

# The Conch Republic COCONUT TELEGRAPH



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Key West

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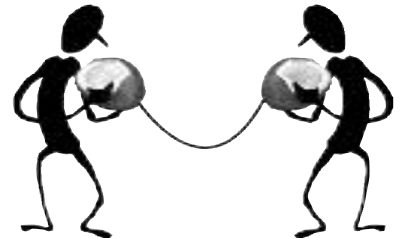
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# Editorial: The Bigger They Are The Harder They Fall

All across the nation the newspaper industry is folding fast. The San Francisco Chronicle has been reported to be losing \$1 million a week. The Tribune Company, the largest "employee owned" media conglomeration in the nation, filed for bankruptcy. The McClatchy Company put the Miami Herald up for sale. The N.Y. Times is set to borrow \$225 million. Why?

According to the N.Y. Times it is due to competition from the Internet. That could be part of it but it is not the whole picture. The problem with the big guys is that their overhead is enormous and their advertising rates are a reflection of that. The Conch Republic Coconut Telegraph is experiencing growth during this recession for these reasons:

We filled a niche. The community needed a tabloid that "says it like it is". Our rates are low and our readership is high. You can read it on the Internet for FREE at theconchtelegraph.com. No credit card needed! And our advertisers tell us they are

getting amazing results.

When I started this newspaper over two years ago many people asked, "how can I help?" My reply, "talk about it!" Whether they love you or love to hate you, they still read it. A local drinking organization loves to "rag" on us because we can't be bullied by them. The worst thing you can do to someone is to not say his or her name. If I were to name a certain restaurant and say it was terrible, people would go there just to find out for themselves.

With a lack of talent, education or experience some small organizations are forced to promote "ineptionists" to their offices because the people with the brains won't do it or just don't have the time. An ineptionist is a person that becomes self-important overnight as a result of election to an office that no one else wants. The CT created that word just for those people who are lost themselves, but still lead the befuddled.

The Coconut Telegraph has lots of

surprises in store for 2009. We are working toward a lower Keys edition. Look for our "Help Wanted ad" (page 16) in this issue. Those with "Keys Disease" need not apply. Kudos to BigPineKey.com. If you are looking for work or extra income they are giving out free ads! While you are at it check out their "Coconut Telegraph". Great job guys!

Here are some publishing quotes to ponder...

"Freedom of the press is limited to those that own one" - A.J. Liebling

"Never pick a fight with someone who buys their ink by the barrel" - Mark Twain

"An organization full of ineptionists will undoubtedly accomplish little more than drinking a lot" - Publisher of CT

Webster's definition of journalism: The collecting, writing, editing and publishing of news in periodicals.

Whether you understand it or not, it is what it is.

# Entertainer of the Month Tim Charron It's No Longer a Secret



It doesn't get any better than this... A Key Largo sunset, fantastic food in a laid back atmosphere overlooking the ocean and a gentle breeze welcomes the soothing sounds of Tim Charron playing guitar and singing under the tiki bar at the Buzzard's Roost.

At first glance he resembles Bruce Springsteen but his vocals are reminiscent of Kid Rock. He is truly a breath of fresh air and new to the Keys. Not only is he handsome but talented as well. He also writes and records his own songs.

Tim is originally from Rhode Island. "What brings you to the Keys", we ask? His television appearances and credits are too numerous to mention here. He claims it is the demand of his music fans that brought him here, but we wonder.... this guy is famous! He taught himself to play the guitar and studied

vocals from Jose Miguel Velasquez who taught Ricky Martin, Gloria Estefan and Enrique Iglesias and he was also once a personal fitness trainer for Michael Stipe of REM, Eminem and Limp Bizkit. He currently has two songs playing Sundays on Sun 103's Serendipity, tune in and listen for "Tequila Talk" and "Back in the Day".

For more information on Tim Charron check out his website timcharron.com or call the Buzzard's Roost for his schedule, 305-453-3746. To be on the safe side call for a reservation.

This is the kind of entertainer that you would drive hours to see and pay the big city big bucks for. The secret is out... Buzzard's Roost, Friday nights, mark your calendar for a wonderful evening.

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# Tibetan Monks Sacred Art Tour in Taverner

By Rachel R. Peine

A group of Tibetan monks spent several days at Burton United Methodist Church in Taverner at the beginning of the New Year to create a sand mandala, a Buddhist sacred art form. The goal of the tour through the U.S., Canada, and Mexico is to foster peace energy and participate in activities to create a global peace community. The monks are from the Drepung Gomang Monastery in South India, where the Dalai Lama fled after Communist China invaded Tibet in 1959. The monks pour colored sand through long, thin

funnels to form the intricate design of the Peace mandala, which symbolizes wisdom and compassion. After the mandala is completed, the sand is then swept up and dispersed into the bay, symbolizing impermanence and spreading wisdom and compassion through the journey of each tiny grain. The tour was sponsored by Keys for Peace - [www.keystopeace.org](http://www.keystopeace.org). Future activities are listed on their website. You can learn more about the tour, the monastery, and mandalas at [www.gomang.org](http://www.gomang.org).



