



# The MULLET RAPPER

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

### DECEMBER 14 - DECEMBER 27, 2019

NEWS  
25¢

AREA INFO  
TIDES ~ EVENTS  
RESTAURANTS



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

Volume XI • Issue # 353



## WORSHIP SERVICES

### 1st Baptist Church

Everyone is invited!

Sunday, December 22, 11 am & 6 pm  
No Service on Wed. December 25th  
(to spend time with family!)

### Chokoloskee Church of God

Sunday, December 15, 11:00 am  
Christmas Play

Wednesday, December 19, 6:30 pm,  
Christmas Dessert, bring one to share.  
Sunday, December 22, 11 am,  
Christmas Service

### Copeland Baptist Mission

All invited! Christmas Eve  
Tuesday, December 24  
Candlelight Service, 6:00 pm

### Everglades Community Church

Tuesday, December 24, 7:00 pm  
Christmas Eve Service.  
Tuesday, December 31,  
New Year's Eve Service, 7:00 pm

### Holy Family Catholic Church

December 25, Christmas Day,  
10:30 am Mass  
January 1, New Year's Day,  
10:30 am Mass

## New Playground Symbolizes City's Rebirth

by Kathy Brock

There is no better sound than that of children laughing and playing. When hurricane Irma's flood waters hit Everglades City, not only did it damage the playground equipment at McLeod park, it stripped away the symbolic center of our town and left the local children without a public playground...and almost everything we do here originates or takes place at McLeod Park. It is literally the heartbeat of the town.



From that very moment in 2017, the Everglades Lions Club focused on bringing the McLeod Park playground back to life. To do so, the club would need some significant donations. The Everglades Lions Club officers met and scheduled a series of community dinners to help raise money for the project. They also reached

out to the entire community, and to many outside of our community, to ask for help. The public responded. Over a two-year period, almost \$90,000 was raised to return the park to what it once was; a gathering place for children and adults where they can meet, play, exercise and relax.



Phase one of the project addressed the landscaping where trees and shrubs were planted around the perimeter of the park in 2018. Phase two tackled the playground...and what a beautiful playground it is! On Saturday, December 7th, the community, and helping hands from outside of the community, came out in force to help with the final installation touches. Swings were hung. Slides were secured. A retaining wall was erected for mulch and mulch was spread.

Once the finishing touches were complete, a formal ribbon cutting ceremony was held at 1 pm...and then the children rushed in.

The sound of children playing and laughing filled the air. This phase of the McLeod Park project was complete.



The park's transformation symbolizes the City's rebirth. It demonstrates that no matter what, if you work hard and dream big, *it can happen*. And, best of all, it shows that people care, even those who do not live here care enough to donate and contribute.

The next phases of the project will address additional seating for parents and some more shade for the children. There are also plans for some exercise equipment for adults...and the pavilion needs to be painted. But on this December day, everything was perfect and phase two was completed.

*Photos: Top left, swing supports are set. Top right, the community completes the playground. Lower left, Mayor Grimm cuts the ribbon. Lower right, time to play!*

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FEATURE: THE ART OF DICK JAY, PAGE 4

**DECEMBER 15, 2019 — JANUARY 18, 2020**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
December 15	16	17 P & Z Mtg. 7 pm	18 Ladies Coffee @ L Williams, 8:30a City Hall Xmas Party, noon to 2	19 Book Club, p. 6 Museum Talk. See p. 3	20 Kids Xmas Party at Sch Last day to mail Letters for Xmas	21 Last Day for Priority Mail for Xmas
22	23 Last Day to send express mail for Xmas	24	25 Christmas Day	26 New Moon	27	Rapper 28
29	30	31	January 1 New Year's Day	2	3	4
5	6 ESHP Mtg. 8:30 am	7 City Council Mtg. 7 pm	8 Ladies Coffee Havana Café, 8 a	9	10 Full Moon	Rapper 11 Dinner at Park, See p. 3
12	13	14	15 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 a	16 Garden Club, See p. 8 Book Club, p.6 Lions Club. 6 pm	17	18 Pancake Fly-in See, p. 3 Plant Sale, See p. 7

January 20: MLK Day

January 25: Art-In-Glades

February 22: Pancake Fly-In

**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 & Saturday 11 am to 3 pm, p.3.  
 VETERANS SUPPORT: 2nd & 4<sup>th</sup> Wed. of month, noon—2 pm

**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  
 SHERIFF: 239-252-9300

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 Everglades City (239) 695-2174  
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# UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 14th, 5:00 pm**

**Tree Lighting, 2K Run, Parades**



The Christmas Tree lighting ceremony will be at 5:30 pm, followed by the "2k Glow Fun Run" at 6:00 pm, and then the land parade will start after sunset at 7:00 pm. There will be fun, games and contests for the kids too.

If you would like to be in the parade, plan on decorating your golf cart (or something else?) and participating at 7 pm. You will want to arrive a bit early to get into the parade line.

**Annual Boat Parade**

On December 14th at sunset, the third annual boat parade will start at Outward bound and run north down the Barron River.

If you would like to participate in the boat parade, have your decorated vessel by Outward Bound just prior to sunset.

