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Boy Scouts Honor Perrotti

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...Derrick Herring
Bartender of the Month
...Kimberly Black

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Getting From Here to There

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July 29 - August 7
FKLCC Adds Rocky Horror & Magnolias
Community Auditions Being Held

What's Hot & What's Not

Conch Characters

All the Buzz

Travel Channel Comes to Key Largo
Evolution of the Soul
Life Lessons



The Key Largo Food & Wine Festival kicks off July 29, with 10 days of tastings, cooking classes, gourmet wine dinners and "how to" events, and even a murder mystery dinner. The 'Grand Tasting' finale will feature over 100 wines and wineries and food from 50 different restaurants, in one stellar day of tasting.

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Coconut Telegraph

July 2011
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Call Denise at
305-304-2837
TheCoconutTelegraph@yahoo.com

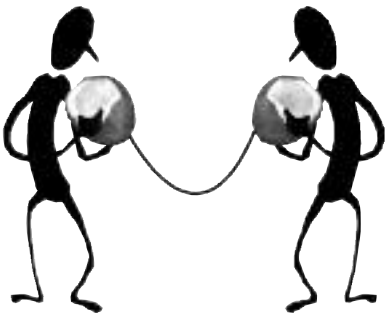
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Production

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Editorial:

Will the Truth Come Out? Whodunit? As the Turd Turns...

Everyone knows that I am a cat lover. Ask the Humane Society in Key Largo, mile marker 106, who I donate a 1/2 page to every month; or ask the one at mile marker 102 where I recycle left over papers; or ask Helping Homeless Cats who I helped organize a benefit for several years ago and raised over \$3,000 from the Bartender of the Year contest. Or you can just ask my cat Suki.

Last year, my love for cats even influenced my Halloween costume. Four friends and I dressed up as felines. What started out to be just a few girls being the "Key Largo Cougars" changed when two of my married friends decided to bring along their husbands. One hubby dressed as the Cat in the Hat and another went as a veterinarian. We brought along a box of treats, tootsie rolls in a box of oatmeal resembling a kitty litter box. We thought this was clever and hysterical.

During the night, in our costumes, we went to three

local establishments and everyone had a great time. Then we received letters, which would have been better written by a Fourth grader. Mine was addressed to "Brother Denise Malefyt." The correspondence informed the five of us we were suspended from the Key Largo Moose!

Turns out that Continued on page 3...



Editorial

...continued from page 2.

one of the Moose members had previously been gifted with a box of cat poop in her mailbox. What a "cat-tastrophe!" A paranoid alcoholic would naturally blame everyone within miles that owned a cat and, I guess, our expression on Halloween put us in that category.

The Key Largo Moose went ahead and told Moose International that our group had sent the cat "crapola" and so they would not do anything for us after we sent numerous letters trying to straighten the situation out. Not that we really cared that much because we all felt that there was too much corruption going on at that particular lodge hence we had all transferred our memberships to other lodges long before this incident happened.

I personally transferred to the Islamorada Moose Lodge because I was impressed with the countless things they do for the community, the clean safe building and the quality of the membership. It only costs \$10 to transfer and it is well

worth it.

Now here is the problem. The person who actually did send the poop package has confessed to our wrongly accused group of five, and he has been kindly asked to speak up and clear our names. This man is a cat lover himself and probably had a good reason or just did it as a joke. Perhaps the offended "poop-cipient" is ailuro-phobic (the persistent, irrational fear of cats); or maybe has had Inoculation Lymphoreticulosus and Subacute Regional Lymphadenitis (cat scratch fever); or just has a huge litter of enemies. She will never suspect that the poop shooting boogie sender is right under her whiskers. So the question is, if the guilty person doesn't hack up the furball of truth should we just rat him out? Personally I'd like to high-five the guy and buy him a beer, but will my name be tarnished forever? P.S. The poop-cipient was wearing a white garbage bag with a sign that read "Key Largo White Trash" at the same Halloween party yet WE were offensive?

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Annual Island Grill Charity Dolphin Tournament Nets \$5000 For Team TNT

Team **TNT** took home a Pasta Pantaleo print, and a check for \$5,000 in the recent Annual Island Grill Charity Dolphin Tournament, sponsored by Mercedes-Benz of Cutler Bay and Tavernier Creek Marina. The yearly tournament raises money for the Baptist Children's Hospital Cancer Center.

TNT's Captain Tedd Amberg with anglers Lee Manner and Tammi Amberg all from Naples would turn in two fish weighing 21.4 and 12.6 pounds. Combined with Tammi's 22.2 pound dolphin, which was the largest fish in the Ladies division, the team posted a 58.2 pound total.

