



The MULLET RAPPER

**AREA INFO
TIDES ~ EVENTS
RESTAURANTS**

**What's Happening in the Everglades & 10,000 Islands
DECEMBER 28, 2019 - JANUARY 10, 2020**



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

Volume XI • Issue # 354

An Evening of Holiday Lights!



On Saturday the 14th, Everglades City celebrated the Christmas season by lighting the Christmas tree at City Hall.

Moments later the Christmas parade started at McLeod Park, as the Boat Parade was meandering down the Barron River, and then circling the island.



The evening was punctuated by an unexpected fireworks display that started just as the boats were slowly motoring by pleasure island. The night was fantastic.

Every year the celebrations are getting more and more beautiful. We cannot wait to see what next year will bring!

Happy New Year!

New Businesses & Some Changes Are Coming to the Area in 2020

You can expect to see some changes in Everglades City in 2020!

The property formerly known as the Oyster House that was damaged and shuttered after the Hurricane will reopen after Ervin & Lynn Stokes finish renovations. They recently purchased the land from Bob Miller and are undergoing renovations. The Chickee Hut outside looks amazing. They are targeting the spring for its grand opening.

The City will be going solar...as in lights...in 2020. The new lights will replace the 90 (or so) that used to illuminate the city's streets. They will be high efficiency solar with LED lamps.

The permit is in process for the new cell tower. We should have improved cellular service once this is in place in the coming year.

A new visitor center will be opening this winter. The Glades Building on Broadway is currently undergoing renovations. When they are complete, the center will open to the public.

Here's to a healthy & happy 2020!

New Year's Eve Party!
at
City Seafood Beach Bar

**6 pm till the ball drops
(or you do!)**

**Music, dancing, drinks,
karaoke and a raffle!**

Gone But Not Forgotten in 2019

We lost many of our friends and neighbors in 2019, and it is very difficult to say goodbye. Although they may not be with us any longer the impact they had on our lives and our community will live on in our memories forever.

While we celebrate the beginning of the New Year, let's not forget about those who have passed on.

We remember them for the good times. We cherish the memories and trust they are now at peace. Here is our list of friends that left us in 2019:

| Name | Edition |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Joseph West | 1/26/2019 |
| Anthony "Tony" Brock | 2/23/2019 |
| Gregory Dupignac | 3/23/2019 |
| Robert Hickok | 4/6/2019 |
| David Osmond Moshier | 5/4/2019 |
| Gladys L Smith | 5/4/2019 |
| Sheldon Ray Pike | 6/29/2019 |
| Colby Kevin Singletary | 7/13/2019 |
| Sammy Hamilton | 8/10/2019 |
| Candys "Candy" Powell | 8/10/2019 |
| John Webb | 9/21/2019 |
| Ann Daniels | 10/5/2019 |
| Dean Alan Church | 11/2/2019 |
| John William "Bill" Miller | 11/30/2019 |
| Roger D. Cummings | 12/28/19 |



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DECEMBER 29, 2019 — FEBRUARY 1, 2020

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| December 29 | 30 | 31 New Year's Eve! | 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 Bike Ride, See p. 8 Dinner at Park, See p. 3 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 Ladies Coffee Island Café, 8 a | 16 Garden p.8 Museum Talk, 2 pm Book Club, p.6 | 17 Movie Night Outside Museum. 6 pm | 18 Pancake Fly-in See, p. 3 Plant Sale, See p. 3 |
| 19 | 20 MLK Day | 21 Dental Bus, See p. 3 | 22 Ladies Coffee Nely's Corner, 8 a | 23 | 24 New Moon | Rapper 25 Art-in-Glades, See p. 3 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 Ladies Coffee City Seafood, 8 a | 30 | 31 | February 1 |

January 24: Museum Reception, 6 pm February 7-9: Everglades Seafood Festival February 15: Loop Road Bike Ride, p.8
 February 20: Book Club, p. 6 February 17-21: History & Heritage Festival 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 & 4th 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

The Local Area Code is 239

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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!

4TH ANNUAL EC PLANT SALE

JANUARY 18th, 9 am to noon

Everyone is invited to come to find great herbs, veggies, butterfly plants, ornamentals, seeds and cuttings. All proceeds are donated to Everglades City School in the graduation fund.

We are accepting plants and pots. You can drop them off at 406 Storter Ave. N. or call 954 662-7003.

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

Tell us about your event & we will post it to the website.

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 12/28, 1/1 for holiday)



A Message From Fire Chief Kingman Schuldt

The holiday season is a special time of year where family and friends reconnect over shared wishes. The best part of the season is remembering those who make the holidays meaningful; family, friends and loved ones. It is also a time to consider those less fortunate, who struggle daily to find shelter, feed their family, and to secure their prosperity that so many take for granted.

