

The MULLET RAPPER



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

News, Stories & Classifieds

25¢

MAY 30, 2020 - JUNE 12, 2020

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

Volume XII • Issue # 365

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!

Congratulations to the Everglades City School graduating class of 2020!
 You did not get to participate in the “normal” senior year activities but that did not stop any of you from celebrating during our “drive by” graduation celebration in the City circle!

Your class faced many challenges, including the hurricane in 2017 and the COVID-19 pandemic, yet you did not let that stop you from this huge achievement. We are so proud of our school, our graduating seniors, students of all grades, and the faculty members that worked with you tirelessly throughout this school year.

Your generation is our future, and judging by your ability to overcome challenges, our future is looking bright! We wish you the best of luck in your next journey.

Please see page 4 for a message from Principal Dr. Cherie Allison.



CHRISTIAN BEE



LEVI JOHNSON



BO JOYCE



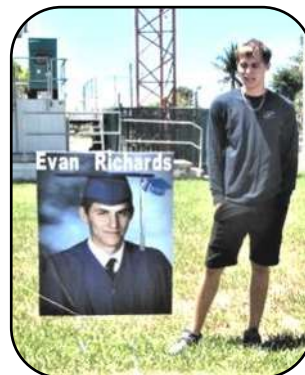
SAVANNA MARIE



KYLE MCMILLAN



MICHAEL RAINS



EVAN RICHARDS



DAMIEN TAFT



DESTANY VANLEEUWEN

RAPPER TABLE OF CONTENTS

Calendar	p. 2	Poetry Street/ Jed Edwards	p. 6
Sawfish News	p. 3	Olivia	P. 6
Principal	P. 4	Crossword/ My Slice	p.7
School News	p. 4	Obituary	p.7
Symptoms	p. 5	Classifieds/ Biz Info	p.8

FEATURE: SAWFISH NEWS Page 3

MAY 31, 2020 — JULY 4, 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 31	June 1	2	3	4	5	6
Sales Tax Holiday	Sales Tax Holiday	Sales Tax Holiday	Food Bank ECC, 11am—2pm Virtual Ladies Coffee, 9:30 am	Sales Tax Holiday	Full Moon	
7	8	9	10	11	12	Rapper 13
			Food Bank ECC, 11am—2pm Virtual Ladies Coffee, 9:30 am			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Flag Day!			Food Bank ECC, 11am—2pm Virtual Ladies Coffee, 9:30 am			
21	22	23	24	25	26	Rapper 27
New Moon Father's Day			Food Bank ECC, 11am—2pm Virtual Ladies Coffee, 9:30 am			EC Fireworks 9 pm
28	29	30	July 1	2	3	4
			Food Bank ECC, 11am—2pm Virtual Ladies Coffee, 9:30 am			Independence Day

August 13: First Day of School September 1: Snook Season Reopens September 26: Blessing of the Fleet

AREA INFORMATION & NUMBERS:

AA: Wed., closed until further notice
 CARNESTOWN Recycle & Trash: 2nd Sat. of month, 9a-12p, 12:30p-3:30
 DR DEMARTINO: Seeing patients in Marco, call: (239) 642-5552
 DR MARTIN: Call for appointment: (813)-787-9738
 LIONS CLUB: Closed for summer
 MUSEUM: Closed until further notice
 PANCAKE FLY-IN: Closed until further notice.
 REACH OUT: closed until further notice
 SKATING RINK: Closed until further notice
 SMALLWOOD STORE: closed until further notice
 THRIFT SHOP: Closed until further notice
 VETERANS SUPPORT: closed until further notice
 VISITOR CENTER: (239)-232-4037 Closed until further notice

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 BIG CYPRESS: (239)-695-2000
 CITY HALL: (239)-695-3781
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 (CALL TUESDAY FOR THURSDAY PICKUP)
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SAWFISH NEWS by Tonya Wiley, Havenworth Coastal Conservation

Two species of sawfish were once found in the United States: the largetooth sawfish, *Pristis pristis*, and the smalltooth sawfish, *Pristis pectinata*. Both species were considered "abundant" and "common" in the early 1900's. Unfortunately, the largetooth sawfish has not been seen in the U.S. since 1961 in Texas. The smalltooth sawfish remains in U.S. waters, though at greatly reduced numbers and geographic range. Today the smalltooth sawfish is found predominately in southwest Florida. The decline was due to a combination of three primary factors: (1) overfishing, (2) reproduction, and (3) habitat loss.



