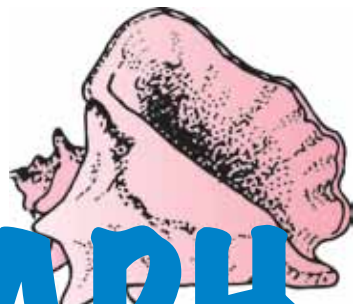


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Attractions

"How Do We Get To Key West
Without Crossing Any Bridges?"
Keys Castaways is Back!

T'was a Florida Keys Christmas

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"Starstruck" by Brenda Hiatt Book
Signing Dec. 13 at Big Chill

Cindy Claus Helps Families in Need

All the Buzz

Coco-Nut Funnies
Mangrove Galley: Steak Au Poivre
Conch Characters

Business in the Keys

Anny Bannanny



Dolphins Plus' animal care and training staff member, Melissa Lopes gets a kiss from Fiji. Melissa has been with the facility for one and a half years, has a B.S. in Biology from Fairleigh Dickinson University and a MPS in Marine Mammal Science from the University of Miami Rosenstiel School. When Melissa isn't spending time training dolphins, she is playing soccer, scuba diving and listening to Michael Bublé.

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Captain Morgan Girls (The Morganettes)

Captain Morgan BBQ Food Specials

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FROM OPEN TO CLOSE



Captain Morgan

Coconut Telegraph

December 2013

Volume 8 Issue #82

Prestige Publishing, Inc

101425 Overseas Highway

PMB #628

Key Largo, FL 33037

Phone 305-304-2837

Deadline

for the

Coconut Telegraph's

January issue is

Friday,

December 20, 2013

Contact Denise at

305-304-2837

theconchtelegraph@gmail.com

Cast of Characters:

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Editorial: The Basics. How to hold a benefit, lessons I have learned.

First off, make sure the person the benefit is for is truly sick and needy. Once that is established you need to pick a location that will hold a large number of people and has room for a band. Talk with dependable musicians that you can count on to show up volunteer their time and not cancel at the last minute. Set the date as far in advance as possible. Two or three months is good. Hire a graphic artist to produce a poster. Graphic artists charge \$60 to \$80 per hour. Plan on (\$60). Make approximately 100 flyers. Color copies run about 50 cents each (\$50) Make approximately 50 color posters at \$3 each. (\$150) Make sure you have extra money for gas because you are going to need it. From now until the benefit you will be putting a lot of miles on your car soliciting donations of items and delivering posters. Guesstimated expense (\$100+) Some places will ask you to come back several times. Silent Auction sheets approximately 50 black and white copies at 10 cents each (\$5.00) Raffle Tickets - a large roll is about (\$25) Enough tables to display all the items. You can borrow them. Door prizes. I usually spend (\$150) or more.

I make a silent auction basket (\$100) Newspaper advertising. I usually provide full page color ads \$600 x 3 months = (\$1,800) I do not charge these expenses against the benefit, they are my donation and it totals approx. \$2,440 out of pocket. That does not count my time or loss of income from neglecting my work. Plan on spending at least 20 hours a week for 2 to 3 months soliciting donations and delivering posters. You will spend the entire day of the benefit on your feet and be so exhausted the next day you will need to take the day off from work. After the benefit plan on spending a week or two contacting the silent auction winners and delivering the merchandise. It is exhausting work but is extremely rewarding when you have been able to use your talents and resources to help out someone in a tough spot. All of the people I have helped were good people that appreciated what the community did to help them, except for one. Although I was advised against it a few years ago I did a benefit for a woman who was not very popular. I felt sorry for her because she was a very unhappy and negative person who couldn't keep a job for very long. It was very difficult to solicit donations to benefit a person who has very few friends and wasn't even a US citizen, plus

Editorial continued

she thought she was entitled. We raised some money that was meant to pay her mortgage and expenses. It didn't. Instead she spent it on bottled beer and expensive cigarettes. A few months later she wrote me a few hateful emails because she was angry because she had demanded that I give her a free (Hunk of the Month) tee shirt (that would not fit her) and I had politely refused. I had to unfriend and block her because of this and have since just avoided her. Imagine my surprise when I recently saw through Facebook where this woman was trashing me yet again! I wonder if she realizes that her comments were public and all the generous businesspeople in this town that donated to her benefit probably saw what she wrote about me on Facebook? They know how hard I worked to help her and it just makes everyone realize how greedy and ungrateful she is. Lessons learned. Negative, needy people will suck you dry. You can't help everyone but don't let that make you stop trying. I would like to thank Cindy "Cindy Claus" Smith and Jane Wasmund for the hard work they do all year to bring Christmas to local families that otherwise their children wouldn't have anything under their tree Christmas morning. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy holiday season and a safe and prosperous new year.

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Key Largo man wrestles live alligators for a living.

Travis Slater steps into the corral, grabs a good sized alligator by the tail, and drags it to the center of the pit. Just as the enormous reptile whips around to try to take a chomp out of his leg, Travis grabs the creature's giant jaws and clamps them tightly while jumping on the big beast's back and straddling it. He tucks his knees in, and tightly holding on to the raging thrashing reptile's back with his legs, Travis manages to pry open the giant lizard jaws with his bare hands so the audience can see the row of approximately 80 huge pointed teeth.

These are similar to the teeth of the alligator that left an angry scar on Slater's arm several years ago when he first started working with the thick-skinned critters at the Everglades Alligator Farm in Homestead. Just a 30-minute drive from Key Largo, this is a breathtaking attraction every resident and visitor should take the time to see.

Host to over 2,000 alligators of all ages and sizes, the Everglades Alligator Farm is also home to a variety of snakes, a baby crocodile and even an endangered Florida panther. Slater's goal is to educate the public on the

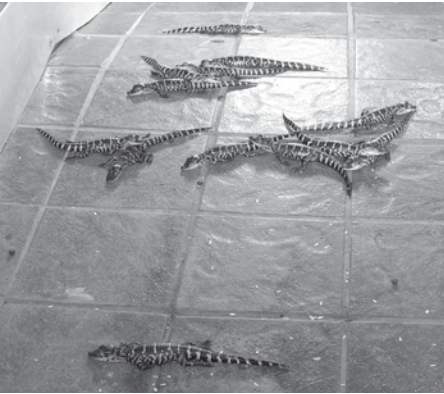
wildlife he respects and cares for, and he is a wealth of information.

