The Conch Republic COCONUT TELEGRAPH





101425 Overseas Hwy. • PMB #628 • Key Largo, FL 33037 • 305-304-2837 • www.theconchtelegraph.com • Mar. 2009

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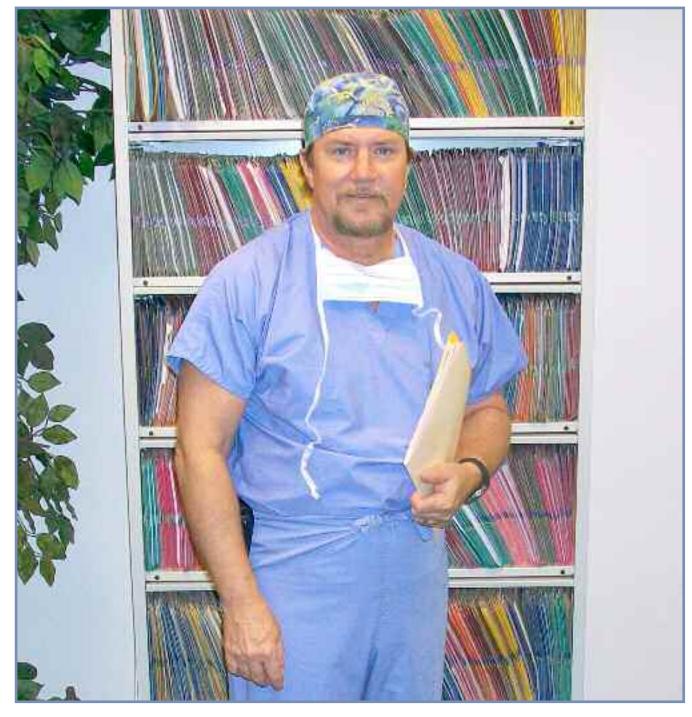
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The Coconut Telegraph is at over 100 locations from Homestead to Key West.



The Coconut Telegraph is proud to have surgeon Dr. True Lansden as Artist of the Month (see page 8).



Coconut Telegraph

March 2009 Volume 27 Issue #27

Prestige Publishing, Inc 101425 Overseas Highway PMB #628 Key Largo, FL 33037

Phone 305-304-2837

Deadline

for the Coconut Telegraph's April issue is Monday March 23, 2009

Call Denise at 305-304-2837 TheCoconutTelegraph@yahoo.com

Cast of Characters:

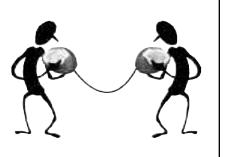
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Editorial: Lessons of Foreclosure

all know someone that has been through the cycle of foreclosure. Here are a few personal experiences....

The college student that has had to move three times in one year because their landlords' mortgages foreclosed. The landlords did not disclose this when leasing the property.

The real estate lady that couldn't find work and was turned down for assistance because she owned a home. "But my house is in foreclosure because I can't pay the mortgage!" she told them. "Sorry, we don't usually have people in here that own a home," they said.

The family man that lost his home to foreclosure moved his wife and children to a rented home that soon foreclosed. moved again, that house foreclosed, moved again, that house also foreclosed, all within Step 5. If you have run out of options a year!

It is a rather harrowing experience.

In this time of economic uncertainty we The upside is that you are no longer paying Step 6. Find a stable landlord you can for a house that devalued to the point of being worth half of what you mortgaged it Step 7. Before signing a lease check with for. You no longer are burdened by property taxes and the outrageous cost of

> With a rise in foreclosures there is no time to sit around and do nothing because you are embarrassed to reach out for help. Step 1. Denial. "This can't be happening to me!" Get over it.

Step 2. Looking for a new loan. Sorry, but it is next to impossible. Go buy a lottery ticket.

Step 3. Panic. Face reality.

Step 4. Prolong the process. If you can't afford to pay a lawyer call a reputable real estate professional that specializes in foreclosures. Call now, you may have options.

start packing and save up some money to move.

the County Clerk's office to find out if a foreclosure has been filed on that property.

In a foreclosure you most likely have 10 days to get out. If your mortgage holder threatens to ruin your reputation, show pictures of the "mess" you left, badgers you in public, or acts unprofessional in anyway you can report them to the state and they can lose their license. Remember, this is no picnic for them either.

The good news is... 10 years ago if you had a foreclosure you'd probably not have much hope of owning another house. Now with foreclosures happening everywhere and vacant buildings all over the stigma is gone and there is hope. If you are facing foreclosure and need help call Jim Wilson at 305-942-1777. He is a realtor and an expert at foreclosure and short sales.

