

The Conch Republic COCONUT TELEGRAPH

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The Upper Keys lost a good friend with the passing of Chris Fleming. Motorcycle enthusiast, distinguished former President of the Key Largo Volunteer Fire Department and captain of the legendary sailboat "Mortail."



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Coconut Telegraph

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Editorial: Thank You!

The Coconut Telegraph would like to thank all our readers who voted for us in the Conch Republic Southernmost Territories "Cream of the Conch Republic" contest. We won Runner Up for Best Newspaper. The Reporter got first place. We are thrilled to even be acknowledged!

For many years, Clear Channel radio stations did the "Peoples Choice Awards" which was a total farce. One of my restaurant customers told me that In order to win you must buy their radio package for \$1,000 or more. If you don't buy the package you don't win a thing. It was rigged! When you see them hanging prominently in area businesses be assured that they paid a pretty penny to get them and they



aren't worth the paper they are printed on. This "Cream of the Crop" contest was the real deal. No monies were exchanged and this time our votes actually counted! Thank you Conch Republic!

Monday I made a wild dash out in the thunderstorm to get to the Galley for \$5 Burger Your Way with Fries.

Every Monday it is a must. While there, I picked up the Miami Herald and looked through it while I masticated my delicious burger and I noticed all the hospitals running full page ads. It was then that I realized why health care is so expensive. A full page ad in the Miami Herald cost more per day (it is a daily paper) than a decent Keys cruiser car! Multiply that times 365 days a year. Isn't that overkill? I for one wouldn't pick a hospital by a pretty ad. When you are sick you don't give a crap about pretty advertising. If these hospitals would simply stop advertising they would save hundreds of thousands of dollars which just might make the price of health care for us ordinary folks more affordable.

Property of the Month



This elegant estate has room for a large extended family or a perfect corporate retreat. 9 bedrooms, 3 floors of amazing spacious living and can be reached by an elevator. Great views of the bay from everywhere! Beautifully furnished. Top of the line appointments throughout. Very private location, gated on 2 lots with 180 feet of dockage. Relax by the pool or tiki, enjoy the fabulous outdoor kitchen, or have a cocktail from the 3rd floor (or any floor) and watch the sunset!! For your private tour - call us today!



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Bartender of the Month: Amanda Fredericks - The Big Chill



The Coconut Telegraph is proud to feature Amanda Fredericks as Bartender of the Month of May. Don't let Amanda's beauty fool you. She is as smart as she is beautiful, as well as a fast bartender and dedicated employee. However, it is Amanda's pleasant personality and friendliness that makes her a Keys favorite.

Fredericks moved to the Keys from Ft. Lauderdale when her father was hired as a chef for the Big Chill Restaurant. In Ft. Lauderdale she worked as a bartender at the Coyote Ugly Saloon while putting herself through college at the Ft. Lauderdale Art Institute, where she earned a degree as an interior designer.

After Frederick's father moved back to Ft. Lauderdale to take care of obligations, she stayed and wound up falling in love with the new Executive Chef, Dominic Congemi. After dating Dominic for 4 years, she was on a Christmas shopping trip in New York city last December with a friend, skating at Rockefeller Center, when Dominic surprised her. He was there, and had their favorite song played over the loud speakers while he proposed on bended knee. Fredericks, Congemi and their 3 dogs are planning a December 2012 wedding.

The best thing about the Big Chill? Amanda tells us it is the great family atmosphere that makes it so much fun to work there. The Coconut Telegraph thinks it is the pizza. During happy hour from 4 to 7 you can get a 10" pizza with one topping for \$3.50! We're talking 4 big slices! Other items on Happy Hour special (at half price) are Fried Mozzarella, Chicken Wings, Conch Fritters, Mini Burgers, Chicken Fingers, and the fabulous Peel and Eat Shrimp. Tuesday is Ladies Night from 6 to 7pm and ladies drink free. There is live entertainment nightly while you enjoy a beautiful Key Largo sunset at the most romantic place in the world.

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Key Largo lost a good friend in Chris Fleming

Christopher James "Chris" Fleming, age 54, of Key Largo, Florida passed away peacefully at his home in Key Largo on April 27th, 2012 after a 4-year battle with leukemia.