A trip to the Everglades Alligator Farm includes an exciting airboat tour of the surrounding river of grass; a walking trail around the farm to see the alligators, crocodiles, caimans, and wildlife; a great display of local and exotic snakes; and informational wildlife shows every hour. Everglades Alligator Farm is open daily between the hours of 9 am and 6pm.

Whether you are headed to Key Largo or Key West, this is an attraction you absolutely won't want to miss!

For more information on the Everglades Alligator Farm call 305-247-2628 or go to www.everglades.com. There is a \$2 off an airboat ride coupon on their website.

The Everglades Alligator Farm is located at 40351 SW 192 Ave., Homestead, Florida.



Baby alligators and two-year-olds thrive on the Everglades Alligator Farm, which is home over 2,000 alligators as well as a variety of snakes, a baby crocodile and even an endangered Florida panther.



Travis Slater holds the alligator's jaws so the audience can appreciate the row of approximately 80 teeth.





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Circle of Love



Brittney Baker

Just when 23-year-old Coral Shores graduate Brittney Baker's dream of becoming a dolphin trainer was about to come true, she had a tragic car accident.

Brittney has been in a coma in ICU at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami for over 2 months. She is being treated for massive head injuries and multiple broken bones. As soon as she is stable enough she will need to have spinal surgery to repair a broken back. Brittney was tossed about in that car like a rag doll and her recovery is going to be a very slow process, if she recovers at all.

The accident happened April 7th at MM 100. Most people would not have survived such a horrific accident but Brittney has youth and strength to her advantage and that is what has kept her alive and got her this far.


Brittney is the child of John and Jennifer Baker of Key Largo. Jennifer Baker is the manager of Dolphin Cove and her husband John is only employed part time. They are doing all they can

to ensure Brittney's survival, but the cost of daily hospital visits and medical expenses is astronomical.

Over the years the Baker family has been active in many community benefits and events - and now they need our help.

Visit Facebook "Britt's Battle" where you can donate money to help with Brittney's medical expenses, or give a donation for one of these Good Karma bracelets to be worn as a "constant reminder to keep the circle positive and loving."

Suggested donation is \$10 each. Available at Dolphins Plus.



Good Karma Bracelet
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MORE INFO: DENISE MALEYT 305-304-2837 OR JUDY CURTIS 305-394-0249

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Dolphin Trainers Speak at Everglades Preparatory Academy

Dolphin Cove and Dolphins Plus would like to thank Everglades Preparatory Academy for inviting two of our trainers, Jean Paul Rivera and Stacy Fairfax, to be guest speakers in their marine science class. The speakers program allows Dolphin Cove and Dolphins Plus to continue its mission of conservation of marine mammals through education. Thank you, EPA, for allowing us to reach the young minds of tomorrow! A very special thanks to the kids' teacher, Mrs. Laura Ashley, who is part of Dolphins Plus and Dolphin Cove's very own alumni!

Monday night @ Snooks
Wednesday night @ Gilberts
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Saturday night @ Snooks
with the band

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T'was A Florida Keys Christmas

T'was the night before Christmas and all through the islands,
no noses were frozen, no snow on the garlands,
no children in flannels were tucked into bed,
they all wore their skivvies instead.

To find wreaths of mangroves, t'was not very hard,
for mangroves grew in every back yard.

In front of the houses, Dads and Moms were
adorning the hibiscus' and coconut palms.

The sleeping kiddies were dreaming in glee,
hoping to find paddle boards under the tree.

They all knew that Santa was well on his way,
in a Keys Cruiser, instead of a sleigh.

And soon he arrived and started to work,
he hadn't a second to linger or shirk.

He whizzed down the stretch and zoomed up the road,
in a rusty old pick up, delivering his loads.

The tropical moon gave the Keys sky a glow,
and lighted the way for old Santa below.

As he jumped from the truck he gave a wee chuckle,
he was dressed in shorts with an Ivy league buckle,

There weren't any chimneys, but that caused no gloom,
for Santa came in through the screened in room.

He stopped at each house.... stayed only a minute,
emptying his sack of stuff that was in it.

Before he departed, he treated himself
to a glass of Captain Morgan hid up on the shelf.

He turned with a jerk and bounced to the truck,
having to leave paradise was really gonna suck.

He shifted the gears and
stepped on the gas
and up US 1 he went like a flash.

And I heard him exclaim
as he went on his way,

MERRY
CHRISTMAS
Y'ALL,
I WISH I
COULD STAY!

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1 EGO 1-6	2 MON NITE FOOTBALL 10 FOOT BIG SCREEN BEER & WING SPECIALS	3 KARAOKE 6-10	4 BOBBE BROWN 6-10	5 LUKE SOMMER GLEN BAND 6-10	6 BOBBE BROWN 1-6 REGS 7-11	7 LUKE & DAVE 2-6 PUSH 7-11
8 STALKING MILDRED 1-6	9 MON NITE FOOTBALL 10 FOOT BIG SCREEN BEER & WING SPECIALS	10 KARAOKE 6-10	11 BOBBE BROWN 6-10	12 LUKE SOMMER GLEN BAND 6-10	13 BOBBE BROWN 1-6 CLICK 7-11	14 LUKE & DAVE 2-6 TBA
15 NO RESTRICTIONS 1-6	16 MON NITE FOOTBALL 10 FOOT BIG SCREEN BEER & WING SPECIALS	17 KARAOKE 6-10	18 BOBBE BROWN 6-10	19 LUKE SOMMER GLEN BAND 6-10	20 BOBBE BROWN 1-6 GYPSY ROAD 7-11	21 LUKE & DAVE 2-6 FRANKLINS WHEEL 7-11
22 MR NICE GUY 1-6	23 MON NITE FOOTBALL 10 FOOT BIG SCREEN BEER & WING SPECIALS	24 KARAOKE 6-10	25 MERRY X-MAS BOBBE BROWN 6-10	26 LUKE SOMMER GLEN BAND 6-10	27 BOBBE BROWN 1-6 THE DROPOUTS 7-11	28 LUKE & DAVE 2-6 COLBERT 7-11
29 THE REGS 1-6	30 MON NITE FOOTBALL 10 FOOT BIG SCREEN BEER & WING SPECIALS	31 NEW YEARS EVE PARTY!! DETAILS SOON	MICHAEL TRIXX MAGIC SHOW SATURDAYS AT SUNSET		\$7.95 Daily Food Specials Mon-Fri	

