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Bartenders competition at Jimmy Johnson's Big Chill, part of the Uncorked Food and Wine Festival. Left to right: Andrew Ball, Sid Vandiver and JJ Vachiratenanurak. And the winner was... turn to page 20 to find out!

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Coconut Telegraph

February 2013
Volume 8 Issue #72

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and save you precious time to enjoy more of your vacation.

14. **DIVING.** - Key Largo is the Diving Capital of the World! The Visitor Centers can book it for you.

15. **DOLPHINS.** Dolphins Plus and Dolphins Cove offer a chance for you and your family to get up close and personal with our beloved sea mammals. It is a truly unique experience.

16. **REAL ESTATE DEALS.** Own a piece of paradise. Call the Wasmund Team with over 30 years experience. See page 24 or call 305-451-2214 or 305-394-1376 for up to date information.



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Editorial: For Tourists Only

Stop right now! If you have just picked this newspaper up at a local visitor center and have not decided what you want to do, turn around, go back in the visitor center and book a room in the Upper Keys. Why? Here is a list of things to see and do.

1. **EAT** at any of the fine restaurants listed in this newspaper. They offer the freshest and most delicious seafood. Our fishermen are working hard for you and these restaurants are the best.
2. **PLAY.** Watersports! Rent a waverunner, boat, paddleboard or kayak. We recommend Keys Adventures Watersports 302-293-7199. Guided tours available too.

3. **EXPLORE.** Key Largo is the diving capital of the world because we have the Coral Reef State Park. In order to see it you need to get on a boat. Your choices are scuba diving, snorkeling, and glass bottom boat cruises. The visitor center can help you with that too.

4. **WILDLIFE.** The Florida Keys Wild Bird Center is FREE and open from 6:30 am to 8:30 pm. There are over 20 species of native and migratory birds to see up close and photograph. It is located at 93600 Overseas Highway on the bayside.

5. **NIGHTLIFE.** Dance the night away and enjoy the area's finest musical talent. All the restaurants and clubs in this newspaper are "Coconut

Telegraph Approved." If it is not in this newspaper we don't go there, so why should you?

6. **SHOPPING.** Looking for gifts or souvenirs? Shell World is the largest and nicest store in the Upper Keys. They have 2 locations. 106040 Overseas Hwy. or 97600 Overseas Hwy.

The Holiday Inn Gift shop at 99701 Overseas Highway has fantastic island wear at low prices and it is home of the world famous Key Largo Princess Glass Bottom Boat.

7. **RELAX.** Island Time Cruises offers sunset cruises on a authentic paddlewheel boat. Call 305-453- 0001 for more information. Live music, drinks and dinner are available.

8. **FAMOUS SUNSETS.** Pick any restaurant on the bayside or take a cruise.

9. **ART.** Stop by the Art Box for information on local artists. And check out the Morada Way Art District in Islamorada.

10. **BEST OCEAN VIEWS.** Shipwreck's, Buzzard's Roost, The Mandalay, and Island Grille.

11. **BEACH.** Gilbert's Resort at MM 108 has a beautiful swimming beach. No coolers.

12. **FISHING.** Stop by any Visitor Center at MM 106 for info on how you can catch a big one.

13. **HOTELS.** The Visitor Centers get daily discounts

continued on page 3

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Glenn Hoover Recognized for Outstanding Community Service

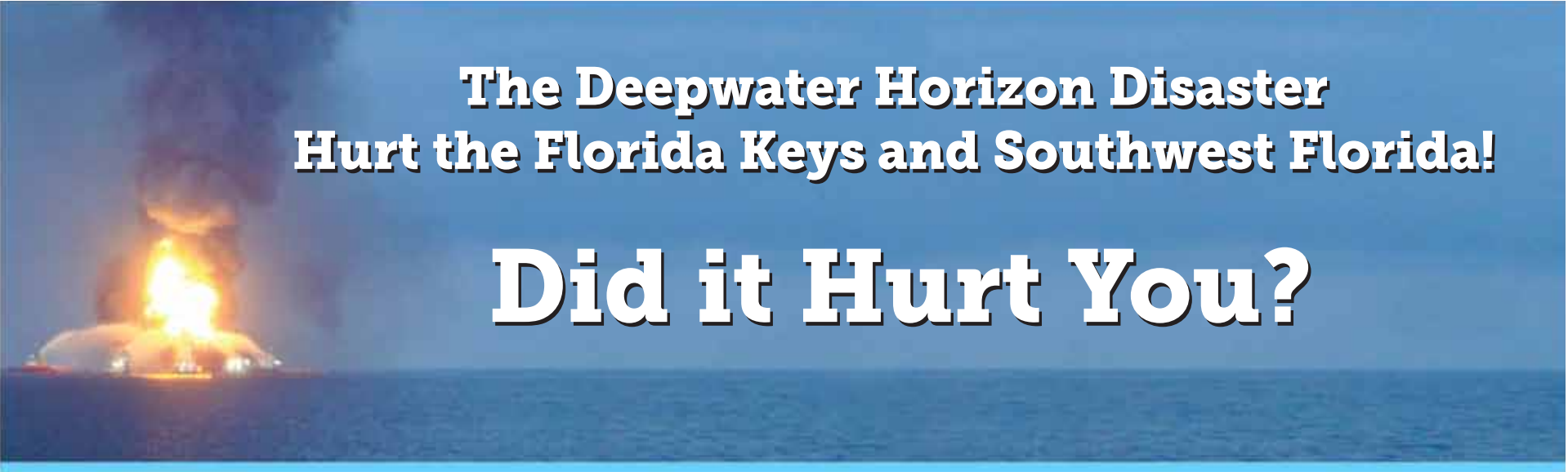


Florida Keys Board of Realtors President Ana Zalesky presents Glenn Hoover with the Humanitarian Award for outstanding community service. Congratulations Glenn!