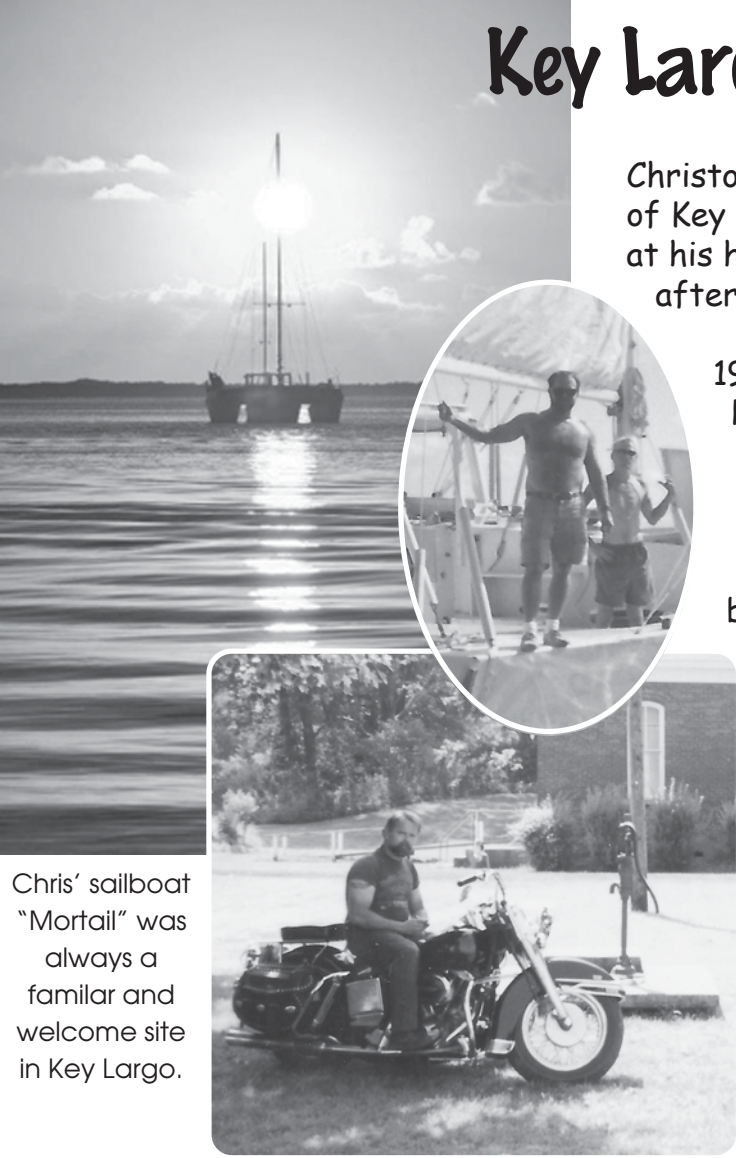
Chris was born September 25th, 1957 in Key West, Florida to James and Hope Fleming. He is survived by his mother, Hope Fleming Kelly, PO Box 877, Interlachen, FL 32148; son Jason Fleming; grandchildren Ryan and Jason Fleming; sister Cathleen Fleming Roy; brother Terry Fleming and sister Juliet Fleming Stage; half-sisters Lisa Fleming, half-brothers Jamie and Raymond Fleming, half-sisters Jeanette Kelly and Heather Kelly Prox; and many dear friends from all over the planet. He was pre-deceased by his father, James Fleming, brothers Timothy Jon Fleming and Todd Allen Kelly, a step-sister Louella Lynne Kelly, and his stepfather Charles Kelly

Chris Fleming was an Episcopalian. Over the years he worked for the Burlington Northern Railway in Illinois, Ocean Reef Club, Nine-houser Appliances in Key Largo, and others. He owned and operated Davis Sales and Fire Extinguishers in the Florida Keys and was a distinguished President of the Key Largo Volunteer Fire Department. Last, but not least, he was the Captain of the legendary sailboat "Mortail."

Throughout the years Chris donated his time and products to various community events and fundraisers too numerous to mention.

The Key Largo Fire Department will conduct a service on Sat. May 5th at Rowell's Marina in Key Largo (MM 104.5 bayside) from 5pm to sunset.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers that donations be made to the Leukemia Research Foundation or the American Cancer Society.



Chris' sailboat "Mortail" was always a familiar and welcome site in Key Largo.

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29.The REGS 2-7 Kim Bankston during Band Breaks	30. David Bowman 1-5 pm Jammin' with the Steve Venini Band 6-10	1. Luke 1-5 pm T.J. Karaoke 6-10	2.Allen Truesdell 1-3:30 pm and 6 - 8:30 pm	3.John McKinna 1-5 pm Kevin Hurley 6 - 10pm	4. David Bowman 2-6 pm The REGS 7-11	5.Luke & Dave 2-6 EGO 7-11
6.Mr. Nice Guy 2-7 Kim Bankston during Band Breaks	7. David Bowman 1-5 pm Jammin' with the Steve Venini Band 6-10	8. Luke 1-3:30pm T.J. Karaoke 6-10	9. Allen Truesdell 1-3:30 pm and 6 - 8:30 pm	10. Luke Sommer Glenn 1-3:30pm Kevin Hurley 6 - 8:30pm	11. David Bowman 2-6 pm to be announced 7-11	12. Luke & Dave 2-6 Core Brothers 7-11
Mother's Day 13. EGO 2-7 Kim Bankston during Band Breaks	14. David Bowman 1-5 pm Jammin' with the Steve Venini Band 6-10	15. Luke 1-5 pm T.J. Karaoke 6-10	16. Allen Truesdell 1-3:30 pm and 6 - 8:30 pm	17. John McKinna 1-5 pm Kevin Hurley 6 - 10pm	18.Ravel Band 1-6pm The X's 7-11	19. Luke & Dave 2-6 Whipping Post 7-11
20. Mr. Nice Guy 2-7 Kim Bankston during Band Breaks	21. David Bowman 1-5 pm Jammin' with the Steve Venini Band 6-10	22. Luke 1-5 pm T.J. Karaoke 6-10	23. Allen Truesdell 1-3:30 pm and 6 - 8:30 pm	24. Luke Sommer Glenn 1-5 pm Kevin Hurley 6 - 10pm	25.David Bowman 2-6 pm The Badge 7-11	26.Luke & Dave 2-6 Gypsy Road Band 7-11
27.The REGS 2-7 Kim Bankston during Band Breaks	30. David Bowman 1-5 pm Jammin' with the Steve Venini Band 6-10	29. Luke 1-5 pm T.J. Karaoke 6-10	30. Allen Truesdell 1-3:30 pm and 6 - 8:30 pm	31. Luke Sommer Glenn 1-5 pm Kevin Hurley 6 - 10pm	1.David Bowman 2-6 pm THE REGS 7 11	2.Luke & Dave 2-6 EGO 7-11

Join the "ISLAND TIME" Paddle Wheel Boat for a Sunset Dinner Cruise.