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Dec 11: Nick Moss

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SATURDAY
Dec 21: Albert Castiglia

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SATURDAY
Dec 28: Joel DaSilva & Midnight Howl

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ⓑ AND ⓒ ON THE MAP

Key Largo

In Key Largo, we navigate by Mile Markers! Look for the little green signs and mile indicators on power poles to find your way.

Legend

- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- Boat Ramp
- Mile Marker
- Point of Interest
- Dive Site
- Dive Wreck
- Swim with Dolphins

Bayside

Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center
Mariners Hospital
Harry Harris Park & Beach
Molasses Reef
Duane

Oceanside

Benwood
Spiegel Grove
Alligator
French Reef
Grecian Rocks
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
City of Washington
Christ Statue
Carysfort
John Pennecamp Coral Reef State Park
Garden Cove
North The Elbow Dry Rocks

Key Largo

Key Largo Public Library
African Queen Community Pool and Park
Post Office
Murray Nelson Government Center
Adams Cut
Pennekamp Entrance
Pennekamp

Legend

- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- Boat Ramp
- Mile Marker
- Point of Interest
- Dive Site
- Dive Wreck
- Swim with Dolphins

Legend

- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
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Key Largo

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ⓑ AND ⓒ ON THE MAP

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Bob's Chippers are delicious, chocolate-covered potato chips, lovingly hand-made right here in Key Largo!

Donate a half-pound box to our sick or wounded soldiers, made by Key Largo Chocolates, and delivered by the Red Cross!

Each box will be delivered at the specially reduced price of \$8.50, along with a "Chipper Greeting," bearing your name.

Order now! We will ship your boxes in November, in time to arrive for the holiday season.

Support this cause and bring cheer and chocolate to our servicemen and women!

American Red Cross

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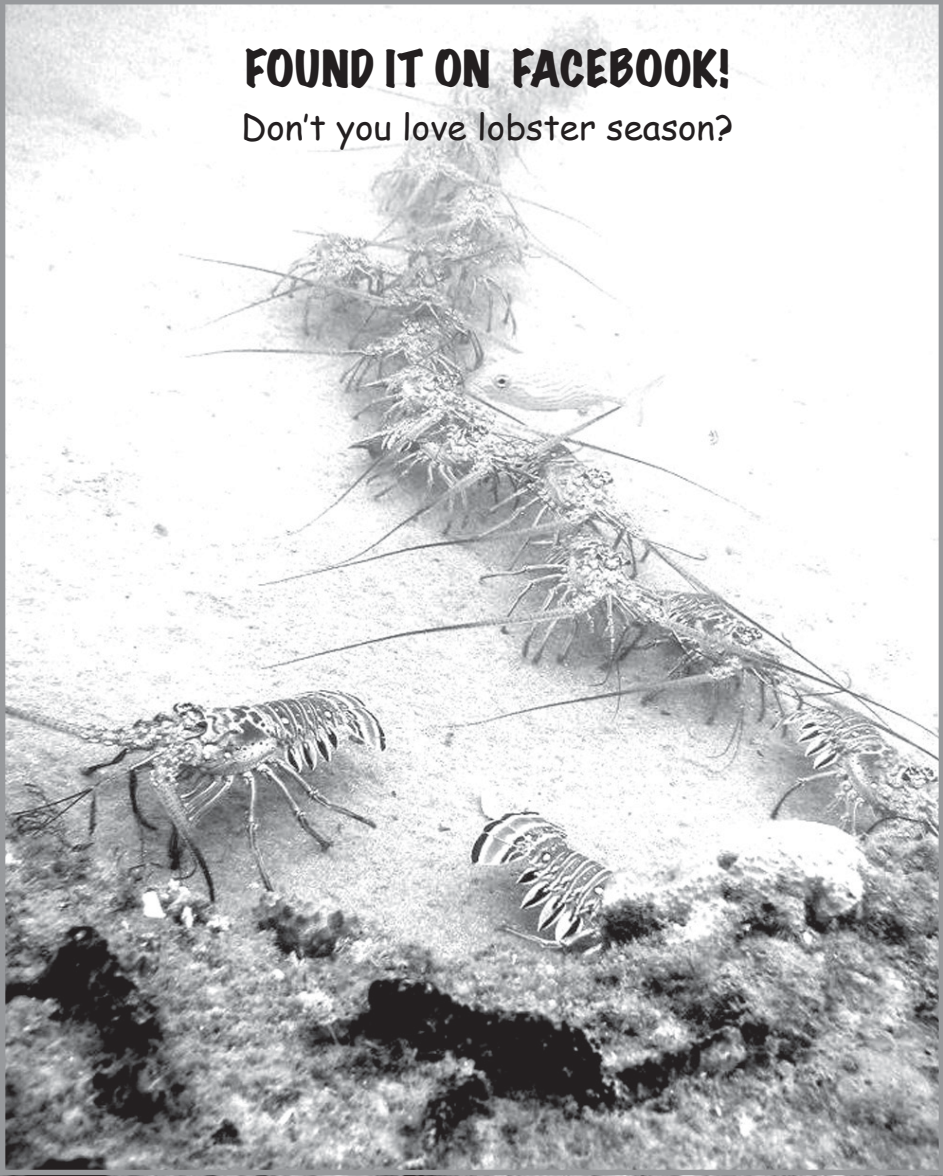
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ⓐ ON THE MAP

FOUND IT ON FACEBOOK!