Islamorada Bartenders Sailfish Open Moves to February

The 32nd Annual Islamorada Bartenders Sailfish Open will take place on February 11th 2013. "Many of our anglers have asked that we move the tournament date to later in the season," stated tournament director Dianne Harbaugh. "With the holidays just behind us, it is hard for bartenders and restaurant employees to put together the funds needed to charter a boat and enter the tournament." The tournament kicks off on February 10th, the Sunday after the Super Bowl, at the Island Grill from 4-8PM. Fishing is on Monday February 11th with a grand awards party on the beach at the Island Grill starting at 7PM. Entry fee for the tournament is \$125.00 per angler. Entry is limited to actively employed bar and restaurant employees who are

on the schedule at least one day per week. Teams are limited to 5 anglers per boat. Over the years teams have come from all over the country to represent their bars. Prizes are awarded to the top three bars as well as the top four anglers. Other fun prizes are awarded to hard luck and outstanding catches. This fun-filled tournament will once again pay \$1,000.00 to the grand champion team in memory of Trapper John. Trapper John won the very first Bartenders Sailfish Tournament and the friends of Trapper will once again be putting up the money for the first place team. If you would like to help sponsor a trophy or join in on the fun, contact Dianne Harbaugh at 305-522-4868.



Not just businesses were affected by the aftermath of the disaster. Individuals and families were hurt as well.

If you lived and worked in THE FLORIDA KEYS in April 2010 there's a good chance you have some money coming to you. It's easy to find out!

The Deepwater Horizon Settlement Program has extended claim acceptance until April 2014.

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"FROM THE KEYS FOR THE KEYS"

- William A. Becker Consulting, LLC is one of the largest consulting firms dealing with BP claims through the Gulf Coast Claims Facility (GCCF) in the Florida Keys and Southwest Florida.
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The Mangrove Galley

by Sandi Mieszczenski

February brings the end of yet another great football season. This year's Super Bowl will be held in the exciting city of New Orleans and as always we hope that it will live up to the hyped expectations. For many, game day food is as important as the game itself, and everyone has their favorites. The following recipes have become standard fare at our house for the big game. Double or triple the recipes depending on the size of your gathering. Serve with an assortment of condiments. Sit back and enjoy the game with family, friends, and fellow boaters!



Sloppy Joes

This dish is best prepared the day before serving. One pound of hamburger makes 8 Sloppy Joes. A pound of ground turkey can be substituted for the hamburger. Serve on nice, fresh buns.

Deviled Eggs

- 12 eggs (makes 24 deviled eggs)
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1/4 cup finely chopped sweet onion
- 2 tablespoons sweet relish (squeeze out the liquid)
- 1/4 cup finely chopped celery
- salt and pepper to liking
- Tabasco sauce to taste



Let eggs sit at room temperature for half an hour. Place water and eggs in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Boil for 5 minutes. Remove pan from the burner and keep eggs in the pan with the water for another 4 minutes. Remove the eggs from the pan and let cool. Peel the shells from the eggs and slice each egg in half. Carefully scoop out the yolks and place in a bowl. Mash the yolks with a fork until smooth. Add the mayonnaise and mustard blending until creamy. Add the onion, relish, and celery mixing well. Add the salt, pepper, and Tabasco to your liking. Using a teaspoon, place the mixture back onto the egg whites. Lightly sprinkle on the paprika. You can serve the eggs with toppings such as a parsley sprig, a sliced olive, or a for a spicy egg add a jalapeño slice.

Brown the hamburger in a large saucepan. Drain well and remove from the pan. In the same pan melt the butter. Sautee the green pepper, onion, and the fresh chopped garlic for one to one and a half minutes on medium heat. Add the remaining ingredients with the browned hamburger. Simmer uncovered for about an hour stirring occasionally until liquid is absorbed. Cover the pan if the dish appears to becoming dry.

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Some Dance To Forget

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Entertainer & Artist of the Month: James "Jimmy" McGuirl

Experience is the key and Jimmy McGuirl has more than 3 decades as a professional hair stylist, a gifted drummer and a teaching artist. McGuirl's positive energy, sense of humor and ability to explore a broad range of musical settings keeps him in constant demand.

Born in Jersey City and raised in Roswell Park, NJ, McGuirl's first encounter with the drums began at the age of 10 by taking private lessons and eventually playing with a jazz band at the local high school. By age 21 he had also earned a license in cosmetology. His adventuresome spirit led him to the Florida Keys in 1979. His musician friends warned him to "save your

money to tide you over in the summer months!" He didn't listen and was surprised to find that you could actually play a game of baseball on the middle US 1 back then, things were that slow.

Jimmy moved to Florida because it was the only state that had reciprocity with his New Jersey stylists license. When he wasn't styling hair he could play drums, and when both were slow there was always great fishing. His first gig in town was a jam night at the Pilot House.

