

The MULLET RAPPER



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

News, Stories & Classifieds

25¢

MAY 16, 2020 - MAY 29, 2020

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

Volume XII • Issue # 364

**Independence Day Parade Canceled
But There Will Be Fireworks!
June 27th, 9 pm**



There will not be an Independence Day parade in Everglades City this year, but the City confirmed that the annual fireworks display will take place on June 27th at 9 pm. This is great news!

The Everglades City Fireworks are always spectacular. Whenever a visitor sees the display, they are in awe of how the sky over the city is completely lit up and how close we are to all of the action. Our fireworks display can rival any in southwest Florida!

And even though there will not be the usual daytime celebrations, each of us can celebrate in our own way and then enjoy the nighttime display in our cars, golf carts or from our own homes!

The fireworks are funded by donations. We know times are difficult, but if you can afford to donate any amount, we are asking for your support. No amount is too small.

If you can donate, please make out a check to "Everglades Community Fireworks Fund" and mail it to the city at PO Box 110, Everglades City, FL 34139. You may also drop off a check at City Hall in the slot on the door to the library.

**Antibody Test Confirms That Covid-19
Was In Chokoloskee in January
By Kathy Brock**

When Thais Tepper of Chokoloskee got sick in January, she knew it was not a "normal" virus. She went to her doctor who tested her for strep throat and influenza, both tests came back negative. Her son and her husband also had some symptoms.

One week after developing the first symptoms, she got very sick. Her son's onset was unlike hers. He became very sick seemingly overnight. Her husband's bout with the illness was also different. He had very minor symptoms.

At that time, no one was really talking or thinking about Covid-19. However, after seeing more information about the disease, Thais suspected that they all had Covid-19 in January.

In April, her family went for antibody testing at a private lab, and the tests came back positive for all three of them.

Thais described this illness as "unlike anything she ever had before, a near-death experience." She said both she and her son had trouble breathing and their recovery has taken some time. Her son still had lingering lung discomfort into April and Thais still tires easily. Her husband's case was very mild and he recovered quickly.

To get tested for the antibodies, Thais' family went to a lab in Dade county. The lab reported that 30% of those that test positive for the virus are asymptomatic. She continues to get follow up testing with the lab to help them with their research on immunity post-virus.

Thais believes she was exposed to the virus on a trip to the east coast of Florida in early January, and she developed the first symptoms on January 22nd.

Her story, and many others like hers, confirms that Covid-19 was in Florida prior to the Super Bowl in Miami on February 2. The following weekend the Everglades Seafood Festival was held in Everglades City.

If you would like an antibody test, contact your doctor or any one of the private labs offering tests in South Florida.



**City Council Meeting
Update May 2020
Reported by
Patty Huff**

The May City Council meeting was held virtually at 7 pm via Zoom.us video conferencing with Mayor Howie Grimm opening the meeting.

City Attorney Zach Lombardo reported that the Hamilton lawsuit had been settled.

Mayor Grimm stated that 30 of the old city street lights/lamps have been removed and put in the City storage barn. The City will eventually sell the old lamps to locals who would like them. Details to come at a future date.

Councilman Tim Smith asked about the status of the cell tower. Mayor Grimm said that Verizon is working on additional permits for the temporary tower so that the City will not lose any service as they install the new permanent tower in the City Circle. Zach Lombardo confirmed that Verizon is still in compliance with the contract they signed with the City.

**We Welcome Our Newest Columnist,
Everglades City School Student
Olivia Demere!**

The MULLET RAPPER is very pleased to introduce a new columnist to the paper, **Olivia Demere!**



Olivia is a 5th-grade student at Everglades City School. Olivia loves animals and will share some of her stories about them, and some of her other hobbies and interests, in a recurring column with us.

We are very pleased that Oliva has joined our team.

We encourage any students who are interested in writing for the Mullet Rapper to submit their stories to us for publication at mulletrapper@gmail.com.

You can read Olivia Demere's first article on page 6.

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What is the MPO and Who represents You?

