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#### Inside:

#### **Attractions**

"Guy Ate Here!" (at Cafe Largo) Art Box Keeps on Growing

### What's Hot & What's Not Mourning the losses of

John McKinna and Kay Thacker

#### Maps

Key Largo Locator Map Page Getting from Here to There

#### All the Buzz

Coco-Nut Funnies Conch Characters Sounds of the Keys Business in the Keys Mangrove Galley



Look for ad inside or check the calendar at keylargo-baysidegrill.com for all of our live music on the beach.



Rest in peace, John McKinna! This amazing, multi-talented artist, musician and writer surprised and saddened our community with his unexpected passing in February. More about John inside on page 7.

Well respected and always a fun show.



### Coconut Telegraph

March 2016 Volume 10 Issue #109 Prestige Publishing Inc

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

### Deadline

for the Coconut Telegraph's next issue is

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Contact Denise at 305-304-2837 theconchtelegraph@amail.com



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For comments please visit The Conch Telegraph on Facebook.

### Articles

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### Editorial: IRS Scam Alert!

Marshall Walker, owner of H & R Block in Key Largo, told me about a recent scam that has affected many people in the Upper Keys. Someone posing as an IRS agent calls and says that you owe the IRS a sum of money and that you need to pay it now or face serious charges. When you answer the phone,



"I spend 30% of my day working for the tax man, so that's the part of my day when I goof off."

they already have much of your personal information, credit information, family and neighbors' names, etc. They instruct people to use a credit card or to go to the bank and send them the money immediately while they stay on the phone.

H&R Block has gotten many calls from people who have been scammed out of their money. Marshall Walker asked me to let the public know that the IRS would never call you. Walker says "If you receive such a call you should hang up immediately and report it to the Monroe County Sheriff's office. Do not under any circumstances give the scammer any information."

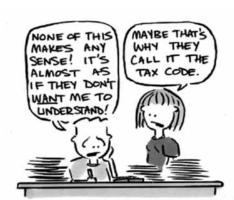
Thank you Mr. Walker.

Tourist season is here. Keep yourself safe and remember to always lock your car.

Locals - Do not consign

your items with anyone who will not give you a contract and a list of your items. If they refuse to give you a list, take your items and leave! If you have antiques, take them to Jacobsen's in Homestead and you will receive a check when your items sell. If you have jewelry, take it to Coral Financial & Pawn at MM 103. Check out their other fine items too.

Boat owners - a friend of mine gave a canvas shop in Key Largo a check for \$1,000 to make him a boat cover 2 years ago and has still not received



Go to a professional, try H&R Block. You'll sleep better!

the product. The creepo canvas guy refuses to answer my friend's calls. Not a surprise. Before you hire someone do a quick investigation on the Monroe County Sheriff's website via Clerk of the Court. How often have they been sued? Ask a local where they got their work done. Go to local marinas and ask who has the best reputation and provides quality workmanship.

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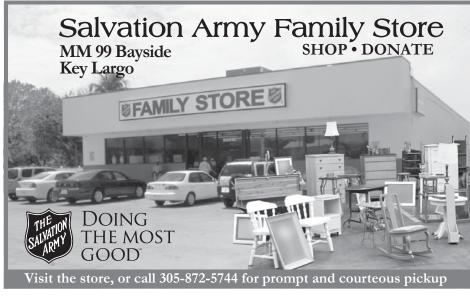
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#### If It Seems Like Guinness is Everywhere, it is!

Approximately 13 million pints of Guinness will be consumed worldwide on St. Patrick's Day.

#### Drowning the Shamrock Refers to **Trefoils**

The phrase "drowning the shamrock" comes from the tradition in which a shamrock worn on the lapel for the holiday was tossed into the last drink of the evening.

#### St. Patrick's Day Beers Were Forbidden for Decades in Ireland

From 1903 until 1970 all pubs were closed on the holiday due to religious observances.

#### The Shamrock is Not the Symbol of Ireland.

That honor goes to the harp. Now a popular icon of the holiday, the shamrock was used by St. Patrick to teach the Holy Trinity.

### St. Patrick's Day Rakes in a Lot of

The average amount American St. Patrick's Day revelers will spend this holiday is \$36.52 per person, for a combined \$4.6 billion, according to a report by the National Retail Federation.

#### "Everyone is Irish" on St. Patrick's Day, but 33.3 Million Really Are

According to the most recent census data, 33.3 million U.S. residents claim Irish ancestry, which is seven times Ireland's total population

#### There are No Female Leprechauns

If Irish folk tales are to be believed, the mystical beings are expressly male.

