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July 16: James Armstrong

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Coconut Telegraph

July 2016 Volume 10 Issue #113

Prestige Publishing, Inc 101425 Overseas Highway PMB #628 Key Largo, FL 33037

Deadline

for the Coconut Telegraph's next issue is

Thursday, July 21, 2016

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Living Dockside by Ginny Jones

Editorial: Big Fish in a Small Pond

This is the followup to "The Legend of the Key Largo Sea Monster" on page 7.

On June 29th, Captain Spencer Slate was scheduled to arrive with a crew of divers at 10 am to check the Rowell's Key Largo Park basin where County officials thought. and I anxiously awaited.

After hours waiting in the hot sun, Slate and another diver arrived around 3:00 in the afternoon, and we watched their bubbles as they searched the underwater perimeter of the basin for about an hour.

They did not find any Goliath Groupers in the basin and the county made the decision to reopen the park the next day to swimming.

I was concerned that they may not have had time to dive the depth of 40' to 60' and that the massive critters could be lurking in the murky depth. Having no diving experience, I decided to call some experienced divers and see what they

I was able to reach Captain Jeremy Weeks at Sea Dwellers in Key Largo, who is quite familiar with the beasts. He explained that the giant fish were "docile and absolutely not a threat." Nothing to fear even if they are in there.

So, as for the Legend of the Key Largo Sea Monster? Come to think of it. the Loch Ness monster didn't have to be dangerous to be legendary.

Getting Ready To Go On Vacation



What I Do

Pack my stuff

Pack kids' stuff

Make arrangements for pet care

Clean house because if we don't make it back I don't want the neighbors to know we're slobs

Envision every possible scenario (injury, illness) and pack accordingly

Use up all food in fridge

Pack maps, snacks and activities for the car trip

Call family to say goodbye

Ask neighbor to keep eye on our house and gather mail

What My Husband Does

Clips toenails

Finds a chore entirely unrelated to our trip, deeming it of the utmost importance and insists it must be completed before departure

Asks why I'm not ready yet



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New Vets Join Upper Keys Animal Hospital

Upper Keys Veterinary Hospital welcomes two new doctors:

Dr. Samantha Bartlett hails from Georgia and has moved to the Keys to expand her interest in alternative medicine therapies, feline veterinary medicine and broadening her use of diagnostic ultrasound.

Dr. Bartlett's careers have been varied, including a time as a graphic designer, technical writing for Dept. of Defense contractors and a pharmacy technician. She's bringing her pet family: Boone, her dog and two cats, Isabelle and Amelia.

Dr. Bartlett and her family raised horses and competed in hunter/jumper competitions. She holds multiple degrees including



Veterinary Hospital

Bachelor degrees in English and Biology as well as a Master's in Aviation Technology. She acquired her DVM from Auburn University and is a U.S. Army

Dr. Sherwood Cooper also joins the UKVH staff with 29 years of veterinary medical and surgical experience. Dr. Cooper has successfully owned veterinary hospitals in Florida and West Virginia. He brings experience and a deep interest in complementary and alternative medicine, Oriental, herbal and Ayurvedic therapies. Dr. Cooper also has a special interest in digital ultrasound and radiographic diagnostic imaging.

Dr. Cooper, his family, and his Corgi named Charlotte are all thrilled to be living in the Florida Keys and are excited to make a commitment to this terrific community.

The Upper Keys Veterinary Hospital is located at 87801 Overseas Highway, Plantation Key and is open Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 5:30 pm, and Saturday from 8:00am to 4:30 pm. The hospital can be reached at 305-852-3665.



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Congrats to Robert DiGiorgio and Angel Chambers on their June 12 nuptials! Robert is the owner/operator of Cafe Largo and Bayside Grille. Angel is a nail technician at Shear Paradise. Photo: Jeanette DeLlanos.



Wednesday - Live Music 5:30 - 8:00 Friday - All You Can Eat Fish (fried, grilled or blackened) Saturday - Prime Rib