**City Hall Christmas Party**

**Wed., December 18th, noon to 2:00 pm**  
The Mayor and City Hall staff are having the annual City Hall Christmas Party in the City Hall conference room on the first floor.

## MUSEUM TALK

**December 19, 2 to 3 pm**

This discussion is titled "Deaconess Harriet Bedell". The presentation is free and everyone is welcome. Call 239-252-5026 for information.

## PANCAKE FLY-IN

**January 18, 10 am to noon**



Free Breakfast, Pancakes, Sausage & Beverage!

Fly-ins and walk-ups welcomed! Future dates: February 22, March 21, and April 18th. We hope to see you at the Everglades City Airpark!

## ART-IN-THE-GLADES

**January 25, 10 am to 1 pm**



Come out to McLeod Park in historic Everglades City on January 25th, 2020!

There will be music, goodies for the kids (and adults) and plenty of local arts and crafts. It's a great time to find unique treasures and a great excuse to spend a few hours at the park! 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!

For more upcoming events go to:  
[www.visitevergladescity.com/events](http://www.visitevergladescity.com/events)

**Dinner & Music at McLeod Park**  
**January 11, 5 to 7:30 pm**  
Hosted by the Everglades Lions Club  
Cecil's Famous Low Country Boil  
Main course, dessert, beverage, only \$12. Eat "in" or take home!  
Proceeds go towards phase III park improvements

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

**FREE DENTAL, BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INFORMATION FOR ALL**  
Next Visit: January 21, 2020

The Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida's Health & Smiles Mobile Dental Bus will be in Everglades City on January 21, 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 (Closed 12/25 & 1/1/20)**

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. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## DOCTOR'S CLINIC



Dr. Kirk DeMartino is seeing patients in his Marco Island Office. You may call his office to schedule an appointment at his Marco office: Call to schedule an appointment: (239) 642-5552.

## NATURAL MEDICINE



Dr. John Martin can see patients in Everglades City on Thursdays. Appts: from 10 am to 6 pm. Call to confirm: 813-787-9738.

## CEDR Hurricane Disaster Recovery Aid

Communities of Everglades Disaster Recovery works in conjunction with disaster case managers from several agencies and have a team set up in Everglades City Hall (in the old council room). They will have advocates there from 10 am to 3 pm on Mondays to assist people still in need of help. Stop in the office or you can call Elaine at 239-695-2695 for more information.

## E-CITY THRIFT SHOP

**Open Tues. & Sat. 11am -3pm**

The Everglades City Thrift Store is open Tuesday & Saturday from 11 am to 3 pm. New items come in every day, so stop in to find the perfect treasure! (closed 12/25, 12/28, 1/1 for holidays)



## A Message From Fire Chief Kingman Schuldt

With Thanksgiving giving way to the official "Holiday Season" I would like to first thank all the first responders who were on-duty and away from their families making our community safe during this special time of family and thanks.

Along with the holiday spirit comes the Fire District Foundation's annual Toy Drive. Each year the Fire Foundation accepts donations of new toys for children in our community who would otherwise go without this holiday season. Donations can be dropped off through December 17 at any of our fire rescue facilities during regular business hours. Then, on December 18 and 19 Fire Station 73 will be transformed into a distribution center where dozens of volunteers from throughout the community join together to distribute toys to families of more than an anticipated 1,300 children.

Please consider making a donation to our Foundation and being a part of spreading the holiday spirit to those less fortunate. As part of our fund-raising effort to support the Toy Drive, the Fire Foundation is selling holiday t-shirts at a cost of \$15.00 each. To make a purchase contact the Administrative Headquarters at (239) 348-7540.



*Wishing everyone a safe and healthy holiday season!*

## Did You Know That Socks are the #1 Item Requested By Those Who Serve the Less Fortunate and Homeless?

Socks can be a life saver for someone living on the streets. Good socks can help keep someone warm. A pair of socks can help keep feet dry and help prevent infection.

Instead of throwing away socks you no longer need, consider taking them to a homeless center or donating them to any charity that collects clothing.

Other items frequently requested are boots, shoes, gloves & hats (in the north), and toiletries. Before you throw something away, consider donating!

**LOCAL ARTIST DICK JAY'S WORK ON DISPLAY AT ART BASEL IN MIAMI**

By Renee Rau

The paintings of Plantation Island resident and artist Dick Jay were part of a special exhibit at the Untitled Art Fair, a satellite fair of Art Basel and one of the top draws during Miami Art Week. I had the opportunity to meet Dick Jay and see almost 40 of his paintings before the major crowds descended upon Miami during a special preview for the press and art buyers. Dick Jay's paintings were the first thing visitors saw upon entering the enormous state of the art tent erected directly on Miami Beach. His work was the undisputed star of the show.

So how does a Korean War veteran from Michigan turned artist from the Everglades end up showcasing his paintings at the largest art experience in the world? It all began with a chance encounter initiated by Georgia Garret, volunteer with the Museum of the Everglades. In 2014, (commissioned by the Norton Museum of Art in West Palm Beach) Photographer, Jim Goldberg and Curator, Jordan Stein spent several weeks immersing themselves in the culture and terrain of the Western Everglades. I spent much of this time guiding the duo of photographer and curator through the region, introducing them to the people and places that embody heart of the Glades.