During the holidays I encourage you to take this time to do something special for others. In a world where it's easy to focus on ourselves; our goals, our desires, and our plans, there is something special about making it a priority to serving our fellow citizens.

There are a number of charitable organizations throughout our community that provide a wide range of assistance to those in need. This year the Greater Naples Fire Foundation will once again host its Annual Toy Drive, providing gifts for more than 1,200 children from throughout Collier County.

This event is in its 37th year, originating with the East Naples Fire Control and Rescue District, with the legacy being carried forward with the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District, in collaboration with the Greater Naples Fire Foundation. The Toy Drive would not be possible without the generosity of so many individuals, community groups, schools, and businesses throughout Collier County.

Then on Christmas Eve day our fire trucks and firefighters will make way through the District with lights and their sirens, giving well-wishes to all with candy canes for children of all ages.



We wish you all the love and happiness this season can bring, and may your time spent with family and loved ones be filled with joy. Special intentions for travelling mercies and those less fortunate, and may we be thankful for all first responders away from their loved ones and keeping us safe during this very special time.


Happy Holidays to All!

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A Familiar Sight & Sound, the Red Shouldered Hawk is a Formidable Predator
 by Kathy Brock

Not a day goes by when I do not hear or see (or both) a red shouldered hawk. They can be found all over the three sister islands here, and when they are not in sight the distress sounds from other birds often will tell you where they have decided to roost...as they are harassed for simply being there!

The red shouldered is a medium sized hawk that fans it tail when soaring. They have laser-sharp vision which helps them identify and easily catch prey.

They prefer small aquatic and semi-aquatic animals like frogs, lizards, snakes, crayfish and rodents but they will also take nestlings and small birds when the opportunity presents itself.

The red shouldered is not the “king of the jungle” in these parts. That honor goes to the great horned owl that is known to raid the nests of red shouldered hawks, osprey and other, smaller owls.

However, there have been reports of red shouldered hawks preying on great horned owl nestlings...so the tables do occasionally turn for these very agile birds of prey.

The red shouldered return to the same nesting areas year after year. A female hawk that had been banded and recaptured was at least 25 years old at the time of her recapture, but their lifespan is typically estimated at 20 years.

During the 1960’s due to habitat loss, hunting and overuse of pesticides like DDT, the red shouldered’s numbers greatly decreased. Their population has made a comeback thanks to the migratory bird treaty act and banning of specific pesticides, and they are not considered a threatened species at this time.

The red shouldered hawk is a permanent resident of the California coastline, and the eastern United States, including the 10,000 islands. Some migrate northward to breed in the northeast tip of the US, but our population is mainly year-around.

The biggest threat to the hawks is loss of habitat, vehicle accident and death by accidental poisoning. Since the hawk will take rodents and some carrion, they can become poisoned by eating a dying or deceased rat that consumed rat poisoning. Please consider this when you are trying to eradicate rodents. Birds of prey, including these hawks, swallow-tailed kites and our majestic great horned owls, all prey on rodents. Rodents that have been poisoned by rat poison are deadly to these beautiful birds of prey.




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Everglades City School Corner

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A Message From the Principal, Dr. Cherie Allison



On Friday December 13, 2019, under the district-wide “We Dine Together” initiative, and in the spirit of Leader in Me , EVG hosted its first annual Academic Homecoming Event. The purpose of the panel was to inform students that whether they choose to stay in the area

or not, there are great opportunities for them to pursue. We were honored to host our alumni guests: Mr. Bryce Kish , Mr. Houston Brown, Ms. Savannah Olgesby , and Mr. William Herrin. The diversity of the panel extended from military experience, technical school and four-year college, and on to what life looks like after those pursuits.

Over donuts and hot chocolate, the panel shared profound thoughts with the students. It seems each panel member struck a chord with several kids in the audience. In the question and answer format, the students were able to glean truths like:

- 1) Never quit since nothing is too hard to overcome. Keep moving forward toward personal goals and anything is possible.
- 2) Life skills to learn before graduation include financial literacy, reading, study skills and the importance of kindness.
- 3) The panel shared personal hardships that they overcame to encourage the students that they too could overcome anything that hinders their personal fulfilment
- 4) This town is a great place to develop roots and relational skills that will help them no matter what their chosen life course will be.

We would like this to be a community event through recommendations who would have good insight for the EVG students. If you would be interested in making a recommendation for future Academic Homecomings, please contact Miss Dee Sudnick at the school.