Now you can find Jimmy McGuirl and the JK Project at the Pilot House every Tuesday night, with Jimmy Hawkins at Gilbert's Resort, with the Steve

Venini Band, or playing at various restaurants in Islamorada with Moss and the Blues Pirates.

Hair stylist extraordinaire McGuirl has many repeat regular and snowbird customers that seek out his signature precision cuts.

For the past few years he has hung his license at Waves by the Sea in Islamorada, right next to the old Whistle Stop. He works the season there from February to May, or by appointment.

And two nights a week he teaches percussion to 10 to 16 year olds at the Mon-

tessori School in Tavernier.

What does he do when he is not working? He is currently studying Mid Eastern Rhythm Drumming (darbuka) from Master Drummer George Parker. He enjoys spending time with his family and is always there to help out a friend.



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³ Eclipse 1-6p Kim Bankston during band breaks	⁴ David Bowman 2-5p Jammin' w/ the Steve Venini Band 6-10p	⁵ Luke 2-5p Ted & Vivian 6-10p	⁶ Allen Truesdell 2-5p Harry French 6-10p	⁷ Kevin Hurley 2-5p Karaoke w/ Marilee Free 6-10p	¹ Steve Webb 2-5p Exit 19 7-11p	² Luke & Dave 2-6p The Whipping Post 7-11p
¹⁰ Mr. Nice Guy 1-6p Kim Bankston during band breaks	¹¹ Capt Mark Z 2-5p Jammin' w/ the Steve Venini Band 6-10p	¹² Luke 2-5p Bob Bonnen 6-10p	¹³ Allen Truesdell 2-5p Harry French 6-10p	¹⁴ John McKinna 2-5p Karaoke w/ Marilee Free 6-10p VALENTINE'S DAY	¹⁵ Steve Webb 1-5p Limerock 7-11p	¹⁶ Luke & Dave 2-6p The Dropouts 7-11p
¹⁷ The Loose Cannons 1-6p Kim Bankston during band breaks	¹⁸ David Bowman 1-5p Jammin' w/ the Steve Venini Band 6-10p	¹⁹ Luke 1-5p Ted & Vivian 6-10p	²⁰ Allen Truesdell 1-5p Harry French 6-10p	²¹ Luke Sommer Glenn 1-5p Karaoke Free 6-10p	²² Bobbe Brown 1-5p Travler Band 7-11p	²³ Mr. Nice Guy 2-6p The Road Kings 7-11p MOTORCYCLE RIDE
²⁴ The Regs 1-6p Kim Bankston during band breaks	²⁵ Capt Mark Z 1-5p Jammin' w/ the Steve Venini Band 6-10p	²⁶ Luke 1-5p Bob Bonnen 6-10p	²⁷ Allen Truesdell 1-5p Harry French 6-10p	²⁸ John McKinna 1-5p Karaoke w/ Marilee Free 6-10p	Discount Hotel Stays For Gilbert's Members! Present your Gilbert's Member Card at Check-In to receive your \$10 Member Discount for each night of your stay!	

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Art and Love Win Again: Rosie Biskar Featured Artist of the Month at The Art Box

Rosie Biskar is 87 years old and her art has been the journey of her life. Growing up with the hardships of World War II, Rosie excelled in school – especially in her passion for art. Rosie would be dealt a hard blow to her love of art when she married at 18, which was dutiful and customary at that time, with the intensity of the war. Her art teachers in school had attempted to get her a full scholarship, but her father forbade it. Women were not to be educated, they were to be married! Needless to say, this did not lead to a fruitful and loving marriage. The thirty years of her marriage were the most difficult of Rosie's artistic life because she had no support from her husband, who made her feel incapable of producing anything of any value to anyone.

But art and love will win. As her first marriage passed, she found her true love, Arnold Biskar. He emboldened her and filled her with confidence, telling her to trust her

love of art again. He was filled with ambition of his own and they fueled each other's fires for life and travel. They left Washington DC, where they had spent their lives, and moved to Portland OR, where Rosie blossomed as an artist.

At the age of 50 Arnold said they had both passed up the first half of their lives afraid to live and chase their dreams, so Rosie applied to the Northwest College of Arts and was accepted as their oldest art student to date. School was hard and the teachers were harder. They were not gentle with Rosie, whom they viewed as a wealthy woman looking to pass the time. If it were not for the support of her husband and the other students she might not have been able to endure. Art and love win again.

When Rosie graduated with a Bachelors degree in Fine Arts at 54, she was greeted with open doors at some of the most prestigious art galleries in Portland such as Butters Art Gallery, where

she showed her work for years. Rosie and Arnold had begun to find out how limitless they truly were, as he pursued a variety of careers including his own radio talk show, real estate investing for a large firm, and even politics. Rosie's art grew more inspired as she traveled the west coast for showings and events at galleries. Her art expanded and flourished from painting, to woven fabrics, to ceramics of all sorts.

Rosie and Arnold moved many times, finding life ever more fascinating with every move. One of their favorite places was the geodesic dome on the mountain top in Idyllwild, CA where they felt like time stood still as if in a dream. At one point they even moved to Israel for over 6 months and would have stayed longer if the firm hadn't pulled them back to Portland. Over their many years together Rosie and Arnold renewed their vows many times and were again planning another renewal when Arnold fell ill and passed away shortly after.

