

The Conch Republic COCONUT TELEGRAPH

FREE
Lodging • Shopping
Dining • Entertainment



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Hidden Gems
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Coconut Funnies



Bahia Honda Bridge at the state park. A beautiful place to visit.



BEST WINGS in Town!

D-HOOKER

Wing It 102.3 MM Bayside

A banner advertisement for D-Hooker, a sports bar and grill. It features two women holding trays of food, a large image of a fish, and the text 'BEST WINGS in Town!' and 'Wing It 102.3 MM Bayside'. The background is yellow with a flame effect at the bottom.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
from all of us
at
D-Hooker!

A holiday greeting from D-Hooker, featuring a black background with red and white text and a decorative border of holly leaves and berries.

Coconut Telegraph

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305-304-2837
TheCoconutTelegraph@yahoo.com

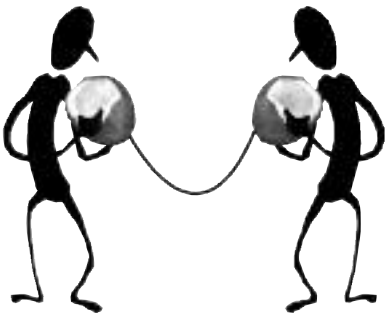
Cast of Characters:

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Production

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Shop Local



Alan and Bill are ready to help with all your holiday shopping at Coral Financial Jewelry and Pawn

While nearly everyone has heard of Black Friday, Small Business Saturday seems to be gaining attention. But it shouldn't be just a one-day event, extend the idea and feed money directly back into our local economy throughout the holiday shopping season.

If you are planning to make the long drive to shop on the mainland or make purchases online, take time to visit our local stores first. I think you will be surprised at the variety of gifts you can find at affordable prices. Places like Coral Financial and Pawn offer much more than the typical tourist items, and

all at reasonable prices. Why shop local? Studies show that \$45 of every \$100 spent at a small, local business stays in the local economy. Take control and use your purchasing power to boost our local Keys economy by making your purchases around town. Not only does shopping local keep money here in our community, but it can save you money spent on gas traveling to out-of-town stores, the time, and the cost of shipping if ordering online.

Give back to your community and explore the unique merchandise available right here in the Keys.

Editorial: The Importance of Consistent Advertising
An Investment in Yourself

Here, in the fabulous Florida Keys there is so much to enjoy. We have everything from the underwater majesty of our coral reef, and dancing dolphins in the bay to manatees at our back door, and the freshest, most delicious seafood in the world. And you can't forget an island life style that attracts the finest musicians for superb local entertainment. With so much beauty surrounding us it is easy to be distracted and that is why effective advertising, the kind that grabs people's attention is so important.

In my 30+ years of newspaper experience I have learned that effective advertising is the key to a successful business. Advertising is one

of the most crucial investments a person can make in his or her company.

For years people have been telling "Mary" (fictitious person) that she is a great cook and she should open a restaurant. Mary sells some possessions, scrapes up all the money she can and opens her very own restaurant. The first month or two the place is busy because Mary's friends spread the word and the establishment is a novelty in town. But after a while business slows.

In desperation Mary takes out an ad in a weekly newspaper. That week she sees a bunch of new faces but the next week nothing. She doesn't understand why. The reason is, the newspaper with

her ad was replaced a week later with the following weeks paper which did not contain an ad for Mary's restaurant.

In order for your advertising dollars to be effective you have to be consistent. Pick a newspaper and stick with it. If you run an ad one time or sporadically you might as well flush your dollars down the toilet.

The next big question in advertising is, "Does size matter?" The answer is yes and no. Flip through the pages of this paper and see what ads catch your eye. Pick up the phone and call these advertisers and ask them how effective their ad is.

A friend of mine, Louie, is an inboard Continued on page 20...

Disclaimer

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We Come to You!

NEW TIRE SALES

DISCOUNT PRICES on MAJOR BRANDS

10% DISCOUNT SAME DAY SERVICE ON SITE INSTALLATION

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B & B

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Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner
7 am - 10 pm Daily

Local Seafood
Vegetarian Entrees
Cook Your Catch
Pet Friendly
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Award Winning Food & Coffee

Wine • Beer • Espresso
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MM102 Oceanside Key Largo 453-5300

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On-Site Jewelry Repair

Please Donate to MARC

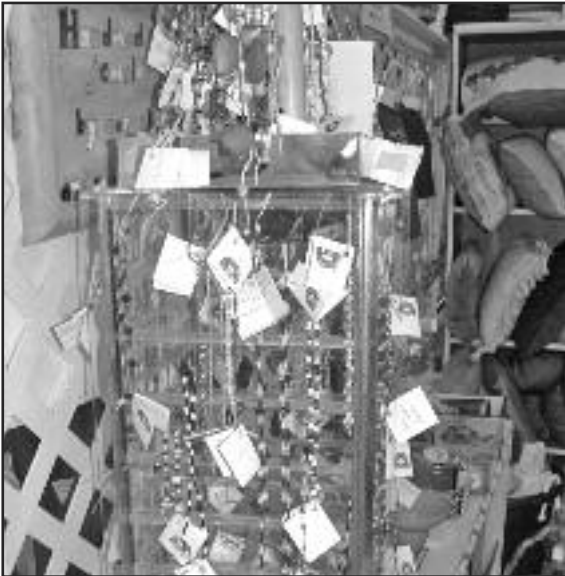
Support Monroe Association for ReMARCable Citizens



Members of MARC making jewelry. The handcrafted jewelry is for sale and funds benefit the program.



