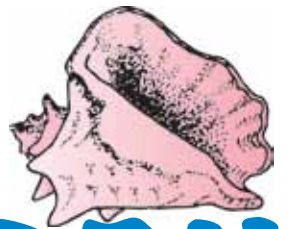


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Conch Characters

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The Mangrove Galley

Happy
Valentine's
Day



Lorelee Carpenter looks at sunset through a crystal ball. Photo taken at Playa Largo by Denzel Fiegelson.



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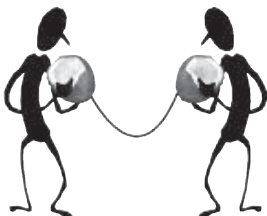
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Our new Favorite Letter from a Reader

Warmest regards to my favorite Keys publication,

Ur jokes in the New Years publication are possibly the most witty ones ever in my decade here. The root beer joke particularly ticked my fancy. I lost my fridge magnets in the storm (30 years of travel). Furniture is easy to replace. Not magnets. They mean more!

I thought I'd take that long to collect more magnets, but now I'm gonna run over to Latitude 25 and buy a few... so I can "fridge love" some of these gems. Thanks. Keep up the good work. Visit islamorada more. We all read you. Not just Key Largo. Laughter is certainly therapeutic. Much appreciation.

Angela
Bartender, Kaiyo
(formerly Old Tavernier)



The Blues Brothers Soul Band
February 10, 2018
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6PM ~ 10PM
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It is so good to see our old friends every year. This year many of them arrived in their shorts, flip flops and sunglasses to find those of us who live here year round bundled up in our hooded down jackets and scarfs, still shivering in the 50 degree cold snap that lasted about a week. We'd sit at the tiki bar with our teeth chitter chattering while holding on to a frozen mug of beer with gloved hands all the while apologizing for the weather. Just then, wouldn't you know it, a tourist inquires about a wave runner rental. One of us stutters "Go-o-od-d God, m-m-m-man! There is a small craft advisory out there and I even have white caps in my to-to-to-toilet!" The next day the sun is shining and it is back to 78

degrees, water sports are in full swing, people are fish-ing and swimming and Life is Good!

What in tarnation is up with Pennecamp Coral Reef State Park? It has been 5 months since hurricane Irma and trash is still piled up in front of it! Why won't they haul away their yard rub-bish?

Don't waste your money paying their entrance fee when you can snorkel and dive with one of the thou-sands of privately owned companies up and down the Keys that take pride in their businesses.

Would you trust the safety of your family to a state park who won't even clean up their mess?

**I SURVIVED FLORIDA'S
WEEK OF WINTER**


1/1/2018 - 1/7/2018
Thanks Loralene Carpenter

Disclaimer

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Letter to the Editor:

A friend of mine recently visited Key Largo. She included your newspaper in my Christmas present package. OMG OMG. You are too cool. Just wanted to give you a big shout out and say thank you for such great hometown journalism. I bookmarked you and look forward to many more issues. Thanks so much for giving me back the "home" feeling... it's been a long time. Ya'll are so heartfelt. Makes me all cuddly up here in N Florida. (Born and raised Floridian originally from Miami.) Take good care. A very Happy New Year to you and yours. Keep up the great job! I'm sure you don't realize how many peeps you actually touch.

Susan Loffredo

Thank you Susan!

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SATURDAYS THIS MONTH:

 Saturday, Feb. 3 UNCLE SMOKEY 1-5 PM	 Saturday, Feb. 3 SHANE DUNCAN BAND 7-11 PM	 Saturday, Feb. 10 STATIC 1-5 PM
 Saturday, Feb. 10 TIGHT BAND NEW FROM MIAMI 7-11 PM	 Saturday, Feb. 17 NASH CAREY 1-5 PM	 Saturday, Feb. 17 CHAIN REACTION JORNEY TRIBUTE 7-11 PM
 Saturday, Feb. 24 THE STONE CRABS 1-5 PM	 Saturday, Feb. 24 TRIP MACHINE 7-11 PM	 MICHAEL TRIXX IS BACK! 8pm • SATURDAYS

LIVE MUSIC Friday Nights

Feb. 16 "Sugar Your Rum" Mermaid Party
See Facebook for details

PRIME RIB Friday & Saturday Nights

The Blackwater Siren
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The Fabulous Food of Chef Lolo!

Restaurant & Tiki Bar
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HAPPY HOUR
3-6pm Monday-Friday
Beer Starting at \$2
\$3.50 Well Drinks & House Wine
20% All Other Regular Priced Drinks*
Food Specials Starting at \$6 (dine in only)
Happy Hour Extended for Locals to 7pm in the Tiki

"Love the Locals" 10% Discount
on Regular Priced Food & Drink*
*Some restrictions apply

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Parties, Showers, Rehearsal Dinners, Birthdays, Anniversaries for 20-60+ people
No charge for venue with minimum purchase. Call for details & available dates.

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\$5 off a \$50 purchase OR
\$10 off a \$100 purchase
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Evil Love Poem

Love may be beautiful, love may be bliss.
But I only slept with you because I was pissed.

I thought that I could love no other.
Until, that is, I met your brother.

Roses are red, violets are blue,
sugar is sweet and so are you.

But the roses are wilting, the violets are dead,
the sugar bowl's empty and so is your head.

Of loving beauty you float with grace.
If only you could hide your face.

Kind, intelligent, loving and hot.
This describes everything you are not.

I want to feel your sweet embrace.
But don't take that paper bag off your face.

I love your smile, your face, and your eyes.
Damn, I'm good at telling lies!

My darling, my lover, my beautiful wife:
Marrying you screwed up my life.

I see your face when I am dreaming.
That's why I always wake up screaming.

My love, you take my breath away.
Just what have you stepped in to smell this way?

My feelings for you no words can tell.
Except for maybe "go to hell."

What inspired this amorous rhyme?
Two parts vodka, one part lime.

Undiscovered Gem In The Redland

Just two miles down the street from famous Knaus Berry Farm lies a delicious alternative with short lines. Phil's Berry Farm not only offers some of the best shakes in town, but a scrumptious cinnamon pastry called Monkey Bread, all housed inside a red barn that is adorned with a life-size fiberglass cow.

Owner, Farmer Phil and his wife Patty created Phil's Berry Farm for family entertainment that caters to those not wanting to wait in line, with kids, down the road. Outside is a collection of real animals for the enjoyment of all ages.

There is no entrance fee and use of toys and games is gratis. And now, under construction, is "MOOTOWN," a western village for photo shoots.



Phil's Berry Farm is a happy place for birthday parties and educational farm tours, and now they are expanding to include baby showers, quinceañeros parties and an affordable alternative for weddings.

Become part of their upcoming Wedding Expo scheduled for March 4th. Reserve your spot by email: philsberrymfarm@gmail.com Make sure to visit their website online at philsberrymfarm.com.