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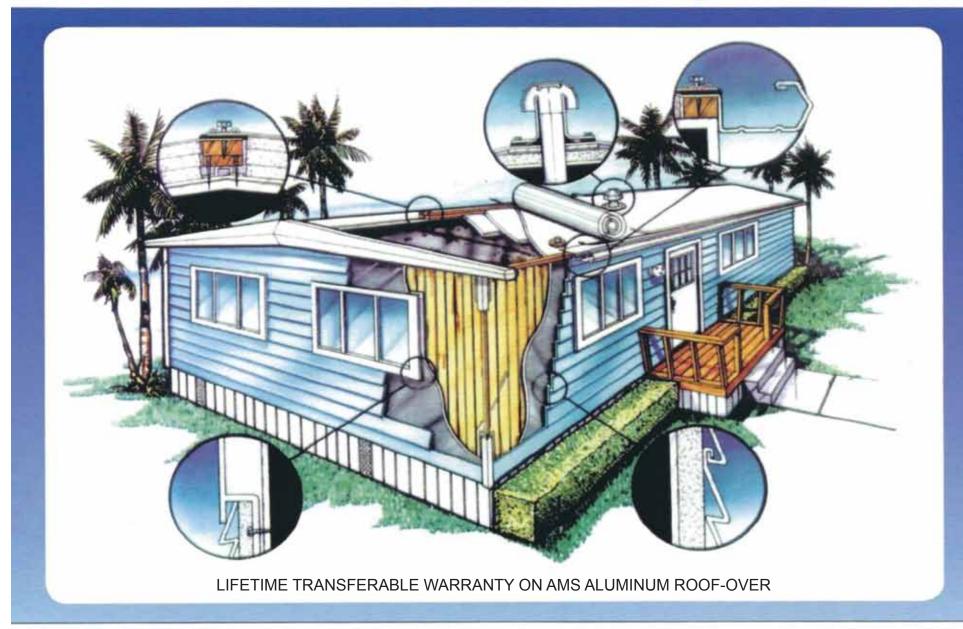
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Adopt a Key Largo Animal Shelter Pet

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

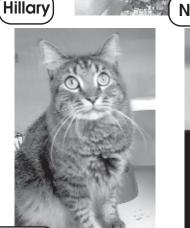


Cinnamon

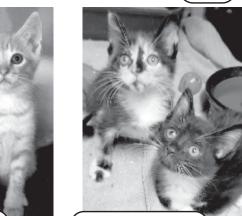




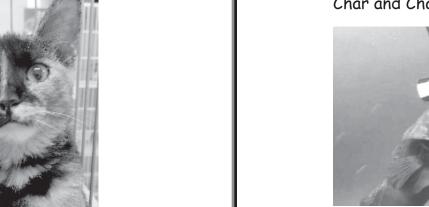












Goliath Grouper attack in Jupiter, FL.

confirmed the mammoth whale-of-a-tale was true, and in fact Charlie said there were about four Goliath Groupers in there, all 800 pounds

Due to the quick thinking of a local boat mechanic and a fast-acting county commissioner, Key Largo escaped a potential tragedy.

The County Park at MM 104.5

I received a phone call from Tom Jeanquenat, Dr. Tom to his friends, is a boat doctor. Dr. Tom worked for many years as a master mechanic at Rowell's Marina, which was purchased a few years ago by Monroe County and is now being used as a park. Dr. Tom was aghast because he drove by the park and there were people swimming in the basin. He explained that there was a 20-foot-long 1,000-lb Jewfish/Goliath Grouper that has been living in the basin for many years. "The outlet is only 4 feet from the surface of the water, the basin is 60 feet deep and the humongous fish can't get out, they are trapped." he explained, "And people are swimming in there!" he added.

The first thing I did was go check it out. Beautiful new sandy beach and signs that said "Swim at Your Own Risk," and people were, indeed, swimming. Next I called the former owners, Char and Charlie Rowell, who



The Legend of the Key Largo Sea Monster

I then called Sylvia Murphy, our Monroe County Commissioner, and explained it to her. Commissioner Murphy gasped. She knew a lot more about Goliath Groupers than I do, and she was shocked. She said she wanted to speak to Dr. Tom immediately and explained to me that " If a goliath grouper opens its mouth near a swimmer it

Murphy called in Assistant County Administrator Kevin Wilson and within 48 hours, new signs were posted around the basin of the property, "Absolutely No Swimming!."

This happened a few weeks ago, before the tragedy at Disney World

where a small child was killed by an alligator where no warning signs were posted.

can suck in their whole arm!"

Thank you, Sylvia Murphy and Kevin Wilson of Monroe County for your quick response!

As of this writing they were waiting for Captain Spencer Slate and his dive team to explore the basin with special equipment. Perhaps he may be able to photograph the Key Largo Sea Monster. It is a darn shame people won't be able to swim there as long as those gargantuan groupers are there.

Just for the halibut I suggested we catch them and have a big fish fry party for the whole county but Goliath Groupers are "protected" even the they are not on the endangered list so they didn't flounder, they filleted the heck out of that

Maybe we should glass in the basin and turn it into an aguarium? Call Gunky of Keys Crane Service and have him haul them out? Then get Captain Mark of Tow Boat US to tow them out to sea? Perhaps one of our readers can come up with a more so-fish-ticated idea.

Charlie Rowell said that



ABSOLUTELY

Goliath Grouper: Epinephelus itajara



County Commissioner Sylvia Murphy & Asst. County Administrator Kevin Wilson.

he used to swim in the basin often and did not think the giant fish would hurt anyone. He said he and the family are thrilled that people are able to enjoy the property, and to say hello to everyone.