By Patty Huff

MPO is the Metropolitan Planning Organization which, in Collier County, was established in 1982 in order to develop transportation plans and programs for our County. It is currently governed by 9 board members: 5 from the Board of County Commissioners, 2 from Naples, 1 from Marco Island and 1 from Everglades City (our representative is City Councilperson Elaine Middelstaedt). The Florida Department of Transportation is also represented as a non-voting member. The MPO's goal is to ensure that a continuing, comprehensive and cooperative approach to planning for transportation needs is maintained and properly coordinated with other MPOs, FDOT and the Federal Highway Administration, as well as MPO committee members and members of the public.

Collier MPO Board is advised by five committees:

- 1) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) consists of planners, engineers, and other technical professionals. TAC members are responsible for maintaining, controlling, developing, and improving the transportation system throughout the Collier County area. They review transportation plans and programs from a technical perspective. Tim Brock serves on this committee.
- 2) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is comprised of citizens representing geographic areas, as well as citizens representing the disabled and minorities. These individuals make recommendations to the MPO Board from the public's perspective on proposed Long Range Transportation Plans, individual projects, priorities for state and federal funding, and other transportation issues. Tammie Pernas was appointed from Everglades City to serve on the CAC.
- 3) Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) is comprised of 11 at-large voting members who provide citizen input into the process of deliberation on pathway-related issues within the community and to make recommendations to the MPO Board on pathway plans, projects and programs. Dayna Fendrick has been serving for many years on the BPAC, and Patty Huff was recently approved by the MPO to serve on the advisory board.
- 4) Congestion Management Committee (CMC) serves in an advisory capacity on technical matters relating to the MPO's Congestion Management System and the regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) architecture. Currently, there is a vacancy for Everglades City and the appointment is made by the Mayor.
- 5) Local Coordinating Board (LCB) assists the MPO in identifying local service needs and to provide information, advice and direction to the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) on the coordination of services to be provided to the transportation disadvantaged within their local service area. No representation from our area at this time.

The Collier MPO encourages public involvement from our committees and members of the public and strives to maintain transparency in the transportation planning process and considers public involvement to be one of our most important responsibilities. For more information, visit website <https://www.colliermpo.org/about-mpo/>. Meetings are open to the public.

VIRTUAL LADIES COFFEE ON WEDNESDAYS AT 9:30 AM. FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO JOIN IN CALL PATTY HUFF AT 239-695-2397.



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Living Gulf Coast by Charles Sobczak

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) Other names: blue crane, pond scoggin / Status: FL=stable, IUCN=LC / Life span: to 24 years / Length: 38-54 in. (97-137 cm) / Wingspan: 66-79 in. (167-201 cm) / Weight: 5.7 lb (2.59 kg) / Nests: throughout SW Florida / Found: All

Counties, coastal, near coast, mainland / Months found: jfmamjjASOnd (lower case indicates nesting season).



The great blue heron is the largest and most widespread heron in North America. A magnificent bird to watch, this skilled hunter can be found throughout Southwest Florida. It has adapted well to human environments and can often be found leaning over open bait wells at marinas or begging for handouts at local fishing piers. Migratory herons, which frequent the region during winter, tend to be far more skittish than the resident herons.

Although there is a white morph called the white morph of the great blue heron, its range does not extend as far as Southwest Florida, though it can be readily found in the Florida Keys and may be seen rarely in southern Lee and Collier County. There is also a mixed breed, known as Würdemann's heron, that is a meld of the blue and white morphs.

Dieting mostly on fish, which it spears with amazing precision, the great blue heron also eats mice, lizards, and snakes and has even been observed feeding on hatchling alligators. On rare occasions a great blue will choke to death when attempting to eat a fish or animal too large to swallow.

An injured or captured great blue heron must be handled with extreme caution. It has been known to drive its long, powerful beak into a person's eye. Covering its head with a towel or t-shirt is always advised if you come across a sick or injured bird.

When disturbed, the great blue heron lets loose with a very loud squawk that can be quite alarming. It is monogamous, nesting in large single-species colonies. When discovered these colonies should not be disturbed, as any intrusion could result in the agitated chicks falling from their nests where they will be preyed upon by raccoons, otters, and bobcats. The adult bird is sometimes taken by alligators. Overall, the great blue heron is thriving.