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Barn venue with a hint of Rustic Elegance

~ Meet our Staff ~ Venue Tour ~
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Pre-register for this FREE event
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philsberrymfarm@gmail.com

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Michelle: 786-545-9784

The 2017 Darwin Awards are out...

It's that magical time of the year again, when the Darwin Awards are bestowed, honoring the least evolved among us.

Here is the winner:

When his .38 caliber revolver failed to fire at his intended victim during a hold-up in Long Beach, California, would-be robber James Elliot did something that can only inspire wonder. He peered down the barrel and tried the trigger again. This time it worked.

Honorable mentions:

The chef at a hotel in Switzerland lost a finger in a meat cutting machine and after a little shopping around, submitted a claim to his insurance company. The company expecting negligence sent out one of its men to have a look for himself. He tried the machine and he also lost a finger! The chef's claim was approved.

A man who shoveled snow for an hour to clear a space for his car during a blizzard in Chicago returned with his vehicle to find a woman had taken the space. Understandably, he shot her.

After stopping for drinks at an illegal bar, a Zimbabwean bus driver found that the 20 mental patients he was supposed to be transporting from Harare to Bulawayo had escaped. Not wanting to admit his incompetence, the driver went to a nearby bus stop and offered everyone waiting there a free ride.

He then delivered the passengers to the mental hospital, telling the staff that the patients were very excitable and prone to bizarre fantasies. The deception wasn't discovered for 3 days.

An American teenager was in the hospital recovering from serious head wounds received from an oncoming train. When asked how he received the injuries, the lad told police that he was simply trying to see how close he could get his head to a moving train before he was hit.

A man walked into a Louisiana Circle-K, put a \$20 bill on the counter, and asked for change. When the clerk opened the cash drawer, the man pulled a gun and

asked for all the cash in the register, which the clerk promptly provided. The man took the cash from the clerk and fled, leaving the \$20 bill on the counter. The total amount of cash he got from the drawer. \$15. (If someone points a gun at you and you net \$5, is a crime committed?)

Seems an Arkansas man wanted some beer pretty badly. He decided that he'd just throw a cinder block through a liquor store window, grab some booze, and run. So he lifted the cinder block and heaved it over his head at the window. The cinder block bounced back and hit the would-be thief on the head, knocking him unconscious. The liquor store window was made of Plexiglas. The whole event was caught on video.

As a female shopper exited a New York convenience store, a man grabbed her purse and ran. The clerk called 911 immediately, and the woman was able to give them a detailed description of the snatcher. Within minutes, the police apprehended the snatcher. They put him in the car and drove back to the store. The thief was then taken out of the car and told to stand there for a positive ID. To which he replied, Yes, officer, that's her. That's the lady I stole the purse from.

The Ann Arbor News crime column reported that a man walked into a Burger King in Ypsilanti, Michigan at 5 A.M., flashed a gun, and demanded cash. The clerk turned him down because he said he couldn't open the cash register without a food order. When the man ordered onion rings, the clerk said they weren't available for breakfast... The frustrated gunman walked away.

When a man attempted to siphon gasoline from a motor home parked on a Seattle street by sucking on a hose, he got much more than he bargained for. Police arrived at the scene to find a very sick man curled up next to a motor home near spilled

sewage. A police spokesman said that the man admitted to trying to steal gasoline, but he plugged his siphon hose into the motor home's sewage tank by mistake. The owner of the vehicle declined to press charges saying that it was the best laugh he'd ever had and the guy had been punished enough!

MOST RECENT ADDITION:

He should have kept his hands on the wheel. Referred to as a "distracted driver," Clifford Ray Jones, 58, lost his life early Sunday morning when he rolled his Toyota while driving on the on ramp to I75.

It was not traffic he was trying to beat. Driving onto the expressway without pants -- without his seat belt -- with a wide-open sunroof in winter -- watching a porno flick on the mobile -- well, police as well as Darwin Awards reporters draw the obvious conclusion.

At 3:40am his vehicle went out of control, rolled, and crashed. Our hero was ejaculated through the sun roof in a spectacular climax to a good life. Come and gone at the same time, Clifford and his beloved wanky will be fondly remembered in our archives.

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38th Garden Club Of The Upper Keys Garden Walk: February 17

"Celebrate Island Gardens"



The Garden Club of the Upper Keys cordially invites everyone interested in gardening and landscape design in the Florida Keys to "Celebrate Island Gardens" in Key Largo and Tavernier during Garden Walk 2018 on Saturday, February 17, rain or shine.

Bayfront Hammock, with the best of natural natives winding along the shore and artfully designed specimen beds, is a dramatic and uplifting creation. **Sunfish Circle** celebrates a masterful design of dock, swimming pool and carefully constructed planting beds. A smooth stone cover creates a low maintenance but refined tropical serenity. **Coconut Harbor**, a pair of bay front lodgings will take more time to explore. Decades of planting and tending will bring pleasure and peace in large measure. The owner of **Artists Trail** is a prolific artist and in addition to an abundance of stag horn fern hanging from the native gumbo limbos, the artifacts intermingled give the visitor repeated joys and

surprises. **Palm Corner**, with its extra-large lot is a masterpiece with a superb collection of palms and stunning coral rock lantern posts. All five gardens are between mile markers 89 and 100.

Tours of the private gardens are self-guided between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. (last entry to gardens). Garden Club Member hosts and hostesses will be on hand to assure you see key features and answer questions.

There is also a complimentary Tea Party at the Club's historic Francis Tracy Garden Center grounds from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Enjoy the Botanical Art Show, and shop the many vendors with plants of all kinds, crafts, artisan wares, food and unique items.

Tickets are a \$25 donation (cash or check) to the Garden Club of the Upper Keys. Proceeds help support the Francis Tracy Garden Center clubhouse and surrounding garden, community beautification projects, and educational activities. Tickets are available in advance at the following locations: Key Largo Chamber of Commerce (MM 106 Bayside), Key Largo Florist and Gift Shop (MM 99.5 Oceanside), Island Home Nursery (MM 88.7 Bayside), Islamorada Chamber of Commerce (MM 87.1 Bayside) and Wild Lily Boutique (MM 81.9 Oceanside). On the day of the event tickets will also be available at all five gardens, and the Francis Tracy Garden Center (MM 94 Bayside). More info: gardenclubupperkeys.org, or gcukgardenwalk2018@gmail.com

The Garden Club of the Upper Keys is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to foster, promote, develop, protect and conserve the natural beauties of the Upper Keys through education and awareness.

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.



Marley



Rosie



Sofia



Star



Ollie



Ladybird



Jerry



Ike



Layla



H&R Block Key Largo Donates to KLS Band Program

H&R Block Key Largo recently donated \$500 to the Key Largo School Band program. The funds are intended to help with program costs associated with Hurricane Irma. Many students, faculty, and staff were affected, including KLS Band teacher Susan Bazin, who lost her home.

"We're used to hurricanes, and we're used to coming together as a community to help each other whenever one hits," says Marshall Walker of H&R Block, Key Largo.

Ms. Bazin can use the funds to help with instrument maintenance, music costs, or other student programs for the middle school band.