Originally called Jewfish, the name was changed several years ago because one woman wrote that the name was offensive. Bullshit, I say! Let's change it back. Whatever name you call them by, they conjure up thoughts of a huge lumbering gentle fish to those who haven't encountered one. In one video, a Goliath Grouper swipes a 4-ft. shark from a fisherman and swallows it whole. In another, one attacks a diver's leg. When we think of fish attacks, we naturally blame sharks, but according



The new sign is posted prominantly at Rowell's Waterfront Park.

to research the Goliath Grouper gives sharks a run for their money. They are territorial and defend their territory. They have 2 sets of sharp teeth and generally reach the size of a motorcycle. The largest caught on a rod and reel was 680 lbs! The oldest recorded from analyzing bone rings was 37 years old. Their growth rate slows as they age, but they only stop growing when they

In 1895 the New York Times reported that a fisherman caught a 1,500-lb. one in the Gulf of Mexico and in the 1950s, 2 children jumped off a bridge in the Keys and one was eaten by a Goliath Grouper. The legend of the Key Largo Sea Monster lives







Benefit for Karol Harrelson July 23, at the Elks Club



On July 6, 2015, Karol Harrelson was on her way to the ICU Academy for Mariner's Hospital when a box truck ran a red light and hit her car.

She was in a coma for 3 months, suffered head and brain injuries, broke her right arm and leg, and had her spleen removed.

After many months in the hospital and rehab center she is home now, continuing her physical and speech therapy.

On July 23, 2016, a benefit is planned to help Karol and her family. It will be at the Elks Lodge in Tavernier from 5-9 pm. The theme is "Christmas in July." A turkey dinner will be served for \$15. Please call 305-619-2259 for reservations. (See page 8 for more details.)

If you would like to make a donation, you can go to www.gofundme.com/292dyus.

MEANTIME, AT PUBLIX...

So I'm at Publix, buying a bag of dog food for my dog. While in the check-out line, a woman behind me asked if I had a dog. Why else would I be buying dog food, RIGHT???

So on impulse I told her that no, I didn't have a dog, I was starting the Dog Food Diet again, and that I probably shouldn't because I ended up in the hospital last time. I said that I'd lost 50 pounds before I awakened in intensive care with tubes coming out of most of my orifices and IVs in both arms.

I told her that it was a perfect diet, all you do is load your pockets with food nuggets and eat one or two every time you feel hungry. The food is nutritionally complete, so it works well and I was going to try it again. (I have to mention here that practically everyone in line was now enthralled with my story.)

Horrified, she asked if I ended up in intensive care because the dog food poisoned me. I told her no, I stepped off a curb to sniff a poodle's butt and a car hit me. I thought the guy behind her was going to have a heart attack, he was laughing so hard.

Gerald J. Frushon, aka 'Jerry Springer"



Jerry, shown here with his sister Pat, passed away at the age of 67 on June 25, 2016, at Plantation Key Nursing Home. Born and raised in Pennsylvania, at age 19 he joined the Marine Corps, serving 2 years in Vietnam and receiving 3 medals. In retirement he moved to Key Largo and lived with his sister, Patricia Kulesa, and his niece, Lisa, for 16 years. He is preceded in death by his wife Helen Noto, his mother, Cynthia Suwalski, father Anthony Frushon, brother Joe Frushon, brother-in-law Lenny Kulesa, and nephew Tony "Punky" Frushon. He was a wonderful man with a heart of gold and a great sense of humor; he always made life full of fun. He will be deeply missed by his friends and family.

Upper Keys Homeless Prevention Program

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FOR THE HOMELESS

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Upper Keys Office 305-916-5454
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Tavernier, FL 33070

The Florida Keys Outreach Coalition's Upper Keys Homelessness Prevention Program is currently providing coordinated social service assistance (basic needs services, outreach, and homeless prevention services) to Upper Keys residents (individuals and families) who are currently homeless and/or at risk of losing housing.

Services Offered:

BASIC NEEDS SERVICES: FL State ID's, drivers' licenses, and birth certificates, transportation assistance for work-related activities, family reunification assistance, prescription assistance, medical and dental co-pays, treatment and diagnostic testing, and clothing.

OUTREACH/MAINSTREAM RESOURCES: On-going outreach efforts assisting with Food Stamp (SNAP) applications, SSI/SSDI applications, assistance accessing to ACA, Medicare/Medicaid assistance and financial, housing and employment counseling.

HOMELESS PREVENTION SERVICES: Temporary rental and mortgage payment assistance and assistance to those living on boats to ensure habitability standards are obtained or maintained to remain housed. Call for availability.

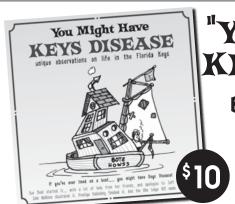
Eligibility

If you would like us to assess your needs for eligibility, please call our Upper Keys Office at 305-916-5454 (Monday-Friday; 9am-5pm) and we would be happy to schedule an appointment to meet with you. Applicants will be asked to provide documentation to show need.