Denise Malefy's daughter, Kristi Jean before she passed away from spinal meningitis.



The beautiful handcrafted jewelry made by the ReMARCable citizens.

When I was 17 I got pregnant and married. My daughter, Kristi Jean, was born prematurely and had to have brain surgery. At three and half months old she died of spinal meningitis. We buried her on a freezing cold Valentine's Day in a snow-covered hole in the ground. That was 38 years ago.

Back then, the doctors did not know if she would have been retarded or not. As a mother I could tell that she wasn't normal. And now I wonder what my life would be like had she lived.

I had a cousin that was

retarded. She was always a happy lovable person, but mentally she never passed the age of 10. Her name was Arlene but everyone called her "Toots." Unfortunately, she never got to go to school or join in any activities outside the home because there wasn't any available where she lived back then.

Luckily times have changed and Monroe County has a fantastic program, Monroe Association for ReMARCable Citizens, available to adult clients with developmental disabilities that include mental retardation (I.Q.

69 or below), cerebal palsy, spina bifida, Prader-Willi Syndrome, and traumatic brain injury sustained prior to age 18.

As part of the program and also as a source of funds, MARC operates a thrift store located at mile marker 90 next door to Coral Shores High School. Stop by to shop or donate and see what this wonderful program does for these people.

Perhaps you have seen their jewelry on display around town. Making the jewelry is a chance for them to express themselves artistically and gain a sense of what it is like to have a job. Each piece of jewelry comes

with a card signed by the MARC artist.

This program, like many others in a recession, has experienced budget cuts, so please remember them and the thrift store when you are shopping this holiday season. Stop in the shop to buy something or donate items to be sold. They take unwanted clothing, household items and anything of value they can sell.

Thrift shop hours are Monday to Saturday 9am to 4pm. For more information about this program or about how you can help please call 305-852-3282.

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MM 99 Oceanside • www.pilothousemarina.com

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and Monday Nights

Teacher Appreciation Day
Fridays 4:00 to 7:00 pm
10% off with school ID

FEED THE FISH!
Free Fish Food
for the Kids

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Happy Hour
Monday – Friday, 4pm-7pm
\$ 1 Pork Chop
\$ 2 Draft Beer
\$ 3 Well Drinks
\$ 4 Call Drinks

Live Entertainment
every Saturday and Sunday
with Allan Truesdall
2pm-7pm
Try our 6 Ceviche Samples

Bacardi Superior, Captain Morgan, Smirnoff, Tanqueray, Canadian Club, Jack Daniels, Jose Cuervo

\$ 5 Bartender's Special Cocktail

Come by Car or by Boat.
MileMarker 108, 25°11.981'N / 80°23.233' W
107690 Overseas Highway, Key Largo, FL 33037, (305) 396-7353

Stay Safe on the Road this Holiday Season



Be responsible and help keep our roads safe.
Make the right decision this holiday season and choose
Mom's Taxi 852-6000.

Where is the Party?

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107900 Overseas Hwy, Key Largo

RAW BAR open every day!

Gilbert's Breakfast Nook
Serving Breakfast Daily
7am - 11am

Monday thru Friday
HAPPY HOUR
4pm - 7pm

DECEMBER ENTERTAINMENT

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27. THE REGS 1-6 Kim Bankston during Band Breaks	Bowman 1-3:30 pm Jammin' with the Steve Venini Band 6-10	29 . Luke 1-3:30 pm T.J. Karaoke 6-10	30. Allen Truesdell 1-3:30 pm and Allen Truesdell 6 – 8:30 pm	01. John McKinna 1-3:30pm Kevin Hurley 6 – 8:30pm	02.David Bowman 2-5 pm THE REGS 6-10	03.Luke & Dave 1-5 Gypsy Road Band 6-10
04.Mr. Nice Guy 1-6 Kim Bankston during Band Breaks	05. David Bowman 1-3:30 pm Jammin' with the Steve Venini Band 6-10	06. Luke 1-3:30pm T.J. Karaoke 6-10	07. Allen Truesdell 1-3:30 pm and Allen Truesdell 6 – 8:30 pm	08. Luke Sommer Glenn 1-3:30 pm Kevin Hurley 6 – 8:30pm	09. David Bowman 2-5 pm Blackwater Sound 6-10	10. Luke & Dave 1-5 EGO 6-10
11. THE REGS 1-6 Kim Bankston during Band Breaks	12. David Bowman 1-3:30 pm Jammin' with the Steve Venini Band 6-10	13. Luke 1-3:30 pm T.J. Karaoke 6-10	14. Allen Truesdell 1-3:30 pm and Allen Truesdell 6 – 8:30 pm	15 John McKinna 1-3:30pm Kevin Hurley 6 – 8:30pm	16. David Bowman 2-5 pm Colbert the Band 6-10	17 Luke & Dave 1-5 Whipping Post 6-10
18. Mr. Nice Guy 1-6 Kim Bankston during Band Breaks	19. David Bowman 1-3:30 pm Jammin' with the Steve Venini Band 6-10	20. Luke 1-3:30 pm T.J. Karaoke 6-10	21. Allen Truesdell 1-3:30 pm and Allen Truesdell 6 – 8:30 pm	22. Luke Sommer Glenn 1-3:30 pm Kevin Hurley 6 – 8:30pm	23.David Bowman 2-5 pm NO RESTRICTIONS 6-10	24.Luke & Dave 1-5 Karaoke Contest 10-2am
25. Kim Bankston 1-6	26. David Bowman 1-5 pm Jammin' with the Steve Venini Band 6-10	27 . Luke 1-5 pm T.J. Karaoke 6-10	28. Allen Truesdell 1-5 pm and Whipping Post 6 – 10 pm	29.John McKinna 1-5pm Blackwater Sound 6-10	30.David Bowman 1-5 pm EXIT 19 6-10	31.Luke & Dave 1-5 Justa Head 6-10 Karaoke Contest 10-2am

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM GILBERT'S!