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Entertainer of the Month Frank Carmelitano



By Rachel R. Peine; Photo by Rich Peine

It's Sunday morning (well, actually around 1:00 in the afternoon), and pelicans are gliding down to the pilings near the dock at Snapper's. The aura at the patio tables and outside bar has that easy, mellow feel of people taking their time to enjoy the bloody marys, the ocean, and the relaxing sound of Frank Carmelitano's jazz guitar.

Frank's background contributes to his blend of styles. When Frank was 12, his family moved from the U.S to

pool, video games,

happy hour 7 days/wk.

outside dining.... serving

breakfast, lunch & dinner

Two Great Times • One Great Place!

Spain for several years - his father was an abstract expressionist painter who wanted to bring up his family in a more welcoming environment. After leaving home at 17, Frank stayed in Europe for a while, studying and playing. He developed his own style of jazz and popular music, influenced by jazz players like Joe Pass, Wes Montgomery, and Earl Klugh. He studied classical guitar for many years and also studied music at the University Continued on page 20...

STIMULATE THIS!

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* John Galt is the heroic main character in Ayn Rand's novel Atlas Shrugged. Galt is a creator and inventor who embodies the power of the individual. He serves as a counterpoint to the social and economic structure depicted in the novel. The depiction portrays a society based on oppressive bureaucratic functionaries and a culture that embraces the stifling mediocrity and egalitarianism of socialistic idealism. He is a metaphorical Atlas of Greek mythology, holding up the world. We could use him to save us now!

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Purple Isles Art Guild 43rd Annual Member's Judged Exhibit

The Purple Isles Art Guild is celebrating its 43rd Annual Member's Judged Exhibition at the Key Largo Library Community Room, Tradewinds Plaza MM 101.4 from March 7 through March 15, 2009. The show will be judged by a professional jury and also by each visitor, who has the opportunity to vote on "The Best of Show". The public has the opportunity to meet individual artists during the show hours and inquire about their visions. All exhibits are originals, painted by the members of the Purple Isles Art Guild. The exhibition is categorized in different segments: Watercolors, Oil, Acrylics, Drawings, Photography, Mixed Media, Sculpture and Digital Art. The show also prominently displays artwork of Coral Shore High School and Island Christian School Seniors in all categories.

The Purple Isles Art Guild has had a long tradition of attracting many artists over the years. This artist's association was "spawned" from a workshop held by the Miami Artist and Teacher Bernice Shambaugh in the fall of 1966. Bernice's studio became a meeting place for painters to gather twice a week at the " Gate House" on Upper Matacumbe. They drafted a constitution in the early 1970's and the name Purple Isles was adopted. The Guild held meetings twice a month These meetings took place at Burton Memorial Church where they provided interesting programs for the members. In the 1980's a contest was conducted to design a logo. Mecal Doyle won with her entry. The continuing purpose of the Purple Isles Art and Crafts

Guild is to promote an interest in and appreciation of art, sponsor educational opportunities for the development of members' talents, provide means for displaying and marketing their work, and encourage new talent.

A quote from Geraldine Green, who has been a long time member, describes how the guild has grown during her membership: "Not only has the number of members increased but so has the quality of work, not only for others but for me as well. Many of us have been able to document the history of the Keys through our paintings".

Some early members still honor the guild with their active participation. There are members in their 80's who continue to inspire the younger members through their youthful attitude, energy, and expertise that has made the Purple Isles Art Guild a success.

One of the Keys most celebrated watercolor artists, Millard Wells has left his brush strokes as part of the Keys history. Into his 80's Millard was painting and giving back to the community. Robert Cunningham wrote in 2003: "Millard Wells had painted over 4600 masterpieces". "Painting is a part of my Life", Millard said. "It takes me places I never would have been. He moved to the Keys in 1966 to dive and to explore the Upper Keys. In a phone conversation one day his wife asked: "What is there?" And Millard replied: "Nothing, there's no libraries, no shopping - it's just a little place by the sea. You wouldn't like it". "Try Me"! His wife responded.