#### Beantown Started the Party in U.S.

The first St. Patrick's Day celebration took place in America in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1737.





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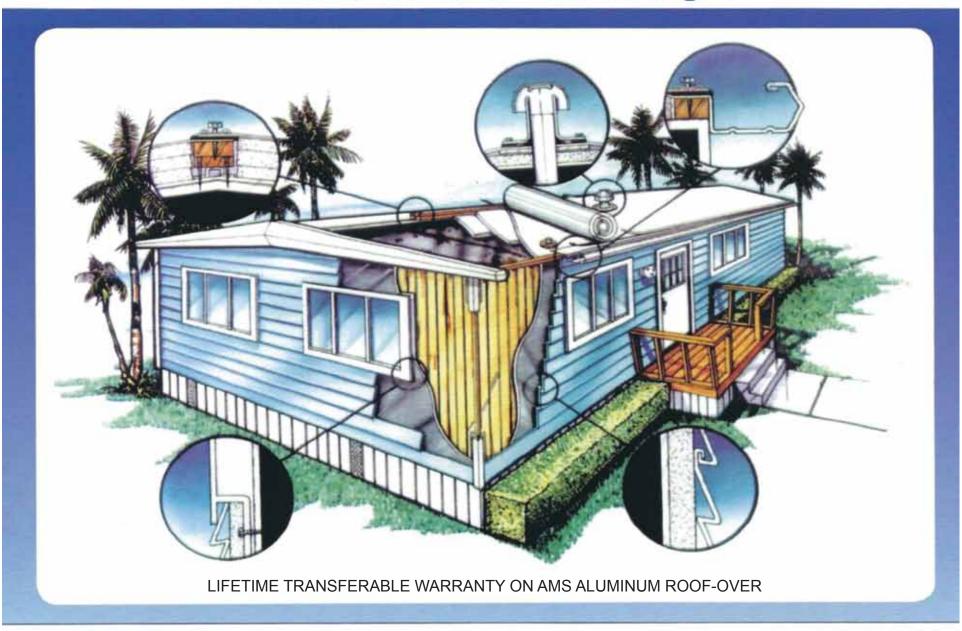
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John McKinna's accom-

plishments during the time

that he was with us on this

of his close friends and the

awe of him, this writer

people who knew him were in

included. Here is what some

of his friends had to say.

John was a commercial diver

musician, but also a sailor.

well firefighter and best-

commercial diver/welder, oil

selling author. He was a pro-

fessional musician for forty

years. He played lead guitar,

flute. During what he

bass guitar, banjo, drums and

described as his classic rock

period (from 1974 to 1982),

he played with three bands.

They toured throughout the

well as Canada. The group

that time."

northeast and midwest US, as

produced eight albums during

"John was not only a fine

for 20 years.

earth were astonishing. Most

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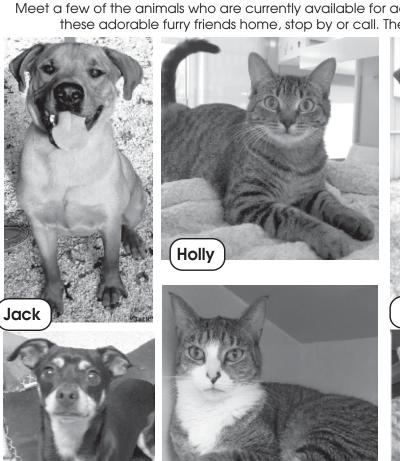
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### "John McKinna was Operations Manager/Technical Supervisor of the Jules' Undersea Lodge habitat. He was responsible for all systems relating to the upkeep and underwater management. He had served in that capacity since 2002, and along with his wife Teresa, was one-half of the team that kept JUL/KLUP operating safely and effectively well into the

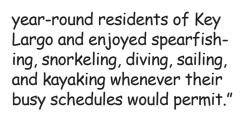
John McKinna: Community and Friends Mourn the Loss of a Great Man

21st century. "A former offshore oilfield commercial diver with a 20-year career in deep-gas diving, focusing on construction and repair of oil production and drilling platforms worldwide, his skills and experience made him ideally suited to manage the unique requirements of the world's only remaining operational habitat from the Golden Age of Diving of the 1960s and early 70s."



John and Teresa were featured on the cover of the Coconut Telegraph in 2012, with an article about Jules Undersea Lodae.