Hours - Tiki Bar: 7 Days 11 am to 11pm or later • Inside Restaurant: Monday to Friday 5pm to 10pm • Saturday and Sunday 7am to 11am and 5pm to 10pm

Find us on Facebook

Whistle Stop Recognized for Best Fish Sandwich



Picture from left: Whistle Stop managers Bob Burgeson, Tracey Burgeson, with owners Kelley Morris and Captain Tom Morris receiving the Coconut Telegraph's award for Best Fish Sandwich.

Coconut
Telegraph
Award of
Excellence!

The Coconut Telegraph recently awarded the Whistle Stop in Islamorada its award of excellence for their delicious fish sandwich. Owners of the establishment, Captain Tom Morris and his beautiful wife Kelley, along with Kelley's identical twin sister Tracey and her husband Bob Burgeson have done great things at the Whistle Stop including producing the best fish sandwich I've had in my 22 years living in the Keys.

Everything on the menu is delicious and reasonably priced. The fish sandwich is a generous portion of mahi mahi breaded, spiced, fried to perfection, and layered with two different types of

cheese and served on a Kaiser roll with lettuce, tomato, onion as well as a large sliced dill pickle. With that you get your choice of fries, cole slaw or homemade potato salad, which you'd swear was just like your mom's. And all of this is only \$9.95! It is unbeatable!

Captain Morris opened the Whistle Stop on March 17th (St. Patrick's Day) in 1983. They added food 10 years ago and having been serving up excellence ever since. Stop by and tell them the Coconut Telegraph sent you.

For more details about the Whistle Stop see the ad on page 13.

Whistle Stop • MM 82.5 • Oceanside

Ballyhoo's has got the Crabs!



Stone Crabs

ALL YOU CAN EAT
Includes salad and
your choice of side dish



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

Bobbe Brown is back!

He's available for private parties and holiday gigs.

Catch him Fridays and Sundays at Coconuts.

For bookings call 305-360-1127



KEY LIME CAFE MENU

- FISH BASKET \$6.99 (w/ fries & cole slaw)
- CRACKED CONCH BASKET \$8.99 (w/ fries & cole slaw)
- BASKET OF FRIES \$3.50 (french cut)
- FISH SANDWICH \$6.99 (w/ fries & cole slaw)
- CHICKEN SANDWICH \$6.99 (w/ fries & cole slaw)
- CONCH SANDWICH \$8.99 (w/ fries & cole slaw)
- CONCH FRITTERS \$5.99 (w/ fries \$8.99)
- CONCH CHOWDER \$4.99 (w/ fries \$7.99)
- CHICKEN FINGERS \$4.99 (w/ fries \$7.99)
- NATHAN'S HOT DOG \$3.99 (w/ fries)
- KEY LIME SMOOTHIES \$3.50

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Lowest Prices

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Water Resource Technologies Donates Needed Funds to Marine Mammal Conservancy

When Randy Bell of Water Resource Technologies wandered onto the grounds of the Marine Mammal Conservancy (MMC) in Key Largo last summer, he had no idea he was about to be seduced.

A South Florida sales manager for Water Resource Technologies, a company that provides wastewater treatment systems, Bell was making a preliminary site inspection at the AT&T facility when his curiosity led him to explore activity on the adjoining property. He was soon met by an MMC volunteer, who advised him that he was trespassing. A dialogue ensued and within minutes, Bell found himself on the water amongst six stranded pilot whales and the volunteers

who were trying to save them. "I learned about the amazing work those people

install a wastewater system. They had some funds, but needed a lift station to

Bell had already decided he would have to find a way to help the conservancy. Then one of the pilot whales rolled onto its side and looked him in the eye. "I know that whale was checking me out!" said Bell. And the mournful look of the ailing pilot whale touched him deeply.

Bell said he had a hunch that Mark Alexander, President of Water Resource Technologies, would donate the needed equipment. But to save time, he called Alexander's daughter, Colleen, "because she could make it happen faster." After the call from Bell, Colleen, a 21-year-old college student, called her dad and the deal was sealed. "She's a wonderful, caring, mature young



Photo by Bob and Mariela Care

Marine Mammal Conservancy volunteers assist rescued whale at the center.

were doing, but also that they would have to close the conservancy until they could

complete the project and tie in to the sewage system," said Bell.

Continued on page 8...
...continued from page 7



BOOK YOUR SPECIAL EVENT AT ONE OF OUR FABULOUS VENUES!

HAPPY HOUR
Monday-Friday
\$1.50 Drafts
½ Price Well Drinks

Join us for drinks on the bay and an award-winning pizza... anytime!



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Waterfront Dining Carry-Out 305-453-9066
Traditional Pizza • Specialty Pies
Calzones • Wings



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The Dimaggio Brothers
Sundays 3pm-7pm

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ONLINE RETAIL STORE!!

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Entertainment
7 Days a Week



Deck the Hulls!

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KEY LARGO BOAT PARADE

December 10

Enjoy The Boat Parade In Style!

Walk The Red Carpet To Your Private Luxury Box

Limited Space Available
Each Luxury Box Seats Up To 12
Call or look online for details.