Rosie moved to the Florida Keys, where she has been for the last three years, to be near her son. She resides in a lovely home in Silver Shores. She speaks fondly of the two loves of her life: art and Arnold, and continues her art as she knows Arnold would encourage her to. Rosie is now ready to begin her new journey in art


in the Keys, as she begins seeking out new galleries to show her works. Art and love win again.

"The irony," Rosie says with a smile, "is that when my body was strong and willing, my mind limited my art. And now that my mind is fully open and my art is flowing like water, it is my aging body that limits my art."

Some of Rosie's art will be on display at The Art Box in Key Largo where she is the featured artist of the month for February. The Art Box, along with friends and volunteers are putting on a special event showing at Rosie's home, on February 23rd from 1-4pm. Silver Shores will be providing special guest parking accommodations at the clubhouse with golf cart valet service directly to Rosie's home. Rosie's life's work will be on display throughout every room of her home and working studio. Refreshments will be provided. All "Art and Love" appreciators are welcome.

Written by Jon Dreaver.





**ROSIE'S ART & LOVE
OPEN HOUSE**

Sat., February 23, 2013
from 1-4pm
Silver Shores, MM 96 Key Largo
Hosted by
The Art Box, Friends & Volunteers

All "Art and Love"
appreciators are welcome

Refreshments provided.
Park at Clubhouse • Golf Cart Valet

Rosie's art is also display at
The Art Box in Key Largo
where she is February's
featured Artist of the Month.

Alexander Vito Paul Laskis



May 31, 1921 - Jan. 1, 2013

Alexander V.P. Laskis passed away peacefully in his home, surrounded by love and his children. Alex was a resident of Key Largo for the past 35 years and left us on New Years Day.

Alex was born in Waukegan, IL to immigrants from Lithuania and was decorated World War II veteran with several service metals and ribbons. After his discharge from the United States Army he moved to Miami at the age of 25 and never looked back.

He is pre-deceased by his wife of 33 years, Gloria, his brothers John (Maureen), Walter (Geraldine); sisters Beatrice, Sally (Adam); son Donald; daughters Jackie and Laura (John); stepsister Denise and stepbrother George. His grandchildren Ian, Neil, Scott and Diane

(Chris) with a great-grandchild on the way. He is also survived by his beloved nieces Audrey (Jim) and Rita (John), Susie and Judith, nephews John Paul, Jr.,

Walter, James and Kenneth. He leaves behind many dear friends and extended family members.

A celebration of life was held at the Elks Lodge in Tavernier on January 20th. Special thanks to the American

legion Post 333, American Legion Color Guard Post #154, VFW Post 10211 and the Key Largo Moose Lodge.

Donations may be made in his name to the VNA/ Hospice of the Florida Keys.

"Keep your loved ones, especially the elderly, close to you, for they are the children of the future."

Bayside Blues Festival

February 6 thru March 16, 2013 • Showtime 6:30pm

Bayside Grille brings you the greatest music schedule ever presented in Key Largo this season! These are performers who are tied to great names in music and television, and who have gone on to win their own critical acclaim.

FEBRUARY WED&THU 6th & 7th JW Jones Band
A favorite of Dan Ackroyd, who's an avid promotor for them!

WED&THU 13 & 14 Harper & Midwest Kind
Didgeridoo, Harmonica, Fusion, Blues and more!

WED 20th Biscuit Miller & The Mix
Well respected and always a fun show.

SAT 23rd Todd Wolfe Band
As lead guitarist for Sheryl Crow and Carla Olson, Todd has no lack of credentials, but he and his band have created their own identity and a great sound.

Coming in March:

SAT 2nd Joel DaSilva & the Midnight Howl
He has shared stages with BB King, The Fabulous Thunderbirds, The Black Crowes, Los Lobos, and more!

SAT 9th "Braille Blues Daddy" Bryan Lee & The Blues Power Band
New Orleans Guitar Legend playing Chicago Blues!

SAT 16 Rockin Jake Band
A dynamo performer from New Orleans, sharing stages with Guitar Shorty, The Neville Brothers, & Branford Marsalis. Five Time Award Winner for Best Harmonica.

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Why You Should Buy A House In The Keys Now

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

\$800 - large 1br
\$1450 - 2br-768sqft
\$1500 - 2br-650sqft
\$1890 - 3br-1048sqft
\$2200 - 3 br-1000sqft, furn.

And those prices are not on the water! You must be prepared to pay 1 st months rent plus your last months rent plus a security deposit usually equivalent to one months rent.

And what do you have to write off on this at tax time vs the write off you receive from home ownership?

Some people are afraid to buy a home in "times like these, with the economy tanking and home prices continuing to fall." We hear all that doom and gloom on the nightly news and read it in the papers daily. I have been in the real estate business for over 30 years here in the Keys, and have seen many challenges and changes in our marketplace. I adamantly disagree with the doomsayers! I firmly believe that right now is the perfect time to buy your home in the



Keys. In fact my question is really, "Why shouldn't you buy a house in the Keys now?" Here are a few reasons why I believe the time is right...

I tell my customers, "The time has never been better, as the prices are certainly at an all time low. Besides the low prices, there are also short sales and foreclosures on the market. These properties give the buyer even more value for their buck."