"You have done something nice for our school," said KLS Principal Laura Lietart. "Thank you for your generous donation to our band program."

H&R Block is located at MM 101, in Tradewinds Plaza, upstairs above Publix. They are open 9-5 weekdays and 10-4 Saturdays, or phone 305-451-2562 for an appointment.

In Memory of Ann Marie Shemanske





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Valentine's Day



It's Locals Day! Music by Luke Sommer Glenn Band!



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Taylor King Band

Every Saturday Night

13 Seagate Blvd., Key Largo, MM 99.6, 305-451-3142

www.pilothousemarina.com  fb.com/pilothousekeylargo

Grand Slam Hits Homestead

No, the World Series is not coming to Homestead! But, four major events are gracing the South Dade area. Just successfully completed is the Redland Riot Road Rallye...but gear yourself for 3 more exciting adventures. Friday, Feb. 23 marks the 55th Annual Agricultural Tour and Luncheon followed by the February 24th & 25th Stone Crab and Seafood Festival. Then, on March 4th a Wedding Expo will be held at Phil's Berry Farm.

For more information: Agricultural Tour & Luncheon: call Lize 305-248-3311, x3311. Wedding Expo: see our ad on page 6. Visit eventbrite.com use the link: "Phil's Berry Farm Weddings & Events Open House"

The Key Largo Stone Crab and Seafood Festival was such a success that the traffic backed up to the Turnpike in Florida City. For safety reasons, it had to be canceled but fear not, the Rotary Club of Homestead couldn't let it die. With much planning, the Rotary Club of Homestead, with the City of Homestead and the sponsorship of Lorenzo Ford are bringing back the crab and more with the aid of Bomnin Chevrolet and Homestead Hospital. Mark your calendar for February 24th. That's when the Homestead Sports Complex comes alive with food, drinks, crafts, entertainment, rides and more. See our ad, or check details at: homesteadseafoodfestival.com

Note: The Rotary Club of Homestead is dedicated to awarding scholarships, assisting the community and providing funds to other charitable organizations.



STONE CRAB & SEAFOOD FESTIVAL

LORENZO Ford

Sat. & Sun. Feb. 24&25

Saturday, February 24: 11:00am - 6:00pm

Sunday, February 25: 11:00am - 5:00pm

Homestead Sports Complex

1601 SE 28th Ave, Homestead (adjacent to baseball stadium, near Speedway)

Presented by Lorenzo Ford and the City of Homestead

- Huge amounts of seafood!
- Craft and Merchandise Vendors
- Full Bar
- Live Bands
- Magician
- Kids Rides
- Cooking Demonstrations
- Silent Auction
- Ample FREE Parking

Admission: \$10 ages 16 and up; FREE for ages 15 and under

Visit: www.homesteadseafoodfestival

VFW Post 10211 February Calendar of Events HOME OF THE FREEDOM CAFE! 102255 Overseas Highway, Key Largo 305-451-2120						
SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Hours: Sun - Thu: 12pm - 12am Fri - Sat: 12pm - 2am	Check Out Our New Website At www.vfw10211.org	NOW! NON-SMOKING!!! Public Welcome!!!		1 -Happy Hour 4-6 pm -Bingo 7 pm	2 -Happy Hour 4-7 pm -Live Music 6pm	3 \$1 Drafts all day -Show me the \$\$ - 7 pm -Ladies Night 7-9 pm
4 -Bingo 2-5 pm -Happy Hour 4-6 pm	5 -Happy Hour 4-6 pm -Show me the \$\$ - 6 pm	6 -Members Appreciation 1/2 off prices all day -Show me the \$\$ - 6 pm	7 -Happy Hour 4-6 pm -Show me the \$\$ - 6 pm	8 -Happy Hour 4-6 pm -Bingo 7 pm	9 -Happy Hour 4-7 pm	10 \$1 Drafts all day -Show me the \$\$ - 7 pm -Ladies Night 7-9 pm
11 -Bingo 2-5 pm -Happy Hour 4-6 pm	12 -Happy Hour 4-6 pm -Show me the \$\$ - 6 pm	13 -Members Appreciation 1/2 off prices all day -Show me the \$\$ - 6 pm	14 VALENTINE'S DAY -Happy Hour 4-6 pm -Show me the \$\$ - 6 pm -Ladies Night 8-11 pm	15 -Happy Hour 4-6 pm -Bingo 7 pm	16 -Happy Hour 4-7 pm -Live Music 6pm	17 \$1 Drafts all day -Show me the \$\$ - 7 pm -Ladies Night 7-9 pm
18 -Bingo 2-5 pm -Happy Hour 4-6 pm	19 -Happy Hour 4-6 pm -Show me the \$\$ - 6 pm	20 -Members Appreciation 1/2 off prices all day -Show me the \$\$ - 6 pm	21 -Happy Hour 4-6 pm -Show me the \$\$ - 6 pm	22 -Happy Hour 4-6 pm -Bingo 7 pm	23 -Happy Hour 4-7 pm	24 \$1 Drafts all day -Show me the \$\$ - 7 pm -Ladies Night 7-9 pm
25 -Bingo 2-5 pm -Happy Hour 4-6 pm	26 -Happy Hour 4-6 pm -Show me the \$\$ - 6 pm	27 -Members Appreciation 1/2 off prices all day -Show me the \$\$ - 6 pm	28 -Happy Hour 4-6 pm -Show me the \$\$ - 6 pm	Daily Food Specials at the Freedom Cafe!!!	Daily Specials: Sun: 6 oz Sirloin Mon: Meatloaf Tue: Tacos / Burritos	Wed: Chicken Parmesan Thu: 6 oz Sirloin Fri: Spaghetti Sat: BBQ Chicken/Ribs

IF YOU'RE GOING TO CHILL, CHILL BIG!