Don't you love lobster season?



Easter Seals Holiday Ornaments Available at First State Bank

First State Bank offices throughout the Keys have once again been designated by Easter Seals Florida Keys Region as official sales locations for their limited edition 2013 Annual Easter Seals Holiday Ornaments.

This year's ornament, featuring a Key Deer, will be on sale through December 23rd or while supplies last.

First State Bank also made a financial donation to support Easter Seals' mission of providing exceptional services to those with disabilities or special needs, so their families have equal opportunities to live, learn, work, and play in our community.

"We are truly grateful to First State Bank for their ongoing partnership with Easter Seals to assist in our long tradition of helping ensure that local children and families receive the special care they need, especially during the holiday season," said Rob Porcaro, Executive Director of Easter Seals Florida/Keys Regional Office.

Visit any First State Bank of the Florida Keys office to purchase the 2013 Annual Easter Seals Holiday Ornaments.



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"How do we get to Key West without going over any bridges?" ...That and similar questions are what Wendy Hewitt of Keys Castaways Antiques Consignment has been asked more than a few times over her years of owning two retail businesses in Key Largo. The bulk of her clientele at Keys Castaways are "my locals," as Wendy lovingly refers to them, but for a few months out of the year, the snowbirds and tourists stream into her shop right alongside the local treasure hunters. The part-time visitors not only browse the eclectic inventory, but also come away with information on which restaurants will take the best care of them, which realtors will treat them the most fairly and which clubs will feature the music they are keen to hear... oh... and of course reminding the geographically-challenged non-locals that other than going by plane, boat or zip-line, bridges happen play a big part in getting to Key West!

Some of you may recall that in early 2003, an overgrown, seemingly abandoned

wood frame building situated on the bayside site of the old Blue Lagoon Trailer park, (MM98.6), suddenly blossomed into a brightly colored shop named Keys Castaways. Utilizing every square inch of space in the 60+ year old transformed tiki hut, a wonderland of 'Keys Funky' artifacts appeared; antiques, vintage clothes, furniture, local artwork, jewelry and more. The old Dade County pine floors, huge uncut rafter beams and columns lent themselves perfectly as a canvas for the jumbled display of items from around the world. The umbrella-covered pink and blue picnic tables in the shop front yard were a great spot for shopper's companions to finish their cigars, people-watch and enjoy the key lime tinged ice water from the big cooler that was kept filled every day. A relative newcomer to town had quit the corporate rat race and invented Keys Castaways in her new hometown of Key Largo.

Hewitt moved to Key Largo 15 years ago from a small town

How do we get to Key West without going over any bridges?

in New England, famous for its overwhelming number of antique shops. Wendy spent many summer breaks working in those shops.

Keys Castaways thrived until 2008, when the Miami-based landlords of the property informed Wendy that they intended to "bulldoze" the historic little building, "to make way for an exclusive resort for eastern Europeans." The resort never materialized... nor did the 'ultra-chic' condos that were slated to be built. The location is now home to an RV Resort... not a shred of the natural hammock left.

Wendy took time off, read some books and then reluctantly took a corporate job on the mainland, commuting each day and hating every minute of it. She would occasionally run into some of her old customers in town and the lament was always the same; "WHEN are you going to reopen?!" For five long years, Wendy secretly harbored the idea of reopening, halfheartedly watching the rental prices of newly available commercial properties. She had a new boyfriend, Franco... a long-time resident and businessman in Key Largo who owns a chunk of commercial property in the

center median at MM98.7. He uses a portion of the property for his own aluminum, canvas & marine upholstery business, The TeeTop Factory, and leases the balance of space. When his tenant did not renew their lease this past May, Franco offered the space to Wendy.

This past Labor Day weekend signaled a 'soft opening' for the NEW Keys Castaways, located in the median at 98750 Overseas Highway... just a wee bit south of Mother Ocean Nautical Consignment Shop. Seven days a week from 10am-6pm you will find Wendy at the counter of the store. Franco is the marine expert and auto evaluator... in addition to speaking fluent Italian to the female clientele!

In addition to consignments, customers can bring in items anytime, and have them evaluated, and walk out with cash. Whether it's a Keys Cruiser, a flats boat, an old wedding gown or a work of art from a relative, bring it to Keys Castaways for an honest and fair evaluation. Support local businesses by kicking off your holiday shopping right here in town... Call 305.451.1141 for more info.



Stop in at Keys Castaways and browse the eclectic inventory.

The 'King' of Rock 'n' Roll is Grand Marshal of Key Largo Boat Parade

In keeping with this year's Boat Parade theme, 'Christmas Rocks,' the King of Rock 'n' Roll himself has been named this year's Grand Marshal. Elvis (AKA Tim Shepherd) will join VIP guests aboard the Grand Marshal Boat. You will be able to see and hear

Elvis during the boat parade and after the Parade at Sundowners when an 'Elvis Live' performance by Tim Shepherd will take place on the point before the awards.

Tim Shepherd has appeared as Elvis Presley on a number of Carnival Cruise ships, and for various charitable benefits in the Florida Keys and Homestead. Some may remember his exciting performances at Founders Park and The Elks Club.

The annual Key Largo Boat Parade sets sail at 7:30 PM, Saturday December 14th. Illuminated boats ranging from 55 ft. motors to sail-

boats to kayaks and paddle boards will traverse the waters of Blackwater Sound to kick off the holidays with this annual tradition.

Best public viewing locations for the parade are the Marriott Resort, Sundowners, Senor Frioles, Jimmy Johnson's Big Chill and the Caribbean Club.

Entry to the parade is free and all boats are entered into a \$500 cash drawing. The only boat not eligible is the 'Best Overall' grand prize winner. There is also over \$1500 in cash as well as trophies and other prizes to be awarded.