Foreclosures and short sale properties are priced below what the owner has paid for them, and are based on prices that the bank will consider taking to sell the home. The advantage to buying one of these home is that there are many extras and upgrades that your budget would not nor-

mally be able to include. You get more for your money!! Yes, there can be some disadvantages, too. The time period to negotiate and close on one of these homes takes a bit longer. Sometimes 4-6 months, and possibly longer, so if you have a time frame in which you must move or close, this may not be the best choice for you to consider.

There are other advantages that the buyer should keep in mind. There's a huge inventory from which to choose. Many homes have lingered on the market for some time, and you may be able to negotiate an even better price than normal. In addition to getting a better sales price, you can also ask the Seller to pay some of your closing costs or give you a credit towards an improvement. With so much competition to get their house sold, Sellers are willing to give some incentives to the Buyers.

I have a builder right now that will pay all the closing costs, add a privacy fence and upgrade appliances all at no extra for the Buyer. These are significant savings that add to your bottom line. Take



Contributed by Jane Wasmund
Tropical Springs Realty
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advantage of this power now, because when the market starts to improve, some of this negotiating power starts to diminish. Also, of course, mortgage rates are near a 50-year low, which greatly affects the affordability of the price of the home that you can purchase. As the economic recovery gains momentum, interest rates will increase, making your mortgage more expensive. A half-percent in mortgage interest can add a hundred dollars or more to your monthly payment, depending on the amount of your loan.

I hope that some of these reasons will be helpful to you in making your decision and compel you to call your realtor today to take a look at what's available here this great paradise that we call the Keys. Owning a home here is more of a possibility than ever before, and I know you'll be glad that you too can call the Keys 'Home.'

Please Note:

New Email Address
for the Coconut Telegraph:
theconchtelegraph@gmail.com

The Key Players Shine In... ON GOLDEN POND

Join us for the Key Players show, **On Golden Pond**. This classic is a love story of Norman and Ethel Thayer, whose summer home on a lake in Maine has been their own little slice of heaven for 48 years. Enjoy their journey as a teenaged boy suddenly enters their lives and they realize their own surprising growth. **On Golden Pond** is funny; it's heartwarming; it's poignant... it's life.



Cast and Crew of **On Golden Pond**. L to R seated: Ron McMahon, Kat Newman, Mary-Ann Gibus, Gary Ellis. L to R standing: Chris Elwood, Russ Holmes, Harvey Retzack, Kathy Miller, Ben Jones, Jonelle Kop, Bill Wilson, Kim Lahr, Bob Auer.



Waterville, Maine Telephone Operator, played by Kathy Miller, agrees to give the Thayers' phone ringer a test.



"Holy Mackinoly!" exclaims Charlie Martin (Russ Holmes). "I've broke the thing-a-ma-bobbers off your screen door." This jovial mailman provides comic relief.



Norman (Gary Ellis) and Ethel Thayer's (Mary-Ann Gibus) daughter Chelsea (Kat Newman) arrives for a visit with new boyfriend Bill Ray (Ron McMahon) and his son Billy (Ben Jones).



The 'On Golden Pond' girls camp song, sung as best as they can remember it from all those years ago.



Mommy (Gibus) and Daughter (Newman) vow to work on being a closer family.



Norman Thayer, Jr. (Gary Ellis) asks, "Who is calling me...it's not St. Peter, is it?"



Starring:
Gary Ellis
Mary-Ann Gibus
Russ Holmes
Ben Jones
Ron McMahon
Kathy Miller
Kat Newman

Producer:
Kathy Miller

Director:
Jonelle Kop

Unlikely friends become inseparable as Billy (Ben Jones) and Norman (Gary Ellis) spend a summer fishing and reading.

Remaining show dates are the first 3 weekends in February at the Murray Nelson Government and Cultural Center at MM 102 Bayside.

Lobby and Box Office open at 7:00pm - Seating is at 7:30pm - Curtain at 8:00pm.

Ticket prices are: \$16 in advance, \$18 at the door. Refreshments will be available.

Photos courtesy of Pete Bacheler.



The Key Players in cooperation with the Friends of the Key Largo Cultural Center present
The Key Players
The Key Players is a 501(c)3 organization promoting COMMUNITY THEATER in the UPPER KEYS

ON GOLDEN POND
by Ernest Thompson
Produced by permission of
DRAMATISTS PLAY
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* Jan. 31 performance proceeds to benefit Redbone "To Catch the Cure" for Cystic Fibrosis.

THU, FRI, SAT **Jan.31*, Feb. 1 & 2**
THU, FRI, SAT **Feb. 7, 8, 9, and**
WED, THU, FRI **Feb. 13, 14 & 15**

Murray E. Nelson Government & Cultural Center
MM 102 Bayside, Key Largo

Lobby doors open at 7:00 Tickets: \$16 in advance \$18 at the door Seating at 7:30 Curtain at 8:00

Advance tickets available for specific dates at these locations:
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To All of Our Supporters who gave their time and help before, during and after our first "Paws For the Cause" event held at Gilbert's Resort on Nov. 17, 2012 – THANK YOU!

Donations received amounted to over \$4,000.00 and we thank you again for helping us to keep our doors open at the Upper Keys Humane Society at MM 101.5.