"John was an internationally published author, with six bestselling novels to his credit, including three popular diving thrillers and three WWII historical novels. He and his wife Teresa were



"Author, Artist, musician, soldier, son, husband... and too many more to mention... one of the most brilliant and interesting men I have had the pleasure to know. I'll miss his wicked sense of humor hiding under a genuine kindness. A truly authentic old soul. Gone too soon."

A Celebration of Life for John is planned to take place at the Island Grill Mandalay in the near future.



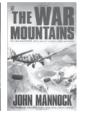




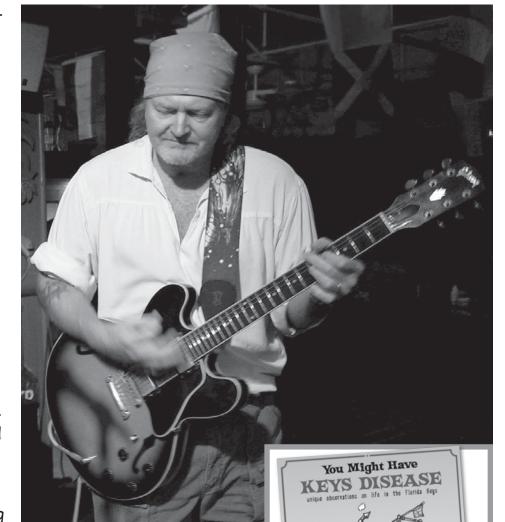








Amazon: Crash Dive, Tiger Reef, and Shark Lake, under his own name, and writing as John Mannock there are three more: The Sen-Toku Raid, Iron Coffin and The War Mountains.



Editors note: John Mckinna was also a syndicated cartoonist and the Coconut Telegraph has been running his cartoons every month for several years. Over the last 2 vears Sue Beal, myself and John collaborated to publish a book written by Sue titled "You might have Keys Disease..." and John drew and donated the cartoons for this. Our original goal was to donate our proceeds to a scholarship for local musicians but we recently changed it to starting a fund for local musicians in need, because so many of them do not have medical insurance and need help when they cannot work, 100% of proceeds from this book will begin that fund through the Elks Club. Future plans include concerts for the Upper Keys Musicians Fund. Sponsorships are needed.

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H&R Block puts the 'fun' in Refund Season. They initiated an industry first – awarding \$1 million a day to randomly slected early filers for the first month of tax season. It was called the 1000 Win \$1000 Daily sweepstakes. A total of 32,000 people won a combined \$32 million. All they had to do was file their taxes with H&R Block!

H&R Block Gave Away \$1 Million a Day for 32 Days, and four lucky locals won \$1,000 each!

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Fieri and the crew were very interested in Robert's state-of-theart pasta machine.



Fresh lobster for the pasta dish

Key Largo restauranteur Robert DiGiorgio, owner of Cafe Largo and Bayside Grille, was surprised to be nominated to be on The Food Network's popular show, Diners, Drive-Ins and

**Dives**. The show, which has been running on the network since 2007 features Guy Fieri as the host.

In 2010, the New York Times reported that Fieri brought an "element of rowdy, mass-market culture to American food television". and that his "prime-time shows attract more male viewers than any others on the network."

Fieri began his Food Network career in 2006, after winning the second season of The Next Food Network Star. He was awarded a six-episode commitment for his own cooking show on Food Network. Guy's Big Bite, which premiered in 2006, and continues to the present day. Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives, his second series, premiered in 2007, with Fieri traveling the country visiting local eateries. His Ultimate Recipe Showdown, debuted in 2008 and aired for three seasons. Fieri has appeared on other Food Network programs such as

Dinner: Impossible, Paula's Party, Ace of Cakes. and The Best Thing I Ever Ate.

Last fall, Robert DiGiorgio was contacted by Citizen Pictures to ask if he was interested in Cafe Largo being a part of the Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives show. He was interviewed and filled out paperwork. They looked at 10 dishes made at the local restaurant, also known as "Key Largo's Little Italy." Ultimately, Cafe Largo was chosen!

On November 30th, the restaurant closed for the day, and the crew filmed for 12 hours. The menu creation that will be featured on the TV show is Robert's signature dish, the Veal Chop Cutlet Florentine. It's a bone-in veal chop cutlet, roasted in olive oil with layers of prosciutto and mozzarella, and a mushroommarsala wine sauce. It is served over sautéed spinach and mushroom risotto. (This writer calls it the "Over the Top Chop" and it is her favorite dish on the Cafe Largo menu!)

On December 4th, Guy Fieri joined the crew for more filming. Guy and the crew were very interested in DiGiorgio's state-of-the-art

pasta maker; they'd never seen one like it. Robert was happy to demonstrate the restaurant's fresh pasta making process for them.