Valentines Day Specials

LADIES' NIGHT
Ladies' Drink FREE 6-7 PM - Tuesdays

Dinner Specials Available February 14th

HAPPY HOUR 4-7 PM Monday - Friday

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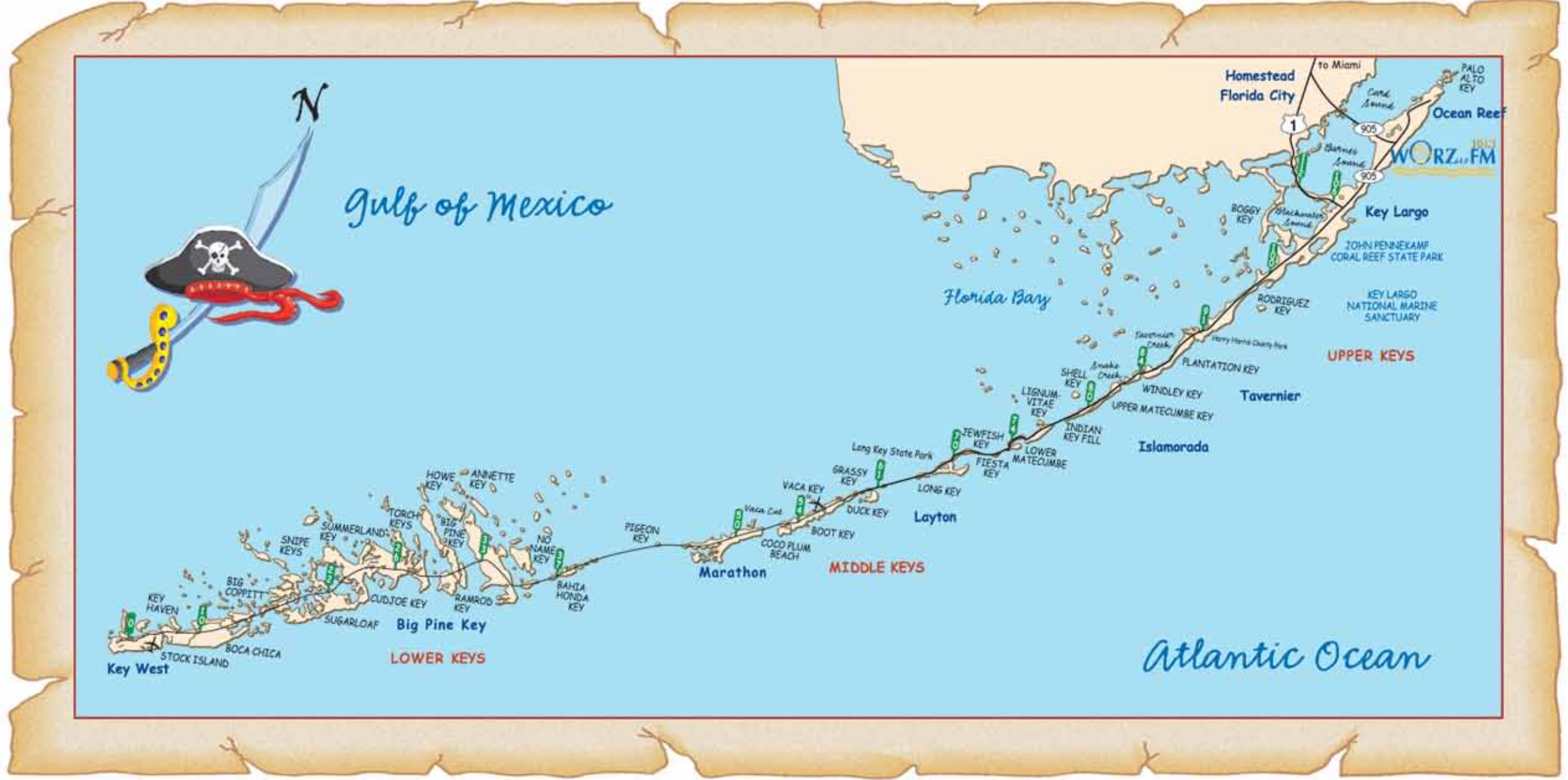
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Sounds of the Keys



New Orleans performer Jack Hinson stopped by Gilbert's for a special solo performance in January.



Shane Duncan gets caught playing the keyboard. Photo by Rob LeBrun.



Dangerous Dave. Photo by Thad Bowling.



Patrick Farinas from The Flyers played at Gilbert's Resort in December.



Lee Sharp at Pilot House.



Dr. Lou at the VFW.



Bobbe Brown belts out a tune with an audience member at Gilbert's.



Koty James and the Keybillies rockin' it at Blackwater Siren.



Marathon's "Stone Crabs" make the hike to perform at Gilbert's. See them again on February 24th. Photo by Rob LeBrun.

EXCLUSIVE TO THE COCONUT TELEGRAPH:



A picture President Lincoln took with his iPhone. It wasn't Photoshopped; there was no Photoshop back then!

Pirates on the Water 2nd Annual

DOLPHIN HOWDOWN



Save the Date!

March 24, 2018

The event will start at 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm and will be held again at the Dolphin Plus Bayside location. It benefits Dolphin Plus' Marine Mammal Responders.

Live and silent auctions, dinner, live music, raffles and more for \$30 per person in advance and \$35 at the door.

I was bitten by a Mosquito last night. I bet that little bastard is pretty hungover today.

how do you say constipated in swedish?
farfrompoopin

The Key Players
a 501(c)3 organization promoting COMMUNITY THEATER in the UPPER KEYS
presents

ORSON WELLES ORIGINAL BROADCAST

WAR OF THE WORLDS
THE RADIO SHOW

Produced, Directed and Adapted by Jonelle Kop

FEBRUARY 2018

THU	FRI	SAT	THU	SAT	SUN
8	9	10	15	17	18
EVENING	EVENING	EVENING	EVENING	EVENING	MATINEE
7:30pm	7:30pm	7:30pm	7:30pm	7:30pm	2pm

The original Orson Welles radio broadcast, plus original staged dramatization of what was happening as people believed it was real!

Produced in conjunction with
KEY LARGO
Murray E. Nelson
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Venue opens one hour prior to curtain; seating starts a half-hour prior.
Admission \$13 at the Ticket Outlets • \$15 at the Door & Online

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Key Largo Chocolates & Ice Cream MM 100.5 Bayside	Shear Paradise (Cedar Towers Plaza) MM 99.3	PostNet Store Plaza 88, Islamorada MM 88
--	--	--

More info/online tickets: www.thekeyplayers.org

Key Players Prepare for an Alien Invasion!
WAR of the WORLDS

The original Orson Welles radio broadcast, plus original staged dramatization of what was happening as people believed it was real!

A staged dramatization of the original Orson Welles & Mercury Theater on the Air broadcast. On the foggy fall evening of October 30, 1938, America went to war with Mars!! War of the Worlds was presented as a Halloween thriller, but for those who tuned in late, "normal" programming appeared to be interrupted by the startling news that

there were "explosions occurring on Planet Mars!" Reports followed stating that a "huge, flaming object" had fallen to earth on a farm near Grover's Mill, New Jersey. More landings were soon reported, and an anxious radio audience came to the frightening conclusion that Earth was the target of a full-scale invasion by aliens!!



What really happened that night? This unique Key Players production, Produced, directed and adapted by Jonelle Kop, takes you back in time and tells the story - on the radio and behind the scenes.



The Key Players cast is so large that all the names cannot be listed!



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ERRATA
CORRECTION
There was an error in the editorial column that was published last month. In the fifth paragraph, the second sentence stated that Charlie's hiccups were cured temporarily through the use of carbon monoxide. It should have read carbon dioxide.

VESSEL SAFETY
The USCG Auxiliary conducts vessel safety checks at Blackwater Sound Marina, MM 103.8 Bayside, every third Saturday of the month.
The Public is Welcome.
More info: 305-998-8400
Classified ads will not be accepted without payment.