In emphasizing college and career opportunities for EVG students, the panel was present for any high school student interested in Immokalee Technical Center. Two-thirds of the high school students joined the field trip. Underclassman were treated to a tour of the facilities to envision which program could interest them, while the seniors were privileged to shadow one or two of the programs during their day. Students completed a debriefing sheet where are large majority of them acknowledged that they would consider learning a trade at ITECH.

Highlights included a female interested in auto mechanics (which is a field desperate to hire women), the sheer number of students interested in digital design, and one wide-eyed senior stating they were not aware that the digital technology program was this good and realizing that is where he desires to go next year.

As we continue in to January 2020, there will be more college and career opportunities with a field trip to Lorenzo Walker Technical School in Naples and the potential of an Outward Bound

Leadership group presenting to our secondary students. The future looks bright for the grads of EVG!



Everglades City School is pleased to welcome Mr. Bill Baumler to its ranks. Mr. Baumler recently joined the school. If you are familiar with the name it is because Ms. Susan Baumler is our third grade teacher and last year she was selected as Collier County Public Schools Teacher of Distinction.

Mr. Baumler has directed food operations for Olde Marco Inn and Suites, Marriott Harbor Beach Resort and Marriott Atlanta and the Boca Grande Theater Restaurant. He is a graduate of Wake Forest University.

Mr. Baumler was drawn to Everglades City School through the stories and adventures Ms. Baumler has enjoyed while teaching our students. Mr. Baumler is currently helping to fill in and function as a guest teacher however he is charged with helping to build on Principal Dr. Allison’s vision to help students get certified in ServSafe which is a nationally recognized food service certification. When asked about his work here Mr. Baumler stated, “I come to Everglades City School with the purpose of starting a culinary program for the students that will be fun, educational, and satisfy the curriculum guidelines of the Florida Department of Education.” Mr. Baumler added, “Working in the hospitality industry for the majority of my career I have a lot of real life experiences and knowledge to share with students. Let’s face it, everybody likes to eat and there is nothing more loving and giving than preparing something delicious for friends and family. We will discover techniques of preparations that range from fine dining to backyard smoking and barbequing.”

Mr. Baumler has lived on Marco Island for the past 25 years and along with Mrs. Baumler has raised 2 children; William, an outdoor educator and Frances who works in the hospitality industry in Colorado. If you get a chance please welcome Mr. Baumler to Everglades City School and ask him about fishing because there is a rumor that he is a pretty good angler.



Thank you so much to the City of Everglades and Mayor Grimm! Mayor Grimm and Santa showed up at Everglades City School with a gift card for every student in Pre-K 3 through the 12th grade! It was a wonderful event with

amazing cupcakes provided by Margaret Johnson and a variety of snacks and juices provided by city hall. EVG is blessed by our city and community support!

And lastly, EVG is proud to announce that the FHSAA announced the 2019 Fall Academic Champions. Everglades City School’s girls’ volleyball team made the Fall Academic Champions list for girls volleyball class 2A. EVG is Hooked on Success!

***Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
from Everglades City School!***

Mullet Rapper Donations to Everglades City School

~\$6300 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!

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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

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 December 14, 2019 Puzzle

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|----|---|----|---|----|----|----|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | E | P | P | S | 5 | T | O | G | A | S | | | |
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| 18 | T | A | I | L | 20 | P | U | R | R | | | | |
| 21 | A | 22 | R | I | S | T | O | 23 | C | R | A | T | S |
| 24 | B | U | C | K | 25 | H | O | O | T | | | | |
| 26 | U | S | B | 27 | T | A | B | 28 | I | S | P | | |
| 31 | S | T | A | V | E | 32 | | 33 | A | S | O | N | E |
| 35 | E | L | G | I | N | 36 | | L | U | N | A | R | |
| 37 | R | E | S | E | T | 38 | | T | B | S | P | | |



My Little Slice of Paradise
by Kathy Brock

Another Year in the Books! I don't know about you but every year seems to zoom by faster and faster! I think back and can recall a time when summer break seemed like an eternity. Now, by the time I get every clock in the house reset for daylight savings time, it's time to reset them again! At least they are right for about 6 months out of the year...

The next time we head out to the stores after the new year the stores will have the Valentine decorations out...poking us to buy more seasonal stuff.

Today it seems that families are pressured to decorate their homes for multiple holidays, Valentines Day, Easter, 4th of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Household decorations, and lights for all of these holidays, are commonplace now. As soon as one set goes down, the next is due to get put up. That's a lot of decorating to do!