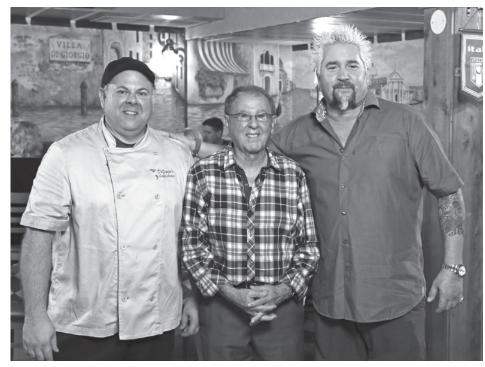
Robert and his father Pasquale, founder of all the DiGiorgio family restaurants since 1968, were treated to the excitement of getting to know Guy, filming the segment, and seeing how the TV show is made. It will air on the Food Network on March 25, on Guy Fieri's Diners, Drive In's & Dives, Episode DV2405H. Don't miss it!!

Stop by and try the chop!! And the amazing fresh pasta!! Tell them the Coconut Telegraph sent you!



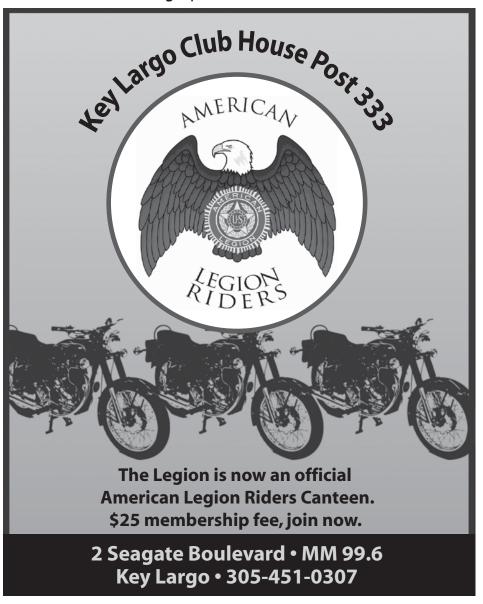


The amazing veal chop!



Robert and Pasquale DiGiorgio, proud owners, with Guy Fieri.

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### Special Transportation Services

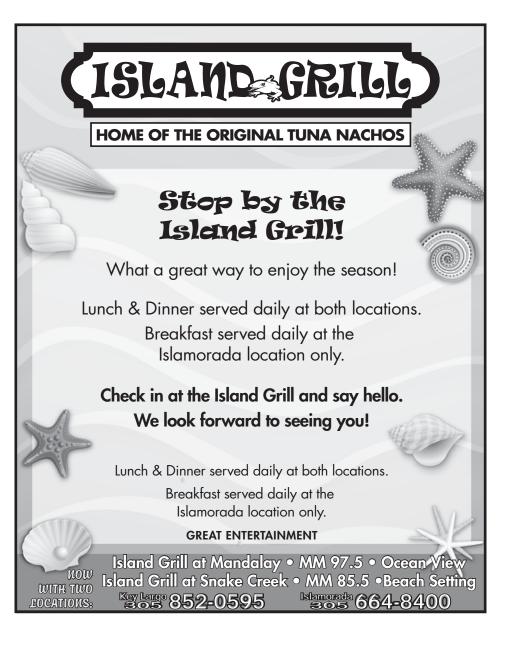
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### Remembering Kay Thacker

Long-standing community leader and good friend to many, Kay Thacker passed away in late February after a courageous battle with cancer. She was a strong woman, smart and gutsy, and she will be greatly missed for all she did and all she gave.

Born in 1945 in Pikeville, KY, Kay moved to Indiana in 1950, and raised her family in Greenwood, IN. She had been coming to the Keys since 1965 and moved to Key Largo permanently in 1989.

Kay's parents were Gene and Carolyn Damron, who preceded her in death. She is survived by her husband, John Groothand, her sons, Tim Thacker, of Jacksonville, FL and Todd Thacker, of Lake Mary, FL and her daughtersin-law Carrie and Danielle, her half brothers. Gene Damron and Gary Hunt, and her half sister Nancy Taylor. She had 7 grandchildren: Sarah, Jacob and Cole Ponder, Emma, Kylie, Mathew and Elizabeth Thacker

Kay had a passion for Key Largo and Monroe Co., and was very involved in the inner workings of the local government while being a frequent contributor to the editorial section of our local papers. She spoke truth to officials as she saw it, she to spoke on behalf of many residents.