Second place went to team **Tooth Ache** with Travis Bennett of Tavernier, Michael Hartley of Key Largo, and Captain Kenny Spaulding from Islamorada fishing. Michael Hartley weighed the largest fish by a male angler, 30.8 pound dolphin. The **Tooth Ache's** combined weight of three fish totaled 48.1 pounds. The team took home the second place trophy and a check for \$1,000.

Anglers Victor Perez from Key Largo, and Quincy Duval Saint of Davie, Florida fishing aboard the **Sweet & Law** weighed in a 16.6, 22.8 and 4.2 pound dolphin for a total of 43.6. The third place total netted the team \$500 and a beautiful Pasta Pantaleo print. Junior Angler Quincy Duval Saint won the Junior division with the 16.6 pound dolphin.

All the mahi-mahi weighed was filleted and served at the awards dinner. John and Kyle Ouellette,



members of the Dolphin Tagging Research Center, cleaned the fish. John was excited to find the remains of a 12" dolphin in the stomach of the 30.8 bull dolphin. He also found large pieces of the sole of a shoe or flip flop in the stomach of the 22.2 pound dolphin caught by Tammi Amberg. John is sending these items to the research center.

Other awards were given for Largest Tuna and Most Unusual Catch. Marc Firestone of Islamorada, fishing aboard the **Perfection**, weighed in the tuna at 7.2 pounds. The **Assault Cracker's** angler Jim Nance took home a \$100 Island Grill Gift certificate for the Most Unusual Catch a .5 pound puffer fish.

The Island Grill Charity Dolphin Tournament hosted 100 anglers on 37 boats during the annual event. With the help of many sponsors and donated items, Jack McCormick and the Island Grill are able to award a very nice check to the Baptist Children's Hospital Cancer Center. The tournament thanks all the sponsors, businesses, and people who donated time and money to make this year's event the best ever!

The Island Grill would like to invite you to join them next year for another great Father's Day Weekend!

Winners pictured in order from top to bottom. First place team **TNT** (top), second place team **Tooth Ache**, third place team **Sweet and Law**, and Junior Angler winner Quincy Duval (bottom).

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New Bu'z'iness in Key Largo

Keyz Konez & Coffee Zone



Meet Sally Lange. Sally and her husband Guy Lange joined their friend Phil Elmstrom in opening "Keyz Konez and Coffee Zone." Open daily at 7 a.m. serving coffee, snacks, and ice cream that comes from local farms. They will be including a miniature golf course soon and it is already a gathering place for local artists. Visit Keyz Konez and Coffee Zone at mile marker 100.6 bayside.

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
03. Mosquito Heads 2-7 Kim Bankston during Band Breaks 8-Midnight TJ Karaoke	04. Mr. Nice Guy 1-6 Jammin' with the Steve Venini Band 7:30-11	05. Luke 1-3:30 pm T.J. Karaoke 6-10	06. Allen Truesdell 1-3:30 pm and Allen Truesdell 6 - 8:30 pm	07. John McKinna 1-3:30pm Kevin Hurley 6 - 8:30pm	08. David Bowman 2-5 pm Blackwater Sound 7-11	09. Luke & Dave 2-6 No Restrictions 7-11
10. ECLIPSE 2-7 Kim Bankston during Band Breaks	11. David Bowman 1-3:30 pm Jammin' with the Steve Venini Band 6-10	12. Luke 1-3:30 pm T.J. Karaoke 6-10	13. Allen Truesdell 1-3:30 pm and Allen Truesdell 6 - 8:30 pm	14. Luke Sommer Glenn 1-3:30 pm Kevin Hurley 6 - 8:30pm	15. David Bowman 2-5 pm Gypsy Road Band 7-11	16. Luke & Dave 2-6 Whipping Post 7-11
17. Mr. Nice Guy 2-7 Kim Bankston during Band Breaks	18. David Bowman 1-3:30 pm Jammin' with the Steve Venini Band 6-10	19. Luke 1-3:30 pm T.J. Karaoke 6-10	20. Allen Truesdell 1-3:30 pm and Allen Truesdell 6 - 8:30 pm	21. John McKinna 1-3:30pm Kevin Hurley 6 - 8:30pm	22. David Bowman 2-5 pm Justa Head 7-11	23. Luke & Dave 2-6 Mosquito Heads 7-11
24. The REGS 2-7 Kim Bankston during Band Breaks	25. David Bowman 1-3:30 pm Jammin' with the Steve Venini Band 6-10	26. Luke 1-3:30 pm T.J. Karaoke 6-10	27. Allen Truesdell 1-3:30 pm and Allen Truesdell 6 - 8:30 pm	28. Luke Sommer Glenn 1-3:30 pm Kevin Hurley 6 - 8:30pm	29. David Bowman 2-5 pm Exit 19 7-11	30. Luke & Dave 2-6 Justa Head 7-11
31. EGO 2-7 Kim Bankston during Band Breaks	01. David Bowman 1-3:30 pm Jammin' with the Steve Venini Band 6-10	02. Luke 1-3:30 pm T.J. Karaoke 6-10	03. Allen Truesdell 1-3:30 pm and Allen Truesdell 6 - 8:30 pm	04. Luke Sommer Glenn 1-3:30 pm Kevin Hurley 6 - 8:30pm	August 7 th Mr. Nice Guy	