Fishing mortality contributed significantly to the decline of sawfish in the U.S. Many sawfish caught recreationally were landed and displayed for photographs, others were killed as anglers removed their saws for trophies. Commercial fishermen killed sawfish to save their gear, not wanting to cut their valuable nets to remove captured sawfish.

Sawfish bear live young, take many years to reach sexual maturity, and produce very few offspring. This reproductive strategy does not allow sawfish to replenish the population very quickly; this was especially problematic historically as they were being removed far more quickly than they were able to reproduce. Now it is crucial to keep fishing mortality

low to recover this endangered species.

Born at about 2 feet in length, juvenile sawfish rely on very shallow waters close to shore for ample food and safety from predators during the first years of their life. Much of the natural shoreline has been developed and the important protective nursery areas have been greatly reduced in quantity and all but eliminated in some areas.

Due to the dramatic declines both species are listed as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Unfortunately, the largetooth sawfish is probably locally extinct and gone for good from U.S. waters. Fortunately, the smalltooth sawfish population is already showing promising signs following protective measures.


These "Sawfish News" articles share interesting facts about sawfish, updates on current research projects, explanations of management tools such as the Endangered Species Act, descriptions of ways you can be involved in the recovery of sawfish, and other information on these unique animals.

For more information about research and management of endangered sawfish in the United States visit www.SawfishRecovery.org.

Tax-deductible donations to help us continue our mission to promote the sustainable use and conservation of marine resources through research, outreach, and education can be made at <https://www.oceanfdn.org/donate/havenworth-coastal-conservation>.

Photo of tagged sawfish by Bo Yeiser.

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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A Special Message From Principal Dr. Cherie Allison



As we get ready to close out this school year I have to say how very proud I am of all of our students and their families during this very difficult time. But particularly, my heart goes out to our seniors this year. Every senior has met the requirements for graduation even during this most trying time and I am so very proud of each and every one of them. I have stood before other graduating classes and yet, there were none more diverse and special than this class. The long and sometimes arduous journey to this moment in time was finished with pride, resolve and very hard work. I applaud you all! I would like to leave each of our graduates with a few thoughts. What you do will define who you are. I want you to explore, to dream and to discover.

We often think of explorers as fearless individuals who historically have forged recklessly into the unknown. They discovered new places for humanity and brought back exciting theories, philosophies, and tales of inspiration. Marco Polo, Neil Armstrong, and Amelia Earhart all stepped out to explore new possibilities. Too often, we do not consider all the opportunities in our own lives to explore. Do not fall into the routine of comfortable. While routine can be comfortable, it's also the opposite of growth and expansion. Your growth will come from new experiences, exploration, and possibilities. So be the explorers of your own destinies. Do not let others design where you should go, explore and expand. Drive yourself forward and find your perfect opportunities.

In order to be an explorer though, you must also be a dreamer. Look to what makes you get excited about your journey. Destany, is your dream to be a radiologist, a cosmetologist? Savannah, are you going on to school to discover who you want to be? Bo, are you going to be a welder? Christian, are you pushing yourself to college to explore all of your possibilities? Levi, are you going into Digital Media? Damien, will you be the next author we read at school? Michael, will you be a renowned chef and open your own restaurant? Evan, a mechanic? A firefighter? Both? Kyle, will you be an airboat captain or a business owner? All excellent choices but choose to be the best of them that you can be. Never settle for less! Do not stop chasing your dreams because you are afraid of failure. Only when you stop chasing, have you failed. A dream is nothing without the ability to know you need to take risks, go out on a limb, and be uncomfortable. If you fall when you are chasing your dreams, get up, brush yourself off and just keep dreaming bigger.

And finally, you need to discover. Discover what it is that you really want, Discover what ignites your passion and fills your soul, but to do this, you must discover yourselves. To discover yourselves, you must first learn who you are. You are not who others think that you are. You are not defined by the mirror that others have placed in front of you. That mirror is fragmented, each piece someone else's perception of who you are. Only YOU know who you are and the potential that you have to see yourself in your own full length and perfect mirror. Discover who you want to see in that mirror and turn that image into a reality.