2019 was "the year of the purge" for us. We decided it was time to go smaller and get more efficient. A part of that is to ignore the temptation of the seasonal items. No, I do not need another Thanksgiving turkey decoration. Nor do we need more Christmas lights. And, I absolutely refuse to decorate the house for Valentines Day. That's a day for a romantic meal and some nice chocolates, not a string of lights.

When you start to purge, and it seems everyone eventually does, you realize how much time and money is wasted on non-essential stuff.

Working to buy stuff. Displaying your stuff. Storing stuff because you really don't want it anymore, but you own it and cannot bring yourself to toss it out.

Some of this is simply the process we go through as we age. There is a reason retail targets those individuals in the 20 to 45 age group. This is when you tend to purchase the most stuff. You buy it for yourself, your kids and those around you.

As we age, our buying patterns change...because we have all of the stuff we accumulated in our younger years! Now we get the urge to get rid of all of the stuff to create space and lighten the load.

It's too bad these life lessons are not learned in reverse. It would be so much easier on the pocketbook of many families if they simply ignored the seasonal promotions and continuous "upgrades" to all of our devices.

The new norm is not to wait until something breaks to replace it they way our parents did. Who re-soles shoes anymore? Nope, today the answer is always to buy it again. Get a newer model, even if your current one works because what you have is "obsolete."

That is quite a gerbil wheel to be on. I am glad I jumped off of it before it ran me over...

Island Life Recipes
Shrimp Creole

By Kathy Brock



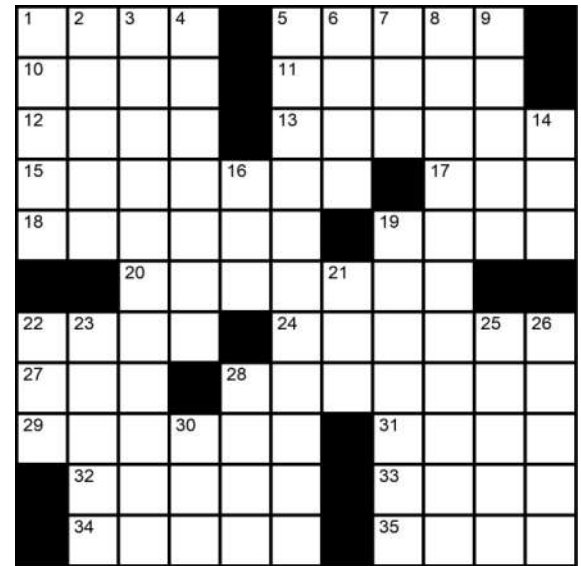
- ✘ 2 tablespoons olive oil (for cooking)
- ✘ 4 garlic cloves, finely minced
- ✘ 2 large onions & 2 stalks celery, chopped
- ✘ 1 green bell pepper, chopped
- ✘ 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- ✘ 2 cups seafood stock or shrimp stock (or what you have, I used chicken)
- ✘ (28-ounce) can whole tomatoes, in thick puree
- ✘ Dash Worcestershire sauce to taste, dash hot sauce
- ✘ 2 whole bay leaves
- ✘ Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- ✘ 2 pounds large shrimp (about 32), shelled and deveined
- ✘ 4 tablespoons green onions, sliced for garnish

Directions: Heat a large heavy Dutch oven over medium heat. Add oil. Cook garlic, onions, celery, and green bell peppers. Cook until softened, about 5 minutes. Stir in cayenne and let caramelize. Add the seafood stock, tomatoes, Worcestershire, hot sauce, and bay leaves. Season with salt and pepper. Simmer for 35 minutes. Add shrimp and cook about 4 more minutes, until they are bright pink and cooked through. Garnish with green onions and serve over white rice.

MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Got older
- 5 WWII female fliers
- 10 Free from doubt
- 11 Scrub a mission
- 12 Filly's father
- 13 Domingo and Bocelli
- 15 Made suitable
- 17 By way of
- 18 Type of shower
- 19 Immerses
- 20 Neck of land
- 22 Diplomacy
- 24 Alleviating
- 27 Pie ___ mode
- 28 Road Runner is one
- 29 Cambodian mass murderer
- 31 Upon
- 32 Oddball
- 33 Food producer
- 34 Steven of Aerosmith
- 35 Leave quickly



12/28/19

Down

- 1 Indian tea state
- 2 Museum employee
- 3 Unpredictable and all over the place
- 4 Most profound
- 5 Common house appliance
- 6 All tucked in
- 7 Male child
- 8 Temporary
- 9 Remove
- 14 The United Kingdom's Delta Force equivalent
- 16 Trike rider
- 19 Bring back into use
- 21 Scratch
- 22 It's on a keg
- 23 High up
- 25 ___ Dame
- 26 Pixie
- 28 Famous cola
- 30 Buddy



*******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



Poetry Street
by
Katherine S. Tullie

It is time to celebrate the New Year! It is a time for renewal and new beginnings. This can be a year filled with new positive experiences and happiness. That is the theme of my poem today called "New Year Cheer."