On a tour of the Museum of the Everglades, Georgia Garrett mentioned Dick Jay and suggested that Jim and Jordan pay a visit to his home and studio. Their interest was piqued, calls were made, and off they went to Plantation Island in the hopes of meeting Dick and seeing his paintings. Jordan and Dick had an immediate connection, so much so that they kept in touch forging an unlikely friendship that led to an opportunity of a lifetime.

In 2018 the Untitled Art Fair invited Jordan Stein to curate a special exhibit. The fair wanted to highlight the Everglades and raise awareness of the unique natural and cultural heritage of the region as well as illustrate issues impacting the resources from encroaching development to climate change. Jordan immediately thought of the art of Dick Jay. Although fiercely private, Dick was open to the idea. "I want people to know that I live in the Everglades, a very important area that's in a lot of trouble. I hope my work will inspire folks to learn more about the region and help out however they can." Dick and Jordan decided on 27 paintings, many set into wooden frames crafted and painted by the artist. Jordan Stein personally collected the work and transported it to Miami for the event.

Dick's ability to paint the essence of a single moment with the use of light and color is unlike anything I've seen. His images have a lingering presence in the mind, much like the people and places he painted. I was simply awestruck by the exhibit. Dick seemed humbled and impressed, watching the droves of people pouring into the fair. We spoke about how he felt about the fair and Dick said was grateful just to be among all of the creative minds in the space.

The Art of Dick Jay is on exhibit at the Museum of the Everglades through January with a closing reception to be held January 24th from 6-8pm.

*Renee Rau was resident of Copeland and the Park Manager at Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park from 2009-2016*

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**School News by Media Specialist Melissa Owens**

CCSO Deputy Sue Gentry is an amazing asset to all the students of EVG. She builds a comfort level and relationship with all our students. She introduced herself by reading to them for DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) Deputy time once a month starting in Pre-K through the second grade.

She shared with me, "My goal is for them to feel comfortable with me prior to any problem arising in their lives. Then, if and when it does, they come to me for help!" I have been at EVG for eight years and I have watched this in action. Our middle and high school students, know and appreciate her. Deputy Sue has, through the years, also been one of our classroom book fair sponsors! She adopts a class and purchases all the books for that teacher to place in their classroom library.

Everglades City School is thrilled with the progress of its Kids on the Go program. The Kids on the Go program is a voluntary healthy school initiative that takes place during lunch at EVG.

Students in the third through fifth grade have an opportunity to sign up for an eight week program in the fall and spring each year. This year, we are excited to announce that 93% of our third through fifth grade signed up and that we had 100% participation of those students!



This year, she came to us with another offer. To our astonishment, she asked if, through the Collier County Police Activities League, they could purchase a book for every single student at EVG. We were overwhelmed! She explained, after being at our book fairs and knowing the economic situation of the children – she wanted to do something extraordinary for them.

Not only did she head up the donation, but she was present for all of their book fair visits. She spoke with them before they looked at the books. She told them the value of reading in their lives! She did this for the little pre-K students through our seniors! She said to our seniors, " Even though I don't read to you anymore, I still care and want you to know how important reading is in your life." It was incredible!

She had all eyes on her for her talks with the little ones. Their expressions were priceless when they found out they got to keep the books! Below, I have included a photo from the fair .

In total, the Collier County Police Activities League donated over \$1,500 worth of books for students! She placed stickers in each book from the organization with a positive word of encouragement. Our students are thrilled with their new books and appreciate the Collier County Police Activity League very much!



In addition, the 34 students accumulated 894.13 miles in the eight weeks running at lunch! Wow! In addition, 95% of the students earned over 25 miles and earned the privilege to participate in the program's Final Mile run event. The students traveled to Golden Gate High School track and ran one more celebration mile! They were award medals for their participation and hard work! We also celebrated two amazing students that earned the program's "Golden Sneaker" trophy! These students displayed leadership, friendship and hard work from the start to the finish of the program! Congratulations to Jalen Escubi-Mayberry and Darian Mendoza Pablo for being our EVG "Golden Sneaker" award winners! EVG is so proud of these students' celebrating fun, fitness and friendship!



Everglades City School Student Trenton Mayberry was honored by the Collier County Sheriff's Department with a "Do the Right Thing" award for his goods sportsmanship in rendering aid to a fallen peer during a cross country meet in September. EVG is very proud! Left, Trenton is pictured with his award & little sisters!

**Mullet Rapper Donations to Everglades City School**

**~\$6200 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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**EVERGLADES BOOK CLUB**

Everyone is welcome to join in on the conversation, coffee and comradery. This year's 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.

**Book Club Schedule**


**December 19th**  
*Euphoria* by Lily King  
hosted by Dianne Pollack

**January 16th**  
*My Stroke of Insight* by Jill Bolte Taylor  
hosted by Elaine Middelstaedt

**February 20th**  
*The Swamp* by Michael Gunwald  
hosted by Geri Freiburger

**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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**Solution to November 30, 2019 Puzzle**

1	S	2	T	3	E	4	P	5	S	6	H	7	A	8	V	9	E				
10	C	H	A	D				11	W	I	N	O	N			12	A				
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*My Little Slice of Paradise*  
by Kathy Brock

If there was ever any question whether Everglades City would come back from the "brink" the opening of the McLeod Park playground symbolizes that the rumor of our demise was...just a rumor!