None of this could have happened without the expert guidance and work from Denise Malefy and the Coconut Telegraph. I know that no matter how hard we try, we always seem to omit a name and for that we apologize in advance. We want to thank each and everyone who volunteered and donated.

Our Wonderful Sponsors: Coconut Telegraph, Keys Kritters, 99.5 Sun 103.1, Tropical Springs Realty, Island Information Services, Thunder Country 100.3, WORZ –LP 104.FM, and Gilbert's Resort.

Great Musicians: Allen Truesdell & Friends, JK Project, Jimmy & Deb Hawkins, Luke Sommer Glenn, Dave Bowman, John McKinna, Steve Venini, Ted and Vivianne, Brenda Star, and Bobbe Brown.

We ask that everyone visit the local businesses that made the donations to help make the event a success: Allen Beyer Funeral Home, The Art Box, Artistic Designs, Big Chill, Blue Cow, Café, Largo, Canine Counselor, Chubs Subs, City

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DEMA Honors "Hyperbaric Dick" Rutkowski

The Coconut Telegraph salutes Dick Rutkowski of Key Largo, who was presented with the Reaching Out Award at the November 2012 DEMA convention in Las Vegas.

DEMA, the Diving Equipment & Marketing Association, is an international organization dedicated to the promotion and growth of the recreational scuba diving and snorkeling industry. Each year since 1989, DEMA has bestowed the award, which is now considered the "DEMA Hall of Fame Award" and is presented only to those who truly deserve to be recognized for their outstanding efforts and contribution to the sport of diving. They are the pioneers, leaders and heroes of the sport. Jaques Cousteau was inducted to the Hall of Fame in 1989.

Rutkowski is a pioneer in the fields of hyperbaric and

diving medicine and diver training, especially in relation to the use of breathing gases. He helped change the course of modern diving through his continued efforts to test and promote the use of gases, such as Nitrox and Trimix. His work helped develop tech diving and clinical hyperbaric medicine as we know it today. In 1973, Rutkowski became a NOAA Aquanaut by working in the undersea lab located in Freeport, Bahamas. During this time he was directed to obtain a recompression chamber for NOAA to serve the recreation and military diving communities in areas of Miami, as well as Central and South America.

In addition to his affiliation with NOAA, Rutkowski is a graduate of Divers Training Academy and past owner and president of "Dive Incorporated," a commercial diving company whose primary purpose was to service oil rigs. Upon retiring from federal service in 1985, he formed Hyperbarics International, Inc. to educate and consult in the field of hyperbaric medicine, use of various diving gases and life support systems.

Since retiring from NOAA, Rutkowski has

continued to use his vast knowledge to conduct training programs for NOAA and other agencies such as USN, USAF, NASA, EPA, U.S. Customs, Panama Canal Commission, hospitals, commercial diving companies and foreign navies. Rutkowski has taught thousands of professionals in programs such as recompression chambers, engineering, diving gases, physics, physiology, pathology, and the medical aspects of diving. His contributions to hyperbaric medicine, as well as his work with mixed breathing gases, have made diving a much safer sport today.

His publications include: Instructor/Student Guide for the Use of Nitrogen-Oxygen Mixtures as a Divers' Breathing Gas, The Complete Guide to Nitrox Diving, Introduction to Nitrox Diving, Instructor/Student Guide for the Use of Breathing Gases During Hyperbaric Exposures, and Mixing/Blending for Nitrox and Trimix. He has also been a contributor and editor of the NOAA Diving Manual and



training films. He currently teaches a course titled "Advanced Diving / Hyperbaric Medical Team Training Program with Chamber Operations," which takes place monthly in the Ocean Diver's Building 522-A Caribbean Drive, Key Largo, FL. For more information on hyperbaric medicine visit HyperbaricsInternational.com.

According to a March 2004 edition of Rodale's **Scuba Diving** magazine, "In the process of overcoming the negative hype surrounding oxygen-enriched air, he also gave us one of his other significant contributions to diving—a now famous quote—"Science Always Wins Over Bullshit."



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First State Bank Welcomes New Homeowners



First State Bank of the Florida Keys has partnered with Ocean Reef Chamber of Commerce in support of the Chamber's Welcome Wagon Program.

The Bank donated reusable "Going Green" shopping bags as a contribution to help the Ocean Reef Chamber welcome new homeowners to the community.

First State Bank of the Florida Keys Vice President/Commercial and Residential Loan Officer Lori Bailey and Ocean Reef Chamber of Commerce President Greg Lunsford.

Great Catch!



Key Largo residents Tom and Lindy DAiuto, on their new "Lucky Lindy V" had an awesome "summer" day of fishing in Key Largo on January 7th. They found a perfect weed line at 380' of water and trolled it for less than an hour, picking up mahi, tuna and a super gaffer - over 50-lb. bull mahi!

The fish put up a fight with spectacular jumps for 35 minutes on a light 20-lb. test spinning rod, trolling a naked small, green, pink and yellow

Billy Bait. They were able to gaff it and land it as a team effort! On the way home, they snorkeled on some lobster spots and picked up a few to go with the mahi and tuna.

This is what makes the Keys so magical all year round, as this was one of the best summer days of fishing - on a winter's day! Back at home, while watching the sunset, they were treated to a wild dolphin show of vertical leaps and backflips on the bay. A perfect ending to a perfect day!