Launches from STEAMERS - While cruising Key Largo's shore line on Blackwater Sound, enjoy the amazing views, sumptuous food, a full Liquor cash bar and the sounds of live music. Call 453-0001 or visit <http://islandtimecruises.com/> for info/res.

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

Artist of the Month: Jacqueline Campa

Jacqueline Campa is an award-winning artist in Key Largo. Her work has an original style that when you see it you know it's a "Campa" She makes use of subjective material in a playful, abstract juxtaposition. Boats, palms, local scenes of the Keys seem to move with the touch of her brush. She manages to create a whimsy with her work and adds personal touches that speak to people and create a bit of humor, for example, dogs howling at the moon with a bottle of Havana Club rum near by. Her work is about design and the use of expressive color and shapes. She certainly expresses this well in her Everglades paintings, where grasses seem to move with her strokes of reds, greens and blues.

Jackie grew up in Camden, Tennessee but was not introduced to the world of art until college. She attended Bethel College, graduating with a degree in Elementary Education, then continuing as an art major at Middle Tennessee State University, focusing on abstract art. She is a Key Largo resident but also enjoys spending time in her Tennessee home.



Jackie with one of her award-winning pieces.

Jackie is a master artist, and a much-respected member of the artist community. Her work has been in the Culture Magazine for the Keys Council of the Arts, her award ribbons have accumulated for her acrylics, watercolor, and mixed media masterpieces. Notably, her piece titled "Go Play" received a second place ribbon in the 2012 Art Guild of the Purple Isles showing.

Jackie's artist friends can and do rely on her expertise to critique a piece of artwork. Fellow artist Teresa Kelley says, "If ever I feel something is off in a painting but just can't put my finger on it, I ask Jackie, and her critiques are always constructive and helpful." She will turn the piece upside down, so the attention is drawn away from what the subject of the painting is about, and the true composition is revealed, helping to expose any mistakes or problems areas. She relies on her keen eye to tell her whether proportions are correct and if the general flow of the painting is pleasing. She will check the values and find the points of interest that appeal to the viewer's eye. Her analysis of subject matter has helped fellow artists create more gratifying compositions.

Jackie is a member of the Art Guild of the Purple Isles, where she has received many awards, and her artwork can be viewed at the Key Largo Art Gallery.

The Coconut Telegraph thanks Carmen Sotolongo Kelly for writing this article.

Senor Frijoles presents Key Largo's Original Music Festival, May 17-20



Joe Mama, Melody Guy, Bryant Diersing.

Multiple music happenings set the stage for music lovers during the fourth annual Key Largo Original Music Festival, featuring live and original performances, presented by Senor Frijoles, Thursday through Sunday, May 17-20.

Hit songwriters from Nashville, Tennessee and around the United States will perform during the four-day festival on various intimate stages. Individual singers and bands, both locally and nationally acclaimed, participate in the musical celebration.

These performers are among an elite group of musicians helping to shape the music industry today, excelling in genres that include pop, rock, blues, jazz and country.

Audiences can enjoy a range of tuneful offerings including the return of Nashville's Melody Guy, who has shared the stage with superstars Martina McBride and Keith Urban; Jamie Morgan (Christian pop originals); and the Saints of Havana trio with country rock and cultural influences featuring Cuban brothers Rey and Cesar Montecristo with American

The music continues Friday and Saturday at multiple bayfront stages set up at Sundowners Restaurant, Senor Frijoles, Cactus Jack's and Jimmy Johnson's Big Chill, all located at mile marker 104 bayside in Key Largo.

Admission is free at all venues. Go to event website and performance schedule: www.keylargosongwritersfestival.com or call 305-394-3736 for more details.

Photos courtesy of Paul White.



Señor Frijoles presents
Key Largo's Original Music Fest
4 days of music
May 17-20, 2012
www.keylargosongwritersfestival.com

singer Aaron Shea.

A return performance by young country artist Megan Conner, described as "a firecracker with Southern class and Northern sass" is scheduled, featuring songs from her latest album.

The festival is set to kick off with a 5 p.m. live show on Thursday, May 17, at Snapper's Waterfront Restaurant at 139 Seaside Ave., mile marker 94.5 in Key Largo.



Saints of Havana at Sundowners.

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THURSDAYS
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FRIDAYS
JIMMY RAY AND DEREK HERRING

SATURDAYS
LIVE BAND

SUNDAYS
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Mother's Day - Sunday, May 13
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Mother's Day is May 13- All Moms in with their families will receive a free glass of house wine or mimosa. Mother's Day Brunch Specials.