107900 Overseas Hwy, Key Largo

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

SUNDAY AUGUST 7
THRU
JULY 29
FRIDAY
FOOD & WINE
EVENTS
ALL OVER
KEY LARGO

2011 Food & Wine Festival

An Upper Keys Business Group Event, sponsored by



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BEVERAGE
THE CHARMER SUNBELT GROUP

The Florida Keys
Key Largo

MONROE COUNTY TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Friday 7/29

4-7pm **Tradewinds Liquors**
TGIF Happy Hour
Festival Kick-off & Wine Tasting.
10% discount on featured wines throughout festival.

7pm **Señor Frijoles/Key Players**
"Pollo, Passion and Pistols"
Murder Mystery Dinner with wines.

Saturday 7/30

6-8pm **Key Largo Conch House**
Sweet Dreams
Fabulous dessert buffet paired with unique wines & champagnes.

6:30pm **Sundowners**
A Night In New Orleans
4-Course Menu with Cajun French flair paired with wines and the sounds of The Sauce Boss.

5:45pm **Pontunes Tiki Bar & Grille**
Grub 'N Grog Buccaneer Style
2-course dinner paired with wine followed by Pirate Sunset Cruise.

Sunday 7/31

6pm **Tasters Grille**
Pork Revolution
Wine Dinner showing off the latest craze in Pork dishes!

Enjoy Brunch!

Key Largo Conch House
7am – Noon. Pumpkin pancakes with spiced rum syrup. Conch benedict!

Snapper's 11am – 4pm
Jazz Brunch. Make your own Bloody Mary Bar and Mimosas.

Jimmy Johnson's Big Chill
10am -1pm. Steel Drums Bayside with complimentary Key Lime Mimosas.

Monday 8/1

6-9pm **Key Largo Conch House**
A Night in Argentina
Argentinian beef and seafood dishes paired with wines .

6pm **Jimmy Johnson's Big Chill**
Extreme Bartender Flair Contest
First place wins \$500. Judging based on audience applause, bring your friends!

Tuesday 8/2

6:30pm **Dinner Around Town**
5-Course Progressive Gourmet Dinner; paired with wine.
Complimentary transport.
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7pm **Calypso's Seafood Grill**
Food of the Gods
Feast on chargrilled octopus and lamb cooked over open fire and paired with wine & finished with a sweet treat.

Wednesday 8/3

4-7pm **Coconuts**
Island Jazz Happy Hour
Jazz & free shrimp boil with specially-selected discounted wines.

6:30pm **Snapper's**
Corks & Canvases
Paired wine & cheeses spotlight five countries from around the globe, with local artists' finest pieces representing each country.

Thursday 8/4

5:30-8pm **Tasters Grille & Market**
Battle of the Grapes
The Perfect Pinots. Pinot Noirs and Pinot Grigios from all over the world paired with light appetizers.

6pm **Num Thai**
An Oriental Experience
Sushi & Thai dishes, saki and wine.

7pm **Señor Frijoles**
Fajitas And Margaritas
Two For 1 Fajitas and \$3.50
Cazadores Tequilla Margaritas.

7:30pm **Pilot House Restaurant**
Seafood Extravaganza
Gourmet 5 course dinner; freshest Keys seafood paired with wines.

Check the website
for all the details!

Or call 305-394-3736

www.KeyLargoFoodandWineFestival.com



TheReporter



Hunk of the Month



Dave Funk

from Turkey Point

Now the Funk Hunk

Shirts from T-Toons

Elks Award \$5,000 in Scholarships



Dan Ferguson awards the 2011 Tavernier Elks Scholars \$5,000 in scholarships. This years students are: Cecilia Podrecca, University of North Florida; Chelsea Salatoski, Florida Keys Community College; Ryan Dugan, Florida Gulf Coast University; Benjamin Ignacio University of South Florida.