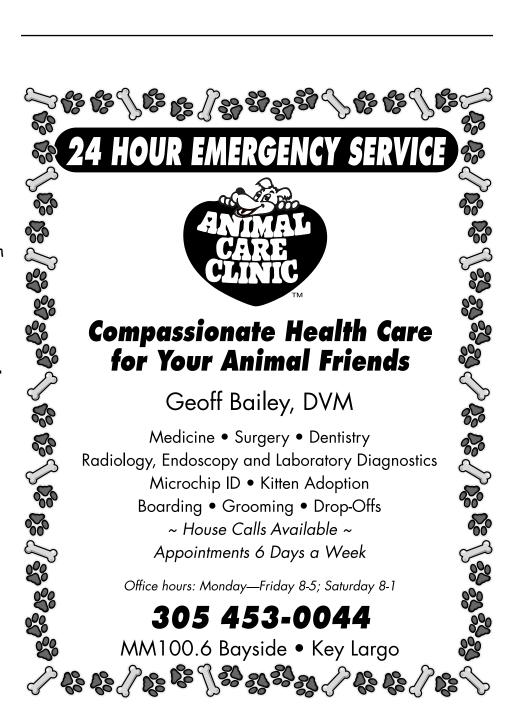
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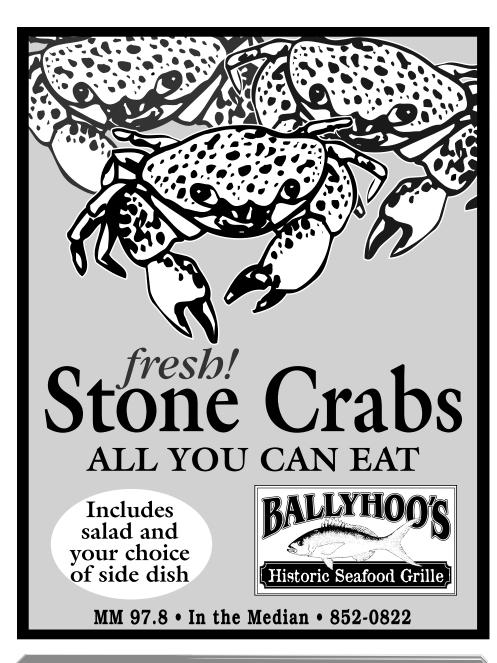


"I am humbly honored to have won in the best of show category at last year's Annual Purple Isles Art Guild Member's Judged Exhibition.
Proud member and artist of this organization."

Carmen Sotolongo-Kelley.

103200 Overseas Hwy Key Largo, FL 33037 www.keylargoartgallery.com 305-451-0052.







Artists Invited to GLEE Expo

Artists Invited to
Participate in GLEE Expo
Artists Village In the spirit of
collaboration with local artists,
Green Living & Energy
Education (GLEE) is
establishing an Artist Village at
this year's Green Living Expo,
to be held Saturday, March 28
from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the
Marathon High School, 350
Sombrero Beach Road.

The village will be specifically for the exhibit and sales of works made from sustainable or recycled materials by local artists. "Our goal is to inspire the local artist population to help educate the public about sustainability through art, and at the same time provide them exposure and possible income" said GLEE Expo Coordinator, Bridget McDonald. "On our part, the addition of the Artist Village adds a new and welcome

cultural aspect to Expo that we hope will draw an even larger audience."

There will be no registration fee, but participating artists will be asked to either donate a piece of work to the Expo silent auction prior to the event, or provide GLEE with a 20 percent commission on sales made at Expo. The latter will be on the honor system.

Artists can register for a space at the exhibit and get more information by contacting the coordinator for the Artist Village, Andrea Comstock, at the Florida Keys Council of the Arts 305 295 4369 or info@keysarts.com.

For more information about Green Living & Energy Education (GLEE) and this year's Expo, visit www.keysGLEE.com.







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If You Can't Watch the Crocodiles. Enjoy the Butterflies

By Rachel R. Peine

While Rich and I were sitting on the bench in the butterfly garden at Crocodile Lake Wildlife Reserve in Key Largo, a Winnebago from Minnesota pulled into the parking lot. "Where do we go to see the crocodiles?" the driver asked. "Well, the refuge itself is actually closed," we replied, "but you can walk through the butterfly garden."

We heard about the butterfly garden from Nikki Laak, author of "Woodrat Jill", a children's book about work being done in the refuge to protect not only the endangered crocodiles, but also the Key Largo woodrat and the Schaus Swallowtail butterfly. If you missed the story in the January 2009 issue of this paper, you can read it online in our archive at www.theconchtelegraph.com

The butterfly garden is a tiny treasure hiding to the left of the Refuge parking lot. An archway covered in vines beckons you in, along with the peaceful sound of the waterfall at the center of the pond. I always wonder how butterflies know where someone planted their favorite shrubs and flowers, but they must get the message through their own version of the "coconut

We saw orange butterflies that I think are "Julias", based on the posted pictures and description of several species that can be found in this area. There were also swallowtails and a dark-winged butterfly that we couldn't identify. The volunteers who maintain the garden have planted and labeled many native and non-Continued on page 20...