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Food & Drink Specials & Happy Hour Pricing

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Entertainer of the Year! Sir C. W. Colt

Legends like Clarence Clemons, Jimmy Buffett, Bertie Higgins and Shel Silverstein - all are famous musicians who lived in the Florida Keys. Some locals here were fortunate enough to be able to see them before they moved on or passed away and the stories they tell us and pass down to their children are what makes a legend.

A couple of weeks ago I went to a party at the Holiday Inn. Over a sea of people drinking cocktails, someone started playing a guitar and I grabbed my camera and took off running when heard the voice. It was a slightly raspy yet refined, soul/country, kinda amazing voice. There, in person, was C.W. Colt!

One of the most talented and prolific songwriter/entertainers to ever grace this giant rock we call the Florida

Keys is Sir C. W. Colt, who is proud to call the Keys his home. We've all heard OF him but have you had the pleasure of listening TO him live? What if you could go visit him in his home, across the street from Jimmy Buffett's old house, and have a private concert?

Before I explain how you can do that, let this star-struck writer tell you some amazing things about this famous entertainer.

Coul William Colt won his first talent contest at 5 years old, impersonating the great Elvis Presley, singing and dancing.

At age 10, Chet Atkins taught him his first guitar chords and he started his own band in San Antonio, Texas. C.W. met Webb Pierce, Ernest Tubbs and Ray Price during this time and began performing for basic trainees at Lackland Air Force Base.

At age 12, C. W. was entertaining troops as far away as the Philippines, Thailand and Okinawa.

At age 16, he moved to Colorado where he mastered the banjo and fiddle, playing on a mountain. There he started a band called **Free Lunch** that included world-class slide

guitarist Sonny Landreth.

At age 25, C. W. recorded "America the Beautiful" at Marty Robbins' studio in Nashville and put together "The America the Beautiful Show." During this time he performed with Hank Thompson, Buck Trent and Sons of the Pioneers.

Turning 30, C. W. was working with Jimmy Buffett, Alvin Lee, Bo Diddley and Edgar Winters. He worked with Rita Coolidge, Bill Champlin and Ronnie Hawkins in Jim Carrey's first movie "Copper Mountain" in Colorado. Later that year he recorded "The Cowboys Lullaby" with Patsy Montana and then toured with her for two years.

A few years later, in Santa Rosa, California, C.W. was performing in shows with Chet Atkins, Waylon



continued on page 15

Ready for Change Declaring Our Intentions

If you are feeling stuck in your life and are ready for change, take time to declare to the Universe that you are ready.

There comes a point in most of our lives when we feel ready to experience a change we've had trouble carrying out. Maybe we've been stuck in a home, a relationship, job, or a town that hasn't felt right for a long time, but we've been unable to shift our circumstances in the direction we want to go. At times like this, it can help to declare to the universe that we are ready for a change.

Think of it as informing a helpful friend that you need her assistance to move to the next level in your life. If the time is right, the universe will respond with opportunities and offers designed to help you create the change you wish to see.

You can begin the process of making your declaration by getting clear within yourself about what exactly you want to change. Whenever we ask anyone for help, they can assist us that much better if we are specific. The universe also appreciates our clarity and has an easier time answering a direct communication than a vague yearning.

When you are clear on what you want, write your declaration on a piece of paper and place it on your altar, if you have one. If you don't, you can also place



it under your pillow or in a box on your nightstand. Set aside a period of time every day to be silent with your wishes for change, repeating your declaration like a mantra. This lets the universe know that you are ready to change and will be receptive to its efforts.

Feel free to continue to refine and redefine your declaration, and remember to be open to the many different ways in which the change you seek might come to be.

Remember also to be active in your own efforts, taking opportunities that come your way, watching for signs, and always taking responsibility for your intentions.

If things don't happen quickly, try not to be discouraged; it might take time to free up energy that has been blocked and possibly serving a purpose beyond what we can understand. If you continue your conversation with the universe, declaring yourself clearly and openly, you cannot help but experience the magic of changing and being changed.

Change

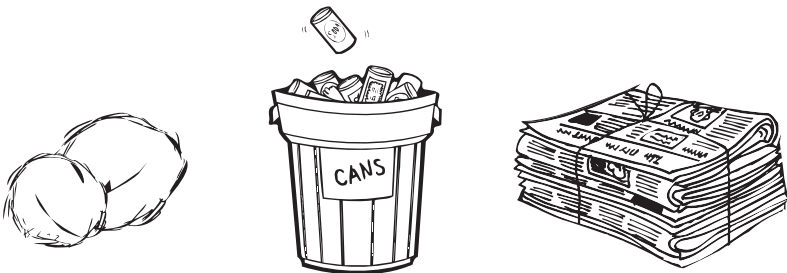
A Zen master visiting Key Largo goes up to a hot dog vendor and says, "Make me one with everything."

The hot dog vendor fixes a hot dog and hands it to the Zen master, who pays with a \$20 bill.

The vendor puts the bill in the cash box and closes it. "Excuse me, but where's my change?" asks the Zen master.

The vendor responds, "Change comes from within."

WHAT DO COCONUTS, ALUMINUM CANS & NEWSPAPERS HAVE IN COMMON?