Let's all ring in the New Year
with plenty of cheer
It's going to be a very good year
With positive new experiences
all around
Let's listen to the rising new sounds
Yes, new beginnings for us
can be in store
In this New Year
our hopes can really soar
Anything goes
From our heads to our toes
Surprises may be in store for us
In the New Year
So let's all get in gear
It's a time for us to move forward
in positive ways
With happiness in our hearts
each and every day
Let's place our best foot forward
as we move about
This year can be the best we've had
without a doubt!



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

FREE GUIDED BIKE TOURS
Bike Rides Through the Everglades



On Saturday, January 11, the Friends of the River of Grass Greenway will once again sponsor a free guided bicycle ride in the Everglades. This will be an off-road adventure through one of the most diverse and beautiful state parks in south Florida - The Fakahatchee Strand Preserve.

We will start the tour at 9:00 a.m. at the headquarters of the Fakahatchee in Copeland (there is a \$2 entrance fee for bikes). This is a self-supporting tour so bring your own snacks, lots of water, extra tubes, and please wear a helmet

We will be cycling along Janes Scenic Drive which is an old railway bed constructed in the 1940s to log out the old-growth Bald Cypress trees used during WWII to build flight decks for aircraft carriers. Now the main tram road and the smaller trails (called spurs) are accessible for hiking and biking; the first spur is just 4.5 miles from the Ranger Station, known as west main or Gate 7 and two miles farther north is east main or Gate 12 which is the spur that we will be taking in January. Here you'll ride 4-miles round trip on a path leading to a private cabin, the "Fakahatchee Hilton", and adjacent to a lake full of gators. As with all wildlife, treat the gators with respect and give them a lot of space.

The Preserve is home to 44 species of native orchids and 14 species of native bromeliads as well as Florida black bears, white tail deer, alligators, and the endangered panthers to name a few of the wildlife. You will see a variety of resident and migratory birds and butterflies as you cycle along Janes Scenic. The Fakahatchee Strand is 20 miles long and just 3 to 5 miles wide, covers 85,000 acres and is the only place on earth where Royal Palms and Cypress trees occur together - a truly unique ecosystem.

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.

PJ's & Hot Chocolate...the Perfect
Holiday Party!



When Jeanne Lopez throws a party she does it right! On Friday, December 13th, Jeanne, with help from Casey Henry, organized the PJ's & Hot Chocolate party for area children at the community center...all of the children had a fabulous time.



The kids all came out donned in their most comfortable PJ's and enjoyed playing games and eating some very tasty treats!

Brandy Hazel pictured with Dottie & Howie Grimm (top), works for CCSO as a CSI Investigator, contacted Dottie to discuss an idea she had for a personal leadership project she was working on. Brandy's focus was to help the community center by collecting cash donations and equipment that could be used by area children. She arrived with a number of games, bats, balls, darts, and even a sound system! Wow, so many great items were donated for the kids.



A big "thank you" to Jeanne for organizing the event and to Casey Henry for assisting her...and to Brandy Hazel for her tireless work. The contributions to the community center will be enjoyed for months and years to come. Thank you!

City Seafood

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Call Richard or Candice at 239-695-4700

*****New Regulations*****

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Update

Recreational Blue Crab Trap Registration Required Starting Jan. 1, 2020

Starting Jan. 1, 2020, recreational harvesters age 16 and older who fish with blue crab traps **will need to complete an online, no-cost recreational blue crab trap registration** before placing their traps in the water. A similar requirement has been in effect for recreational stone crab traps since Oct. 15.

This no-cost registration will allow the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to collect needed important information about this recreational fishery for future stock assessments and management decisions.

Visit, GoOutdoorsFlorida.com (the FWC licensing system) to register, and add the Recreational Blue Crab Trap Registration to your account. All recreational harvesters who are age 16 or older and fish with blue crab traps, including those harvesters that are otherwise exempt from needing a saltwater fishing license, are required to complete this no-cost online trap registration.

Upon completion, each person will receive a series of five unique trap registration numbers, one for each of the five traps the person may fish under the recreational blue crab fishing regulations. Each trap placed in the water must be marked with one of these registration numbers along with the owner's full name and address. Registration numbers for blue crab traps will begin with the letter "B." This information must be legible and must be permanently attached to each trap.

When marking traps, it is important to use materials that will withstand being submerged in salt water. For example, engraved metal or plastic pet tags and laminated cards are much better options than a piece of plastic that has been marked with permanent ink or paint.