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# Spotlight on Kestrels



Story and Photo by Rich Peine

If you've ever spotted a bird hovering like a helicopter (wings fluttering) over the road or field, chances are it was a kestrel. They are small by raptor standards, with adults averaging around 12 inches. Don't let the size fool you; these creatures are super hunters. Mice, voles and other small mammals as well as scorpions, lizards (plenty around here) carrion and small birds make up the bulk of their diet. Kestrels range over all of North and South America and into the West Indies. They like to nest in woodpecker holes and cavities on the side of cliffs. In fact, you can build a kestrel nest yourself, and they may come. Construct a box

measuring 16" h x 8" w x10" d. Drill a 3"to 4" hole high on the front, and throw in some wood shavings. Hang it 10 ft. above the ground, preferably in an open area. Put out a For Rent sign, and just wait for a family to show up. The kestrel has beautiful coloring that includes brown, gray, blue, black and white. The Florida Keys Wild Bird Center has a pair named Caylin and Jesse. It's really worth your time to check them out. Stop by at feeding time: 3:30 every day. Say hello to Laura and her crew. They are located at 93600 Overseas Hwy. on the Bay side. Call 305-852-4486 or go to [www.flwbc.org](http://www.flwbc.org). for more information. Keep them flying!

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# Bringing Christmas Cheer to Needy Families



Pictured from left: FKFAPA President Lisa Ryenaud, and members Christine Cunningham and Barbara Brooke and Lynda Stuart.

Many thanks to Lynda Stuart and the Southermost Abate of Florida organization for their collection and donation of toys to the Florida Keys Foster Adoptive Parents Association. They held their annual toy run on November 30th which benefited many of Monroe County's non-profit children's groups.



Elves from Key Largo Boy Scout Troop 588 showed up on December 9 to help wrap over 200 presents for the Florida Keys Foster Adoptive Parents Association. Toys and gifts will be picked up and distributed by Santa on the 24th with a little help from the Association's members and president, Lisa Reynaud (pictured right).

# Steel Magnolias Opens At Marathon Theatre

Marathon Community Theatre (MCT) opens the second show of the season, Steel Magnolias by Robert Harling. The 1987 play, made into a movie in 1989, is based on the author's experience with the death of his sister. Friends of Harling encouraged him to write about his difficulty in dealing with the loss as a coping method to help him get through it. Steel Magnolias is a comedy/drama about the bond among a group of Southern women in northwest Louisiana.

The action takes place in Truvy's beauty parlor with six women who regularly gather there. The story begins on the morning of Shelby's wedding and evolves through events during the next couple of years. Personalities and friendships transform over the years with laughter and tears and a heart-warming message that spans all time.

The show opens Thursday, January 8 and includes an opening night party. Performance dates are January 8 through January 31,

Thursday through Saturday. A Sunday matinee is scheduled for January 25 at 3 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now for \$18. Three-show and four-show season packages are also available. Call the box office at 305-743-0994 or stop by 5101 Overseas Highway in Marathon.

For more information about Marathon Community Theatre, contact Loretta Geotis, General Manager, at 305-743-0408 or via email at: gm@marathontheater.org. Visit our website at www.marathontheater.org for complete details of events and opportunities at MCT.

Marathon Community Theatre is a 501(C-3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to contributing to and enhancing the cultural life of the Middle Keys. Membership is open to anyone who wants to support the activities of MCT through volunteer involvement or by contributions. Tax-deductible contributions may be made to Marathon Community Theatre, POB 500124, Marathon, FL



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Sun. Jan. 4 SAM MILNER 12-6	<b>COME BY BOAT</b> PAUL CASE 6-10
Mon. Jan. 5 MICAH 6-10	
Tues. Jan. 6 BILLY DAVIDSON with MICHAEL TRIXX MAGIC 6-10	
Wed. Jan. 7 <b>PAUL CASE 6-10</b>	
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# The Great Transformer Loving What You Hate

Hatred can be irrational, and it has a greater impact on the individual who hates than the person or object being hated. Yet overcoming hatred is difficult because hatred reinforces itself and causes greater enmity to come into being. The most powerful tool one can use to combat hatred is love. Deciding to love what you hate, whether this is a person, situation, or a part of yourself, can create a profound change in your feelings and your experience.

There is little room for anger, dislike, bitterness, or resentment when you are busy loving what you hate. The practice of loving what you hate can transform and shift your emotions from hatred to love, because there is no room for hatred in a space occupied by love.

Granted, it is difficult to forgo judging someone, love your enemy, and seek the good in situations that seem orchestrated to cause you pain or anger. But in deciding to love what you hate, you become one

less person adding negativity to the universe. On a simple level, loving what you hate can help you enjoy your life more. On a more complex level, loving what you hate sets you free because you disengage yourself from the hatred that can weigh down the soul. Responding with love to people radiating hatred transmutes their negative energy. You also empower

yourself by not letting their negativity enter your personal space. Rather than lowering yourself to the level of their hatred, you give the other person an opportunity to rise above their feelings and meet you on the field of love.