Kay was the President of Friends of the Key Largo Cultural Center, VP of External Affairs for Island of Key Largo Federation of Homeowners, and Secretary of
Sexton Cove Property Owners
Association. In her time in
Greenwood, Indiana she was
instrumental in founding and
maintaining the Center Grove
Little League and Center
Grove Bantam Football League
where she served for several
years as Treasurer.

After earning her degree in Liberal Arts from the University of Indianapolis she became the Vice President of Sales with Metal Honing, Inc. Upon arrival in Key Largo, she worked as a beautician at the Ocean Reef Club and later at the Key Largo Anglers Club. She owned her own beauty salon, Casa de Kay, in the late 1960s and early 70s.

Kay was a "ray of sunshine," a loving wife, mother, grandmother, a great friend to many, and a great advocate for keeping the Keys beautiful! In lieu of flowers please make donations to VNA/Hospice of the Florida Keys.

The family thanks everyone for their thoughts and prayers over these last six years as Kay battled cancer. A celebration of life was held on Feb. 27 at the Murray Nelson Center.

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The Monroe Association for ReMARCable Citizens is a non-profit agency that serves adult clients within Monroe County who have developmental disabilities that include intellectual disabilities (I.Q. 69 or below), cerebral palsy, spina bifida, Prader-Willi Syndrome, and traumatic brain injury sustained prior to age 18.

MARC provides numerous services for their clients. These services are designed to insure that each client receives training and support that enhances his or her individual abilities to understand daily community routines and learn social, self-care, vocational skills and help to increase a client's ability to develop friendships with non-disabled persons.

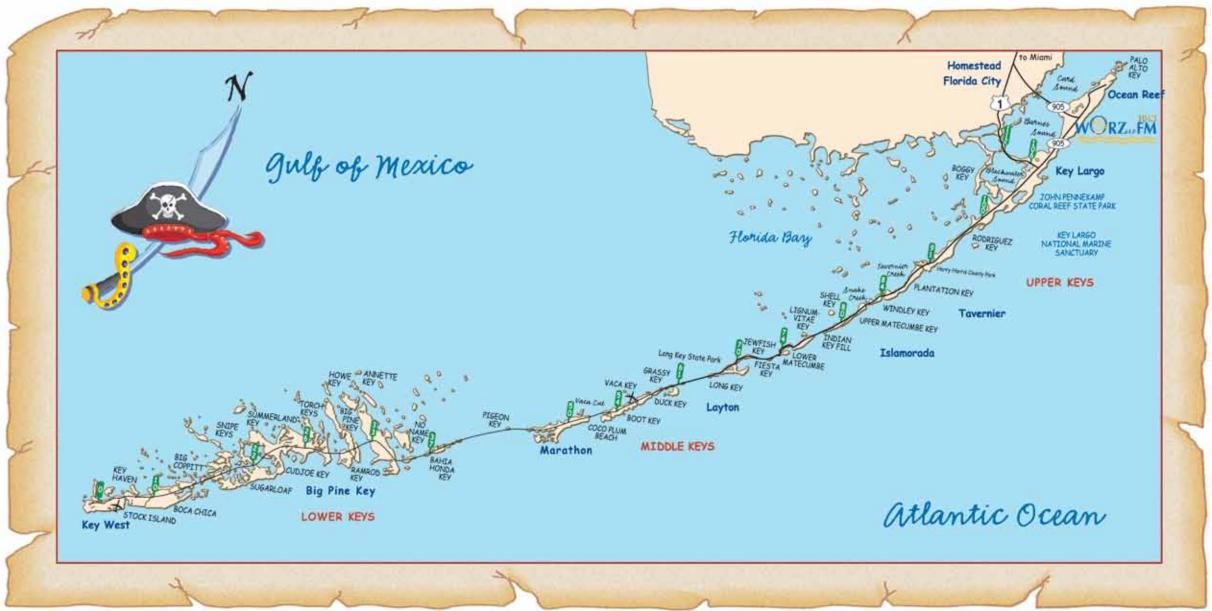
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# The Mangrove Galley by Sandi Mieszczenski

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



Chicken is a staple in our house. There are many ways that one can prepare this tasty bird, and so many great recipes out there. Cooking a chicken breast requires you to add spices, flavors, and perhaps a sauce to flavor the meat. This recipe contains all three. It is an easy dish to assemble on the stove top and very tasty. Serve with wild rice and a green vegetable. Enjoy!

