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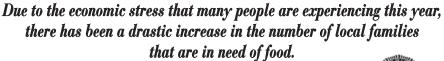
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Artist of the Month: Kristie Thomas, Chocolatier

It's the kind of

Keys locals are

(An inside narrative written by an anonymous local observer.)



Right here in Key Largo gers an amazing taste we have a magical place that adventure that usually is all about delicious, crestarts with exclusive key ative, heart pounding, lime chocolate made from a mouth-watering, over the highly secret and welltop, "I would kill for a quarded recipe. piece" kind of chocolate that drives women wild and ans have understood that men crazy and creates great chocolate is never an shrieks of joy from children. It's the kind of chocoproduced through a combilate that properly deployed. insures you'll never be in large dose of esoteric



Don't forget your Veterans this holiday season. Stop by and arrange to send some Bob's Chippers. Kristie will even mail them for you.

knowledge, sharply honed instincts and, most importantly, love. Combined together it all comes to life into a glowing

just happens to love passion in the form of a Master Chocolatier with virtually mystical powers.

In Key Largo, her name is Kristie Thomas.

On her own 41-foot Morgan ketch, Kristie literally sailed into the Florida Keys, where she instantly knew she was here to stay. With her was her husband Bob, a professional pilot and Largo Chocolates door triaa man on a mission. They had wandered the world and finally they found home. They were instantly in love with Key Largo and all that it offered and represented.

But there was still a For generations, Europe- missing ingredient in their lives. For years, Kristie had honed her innate skills as a accident. Great chocolate is chocolate confectionery maker and baker of key lime nation of skill, experience, a and rum cakes. She had become a master of the alchemy and ruthless principles of making great chocolate treats. Once she and Bob reached the Keys, they realized they were in the right place at the right time. The time had come to take her talents to the next level. Thus was born Key Largo Chocolates.

Kristie and Bob have never looked back. Starting in their own kitchen and then moving to a rented space, they began tempering chocolate to produce the truffles and other treats that had locals and tourists in the know beating a path to their door. Valen-



tines Day of 2012 was such a smash hit, they bought their own building with an expanded kitchen and new chocolate making equipment to help them meet the growing, at times almost frantic demands of their customers.

For Kristie, making and selling chocolate is not just a business. It's a passion. It's a cause. It's a way of life. It's a way of connecting with others by providing them with something to boost the pleasure level of daily life.

If you are fortunate enough to visit the store. ask for Kristie. She loves her customers. She would love to say hello and help make your day.

And yes, she still bakes those famous key lime and rum cakes. But if you are in a hurry, don't get her started about her wedding services or the Junior and Adult Chocolatier programs.



Kristie and Bob invite you to stop by They even have some free samples!