Gandhi once said, "Be the change you want to see in the world." Loving what you hate sends a positive, beautiful energy to people while spreading peace and harmony throughout the planet. Instead of reinforcing hatred, you become an advocate for love. Hatred responds to hate by causing anguish. But hatred responds to love by transforming into blissful peace.



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# Annual Key Largo Steeplechase Race

Steve Lohmayer of Taverner finished in fourth place in the 24th Annual Key Largo Steeplechase this past weekend of December 13-14, a 110-mile trek around the Upper Keys in high-speed, high-tech beach catamarans. Lohmayer was only a few minutes behind the 3rd place trophy winner.

South Florida sailors in general did very well, with Mike Phillips and Kenny Pierce of Miami, winning overall on a light weight, 20-foot carbon fiber catamaran made in Sweden. Hitting speeds over 30 miles per hour at times, this boat took just under 7 hours to complete the entire 110 miles.

Sailing a Tornado, an Olympic Class boat, Leandro Spina and Jamie Livingston, also from Miami took 2nd place overall.

The course started on Saturday at the north end of Jewfish Creek, then under Card Sound Bridge, out Angelfish Creek and down the ocean side of the islands to Lower Matecumbe. Then on Sunday they continue down the ocean side to Channel Five Bridge and up the bay side of the islands to the finish at the Caribbean Club beach on Blackwater Sound, following the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway most of the way.

Sponsors of the race are Caribbean Watersports, Calvert Sails, Catamaran Sailor Magazine and OnLineMarineStore.com.



Spina and Livingston flying toward the Channel Five Bridge on the Tornado, an Olympic Class Design.

# Artist of the Month Barbara Mungovan

By Rachel R. Peine

When Barbara Mungovan was in third grade, her mother was called in for a conference. "Barbara," said her teacher with disdain, "does nothing in class but daydream and write poems." Barbara's mother was "into tough love before anyone knew what it was", and Barbara was in big trouble. But being "stubborn Irish", she persisted. Actually, she probably couldn't have stopped if she wanted to, and she's been writing poems ever since. A better

description might be that poems write themselves in her mind, sparked by an event or something that inspires her, and they flow through her pen onto paper. Her first poem was published when she was about

13 or 14, about a child's love for her father. "I wrote about my father being an air raid warden in World War II. Poems just come to me, and somehow it comes out on paper." She's written poems for many occasions, based on true stories. She also creates hilarious skits for holidays and other occasions, such as the German Festival at the Moose Lodge, where she brought costumes for the Bavarian Bellringers, recruited ringers from the crowd, and had the audience in stitches. She also did that one where she works (Florida Keys Electric), and at her church, St. Justin.

Most recently, she read a poem at the Keys Jewish Community Center as part of a

commemoration of Kristallnacht, the beginning of the Holocaust. "I had never heard of Kristallnacht, but a friend of mine in her 90's invited me to the ceremony, and when I found out about it, I wrote a poem."

Barbara has read her poems at many events in the Upper Keys, including Relay for Life. If you missed "Luminaries" in the June 2007 issue of this paper, you can find it online (<http://theconchtelegraph.com/archive.htm>

Archives, June 2007, page 6).

Even Sears appreciates Barbara's work. She sent them a poem after paying for an extended warranty for her refrigerator for 18 years. She knew it would die the

day she dropped the warranty, but she had paid more than the cost of a new one. Someone got a kick out of the poem, and they actually did give her a new one.

People keep telling Barbara she should put a book together, but she says she just doesn't know where to start. "I have boxes of them. Maybe I'll do it when I retire." Meanwhile, she'll just keep writing.

## My Sears Refrigerator

*We were both getting older...  
you and I  
and we signed a contract  
should one of us die.  
I'm now older too...  
life is catching up on me.  
You don't look so hot either*



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*as everyone can see...*

*And we both get a little more  
stubborn  
day after day  
I know you're trying to outlive  
me*

*so Sears won't have to pay  
for a new refrigerator if your  
old parts can't be replaced...  
And both of us now ...are in an  
old age race*

*I have been faithful.*

*I never cheated on you  
and I paid for 18 years  
to keep YOU healthy and new*

*So here we are...both still  
barely  
hanging on  
so come on Sears  
give me a new refrigerator  
before I am gone.*

Copyright Barbara Mungovan,  
Key Largo, FL

# Reality: 2009, Not Just Another New Year

In pondering thoughts of the last few years I cannot remember such turbulent years as 2003 to 2008. We, as a society, have borrowed too much, lived above our means and relied on the next paycheck to cover our poor financial judgment. Hopefully the new President will do what he is supposed to do, be a politician, improve America's values, and improve world relations. Maybe we can get the rest of the world to look at us as a model and not a target of anger.

As good citizens we are supposed to believe in government and support our government's decisions. What a fine heard of sheep we are. But will we stay sheep or turn lion? Remember even a lion has a heart.

