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

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

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

Our fireworks display can rival any in southwest Florida!

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

The fireworks are funded by donations. We know times are difficult, but if you can afford to donate any amount, we are asking for your support.

No amount is too small.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chokoloskee</td>
<td>(239) 695-4468</td>
<td>Mon-Fri 9:30 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 4:30 pm, closed Sat. &amp; Sun.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everglades City</td>
<td>(239) 695-2174</td>
<td>Mon-Fri 9:30 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 4:30 pm, closed Sat. &amp; Sun.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ochopee</td>
<td>(239) 695-2099</td>
<td>Mon-Fri 8 am to 10 am, noon to 4 pm; Sat: 10 am to 11:30 am</td>
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</table>

### 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)
- **EVD NATIONAL PARK:** (239)-695-3311
- **FAKAHATCHEE:** (239)-695-4593
- **PUBLIC LIBRARY:** (239)-695-2511
- **SHERIFF:** (239)-252-9300

### AREA INFORMATION & NUMBERS:

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

### The Local Area Code is 239

### POST OFFICE INFORMATION:

**The MULLET RAPPER**

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

**May 16, 2020**

## MAY 17, 2020 — JUNE 20, 2020

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<th>SUNDAY</th>
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June 21: Father’s Day

July 27: Fireworks, see page 1

July 4: Independence Day

September 1: Snook Season Reopens

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www.RightChoiceSupermarket.com
What is the MPO and Who represents You?
By Patty Huff

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

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

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

Virtual Ladies Coffee on Wednesdays at 9:30 AM. For Information on How to Join in Call Patty Huff at 239-695-2397.

First Baptist Church
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Wednesday Worship: 6:00 p.m.

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Captains Table

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

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

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

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

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

The MULLET RAPPER What’s Happening in the Everglades & 10,000 Islands May 16, 2020

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

Fishing in the 10,000 Islands by Captain Mike Merritt

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Get Tide Predictions for specific regions & rivers:
https://visitevergladescity.com/tides/
Download the Fishing Limits Guide

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

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

When you see the coin receptacle, please put your quarter (or more) into the slot! Remember, When You Buy the Print Edition of the Mullet Rapper, It Helps Everglades City School Students! *From Nov. 2017 to present

email: mulletrapper@gmail.com
SYMPTOMS

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

These symptoms may appear 2–14 days after exposure:

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

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

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

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

Please note that some people may carry the COVID-19 virus and show no symptoms whatsoever. These individuals can still transmit the disease. It is critical that you keep a safe distance from all persons outside of your immediate household during this time!

NEED A TEST FOR COVID-19?

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

Solution to May 2, 2020 Puzzle

```
1  J  2  A  3  M  4  B  5  H  6  A  7
8  R  O  9  V  E  10  R  11  E  D  Y  I  N  G
12  C  H  O  L  E  S  T  E  R  O  L
13  A  N  N  M  T  V  14  I  K  E
15  L  E  16  A  R  17  A  I  N
18  M  A  N  19  A  N  D  20  W  O  M  A  N
21  O  B  E  Y  22  I  R  E
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28  S  L  A  B  S  29  T  Y  P  E  D
30  R  I  P  31  H  E  S  S
```
The MULLET RAPPER

Poetry Street

By Katherine S. Tullie

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

Sheltering in is the thing to do
It is much safer, too
Patience is the key, I say
Let’s try to avoid
the coronavirus every day
Finding interesting things
to pass the time away
Is very important to do for it
Call on family and friends
to have people connections
Always wear a mask
when going out for protection
Take a Sunday drive to get some fresh air
Try to lighten up a little
and let down your hair
Find pastimes and hobbies
that interest you
This really is the thing to do!
Let’s think of our home as our safe haven
Our precious lives are well worth saving!
One day things will turn around
for the better, I say
Pray every day for a vaccine
to help pave the way
Pray for patience
during these difficult days
Pray that the coronavirus will dissipate
and go away
So, as I think of you today
I wish you good health
each and every day!

Look for
PoetryStreet on Twitter
or at PoetryStreet.com
KathyThePoet@gmail.com
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POETRY STREET

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

May 16, 2020

BORED? Read About Our History!

By Marya Repko

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

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

All books are available at Wincar in Everglades City.

NEW AREA DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

SALES TAX HOLIDAY

May 29 through June 4

Starting on May 29 to June 4 you can save the 7% sales tax on items that you’ll need during our power outages over the summer and fall hurricane season.

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

EVG School Corner

My Pets by Olivia Demere

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

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

My older brother Andrew and his girlfriend Tori have two dogs, Tilly and Lucy. Tilly is Tootsie’s puppy, she is very small but also very fast. Tilly is brown like Tootsie. Lucy is also part pit bull, but still as sweet as ever. Lucy is black and white and also very playful. Lucy and Milo get along great and will not stop playing!

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

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

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

I hoped you enjoyed learning about my pets!

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

CCPS Kindergarten Registration is Online

Here is How to Get Started

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

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May 29 through June 4

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www.visitevergladescity.com

PAGE 6
Have you ever had so many “bad hair” days? I call it Covid-hair. Those of us who color our hair are seeing for the first time in a long time what we really look like today.

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

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

Shopping has been a bit more interesting too. Who knew that the one item no one wanted to go without was toilet paper? For a while, it seemed like they were sheets of gold. It could not be found anywhere! In March I was in Costco (with a mask) when 2 new pallets were put out. The mob descended! Within minutes the pallets were empty. Those lucky enough to get some pranced out smiling.

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

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

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

---

**MULLET RAPPER CROSSWORD**

Across

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

26 Regret
27 Rocky pinnacle
30 Blue supersoldier?
33 Thick slices
34 Classified
35 Cut along the grain

Down

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

5/16/20

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**MY LITTLE SLICE OF PARADISE by Kathy Brock**

In March I was in Costco (with a mask) when 2 new pallets were put out. Those lucky enough to find the pallets were empty. Those lucky enough to get some pranced out smiling.

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**OBITUARY**

**Ms. Renee Avril Weeks**

April 5, 1961 – May 7, 2020

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

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

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**Dry Conditions Create Fire Hazzard**

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

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

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

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**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

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email: mulletrapper@gmail.com

www.visitevergladescity.com
CLASSIFIED ADS


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

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

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

FOR SALE: V 16’ awning elec. retractable. All hardware included. Like new $450.00 OBO. Cash or PayPal. Please call 703 217 7394.


LOCAL BUSINESS INFO

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

RIGHT CHOICE SUPERMARKET
9 am—7 pm Daily
WINCAR HARDWARE
9 am—3 pm MON—SAT
CITY SEAFOOD
8 am—3 pm Daily (239) 695-4700
HOLE IN THE WALL PIZZA
M-11-7 pm, Fri & Sat 11-9 pm
(239) 695-4444
ISLAND CAFÉ
7 am -9 pm Daily (239) 695-0003
MARATHON GAS/NELY’S
6 am—10 pm (239) 695-4222
ROD AND GUN CLUB
12 pm—8 pm (239) 695-2101
TRIAD SEAFOOD
10:30 to 4 pm Daily (239) 695-0722

THE FOOD BANK IS OPEN!
Wednesday, 11 am to 2 pm
Everglades Community Church
Drive up service only. Food is distributed on the back deck.
General Questions:
If you have any questions, call Everglades City Hall (239) 695-3781.

For more information about local businesses, tide predictions and area information, please go to:
www.VisitEvergladescity.com

THE MULLET RAPPER
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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