Signs of new life are everywhere. New homes are being built and new businesses have opened. Nely's Corner opened at the Everglades Fishing Company Store. The eclectic menu and cool décor are already getting rave reviews.

Ervin & Lynn Stokes purchased the "old Oyster House" and has erected a gorgeous chickee hut where patrons can sit, eat and enjoy the sights. They expect to open in the spring. The new restaurant will be called the Diving Pelican...they will also have a full bar and grill area called the "Hurricane Bar & Grill". I am so pleased that the Stokes will turn around that parcel across from Everglades National Park. Having a beautiful and fully operational restaurant there is very important to our community. I am thankful that they took this project on.

The Glades Building was purchased by Craig & Bonnie Woodward. They are rehabbing the building and when it is complete, the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation will open an area visitor center.

The new visitor center will feature rack cards for all area businesses and have volunteers to help educate visitors about all of the wonderful things to do in our area.

In addition to the center, the City's new marketing website (www.visitevergladescity.com), includes a directory of all businesses with direct links to each businesses' website and maps for easy locating.

These are just a few of the new projects in town. There are more in the works and some still on the drawing board...but we are moving in the right direction.

Keeping our area quaint is paramount to our future success. Balancing the line between "not enough to do" and becoming "just another tourist trap" is never easy.

However, we do have a bit of an advantage. We happen to be smack dab in the middle of some of the most amazing, still pristine, wilderness you can find. We also have leadership that understands the importance of our uniqueness.

Yes. This was a pretty good year here. Our future is looking brighter. We are fortunate and we must remember that. What we have in Everglades City, Chokoloskee and Plantation is a unique style of living. We should be thankful...and make sure we keep it this way.

**Merry Christmas Everyone!**

\*\*\*\*\*4th Annual EC Plant Sale\*\*\*\*\*  
 January 18th, 9 am to noon  
 McLeod Park  
 \*\*HERBS\*\*VEGETABLES\*\*  
 \*\*BUTTERFLY PLANTS\*\*  
 \*\*ORNAMENTALS\*\*SEEDS\*\*  
 100% of the proceeds will be donated to  
 Everglades City School  
**WE NEED PLANTS!**  
 If you have plants or pots to donate you can  
 drop them off @ 406 Storter N.,  
 or call 954-662-7003

*Island Life Recipes*  
**Sausage & Egg Breakfast Casserole**  
 By Elaine Middelstaedt

Perfect for  
 Christmas  
 Morning!

**Ingredients:**

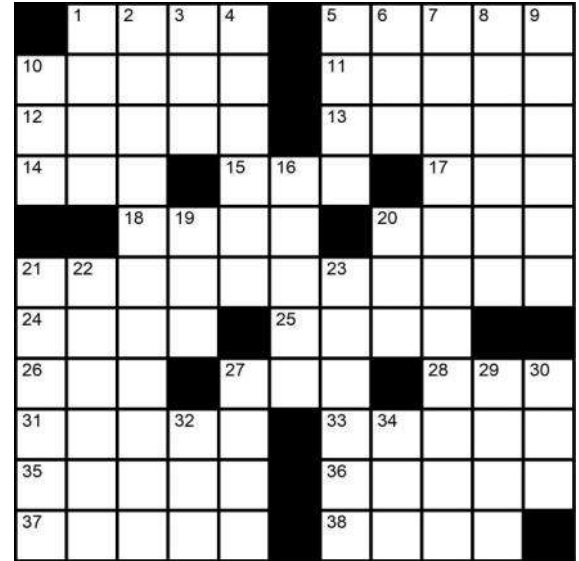
- ✕ 1 lb. sausage meat reg. or hot
- ✕ 1 medium onion, 1 green pepper
- ✕ 8 large eggs
- ✕ 2 cups milk
- ✕ 1/2 tsp. salt & pepper
- ✕ 2 cups large croutons, more if desired
- ✕ 2 cups shredded cheese, (used cheddar with cream cheese mix)

**Directions:** Sautee the onions and peppers in a large skillet until softened. Add in the broken apart sausage meat and cook completely through. Whisk the eggs, milk, salt and pepper together in a large bowl and set aside. Lightly oil a 9 x 13 baking dish. Layer the croutons evenly on the bottom. Layer the sausage mix on top of the croutons. Layer the cheese mix evenly over the sausage mix. Gently pour the egg mixture on top. Cover and refrigerate at least 8 hours (overnight). In the morning, preheat oven to 325°. Place the casserole in the middle of the oven. Bake for 30 minutes. Turn the heat up to 350° and bake for an additional 20-30 minutes, until the egg is set. If it browns too quickly, cover with foil. Let it sit for 10 minutes before cutting & serving. **YUMMY!!!**

**MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD**

**Across**

- 1 "House" and "Shooter" actor Omar ---
- 5 Frat-party wraps
- 10 Stan's partner
- 11 "Lummox" writer Fannie ---
- 12 Icon
- 13 Remove lead
- 14 Almos lead-in
- 15 Blower
- 17 Anonymous Jane
- 18 Follow closely
- 20 Cat sound
- 21 Blue bloods
- 24 It stopped with HST
- 25 Wise one's call?
- 26 Kind of PC port
- 27 Bar bill
- 28 Online connector
- 31 Barrel bit
- 33 In unison
- 35 Old watchmaker
- 36 Kind of eclipse
- 37 Start over
- 38 1/2 fl. oz.