Our now past President

promised America that times would improve and young families would have the opportunity to own a home. Unfortunately we did not read the fine print. Like what happens when the adjustable interest rate on your mortgage goes up or the windstorm insurance triples.

To compound the windstorm issue, if your home is appraised at a high value you must purchase this value of insurance with a percentage of deductible, never mind you only owe a small amount on your home or you can not afford to purchase so much insurance. For example if you only owe \$100,000 on a home now appraised at \$500,000, which you paid \$200,000 for 10 years ago. You canNOT purchase just \$100,000 worth of Insurance with a 5%

percentage deductible, thus only leaving yourself exposed to \$5,000, which is affordable in most instances and would satisfy the lender. Nope! You must purchase insurance for the appraised value and suffer a percentage deductible. Thus on a \$500,000 appraised home you are looking at a \$25,000 deductible. Ouch!

So where are you going to get the high deductible to repair your home? And what can we do to correct this? As a business owner one gets tired of dealing with the present answers, and this is only one of thousands of issues that need correction. The principle of government is "by and for the People." Do we have this?

Each day we should target an issue for correction. Looks like we as sheep have left far too many issues to their own

self-governing interests. We confront these issues as lions. And if one lion cannot correct the problem, a den of lions may.

Hopefully 2009 will be a new year of change... or maybe the better wording is "going back" - Back to the basic American values.

The year 2009 and forward will not be easy. And if home front issues are not enough we have the problem of foreign policy. We must stop the hatred of America and Americans. We are all the face of our President or our President is a face of all Americans. In 2009 we have a fresh start and we can and must "change" or "go back." America is the land of second chances. Americans must look back, self-correct issues and move forward.



# Key Largo Woman Wins National Championship



Leah White sailing her Hobie Wave won the 11th Annual Hogsbreath Hobie Wave National Championship

Leah White of Key Largo won the 11th Annual Hogsbreath Hobie Wave National Championship over the past weekend of December 5-7 held at Founders Park Watersports at Founders Park in Islamorada, Florida.

She is only the second woman to ever win the title in this fastest-growing class of sailboats in North America. Her husband Dave White had been running in second place through most of the regatta, but slipped to third.

The regatta was a real nail biter. White started off poorly on the first day but redeemed herself. On the final day, she started off 12 points behind the leader, Patrick Green from Put-in-Bay, Ohio (past National Champ and favored to win again). But White rattled off three bullets in three races, while Green got caught back in the pack.

With only one race to go the two sailors were tied for first. The winner of the last race would win. Green had a very good start, while White was forced off to the unfavored side of the course.

Going around the first mark, Green was in 8th place while White was in 13th. During the next two legs White passed all the boats except Green and was right behind him with two more legs to go.

It was then that Green had a bad mark rounding, allowing White to take the lead. She went on to take second in the race and won by five points in the final standings. .

The Wave Fleet in Key Largo sails about 90 series races every winter season at the Upper Keys Sailing Club where there is a fleet of over a dozen boats that race regularly.

The Wave Class was formed about eleven years ago when the boat design first came out. It is a thirteen-foot beach catamaran and is roto-molded by the Hobie Cat Company. It was one of the least expensive boats to purchase and requires very little maintenance. The next Nationals will be held the first weekend in December of 2009 again at Founders Park Watersports. For more info contact Rick@catsailor.com or visit www.Catsailor.com.

Dr. True and Mrs. Lisa Lansden wish to announce the reaffirmation of their wedding vows in Key Largo on January 17, 2009. It will be held at the home of Mrs. Bonnie Riehl at 1005 Snapper Lane beginning at five o'clock in the afternoon on the beach. Hors d'ouvres and drinks will be served and entertainment will be provided by The Regs.

Dr. and Mrs. Lansden will be celebrating their sixth wedding anniversary. They have resided in the Florida Keys for the last five years and are the parents to five sons, Ken, Tommy, David, Tyler and Michael. They are the grandparents to one grandson, Perry. Dr. Lansden practices at The Florida Keys Center for Plastic Surgery and is currently Chief of Surgery at Mariner's Hospital. Lisa is the Practice Manager of their medical clinic's three locations and recently has enjoyed representing the Keys as the very first Mrs. Florida Keys America. For directions to the party, to RSVP or other questions please call (305) 942-3546.

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**Key Largo • MM 100 Oceanside**

# Bartender of the Month Linda Kirkendol



Story and Photo by Rich Peine

This month's Bartender of the Month is the pride of the Key Largo Moose Lodge. Linda always has a smile on her face and is quick with a few kind or witty words. Rachel and I, having volunteered at the Moose, have seen first hand how she makes everyone feel right at home. You can see she is a people person as soon as you walk through the door.

Linda hails from the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee. She went to the Ringling School of Arts in Sarasota and worked for an advertising agency and did album covers for musicians such as Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson and Waylin Jennings just to name a few. She spent some

time on the west coast painting murals before coming to the Keys. She came to the Keys in the 1980's left and came back to stay in 1998. She started working at the Moose that same year and has been there ever since.