Photos by Rich Peine





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.

Great pay but

the benefits suck!

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✓ Writing ability a plus.

✓ Sense of humor a must!

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It's Never Too Late Getting Back to What You Love

There are times in life when we are committed to pursuing our passions. Every molecule in our body is focused on doing what we love. At other times, necessity and responsibility dictate that we put our dreams aside and do what needs to be done. It is during these moments that we may choose to forget what it is that we love to do. There are many other reasons for why we may leave our passions behind. A hobby may lose its appeal once we've realize it will never turn into our dream job. Someone important to us may keep telling us that our passions are childish and unsuitable - until we finally believe them.

Forgetting about what you love to do can be a form of self-sabotage. If you can forget about your dreams, then you never have to risk failure. But just because we've decided to ignore our passions doesn't mean they no longer exist. Nothing can fill the emptiness that remains in a space vacated by a passion that we have

tossed aside. Besides, life is too short to stop doing what you love, and it is never too late to rediscover your favorite things. If you gave up playing an instrument, painting, drawing, spending time in nature, or any other activity or interest that you once loved to do, now may be the time to take up that passion again. If you don't remember what it is that you used to be passionate about, you may want to think about the activities or interests that you used to love or the dreams that you always wished you could pursue.

You don't have to neglect your responsibilities to pursue your passions, and you don't have to neglect your commitments to do what you love. When you make an effort to incorporate your interests into your life, the fire within you ignites. You feel excited. inspired, and fed by the flames that are sparked by living your life with passion for what you love.



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Artist of the Month F. True Lansden, M.D.



family. True enjoyed sharing

the responsibility of flying the

and from the Marathon airport

and quickly followed his father

becoming the youngest licensed

Dr. Lansden received his

pilot in America at the time.

BS degree from Kent State

University in 1976 and earned

his MD from the University of

Cincinnati College of Medicine

trained as a General Surgeon at

South Carolina and was Board Certified by the American

Board of Surgery. By 1992,

Dr. Lansden was training as a

University and in 1994, he went

into practice with his father,

on the Mississippi Gulf Coast,

who is also a Plastic Surgeon.

This is where he met his wife,

Lisa and she began working with

him. He is a Diplomate of the

American Board of Surgery and

Continued on page 20...

Plastic Surgeon at Tulane

in 1986. Dr. Lansden then

family plane on many trips to

"Great art picks up where nature ends" - Marc Chagal "Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone" -Pablo Picasso

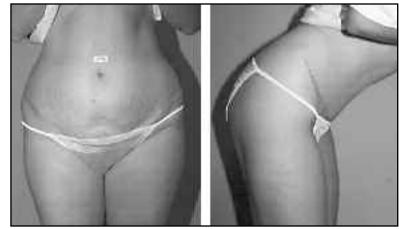
"One can have no smaller or greater mastery than mastery of oneself" - Leonardo da Vinci

art-ist - a person whose shows exceptional creative ability or skill who is able by virtue of imagination and talent to create works of aesthetic the Medical University of value.

The Coconut Telegraph is proud to have Dr. True Lansden as Artist of the Month. Dr. True, to his friends, is truly a Keys person. Growing up parttime in Ohio and part-time in Key Colony Beach he quickly developed a love of The Florida Keys. His father earned his pilot's license and bought an airplane so getting back and forth was no problem for the

Before and After



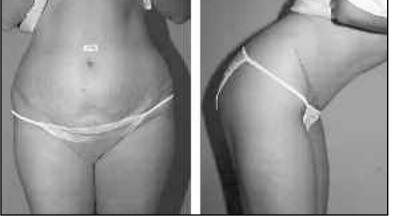








Amazing results, satisfied clients!







Restaurant of the Month Paradise Pub & Grill

This is the year for change and a change for the better has happened in Key

The Paradise Pub has been a landmark restaurant for many years. Gone is the beaten up cigarette burned furniture along with smoking inside (however smoking is permitted in the

outside beer garden). Everything has a fresh coat of paint and a new attitude. The kitchen also got a major overhaul and it

just sparkles. "We want to appeal to a more upscale crowd," says Richard Donnelly, owner and manager. "Now if you look around you see business people stopping in for lunch or dinner."

"We have a whole new menu, the prices are reasonable and we're still open and serving food till 1 am. We are locals ourselves so we cater to the locals as

Chef Fernando, formerly the chef at the Big Fish for seven years, has created a Keys style menu, dinners are all under \$20 and lunch is under \$10. The Paradise Pub and Grill was the winner of the 2008 Peoples Choice Award for the best Cheeseburger in Paradise.