They all help the Upper Keys Humane Society!

We are always in need of financial help, and we need your donations!

Coconuts are available in front of our building for a donation. Aluminum cans donated by people like you can be turned in for money to help pay our spay/neuter and medical bills.

We need a lot of newspapers to line our kennels. We use hundreds of pages every day!

Please consider bringing your coconuts, newspapers and aluminum cans to us at MM 101.5. Or, send a check, or volunteer!!



HELP US HELP THE ANIMALS!

—WE ARE A NO-KILL SOCIETY—

MM 101.5 Oceanside

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Uncirculated copies of the Coconut Telegraph are given to the Humane Society each month.

Spring Cleaning?

DONATE YOUR ITEMS TO A GREAT CAUSE!



They take clothing, household items and anything of value they can sell.

The shop features



ReMARCable

Monroe Association for ReMARCable Citizens

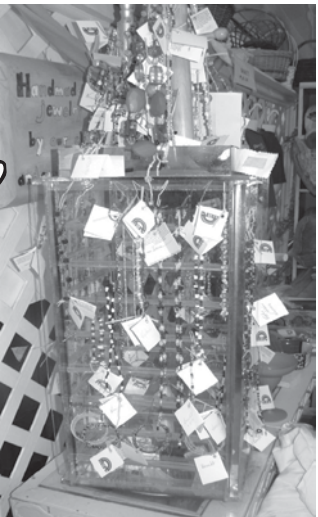
Thrift Store

MM 90 • Next to Coral Shores HS

HOURS: Monday to Friday 9am-4pm • Saturday 9am-5pm

Monroe Association for ReMARCable Citizens is available to adult clients with developmental disabilities that include mental retardation (I.Q. 69 or below), cerebral 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 the thrift store in Tavernier.



For more information about this program or about how you can help please call 305-852-3282.

Reprinted from DailyOM - Inspirational thoughts for a happy, healthy and fulfilling day. Register for free at www.dailyom.com



First State Bank Collects for Prom Night

First State Bank of the Florida Keys is partnering with Keys Kids Come First to collect donations of prom attire for Monroe County High School students.

First State Bank office’s from Key West to Key Largo have drop boxes for the community to donate clean, gently used formal dresses, dress pants and dress shirts that can be worn at prom or homecoming by male and female students.

“We’re proud of the Bank’s ongoing tradition of helping ensure that all local students have an opportunity to attend prom and celebrate their hard work at the end of the year,” said First State Bank of the Florida Keys Executive Vice President/Retail Market Executive Tony Romano. Keys Kids Come First is a foundation dedicated to helping children and providing school and personal supplies to local students experiencing financial adversity in Monroe County.



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May is Motorcycle Awareness Month

Safety Tips

Motorcyclists don't have the protection that cars and trucks have. To stay safe, remember to:

- Wear a helmet and protective gear
- Turn on your headlights and ride defensively
- Avoid the center of the lane where debris and oil build up
- Ride at a safe speed and never ride if you've been drinking
- Take a course to learn or reinforce safe riding techniques
- Don't drink and drive



Other drivers need to keep an eye out for motorcycles and safely share the road:

- Look twice for motorcyclists at intersections, entering highways and whenever turning or changing lane
- Always maintain a safe following distance
- When passing a motorcyclist, move to the other lane and allow a full lane for the motorcycle



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Mike Carrigan Appointed Regional Senior Lender



Centennial Bank is pleased to announce the appointment of Michael Carrigan, Executive Vice President to Regional Senior Lender. “Michael’s contribution to our lending department has been substantial and with his lead, our lending decisions continue to be strengthened with local insight and market understanding. We anticipate great opportunities to contribute to the growth of our communities and local businesses,” said Teresa Condas, President Centennial Bank, South Florida.

Carrigan joined Centennial Bank in October 2011 following a career in banking spanning more than 35 years, including nearly a decade with the former TiB Bank, where he was President and CEO since 2007. Carrigan attended The Graduate School of Credit and Financial Management at Dartmouth College, and holds a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island. Originally from Connecticut, Carrigan and his wife, Susan, moved to the Keys in 2004. A past director of United Way, Carrigan currently serves on the Sombrero Country Club Board of Directors.

Centennial Bank, a HomeBancshares (NASDAQ: HOMB) company, is a full-service financial institution with branches throughout Arkansas and Florida. For more information, please visit www.my100bank.com.

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A stylized map of the Florida Keys archipelago, showing the Gulf of Mexico to the west and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. The map is divided into three main sections: Lower Keys, Middle Keys, and Upper Keys. Key locations labeled include Key West, Stock Island, Boca Chica, Sugarloaf, Big Pine Key, Ramrod Key, Bahia Honda Key, Pigeon Key, Marathon, Vaca Key, Duck Key, Long Key, Layton, Islamorada, Tavernier, Key Largo, John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary, Rodriguez Key, Plantation Key, Windley Key, Upper Matecumbe Key, Indian Key, Lower Matecumbe Key, Jewfish Key, Lignumvitae Key, Shell Key, Snake Creek, Fourmile Creek, Harry Harris County Park, Boggy Key, Blackwater Sound, and Homestead. The map also shows major roads like US-1 and SR-905, and a compass rose indicating North. A pirate ship icon is in the top left corner.