Barbara Waggle, one of the regulars at the Moose, calls Linda "fantastic" and Barb's husband Charlie says "She's the best there is". I have known Linda for four years and I wholeheartedly concur. The Moose lodge has a gem behind the bar.

She loves sailing, fishing and bartending because she loves people.

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Serving Ocean Reef to Marathon  
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**Featured on the Food Network!**

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Daily from 4-6pm

**Friday Night Fish Fry**  
all you can eat \$9.95

**\$1.00 domestic drafts**  
and **\$2.50 house wine**

**35¢ wings** (min. of 10)  
**35¢ conch fritters**  
**35¢ jalapeño poppers**

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**Happy Hour**  
Daily from 4-6pm

**Friday All Day Fish Fry**  
all you can eat \$9.95

**\$1.00 domestic drafts**  
and **\$2.50 house wine**

**35¢ wings** (min. of 10)  
**35¢ conch fritters**  
**35¢ jalapeño poppers**

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## Adopt a Key Largo Animal Shelter Pet

Meet a few of the animals who are currently available for adoption at the Key Largo Animal Shelter. If you are interested in taking one of these adorable furry friends home stop by or call. The Shelter is located at mile marker 106 Oceanside; phone 305-451-0088.



BooBoo



Dolly



Hobie



Izzy



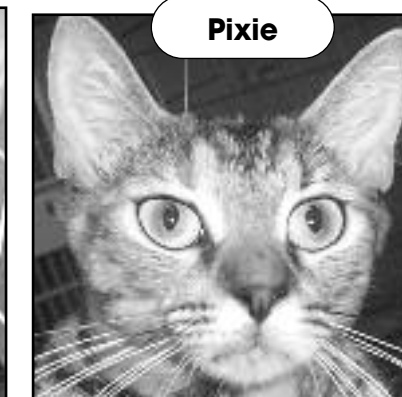
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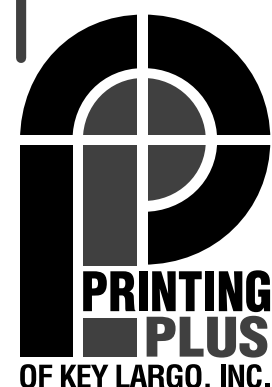
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Now he can look like one!  
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**INTRODUCTORY OFFER: \$5 OFF COMPLETE GROOMING WITH THIS AD.**



# Dear Anny Bannany

Dear Anny Bannany,

I own a business in town and have found that no one wants to sell me advertising or do business with me. What is wrong?

Signed,  
Black Listed



Dear Black Listed,

There could be several reasons for this. Perhaps you are a victim of the "Bubba System". The Bubba System is a lot like the Coconut Telegraph, where news travels rapidly among the media and trickles down from there. Screw somebody over and everyone will know. Here are some questions to ask yourself.

- **Do I pay my bills promptly or do I make my salesperson jump through hoops of fire to get my check?** In the time they spend chasing your ass around they could be procuring viable clients. Their time is just as valuable as yours.
- **Do I give people the "run around"?** Do the words "I'll pick up my stuff tomorrow" or, "I decided I don't want that after all" frequent your mouth?
- **Have I scammed or screwed anyone over?** You could be considered a "bad pay" and the phrase "get your money up front" always pops up after your name.
- **Do I constantly complain or make changes at the last minute?** Some customers just aren't worth having.
- **Are you afraid of contracts?** If you have no intention of paying then don't call... 'Cause they've already got your number!

If you have answered yes to any of these questions then your chance at being successful is slim to none and you are a wanker!

Signed,  
Anny Bannany



## Be Your Own BO\$\$.

Lower Keys Salesperson wanted. The Coconut Telegraph would like to expand its coverage to the Lower Keys and has an opening for a self motivated individual.

Requirements are:

- ✓ Must be experienced in advertising sales.
- ✓ Writing ability a plus.
- ✓ Sense of humor a must!

If interested send e-mail to [thecoconuttelegraph@yahoo.com](mailto:thecoconuttelegraph@yahoo.com)

# 20th Annual Holiday Boat Parade Success



Captain Sterling and crew win Best Overall for their decorations and performance on the Bay Princess.

This year's Key Largo Boat Parade was said to be one of the best ever. The weather was perfect as 20 boats lined the shores of Blackwater Sound from kayaks to the 50 foot houseboat "Myasis Dragon".

"The creativity, time and effort put in by this years participants was phenomenal" said Robert Stoky parade committee member.

The parade was led by Captain Spencer Slate of Atlantis Dive Center on the Coral Princess. Aboard was this years Grand Marshall Radio legend Rick Shaw who said, "I had a great time. I'm glad I chose be here in the Keys."