Happy hour is "We have a whole daily from 4 to 7 new menu, the prices with \$1.50 draft are reasonable and beer and various we're still open and flavor chicken serving food till 1 wings and peel and eat shrimp for only - Owner Bugs Vinson 50 cents each.

> "We have live entertainment on the weekends, Karaoke with Marilee Free is a really great MILE MARKER 81.6 · BAYSIDE · 305-664-0604 time on Tuesday nights," Donnelly tells us. "We fill the parking lot on Saturdays with bike night and we have a lot

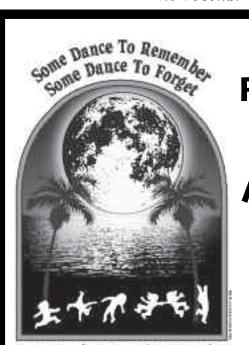
future." If you haven't been to the Paradise Pub in a while stop in, things sure have changed.

more events planned for the

The Paradise Pub and Grill is located at mile marker 102



Owner's Richard Donnelly and Bugs Vinson welcome you to come in and enjoy the new and improved Paradise Pub.



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American Legion March Events

March roars in like a lion with our famous Land 'N' Sea Dinner on March 6. Please R.S.V.P. for this one. Next, on March 13th, Auxiliary Unit 333 hosts their fabulous buffet. Thi is followed by "Something Fishy" on the 20th, and Taco night on the 27th. Call the Post at (305) 852-0413 for details. All dinners begin at 6 p.m. In addition to great fare in a pleasant environment, we have live entertainment by local artist Peter and Steve.

"Sing Like A Star" starts on March 7th. Fun, music, and prizes beginning at 6 p.m.. IRISHDAZEbegins Saturday, March 14. Wear your green! Green beer, corned beef and cabbage, Irish tunes, a jig, and a wee bit- o - blarney. Search for the golden shamrock. Specials all week. Saturday, April 4 is "You must remember this... A kiss is still a kiss..." Thee tune from the motion picture, Casablanca and the theme of our casino night. We will recreate Rick's All American Cafe and Casino. Check out the movie if you want an idea on the dress. Social hour will begins at 5 p.m.

Thursday nights at 7 p.m. you could be sitting in a room with friends and family, your dauber is poised, your cards are stacked on the table, a libation at your elbow. You furtively glance around the room and all at once you here that dreaded cry, "B. I. N. G. O."

Sundays, we have our All American Breakfast.

Our hall is available for your function or fundraiser. Call the Post at (305) 852-0413 for details. Squadron 333 meets on the first Wednesday (4th), of the month, The Post meets on the second Wednesday (11th) of the month. Auxiliary Unit 333 meets on the first Monday (2nd) of the month. All meeting times are 7 p.m. Join us, get involved, make a difference. It Is Not The Price You Paid To Join... It Is The Price You Paid To Become Eligible. We close with a prayer for our men and women serving around the world. May they return to the safety of their families. For God and Country

Marty R. Ebert

Commander-Post 333



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Engagement Announcement



Julie Lewis and Jim Mahley both of Key Largo, are thrilled to announce their engagement.

A beach wedding is planned for June 2010.

Boy Scouts Earn Archaeology Badge



Recently eight Boy Scouts from Troop 914 spent the weekend at Windley Key State Park working on their "Archaeology Merit Badge".

Mr. Irving Eyster was kind enough to give the scouts insights into the "How and Why of being an Archaeologist" as well as the importance of archaeology. The scouts also did several hours of community service helping beautify the Park. Troop 914 is sponsored by, Island Community Church.

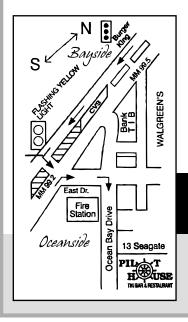
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Bartender of the Month Captain Tiki Fiorentino Of Island Grill



Meet

Tiki

Fiorentino...

And yes that

is her real

Captain Tiki Fiorentino is a true Conch. She was born in Key West and is a life long resident of the Florida Keys. When you enter the walkway to the Island Grill hang a right and you'll find

Tiki at the Tiki Bar wearing a big smile. And yes, that is her real name.

When Tiki is not at the Island Grill she is fishing. She holds a Captain's License and runs sunset cruises for Two Chicks Charters. Tiki is also a Cardio Vascular Pediatric IV

Specialist. She tells us she enjoys bartending more because the money is better and it's more fun than being stuck in a cold lab all day. She has two daughters, Shannon and Shay, who were raised in the Keys; and a grandson, Elijah.