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Clyde Butcher Celebrates 20 Years

Join famed photographer Clyde Butcher and his wife Niki for the 20th anniversary celebration of the Big Cypress Gallery in the Florida Everglades. Weekend activities will take place at Big Cypress Preserve, Western Everglades during its open house on February 16-18. During the three-day President's weekend event, guests are invited to meet the photographer, take guided swamp tours, and learn about Butcher's 20 years of displaying unique and beautiful black and white photography at the gallery. Butcher will be in the gallery all three days to greet guests and autograph books from 10am - 5pm. There are



Big Cypress Gallery

also family friendly activities throughout the weekend including wet and dry swamp walks. See the website below for wet swamp walk details. Big Cypress Gallery, is located mid-way between Naples and Miami on Tamiami Trail (Hwy. 41), in the Big Cypress National Preserve. For more information go to clydebutcher.com/events.cfm

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Conch Characters



Sid Vandiver, winner of the Best Bartender contest at the Big Chill.



Mike Mitzner at Bayside Grille.



Stop by and see Amy at the Pilot House.



Claudia Moriarty shows her stuff at the Key Largo Conch House.



More art at the Conch House - Janet Doto, who owns "On a Whim" art gallery at the Rain Barrel. She teaches a watercolor class Monday evenings at the Art Box.



RW and Susan celebrating Susan's birthday at the American Legion.



Island Time taking off for a beautiful sunset cruise from their new berth at MM 104.



Gladys Cornell at the Key Largo Chamber of Commerce After Hours at the Mandalay.



At Bayside Grille - Steve Venini (center) with Capt. Dave (L) and Chris Lute (R).



Keys Adventure Watersports. Photo by David Sheehan.



Food and Wine Festival Event at the Pilot House.



Gilbert's bartender Jenny Allen on the Fantastic II (out of Key Largo Resorts Marina) proudly shows off her catch and release sailfish. Crew were Paul and Marvin.



Food & Wine Festival at Key Largo Conch House- Josh Schneidman, Area Manager for Republic National. Photo by Laura Dreaver.



Participants in the Uncorked Food & Wine Festival's premier "Chopped" team charity cooking event at Marker 88 (L-R) Chef Nate Bohning and Patti Stanley (competing for the Good Health Clinic); Chef Antoine Armani and Christi Allen (MarrVelous Pet Rescues); Capt. Skip Bradeen and Chef Andy Niedenthal (Florida Keys Wild Bird Center) and Dr. Jim Boilini and Corky Wagner (Key Largo Rotary Club). Bradeen and Niedenthal won \$1,100 for their charity with a total of \$3,300 — going to other charities. Photo by Andy Newman. More on Facebook: www.facebook.com/floridakeysandkeywest/photos_stream



Sunset celebration every night at the Bayside Grille Sunset Bar. Photo of bartender Kim Weatherly.



Brenda Starr at the Mandalay.



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Evil Love Poems

Love may be beautiful, love may be bliss.
But I only slept with you because I was pissed.

I thought that I could love no other.
Until, that is, I met your brother.

Roses are red, violets are blue,
sugar is sweet and so are you.
But the roses are wilting, the violets are dead,
the sugar bowl's empty and so is your head.

Of loving beauty you float with grace.
If only you could hide your face.

Kind, intelligent, loving and hot.
This describes everything you are not.

I want to feel your sweet embrace.
But don't take that paper bag off your face.

I love your smile, your face, and your eyes.
Damn, I'm good at telling lies!

My darling, my lover, my beautiful wife:
Marrying you screwed up my life.

I see your face when I am dreaming.
That's why I always wake up screaming.

My love, you take my breath away.
Just what have you stepped in to smell this way?

My feelings for you no words can tell.
Except for maybe "go to hell".

What inspired this amorous rhyme?
Two parts vodka, one part lime.

Please Note:

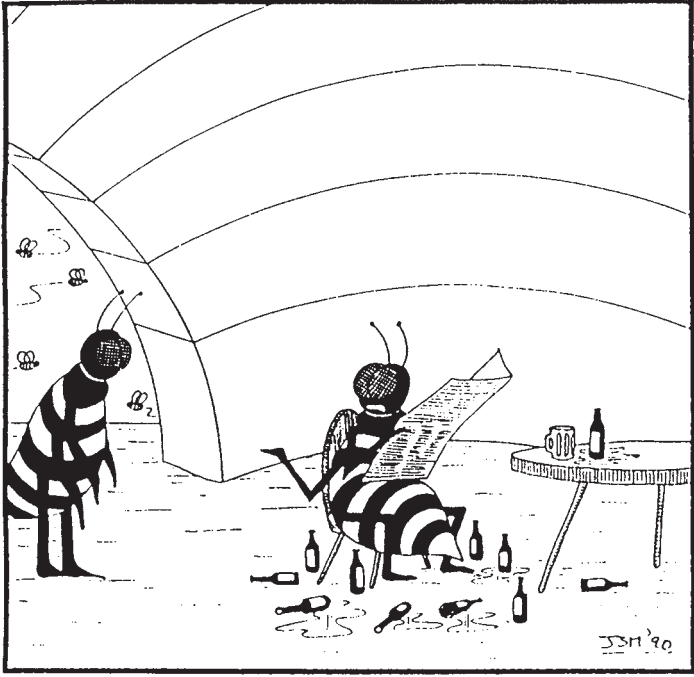
New Email Address
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theconchtelegraph@gmail.com