Learn more about crab regulations at MyFWC.com/Marine, and click on "Recreational Regulations" and "Blue Crab" or "Stone Crab" under "Crabs, Shrimp and Shellfish."

Trout & Red Fish Catch & Release Only North of Gordon Pass (Everglades City & Chokoloskee are NOT in the Zone)

SW Florida spotted seatrout remains catch-and-release through May 31. Spotted seatrout will remain catch-and-release through May 31, 2020, in waters from the Hernando/Pasco county line south through Gordon Pass in Collier County. This includes all waters of Tampa Bay. Red drum and snook are also included in these red tide-related catch-and-release measures. **Areas around Everglades City, Chokoloskee and south of the region anglers can harvest legal-sized fish.**

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) approved several rule changes for spotted seatrout at its December Commission meeting that will go into effect across the state Feb. 1, 2020, but these new rule changes do not replace the current catch-and-release only measures in southwest Florida.

The Commission plans to discuss the catch-and-release measures for southwest Florida at its February meeting and may consider reopening snook early.

Learn more about spotted seatrout, including the new regulations, by visiting MyFWC.com/Marine and clicking on "Recreational Regulations" and "Spotted Seatrout."

Download Fishing Regulations at:
www.visitevergladescity.com/fishing
Get Tide Predictions for SWFL Rivers & Locations for the Next Full Year at
www.visitevergladescity.com/tides



Fishing the 10,000 Islands with Captain Mike Merritt

Winter Fishing In The 10,000 Islands

With December starting off so warm, the fish have continued to bite almost as good as the fall feed.

Fishing the outside Islands, and even wrecks, has been phenomenal at the time I am writing this half way thru December. We have continued to catch big numbers of Redfish throughout the Islands.

There are still lots of slot size fish but the smaller Reds have definitely provided a lot of angling fun! The Reds should also be in the backcountry this winter and more of them will show up there as it progresses.

Some of the winter species are here, but the warmer waters seem to be causing them to show up late. Spanish Mackerel are abundant offshore and even in the rivers. Black Drum are around, but not yet in the large numbers of slot size fish we normally catch this time of year. I have come across the big ones a few times and seen fish in the 30-40 lb. range. These fish are moving constantly so I have not been able to stay on them consistently. They provide a challenge when you find them. A large shrimp will usually do the trick.

Sheepshead are being caught, but again, not in the numbers they will be later this season. These guys will be in any deep rock holes, on the bars, and of course, they will be out on some of the wrecks. Shrimp are again your best bet.

Snook fishing this entire year has been excellent. There are small Snook in large numbers and they are scattered all throughout the 10,000 Islands. I am still catching some big Snook that are over the slot. These have been in the river mouths, and in the Islands.

This will also change as the water temps drop again. I have not been doing much backcountry fishing as the outside has been so good. But, when targeting Snook in the winter, the backcountry is where you want to fish. There seems to be plenty of small Snook, and plenty of big Snook, but the ones I am not seeing as much are the fish that are 25"-30". Maybe I am just not fishing where they are but usually I catch plenty this size. I am catching 30 Snook per day while also targeting other species and these are mostly 15"-24" fish, along with a couple big ones. Hopefully this changes as I start fishing the backcountry.

Whatever you decide to target this winter if you tip a jig with shrimp you will catch it all!

Good luck fishing! Capt. Mike Merritt

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



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LOCAL EXTRA

Local School Bus Driver, Robin Cushing, Retires After 30 Years



For over 30 years the local children have seen a very familiar face. Robin Cushing began her career as a bus driver after her friend, Debbie Hooks, asked her if she would be interested in driving a bus.

Robin replied, "No. It's way too big for me!" After praying about it, she decided it was her calling.

On December 20th, thirty years and five months later, Robin Cushing retired.

"I want to thank every mommy for trusting me and believing in me, I think it's time to let go. Some of your grandchildren are riding my bus now. It's been a journey I'll never forget. I've been blessed with two brothers two sisters four children 14 grandchildren and three great grandchildren, and my bus children."

We want to thank Robin for providing a safe ride and a friendly, familiar face to the school children for over three decades. We hope her story inspires another to take on the challenge! Have a happy retirement, Robin!

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 (ESHPP), 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. ESHPP 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.

To download the form go to www.evergladeshistorical.org

ATTRACTION NEWS

Come See the Museum's Exhibit, "Americana" by Local Artist, Dick Jay

Winter is a great time to visit the beautiful Museum of the Everglades. Throughout 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 \$37 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!