I know that this is not the graduation that you had envisioned. We are standing at a time in history that is unprecedented. But you will get through this, you will persevere and you will rise because you are all resilient. Some of you will be heading off to college and some will be starting on career paths. I challenge you to find what ignites your soul and explore, discover and follow that dream. As a favorite author of mine, Mark Twain once said, "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." I would like to add to that the word aspire. Aspire to be bigger and better than you believe that you can be. There is only one you and you can and will make a difference!

I celebrate the class of 2020!



Just as our Seniors are now moving on our Pre-K kids are moving up to Kindergarten!!!! Congratulations Addysen Harkins, Zaiden Humphreys, Jase Kappeyne, Grayson Kidder, Yonatan Merida, Daysi Ortiz-Martin, Leanora Ribeiro, Addisen Suominen, and Chatham

Senior Honor Night

Friday, June 5, 7 pm

Chokoloskee Family Church

We are hosting a Senior Honor Night for the class of 2020 On Friday, June 5th, at 7pm at Chokoloskee Family Church.

This non religious event will be to honor each senior. Each senior will receive a special bag of gifts, and refreshments will follow the event.

The Valedictorian and Salutatorian will both speak to the students. Seating is limited so each Senior can bring up to 10 family members.

My Plants By Olivia Demere



Because of the Corona Virus I must stay inside and that is boring, so I decided to start growing plants. I am trying to grow different things. The plants I am trying to grow are avocados, bell pepper, and a tomato. I tried to grow celery, but it died.

My parents are also growing plants theirs are a lot bigger than mine because they started growing them before me. I have two avocados and when I first started my second one started to die, but I kept trying by giving it water and sun. I also started giving it a better soil and more fertilizer. Then it started to get better and now it is the biggest plant I have. My mom puts eggshell in the plants so that slugs and snails will not go and eat the plant. My dad's avocado tree has little tiny avocados growing. To keep my plant healthy, I will go outside and pull all the weeds out of the pot, so my plant has plenty of room. Vines are unbelievably bad for plants because they can choke it and then it might die, so that is why it is a good idea to pull out vines and weeds to keep your plant safe. Plants are good for the environment and fun to grow!

Olivia is in 5th grade and attends Everglades City School.

Chokoloskee Family Church logo with text: "Doing Life Together" Sunday Worship: 11am Wednesday Bible Study: 7PM Kids program Wed. & Sunday! Join us on the Island! Ph: (239) 232-0098

Mullet Rapper Donations to Everglades City School ~\$8400 to Date and Growing*...

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.


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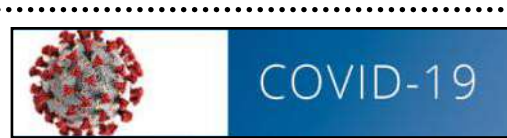
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Symptoms & Who to Call

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 up to 35% of 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 16, 2020 Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9							
P	A	W	C	S	I	C	H	I							
10	A	B	A	S	H	E	D	12	P	A	T				
13	P	A	R	T	I	C	I	P	A	N	T				
		15	R	A	P	T	O	R							
16	17	H	A	I	R	S	18	M	I	A	M	I			
22	I	P	O	D			23	C	L	A	N				
24	S	E	R	U	M	25		26	D	E	B	T	S		
			27	S	O	N	A	T	A						
29	30	31	C	O	N	T	R	I	V	A	N	C	E	32	33
34	N	A	B			35	O	N	E	G	I	R	L		
36	N	S	C			37	N	A	Y		38	A	Y	E	

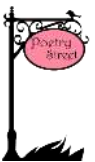
Messages Rolling In On A Sandy Beach

By Katherine S. Tullie



What if one day you were walking along the shoreline on a beach and a bottle with a message inside it washed up? When you opened it and began reading, you saw that it contained messages that comforted you and gave you strength to face the future. That is what my poem called "Messages Rolling In On A Sandy Beach" is all about.