Photo of Great Blue Heron in Breeding Plumage on the Barron River by Kathy Brock



Fishing in the 10,000 Islands by Captain Mike Merritt

Time to catch some big Snook! Snook fishing has really turned on and this is the time of year we catch those big females out in the islands. For some really great fun try some top water lures early in the morning on a low incoming tide. There is nothing quite like a big blow up on your top water lure from a 15-20 lb. fish. If they just don't want the top water then jigs are still producing some great action.

Live bait is also working well and there are tons of Greenies all along the coast right now. Whatever you decide to use the best bite right now is the outside islands. The females are out getting ready to spawn and they will be active and feeding.

Redfish have remained strong and you will find plenty on the outside while Snook fishing. They will hit a jig worked a little slower. Shrimp is still the best and easiest way to get on the Reds. We have been catching lots of fish in the slot and plenty of small under size fish.

Seatrout are also still being caught and a popping cork with shrimp or a DOA Shrimp both are working. Pompano are also being caught while Trout fishing. Shrimp work best with these, but jigs also produce plenty of both. The grass flats are holding fish but the points of the islands are too. Most of the fish are being caught in pockets and do not seem to be spread out, so if you find one try right back in the same spot for more!

Tarpon have been here in really good numbers and there are plenty of fishermen chasing them around. You can find plenty of places to wait for these giants to swim by and be fairly successful in hooking up. Artificials, crabs, and live bait are all working.

The weather has gotten hot and soon we will be experiencing summer rains. This will make the late afternoon bite a good one. I always love fishing after an afternoon rain! Good luck fishing and stay cool! **Capt. Mike Merritt**

Editors Note: Snook harvesting season is currently closed. Please practice "catch and release" until the season reopens on September 1, 2020.

Fish With Captain Mike Merritt
 Call: 561-252-4324
 SnookFishing1@juno.com

Get Tide Predictions for specific regions & rivers:
<https://visitevergladescity.com/tides/>
 Download the Fishing Limits Guide
<https://visitevergladescity.com/fishing-regs-2019/>

Mullet Rapper Donations to Everglades City School

~\$8400 to Date and Counting*...

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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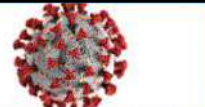
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COVID-19

SYMPTOMS

Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death for confirmed COVID-19 cases.

These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure:

- Fever (100.4°F/38°C or higher)
- Dry Cough
- Shortness of breath

If you develop these emergency warning signs for COVID-19, get medical attention immediately:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face

Here is a link to the CDC symptom checker online:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/index.html>

Please note that some people may carry the COVID-19 virus and show no symptoms whatsoever.

These individuals can still transmit the disease. It is critical that you keep a safe distance from all persons outside of your immediate household during this time!

NEED A TEST FOR COVID-19?

Please call the Collier County Florida Department of Health local call center at (239) 252-6220 or call the nearest LabCorp for arrange testing near you.



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Solution to May 2, 2020 Puzzle

1	J	A	M	B		5	H	A	M	
8	R	O	V	E	R	9	D	Y	I	N
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19	M	A	N	A	N	22	W	O	M	A
23	O	B	E	Y		24	I	R	E	
25	D	E	C		26	R	U	E		27
30	U	L	T	R	A	32	M	A	R	I
33	S	L	A	B	S		34	T	Y	P
					35	R	I	P		36



Poetry Street™

By Katherine S. Tullie

I appreciate all of my readers and I wish you all safety and happiness. These are difficult times and we need to do what is necessary to keep ourselves, our families and our neighbors safe. That is the theme of my poem today called "Shelter In."

Sheltering in is the thing to do

It is much safer, too

Patience is the key, I say

Let's try to avoid the coronavirus every day

Finding interesting things to pass the time away

Is very important to do for it's a new day

Call on family and friends to have people connections

Always wear a mask

when going out for protection

Take a Sunday drive to get some fresh air

Try to lighten up a little

and let down your hair

Find pastimes and hobbies that interest you

This really is the thing to do!

Let's think of our home as our safe haven Our precious lives are well worth saving!

One day things will turn around

for the better, I say

Pray every day for a vaccine

to help pave the way

Pray for patience

during these difficult days

Pray that the coronavirus will dissipate and go away

So, as I think of you today

I wish you good health

each and every day!