Tiki is somewhat new to the Island Grill but not to tending

bar. She worked at the old Papa Joe's for eight years and then the Lorelei for three.

"I love the Island Grill, just look at the view of the ocean," says Tiki. "My boss Jack is the best. He is an idea

man. We are going to be having free Sunset Cruises right here from our dock and now we have catering services available too." She continues, "Brunch on the beach is back and

everyone knows we have the best breakfast in Islamorada." Just then one of the customers,

then one of the customers, John, retired FDNY yells "hey Tiki, if you ever need a mate let me know... I mean for the boat." Everyone gets a laugh out of that.

There's always a good time at the Island Grill.

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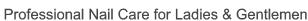
Ice Cream Shoppe Flavors of the Month

Creamy Key Lime Zest Organic Green Tea Organic Ginger Mandarin Spicy Mango Sweet Carrot Orange

Coffee Bar: Hot & Frozen Coffees of the Month

Amaretto Cappuccino Caramel Cafe con Leche Mocha Madness White Chocolate Symphony Frozen Coco-Mocha Toffee Cappuccino Freeze

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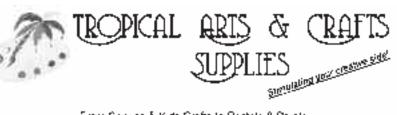
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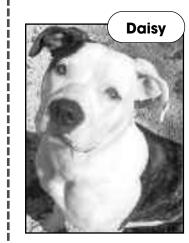
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Adopt a Key Largo Animal Shelter Pet

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.









Katie &



Rocky











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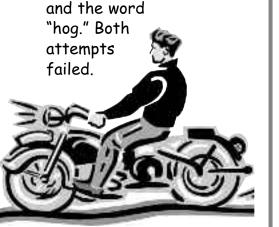
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Useless Facts You **Should Know**

Compiled by Rachel R. Peine

- 1. John Wayne was a relative to Johnny Appleseed
- 2. First American car race was held in Chicago in 1895. Average speed 7.5 mph.
- 3. Most snails are born with their shell on.
- 4. The first person to appear on the cover of Rolling Stone was John Lennon
- 5. More people are killed by Donkeys every year than are in plane crashes.
- 6. The oldest cat on record was an English tabby who was 37.

- 7. The first hearing aid was invented in 1880.
- 8. Each year insects eat 1/3 of the earth's food crop.
- 9. Parrots can go insane if they get lonely.
- 10. Harley Davidson tried to trademark its engine sound and the word "hog." Both attempts failed.



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Doc's Diner sponsoring and hosting a **Spaghetti Dinner**

to benefit the

Coral Shores Hurricanes Baseball Team

Friday, March 6 • 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Donations are \$10.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children.

For tickets, call Coach Jeff Meyers at 853-3222 x 56340 between 8 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

> A big thanks to Doc Boilini for helping out ne team! Doc's Diner is located at mile marker 99.7 on the Oceanside.



Register yourself and any mode of transportation you wish to use in defense of our independence from the unfair taxation and tyranny of the south. ONE YEAR CONSCRIPTION \$14.95

The south has built quite a strong military over the years and is now threatening to use it against us if we do not pay their ransom to celebrate our independence as part of the Conch Republic. As we build our military, we will flex our military might on occasion. You will be notified by email, where and when to be present. In addition, there will be cabinet meetings from time to time to discuss strategies and ways to flex our military muscle. The headquarters for the military will be Bayside Grille in Key Largo (henceforce known as "The Octagon"). With two docks and plenty of parking, both naval and land forces can be assembled

www.conchrepublicmilitary.com

Take advantage of festivals and holiday weekends by registering and having your keys cruiser, collectible vehicle, naval craft of any kind, etc. on display for onlookers to see when they come to Key Largo and visit our military headquarters. Additional specials will be offered to military members at all gatherings.

PURCHASE YOUR OFFICIAL DECAL AT THESE LOCATIONS: Key Largo Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Center. MM1 Bayside Grille, Military Headquarters, MM 99.5 Cafe Largo, MM 99.5 Bayside Largo Cargo, MM103 Bayside

Cover to Cover Books, MM 91.2 Tavernier Town sland Smoke Shop, MM 103.4, Pink Plaza Fish House/Encore . MM 102.4 Oceanside Snappers, MM 94 Oceanside, 139 Seaside Ave

Coconut Conch Characters of the Month



Lisa is the bartender at the Holiday Isle Tiki Bar.