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Long Live the Queen!

I got a phone call last week telling me to go to Marker 88 to receive a "Cream of the Conch Republic Award." The person sitting next to me, listening to the phone call, said "Queen of the Conch Republic"? I said that I don't know what it's all about but if I am to be Queen of the Conch Republic, I will, as Queen:

- * Shorten the 7-Mile Bridge
- * Make Capt. Spencer Slate my King
- * Install an airport on the 18 mile stretch
- * Nationalize the Ocean Reef Club
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- * Will extend all Happy Hours



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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.


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"To all our Mothers in Heaven"



Momma

I miss you and I wish I had given you more flowers while you were here.

I wish I had told you more how you filled my life with cheer.

But now the time has passed and I do not know if in heaven this rose you now can see, but momma I send it to you as a gift of love from me.



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Hunk of the Month

Don Brown



Don Brown of The Pilot House "has a little Captain in him".

Shirts by T-Toons

Entertainer of the Year! Sir C. W. Colt

continued from page 8

Jennings, Jon Conley, Roy Clark, Doug Kershaw and he worked for Narada Michael Walden.

C. W. Colt's band was the house band at Rumrunners at Holiday Isle, and together with Willy Williams and Judy Justice organized the first Bay Jam. Their slogan was "Just Say Yes" (Yearly Educational Scholarships).

Sir Colt calls himself a "Caribbean Country Blues Master" and has written over 200 songs; each one distinctly different from the rest.

Colt's title comes from the world-famous salvager Mel Fisher, who knighted him as the Conch Republic Royal Minstrel.

Sir C. W. Colt is going to


be opening his home in Key West for house concerts. He will also be recruiting other homes in and around the Keys. So if you would like to host a house concert in your home or on your yacht, contact C W and he will set it all up for you. C W. has many songwriting friends, so you never know who may be joining in. It is an opportunity to experience great music in a close and friendly environment without the distractions of being in a club.

For more information on C.W. Colt visit his website www.cwcolt.com where you can also listen to all of his shows live.

To purchase his music go to CDBaby.com.

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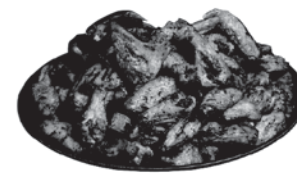


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Kudos to Key Thacker!

Community activist Kay Thacker and longtime companion John Groothand were married recently.


Among her many achievements, as President of the Friends of Key Largo Cultural Center, Kay has helped bring the Arts to Key Largo.



Kay Thacker and John Groothand

In April, Sylvia Murphy and several of Kay's friends presented her with a plaque that will be hung in the Cultural Center thanking her for her hard work and dedication. They have also created a "Kay's Wish Foundation" to help with funding for the promotion of events to be held there in the future.

Kudos on the wedding and accomplishments, Kay!



Kay's appreciation plaque



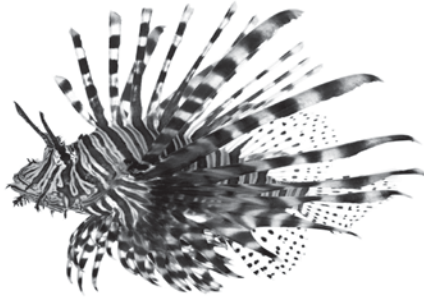
Winners Announced for REEF's Monthly Lionfish Contest

REEF, with the ongoing support of local businesses, is continuing its monthly lionfish contest that awards both groups (shops, clubs, teams) and individuals who turn in the most lionfish each month. This is a fun competition to encourage ongoing removals of invasive lionfish.

Cate Kelliher (individual) and Key Divers (group) led the efforts in March as 30 lionfish were turned in during the month. A special thanks goes out to Domino's Pizza and The Pilot House Restaurant for donating March's prizes. Also, thank you to past sponsors Shipwrecks Bar & Grill, Papa John's Pizza and The Buzzards Roost Restaurant.

To enter the contest, divers simply bring their lionfish in to REEF HQ (MM 98.3) during office hours in a ziploc bag along with basic collection information (location, date, name, etc).

Lionfish can be turned in throughout the month, with scores tallied the first week of the following month. Participants are eligible for giveaway drawings even if they do not win the monthly contest. Goals of the contest are to increase community awareness and participation in invasive lionfish removals.



For more info, contact REEF at REEFHQ@REEF.org, visit www.REEF.org, or call (305) 852-0030.