Everyone is invited to the awards ceremony beginning at 10pm on the point at Sundowners, hosted by local celebrities retired meteorologist Don Noe, and local captains Spencer Slate and Skip Bradeen.

Sign up as soon as possible; download entry form at keylargoboatparade.com or call Sue Finney 305-394-3736.



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Saturday, December 14th • 7:30 PM • Blackwater Sound • MM104

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All the boats entering, except for the grand prize winner, are eligible for a random drawing to win \$500.00! For one lucky boat, it will PAY to enter the parade!!



Christmas
ROCKS!

TO ENTER, CONTACT:
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305-394-3736
or go to
www.keylargoboatparade.com

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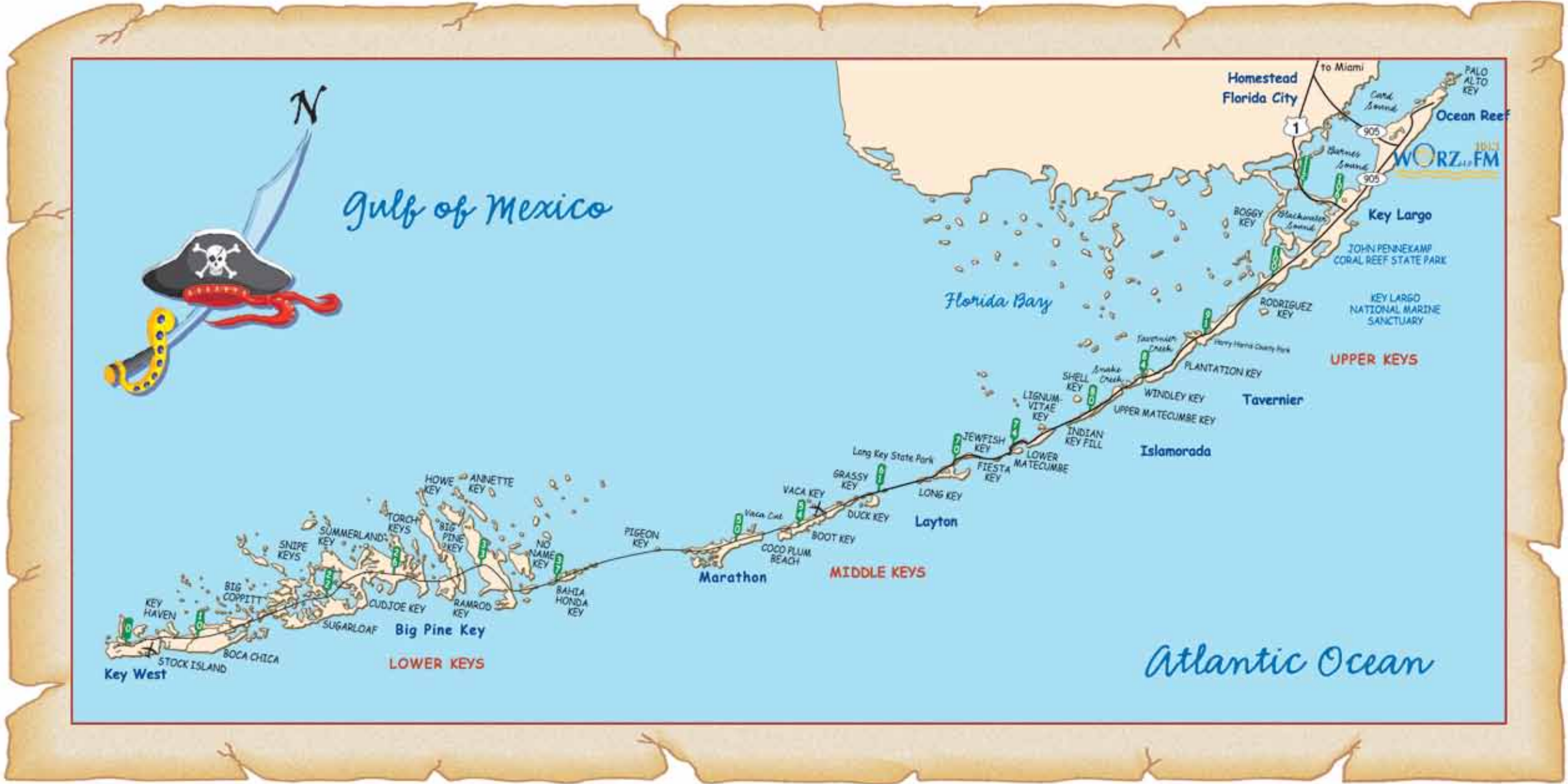
New Year's Eve on Island Time!

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Key Largo Boat Parade Dec. 14th
5pm Art on the Beach **\$45**
7pm Set sail for parade
Live music w/ Bobbe Brown, Bar b q dinner.

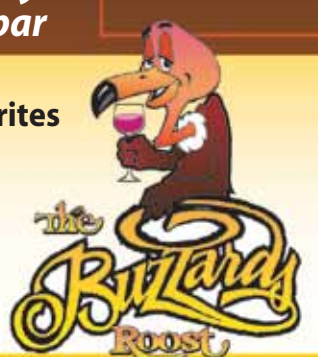
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Dancing on your Grave

On the night he intended to leave your side
You smoked your crack and drank many a mudslide

Then there in the dark outside was a big can of gas
So you poured it all over his drunken ass

You selfish demon you took a gentle soul's life
From a man who just wanted to get away from your strife

So you burned your own trailer down to the ground
then spent the insurance money at every bar in town

State Fire Marshal said it was arson and murder
Brenda killed Jack they all would murmur

Something the police still worked hard to prove
So you murderer, you thief, you whore, had to move

And the warm Key Largo sun again shone down
As later in your own fluids you did drown

Aged way beyond your years from smoke
Drinking Miller beer and snorting coke

I hope you coughed, suffered and painfully choked
All the long lonely years, months and days before you croaked

You gasped for air and gurgled bloody phlegm
As to hell your spirit ever so slowly was condemned

Now his family and friends will get some peace
Knowing that your ugly evil ass is finally deceased.