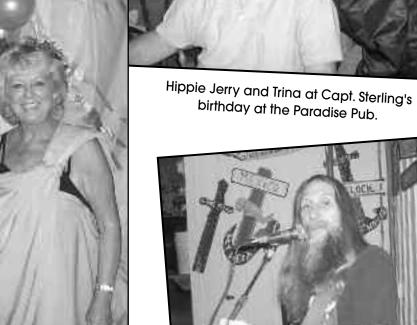


Capt. Rick of Morningstar Charters and Gloria owner of Bob's Buns celebrate their secret at the Pilot House.



Captain Sterling Kennedy and Judy Curtis held a Toga Party to benefit Relay for Life.

Big Chill.



Jimmy Hawkins is at the Pilot



Carol Rodgers with her "Pot of gold" for Relay for Life at the **American** Legion.



Sally and Joyce getting ready for Mardi Gras at the Elks Club in Tavernier.



The Quarter Club meeting at the Eubank's home.



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Rescued Dolphin Marine Mammal Conservancy



Cutter is a baby dolphin that was rescued in Key West. He is currently at the Marine Mammal Conservancy (MMC) at mile marker 102 in Key Largo.

The rescued calf is approximately 5'6" long and weighs about 85-pounds. He is estimated to be between 1 to 3 years of age. Cutter will remain in the care of the Marine Mammal Conservancy until he is deemed healthy enough to be released by the staff, veterinarians, NMFS and consultants of NMFS.

The Marine Mammal Conservancy is an all volunteer IRS 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization that focuses on the research, rescue, rehabilitation and release of wild stranded animals. There are only 12 such cetacean rehabilitation teams in the United States. For more information visit www.marinemammalconservancy.org.

Around About Town



Me and my Sister's Gift Shop is fantastic! The prices are low and the profits go to Helping Homeless Cats and the Wild Bird Center. Stop by, browse and buy. The store is located in Islamorada across from Worldwide Sportsman.



Here's a glimpse Inside the brand new Murray Nelson Government Center located at mile marker 102 on the bayside.



Frank Carmelitano

...continued from page 3 of Miami under many of the same teachers as Pat Metheny.

Frank plays a nylon-stringed acoustic-electric Taylor guitar, giving the soft sound of classical quitar music. Using nylon strings instead of steel strings was an intuitive choice, marrying his two paths of study, classical guitar and jazz. He likes an "organic" sound, and these strings bend and respond more subtly to give the nuances he creates. Frank's style combines jazz and classical with Latin and pop influences for a completely original blend.

As I stood by the rail listening to Frank play Paul Simon's "Slip-slidin' Away", I heard the clink of glasses and the hum of contented conversation - the right mix of ingredients for a perfect

Sunday.

Frank plays for Sunday brunch year round, and he adds Saturday afternoons in the busy season. He also plays all around South Florida, from South Beach to Ft. Lauderdale to Palm Beach.

Frank's current schedule at Snapper's:

Saturday afternoon -2:00 - 6:00 p.m. Sunday brunch & afternoon -11:30 - 3:30 p.m.

See the Snapper's ad on the back page for more information. Snapper's - MM 94 - Oceanside, 305-852-5956

You can hear the title song from Frank's CD "Amazonas" at www.isound.com/frank_carmelit ano and his CD is available on iTunes.com.

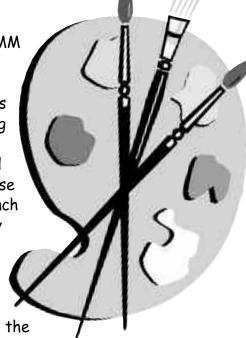
Purple Isles Art Guild

...continued from page 4. Many artists like Millard have made the Purple Isles Art Guild the venue to meet other artists who think and live art every day. Artists like Joe Cella, who loved and lived art is now honored with the Joe Cella Memorial Award for "Birds in Nature", which will be held on Friday, February 27 in conjunction with the Upper Keys Garden Club Walk on MM 94 Bayside.

Throughout the years, members of the Purple Isles Art Guild have been meeting weekly to paint on location, Plein Air. They were named the "Brown Baggers", because they used to carry their lunch on site. Artists Like Shirley Shuman, Morna Strengholt and many others have taken an impressive number of awards with their mastery of the brush. Now the

Plein Air Group meets every Wednesday at the Bayside Grille. MM 100, behind Cafe Largo and enjoy lunch at the restaurant, which provides great vistas and shelter from the elements.

Check out our website: www.purpleislesartquild.com.



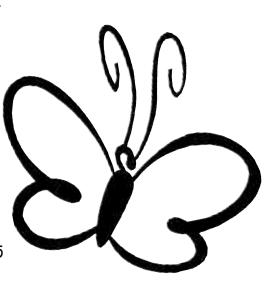
Can't Watch the Crocodiles. Enjoy the Butterflies

...continued from page 6. native plants, so you can identify unfamiliar foliage. Take your time, or you might miss the sculptures among the shrubbery.