We look forward to serving you!

Our Mission is to provide homeless individuals and families with the resources and opportunities by which to attain residential, financial and personal stability and self-sufficiency. The FKOC further seeks to address the underlying causes of homelessness and work toward its elimination in Monroe County, Florida.





"You Might Have KEYS DISEASE"

Buy a book and find out!

Book sales benefit the Musician's Relief Fund in the Upper Keys

This 32-page book was created in the spirit of poking fun at our life here in the Florida Keys.

Written by Sue Beal with a little help from her friends, it was illustrated by the late John McKinna, a syndicated cartoonist.

The book was published and made available for sale so that the proceeds could help local musicians and their families.

Here in the Keys, we enjoy the music of so many talented, world-class musicians. Even as our community enjoys the fruits of their labors, we know the musicians have little to spare and have no safety net for when disaster strikes and they cannot

Our musicians are the first to sign up to make a community fundrasier or benefit a success.

from the sale of this book will be used to help musicians in need.

Books are on sale at:

These locations also accept donations, or you can send a check to the Musicians Relief Fund, B.P.O.E. Elks Lodge PO Box 255, Tavernier, FI 33070-0255

Gilberts Resort funded the printing of the first edition, so all proceeds

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Featured Artist of the Month: Keith Ousley

You may recognize him from Key Largo Publix in the meat department as Keith the butcher. Or off the clock, he's known as "Keef Paints," the marine artist. As far back as he can remember he's always had a pencil in hand. Over all of his other toys, his favorites were always pencils and sketch pads. He says, "It was my way of letting my imagination run loose and spill out onto the paper to create whatever I wanted, no rules, anything was possible if I could draw it, it was real."

Keith's art lessons began at a very young age, every Sunday sitting between his grandparents in the back pew of church. He scribbled away during the Sunday service on the back of the bulletin with whatever crayons and markers he had stuffed into his pockets that morning. Monster trucks, speedboats, sharks, whatever he could dream of. He filled Sunday's church bulletins with his "masterpieces." That was the only art school he has ever been to.

Now that Keith is 25 years old, not much has changed. He's traded in crayons and church bulletins for paintbrushes and canvas.



To this day he still scribbles drawings on the back of church bulletins during Sunday

Keith states, "My goal as an artist is to expand my body of work towards marine conservation. I believe in using my talents for what I love most and protecting the delicate ecosystem of the Florida Keys. If you agree with me and enjoy my artwork please come see it on display in the month of July at The Art Box."







Stop in at the Art Box this month, or check out Keith's latest works on Instagram