By Denise Malefyt

*Some may think this writer is bitter
I just wish I could use her ashes for cat litter.*

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Florida Keys
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Saturday, December 14, 2013

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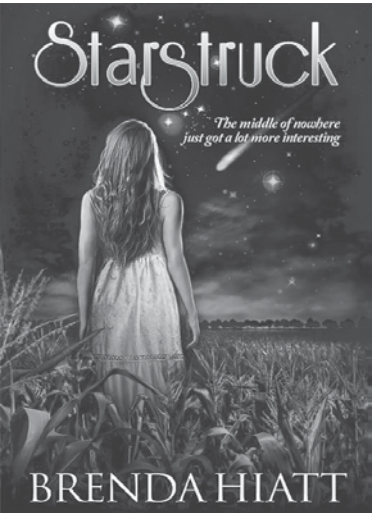
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Book Signing Dec. 13th
at the Big Chill

Key Largo-based author Brenda Hiatt has enjoyed great success publishing sixteen novels including Regency romances, time travel romance, historical novels and a humorous mystery novel, but she has struck new ground with her September 2013 release, a science fiction themed young adult novel entitled "Starstruck". Anyone who felt unpopular in high school will love this story of an awkward Indiana girl destined for more excitement, danger and heartbreak than she ever dreamed—and she dreamed a lot!

Brenda will be at a book signing event on Tuesday December 13th from 6 to 8 pm at the Big Chill. Stop in, meet Brenda Hiatt and get a signed 1st Edition copy of her newest book!




Brenda Hiatt

About the Author: Prior to releasing Starstruck, Brenda published six traditional Regency romances, one time travel romance, eight historical romances (most set in Regency England) and one upbeat mystery, all with major publishers. In addition to writing, Brenda is passionate about embracing life to the fullest, including Taekwondo (where she achieved her 2nd degree black belt in 2012 and recently competed in the USA Taekwondo National Championship tournament) and scuba diving (with over 60 dives to her credit). In March Brenda released Out of Her Depth from Bell Bridge Books, featuring a scuba diving heroine, and plans to write a sequel set in Key Largo.

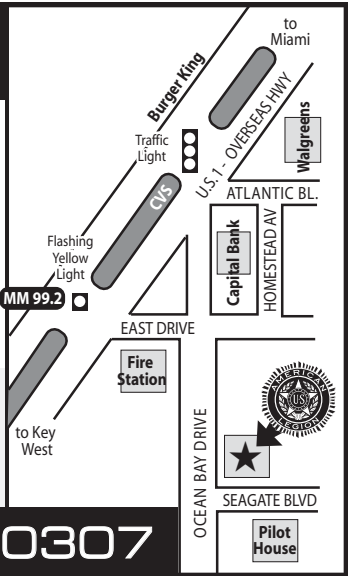
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DOMESTIC ABUSE SHELTER, INC. Wish List

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

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.

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Passive Aggressive Behavior Claiming our Feelings

The way to end passive aggressive behavior on your part or others' is with complete honesty and truth in any situation.

If you've ever found yourself repressing your anger and behaving in other ways to get your point across, you may be someone who is adept at engaging in passive-aggressive behavior. Although passive-aggressive behavior is recognized as a psychological disorder, it also describes the behavior that many people use to cope with confrontational situations. Such behavior has the outward appearance of being peaceful, yet it is really an attempt to express oneself in seemingly passive ways—usually without accepting responsibility for doing so. For example, someone who doesn't want to attend an event with a partner might engage in behavior that causes them to be late or miss the event without ever admitting to their partner that they never wanted to go to the function at all. Procrastination, inefficiency, stubbornness, and sullenness are some of the many ways that anger can be expressed indirectly.

It is important not to judge ourselves when we engage in passive-aggressive behavior. You may want to consider that you are not owning your feelings or your expression by indirectly expressing yourself. Perhaps you are judging your feelings and needs as wrong—which is why you are expressing yourself indirectly. You also may be worried that others will judge you for feeling



passive-aggressive hippie

the way that you do. Remember that anger and every other emotion are never good or bad. They can, however, become toxic of you don't express them in healthy and proactive ways. When we express ourselves directly, we are more likely to be heard by the other person. It also becomes easier for us to ask for and get what we want.

Once we learn to be honest with ourselves about our feelings, we can begin to directly express ourselves to others. By learning to express ourselves directly, we prevent misunderstandings, hurt feelings, and resentment from cropping up in our relationships. We also learn to communicate with others in healthy and productive ways. It is never too late to start working on ourselves and our behaviors, just take it one day at a time.

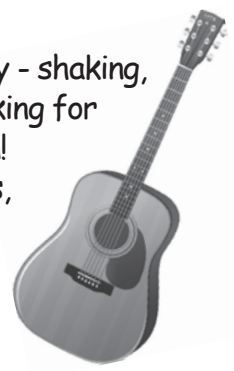
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Dear
Anny Bannanny




It isn't really a guitar but with friends like this who needs enemies?