We all wish that the coronavirus would go away
I hope and pray
that a vaccine will soon save the day
As messages of hope in the bottle wash onto the sand
Hope in our world is much in demand
With hope in our twinkling eyes we can travel far
Like traveling along in an electric car
Messages of hope in a bottle washing onto the shore
Let's see what these messages have in store
Messages in this bottle filled with patience and hope
They may help us
when we are on a thin rope
Messages filled with faith for us all
So that we can stand ten feet tall
The messages of hope and harmony in this bottle
May help us move forward full throttle
On the shoreline at the beach the messages roll in
Messages of hope and faith so that we may win
We are all in this life together
Let's work together to make things better!



Look for PoetryStreet on Twitter or at PoetryStreet.com
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Adventures of the Saltwater Cowboy

—Chapter 1—

By Jeb Edwards

Watching the sunset from the top deck of my houseboat, "Occasional Brunette", had become a daily ritual. Sunset is a gift from Mother Nature to the inhabitants of the only known planet with an atmosphere capable of sustaining life. And to the inhabitants of Southwest Florida sunset is special, especially to me. I prefer to enjoy it alone, as opposed to the Naples Beach Club for instance, where the tourists in their floral shirts and country club outfits clap at the precise moment the main sequence star dips below the horizon. As much as I enjoy the Beach Club Chickee Bar, such behavior always struck me as contrite and meaningless; more of a novelty, not my style.

I climbed the ships ladder up to the top deck with one arm and carried my ice chest with the other. I felt tired, sweating from the Southwest Florida climate, and salty from many long days on the water. Exhausted, I fell into my old lawn chair with an ice-cold beer in my hand. Light began to fade and the water glowed off of a reddening sky. Red faded to purple, synchronized with the slowly dipping sun. I watched as a flock of curlews flew into a mangrove island to roost. I could hear the other guides at Calusa Island Marina, my home, talking amongst one another as they finished up the last of the day's chores. The sun burned tourists lugged their gear through the parking lot to their vehicles, their shoes made a crunching sound as they stepped on the crushed limestone. You could say that I had finally found serenity. And that's when I got the call.

"Captain, I think Ty has been kidnapped!" "Lark, whoa now, hold on, settle down a minute," I told my little sister. I sat my beer in the cup holder and climbed out of my comfortable folding chair. I leaned over the top rail and looked out over Palm Bay. Dusk had turned to twilight and the bay was dead calm, the air already sticky. The noseums had come out so I made my retreat down the ships ladder and into the galley. I closed the sliding glass door and wiped the sweat off my brow as the AC hit me. I sat down on the couch as she continued to explain the situation. I immediately began to feel a headache coming on. I pressed my thumb and index finger into the bridge of my nose. Just like that, my days of tranquility came to an abrupt halt.

Obituary

William Albert Anderson
Oct. 30, 1942 – May 4, 2020



William "Peasy" Albert Anderson, was born on October 30, 1942 and passed away on May 4, 2020. His arrangements are being handled by First Memorial Funeral Services Kamloops, BC.

Local 911 Operator Helps Couple

For the past 10 years, Chokoloskee resident, Maria Rodriguez has been serving Collier County as a 911 dispatcher

On May 13, the fires east of Golden Gates estates had been burning for days. Dry weather and winds made it difficult for firefighters to contain the fire. Citizens were asked to evacuate, but not all of them did.

A frantic couple called 911 for help. That's when 911 Technician Maria Rodriguez, a dispatcher with the agency for the past 10 years, took the call. She told the couple to retreat to single room and block the edge of the doorway with towels to prevent smoke from creeping in.

Eventually the couple was rescued and treated for smoke inhalation. The home and two vehicles were completely destroyed.

Maria is the daughter of longtime Chokoloskee resident Chris Ammerman. Our entire community is thankful for our wonderful first responders and 911 dispatchers.

JOB OPPORTUNITY EVERGLADES CITY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The City of Everglades City is looking for a qualified person to work in our Public Works Maintenance Department. General knowledge of water and wastewater operations and use of tools and equipment used in these operations. Also, a working knowledge of water meter reading, installation, and operation. Lawn and landscaping maintenance. Ability to read and understand maps and schematics.

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My Little Slice of Paradise by Kathy Brock

Difficult times often bring out the best in people. Yes. That is not always true, but here in the Everglades it certainly is the case more often than not.

Last Saturday (May 23) the community came together to honor our graduating seniors...the only way possible during a pandemic.