of The Art Box, have classes, art supplies, framing and much more

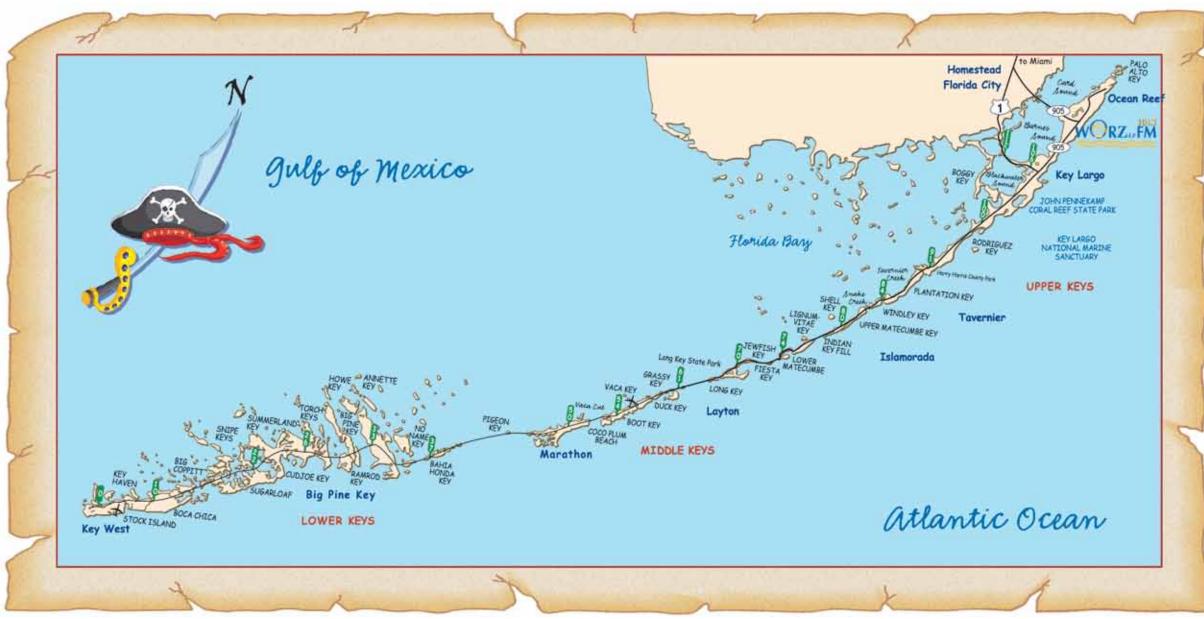














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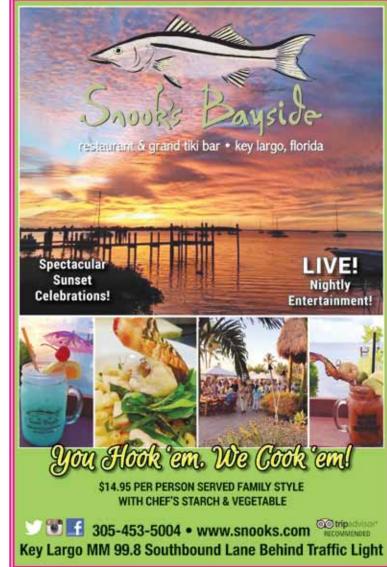
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July 2016 · The Coconut Telegraph · 15

The Mangrove Galley by Sandi Mieszczenski

Sandi's recipes are featured here monthly. For previous issues go to http://www.theconchtelegraph.com.



July is the time of the year to celebrate our country's birthday with picnics, family gatherings, and friends. The most enjoyable way is to ask everyone to contribute their favorite dish. One of my favorites is an easy-to-prepare dessert that is so tasty! So enjoy!

CHOCOLATE TRIFLE CAKE

1 box dark chocolate cake mix

1 box of chocolate pudding mix (not instant)

1/4 to $\frac{1}{2}$ cup dark rum

1 can cherry pie filling

 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup toasted sliced almonds

whipped cream

Prepare the cake according to directions on the box, then cool.

As the cake is baking, cook the chocolate pudding following the instructions on the box. When all is cool, cut the cake into 1/2inch slices. Line a 2 quart bowl with $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cake slices then sprinkle with $\frac{1}{2}$ of the rum. Spoon on top $\frac{1}{2}$ of the cherry pie filling followed by $\frac{1}{2}$ of the chocolate pudding.

Repeat the process with the cake, rum, cherry pie filling, and the pudding. Cover and chill.

Serve with the whipped cream and the toasted almonds on top.



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FEATURED BANDS



Saturday, July 23 CHAIN REACTION **Journey Tribute Band**





Sunday, July 10 THE DROPOUTS 1-6 PM Locals' Favorite



Sunday, July 24 THE REGS 1-6 PM Gilberts' Favorite



Sunday, July 31 **ECLIPSE** 1-6 PM Staff Favorite



HAPPY HOUR

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

\$2 Bud Light & Miller Lite Drafts 1/2 off Well Drinks and \$2.30 Fireball Shots!





Country Night! First Friday of the Month Friday, July 1, 7-11 pm Featuring 33 YEARS

Entertainer of the Month: Sweetwater at Snook's Bayside - Quench Your Thirst!

The definition of Sweetwater is fresh water. It is a fresh, new. soothing sound in the Keys that you can drink in and still not get enough of.

Since forming Sweetwater over two years ago, the members have kept to their original desire to create a unique sound. What you hear and see is the accomplishment of that dedication. Accolades from establishments and audiences alike use terms such as 'refreshing' and 'different.' Each member contributes his or her talent to enrich the blend.

Sweetwater doesn't have a rigid set list while performing. They have an ability to feel the mood of the audience, regardless of the venue, and respond with a mixture of songs and melodies appropriate for that moment.

The band has a strong sense of community. They, along with many other talented local musicians, have donated their time and talent to local causes and benefits to help Keys families, friends and musicians in need.

Sweetwater plays every week at venues throughout the Keys and South Florida; recently performing for the Homestead Center for the Arts. You can catch them every Sunday afternoon at Snooks Bayside Restaurant and Grand Tiki in Key Largo.

Sweetwater plugs in acoustic strings to deliver that "back porch" feel with clarity. You'll hear Piedmont-style country, blues, folk, ragtime and swing. Their aim is to create a comfortable, fun atmosphere with a strong nod towards humor. You'll hear a variety of instruments and see them too because they don't use tracks. (Don't know how and don't want to learn!)

Sweetwater's original music has received high scoring with multi-state competitions, and they hard developing new material without overlooking the standards we all love.