Although Rt. 905 was just on the other side of the thick tree line, we felt as if we had entered a magical space that took us to a completely different world. After our visit with the "flying jewels" sparkling in the sunlight, we emerged refreshed and went on our way.

This "refuge within a refuge" is only a small area, but it's definitely one worth taking the time to see. The Crocodile Lake Wildlife Refuge is on Rt. 905 in Key Largo, 1.8 miles North of Rt. 1, just past Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park on the other side of the road.

For more information about the refuge, go to: www.fws.gov/refuges/ profiles/index.cfm?id=41581.



F. True Lansden, MD

...continued from page 8. of the American Board of Plastic Surgery. He is also a member of the American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons and the Southeastern Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons.

Through the years he missed the beauty and lifestyle of the Keys so one day the family packed their bags and moved here permanently. Dr. Lansden practices at The Florida Keys Center for Plastic Surgery and is Chief of Surgery at Mariner's Hospital. He also has an office at the Ocean Reef Medical Center and is the only Board-Certified Plastic Surgeon practicing exclusively in the Florida Keys,

We felt that the best way to display his work is with

these astonishing before and after photos of actual patients.

For 20 years Dr. Lansden has helped thousands of people look and feel their best. His goal is to exceed his patient's expectations.

I had the opportunity to see some of his work. A friend of mine was in a car accident and had his hand crushed. Dr. True took it from a manaled mess to a fully functional hand with amazingly few scars.

To find out more contact The Florida Keys Center for Plastic Surgery, 91550 Overseas Hwy, suite #205, Tavernier, 853-0032 or visit www.trueplasticsurgery.com It won't take long for you to find out that this is a plastic surgeon that truly cares for

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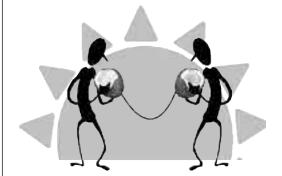
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For more information and to read past issues of the Conch Republic Coconut Telegraph visit our site theconchtelegraph.com









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8,000 issues of The Coconut Telegraph are distributed from Homestead to Key West.

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Coco 'Nut' Funnies

Cowboy Meets a Genie

A cowboy has spent many days crossing the Texas plains without water.

His horse has already died of thirst. He's crawling through the sand, certain that he has breathed his last breath, when all of a sudden he sees an object sticking out of the sand several yards ahead of him.

He crawls to the object, pulls it out of the sand, and discovers what looks to be an old briefcase. He opens it and out pops a genie. But this is no ordinary genie.

She is wearing a FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) ID badge and a dull gray dress. There's a calculator in her pocketbook.

She has a pencil tucked behind one ear. "Well, cowboy," says the genie. "You know how I work...You have three wishes." "I'm not falling for this," said the cowboy. "I'm not going to trust

"What do you have to lose? You've got no transportation, and it looks like you're a goner anyway!"

The cowboy thinks about this for a minute, and decides that the genie is right.

"OK! I wish I were in a lush oasis with plenty of food and drink"

--- POOF ---

The cowboy finds himself in the most beautiful oasis he has ever seen, and he is surrounded with jugs of wine and platters of delicacies.

"OK, cowpoke, what's your second wish."

"My second wish is that I was rich beyond my wildest dreams."

--- POOF---

The cowboy finds himself surrounded by treasure chests filled with rare gold coins and precious gems.

"OK, cowpuncher, you have just one more wish. Better make it a good one!"

After thinking for a few minutes, the cowboy says..."I wish that no matter where I go, beautiful women will want and need me."

--- POOF---

He was turned into a tampon.

The moral of the story: If the government offers you anything, there's going to be a string attached.



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Coco 'Nut' Funnies

A Cup of Tea

One day my mother was out and my dad was in charge of me. I was maybe 2 1/2 years old and someone had given me a little 'tea set' as a gift and it was one of my favorite toys.

Daddy was in the living room engrossed in the evening news when I brought Daddy a little cup of "tea," which was just water. After several cups of tea and lots of praise

for such yummy tea, my Mom came home.

My Dad made her wait in the living room to watch me bring him a cup of tea, because it was "just the cutest thing!" My Mom waited, and sure enough, here I come down the hall with a cup of tea for Daddy and she watches him drink it up.

Then she says (as only a mother would know...), "Did it ever occur to you that the only place she can reach to get water is the toilet?"









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Mon-Tue, Mar 30-31: Nancy Hartline

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