PERSONAL

Just saw a mom driving down the road in her mini van, windows down, blaring 90's hip hop, eyerolling at a loudly whining kid... If that was you and you're reading this, call me. I have wine.
1-305-MOM-ALSO

Single male seeks double-jointed supermodel who owns a brewery and grows her own pot. Access to free concert tickets a plus, as is having open minded twin sister! Text 305-555-TWIN

FOR SALE

Very Mad Mother selling son's 1993 Ford Ranger. Drove 3 months before son forgot to use his brain and got caught driving drunk. Cheap. Call meanest mom in Tavernier.
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New Emergency Flashers - Are they Effective?


I had a flat tire on US 1 recently, at Indian Key Fill. So I pulled over, got out of the car, and opened my trunk. I took out my cardboard men, unfolded them, and stood them at the rear of my car facing oncoming traffic. They look so lifelike you wouldn't believe it! Just as I had hoped, cars started slowing down looking at the men, which made it much safer for me to work on the side of the road.



People honked and waved and it wasn't long before a police car pulled up behind me. The police officer wanted to know what the heck I was doing, so I calmly explained that I was changing my flat. He told me he could see that, but demanded to know what my cardboard men were doing standing at the rear of my car. I couldn't believe he didn't know! So I told him. "They're my Emergency Flashers!"

Ocean Life

2018 Series



The Ocean Life series brings renowned researchers and academics to the Keys to educate, entertain, and inspire audiences of all ages. Hosted by Florida International University's School of Environment, Arts and Society and the Friends of the Key Largo Cultural Center, the series features interdisciplinary experts from FIU and the Keys. This series is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Linda Kaplan at linda@fklcc.org or (305) 396-7000, or visit merc.fiu.edu. Photo by Jeffrey Cale.

Friday, January 19, 2018



Friday, February 16, 2018

Future for Coral Reef Restoration in a Time of Ecological Crisis

Mauricio Rodriguez-Lanetty, Ph.D.

6:00 p.m. Meet and Greet • 7:00 p.m. Lecture

Murray E. Nelson Government and Cultural Center
102050 Overseas Hwy. (MM 102) Key Largo, FL 33037





Tues @ Gilberts
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Thurs @ Snooks
Fri @ Gilbert's (day)
Fri @ Skippers (late)
Sat @ Skippers (day)
Sat @ TBA (late)
Sun @ TBA

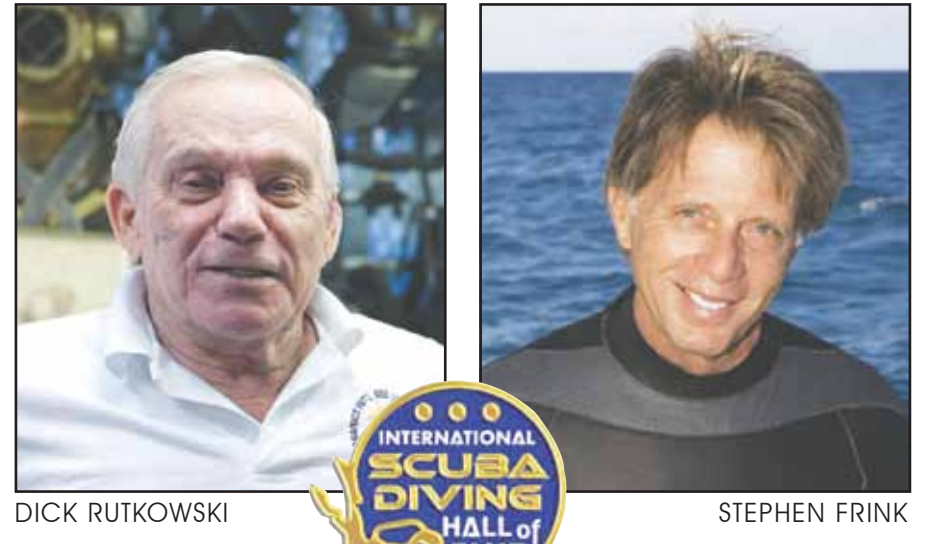
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LOCALS' FAVORITE 305-453-3153 45 Garden Cove Drive MM 106

International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame



Two accomplished residents of Key Largo have been elected into the 18th Annual Induction Ceremony of the International SCUBA Diving Hall of Fame, schedule for October 5th, 2018 in the Cayman Islands. Others elected are from France, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, and Germany, but those elected from the U.S. are Stephen Frink and Dick Rutkowski, both over 30-year residents and businesses owners in Key Largo. (Further information can be found on the International SCUBA Diving Hall of Fame website: www.ISDHF.com)

Steven Frink travels around the world as a prolific underwater photographer for magazines such as Skin Diver Magazine, and Scuba Diving Magazine. He is editor and publisher of the Alert Dive Magazine for the Divers Alert Network. His underwater photos have appeared in a multitude of ads and articles throughout the world. He is known throughout the world for his education programs teaching under-water photography, his other companies includes Seacam, for which he is the North American distributor. As one of the world's most published underwater

photographers, Steven Frink knows a thing or two about the oceans and has for over 30 years. Dick Rutkowski is a pioneer in the field of hyperbaric medicine, diving medicine and breathing gases for the treating of divers and clinical patients. His educational programs are conducted world wide and he has taught over 7800 medical experts in diving and clinical hyperbaric medicine, gases and life-support systems and the oxygen-enriched air concept called Nitrox. Rutkowski served in the Navy, enlisting in 1950 for 7 and a half years, with over 5 years in both the polar regions Antarctica and the Canadian Northwest Territories, then he spent 5 years in the Environmental Science Services Administration (ESSA), then 15 years with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Upon retiring, (having 32 years in Key Largo), he has continued to consult and teach diving and clinical hyperbaric medical programs, gases and other life-support systems for the undersea world. He still continues to do science, education, consulting and inventing.

Coco‘Nut’ Funnies



A young blonde woman was driving through the Everglades while on vacation. She wanted to take home a pair of genuine alligator shoes in the worst way, hut was very reluctant to pay the high pric-es the local vendors were asking.

After becoming very frustrated with the attitude of one of the shopkeepers, the young blonde declared, “Well then, maybe I’ll just go out and catch my own alligator and get a pair of shoes for free!”

The shopkeeper said with a sly smile, “Well, little lady, why don’t you go on and give it a try?”

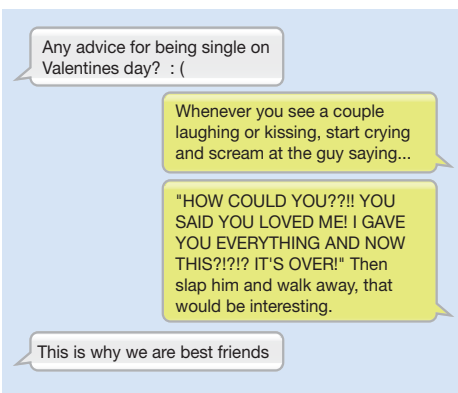
The blonde headed off to the swamp, determined to catch an alligator.