Look for

PoetryStreet on Twitter

or at PoetryStreet.com

Kathythepoet@gmail.com

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Katherine S. Tullie,



BORED? Read About Our History!

By Marya Repko



We live in a unique area in "the only Everglades in the world" and have an interesting history as the first settlement in "Florida's Last Frontier".

While you are staying home, why not learn a bit more about what makes us special? There are several easy to read books written about everything you would want to know about the history of our area!

All books are available at Wincar in Everglades City.

NEW AREA DIRECTORY



Finally, it's here! The draft version of our local area directory, the "little yellow phone book", is available at Right Choice Supermarket.

It includes P.O. Boxes and cell phones but might not be complete.

The organizers are asking everyone to contact them with corrections and additions for the publication to make it complete!

Please phone Marya at (239) 695-2905 or email her at mrepko@earthlink.net with your updated information. Thank you!

SALES TAX HOLIDAY

May 29 through June 4



Starting on May 29 to June 4 you can save the 7% sales tax on items that

you'll need during our power outages over the summer and fall hurricane season.

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EVG School Corner

My Pets by Olivia Demere



My name is Olivia Demere and I have a dog named Tootsie and she loves to chase lizards. Tootsie is a wiener dog, and she is brown and her full name is Tootsie Roll Demere.

My sister Samantha has a dog named Milo and he is so playful. Milo is a Pitbull-Labrador. He is black and grey. Some people are scared of pit bulls and think they are mean, but they are just big. A dog couldn't be sweeter when it comes to a pit bull.

My older brother Andrew and his girlfriend Tori have two dogs, Tilly and Lucy. Tilly is Tootsie's puppy, she is very small but also very fast.

Tilly is brown like Tootsie. Lucy is also part pit bull, but still as sweet as ever. Lucy is black and white and also very playful. Lucy and Milo get along great and will not stop playing!

I also have a rabbit, and her name is Jessica The Rabbit. She is white, brown and black and she loves to be scratched on her head between her ears.

Her favorite treats are baby carrots and lettuce. I got her from Mary and Moe.

She is very sweet and she has an edible toy; a stuffed log with a bunch of yummy foods in it like seeds and carrots and little bits of celery. She is so funny when I call her name she goes on her hind legs with her ears up tall and her head sideways.

I hoped you enjoyed learning about my pets!

Olivia Demere is in 5th grade and attends Everglades City school.

CCPS Kindergarten Registration is Online Here is How to Get Started

Kindergarten Registration for the 2020-21 school year will begin on Monday, May 4, 2020. The child must be five years old on or before September 1, 2020, to register for Kindergarten. To register, please go to register.collierschools.com to access the Online Centralized Registration system to complete student registration.



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My Little Slice of Paradise by Kathy Brock

Have you ever had so many "bad hair" days? I call it Covid-hair. Those of us who color our hair are seeing for the first time in a long time what we really look like today.

Covid-hair is not only afflicting women, men have it too. The "slicked back" look for guys is starting to make a comeback, albeit unintentionally.

There are a lot of things we are starting to rediscover during the stay-at-home time. People are cooking at home more than ever. Most of my friends are trying new recipes, and new techniques, to keep themselves interested in cooking.

Shopping has been a bit more interesting too. Who knew that the one item no one wanted to go without was toilet paper? For a while, it seemed like they were sheets of gold. It could not be found anywhere!

In March I was in Costco (with a mask) when 2 new pallets were put out.

The mob descended! Within minutes the pallets were empty. Those lucky enough to get some pranced out smiling.

During the TP crisis, it was obvious to me that I used up about 85% of the supply in our household. Guys just don't need as much. So as women, we kind of need to own TP shortage—for it is us who are using up the majority of it.

Binge-watching on Netflix and Amazon Prime is a daily activity now. With little new programming, finding a new series with a couple of seasons is a great discovery. It gives you something to look forward to until you finish the series and then start looking for another that you can latch onto.

Teleconferencing for fun? I thought I left teleconferencing in my rearview mirror when I retired. Today, it has become the cement to help keep us all together and sane. Not all of the new normal is bad...except Covid-hair.