They came in cars, trucks, and of course, golf carts. Some were fully decorated, some carried posters, and others just showed up to be a part of it all. The graduates stood around the City's circle probably thinking "this is not the way it was supposed to be" or maybe not, as the vehicles drove around as people honked and cheered

This group of seniors has endured MUCH hardship. In 2017 their school year was delayed because of the devastating flooding brought by hurricane Irma's storm surge.

Not only was the school damaged but many of the students were displaced

because their homes were destroyed. The city was in ruins...but our community emerged from that hardship even stronger.

This graduating class will forever be connected to the Covid-19 pandemic. They will wear it like a badge of honor because they have to. It is theirs.

What makes this so different is that students everywhere are going through the same ordeal. Here and abroad. It is a defining point of this younger generation.

I have a tremendous amount of respect for, and faith in, this graduating class from Everglades City School

They have been there, done that. They know what it is to fall and make the climb back up again. They've got this.

So to you graduating seniors everywhere, if you need to know how to come back from the depths, just come to Everglades City and ask our students. They have done it before, and they will do it again. Onward to great things!

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.

Among the things you can buy tax-free are flashlight, batteries, fuel containers, ice chests, tarps and plastic sheeting, and portable generators. For more information about the Sales Tax holiday, see www.floridarevenue.com.

Community Comes Out to Honor Grads
Parade Greet Seniors



The seniors graduated without much fanfare this year due to the Coronavirus.

The virus caused schools to close nationwide and many, like

Collier County Schools, turn to online classrooms to finish out the school year.

For graduating seniors, that means no prom, no awards ceremony, and no graduation celebration.

That's when the community decided to honor the students in a safe, socially-distanced type of way.

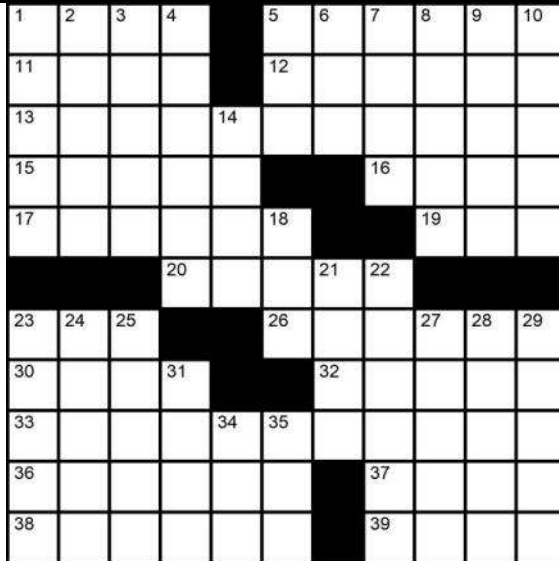
Each of our 9 graduating seniors came to the Everglades City Hall, where they were greeted by the Mayor. They then positioned themselves in the circle as the cars, trucks and golf carts honked to each in acknowledgement.

This is surely no substitute for senior fun, but we hope it showed the students how proud the community is for their perseverance!

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Preceded by E, it can cause illness
- 5 Table go withs
- 11 Spoil
- 12 Elton's collaborator
- 13 Currently
- 15 Lieu
- 16 Women's undergarment
- 17 Early screen Jean
- 19 Salt Lake City letters
- 20 Soft tissue
- 23 Old Ford model
- 26 Avoids
- 30 Goo Goo Dolls hit
- 32 Overhead
- 33 Many are on the Barron River
- 36 Washington State City



5/30/20

Down

- 1 Collide
- 2 "I Think I'm --- Here" (Carroll O'Connor, autobiography)
- 3 A quart, and then some
- 4 Right down the middle
- 5 It owns Simon and Schuster
- 6 "--- So Fine" (The Chiffons' hit)
- 7 Crafts friend
- 8 As a whole
- 9 Inflexible
- 10 Oozes
- 14 American _____
- 18 Itsy-bitsy
- 21 Smelting by-product
- 22 Racket
- 23 Boosts
- 24 Experiment
- 25 "Saturday Night Fever" genre
- 27 Blackmore's Lorna
- 28 Dodge
- 29 Play by a different --- rules
- 31 Hit the mall
- 34 Little terror
- 35 Dissenting vote



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

CLASSIFIED ADS

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.

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: 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.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: The City of Everglades has an opening in the Public Works Department. For full job description go to page 6, third column at the bottom of the page!

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