Overheard Conversation:

Lady: Do you drink?
Man: Yes
Lady: How much a day?
Man: 3 six packs
Lady: How much per six pack?
Man: About \$10.00
Lady: And how long have you been drinking?
Man: 15 years
Lady: So one six pack costs \$10.00 and you have 3 six packs a day, which puts your spending each month at \$900. In one year, it would be \$10,800 correct?
Man: Correct
Lady: If in 1 year you spend \$10,800 not accounting for inflation, the past 15 years puts your spending at \$162,000 correct?
Man: Correct
Lady: Do you know that if you hadn't drank, that money could have been put in a step-up interest savings account and after accounting for compound interest for the past 15 years, you could have now bought a Ferrari?
Man: Do you drink?
Lady: No
Man: Where's your friggin' Ferrari?

Left Field

by J.S. McKinna

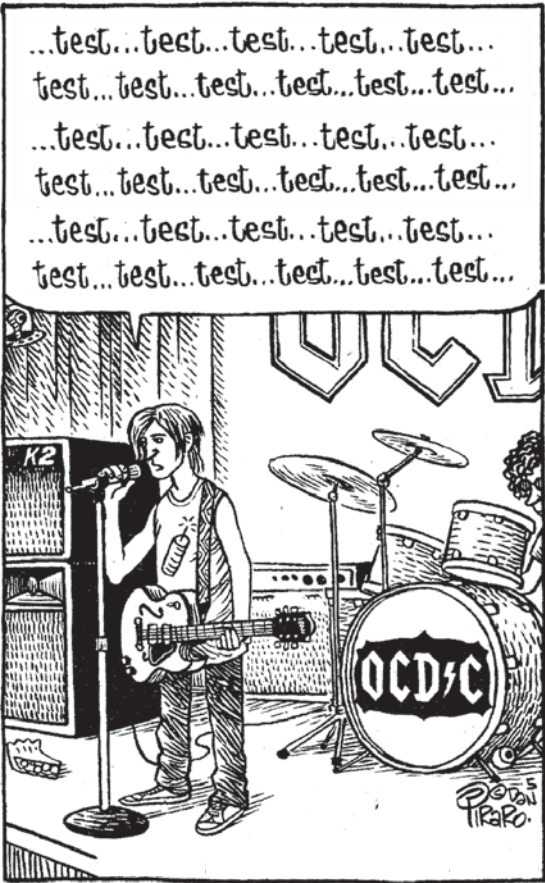
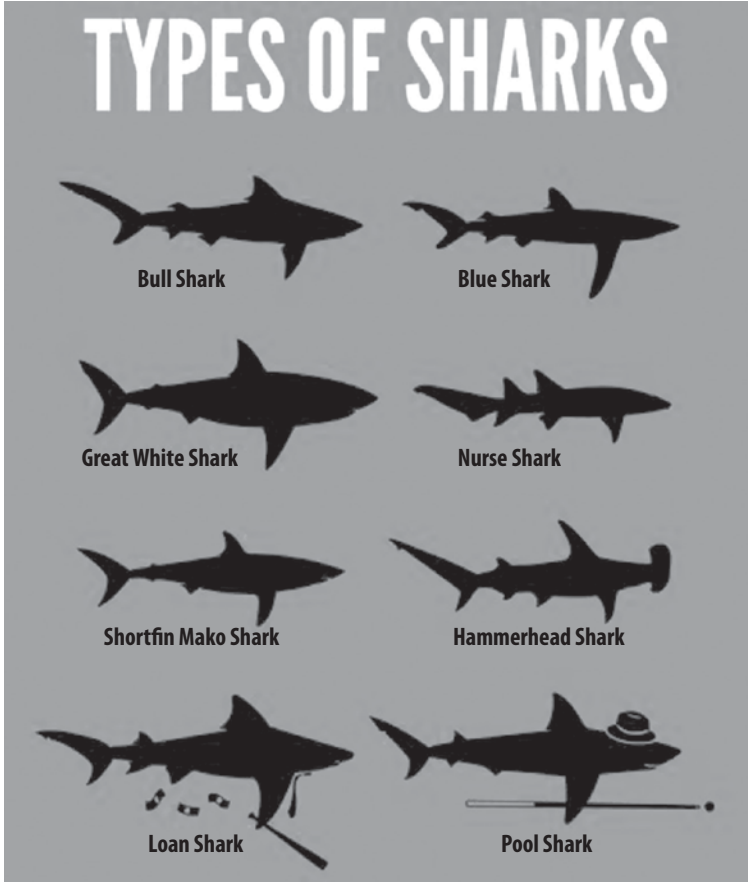


"Dang it, Stella, with a lifespan of thirty to forty days, you'd think you could clean this place up once in a while..."

While Tim was sunbathing naked at the beach in Florida, for the sake of civility and to keep it from getting sunburned, he had a hat over his private parts.

A woman walks past and says, snickering, "If you were a gentlemen you'd lift your hat."

He raises an eyebrow and replies, "If you were better looking it would lift itself."



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We have cash investment buyers looking for older mobiles on canals ready to buy and close immediately. Particularly interested in Sexton Cove and Lake Surprise, other locations OK, too. Please call us if you have a property you will sell.



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Jane: 305-451-2214
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