Dear Anny Bannanny,
I stopped by a local bar to see some friends. As I was leaving and talking to a friend I looked over and saw a really nice guitar on the ground.
As I picked it up and admired it my friend said "That guitar belongs to Jane Doe." Jane Doe is a "friend" of mine so I told her I would take the guitar and give it to her when I saw her next. I put the guitar in my car and totally forgot about it till I ran into a relative of mine that plays the guitar. So I gave my relative the guitar as a gift. In the meantime I have seen Jane Doe a few times but it "totally slipped my mind" to tell her about the guitar.
Next thing I run into Jane at a local resort and there is my relative playing Jane Doe's damn guitar! Busted! But I still don't say anything until I see something on Facebook that said that I, (not by name) suck for not returning the instrument. Someone on there even said it was like stealing! I had plenty of opportunities to give back the guitar but I didn't. Also, Jane Doe recently gave me an expensive magnetic bracelet because she was concerned about my aching arm that I never thanked her for. What would a real man do to resolve this situation?
1. Just pay for the stupid guitar?
2. Blame Jane Doe by name and slander her all over Facebook. Trash her and her family? Get others to join in my hatefest? Make her pay for making me look like the buttwife that I am?
3. Allow all my low life friends that Jane Doe blocked and does not associate with to jump on the proverbial Facebook bandwagon and trash her too?
4. Get really angry - totally, irrationally angry - shaking, tears in my eyes... and go back to the bar looking for Jane Doe to tell her what a bitch she is again!
5. Keep the stupid guitar, it's finders keepers, losers weepers right?
What do you say, Anny Bannanny?
Yours, Truly Confused
Dear Truly Confused,
Jane Doe received the payment in an envelope that you left for her and she donated it to help needy children for Christmas. She knew you had the guitar the whole time. She wasn't concerned about the money. She was however concerned about honesty and respect. She was very disappointed that you did not apologize and to make matters worse, you continued to piss on her leg via Facebook. You also allowed some really trashy people to make nasty public comments about her on your wall too. Abusing the victim is the ultimate display of low class!
Jane Doe has done so much more for you over the years than you could ever do for her. Pity that you probably don't remember any of that either. Your extreme irrational fits of anger and memory loss have the whole town wondering....



OPERATION



CINDY CLAUS

For the last 12 years Cindy Smith and Jane Wasmund have been spreading some very special Christmas cheer to needy families in the Upper Keys with what has come to be known as Operation Cindy Claus.

Jane and Cindy connected years ago through letters to Santa Claus and have been working to make Christmas happen in a very special way


for folks who might not otherwise have a Christmas at all.

Although there are many organizations that raise money and give to families in need, the distinct difference in this project is that it targets families who might not qualify for other programs.

Jane and Cindy need your help to try to spread the spirit to families this year.

They accept monetary donations and gift certificates.

Contact Jane at 305-451-2214 or jwasmund@bellsouth.net if you can help make a happier holiday for families in need.



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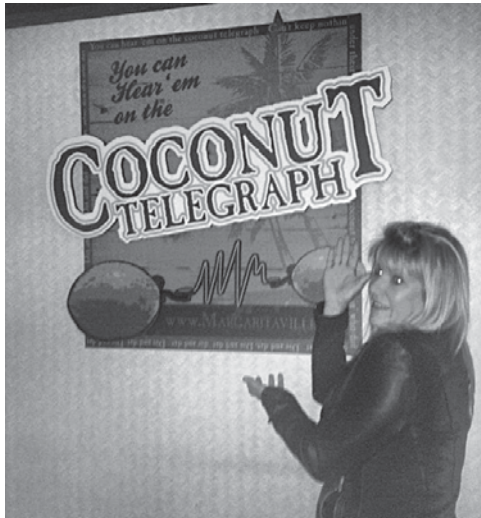
Conch Characters



Alan Truesdell and Michael Trix ... Thank you for entertaining at the American Legion Veteran's Day!



Pilot House's Pirate Bash was a smash!



Marcy Scott sent us a photo from Las Vegas. Congratulations on your retirement, Marcy!



Check out the monthly Luau at Snook's Bayside!



Key Largo's Garrett, 5 years old, dressed as Michael Trix for Halloween



Brandon Santini Band at Bayside Grille.



Check out the cool stuff in the gift shop at Sundowners!



Dinner at Sundowners before Ginsberg Productions' smash hit Rocky Horror Show.



Luke Sommer Glenn Band at Gilbert's.

The Mangrove Galley by Sandi Mieszczenski

Sandi's recipes are featured monthly in the Coconut Telegraph. For previous issues go to <http://www.theconchtelegraph.com>.



It is December and the holidays are in full swing. Christmas and New Years are a special time to spend with family and friends. The parties are abundant with some of the most delicious foods we prepare all year. One of my husband's and my favorite holiday dishes is Steak Au Poivre. The meal is relatively easy to make and turns Christmas Eve, Christmas Day or New Years into a culinary delight.

One of the special features of this steak dish that it is a perfect boater's meal, as preparation is on the stove top. One of my most memorable New Year's Eves was anchored in our sailboat off of Bottle Key. I prepared this steak and served it with a Caesar salad. So celebrate the holidays and enjoy!

STEAK AU POIVRE

This elegant dish serves two.

- 2 tablespoons peppercorns
- 2 beef tenderloin filets, cut about 1 1/4 inch thick
- 1 to 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons Cognac
- 2 tablespoons dry red wine
- 1/4 cup beef stock
- 2 tablespoons heavy whipping cream

Crush peppercorns lightly with a rolling pin. Press the beef on both sides into the peppercorns. Heat a saute pan to medium high. Add the oil, heat, then add the beef. Saute on both sides until the meat reaches your personal preference of wellness. Remove the steaks, tent with foil to keep warm. Add the Cognac, deglazing the pan, then add the wine. Boil 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Add the stock and boil 2 more minutes. Blend in the cream, heat through. Serve with the sauce over the meat.

Coco'Nut' Funnies

Creative Puns for Educated Minds

The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.

I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.

She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.

A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.

The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.

No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.

A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.

Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.

A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other, "You stay here; I'll go on a head".

I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.

A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: "Keep off the Grass".

A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, "No change yet".

