

### Coconut Telegraph

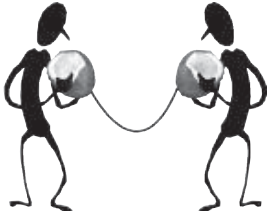
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Key Largo, Florida Keys 33037

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## Editorial: Mr. Gumby

A few months ago Chad Lyons and a few of his friends stopped by the American Legion with a pit bull mix dog. Dogs are allowed in the outside parking lot area. The dog had a leash but was not being restrained by Lyons.

The Legion was adopted by a stray cat. The members took the cat to a veterinarian who informed them that the cat was about 4 years old (even though he is the size of a kitten) he had been neutered (notch in the ear) and he has no teeth, therefore he was aptly named "Gumby."

Gumby is the sweetest, mellow, little orange tabby cat and everyone who meets him falls in love with him. Gumby was visiting the Legion that day, and Chad Lyons' dog viciously attacked him.

The dog severely mauled Gumby before anyone could pry him from the jaws of the pit bull. Those who witnessed the mauling were devastated. Gumby had dragged his little legs behind him and hid under a shed for several days. Legion members threw Lyons out and barred him for life.

When I arrived there, members were crying and frantically trying to find Gumby. Just then a car drove up and Chad Lyons yelled out the window "I hope your cat dies!"

On Facebook, Lyons and his friends claimed that Gumby had attacked the dog! I heard from a very good source that the pit

bull had attacked an animal in Broward County, and the owner brought it to the Keys for Lyons to hide it because the police were looking for it there. Since it attacked Gumby, it has attacked two dogs, a german shepherd, and most recently a little poodle that was on a leash being walked by its owner at Founders Park in Islamorada, where the dog's owners live on a boat. The poodle was severely injured but is recovering.

Both the owner of the poodle and Chad Lyons called Animal Control to pick up the dog because Lyons was at work. When Marsha Garritson picked up the pit bull, she found it had been kept outside in the heat. The pit bull is now under a 10-day

quarantine in air conditioning, enjoying a comfortable bed, awaiting a court date for Judge Hamilton to decide if Chad Lyons gets the dog back or not.

The problem is not so much that the pit bull is an aggressive animal, as much as it is that Chad Lyons is not a mature or responsible pet owner. My sources say he took to Facebook and blamed the Humane Society for doing their job. My sources did not want to be named for fear of retribution from Chad Lyons, who has a rap sheet for violence.

The good news? Mr. Gumby has recovered, thanks to the loving care of Legion members and friends. There is a jar for donations for cat food inside the Post.

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Telegraph assumes in good faith that all editorial and advertising material submitted are the original property of the advertiser. The Coconut Telegraph may not be held responsible for errors, omissions, or for circumstances beyond our control that may affect the distribution schedule.

## Registration Open for 19th Annual Take Stock in Children Backcountry Challenge, Sept. 28-30

Only 70 spots are available in the Rotary Club of Key Largo's fishing tournament, with fees this year still a bargain at only \$125 per angler, \$60 for kids, and \$30 for kids 12 and under.

Registration includes an awards banquet catered by Doc's Diner; a performance, moisture-wicking t-shirt; a Friday night captain's party with appetizers, and the opportunity to win unique trophies created by artist David Wirth for the largest redfish, snook and trout caught during the weekend.

If you're not a backcountry a-"fish"-cionado, you can show your support by buying a \$45.00 ticket to the awards party with dinner and one of the most impressive silent auction offerings in the Upper Keys. The event will be held on Sunday, September 30 at 6 pm at the Elks Club in Tavernier.

Tournament proceeds support vocational scholarships for Upper Keys residents of all ages, and Take Stock in Children scholarships for financially-challenged, college-bound Upper Keys youth. The Florida legislature doubles every dollar donated (so a \$500 donation becomes \$1,000 in scholarship money).

Visit the website at [www.backcountrychallenge.com](http://www.backcountrychallenge.com) to register. A limited number of sponsorships are available; contact Dennis Caltagione at 305-331-0525.



About Rotary Club of Key Largo: Established in 1990, the Rotary Club of Key Largo celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2015. Its 50 members are current or retired business and professional leaders interested in providing service to the Upper Florida Keys and support worldwide projects including a united campaign for the global eradication of polio. The Key Largo chapter is one of more than 34,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries, connecting 1.2 million members. The club meets at Playa Largo Resort & Spa every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. Learn more at [www.keylargorotary.org](http://www.keylargorotary.org).



Artist David Wirth with a trophy.

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