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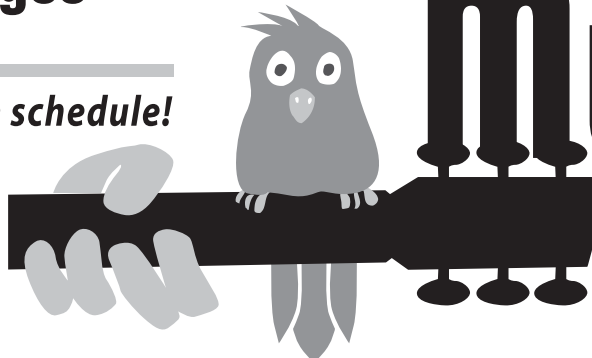
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Conch Characters



The lovely Rita at the Holiday Inn Tiki Bar



Karen & Ike Beal at the fundraiser for Chris Fleming at Gilberts



D-Hooker's complimentary beer at the monthly car show



Sidney & Michaelynn Vandiver were married April 15th on Rosa Del Mar sailboat. Photo by Michelle Young of Endearing Studios



Cesar - food service expeditor extraordinaire at Gilbert's



D-Hooker's car show



Pilot House won the most "Cream of the Conch Republic" awards - Don & Jeannie Brown



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Congratulations Richard Behr



Richard Behr was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court in Washington on April 2, 2012. He was sworn in by Chief Justice Roberts before a full panel of justices. This is in addition to being admitted in 2 states, the Federal Trial Bar and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

Dear
Anny
Bannanny

Dear Anny Bannanny,
Why a woman would give up her young children and run off to the Florida Keys only to work as a bartender in a low class establishment? A woman prone to angry outbursts that preys on ugly alcoholic old men for a place to live and money? A woman who can't get a female friend because she is untrustworthy and jealous. Why in the world wouldn't she want to raise her own children? What kind of a life is hanging on to a barstool half the night while someone else is in another state raising your kids? She isn't even a good bartender! Why?! Then one day I drove by cracktown and there she was standing on the side of the road yelling and waving her skinny little arms. Now it's all making sense. Now all I feel is pity.

Sincerely,
A good mother

Dear Good Mother,
That is very sad. Mother's Day is coming and Anny Bannanny misses her mom. Mrs. Bannanny made many sacrifices for her family and would greatly disapprove of the biological mother you are talking about. But I don't think Mrs. Bannanny ever knew a crack tramp.
There is something you can do. Try to talk to the old men that are funding her habit. They are co-dependent and enabling her. If you can take away the funding source to her addiction she will start to steal money (if she isn't already) and eventually she will get caught and arrested. Once she is arrested she will be in the system and will have access to professional help. If she is without the drug for a period of time she will go into detox. Watch so that she doesn't have any accidents, like falling off a ladder for example, and I sure as heck wouldn't trust her with a pair of scissors! Other symptoms to watch for are: Anxiety and/or depression, paranoia, fidgeting, agitation and restlessness(neck scratching), aggressive outbursts, fatigue and lethargy, nausea and/or vomiting, muscle pain or "bone pain", and profuse sweating.
Mother's Day is May 13th and don't forget to honor the stepmothers too.

Yours Truly,
Anny Bannanny

For more information call 877-211-7428

Welfare and Illegal Drugs

An email has been circulating regarding Governor Rick Scott signing a new law that welfare applicants must be tested for drugs and be drug-free to be eligible for funds. Applicants must pay for the drug test, but are reimbursed if they are drug-free. Applicants who test positive for illicit substances won't be eligible for a year or until they undergo treatment. Those who fail a second time will be banned from receiving funds for three years. Naturally, a few people are crying that this unconstitutional. How can it be unconstitutional if it is also a legal requirement to be drug tested in order to get a good job? In any case, just how long does it take to get these drugs out of your system?

- Here is a list:
- Amphetamines - 1 to 2 days.
 - Anabolic steroids - oral, up to 3 weeks; injected, 3-6 mo. or more.
 - Barbituates - 2 to 3 days
 - Benzodiazepines - (Xanax) 2 to 8 days.
 - Cocaine - 1 to 2 days.
 - Codeine - 1 to 2 days.
 - GHB - (Liquid Ecstasy) 1 to 2 days.
 - Heroin - 1 to 2 days.
 - Ketamine - 2 to 4 days.
 - LSD - from a few hours up to 5 days.
 - Marijuana - In a heavy user it can be up to 30 days or more.
 - MDMA - (Ecstasy) 1 to 5 days.
 - Methadone - 1 to 7 days.
 - Methamphetamines - 2 to 4 days.
 - Methaqualone - (Quaaludes) 10 to 15 days.
 - Opiates - 1 to 2 days.
 - Oxycodone - 1 to 2 days.
 - PCP - (Angel Dust) 1 to 8 days



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The Best Revenge

My friend is having a hard time after her divorce, and so I offer these suggestions to exact revenge when you need to:

1. **Sell all the jewelry he gave you.** What better way to get revenge than to pawn the jewelry the Ex gave you? Put it all in a bag and take it to Bill at Coral Financial Jewelry and Pawn and tell him we sent you. You will walk out with a wad of cash in your hand and a big smile on your face.

2. **Get a temporary tattoo.** Drive to Key West and find one of the many temporary tattoo artists, my favorite is outside the front door of Fat Tuesdays on Duval Street. Ask them to write boldly on your arm or get a tramp stamp on your back (the more visible the better) the name of your Ex's worst enemy. The cost depends on the size \$30 to \$70 should do it. While you're there spend some of that jewelry money on a frozen margarita.

3. **Write a hit song.** A broken heart is sometimes the best motivator for writing a hit song and getting a million dollar



recording contract. Always have a pad and pen readily available so when you are drinking away your sorrows and the words come to mind you will be prepared.

4. **Get a hair cut.** Chances are your Ex really likes your hair so go to the beauty shop and get a new hair style. You'll feel like a million dollars and who cares about that Ex anyway? Wash him or her out of your hair.