Later in the day, as the shopkeeper was driving home, he spotted the same young woman standing waist deep in the murky water, with a gun in her hand. As he brought his car to a stop, he saw a huge 9-foot gator swimming rapidly toward her. With lightning reflexes, the blonde took aim, shot the creature and hauled it up onto the slippery bank.

Nearby were 7 more dead gators, all lying belly up.

The shopkeeper stood on the bank, watching in silent amazement. The blonde struggled mightily and managed to flip the gator onto its back. Rolling her eyes heavenward, she screamed in frustration

“DAMMIT! THIS ONE’S BARE-FOOT. TOO!”



A Love Story in Winter

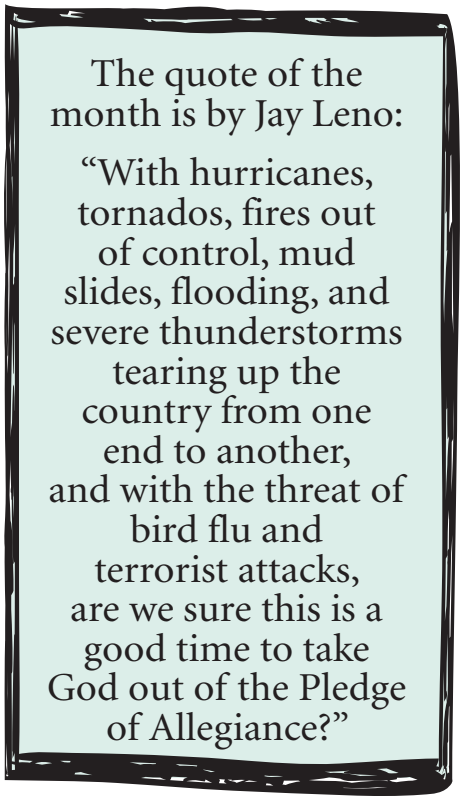
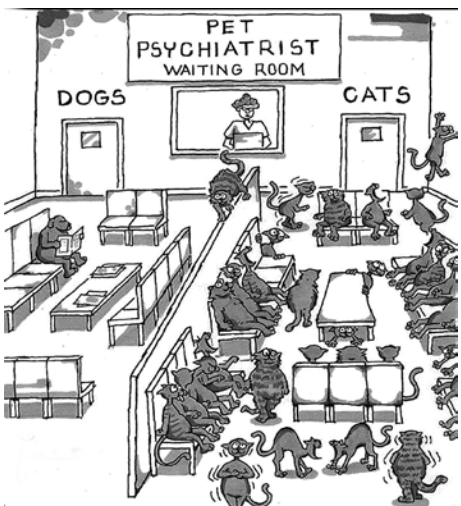
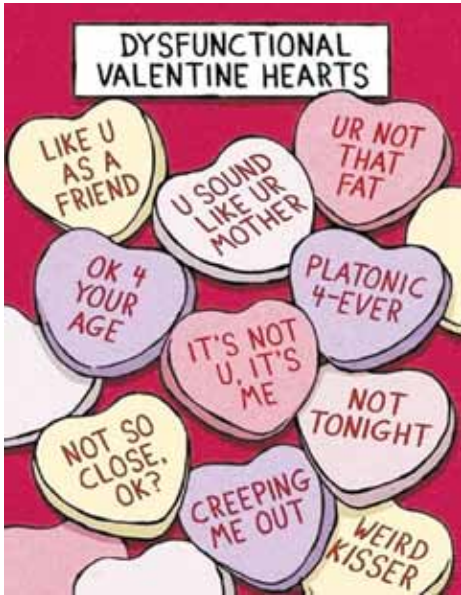
Dave and Jane lived on a cove at Glenmore Lake, Alberta. It was early winter and the lower portion of the cove had frozen over. Dave asked Jane if she would walk across the frozen part of the cove to the general store and get him some smokes and beer.

She asked him for some money, but he told her, “Nah, just put it on our tab. Old man George won’t mind.”

So Jane, being the good wife and Dave’s true love, walked across the ice, got the smokes and beer at the store and then walked back home across the cove.

When she got home with the items Jane said, “Dave, you always tell me not to run up the tab at George’s store. Why didn’t you just give me some money?”

Dave replied, “Well, Jane, I didn’t want to send you out there with cash when I wasn’t sure how thick the ice was!”



Wife texts husband on a cold winter morning:
“Windows frozen, won’t open.”
Husband texts back:“Gently pour some lukewarm water over it and then gently tap edges with hammer.”
Wife texts back 10 minutes later “Computer really messed up now.”



THE CONFESSION

Hi Bob, This is Alan next door. I have a confession to make. I’ve been riddled with guilt these past few months and have been trying to pluck up the courage to tell you to your face, but I am at least now telling you in text as I can’t live with myself a moment longer without you knowing. The truth is I have been sharing your wife, day and night when you’re not around In fact, probably more than you. I haven’t been getting it at home recently, but that’s no excuse, I know. The temptation was just too much. I can no longer live with the guilt and I hope you will accept my sincerest apologies and forgive me. It won’t happen again. Please suggest a fee for usage, and I’ll pay you.

Regards, Alan.

Bob, feeling insulted and betrayed, grabbed his gun, and shot his neighbour dead. He returned home where he immediately poured himself a stiff drink and sat down on the sofa. He then looked down at his phone where he saw that 5 minutes earlier, he’d received a second message from Alan, which he hadn’t noticed before.

Hi Bob, This is Alan next door again. Sorry about the typo on my text a minute ago. I expect you figured it out anyway, and that you noticed that my silly phone autocorrect changed ‘wi-fi’ To ‘wife’. Technology hey?

Regards, Alan.



The IRS suspected a Key Largo charter boat owner wasn’t paying proper wages to his mate and sent an agent to investigate him.

IRS AUDITOR: “I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them.”

Boat Owner: “Well, there’s Clarence, my mate, he’s been with me for 3 years. I pay him \$1,000 a week plus free room and board. Then there’s the mentally challenged guy. He works about 18 hours every day and does about 90% of the work around here. He makes about \$10 per week, pays his own room and board, and I buy him a bottle of Bacardi rum and a dozen Budweisers every Saturday night so he can cope with life. He also gets to sleep with my wife occasionally.”

IRS AUDITOR: “That’s the guy I want to talk to – the mentally challenged one.”

Boat Owner: “That would be me. What would you like to know?”

A woman stopped by, unannounced, at her son’s house. She knocked on the door then immediately walked in. She was shocked to see her daughter-in-law lying on the couch, totally naked. Soft music was playing, and the aroma of perfume filled the room. “What are you doing?!” she asked.

“I’m waiting for Mike to come home from work,” the daughter-in-law answered.

“But you’re naked!” the mother-in-law exclaimed.

“This is my love dress,” the daughter-in-law explained.

“Love dress? But you’re naked!”

“Mike loves me and wants me to wear this dress,” she explained. “It excites him to no end. Every time he sees me in this dress, he instantly becomes romantic and ravages me for hours on end. He can’t get enough of me!”