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Bartender of the Month Kimberly Black

Whistlestop Restaurant & Sports bar



The Florida Keys is a long way from South Carolina for this beautiful southern belle but their loss is our gain. This month the Coconut Telegraph recognizes Kimberly Black of the Whistlestop Restaurant as bartender of the month.

When Tracy Burgeson and her husband Bob moved to the Keys to manage her twin sister Kelly and husband Captain Tom's Islamorada Whistlestop restaurant they brought the cream of the crop with them, Kimberly Black. Black has plenty of experience including managing a five star restaurant in Greenville, SC.

Whether she is behind the bar or happily waiting tables the service Black provides is fast and friendly.

"I love the specials Chef Vincent makes," she explains. "The meatloaf is my personal favorite but you've got to try the Parmesan Alfredo with stuffed cheese ravioli, it's awesome.

The Whistlestop's new management also brought with them Executive Chef Vincent Stevenson from South Carolina. Everyone is raving about his additions to the menu and the quality of his food.

Recently celebrating 28 years in business, the Whistlestop has long had a reputation for fantastic, reasonably priced food and fun but now it has gotten even better!


"Don't forget that locals get 10% off," says Black. "And we have Happy Hour here sevedays a week with \$1 drafts and \$2.50 well drinks. You can't beat it."

Every Tuesday is tournament night. With four pool tables in the old town tavern atmosphere it is guaranteed to be good time for all! So stop in the Whistlestop and tell Kimberly Black the Coconut Telegraph sent you.

at the Big Chill and the Island Grill

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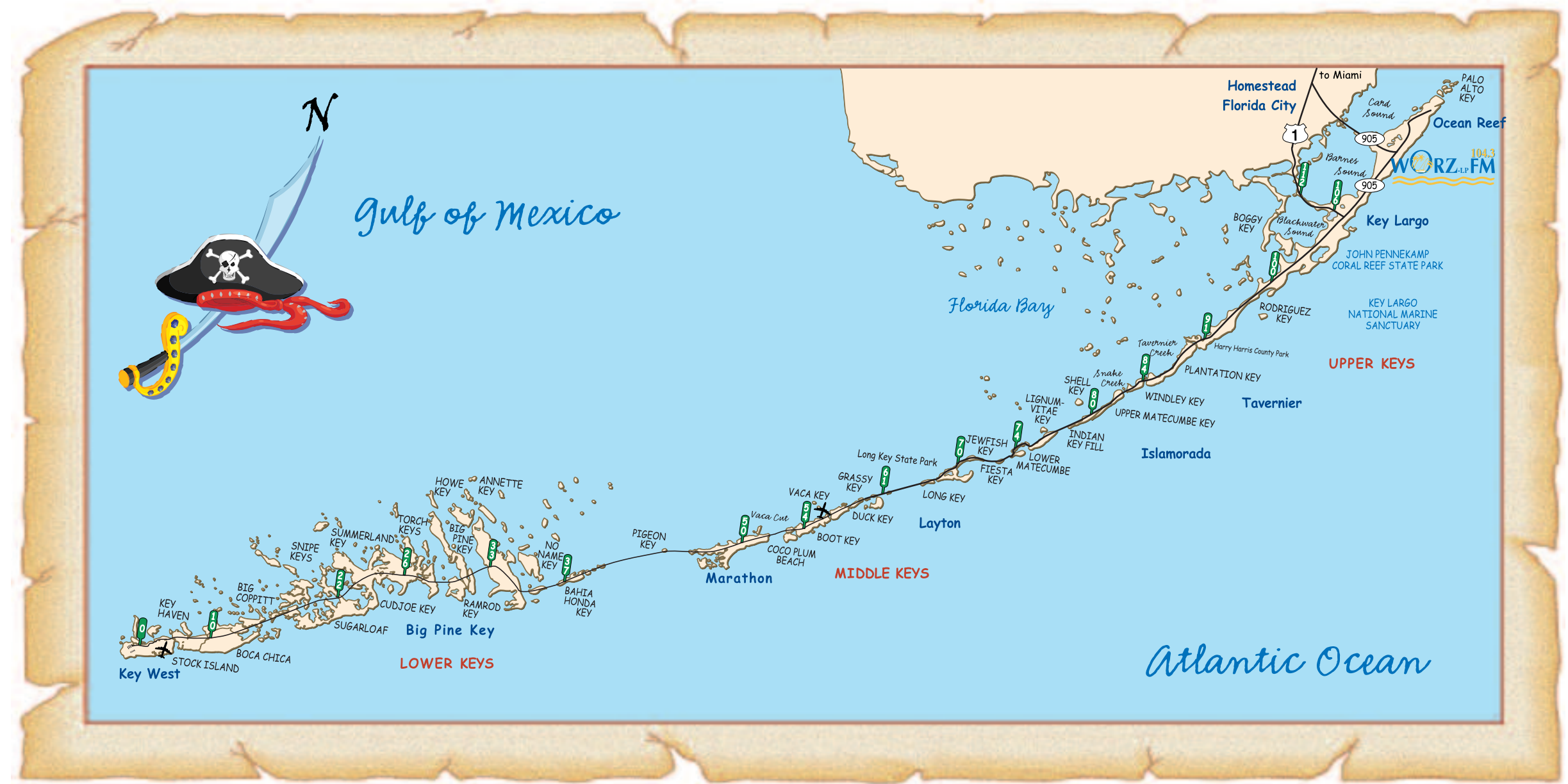
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featuring a different band each week