JOIN US EVERY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY AT THE BIG CHILL

Any size gathering... casual to elegant... drinks to full dinner... we have multiple venues and menus!
Call Mark Charles, Catering Director, at 305-453-9066

New Years Eve Fireworks on the Bay!

"Franklin's Wheel" 6-piece band

Dinner overlooking the Bay

Call for reservations
305-453-9066

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4 BARS • 30 TVs
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BEER & WING SPECIALS

at Fisherman's Cove, MM 104 Bayside, Key Largo 305-453-9066 • jjsbigschill.com

Marine Mammal Conservancy Donation

woman," said Bell, a long-time friend of the family. "I just wanted to help this organization, and also wanted people to know that Water Resource Technologies is a company that plays a supportive role in the Keys community."

Water Resource Technologies, which serves several businesses in the Keys, including Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District, is donating the needed lift station, a grinder with dual pumps, alarms and control panel to MMC -- a gift of more than \$10,000. Bell said Water Resource Technologies also plans to service the system free of charge when needed. A provider of green solutions for waste water collection, the company is a selected subcontractor for the Reynolds Water Islamorada team for installing low-pressure sewer.

"They have even offered to supervise the installation when we do the tie-in," said Art Cooper, MMC's chairman. "We are really grateful and also dependent on donations like this one from Water Resource Technologies to remain in operation."

"We receive no government

funding, yet we are saving the communities we serve thousands of dollars by conducting these rescue and rehab services." Cooper said. "Even carcass removal for marine mammals can cost up to \$10,000 each."

The two-acre MMC facility is equipped for critical care, as well as for stabilizing and pre-release conditioning of marine mammals.

"We built an office and meeting room with indoor plumbing two years ago, but haven't been able to use the bathroom for lack of a sewage line. But this tie-in is also necessary for us to continue long-term rehab," he continued citing health concerns with disposal of medication and other possible contaminants from sick marine mammals.

Dedicated volunteers at the MMC recently provided the round-the-clock human support needed to assist 23 stranded pilot whales, an endeavor that started in May and was maintained for five months. Thanks to Water Resource Technologies, their work assisting other marine mammals will now continue.



Any Car, Truck
or Motorcycle

2012

Saturday • 6-9 PM
January 7th

featuring
BUD LIGHT

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IN TOWN!**

LIVE MUSIC

**BEER & WINGS
SPECIALS**

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102250 Overseas Highway • Key Largo
MM 102.3 • 305-451-4105 • www.d-hooker.net

BAR & GRILL • ISLAMORADA, FL

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in air-conditioned comfort!

SEE ALL THE GAMES HERE, FOOD AND DRINK SPECIALS!

HAPPY HOUR Daily 4-7pm
\$1 Drafts
2 for 1 Well/Wine

**BEST RIBS
in the Keys**

FRESH SEAFOOD

WILL'S WACKY WING WEDNESDAY
BUY 20 GET 10 FREE • 5PM TO CLOSE

FAMILY FRIENDLY
Family Owned & Operated

**UPPER KEYS'
LARGEST GAME ROOM!**
TAKEOUT AVAILABLE
CLOSED MONDAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS

Mile Marker 86.7
305-852-8786

NEW

**Big Tony's
Gourmet Martini Night!**
Every Friday 4 to close
2 for 1 Martinis

Lunch Specials starting at 5.99

Early Birds 4-6pm Every Day
starting at \$9.99

Bread Bowl Soups & Chili \$4.99

HOME OF THE \$3 LOADED BAKED POTATO!

Why You Should Buy a House in the Keys Now

Have you looked at the price of a rental lately? I took a quick look at available rentals (by owner) on Craig's List and here is what I found:

- \$800 - large one bedroom apt
- \$1,450 - 2 br - 768 sq ft
- \$1,500 - 2 br - 650 sq ft
- \$1,890 - 3 br - 1048 sq ft
- \$2,200 - 3 br - 1,000 sq ft furnished

And those prices are not on the water. You must be prepared to pay first month's rent plus your last month's rent plus a security deposit usually equivalent to one month's rent. Further, what do you have to write off at tax time versus the write off you receive from home ownership?

Some people are afraid to

buy a home in times like these, with the economy tanking and home prices continuing to fall. We hear all that doom and gloom on the nightly news and read it in the papers daily. I have been in the real estate business for over 30 years here in the Keys, and I have seen many challenges and changes in our marketplace, but I adamantly disagree with the doomsayers! I firmly believe that right now is the perfect time to buy your home in the Keys. In fact my question is "Why shouldn't you buy a house in the Keys now?"

I tell my customers, "The time has never been better, as the prices are certainly at an all time low. Besides the low prices, there are also short sales and foreclosures

on the market. These properties give the buyer even more value for their buck."

These properties are priced below what the owner has paid for them, and are based on prices that the bank will consider taking to sell the home. The advantage to buying one of these homes is that there are many extras and upgrades that your budget would not normally be able to include. You get more for your money! Yes, there are some disadvantages too. The time period to negotiate and closing on one of these homes takes a bit longer, sometimes four to six months or possibly longer. So if you have a time frame in which you must move or close, this may not be the best choice

for you to consider.

There are other advantages to buying now that the buyer should keep in mind. There's a huge inventory from which to choose. Many homes have lingered on the market for some time, and you may be able to negotiate an even better price than normal. In addition to getting a better sales price, you can also ask the seller to pay some of your closing costs or give you a credit towards an improvement. With so much competition to get a house sold, sellers are willing to give some incentives to buyers. I have a builder right now that will pay all the closing costs, add a privacy fence and upgraded appliances all at no

Continued on page 19...