12/14/19

**Down**

- 1 Patron saint of sailors
- 2 Some forms of packaging
- 3 Some are in a poke
- 4 Believe it proper
- 5 At that time
- 6 Belonging to us
- 7 School ceremonies
- 8 Arrange by type
- 9 Takes the tiller
- 10 Painting medium
- 16 Welcome to Hawaii!
- 20 In favor of
- 21 Cruel person
- 22 Steal cattle
- 23 Shade of blue
- 27 Campsite housing option
- 29 Easy task
- 30 For each
- 32 Contend
- 34 Big sandwich







Poetry Street  
by  
Katherine S. Tullie

The Holidays are a time of hope, peace and love. They are a time to gather with our families and friends to share the good times together. I wish all of you a happy and safe holiday season. My poem this week is called "A Candle for Optimism."



I lit a candle for optimism...  
for our times now  
I said a prayer of hope  
to reveal the way how  
How to spread love among us all  
This is not an order that is too tall  
Love and hope can be free  
This is a message that you will see  
I wish that you have all you need  
With joy in our hearts to take the lead  
We wish kindness and peace  
to bloom all around  
To be heard everywhere  
as our holiday sound  
Holidays are a time to share  
with family and friends  
And the love in our hearts  
that never ends  
I wish for you all this and more  
From my home right to your door!



Look for  
#PoetryStreet on Twitter  
or at PoetryStreet.com  
Kathythepoet@gmail.com  
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Katherine S. Tullie,  
Poetry Street, Inc.

FREE GUIDED BIKE TOURS  
Bike Rides Through the Everglades



Come join us again this season as we tour different parts of the Everglades, some on road and some off road within our National Parks and Preserves.

These tours are free and guided. As in the past, we will be riding for the fun of exploring the Everglades area.

The bike tours will be self-supported rides so be sure to bring your own snacks and repair kits.

We will be meeting at 9:00 a.m. with plans to have lunch together after each ride.

This year we will be offering the bike rides on SATURDAY rather than Sunday so please mark your calendars!

Also, we are asking that you sign up in advance so we can prepare for the number of participants. Just email info@evergladesrogg.org or call 239-719-0020 to let us know if you plan to join us!

Schedule of Rides

- January 11.....Janes Scenic Drive  
in the Fakahatchee
- February 15.....Loop Road in  
Big Cypress
- March TBA.....Bear Island in the  
Big Cypress

Please email  
info@evergladesrogg.org  
or call (239) 719-0020  
for more information.

Everglades Garden Club  
January 16, 10 am

The Everglades Garden Club will hold its first meeting on January 16th at 10 am at Nely's Corner in The Everglades Fishing Company Store in Everglades City. We will meet in the Café area.



If you have any seeds or other things you would like to share, you can bring them with you.

Our first meeting will establish the agenda for the rest of the season and the goals of the club.

There is no cost for membership and everyone is welcome to attend. We also welcome couples!

We hope to see you there! Anyone who is interested is encouraged to check it out!

\*\*\*\*\*

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT  
YOUR DRINKING WATER

\*\*\*\*\*

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for  
Everglades City Drinking Water System

Situation:

The Everglades City public drinking water system failed to collect a sufficient number of bacteriological compliance samples during the month of October 2019. Rule 62-550.883, Florida Administrative Code, requires this water system to collect a minimum of 3 bacteriological distribution samples for each month it provides water to the public. Department records indicate that the above referenced water system only collected 2 bacteriological samples during the month of October 2019. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers you have a right to know what happened and what we did (are doing) to correct this situation.

Health Effects:

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During the month of October 2019, we did not perform bacteriological monitoring at a sufficient number of distribution sample sites, and therefore cannot be completely sure of the microbiological quality of your drinking water at that time.

What is Being Done?

Although the above referenced public drinking water system missed performing bacteriological monitoring at 1 distribution sample site during the month of October 2019, it did perform monitoring at 2 distribution locations and both of its wells on October 13, 2019. All four samples collected on October 13, 2019, indicated the absence of coliform bacteria.

What Should Customers Do?

Since the laboratory analyses results for the bacteriological samples collected on October 13, 2019, all indicated the absence of coliform bacteria, at this time CUSTOMERS NEED NOT TAKE ANY ACTION OR SEEK AN ALTERNATE WATER SUPPLY.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For more information please contact Doodnath Scokram at 239-222-2066 or contact Patty Baron of the Department of Environmental Protection's Potable Water compliance / enforcement Section at 239-344-5615.

THIS NOTICE WAS PROVIDED BY THE  
CITY OF EVERGLADES CITY  
FOR PUBLICATION

City Seafood

702 Begonia Street, Everglades City

OPEN ALL YEAR...

We are one of the most affordable restaurants with one of the most beautiful waterfront locations.