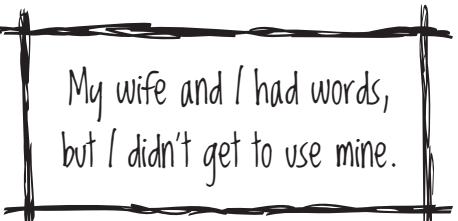
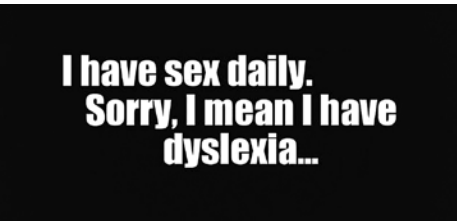
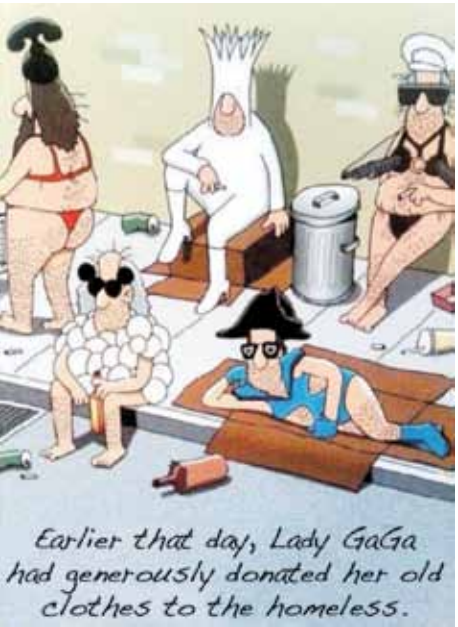
The mother-in-law, smiled, excused herself and left. When she got home, she undressed, showered, put on her best perfume, dimmed the lights, put on a romantic CD, and lay on the couch naked, waiting for her husband to arrive.

Finally, her husband came home. He walked in and saw her lying there so provocatively “What are you doing?” he asked.

“This is my love dress,” she whispered sensually.

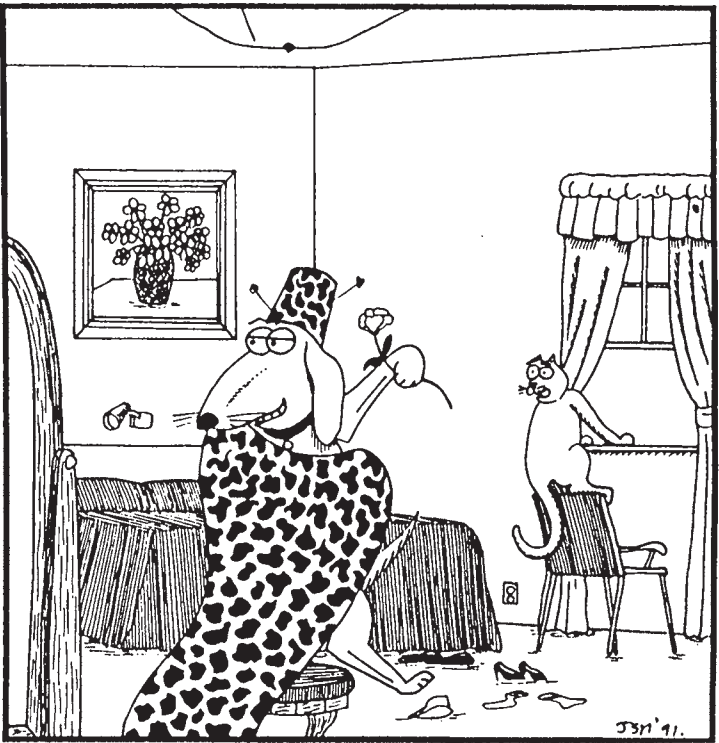
“Needs ironing,” he said. “What’s for dinner?”

He never heard the gunshot.
Thank you Trader Dick!



Left Field

by J.S. McKinna



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ON THE MAP

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Legend

- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- Boat Ramp
- Mile Marker
- Point of Interest
- Dive Site
- Dive Wreck
- Swim with Dolphins

Bayside

- Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center
- Mariners Hospital
- Harry Harris Park & Beach
- Molasses Reef
- Bibb
- Doonee

Oceanside

- John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park
- Christ Statue
- City of Washington
- North The Elbow Dry Rocks
- Caryston
- Grecian Rocks
- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
- Spiegel Grove
- Berwood
- French Reef
- Alligator

Key Largo

- Murray Nelson Government Center
- Adams Cut
- Key Largo Public Library
- African Queen Community Pool and Park
- Mosquito Bank

Legend

- U.S. Highway
- State Highway
- Boat Ramp
- Mile Marker
- Point of Interest
- Dive Site
- Dive Wreck
- Swim with Dolphins

Legend

- U.S. Highway
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Playing Mind Games

Life should not be lived through a series of mind games, but from truth and looking deep within.

For better or worse, many people have been raised to believe that communicating in an honest and open way will not get them what they want. They have learned, instead, to play mind games or go on power trips in the service of their ego's agenda. People stuck in this outmoded and inefficient style of communication can be trying at best and downright destructive at worst.

We may get caught up in thinking we have to play the same games in order to defend ourselves, but that will only lead us deeper into confusion and conflict. The best way to handle people like this is to be clear and honest with them.

As with all relationships and situations in our lives, we must look within for both the source of our difficulties and the solution. Reacting to the situation by getting upset will only entrench us more deeply in the undesirable relationship. Only by disengaging, becoming still, and going within can we begin to see what has hooked us into the

mess in the first place.

We will most likely find unprocessed emotions that we can finally fully feel and release into the stillness we find in meditation. The more we are able to do this, the less we will be bothered by the other person's dramas and the more we will be free to respond in a new way. In the light of our new awareness, the situation will untangle itself and we will slowly break free.

Whenever people come into our lives, they have come for a reason, to show us something about ourselves that we have not been able to see.

When unhealthy people try to hook us into their patterns with mind games and power trips, we can remind ourselves that we have something to learn here and that a part of us is calling out for healing. This takes the focus off the troubling individual and puts it back on us, giving us the opportunity to change the situation from the inside out.

Reprinted from DailyOM - Inspirational thoughts for a happy, healthy and fulfilling day. Register for free at www.dailyom.com

Sound Financial Advice

Sometime this year, we taxpayers will receive another 'Economic Stimulus' payment.

This is indeed a very exciting program, and our local experts (exclusive to the Coconut Telegraph) will explain it by using a Q & A format:

Q. What is an 'Economic Stimulus' payment ?
A. It is money that the federal government will send to taxpayers.

Q. Where will the government get this money ?
A. From taxpayers.

Q. So the government is giving me back my own money ?
A. Only a smidgen of it.

Q. What is the purpose of this payment ?
A. The plan is for you to use the money to purchase a high-definition TV set, thus stimulating the economy.