### CHICKEN WITH A MUSTARD TARRAGON SAUCE

- 4 boneless chicken breasts
- $1\frac{1}{2}$  tablespoons butter
- 2 finely chopped shallots
- 1/3 cup white wine
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup heavy whipping cream
- $2\frac{1}{2}$  tablespoons chopped fresh tarragon

Melt the butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the chicken breasts and cook through on both sides (about 5 minutes per side.)

Transfer the chicken to a platter and tent with foil to keep warm.

Saute the shallots in the same skillet for 1 minute.

Add the wine and mustard to the pan and bring to a simmer.

Add the cream and 1 1/2 tablespoons of the tarragon. Simmer, stirring often about 3 minutes.

Return the chicken breasts to the skillet and heat through. Season the dish with salt and pepper to the taste. Serve the chicken breasts with the sauce and sprinkle on the remaining tarragon.

Dr. Lu Elaine Johnson's birthday Bash Happy birthday Dr. Lu!



Conch Characters ——

The Seafood Festival was a huge success, bringing over 10,000 people to the Keys.



A Florida Powerboat Club model takes a break for a photo shoot. Anyone can stop by for lunch and see these amazing boats when they visit.



Busy night at the Big Chill. Photo by Melanie Malefyt.



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Sunday, March 12 MAKING FACES 1-6 PM Sunday Debut



Sunday, March 27
THE REGS
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First Friday of the Month
Friday, March 4th, 7-11 pm
Featuring COWBOY UP

Key Largo local "Walk Around Ron"

stops by Gilbert's Resort everyday, since 1984, to check out the fish and wildlife at Gilbert's. If there is a story about it, Ron knows it. Say hi to Ron when you see him!



Beautiful sunset at the Big Chill. Photo by Melanie Malefyt.



Eric Vihlen also had a good time at Dr. Lu's party!



Blind Wounded Warriors visited the American Legion in Key largo in February.



A seaplane prepares to tie up at Gilbert's dock. You never know what you will see at Gilbert's Photo by Rob LeBrun.

### The Art Box: Big Things in Little Boxes

Jon and Joanna Dreaver have been the owners of The Art Box for more than five years, and over the years the store has acquired many faces, providing many services, from artist supplies to shipping... and even an art gallery with a frame shop! And of course it's also a place to take art classes.

It is hard to believe that this small store can pack in so many essential services, or that they would work well together, but Jon and Joanna have made their little store a functioning work of art.

The art classes held at The Art Box are hosted by various local artist instructors like Gloria Avner and Jim Mahla as well as owner and artist Jon Dreaver.



James Mahla teaches watercolor

Jon has been having fun teaching the Friday night 'Wine and Paint' classes for adults, and the Saturday kids classes, for quite some time. Jon chooses these two classes to teach because he says that while working with the kids it's amazing to watch their creative process at work. There is no end to the imagination the kids bring, and with the right instruction, it's rewarding to see the end of a great project... when the little artists hold up their completed paintings so proudly for their photographs.



The Wine and Paint has a similar effect, except the kids are just bigger! Many of the adults have spent their lives thinking they couldn't paint, until they sit down, let the wine take the edge off and just start painting. More often than not, they are more shocked and proud of their creations than the children.



Sloria Avner with one of her classes

Recently The Art Box has grown more into a framing store than anything else. Island Decor located in Tavernier has closed the retail and framing aspect of the business, but owner Shanti Cope will be continuing to work with interior design clients from her new office located next door to where the gallery was. With the gallery and the framing studio closed, Shanti wants to ensure that her customers continue to receive great quality care and attention, so Island Decor's customer base is transferring to The Art Box for their framing needs.



Jon and Johanna Dreaver have many framing options for you!

Jon and Joanna look forward to all the great changes. They say that it has been an evolving shop since the day they opened the door. If you're looking for any framing, or are interested in an art class, or in booking a private wine and paint party, stop in at Plaza 101 at MM 100 or give The Art Box a call at 305-451-5461.



Adults who paint for the first time are often more proud of it than the kids!

**JON & JOANNA DREAVER** 

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# Coco'Nut' Funnies





A man boarded a plane with six kids. After they got settled in their seats a woman sitting across the aisle from him leaned over to him and asked, "Are all of those kids yours?" He replied, "No. I work for a condom company. These are customer complaints."

If people are talking about you behind your back, just fart!

#### LADY'S YEARLY EXAM

I went to the doctor for my yearly physical. The nurse starts with certain basics..

"What do you weigh?" she asks. "135," I sav.

The nurse puts me on the scale. It turns out my weight is 180.

The nurse asks, "Your height?" "5 foot 4," I say.