Welcome to the 10,000 Islands
By Jon Edward Edwards

Sea oats and marsh grasses sway in the breeze, partially blocking the waterline from the \$30 tent I had splurged on years earlier in which I sit, the front unzipped and open. The only sounds are those of the waves lapping at the beach, the occasional crash of a pelican dive bombing for bait, and the weather beaten wayward pieces of my tent whipping against one another. Being a minimalist is good this time of year considering minimal gear is all that is required, relatively speaking, in what is the largest wilderness area in the continental U.S., besides Yosemite.

Take a moment and picture yourself on the very tip of the continent where the state of Florida turns to the east and wraps around to the keys, the non-defined delta of the River Of Grass. The Key on which you stand is remarkable because it's on the outer edge, abutting the Gulf, and thus gets the clearest of the water and an unobstructed view to the west. Pelicans glide, dolphins play, bait pops, bald eagles move to roost, and frigate birds patrol from high above in the pink streaked horizon. A 360 degree view produces nary a man made object. Light is fading and the water begins to glow off of a reddening sky. Red fades to purple, synchronized with the dropping sun and you witness the prettiest sunset you've ever seen. Welcome to the 10,000 Islands.

Stargazing in the Everglades Meteor Shower Calendar

Quadrantids: Next period of activity: Dec. 28 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).

The average hourly rates one can expect under dark skies is 25.

Havana Cafe

Open Daily: 7 am to 4 pm

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www.HavanaCafeoftheEverglades.com

EATERIES & AREA WORSHIP

Angler's Cove, Port of the Islands

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

Camellia Street Grille (239-695-2003):

11:00 am – 9:00 pm, Mon to Sat

City Seafood (239-695-4700):

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

Everglades Fishing Co. / Nely's Corner

Open Daily 6 am to 10 pm
203 Collier Avenue, (239-695-4222)

Havana Café (239-695-2214):

Open Daily 7 am to 4 pm
See our ad on page 10!

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

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

Island Café (239-695-0003):

6:00 am – 9:00 pm; daily

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

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

Joanie's Crab Café (239-695-2682):

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

Rod & Gun (239-695-2101):

11:30 am - 8:00 pm; daily

Triad Seafood & Café (239-695-2662):

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

MARKETS

Right Choice Market (239-695-4535):

Open 7 days, 9 am to 7 pm

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

Open 8-5, Mon—Sat. Closed Sunday.

Fresh Produce

Right Choice Supermarket

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

1st Baptist Church of Everglades City

9:45 am Sunday School, 11 am Worship
6 pm Sunday, 6 pm Wed. Bible Study

Holy Family Catholic Church

Mass at 10:30 am

St. Finbarr Catholic Church, Naples

Phone: 239-417-2084

San Marco Catholic Church, Marco Isl.

239-394-5181

BARRON RIVER TIDES

LAT: 25.87° N LONG: 81.37°W

More Tides On: www.visitevergladescity.com!