Key Players present...A Taffeta Christmas

A Classic "Hometown Christmas Musical," just in time for the holidays!

Meet Kaye, Peggy, Cheryl and Donna, known as The Taffetas. The Key Players are proud to present "A Taffeta Christmas." The singing four-some posing as four Muncie Indiana sisters circa 1959 are our own talented Upper Keys chanteuses: Lisa Wetzel, Cindy Hollingsworth, Ginette Hughes and Bernadette Restivo. The Taffetas, who have played in the Upper Keys several times before, are back with a nostalgic, light-hearted look at the holidays. Celebrate the season with all your Christmas favorites in a tribute to the sounds of the McGuire Sisters, The Fontane Sisters and the Chordettes. "A Taffeta Christmas" is a classic hometown Christmas, the way it used to be.

The show will be presented the first 3 weeks in December, on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, so you have nine opportunities to enjoy it. Join the Key Players at the Murray E Nelson Government and Cultural Center at Mile Marker 102. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$18 at the door (ages 16 and under \$7). Tickets are available for specific dates in advance at The Art Box in Keys Largo, The UPS Store in Key Largo and at Post Net in Islamorada.

This delightful musical features such classics as "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus," "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," "Sincerely," and "Secret Love." It's an all girl, all singing, all dancing, wholesome good time for the whole family. Visit Muncie Indiana with the sisters as they celebrate the magic of Christmas. Who knows who you might meet in this small town?

Call 305-453-0997 for more information, or visit www.thekeyplayers.org.

A Taffeta Christmas

Starring
Cindy Hollingsworth
Bernadette Restivo
Lisa Wetzel
Ginette Hughes

Written by Rick Lewis
Select Entertainment Productions

Producers
Nancy Wells
Charlene Sammis

Directors
Tom Butler
Brad Shank

Musical Director Cindy Hollingsworth

a classic hometown Christmas musical

Bartender of the Month Gina Rew at Island Grill



It all started eight years ago when Gina Rew heard there was going to be a new restaurant opening by the Snake Creek bridge. When she stopped by to take a look around and saw the spectacular ocean views at the soon-to-open Island Grill, she knew that was where she wanted to work. Eight years later, the highly successful Island Grill and Rew will celebrate their anniversaries there January 1st.

Thirty-five years ago, right out of high school, Rew moved to the Keys from Long Island. Her first job here was at the prestigious Ocean Reef Club, followed by time spent at the Quay, and Snappers before she found her niche at the Island Grill.

Rew takes the important things in life very seriously - her job, her daughter and fishing.

Always working hard, Rew created several of her own well-known drink recipes that

are used by other professional bartenders. She has a legion of snowbirds that fly to the Island Grill daily to see her, and as any bartender will tell you, repeat business is the highest compliment a bartender can get.

Rew's beautiful daughter Caitlin is her pride and joy. Caitlin is currently a student at Gulf Coast University where she works hard and continuously makes her mother proud.

Fishing... Rew is serious about fishing. Rew enters every tournament she can and is always a contender, having placed in several.

And when she is taking time off from the seriously important things you may find her pool side with a good book or traveling on the back of a Harley somewhere.

Rew invites everyone to stop by Island Grill for happy hour from 4 to 7 everyday.

Get there early because the Continued on page 22...

LOCALS — IT'S YOUR
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Experiences We Don't Understand Hidden Gems

All of the events in our lives lead to other events, they are all connected.

Sometimes we have an experience that we don't understand, but if we look deeply, or wait long enough, a reason for that experience will usually reveal itself. All the events in our lives lead to other events, and all that we have manifested in this present moment is the result of past events and experiences. We cannot easily tease apart the many threads that have been woven

We may ultimately end up leaving the job or the place, but often during that time we will have met someone who becomes an important friend, or we may have an experience that changes us in a profound way. When all the pieces of our life don't quite make sense, we can remember that there may be some hidden gem of a reason that we are where we are having the

experiences we are having.

It's fun to look back on past experiences with an eye to uncovering those gems—the dreadful


temporary job in a bland office building that introduced you to the love of your life; the roommate you couldn't tolerate who gave you a book that changed your life; the time spent living in a city you didn't like that led you into a deeper relationship with yourself. Remembering these past experiences can restore our faith in the present. Life is full of buried treasures. Chances are, you're sitting on some right now.

together to create our current reality. Experiences that don't make sense, as well as any that we regret, are just as responsible for the good things in our lives as the experiences we do understand or label as "good."

This is especially important to remember at times when we feel directionless or unsure of what to do. It is often at times like these that we take a job or move to a place without really knowing if it's the right thing to do.