The nurse checks and sees that I only measure 5'2'.

She then takes my blood pressure and tells me it is very high.

'Of course it's high!' I scream, 'When I came in here I was tall and slender! Now I'm short and fat!

She put me on Prozac.

**Every time** you make a typo, the errorists win.





As we wave goodbye to our younger years we must also wave goodbye to some of the fads we loved. The following combinations Do NOT go together and should be avoided:

- 1. A nose ring and bifocals
- 2. Spiked hair and bald spots
- 3. A pierced tongue and dentures
- 4. Mini skirts and support hose
- 5. Ankle bracelets and corn pads
- 6. Speedo's and cellulite
- 7. A belly button ring and a gall bladder surgery scar
- 8. Unbuttoned disco shirts and a heart monitor
- 9. Midriff shirts and a midriff bulge
- 10. Bikinis and liver spots
- 11. Short shorts and varicose veins
- 12. In-line skates and a walker
- 13. Thongs and Depends





Grammar. The difference between feeling your nuts and feeling you're nuts.



#### THE NEWEST DIET

A woman was terribly overweight, so her doctor put her on a diet.

"I want you to eat regularly for two days, then skip a day, and repeat this procedure for two weeks. The next time I see you. I am guessing that you will have lost at least five pounds."

When the woman returned, she shocked the doctor by losing nearly twenty pounds.

"Why, that's amazing!" the doctor said. "Did you follow my instructions?"

The woman nodded. "I'll tell you though, I thought I was going to drop dead that third day."

Dockers, with the protection of

Depends. I'll call them

"From hunger, you mean?"

"No, from skipping."

Thank you Thad Bowling

# I'm Aging Gracefully!!!

I changed my car horn to a gunshot sound. People move out of the way much faster now!

You know that tingly little feeling you get when you really like someone? That's common sense leaving your body.

I don't like making plans for the day because then the word "premeditated" gets thrown around in the courtroom

I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row.

I decided to change calling the bathroom the John and renamed it the Jim. I feel so much better saying I went to the Jim this morning.

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met vet..

I don't need anger management. need people to stop irritating me!

When I was a child I thought nap time was a punishment. As a grownup, it feels like a small vacation!

The biggest lie I tell myself is... "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it.

My people skills are just fine. It's my tolerance of idiots that needs working on.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would've put them on my

The kids text me "plz" which is shorter than please. I text back "no" which is shorter than "yes."

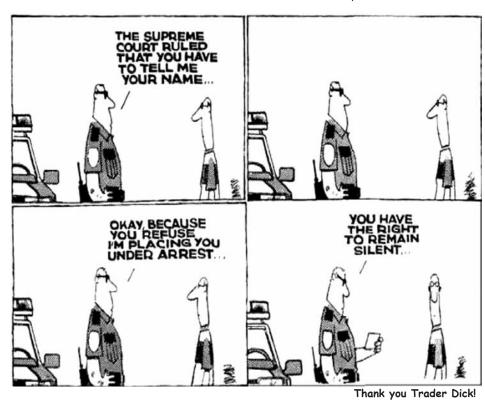
I'm going to retire and live off of my savings. Not sure what I'll do the second week.

I've lost my mind and I'm pretty sure my wife took it!

Even duct tape can't fix stupid... but it can muffle the sound!

Why do I have to press one for English when you're just gonna transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

Of course I talk to myself! Sometimes I need expert advice.



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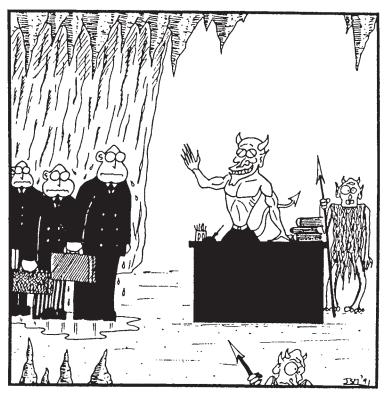
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### Left Field

by J.S. McKinna



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#### CLUBS

Fraternal Order of the Eagles meets every 1st and 3rd Monday 7pm at Elks Lodge in Tavernier.

Florida Keys Orchid, Fern and Bromeliad Society meets the 3rd Thurs. of every month at Key Largo Library Comm. Room 7pm.

### checks at Blackwater Sound Marina,

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## Sounds of the Keys



Michael Holler entertained at Dr. Lu's birthday party



See jimmy Ray every Tuesday evening at the Big Chill.





Cape Cod's popular entertainer Harry French has been playing in the Upper Keys for 26 years. See him at Gilbert's every Wed. night 'til Easter.