PATRICK KNOTTS' varied finger-style rhythms help promote the unique imagery in his originals and lends itself to the various string instruments he now incorporates in this approach. You will hear the big sound of his Martin guitar, the sweet notes of his mandolin and the slide of his dobro. It's been said that songwriting is 90% inspiration. With songs featuring fish rescue, suit-wearing feral wolf-men, and cheap cigars with mango wine, what does that say about this guy? He has several full length recordings to his credit, and his songs consistently receive high scores in national songwriting competitions. Patrick is also invited each year to present workshops at one of the country's largest traditional music

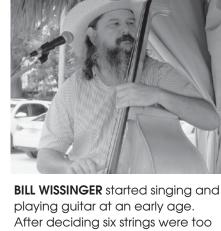
Although a Michigan native, Patrick says he's a Key Largo resident by choice. "You have to remember your frozen roots, still stuck in the ground in cold country. Just write a tune about it."



PAM OSTERMAN has been involved with the arts most of her life. An accomplished artist, she also acted in and directed several theatre productions in Cape Coral, Florida. After relocating to Key Largo, she turned this creative energy back toward music. Selling her piano, she picked up a guitar. What began as playing and singing with "the guys" at neighborhood parties has blossomed into her current position as female vocalist, guitarist and booking agent for Sweetwater.

and tone; smoky with an occasional sultry flair. Playing her antique washboard, she adds some old time percussion to the Sweetwater sound and has recently added playing her ukulele. She'll be the one that's

Pam's vocals deliver a unique style



After deciding six strings were too complex, he switched to double bass. A short stint as a music major convinced him that a regular paycheck (and food other than Ramen noodles) weren't such a bad idea after all. Bill and his big, blonde upright bass provide the solid foundation on which Sweetwater builds its melody lines.



STEVE DUNLAP has always loved music for as long as he can remember. Hitting things that made noise always made perfect sense, even if his teachers and parents didn't think so. After many painful years of attempting to learn auitar, he discovered where his heart was. Steve is the percussionist for Sweetwater

Sounds of the Keys



Joey Gilmore band with talented vocalist
Dottie Kelly at Bayside Grille



Bruja from Miami makes their Gilbert's debut.



Chain Reaction" the amazing Journey tribute band, will return to Gilbert's on July 23rd. They have recently added some Styx songs to their impressive arsenal.



Harry Byron of the Rogue Theory Band plays The Devil Went Down To Gilbert's. Photo by Rob LeBrun.



The Beatleman at the Big Chill.



Sweetwater, our July Entertainer of the Month, live at Gilbert's.

Support Live Music in the Keys



The newest member of the band "Push" stole the hearts of the ladies at Gilbert's. Photo by Rob LeBrun.



Ariel, lead singer of Spank The Band, belts out some Janis Joplin.



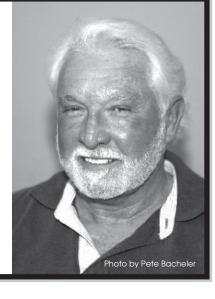
I spy with my little eye... An alligator foot in the dashboard!

Officers Luis Merizio and Casey Schroer stopped a truck to check for their day-use pass in a Wildlife Management Area when they noticed something unusual. Scattered throughout the cab of the truck were alligator parts... including the alligator foot in the dashboard of the truck! The driver told officers that the parts were from an alligator he hunted a few years ago, but our officers could smell that the alligator had been taken recently. After reading him his rights, the man confessed to killing the alligator just a few days ago without a permit, and he was cited for the violation. If you want to hunt alligators, do it legally: http://bit.ly/10k86dl

Think someone has taken or is in possession of an alligator illegally? Call our Wildlife Alert Hotline 888-404-FWCC (3922) or text/email Tip@MyFWC.com

Rest in peace, Steve Stewart!

The Upper Keys lost another good friend with the passing of Steve Stewart in June. He was a multi-talented man. We saw him onstage for Key Players, singing and playing guitar here and there, doing Tai Chi, and contributing to the Mac club. We will remember Steve for being a nice, gentle soul with a wonderful smile.





Come and Celebrate with us!!! Saturday, July 23rd On the Dock, from 5pm

Live Music by BAGA TRICKS







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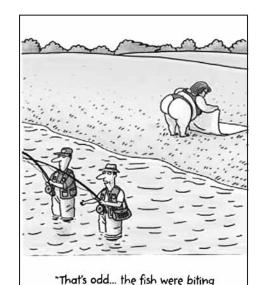




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MM 100 Oceanside - Next to Marina Del Mar, Turn East at the Holiday Inn - 522 Caribbean Drive

Coco'Nut' Funnies



like mad a minute ago, and now

it's like they've completely lost their appetite.







Donald & Daisy

Donald Duck and Daisy Duck were spending the night together in a hotel room and

Donald wanted to do some 'horizontal dancing' with Daisy.

The first thing Daisy asked was, "Do you have a condom?"

Donald frowned and said, "No."

Daisy told Donald that if he didn't get a condom, they could not do the 'wild thing'.

"Maybe they sell them at the front desk," she suggested.

So Donald went down to the lobby and asked the hotel clerk if they had condoms.

"Yes, we do," the clerk said, and pulled a box out from under the counter and gave it to Donald.