SATURDAYS Sweet Sam on deck for Happy Hour
with DJ TJ Spinning in the Lounge

**Sundays: Mike Holler on Deck followed by
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Travel Channel Comes to Key Largo



Travel Channel's hit show *Man v. Food Nation*, starring Adam Richman, recently visited the Dreaver family at their restaurant, Key Largo Conch House located at mile marker 100.2 Oceanside in Key Largo.

The show featured a timed Conch Fritter Eating Contest and what better place than the Key Largo Conch House to have it? Their award-winning conch fritters are a local favorite. The challenge was to eat the most fritters in 15 minutes to be crowned king or queen of the Conch Republic. Contestants came from as far away as Key West and South Beach to compete.

Host Adam Richman and crew spent an entire day in May filming and hanging out with staff and customers. The day was spent filming everything


from their breakfast specialty Conch Benedict to Conch Ceviche and other dinner specials. Richman shared conch dishes and interviewed customers as they discussed strategies of how to compete in the challenge.

As the day progressed Richman interacted with customers and momentum built to an evening challenge! Both men and women stepped up to the challenge with women giving the men a run for their money. The conch fritter eating contest was packed with entertaining moments and was a huge success with a large local turnout.

The 30-minute show aired on Wednesday, July 6th at 9 p.m. on the Travel Channel and will likely re-run throughout the season. If you missed the television debut here are pictures of the challenge.



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- ◊ Reduces stress
- ◊ Improves concentration
- ◊ Relieves headaches and migraines
- ◊ Reduces fatigue and insomnia
- ◊ Improves sleep



Eagle Scout Court Honors John L. Perrotti



Pictured from left: John Louis Perrotti, Matt Herum, Alan Neuzil Jr., Alan Neuzil Sr., John Perrotti, Debra Zimmerma.

Last month, Troop 588 in Key Largo celebrated one of its members achieving the highest rank in Boy Scouts. John Louis Perrotti was recognized at his Eagle Scout Court of Honor.

Debra Zimmerman, the District Chief of Staff for Ileana Ros-Letinen, presented John Louis Perrotti with a flag that was flown over our Nation's Capital just for him.

The ceremony was held at the First Baptist Church and was followed by a wonderful meal prepared by City Hall.

Sea Crystals Produce Negative Ions to Clean Air

Now that I'm selling my new product Enchanted Sea Crystals, which uses negative ions to clean the air, I am constantly asked to explain what negative ions are, what they do and why it matters. Here's a brief explanation:

Very simply an ion is an atom or molecule that has gained or lost an electron. Both positive and negative ions exist in the air. Positive air ions are generally molecules of carbon dioxide that have lost an electron, whereas, a negative air ion is generally a molecule of oxygen that has gained an electron.

Negative ions in the air attract particles of pollution and give them a negative charge, making them seek electrical "ground," which causes them to fall harmlessly to the floor.

Nature is constantly producing negative ions to combat the pollution in the air. For example, have you ever noticed how the air is stuffy before a storm and afterwards it is refreshing? This is because lightening produces a high concentration of negative ions, which purify the air and makes it invigorating. The same is true of waterfalls.

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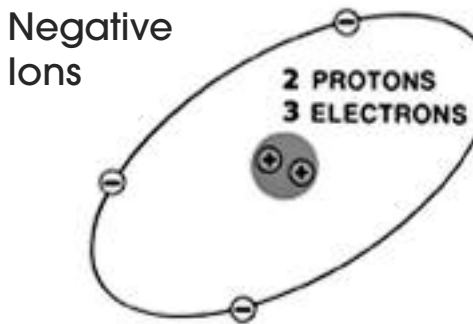
Also the Enchanted Sea Crystals will neutralize odors. I keep a bag on the dashboard of my car and always in the bathroom where my cat's litter box is.