Tim Charron made a rare appearance at the Pilot House!



The Sauce Boss struts his stuff at Gilbert's Resort. Photo: Rob LeBrun.



The Shane Duncan Band was featured on Channel 6. See them at Gilbert's on March 6.



Continuous live music at the Seafood festival.



Chris Lute and Steve Venini at Bayside Grille.

### Paraprosdokians

Paraprosdokians are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to reframe or reinterpret the first part.

They are frequently humorous. (Winston Churchill loved them, and so does Trader Dick.)

- 1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
- 2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list.
- 3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- 4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
- 5. We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
- 6. War does not determine who is right - only who is left.
- 7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

- 8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
- 9. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
- 10. In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, notify...' I put 'DOCTOR.'
- 11. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
- 12. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive more than once.
- 13. I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.
- 14. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
- 15. You're never too old to learn something stupid.
- 16. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it is getting harder and harder for me to find one now.



You are invited to the 50th Anniversary showing of the Art Guild of the Purple Isles

#### Annual Members Judged Art Show Our premier event each year.

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Keys History & Discovery Center (a \$12 value) thanks to our generous sponsors: William & Sharron O'Brien and Friedman Maguire & Carey, P.C. (Greg & Paula Friedma

The evening of March 17th the show will be open intil 8 pm and you may also visit our booth and artists at the Morada Art Walk in the village of Islamorada.



This project is sponsored in part by the Florida Keys Council of the Arts, the State of Florida, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, the National Endowment for the Arts, and private donations.

March 10 - 13 March 17 - 20 10 am. - 5 pm daily Location: The Islander Resort Mile Marker 82.1 Islamorada, Florida



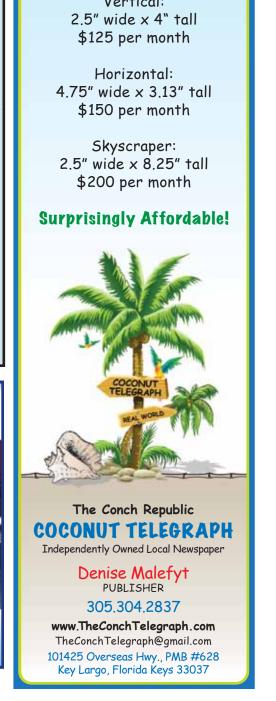
The mission of the Art Guild of the Purple Isles is to foster camaraderie, support and encourage visual artists with educational activities and venues for exhibiting their work and to develop a public awareness and appreciation of the visual arts

To learn more about us, please visit: www.artguildofthepurpleisles.com



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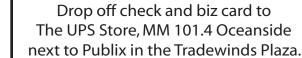
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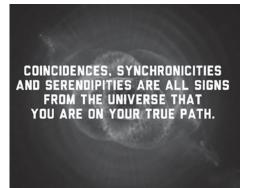


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### Sians Universal Messages

The universe is always offering us signs to help us, we just need to slow down and pay attention.



The universe can often relay messages to us through signs. Often, we are too busy to stop and consider what may or may not be a sign. We may ask the universe for guidance, yet fail to recognize the sign it sends us in response.

Learning the subtle language of signs can help you interpret the guidance the universe sends your way. We all have been blessed with a connection that allows the universe to communicate directly with us.

To be able to understand the information relayed over that connection, however, it is necessary that we learn to pay attention and know what to look for.

To see and correctly interpret a sign, you must open your heart and mind to the universe and invite its guidance into your life.

Many of us are blind to the signs we receive because we expect angels or our spirit guides to speak to us in a booming voice and tell us exactly what we need to hear. But signs are usually of this earth and therefore easier to encounter. A song lodged in

your mind or a number that seems to pop up everywhere you look after you've asked the universe for guidance can both be signs.

Signs may come through the animal world, from strangers, or jump out of a book in the form of an insightful passage. A sign may be a direct answer to one of your questions.

Other signs may point you in the right direction, warn of impending difficulties, or show you a different way. If you want the universe to send you a sign, tell it that you are ready and willing to accept its guidance.

Not everything you hear or see will be a sign. If you are receptive and patient, however, the signs you receive will become easier to recognize. It is important to listen to your intuition.

A sign can mean many things to different people, and only you can decipher a sign's meaning is for you. As you practice reading the signs and following their guidance, the universe will send more of them your way.

> you can ask the universe for all the signs you want, but ultimately, we see what we want to see when we're ready to see it.

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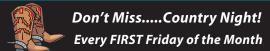
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