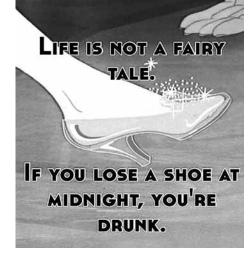
The clerk asked, "Would you like me to put them on your bill?"

"Thit no!" Donald quacked, "I'll thuffocate!"

Thank you Trader Dick!



Rare photo (magnified 100x) of a Florida No-See-Um.





make patriotic use of it.

Madge figured if her upper arm Was gonna flap, she might as well

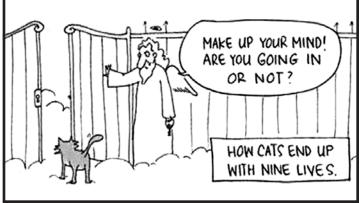


And this is why I am no longer allowed to recycle.



"No need to set out traps, I'm leaving. You don't have Wi-Fi in this dump.

There's no better sunscreen than sitting in a bar.



The Birthday Girl

A man was sitting on the edge of the bed, watching his wife, who was looking at herself in the mirror. Since her birthday was not far off, he asked what she'd like as a gift. "I'd like to be eight again," she replied, still looking in the mirror.

On the morning of her birthday, he rose early, made her a nice big bowl of Coco Pops, and then took her to Adventure World theme park. What a day! He put her on every ride in the park; the Death Slide, the Wall of Fear, the Screaming Roller Coaster, everything there

Five hours later they staggered out of the theme park. Her head was reeling and her stomach felt upside down. He then took her to a McDonald's where he ordered her a Happy Meal with extra fries and a chocolate shake.

Then it was off to a movie, with popcorn, a soda pop, and her favorite candy, M&Ms. What a fabulous adventure!

Finally she wobbled home with her husband and collapsed into bed, exhausted.

He leaned over his wife with a big smile and lovingly asked, "Well dear, what was it like being eight again?"

Her eyes slowly opened and her expression suddenly changed.

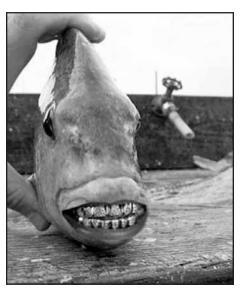
"I meant my dress size, you idiot!!!!"

The moral of the story: Even when a man is listening, he is gonna get it wrong.

WARNING

There is an email going around offering processed pork, gelatin and salt in a can.

If you get this email, do not open it. It's spam.



When the fish you caught is from Miami-Dade County.

They say that sex is the best form of exercise. Now, correct me if I'm wrong, but 2 minutes and 15 seconds once every 3 months ain't going to shift a beer belly.

Two Brothers and a Funeral

Two fellows grew up in the mountains, and when they were in their twenties, one of them went up North to seek his fortune. The other one stayed home to look after the farm and their parents. The one up North became a salesman, soon was sales manager, and then vice president and president of the company. Before long, his business was bought out by a big company, and, he became president of the parent company.

One day he got a call from his brother on the farm, who said, "Daddy died, and the funeral is

He said, "Oh, my goodness. I have to leave Thursday for a big merger meeting in Japan. I can't come, but I want you to give Daddy the best funeral you can, and send the bill to me. It's the least I can do."

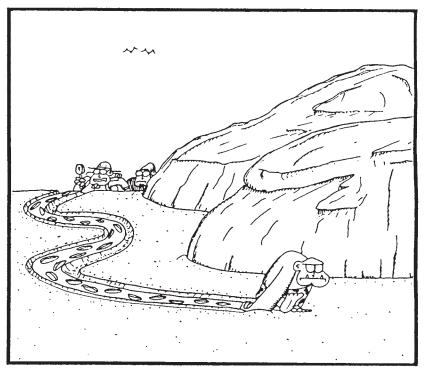
Well, the brother did, and in a few weeks, the successful brother received a bill for \$6,000, which he paid. The following month, a bill for \$500 came. Thinking they had forgotten something, he paid it. The next month, another bill for \$500 came, and he paid that one, too. When another \$500 bill arrived the third month, he called his brother and asked if why he was getting these bills.

"Oh, yes," the brother said, "I think I know. See, when we got Daddy all dressed up in his old serge suit in that new casket with that polished wood and satin lining, he just didn't look right, and since you said you wanted the best, we rented him a tuxedo." Thank you Thad Bowling!

> Hyphenated. Non-hyphenated. Oh, how ironic.

Left **Field**

by J.S. McKinna



"Stop whimpering, Ahmed! Any species intelligent enough to build a two-wheeled vehicle is intelligent enough to be reasoned with..."

JOHN McKINNA was a local musician, a best-selling author, and a published, syndicated cartoonist. We feature his cartoons monthly.