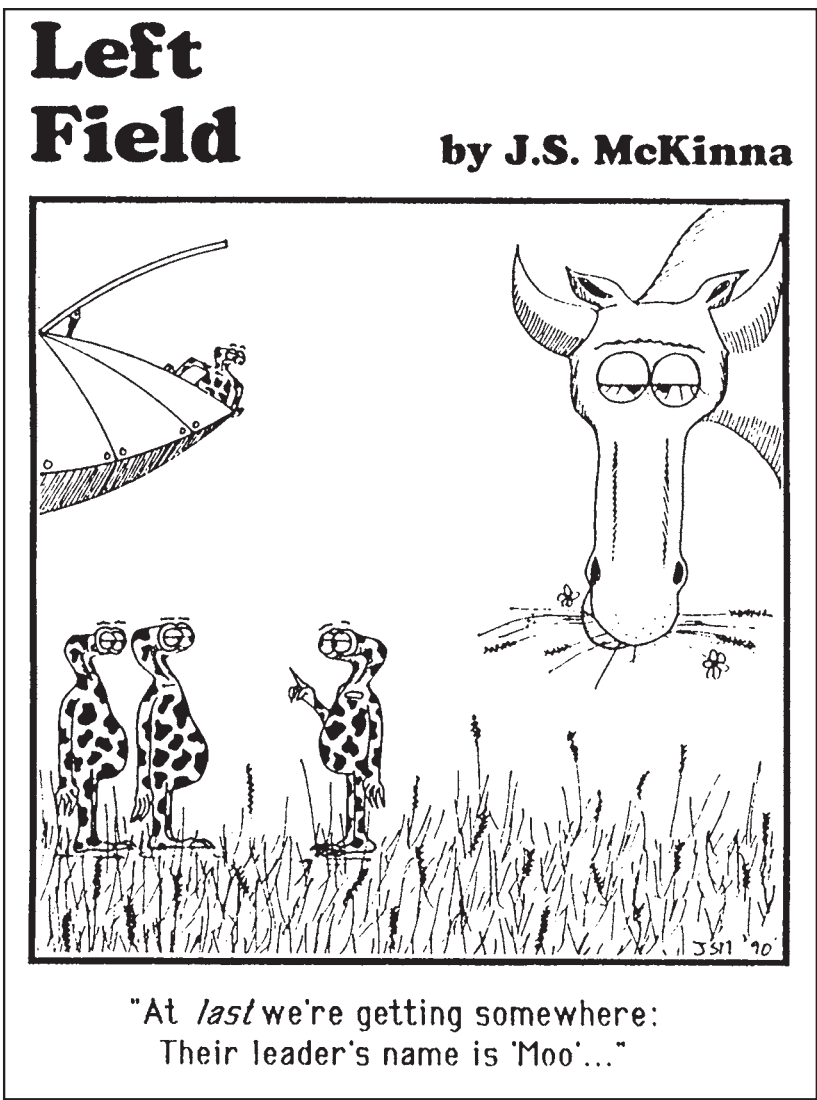
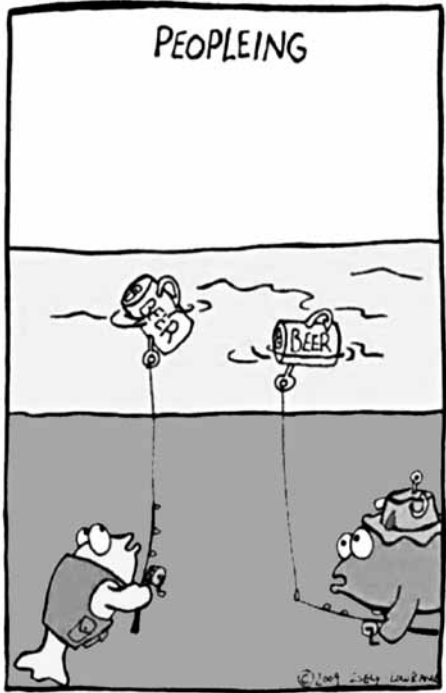
A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

The man who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran. A backward poet writes inverse.

In democracy its your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.

When cannibals ate a missionary they got a taste of religion.

I thought my dad would never steal from his job at the road department. But when I went to visit him at his house, the signs were there.



A man wakes up in the hospital, bandaged from head to foot.

The doctor comes in and says, "Ah, I see you've regained consciousness. Now, you probably won't remember, but you were in a pile-up on the freeway. You're going to be okay, you'll walk again and everything, but... Something happened. I'm trying to break this gently, but the fact is, your penis was chopped off in the wreck, and we were unable to find it."

The man groans, but the doctor goes on, "You've got \$9000 in insurance compensation coming to you, and we have the technology now to build you a new penis that will work as well as your old one did - better, in fact! But the thing is, it doesn't come cheap. It's \$1000 an inch."

The man perks up at this.

"So," the doctor says, "it's for you to decide how many inches you want. But it's something you'd better discuss with your wife. I mean, if you had a five-inch one before, and you decide to go for a nine-incher, she might be a bit put out. But if you had a nine-inch one before, and you decide only to invest in a five-incher this time, she might be disappointed. So it's important that she play an important role in helping you make the decision."

The man agrees to talk with his wife.

The doctor comes back the next day. "So," says the doctor, "have you spoken with your wife?"

"I have," says the man.

"And has she helped you in making the decision?"

"She did," says the man.

"And what did you both decide?" asks the doctor.

"We're getting a new kitchen."

Thank you Thad Bowling!

Research shows that there are 7 kinds of sex.

The 1st kind of sex is called: Smurf Sex. * This kind of sex happens when you first meet someone, and you both have sex until you are blue in the face.

The 2nd kind of sex is called: Kitchen Sex. * This is when you have been with your partner for a short time, and you

are so needy you will have sex anywhere, even in the kitchen.

The 3rd kind of sex is called: Bedroom Sex. * This is when you have been with your partner for a long time, your sex has gotten routine, and you usually have sex only in your bedroom.

The 4th kind of sex is called: Hallway Sex. * This is when you have been with your partner for too long. When you pass each other in the hallway you both say 'Screw you.'

The 5th kind of sex is called: Religious Sex. * This means you get Nun in the morning,

Nun in the afternoon, and Nun at night. (Very Popular)

The 6th kind is Courtroom Sex. * This is when you cannot stand your wife any more. She takes you to court and screws you in front of everyone.

And; Last, but not least, the 7th kind of sex is called: Social Security Sex. * You get a little each month, but not enough to enjoy yourself.



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.



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3/2 CBS CANAL FRONT HOME

Ocean side.
Fenced.
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Open plan.
Big patio overlooks canal. Will not last long!!!

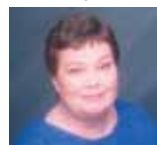


LIST WITH US!

Happy Holidays from Jane and Wendy!

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