5. **Bonk his best friend.** Yes, we know this isn't very nice but it happens all the time. Whether you are the bonkee or the bonker it is a guaranteed good time and you may just gain some material for your song unless.....

6. **Down and dirty.** We do not recommend this, however, for \$20 you can purchase live pubic lice at crabrevenge.com. Seriously! They come in a plastic vial and you just sprinkle them on the persons chair or in their car that done you wrong. Their motto is "make that bitch itch." For \$50 there is also a stronger strain that is even resistant to drugstore shampoo. Perfect for that "nitpicking" louse you used to care about. By the way, the Coconut Telegraph prefers pubic lobsters.

The best revenge is to just get on with your life. Scheming and plotting revenge is just letting the person who hurt you occupy space inside your head, rent free. Contrary to popular belief the opposite of love is not hate. Hate is a strong emotion. The opposite if love is indifference or apathy, but really now, who cares?

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You Might Be Old If:

- Everything hurts , and what doesn’t hurt, doesn’t work anyway.
- The gleam in your eyes is from the sun hitting your bifocals.
- You feel like you really hung one on the night before, and you were in bed asleep by eight.
- You get winded playing chess.
- Your children begin to look middle-aged.
- Your mind makes contracts your body can’t meet.
- You know all the answers, but nobody asks the questions.
- You look forward to a dull evening.
- Your favorite part of the newspaper is “25 years ago today!”
- You sit in a rocking chair and can’t get it going.
- Your knees buckle and your belt won’t.
- You’re 17 around the neck and 42 around the waist.
- You stop looking forward to your next birthday.
- Dialing long distance wears you out.
- Your back goes out more than you do.
- A fortune teller offers to read your face.
- You turn out the lights for economic reasons rather than romantic ones.
- You remember this week that last week was your wedding anniversary.
- You answer automatically when someone addresses you “Old Timer.”
- You start burning your midnight oil at 9:00 p.m.
- You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.
- Your pacemaker makes the garage door go up when you see a pretty girl walk by.
- You get your exercise acting as a pallbearer for your friend who exercised.
- You have too much room in the house and not enough in the medicine cabinet.
- The best part of your day is over when your alarm goes off.



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Now, that's Punny!

I don’t enjoy computer jokes; not one bit.

I changed my iPod’s name to Titanic. It’s syncing now.

When chemists die, they barium.

Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.

Stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.

This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I’d never met herbivore.

I’m reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can’t put it down.

I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.

They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a type-O.

PMS jokes aren’t funny; period.

Why were the Indians here first? They had reservations.

We’re going on a class trip to the Coca-Cola factory. I hope there’s no pop quiz.

I didn’t like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn’t control her pupils?

When you get a bladder infection urine trouble.

Broken pencils are pointless.

I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.

What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.

England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.

I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.

I dropped out of communism class because of lousy Marx.

All the toilets in New York’s police stations have been stolen. The police have nothing to go on.

I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.

Haunted French pancakes give me the crêpes.

Velcro — what a rip off!

A cartoonist was found dead in his home. Details are sketchy.

Venison for dinner again? Oh deer!

The earthquake in Washington obviously was the government’s fault.

Be kind to your dentist. He has fillings, too.

Coco’Nut’ Funnies

Let's Brag About It

- Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.
- The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.
- Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want to people to know “why” I look this way. I’ve travelled a long way and some of the roads weren’t paved.
- How old would you be if you didn’t know how old you are?
- When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.
- Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today, it’s called golf.
- You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.
- One of the many things no one tells you about ageing is that it is such a nice change from being young.
- One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been.
- Ahh, being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.
- Old age is when former classmates are so gray and wrinkled and bald, they don’t recognize you.
- If you don’t learn to laugh at trouble, you won’t have anything to laugh at when you are old.
- First you forget names, then you forget faces. Then you forget to pull up your zipper, then...Oh, my goodness, you forgot to pull your zipper down!
- If you jog in a jogging suit, lounge in lounging pajamas, and smoke in a smoking jacket, WHY would anyone want to wear a wind breaker??
- I don’t know how I got over the hill without getting to the top.
- I was recently asked if I tweet. I answered, “No, but I do toot a lot.



Scotch With Two Drops Of Water

A lady goes to the bar on a cruise ship and orders a Scotch with two drops of water.

As the bartender gives her the drink she says, ‘I’m on this cruise to celebrate my 80th birthday and it’s today..’

The bartender says, ‘Well, since it’s your birthday, I’ll buy you a drink. In fact, this one is on me.’

As the woman finishes her drink, the woman to her right says, ‘I would like to buy you a drink, too.’

The old woman says, ‘Thank you Bartender, I want a Scotch with two drops of water.’

‘Coming up,’ says the bartender.

As she finishes that drink, the man to her left says, ‘I would like to buy you one, too.’

The old woman says, ‘Thank you. Bartender, I want another Scotch with two drops of water.’

‘Coming right up,’ the bartender says.

As he gives her the drink, he says, ‘Ma’am, I’m dying of curiosity. Why the Scotch with only two drops of water?’

The old woman replies, ‘Sonny, when you’re my age, you’ve learned how to hold your liquor. Holding your water, however, is a whole other issue.’



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