Guest M.C's Don Noe, Captain Skip Bradeen, Pam Godfrey and Captain Spencer Slate presented trophies and cash prizes to the major

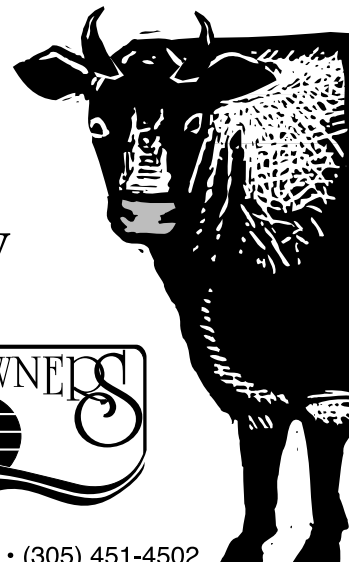
winners who were: Best Boat Under 25' Christopher Beriau on 17 Key West; Best Boat Over 25', Mark Raffles on Myasis Dragon; Most Colorful, Bill and Kitty McKay on Bills First Aid Kit; Most Original, Chris Trentine on Gotta Luv It; and Best Use of Theme Orestes Veliz on the Salty O. Best Business went to West Marine aboard Miss Daisy.

The big prize for Best Overall went to Captain Sterling Kennedy on the Bay Princess. The Captain and crew of Bay Princess decorated the boat and performed skits based on the 60's Laugh In show.

The \$500 random drawing was won by Donna Kahn who entered her boat "Island Girl". Next years parade is scheduled for Saturday December 12th.

Prime Rib  
12-oz. Cut  
Wednesday & Saturday  
Nights

\$21.



Mile Marker 104 • Bayside, Key Largo, FL 33037 • (305) 451-4502

# Coconut Conch Characters of the Month



Jimmy and Jesse entertain the group at Flip Flop's Grand Opening.



Tattoo Bruce sings!



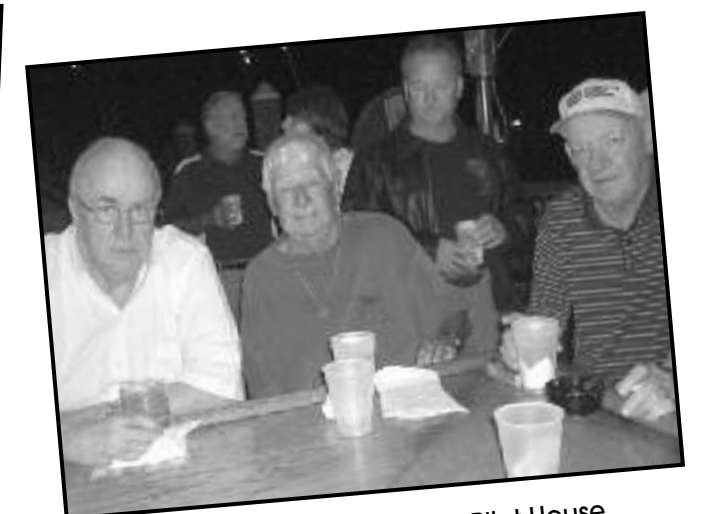
Bruce Isaacson is a treat at Snapper's Turtle Club.



Marty at the Island Grill.



Amy and friend at the Pilot House.



Tony, John and Jim at the Pilot House.



John and Anita chilling at the Big Chill.



Kathy and Tony at Coconuts having a great time!



The Grinch meets Santa at the Key Largo Moose.



Troy and Mikah draw a crowd at Sharkey's Pub.

Bobbe Brown at Coconuts





# Stay Beautiful



## Enjoy a new you for the New Year!

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## Key Largo Woodrat, Cuter Than Its Name

The Key Largo Woodrat is  
Much Cuter than its Name

Key Largo author Nicky  
Laak has a t-shirt showing a  
very cute, big-eared, pink-  
nosed mouse-ish creature, not  
at all what a

"woodrat" sounds  
like. Laak's  
children's book,  
Woodrat Jill  
explains that point  
and much more  
about this  
endangered local  
resident, found only  
in the Crocodile

Lake National Wildlife refuge  
on Rt. 905 across from Dagny  
Johnson Hammock. The author,  
who was signing books at Moore  
Books in the Pink Plaza,  
described the efforts of  
volunteers and Tampa's Lowry

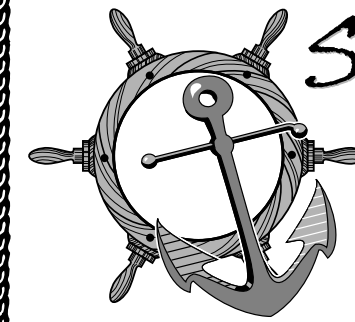
Park Zoo to breed the  
woodrats in captivity and  
release them in the refuge.  
Children and adults will enjoy  
the Jill's adventures when she  
leaves the comfort of the zoo

and learns to  
survive in the wild.

Crocodile Lake  
refuge is home to  
other threatened  
and endangered  
species, including  
the Schaus'  
Swallowtail  
butterfly and of  
course, the

crocodile, which in the U.S. is  
found only in South Florida and  
the Keys.

For more info about the  
refuge, call 451-4223. Woodrat  
Jill is available at Moore Books  
and other local bookstores.