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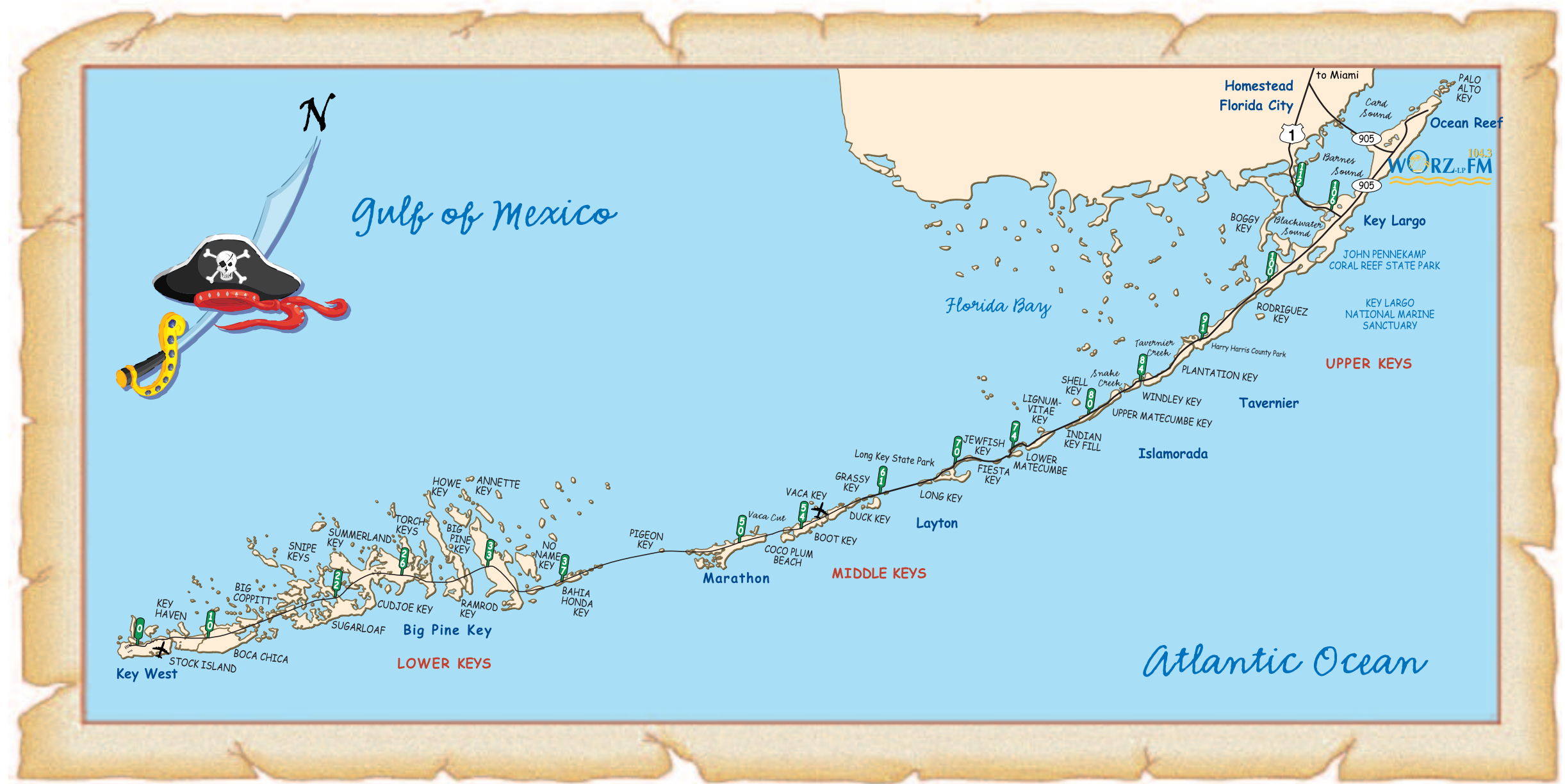
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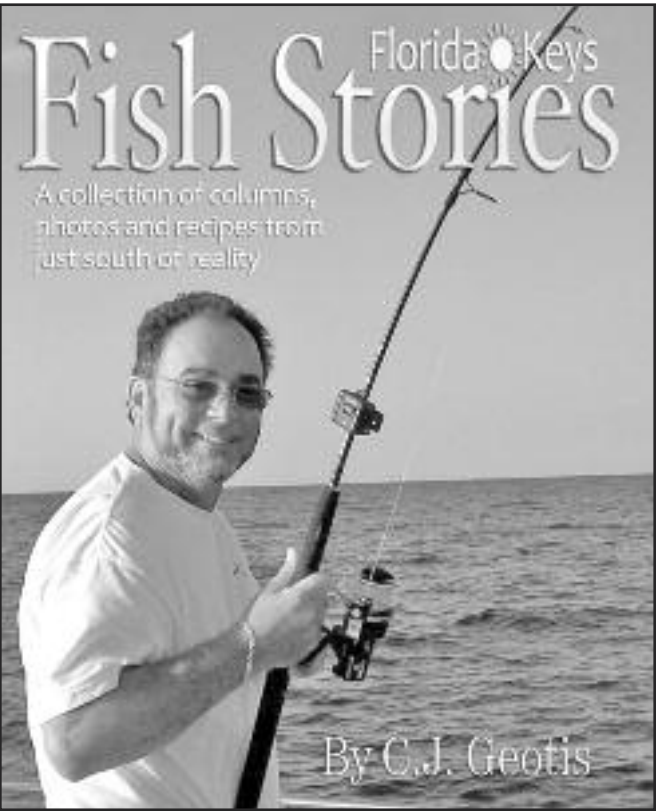
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Fish Stories: Book Signing by Local Author

Local columnist and radio personality, C. J. Geotis, will host several book signings to introduce his new book, Florida Keys Fish Stories.

Florida Keys Fish Stories
Book signing by C.J. Geotis



Tuesday, December 6 • 6 p.m.
Centennial Bank at 11290 Overseas Hwy, Marathon

Saturday, December 10 • 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Crane Point Hammock at 5550 Overseas Hwy, Marathon

Geotis' columns, *Fish Stories*, have been gracing the pages of Florida Keys newspapers for years. Now, they can find a place on your coffee table with his book of collected published columns, recipes and amazing pictures of Keys scenes.

Geotis' writing style is humorous, lighthearted and upbeat and his stories focus on the love of salt-water fishing, friends and relatives, relationships formed and once-in-a-lifetime Florida Keys memories.