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----|----------|-------|---|
| 12/28/19 | Sat | 2:46 AM | 2.73 | H |
| 12/28/19 | Sat | 11:07 AM | -0.4 | L |
| 12/28/19 | Sat | 4:53 PM | 2.1 | H |
| 12/28/19 | Sat | 11:11 PM | 0.64 | L |
| 12/29/19 | Sun | 3:28 AM | 2.59 | H |
| 12/29/19 | Sun | 11:48 AM | -0.29 | L |
| 12/29/19 | Sun | 5:31 PM | 2.1 | H |
| 12/29/19 | Sun | 11:55 PM | 0.64 | L |
| 12/30/19 | Mon | 4:15 AM | 2.41 | H |
| 12/30/19 | Mon | 12:28 PM | -0.15 | L |
| 12/30/19 | Mon | 6:12 PM | 2.11 | H |
| 12/31/19 | Tue | 12:43 AM | 0.63 | L |
| 12/31/19 | Tue | 5:08 AM | 2.22 | H |
| 12/31/19 | Tue | 1:09 PM | 0.01 | L |
| 12/31/19 | Tue | 6:55 PM | 2.12 | H |
| 1/1/2020 | Wed | 1:39 AM | 0.63 | L |
| 1/1/2020 | Wed | 6:10 AM | 2.01 | H |
| 1/1/2020 | Wed | 1:55 PM | 0.19 | L |
| 1/1/2020 | Wed | 7:41 PM | 2.12 | H |
| 1/2/2020 | Thu | 2:49 AM | 0.57 | L |
| 1/2/2020 | Thu | 7:25 AM | 1.82 | H |
| 1/2/2020 | Thu | 2:47 PM | 0.36 | L |
| 1/2/2020 | Thu | 8:25 PM | 2.14 | H |
| 1/3/2020 | Fri | 3:58 AM | 0.46 | L |
| 1/3/2020 | Fri | 8:42 AM | 1.69 | H |
| 1/3/2020 | Fri | 3:44 PM | 0.49 | L |
| 1/3/2020 | Fri | 9:09 PM | 2.17 | H |
| 1/4/2020 | Sat | 4:56 AM | 0.31 | L |
| 1/4/2020 | Sat | 9:58 AM | 1.62 | H |
| 1/4/2020 | Sat | 4:39 PM | 0.6 | L |
| 1/4/2020 | Sat | 9:52 PM | 2.21 | H |
| 1/5/2020 | Sun | 5:49 AM | 0.14 | L |
| 1/5/2020 | Sun | 11:17 AM | 1.64 | H |
| 1/5/2020 | Sun | 5:33 PM | 0.68 | L |
| 1/5/2020 | Sun | 10:37 PM | 2.27 | H |
| 1/6/2020 | Mon | 6:37 AM | -0.04 | L |
| 1/6/2020 | Mon | 12:25 PM | 1.73 | H |
| 1/6/2020 | Mon | 6:25 PM | 0.72 | L |
| 1/6/2020 | Mon | 11:20 PM | 2.37 | H |
| 1/7/2020 | Tue | 7:23 AM | -0.22 | L |
| 1/7/2020 | Tue | 1:15 PM | 1.84 | H |
| 1/7/2020 | Tue | 7:12 PM | 0.73 | L |
| 1/7/2020 | Tue | 11:59 PM | 2.49 | H |
| 1/8/2020 | Wed | 8:05 AM | -0.39 | L |
| 1/8/2020 | Wed | 1:57 PM | 1.94 | H |
| 1/8/2020 | Wed | 7:55 PM | 0.73 | L |
| 1/9/2020 | Thu | 12:35 AM | 2.63 | H |
| 1/9/2020 | Thu | 8:47 AM | -0.53 | L |
| 1/9/2020 | Thu | 2:37 PM | 2.02 | H |
| 1/9/2020 | Thu | 8:36 PM | 0.7 | L |
| 1/10/2020 | Fri | 1:08 AM | 2.76 | H |
| 1/10/2020 | Fri | 9:30 AM | -0.62 | L |
| 1/10/2020 | Fri | 3:19 PM | 2.07 | H |
| 1/10/2020 | Fri | 9:18 PM | 0.67 | L |

Obituary
Roger D. Cummings



Roger D. Cummings, 73, of Rensselaer, Indiana died December 16, 2019 at his home. He was born September 2, 1946 in Rensselaer, Indiana.

Roger graduated from Rensselaer Central High School in 1964, and from International Business College in 1966. Roger served in the US Navy from 1967 to 1971. On February 26, 1972, in Rensselaer, Roger married Judith Ilene Torbet.

Roger was an active member of the First Christian Church of Francesville. He served on numerous boards and enjoyed acts of service in communities around him. When not serving, Roger enjoyed sharing his love of fishing with others. He loved to fish in the 10,000 Islands.

Roger is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Judy (Torbet), their three children, Chad (Toni) Cummings; Brian (Raendra) Cummings; and Sara (Phil) Kostaroff, many grandchildren, and his siblings, Janet (Steve) Hurley, Donn (Tanya) Cummings, Carol (Steve) Gottschalk and Anne (Duanne), and in-laws.

Roger was preceded in death by his parents, his sister-in-law, Janet Fox, and his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Steve and Joyce Lane.

Donations in memory of Roger are suggested to the First Christian Church of Francesville, P.O. Box 326, Francesville, IN 47946 or to the Humanitarian Distribution Center, P.O. Box 707 Francesville, IN 47946.



EVERGLADES COMMUNITY CHURCH
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Sunday School Oct. 13th—March
www.ever-community-church.com

CLASSIFIED ADS

LOCAL HANDYMAN SERVICES: 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 mo. min. Sleeps 2-3. See it on: https://tinyurl.com/y96k2c73 For info 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 Chok Bay, new Trex deck, steps for kayak launch, custom landscape + ORA amenities. Call Jennifer brown at 239-494-7270 or Dan at 954-579-2364.

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

RV HOOKUPS, Everglades City. Two Sites, 30 and 50 amps. Service, water, no sewage. Rent nightly or weekly. Rough boat ramp, 100 ft. dock. Private & secure. Contact Capt. Wayne at 239-695-2445.

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

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

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

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

The MULLET RAPPER

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

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Lee Cypress, Copeland, Jerome & Ochopee

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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www.visitevergladescity.com



THE MULLET RAPPER
P.O. Box 134
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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