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MM 107 Oceanside, Key Largo

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HAPPY HOUR  
All Day 'til 6 PM  
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fresh!  
Stone Crabs  
ALL YOU CAN EAT

Includes salad and your choice of side dish



MM 97.8 • In the Median • Key Largo • 852-0822



Snapper's Waterfront Restaurant Proudly Presents

**SUPER BOWL SUNDAY**

**"The Flush and the Fury" Sunday, Feb 1 at 3pm**

**TOILET BOWL IX**

From 3pm till the final whistle blows on the BIG game

Hosted by Clear Channel's own DJ Dave and Howard "Head Turtle" Kolbenheyer at our World Famous Turtle Club!

NERF FIELD GOAL KICKING COMPETITION Boot your way to glory and fun prizes!

TOILET BOWL TEAM RELAY RACE Get your 3-person team ready to run from toilet to toilet...  
First place team wins the coveted Toilet Bowl Plunger  
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Get your  
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Free to  
Enter!

QUARTERBACK CHALLENGE

Each team member will receive a gift bag containing free drink tickets,  
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**Great prizes!** Including a 2 day stay at Dove Creek Lodge,  
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Turtle Club!

Enjoy a free half time  
buffet as well as drink  
specials including  
\$2.50 Miller Lite drafts  
all day long, plus all  
the fun, games and  
prizes that accompany  
America's biggest  
unofficial holiday.





# Benefit for TRINA



## Sunday, Jan. 18th noon to 5 pm

Music by:  
*Jimmy Hawkins*  
*Ted Hyde Band*  
*Blues Lagoon*  
*JK Project*  
*& more to come!*

## Sundowners MM 104 Bayside

### RAFFLES • SILENT AUCTION • LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Catriona (Trina) Birnie founded the Upper Keys Youth Association (UKYA) in 1989. At that time there was no YMCA or anything else for the kids of the Upper Keys. She provided a drug- and crime-free environment for kids ages 5-18 years old. There was never a charge to attend the center. The children were taught responsibility by earning their own money for trips, etc.

Trina fought an uphill battle for many years to defend and help over 600 children. Most of these children have now grown into productive adults. She lost the youth center building in 2000 due to rent and costs going up, but still continues to help as many children as she can. Trina was also a volunteer foster parent to over 20 kids.

Trina suffered a heart attack in October and is recovering. She needs help paying her bills until she can work again.

***Please come out for a wonderful afternoon of  
community and caring, and help Trina  
get through this tough time.***

To donate call Denise at 305.304.2837. *Sponsored by the Stoky Family & the Coconut Telegraph Newspaper.* Donations can also be made through the Florida Keys Youth Sports Foundation, Make payable to FKYSF, in memo area put "Trina Benefit." Mail checks to FKYSF 103900 Overseas Hwy Key Largo, FL 33037.

# Business in the Keys



Catriona (Trina) Birnie  
REALTOR®  
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Fax: 305-451-6199  
Email: cbirnie@comcast.net  
KEY LARGO, FLORIDA



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\$140,000 / 40' slip  
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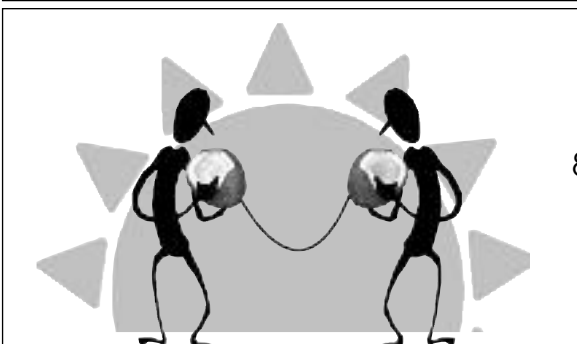
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# Boss Ralphie

## The story continues...

Story by Edward Carboni

The story so far.... Boss Ralphie (Archangel Raphael) is having a bad millennium and has been demoted to being the angel in charge of recruitment. We first meet him when he tells Sam Miller, a retired trackled=ss trolley driver, that he will soon be an angel working on Ralphie’s crew. Bigz (God) gives him the task on Christmas Eve of reforming a life long thief (Bugsy Sullivan) and getting the thief to help a little girl (Breezy) who is known as a pure spirit. The girl is so special that if Ralphie fails, his position as archangel is in serious jeopardy. With the help of another angel who enjoys quoting mob movies (Finch), they find the thief and set out on Christmas Eve to complete the task they were assigned.

“God, the big guy, the Don of all the universe,” said Finch. Bugsy Sullivan had gotten his breath back. He was looking around to see where he would run to next. “Bugsy, we don’t have all night, so please don’t run again. You’ll just be wasting time, and in this weather you could catch a nasty sniffle,” Ralphie said. Bugsy Sullivan, a man who had never done anything in his life that did not benefit himself, considered what was being proposed and he wondered if he was going insane. But there they were. He didn’t believe in God, let alone angels. That lack of belief in anything beyond himself made it easier to do what he did for a living. He was going over his lack of belief in his mind. There is no God, he was sure. “Bugsy, you’re not insane and it makes no difference if you believe in Bigz or not. Bigz believes in you, and at this juncture Bigz has given you a wonderful opportunity to turn

your life around. You could possibly come out of this job as a good man and not the man you are now, and that is a man who sees only the evil in the world because he’s putting it out there himself,” said Ralphie. Bugsy Sullivan dismissed the last statement and he thought to run again. If he did they would simply find him again. So on a cold and snowy Christmas Eve, the thief decided he would go along with these lunatics until he could find some way of escaping them.