Geotis' stories are loved by fisherpersons of all levels as well as land lovers.

The stories are interspersed with tales and photos of local friends. Geotis never fails to remind you that "life is good in the Florida Keys; life is very good in the Florida Keys."

Florida Keys Fish Stories can be purchased directly online for \$12.95 at www.createpace.com/3719989 or at www.amazon.com. It makes a great Christmas gift.

For more information, contact: C. J. Geotis at fishstoriescj@comcast.net or by phone at 305-481-6910.

Conch Characters

Hunk of the Month



Randy Wetzel

Personal Trainer

Shirts from T-Toons

Quick Trip to Key West



You can't visit Key West without walking the Wharf, checking out the boats and stopping by the Schooner Wharf bar.



While you're in Key West take a ride on this boat... One of the last "tall" ship still sailing from the Island.



Rumor has it the Green Parrot was reportedly just purchased by Pat Croce.



While roaming the streets in Key West we ran into our favorite waiter Joe from the Big Chill.



Live entertainment is every where at the Southern most point.

Cock-a-doodle-doo!



and More Conch Characters



Just in from New York, Gator and Laurie with fabulous waitress Mary at the Buzzard's Roost.



Colbert the Band at Gilbert's Resort.



Michael Trixx and friend Barbie at the Big chill.



Tropical Springs Realty having a great party at Sundowner's.



Cris Sandifer, from the Purple Isles Art Guild, instructs Island Christian School students who are painting a mural of the Flagler railroad.



Quite the party barge or floating home found below Jewfish Creek Bridge.

I Hate Sandspurs... Ouch!

Yes, it is silly and unproductive to hate a plant, but I really hate the God-awful weed from hell, the Sandspur. It looks innocent enough, just like grass, but it produces tiny little burdocks that leap onto your socks, flip flops, and shoelaces as you walk. Then, later when you absentmindedly remove your clothes the sneaky little pricks impale themselves somewhere on your body.

When you try to remove the spurs they seem to dig in deeper or latch on to your fingers, pricking them. If you aren't wearing gloves, try licking your fingers before you remove the burdocks. The moisture softens the tips of the spikes enough so they bend instead of driving into your skin.

The dang things grow and thrive anywhere and can be especially worrisome when their dried-up husks fall to the ground. On the ground they can become contaminated with animal feces and e-coli, and then, if stuck, the contaminates can be introduced beneath the skin and into the bloodstream. That's a serious and unwanted infection.

The Sandspur is also called Burgrass or Sand Burgrass and is

an annual grass that grows six inches to two feet tall. The narrow, yellow-green leaf blades are 1/4 inch wide and two to five inches long. From July to September seeds are produced inside the spiny half-inch straw-colored burs that are formed on the stems. Each bur contains only two seeds but one plant may produce as many as 1,000 seeds that germinate in the spring.

One of the best ways to get rid of the pesky Sandspurs is to maintain a healthy lawn. Thriving grass will crowd out the Burgrass, and the weed does not like rich soil, so again a healthy lawn isn't a place they tend to grow.

To get rid of these threats, I've even heard of people, especially those with pets who come home covered in the spurs, dragging their yards with burlap to pickup the pricklers. This can get some of the pests but will not eliminate the problem.

I know this is just one person's gripe, but if we band together and pull, weed, and maintain our lawns and neighborhoods we can rid our community of the annoying, painful, and unattractive Sandspur.



Why Buy a House Now

...continued on page 9
extra cost to the buyer. These are significant savings that add to your bottom line. Take advantage of this power now, because when the market starts to improve, some of this negotiating power will diminish.

Mortgage rates are near a 50-year low, which greatly affects the affordability of the price of home that you can purchase. As the economic recovery gains momentum, interest rates will increase, making your mortgage more expensive. A half-percent in mortgage interest can add a hundred dollars or more to your monthly payments, depending on the amount of your loan.

I hope that some of these reasons will be helpful to you

in making your decision and compel you to call a realtor today. Take a look at what's available here in this great paradise that we call the Keys.

Owning a home here is more of a possibility than ever before and I know you will be glad that you too can call the Keys home.

Contributed by
Jane Wasmund
Tropical Springs Realty
CRS, SFR, Broker Sales

Editors note: One of the saddest things is to sit around and listen to the old timers regretfully talk about all the properties they could have bought for a song and didn't.

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VFW Basket to Benefit Good Health Clinic



The VFW mens auxiliary will donate the proceeds from this basket donated by the Coconut Telegraph and ReMax Realty to the Good Health Clinic. Buy your tickets now! The raffle drawing will be held on December 16th.



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A Fisherman's Philosophy

How to Get a Bite on a Slow Day...

Talk about changing spots.

Prepare another rod while one is out.

Lay your rod down unsecured.

Go for a sandwich.

Start to pull the boat anchor.

Use the worst fly you own.

Crack open your first beer.

Crack open your last beer.

Take notice of a hot chick on a passing boat.

Watch others fishing.

Start reeling in your lines at going home time.

Give your fishing rod to a female companion or child to hold.

Put your landing net out of reach.

Make sure to cast your line over an obstruction.

Let your line drift into impossible weeds.

Turn away to look at the sunrise or sunset.set.

Decide you need to take a leak.



Editorial:

The Importance Advertising

...continued from page 2
boat mechanic. I have seen desperate boat owners stranded at Gilbert's Marina with the Coconut Telegraph in one hand and cell phone in another calling Louie's Dockside Services to come to their rescue. This attention comes from a \$25 a month business card ad Louie has run consistently from day one.