Obituary
Ms. Renee Avril Weeks
April 5, 1961 – May 7, 2020



Renee' Avril Weeks, who had a heart of gold, loving daughter of Barbara J. Miller, died unexpectedly on May 7, 2020 at Physician's Regional Hospital. She was a graduate of Baron Collier High School and held her LPN license for many years.

In addition to her grieving mother, she leaves behind two children, Blake and Sabrina Weeks; grandchild Riley Weeks; sister Tammy Duerr; uncle and aunt Brian Oberg (Jan); nephew Jason Schooley and several cousins. Also special friends, to include Marilyn and Charles Bartlett, Jr.; Thais and Steve Tepper; Karen Colson; Walt Stout and no doubt more not included here. There will be no viewing and the gravesite service at Palm Royale will be private.

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Doorframe part
- 5 Eggs go with
- 8 Vehicle on Mars or the Moon
- 9 Type of wish
- 12 Target of statin drugs
- 14 --- Arbor, MI
- 15 Network which created "Cribs"
- 16 Tina's former partner
- 17 Meadow
- 18 Parade wrecker
- 19 First pair in the first garden
- 23 Comply
- 24 Anger
- 25 The mailman's busy this month

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5/16/20

Down

- 1 A Beatle
- 2 "Calling" Co.
- 3 Director --- Brooks
- 4 German city on the Weser River
- 5 Man cave centerpiece
- 6 Affirmative vote
- 7 Moses' sister
- 8 First U.S. color TV maker
- 10 Cell brand
- 11 First orbital American
- 13 Game venue
- 17 "Now I ___ Me Down to Sleep"
- 18 Eggs
- 19 Operandi or vivendi
- 20 "That rings ---"
- 21 Sweet secretion of flowers
- 22 Christmas decoration
- 26 Coarse file
- 27 Waiters wait for them
- 28 They might feature in 27 Down
- 29 "Something in ---" (Lorrie Morgan hit)
- 31 A sac fly collects one
- 32 Cereal grass



Dry Conditions Create Fire Hazzard

Unseasonably dry conditions in SW Florida has the area in what is now described as a severe drought.

Southwest Florida is about 60% below the normal rainfall levels for this time of year. Many municipalities are requesting that homeowners use as little water as possible. They are also advising residents to clear unnecessary brush off of their properties, and to keep brush at least 30 feet from their homes.

Please be extra careful using barbecues and extinguishing cigarettes so you do not inadvertently start a brushfire.



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CLASSIFIED ADS

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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.

HOUSEKEEPING 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: V 16' awning elec. retractable . All hardware included. Like new \$450.00 OBO. Cash or PayPal. Please call 703 217 7394.

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, bait well, & more. Just serviced. Runs great. Priced below bk value at \$14,500 OBO. Tom (406) 595-1453.

LOCAL BUSINESS INFO

Many of our local businesses are now open! Below are listings of some of our restaurants and general stores. We recommend that you verify hours of operation by calling first! For a complete directory of businesses go to the website www.visitevergladescity.com.

RIGHT CHOICE SUPERMARKET

9 am—7 pm Daily

WINCAR HARDWARE

9 am—3 pm MON—SAT

CITY SEAFOOD

8 am—3 pm Daily (239) 695-4700

HOLE IN THE WALL PIZZA

M-11-7 pm, Fri & Sat 11-9pm

(239) 695-4444

ISLAND CAFÉ

7am -9 pm Daily (239) 695-0003

MARATHON GAS/NELY'S

6 am—10 pm (239) 695-4222

ROD AND GUN CLUB

12 pm—8 pm (239) 695-2101

TRIAD SEAFOOD

10:30 to 4 pm Daily (239) 695-0722

THE FOOD BANK IS OPEN!

Wednesday, 11 am to 2 pm

Everglades Community Church

Drive up service only. Food is distributed on the back deck.

General Questions:

If you have any questions, call Everglades City Hall (239) 695-3781.

For more information about local businesses, tide predictions and area information, please go to:

www.VisitEvergladesCity.com

The MULLET RAPPER

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

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We encourage contrasting points of view

The views expressed in signed articles are not

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Everglades City, FL 34139

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