\*\*\* The trio walked north on Passyunk Avenue in South Philadelphia. Ralphie and Finch were looking up at the sights of Christmas decorations that were on display. Ralphie liked the tinsel, Finch was more impressed with the lights. Bugsy Sullivan took notice of neither, his mind was occupied with coming up with an escape plan. “So if you guys are angels, where are your wings?” He wasn’t going to be fooled because these men could run faster than him. Ralphie took his eyes away from the festive decorations and looked at the thief.

“You two can’t be real angels unless you got wings, you know.” He had ‘em cornered now. Just a couple of lunatics. Ralphie unbuttoned his overcoat and attached to his sweater under it was a pin of golden wings. Bugsy looked at it closely. “They’re a pair of American Airlines wings! They’re not real wings!” said Bugsy. “Yeah, I know. But it is

funny---and you should see the look on your face.” Ralphie started laughing, and Finch did too.

“Funny? Funny how? Funny like I amuse you, like I’m some clown,” said Finch. “Why does he do that?” asked Bugsy. “Because he likes to do that,” said Ralphie. “So where are the wings?” asked Bugsy again.

“We don’t have ‘em. People made that up. After they did we actually tried ‘em out for a while, it seemed like a neat idea. But it didn’t work out too well---they’re very bulky and they were just for show anyway,” said Ralphie.

“So is this what angels do? Come up on unsuspecting people and scare the hell out ‘em in the middle of the night?” Bugsy thought he’d bide his time and wait for an opportunity to get away.

“To begin with Bugsy, you are not in any way, unsuspecting. And to answer your question, no, this is not what I normally do. This is a special assignment. I normally work in resource procurement,” said Ralphie, “and Finch here, he just started with us a little while ago. He got in on the hero clause. Pulled a man out of a burning car.”

“Yeah, and when the thing blew up one of the doors took my head clean off. It was a real mess from what I heard,” said Finch.

The snow had begun to come down a little harder when Ralphie turned into a hoagie shop just north of Bainbridge Street. He emerged with a brown bag and a cardboard cup of hot chocolate.

“What’s in the bag?” asked Bugsy. “A hoagie, some chips...and a Tastykake.” They began walking again and where Passyunk crossed 5th Street they turned onto 5th. A half block up, in the threshold of a boarded up store, was a man bundled against the weather. Ralphie squatted on his haunches and handed him the bag and the cup of chocolate.

“How are ya, Connor? It’s a meatball hoagie in there, with extra provolone just the way you like it. Merry Christmas.” he said.

“Hey Ralphie, thank you,” the man brought a wrinkled and soft looking hand from a tattered glove and opened the bag, a wide smile came across his bearded face, “but I didn’t get you anything.” He began to chew on the sandwich that was steaming in the cold weather.

“Yes you did, Connor. You’re my present,” Ralphie said, “we have to get going, but I’ll see you later, okay?”

“Sure Ralphie. Thanks again.”

The three continued on their northward journey, and after a few blocks, Bugsy spoke.

“So who’s the bum?” he asked.

Ralphie looked at him the way one would look at a child who had just broken a plate in a thoughtless manner.

“His name is Doctor Connor Barrett. He helps the homeless sick out here for a couple of months a year. He used to be what we call a sympathetic man. But after a while Gabriel got sick of listening to him. He came down here and told Connor to put up or shut up.

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# Coco ‘Nut’ Funnies

## Hands Free Phone



This Asian girl uses her bra to make a hands free phone. I guess she could not afford a blue tooth headset.



## Caution!



There is a condition affecting men in the Keys called "micropenis". It happens to short fat men with big egos. They are totally aware that they have a diminutive dangler and a truly tiny tinkler so they will try to impress you, but in most cases the big head isn't any smarter. Someone needs to inform pest control!

## 2008 Darwin Awards

Named in honor of /Charles Darwin, the father of evolution, the Darwin Awards commemorate those who improve our gene pool by removing themselves from it.

### Pierced

A 23-year-old man with various body piercings wondered what it would feel like to connect his workplace test equipment to his chest piercings. Several co-workers tried to convince him that it was a bad idea to wire him self up to the electronic control tester, but he ignored their pleas. He proceeded to connect two alligator clips to his piercings and hit the test button... When the police and rescue personnel arrived, his co-workers were still trying to revive him with CPR and rescue breathing. They were not successful.

### A Screw Loose

A contract worker was hired to install reinforcement bars on a communications tower near Camp Bullis, Texas. He was wielding power tools high above the ground, when 2 other workers saw him lean back and fall 225 feet to his death. Turns out, the man had loosened the bolts to the bar to which he was attached.

**Read the continuation of this story in the next issue of the Coconut Telegraph due out February 1st.**



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