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The Public is Welcome More info: 305-998-8400

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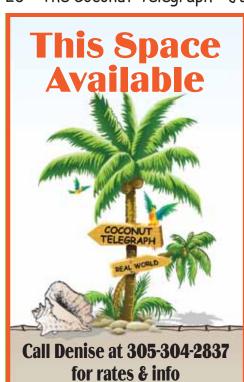
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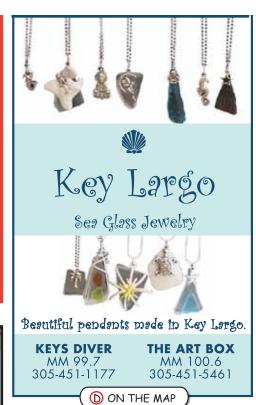












YOUR AD HERE



Conch Characters -



Laura Dreaver and daughter Stephanie of the Conch House catering an event.
Photo: Greg Poland.



The Pride parade in Key West on June 12 had special significance given the tragedy earlier in the day. The motto of the day was Key West stands with Orlando. State Attorney Catherine Vogel and supporters in the parade.



American Legion Auxiliary Past President Alice King welcomes new Auxiliary President Jan Gould.



Sunday Funday the Gilbert's way! Photo: Rob LeBrun



From Boys Scouts, to fire fighters to several branches of the armed forces, Memorial Day was a day to remember the sacrifices made for us.



Memorial Day services held at the Hurricane Monument on Labor Day by the Matecumbe Historical Trust. Islamorada Mayor Deb Gillis is front and center.



Great crowd at the Monument on Memorial Day honoring those who have fallen defending our country.



"Rasta Rita," the mobile margarita truck isn't a local, but we are hereby extending an invitation!



Manatees at Bud n' Mary's!



Hoebee from Sun 103 introduces Michael Trixx before his rocking magic show at Gilbert's.

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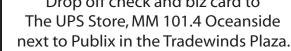
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Living Dockside

by Ginny Jones

CREATURE CAPER

A few of us dive instructors call Jules Lagoon "the Black Lagoon," and on those days when we can't take our students out to the reef, we are very appreciative of the lagoon, it allows us to finish certifying our students. I personally love this place; I often wake up to a manatee's noisy breathing just outside my aft cabin ports. I usually take my coffee up on deck in the morning to watch the sunrise up over the mangroves surrounding the lagoon. I was treated one morning to an adult dolphin and her calf hunting in the lagoon. This lagoon is full of interesting wrecks too; bet you didn't know that.

There is an airplane fuselage, various small fishing boats, a very large wooden cabin cruiser in the back of the lagoon, various cars, and a once-beautiful wooden sloop right under the bow of my "She Breeze."

In the winter (which consists of maybe 5 days), the water in the lagoon is so clear you can make out most of the wrecks from the deck of a boat. I cannot remember how the idea of a creature lashed to the deck of the sloop came black ninja costumes. I was

about, but it did. My dear friend and artistic landlubber neighbor Lonnie, found the feet, hands, and face mask complete with blue piercing eyes on some obscure internet site.

The creature's torso was concrete, his legs and arms were pool noodles, and all of this was shoved into an old wet suit. His hands and feet were attached to the wetsuit; the mask was on one of those styrofoam wig holders.

By the time we finished assembling our monster he was over six feet tall. So the question was: how do we get him over to the lagoon and not let the neighbors on the dock and in the neighborhood see what we're up to? It would just be too hard to explain if we were spotted! Oh, the insanity of us bored baby boomers!

Lonnie just happened to have a wheelbarrow; we put the creature in and covered him with a blanket. Of course his hands and feet were hanging out over the sides. (Can you hear the theme song from Mission Impossible in the background?) We sure could!

We waited till the dark of night, of course, in our

scoping out the road as Lonnie was rapidly wheeling the heavy load down the road towards my dock. I made sure everybody's lights were off on the dock, as we wheeled him to a good launching place. We had chain across his torso - bandolier style - figuring we needed the extra weight. Quietly, we lifted him into the water with a line tied to him so we could come back in the daytime and set him on the sloop.

This is when the trouble and the cursing began. The creature was not cooperating, he wouldn't sink, sh - -, sh - -, sh - -!!!! We were scrambling, looking for anything heavy. "Somebody could be missing an anchor tomorrow." (Oops, did I say that out loud?)

I found a couple cinder blocks in the mangroves, and once we attached all the

extras our creature slowly started to sink. We tied him off to the dock, sneaked back across the street, and mixed a stiff drink or two.

The next day we casually donned our dive gear and jumped in. It all went smoothly as we attached our creation to the deck of the

Many a person has had a giggle out of our midnight madness, conducted many years ago. When the water was clear you could see his blue eyes from the deck of my boat. Alas, in the intervening years, the sloop has disintegrated around the creature and only on close inspection can you see one of his large hands sticking up and waving!



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