

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

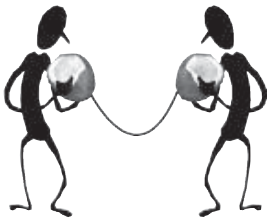
Thursday,

July 21, 2016

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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 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 Go-liath 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 thought.

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.

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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 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 veteran.

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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