxpayer, and those living with the taxpayer who aren't related to the taxpayer.

Individual tax provisions extended: Deduction for above-the-line qualified tuition and related expenses claimed on Form 8917, Tuition and Fees Deduction, and for mortgage insurance premiums treated as qualified residence interest. Deduction for unreimbursed medical and dental expenses as the floor was lowered to 7.5% of adjusted gross income. Credit for nonbusiness energy property claimed on Form 5695, Residential Energy Credits, Income exclusion for canceled debt for qualified principal residence indebtedness where the taxpayer defaulted on a mortgage that they took out to buy, build or substantially improve their main home.

Business Expenses: These proposed regulations address the elimination of the deduction for expenditures related to entertainment, amusement or recreation activities and provide guidance to determine whether an activity is considered to be entertainment.



EVERGLADES COMMUNITY CHURCH
The Friendly Church on the Circle
Non-Denominational
101 S. Copeland Avenue
PO Box 177, Everglades City, FL 34139
239-784-7318

The Rev. Dr. Bob N. Wallace, Pastor
Sunday Worship Service 11:00 am
Sunday School Oct. 13th—March
www.ever-community-church.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

LOCAL HANDYMAN SERVICES: Exp, local, trustworthy and available for small or larger projects. Call me anytime and I will gladly stop by and give you a hand. Please call John at 931-675-1300.

FOR SALE: 3/2 Trailer in Chok. Isl. Pk. Partially furnished, leather sleeper sofa, 2 Q beds, tables. Remodeled after Irma. New central AC. Sleeps 6. Paid 30K, make reasonable offer, moving! Call/text: 907-888-4004, email: wwrmm@aol.com.

FOR SALE: Fisherman's Cove #1 Park model with large enclosed addition. Property includes boat dock. Asking \$99,000. For info call Karen at Glades Realty (239) 695-4299.

HOUSE KEEPING NEEDED: We need someone to clean and turn over Everglades City vacation rentals. Cleaning experience needed. Likely, multiple (4-5) cleanings every month. Call 727-480-1640.

FOR SALE: 2005 Shearwater 20', 150 HP Optimax w/400 hrs. GPS, JL audio, jack plate, runs perfect. \$15,500. 954-643-2469, ask for Jeff.

FOR SALE: Large Outdoor Resorts waterfront lot #149 w/ aluminum boat lift. Overlooks Chok Bay, new Trex deck, steps for kayak launch, custom landscape + ORA amenities. Call Jennifer brown at 239-494-7270 or Dan at 954-579-2364.

FOR SALE: Two canal lots side by side in Chokoloskee. For more information call 561-622-6011.

HUGE GARAGE SALE: March 7th from 9:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. on Plantation Island 129 Flicker Lane. If you are looking for a treasure you are sure to find it here!

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 at 239-695-2445.

FOR SALE: Canal front vacant lot on Lopez Ln, Chok. Quick & easy access to the Bay and Gulf w/no bridges! . Zoned for homes or mfg. homes. Asking \$99,000. Glades Realty 239-695-4299 www.GladesRealty.com.

RV PAD FOR RENT: In E-City RV park. Full hook-up, 30 amps, 25 x 35 pad, restroom, shower, laundry & rec. privileges, 55+. Wkly, Mthly. Call 269-214-8623 or 941-374-0277.

FOR SALE: Condo @ The Estuary. Corner unit, 2 BR 2 BA + den. Nicely furnished. Large double car garage. Boat ramp & pool onsite. Glades Realty, 239-695-4299, www.GladesRealty.com, \$274,000.

FOR SALE by Owner: 3/2 stilt home at 440 Riverside Drive on Tarpon Creek in Everglades City. Private dock, boat ramp. High & dry in move in condition. See the listing on Zillow. \$449K. Call 954-235-1913.

FOR SALE: 2005 Action Craft Flats Master Boat with 115 HP Yamaha and trailer. 17' fiberglass hull. In exc condition w/trolling motor, marine radio, baitwell, & more. Just serviced. Runs great. Priced below bk value at \$14,500 OBO. Tom (406) 595-1453.

BOAT FOR SALE: 2005 Trophy 18' cabin cruiser. 115 HP Mercury 4/stroke with less than 400 hrs. AM/FM/Marine radio. GPS, Bimini top, and trailer. The boat is located in Everglades City. \$12,500, OBO. For more information, please call 239-695-2006.

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

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