At the Coconut Telegraph we have very reasonable rates because we have a very small staff and no office, which equals low overhead and inexpensive advertising. So whether you are a small business or large company we have an ad size that fits you. And note, even

our "small" ads are of a good attention-grabbing size.

If your finances are keeping you from investing in consistent advertising, consider starting with one of our \$25 business card size ads (see facing page). Simply send the ad content, or a business card, along with the \$75 minimum three-month payment and have your business seen by our hundreds of readers every month. You'll be surprise the positive impact a little face-time in front of our readers will make on your company's profits. Interested in going big? For larger ads I'm happy to stop by and setup a comfortable and affordable program for you.

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Clubs/Organizations

Upper Keys Mac User Group meets the second Thursday of every month at Key Largo Library Comm. Room 7pm. Free/open to public. **451-4601**

Key Players, Inc. Community Theater Group needs volunteers to work behind the scenes! Sign up on the web! www.thekeyplayers.org

Florida Keys Orchid, Fern & Bromeliad Society meets the 3rd Thurs. of every month at Key Largo Library Comm. Room 7pm. Free/open to public. **451-3000**

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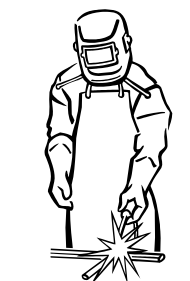
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Enchanted Sea Crystals Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. How do you activate the negative ions that clean the air?**
- A. Arrange them around a tea candle, in an oil burner or put them in a sunny window because they are activated by heat.
- Q. My crystals have lost their scent, what do I do?**
- A. Just refresh them with your favorite oil or perfume. They do not have to smell pretty to neutralize the air.
- Q. I have had my Enchanted Sea Crystals for a couple of months and use regularly and they are starting to look funky, what can I do?**
- A. Relax, they are salt. Just run them under the faucet for a few seconds for a quick wash and they should look new again. If they don't it might be time to toss them out and buy some new ones.
- Q. Will one dish of Sea Crystals clean my entire house?**
- A. No. One dish will only clean a 5' x 7' area. You may need them in your office, den, kitchen, living room, bedrooms and bathrooms.

Enchanted Sea Crystals

Natural Sea Salt Potpourri

Perhaps you have noticed that your feeling of well being is intensified in pure mountain air, or at the seashore, or after a thunder-storm. This is due to the higher concentration of negative ions in these surroundings. Objects that release negative ions are believed to purify air and promote good health.

Enchanted Sea Crystals are pure ionic sea salt crystals, solar evaporated from the clear blue waters of the Caribbean Sea; colored in rich hues and infused with pure oils to provide lasting fragrance. The fragrance from the crystals is as strong as candles, yet it is safe to your health and environment.

Enchanted Sea Crystals will retain their fragrance up to three months (without adding more fragrance oil) depending on the environmental conditions of the room. Direct sunlight and strong air exposure will cause the fragrance oils to evaporate faster but will not affect the ionic value.

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Gina Rew

...continued from page 10

place fills up fast. The Island Grill is famous for their excellent food and top-notch entertainment which includes former Coconut Telegraph Entertainers of the Month Derrick Herring, Billy Davidson, Brenda Star and magician extraordinaire Michael Trixx (just to drop a few names).

You will find Gina Rew hard at work every Tuesday through Friday night and Saturday days. When you stop in, ask her if she has achieved her goal of beating Skyler McGarry from Dillon's Pub at a fishing tournament yet.

For more information or for reservations, weddings and private parties call 305-664-8400.

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Coco'Nut' Funnies

Golfer with One Arm

There was a man who lost one of his arms in an accident. He became very depressed because he had loved to play golf and no longer could.

One day in his lock-of-golf-induced despair, he decided to commit suicide. He got on an elevator and went to the top of a tall building to jump off.

He was standing on the ledge looking down when he saw a man skipping along, whooping and kicking up his heels. He looked closer and saw that this man didn't have any arms at all. He started thinking, what am I doing up here feeling sorry for myself, I still have one good arm to do things with. There goes a man with no arms skipping down the sidewalk so happy, and going on with his life.

He hurried down and caught up with the man with no arms. He told him how glad he was to see him because he had lost one of his arms and felt useless and was going to kill himself. He thanked him again for saving his life and said he knew he could make it with one arm if that guy could go on with no arms. The man with no arms began dancing and whooping and kicking up his heels again.

So the man with one arm had to ask, "Why are you so happy anyway?"

The armless man answered, "I'm NOT happy, dang-it. My balls itch."

Golf Sayings and Definitions

"Human Rain Delay" = a slow player.

"Red Ass" = murdering the next tee shot after just missing a short bogey putt on the previous hole.

"Deploy the Chute" = what you yell at a putt that needs to slow down.

"Write When You Get Work" = spoken to a putt that has just run past the hole and is still going hard.

"Mother-in-law Putt" = nothing but lip.

"Lawrence of Arabia" = someone who has been in the sand all day.

"Army Golf" = left, right, left, right, left.

"Linda Ronstadt Drive" = you hit a drive past your partners and say "blew by you."

"Fore, Lord!" = Yelled after hitting a ball a mile in the air.

I SAID THE "S-H" WORD.

I SAID THE "F" WORD.

I SAID "CHRISTMAS."

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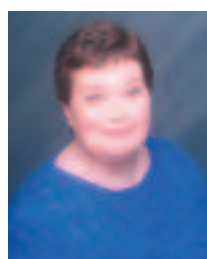
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