We have applied for a trademark and are proud to say both the Key Lime Tree and Whistlestop sold out their supply of crystals in the first three weeks.

Bags of the scented crystals are available in a range of sizes, the smaller starting at only \$3.

For more information or to share ideas please email me at denisemalefy@gmail.com.

See Enchanted Sea Crystal ad on facing page.



Upper Keys Rotary News

New President; Scholarships Awarded



Upper Keys Rotary Club recently had a changing of the guard as Mark Kohl took the reigns from past president Candi Graves. As part of the change Kohl presented Graves with a pink gavel and thanked her for her outstanding leadership.



In other Rotary news, Upper Keys Rotary Club awarded a total of \$86,200 in scholarships to seniors and returning students plus \$30,000 to the Take Stock in Children Program.

The total paid out amount of \$116,200 was earned through the combined efforts of the members of the Upper Keys Rotary Club, organizing the Gigantic Nautical Flea Market, which is - according to recent surveys - the most attractive event in the Upper Keys with serious impact on the local economy.

The Flea Market also brings in vendors and customers from all over the United States, filling hotels, motels, and restaurants, and shopping at local merchants, fueling the local economy.

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Rocky Horror Walk About

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July 21st • Sunset until 11pm

We are looking for people
who want to have fun and dress up as the cast
from The Rocky Horror Show
to walk about promoting
The Friends of Key Largo Cultural Center's
upcoming productions at this cultural venue.

If interested (you must be over 18) call 305-424-9217
and leave your name and number or email
Debra@debraginsberg.net

Visit our website: www.FKLCC.ORG

Conch Characters of the Month



Scott Youngberg, Dave Brigham, and Steve Venini playing at Morada Bay and Pierre's.



After two weeks of diving in the Keys, the West Point Cadets enjoyed their last night at the Whistlestop.



Shannon Battle dropped by the VFW, what a treat! To hire Shannon call Robin at 970-369-5299.



Sara brought new puppy Lulu to the Pilot House.



Congratulations Marie Herring on being America's newest citizens!



Best place to dance the night away!



Donavon and Samantha at Coconuts.



Due to cut backs, the Monroe County Association for Retarded Citizens desperately needs donations for their thrift shop next to Coral Shores High School. Please help them care for those who cannot care for themselves.



Gail, Iris, Maegan and Debbie volunteered to serve the Wounded Warriors at the American Legion Post 333. Thank you ladies!

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.



Glibert



Boomer



Snoopy



Puma



Pumba



Chester



Maggie



Rosie



Frankie

FKLCC Adds Rocky Horror Show and Steel Magnolias

Holding Community Auditions

The Friends of The Key Largo Cultural Center (FKLCC) announce two productions have been added to their list of cultural events held at the Murray Nelson Government and Cultural Center. FKLCC has included the Rocky Horror Show in its October schedule and Steel Magnolias on its November calendar.

FKLCC is holding community auditions for both productions, Wednesday, Aug. 10 and Thursday, Aug. 11, 6 to 11 p.m., at The Murray Nelson Government and Cultural Center, MM 102.

Rocky Horror Show, longest running British horror comedy musical, follows the misadventures of a pair of innocents who cross paths with deranged villains.

"We are looking for community members to be part of this campy, fun-filled production," said Debra Ginsberg, FKLCC artistic director. "What a better way to celebrate Halloween than with a homage to the Rocky Horror Show -- the musical with monsters and freaks!"

FKLCC is also looking for community members to fill roles in Steel Magnolias, which tells the story of six seemingly frail Southern belles with backbones as tough as nails and wills of steel.

When coming for auditions, be prepared to sing a song of your choice or even "Happy Birthday" to the director. Also, be prepared to dance a few easy dance steps and read from the script.

"If you breathe, can chew gum and feel comfortable as your sexy self, we want you to come to this audition," said Ms. Ginsberg.

For more information about auditions, visit FKLCC's website at fklcc.org.

The Friends of the Key Largo Cultural Center will present cultural programs that utilize the Murray E. Nelson Government and Cultural Center's theater/auditorium for the benefit of Key Largo visitors, tourists and residents.

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New App to Locate DUI Checkpoints

Does it Discourage Drinking and Driving or Facilitate Abusers?

Has anyone heard about this? At first I thought it was a joke. Apparently it's not.