Breakfast 8 am to 10 am, 12 to 6 Lunch & Dinner

We Serve  
Delicious, Local  
Seafood & Cuisine



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



**With Temperatures Dropping Can You Handle the Fish?**

**By Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)**

While many anglers sing the praises of Florida's warmer fishing months, seasoned anglers know that winter can offer great fishing opportunities for some of the state's most sought-after fish species. As the temperatures drop, you'll spot many anglers, including veteran kayak angler Stephen Stubbs, following spotted seatrout to fresher water, where the fish congregate in large schools.

While this can make spotted seatrout an easy target, this species is also especially vulnerable to fatigue and exposure, so as the winter bite turns on, it's important to use proper gear and fish handling techniques. This ensures the best chance of survival for released fish. Read on for some tips to help you handle the fishing as the weather cools down and the action heats up.

**Prepping for the Day:** A successful day of fishing begins with preparation. Be aware of the area you will be fishing and local fish you might catch. Know the regulations for your target species and make sure you have all the proper gear. Determining ahead of time which fish you are going to keep versus which fish you will release is an easy step to take and something that Stubbs practices regularly.

"My friends and I tend to harvest only slot trout under 19 inches to keep the more productive egg-layers (20 inches and over) in the water to continue the sustainability of this wonderful species," Stubbs said.

**Some great gear to have in your stash is:** Barbless circle hooks – Are 90% more likely to hook a fish in the mouth. Hooking a fish in the mouth reduces internal harm and decreases dehooking time, getting the fish back in the water faster and increasing its chance of survival. **Dehooking tool** – Allows anglers to quickly release their catch while minimizing injuries and handling time. **Correct weight tackle** – Using tackle heavy enough to land a fish quickly is important so fish are less exhausted and more able to avoid predators upon release. **Knotless, rubber-coated net** – These support the weight of the fish while removing a minimal amount of slime, which protects the fish from infection.

Make sure to reel the fish in as quickly as possible. According to Stubbs, the key to landing a nice trout, especially a big one, is to manage the drag tension. Horsing a trout into the boat can usually result in additional tearing of the area they are hooked, especially around the mouth. It can also cause you to lose the fish. Work them in as they tire and keep tension on the line to prevent a hook release. Playing the fish too much can result in an exhausted fish that cannot avoid predators once released.

Stubbs reminds anglers to always use a net for landing medium-to-large trout and dip/wet any measuring board with water before laying the fish on the board. That helps reduce the loss of slime and scales. Once you've got your catch to the boat, use these additional tips to ensure that fish are landed quickly and safely for the best outcome for both the angler and the fish.

**Avoid removing large fish from water.** If you must remove them, support their weight horizontally to prevent damage to their internal organs.

Take pictures of your catch while it is in the water. This puts less stress on the fish and the fish will look bigger. If a net is needed to land or control a fish, always use a knotless, rubber-coated landing net.

Using the correct methods to handle your fish once you've landed them is important to ensure that released fish are in prime condition when returned to the water. Return the fish to the water as quickly as possible. One of the major factors in the survival of a released fish is how much time it spends out of the water. The more fish that survive upon release today, the more fish there will be available to catch tomorrow.

**Wet your hands before handling a fish** to prevent damaging its protective slime coating. Don't use gloves or towels, as this will remove the protective slime. Never hold a fish by the gill cover or eyes. Hold fish horizontally to support their internal organs. Gripping devices can be effective for controlling and handling fish, especially ones with sharp teeth. Grip behind the lower lip and support the weight of the fish in a horizontal position.

Removing a hook can be tricky. Use these tips to get the hook out and protect your trout (and other catches). If possible, keep the fish in the water while removing the hook. If the fish has swallowed the hook, cut the line as close to the hook as possible. Attempting to remove the hook can do more harm than good. Use non-stainless-steel hooks since they eventually dissolve or pass naturally. Using a dehooking tool will allow you to remove hooks safely and quickly without touching the fish, giving it a better chance to survive.

Taking steps to return fish to the water properly can be a significant factor in their survival. With a little extra effort, you can give your fish a fighting chance at survival to reproduce and fight another day. For more go to: MyFWC.com/FishHandling.



**The Everglades Backcountry Experience With Capt. Rodney Raffield**

Hi Mullet Rappers, Capt. Rodney with EBE back at you with some more fishing tales.

If you recall last month's report, I mentioned that the weather was warm for this time of year and the transitioning fish were not behaving properly.

Well since my last report, we have had a couple of good fronts which have helped put fish in a more familiar winter pattern. I am catching good numbers of Trout and Mackerel in the deeper rock holes and Snook are looking good in the Backcountry.



Reds are around and we are producing best action with shrimp tipped jigs with Zman or Wiffelures soft plastics on them.

Trout are great but they are running small with limits of legals hard to come by. We have also been producing quite a few Pompano on my smaller jigs with most of these fish being very large in size.

Snook season is over till March but don't let that stop you from getting in on the action of what I consider our best gamefish all around.

My favorite lures for these guys are the aforementioned lures in Chartreuse and Pearl colors. So that's about it all that's left to say is get out there and catch that fish of a lifetime, but most of all have fun.

~Capt. Rodney Raffield.