There's a new iPhone app called DUI Dodger; it was released on April 7. Guess what one of its functions is? As the name implies, this little program will help drivers locate the nearest sobriety checkpoint — presumably so they can avoid it.

I don't know about you, but that sounds like the beginning of a very bad story to me.

To be fair, the application has other uses, such as estimating your blood-alcohol level (based on your size and the number of drinks consumed) and checking to see if you can walk the line — the age-old sobriety field-test. But the most controversial part of the application is definitely the "DUI Checkpoint Finder," which locates current police checkpoints within 50 miles of the user and pinpoints them on a map.

This is how the company press release describes the feature:

In some states, DUI checkpoints are more rampant than ever. Fight back with DUI Dodger, the app that allows you to view and submit DUI checkpoints in your area. The idea is that information is power, and people will be less inclined to drink and drive if they know that there is a checkpoint in their area, that they are drunk, and that driving drunk carries major consequences.

Doesn't that strike you as just a little disingenuous? Some people might be persuaded by that information to stay sober or stay home, but others might be inclined to drink, use the app to plan their trip home, or to the next bar,

avoiding the safety check points

The Coconut Telegraph always supports responsible driving and recommends Mom's Taxi, call 305-852-6000, when drinking.



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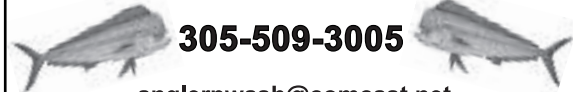


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Coco‘Nut’ Funnies

Beaver: Who Pumped Who?

A 90-year-old man went to his doctor for his annual check-up.

The doctor asks him how he’s feeling. The 90-year-old says, “I’ve never felt better. I now have a 20 year-old bride who is pregnant with my child. What do you think about that?”

The doctor considers his question for a minute and then begins. “I have an older friend, much like you, who is an avid trophy hunter and never misses a season. One day, when he was going out hunting, he was in a bit of a hurry and accidentally picked up his walking cane instead of his gun. When he got to the creek, he saw a prime beaver sitting beside the stream of water. He raised his cane and went ‘bang, bang’. Suddenly, two shots rang out and the beaver fell over dead. What do you think of that?”

The 90-year-old said, “I’d say somebody else pumped a couple of rounds into that beaver.”

The doctor replied, “My point exactly...”

Courtesy of Denny Harrington

Advice from a Retired Husband

It is important for men to remember that, as women grow older, it becomes harder for them to maintain the same quality of house-keeping as when they were younger. When you notice this, try not to yell at them. Some are oversensitive, and there’s nothing worse than an oversensitive woman.

My name is Jim. Let me relate how I handled the situation with my wife, Terri. When I retired a few years ago, it became necessary for Terri to get a full-time job along with her part-time job, both

for extra income and for the health benefits that we needed.

Shortly after she started working, I noticed she was beginning to show her age. I usually get home from the golf club about the same time she gets home from work. Although she knows how hungry I am, she almost always says she has to rest for half an hour or so before she starts dinner. I don't yell at her. Instead, I tell her to take her time and just wake me when she gets dinner on the table.

She used to do the dishes as soon as we finished eating, but now it’s not unusual for them to sit on the table for several hours after dinner. I do what I can by diplomatically reminding her several times each evening that they won't clean themselves. I know she really appreciates this.

Another symptom of aging is complaining. For example she will say that it difficult for her to find time to pay the monthly bills during her lunch hour. But, boys, we take ‘em for better or worse, so I just smile and offer encouragement. I tell her to stretch it out over two or even three days. That way she won't have to rush so much. I also remind her that missing lunch completely now and then wouldn't hurt her any (if you know what I mean). I like to think tact is one of my strong points.

I know that I probably look like a saint in the way I support Terri. I'm not saying that showing this much consideration is easy. Many men will find it difficult. Some will find it impossible! Nobody knows better than I do how frustrating women get as they get older. However, guys, even if you just use a little more tact and less criticism of your aging wife because of this article, I will consider that writing it was well worthwhile. After all, we are put on this earth to help each other.

Signed,
Jim

EDITOR’S NOTE:

Jim died suddenly on July 6, 2011 of a perforated rectum. The police report says he was found with a Callaway extra-long 50-inch Big Bertha Driver II golf club jammed up his butt and a sledge hammer laying nearby. His wife Terri was arrested and charged with murder. The all-woman jury took only 10 minutes to find her Not Guilty, accepting her defense that Jim, somehow without looking, accidentally sat down on his golf club.



Domestic violence doesn’t stop for the holidays.

The holidays should be a time for family and friends to share the joy and hope of the season. For those experiencing abuse, however, December can also be a particularly stressful time. Domestic violence doesn't stop for the holidays and the added pressures of holiday expectations can worsen an already unhealthy situation.

This year, help those living with abuse to know that they’re never alone, especially during the holidays.

The Domestic Abuse Shelter (DAS) is a non-profit organization, providing comprehensive services for individuals and families experiencing domestic and sexual abuse in the Florida Keys. *Our mission is to reduce the incidence and minimize the impact of domestic and sexual abuse in Monroe County by directing victims and abusers to appropriate, effective programs and services.*

The Domestic Abuse Shelter, Inc. is the only certified emergency shelter in Monroe County that provides refuge for victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children. Residents may stay at the shelter for up to six weeks. The shelter is a safe and secure environment that empowers residents through its services to form the beginning of independent lifestyles. Residents obtain crisis intervention, supportive counseling, children’s services, food, clothing, support group counseling and advocacy. All agency services are available to shelter residents. For more information, call (305) 743-4440. The National Domestic Abuse Hotline is 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).

Below is a list of items needed by the Domestic Abuse Shelter. You can drop off your gifts at 100670 Overseas Highway #5, Key Largo, FL. Monetary donations are also accepted. You can mail a check to Domestic Abuse Shelter, Inc., PO Box 522696, Marathon Shores, FL 33052

For more information call 305-451-5666, or go to www.domesticabuseshelter.org.



DOMESTIC ABUSE SHELTER, INC. Wish List

General Needs

- Copy paper
- Paper towels & toilet paper
- Cleaning supplies & laundry detergent
- Gift certificates to drug (Kmart, CVS, Walgreens) & grocery stores (Albertson, Winn-Dixie and Publix) in small denominations
- Hand sanitizers
- Twin size linens (sheets, pillows, plastic mattress & pillow covers)
- Bath towels & wash cloths
- Non perishable foods
- First aid supplies
- Bus passes (Keys transit)
- Gas cards

Personal Needs

- Tooth brushes & toothpaste
- Hair brushes & combs
- Shampoo, conditioner, bath soaps
- Nail files & clippers, razors
- Deodorant
- Cotton balls, Q-tips
- Feminine hygiene products
- Women’s panties & bras in assorted sizes, pajamas, night shirts & socks
- Blow dryers

Children’s Needs

- Books
- Art & school supplies
- Diapers & wipes
- Baby bottles
- Baby foods & juices
- DVDs (age appropriate)
- Kid oriented gift certificates (movies, food, fun stuff)
- Children’s underwear in assorted sizes & socks

Hoarders in Your Neighborhood?

Not For The Squeamish....

Here’s a common senario... it’s a bright sunny South Florida day so you walk outside to enjoy the weather, but are hit by the smell of motor oil leaking from one, or all, of the various engines scattered around your neighbors' yard. Boats, waverunners, and old Keys Cruisers fill the yard and are surrounded by TVs, microwaves, and trash creating a paradise for rodents.

You notice your neighbor is home so you grab the package the mailman left for him and gingerly tip-toe around the umpteen rusty, dirt-covered obstacles and you wonder, "Am I going to need a tetanus shot after this?"

When you knock and the door is answered, a stench literally takes you back a few steps. Man sweat, clothes that haven't been changed in days, and the odor of urine and feces cause your eyes to water. As you avert your eyes you can see that the inside of the house is worse than the outside!



You smell garbage and something dead. Your throat tingles with what you just had for lunch. The neighbor thanks you for the package and as you turn to leave he kindly asks you if you would care for some cabbage, lettuce or bread that he recently acquired from his daily dumpster diving expedition. He beat the rats to it. Somehow you are able to politely mutter, "No, thank you."

Now you are trying to escape the maze of rubbish in the yard and are overcome with a swarm of mosquitoes that have made their home in the puddles of water that accumulated in the hoard of junk. You barely escape a spider web as a snake slithers by. You almost trip over your own rusty air conditioner you left by the road for the trash. Before you can think, your legs take off running and once you think you've safely escaped the menage-a-trash you look down and discover you're bleeding from a scratch. I guess you'll get that tetanus shot after all.

Disposophobia is the excessive acquisition of possessions and the failure to discard them, even if the items are worthless, hazardous, or unsanitary. This is a mental illness and this person needs help.


If you are suffering from a neighbor's disorder you can start by contacting the Monroe County Code Enforcement call 305-289-2810 or 305-453-8806. You can make an anonymous complaint on line at MonroeCounty-fl.gov as well.

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