**Fish With Captain Rodney Raffield**  
239-695-4626  
[captrodney@centurylink.net](mailto:captrodney@centurylink.net)

**Download Fishing Regulations at:**  
[www.visitevergladescit.com/fishing](http://www.visitevergladescit.com/fishing)  
**Get Tide Predictions for SWFL Rivers & Locations**  
for the Next Full Year at  
[www.visitevergladescity.com/tides](http://www.visitevergladescity.com/tides)

**Parkway Motel & Marina**  
(239) 695-3261

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

**Rental Rooms, Efficiencies**

1180 Chokoloskee Dr., Chokoloskee, FL  
[www.parkwaymotelandmarina.net](http://www.parkwaymotelandmarina.net)

LOCAL EXTRA

Beautiful Day to Bike Around the Islands



The December Bike Ride, hosted by the Friends of the River of Grass Greenway attracted the Naples area winter residents from Michigan and Tennessee and a couple who had recently moved there from Chicago.

We toured around historic Everglades City, stopping at the airpark and Everglades National Park before cycling to Chokoloskee and the Smallwood Museum.

We enjoyed stone crab tacos at Camellia Street Grill before attending the festivities at McLeod Park. Great fun! For more information about our January 11 ride through the Fakahatchee, contact Patty at 239-719-0020. Please see page 8 for the complete winter schedule.



Stargazing in the Everglades Meteor Shower Calendar

Ursids: Next period of activity: December 17th, 2019 to December 26th

Observers will normally see 5-10 Ursids per hour during the late morning hours on the date of maximum activity. There have been occasional outbursts when rates have exceeded 25 per hour. This shower is strictly a northern hemisphere event as the radiant fails to clear the horizon or does so simultaneously with the start of morning twilight as seen from the southern tropics.

Quadrantids: Next period of activity: December 27th, 2019 to January 10th

The Quadrantids have the potential to be the strongest shower of the year but usually fall short due to the short length of maximum activity (6 hours) and the poor weather experienced during early January.

The average hourly rates one can expect under dark skies is 25. These meteors usually lack persistent trains but often produce bright fireballs. Due to the high northerly declination (celestial latitude) these meteors are not well seen from the southern hemisphere.

The Everglades Area is an official Dark Sky Location! In addition to seeing meteor showers, on a clear night observers can also see the Milky Way and countless stars by the naked eye. Fish by day...watch the stars by night!

ATTRACTION NEWS

Come See Our New Exhibit,

"Americana" by Local Artist, Dick Jay Fall is a great time to visit the beautiful Museum of the Everglades. From Nov. 4 through January the work of local artist, Dick Jay will be on display.

Dick is a war veteran and longtime resident of the 10,000 islands. His art features scenes of everyday life experienced in the 10,000 islands.

The Museum is open daily from 9 am to 4 pm and is located at: 105 W. Broadway, Everglades City. www.colliermuseums.com

Visit: www.evergladesmuseum.org

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 Florida panther.

Fakahatchee Strand Preserve Tours Get Rave Reviews, Earn Award

Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park has earned a 2019 Certificate of Excellence from TripAdvisor, the international travel website. The award recognizes the Park's "consistently great reviews from travelers."

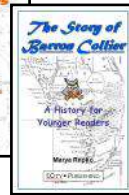
The Ghost Rider Tram Tour is the best introduction to Florida's largest state park located east of Naples. The 2 1/2 hour tour includes a walk down an old logging path to see air plants, a variety of ferns, and seasonally blooming orchids. Tours begin at 10 a.m. on Thursdays at \$25 per person.

The Fakahatchee Tram Tour and Swamp Walk combines a guided tram tour of the park's main road with a 90 minute swamp walk. This four hour adventure is offered Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. for \$60. For details of reservations, www.orchidswamp.org and click on "tours and adventures." Reservations are required!

GREAT GIFT IDEAS!

Books are a great holiday gift! If you have younger readers on your gift-giving list, here are two that younger readers can enjoy:

The Story of Everglades City The Story of Barron Collier



Both books are by local author and historian Marya Repko and written with youth in mind, but they can also be a quick read by adults who know more about our heritage.

Copies are available at Right Choice Supermarket and Win-Car Hardware in Everglades City or can be ordered online at www.ecity-publishing.com with a debit/credit card.

COMMERATIVE BRICKS ARE GREAT GIFTS!

The perfect symbol of your love or respect is a beautifully engraved brick in front of Everglades City Hall.



The brick walk is organized by the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation (ESHP), a local non-profit whose mission is to help preserve the rich culture and history of the Everglades area.

The winter campaign has started just in time for holiday gift-giving. ESHP will send you a gift card that you can give to the recipient of the brick (shown above). When the bricks are installed, you will be notified by email. Order forms are available in City Hall or online where you can download a form to send with a check.

Go to www.evergladeshistorical.org to download the form.



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. (239-695-4222)**

Open Daily 6 am to 10 pm  
203 Collier Avenue,

**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**

See listing under "markets"

**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

**1<sup>st</sup> 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/](http://www.visitevergladescity.com/)

12/14/19	Sat	2:19 AM	2.92	H
12/14/19	Sat	11:11 AM	-0.45	L
12/14/19	Sat	5:03 PM	2.25	H
12/14/19	Sat	10:58 PM	0.77	L
12/15/19	Sun	2:59 AM	2.86	H
12/15/19	Sun	11:57 AM	-0.4	L
12/15/19	Sun	5:54 PM	2.23	H
12/15/19	Sun	11:48 PM	0.77	L
12/16/19	Mon	3:51 AM	2.73	H
12/16/19	Mon	12:46 PM	-0.28	L
12/16/19	Mon	6:45 PM	2.23	H
12/17/19	Tue	12:47 AM	0.74	L
12/17/19	Tue	4:59 AM	2.53	H
12/17/19	Tue	1:40 PM	-0.12	L
12/17/19	Tue	7:37 PM	2.25	H
12/18/19	Wed	2:02 AM	0.68	L
12/18/19	Wed	6:37 AM	2.3	H
12/18/19	Wed	2:41 PM	0.06	L
12/18/19	Wed	8:26 PM	2.3	H
12/19/19	Thu	3:25 AM	0.54	L
12/19/19	Thu	8:23 AM	2.14	H
12/19/19	Thu	3:45 PM	0.23	L
12/19/19	Thu	9:13 PM	2.37	H
12/20/19	Fri	4:36 AM	0.34	L
12/20/19	Fri	9:51 AM	2.06	H
12/20/19	Fri	4:46 PM	0.38	L
12/20/19	Fri	9:59 PM	2.48	H
12/21/19	Sat	5:38 AM	0.1	L
12/21/19	Sat	11:17 AM	2.06	H
12/21/19	Sat	5:44 PM	0.5	L
12/21/19	Sat	10:46 PM	2.59	H
12/22/19	Sun	6:35 AM	-0.12	L
12/22/19	Sun	12:34 PM	2.12	H
12/22/19	Sun	6:39 PM	0.59	L
12/22/19	Sun	11:32 PM	2.71	H
12/23/19	Mon	7:28 AM	-0.3	L
12/23/19	Mon	1:31 PM	2.16	H
12/23/19	Mon	7:30 PM	0.63	L
12/24/19	Tue	12:15 AM	2.81	H
12/24/19	Tue	8:15 AM	-0.44	L
12/24/19	Tue	2:18 PM	2.17	H
12/24/19	Tue	8:17 PM	0.65	L
12/25/19	Wed	12:54 AM	2.87	H
12/25/19	Wed	9:00 AM	-0.51	L
12/25/19	Wed	2:59 PM	2.15	H
12/25/19	Wed	9:01 PM	0.65	L
12/26/19	Thu	1:32 AM	2.88	H
12/26/19	Thu	9:44 AM	-0.52	L
12/26/19	Thu	3:38 PM	2.12	H
12/26/19	Thu	9:45 PM	0.65	L
12/27/19	Fri	2:08 AM	2.83	H
12/27/19	Fri	10:26 AM	-0.48	L
12/27/19	Fri	4:15 PM	2.1	H
12/27/19	Fri	10:28 PM	0.64	L

**Area Diamonds Crowned  
Queens For A Day!**

The 17th Annual Diamonds Tea was held at the Community Church on December 5th, and it was enjoyed by all!



CCSO Lt. Jake Walker and Sgt. Adam Hall, and Cpl. Susan Boylan were on hand (below) to serve tea and help along with several other community volunteers.



Area icon Helen Bryan organized the annual event in 2002 after attending a similar event in Marco Island. Helen was impressed how it honored the elders in the community and felt it would be a welcomed occasion here. She was right! Thank you, Diamond Helen, for starting such a wonderful tradition, and thank you to Anne Mitchell and Connie Barker for organizing this year's event!



**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](http://www.ever-community-church.com)

CLASSIFIED ADS

LOCAL HANDYMAN SERVICES: Can I help you with that? Yes I can! Very experienced, 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 RENT: Newly renovated modular home on Plantation Island canal lot. Long term lease 6 month minimum. Sleeps 2-3. See it on: https://tinyurl.com/y96k2c73 For more information contact Chip Chipman 281-358-7884 or Bob Chipman at 239-695-0007.

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.

FOR SALE TRUCK: White Dodge Ram 1500 Pickup. Single Cab, 6.5 foot bed, HEMI engine, cold AC, and runs great. ~84000 miles. Asking \$9000. Call Steve for more information at 239-695-2397.

SEASONAL RENTAL: Cozy 2/1 home on N. Buckner Ave. Available on November 1st. Call 508-677-5136.

FOR SALE: Large Outdoor Resorts waterfront lot #149 w/ aluminum boat lift. Overlooks Chokoloskee bay, new Trex deck, steps for kayak launch, custom landscape + amenities; 3 swimming pools, boat ramp, tennis, clubhouse, fitness center. \$229,000. Call Jennifer brown at 239-494-7270 or Dan at 954-579-2364.

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 of Fish Hunt Charters at 239-695-2445.

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

RV PAD FOR RENT: In Everglades City RV park. Full hook-up, 30 amps, 25 x 35 pad, restroom, shower, laundry & rec. privileges, 55+. Quiet time 10 pm. Weekly, monthly. 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 RENT: Efficiency apartment in Everglades City. Monthly, or seasonal for 2 adults; kitchenette, W/D, includes all utilities and use of dock. No smoking or pets. Call 239-232-0459 or 239-253-3942.

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

The MULLET RAPPER

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

PUBLISHER

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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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