Q. But isn't that stimulating the economy of China ?
A. Shut up.

Here is some helpful advice on how to best help the U.S. Economy by spending your stimulus check wisely:

- If you spend the stimulus money at Wal-Mart, the money will go to China or Sri Lanka.
- If you spend it on gasoline, your money will go to the Arabs.
- If you purchase a computer, it will go to India, Taiwan, or China.
- If you purchase fruit and vegetables, it will go to Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala.
- If you buy an efficient car, it will go to Japan or Korea.
- If you purchase useless stuff, it will go to Taiwan.
- If you pay your credit cards off, or buy stock, it will go to management bonuses and they will hide it offshore.

Instead, keep the money in America by:

- Spending it at yard sales, or
- Going to ball games, or
- Spending it on prostitutes, or
- Buying beer or
- Getting tattoos.

These are the only American businesses still operating in the U.S.

Conclusion: Be a patriot! Go to a ball game with a tattooed prostitute that you met at a yard sale and drink beer all day!

Take the Shuttle!

For those arriving to the Gilbert's party fashionably late, you can park on the main access road and take the FREE air-conditioned shuttle to and from Gilbert's on Saturdays and Sundays from noon-8pm.

The Importance of Healing, More Than Moving On

by Dawn Wiggins, Ed.S.

Immediately following a community disaster, there is a camaraderie and bonding that feels good. All the normal walls of disconnection, judgment and social hierarchy come down for the greater purpose of survival and recovery. As things begin to resume normalcy, the walls go back up, separation kicks in and post-traumatic stress symptoms increase.

It is no surprise Irma left a path of visible and saddening devastation in our area. After all, we still see signs of her every day! Because we're resilient and stubborn, we keep moving forward despite our challenges.

But what about the chaos Irma triggered that isn't visible to the naked eye? The feelings of fear, anger and sadness that our community is

suffering from are very real. Do you know where to find recovery tools for the mind?

Each of us knows someone who is having a hard time emotionally after the hurricane. And, that person might be you.

Anxiety and panic, sadness, frustration, grief, exhaustion/poor sleep, and increased drug and alcohol use - these are very real symptoms of post-trauma suffering.

Earlier this month, I joined 14 other therapists from Key Largo to Key West who were trained in EMDR - a trauma recovery method. This training taught local clinicians to help Monroe County residents recover from the devastation of hurricane Irma.

Local therapists, county agencies, the Marathon Fire Department and a humanitar-

ian aid program came together to make this happen.

For some, the emotional and psychological effects of Irma left invisible scars that are hard to heal without treatment. We will continue to face the threat of another storm. Imagine what it will feel like to track the first named storm in the upcoming season. Quietly lurking symptoms will be even more present. We need your help as a community in spreading the message that trauma recovery therapy (EMDR) is part of the solution for returning to normalcy.

If you know someone who needs help... if you want to volunteer your time to the cause... if you want to continue the conversation about healing our community... contact me.



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Conch Characters



Jill and Sterling Kennedy at the VFW, toasting the new year.



A baker's dozen Key Largo Pussy Cats celebrate the anniversary of the Women's March in January.



Miguel Gonzalez from Monster and the Brian Howe band enjoys some music at Gilbert's.



Well behaved and leashed furry friends are welcomed at Gilbert's Tiki Bar.



Don Boley at the KL Conch House's booth at the Food & Wine Festival at the Islander.



Some of the Gilberts party staff wait to serve a private party on the beach.

The Mangrove Galley by Sandi Mieszczenksi

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



Valentine's Day is on a Wednesday this year and whether you go out to eat or prepare a meal at home, a homemade dessert is always a treat. Chocolate always comes to mind and this year I wanted to try something different, a dish made with white chocolate. The below recipe is a nice cool finish to a delicious meal. Try it and I think that you will enjoy it.

WHITE CHOCOLATE SOUFFLE WITH STRAWBERRIES

- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 envelope unflavored gelatin
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 cup fresh pureed strawberries (just place strawberries in a blender or food processor and puree until they turn into a liquid)
- 1 cup white chopped chocolate (using a bar of chocolate works best or you can use white chocolate chips)
- 3 eggs separated
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- Fresh sliced strawberries for a garnish

In a saucepan, combine the sugar, gelatin, water, and the pureed strawberries. Heat, stirring constantly until the mixture just comes to a boil. Add the white chocolate and stir until the chocolate is melted. Remove from the heat.

Place the three egg yolks in a bowl and lightly mix together. Stir in the hot mixture and then return to the pan. Cook 1 minute, stirring constantly. Remove from the heat and allow to cool for about 45 minutes stirring occasionally.

Meanwhile, in a large bowl beat the 3 egg whites until stiff. Fold them into the cooled mixture. Whip the cream until stiff then blend in the vanilla extract and fold into the mixture. Pour into a 1-quart casserole dish or you can make individual servings by pouring into 8 separate bowls. Place in the refrigerator and chill at least 3 hours. Serve with the sliced fresh strawberries on the top. The dessert goes well with coffee, tea, or a glass of white wine. Enjoy and happy Valentine's Day!

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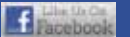
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**LEGENDARY SUNDAY FUNDAY PARTY:
Great Bands Every Sunday 1-6 pm**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT - February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Try A Gilbert's "Boobie"	SuperBowl Specials!! Feb 4th - 6:30pm - Close 50¢ Wings (Orders of 10) 50¢ Oysters (Orders of 6) \$10 pitchers of Bud Light or Miller Lite		GILBERT'S BRINGS YOU THE BEST IN SO. FLA. BANDS!	1 DJ REGGAE RONNIE 5-9	2 BOBBE BROWN 12-4 RIBS & BEER 5-9PM \$9.99 OVRHOL 7-11	3 UNCLE SMOKEY 1-5 MICHAEL TRIXX 8PM SHANE DUNCAN BAND 7-11
4 3RG MIAMI 1-6 Super Bowl	5 HAPPY HOUR 4-7PM MON-FRI	6 BOBBE BROWN 5-9	7 HARRY FRENCH 5-9	8 DJ REGGAE RONNIE 5-9	9 BOBBE BROWN 12-4 RIBS & BEER 5-9PM \$9.99 BRUJA 7-11	10 STATIC 1-5 MICHAEL TRIXX 8PM TIGHT BAND 7-11 NEW FROM MIAMI
11 MR NICE GUY 1-6	12 HAPPY HOUR 4-7PM MON-FRI	13 BOBBE BROWN 5-9	14 Valentine's Day HARRY FRENCH 5-9	15 DJ REGGAE RONNIE 5-9	16 BOBBE BROWN 12-4 RIBS & BEER 5-9PM \$9.99 UNCLE SMOKEY 7-11	17 NASH CAREY 1-5 MICHAEL TRIXX 8PM CHAIN REACTION 7-11 THE JOURNEY TRIBUTE BAND
18 MR STIX & THE SPURIENCE 1-6	19 Presidents Day MOJO SCOUNDRELS 1-6	20 BOBBE BROWN 5-9	21 HARRY FRENCH 5-9	22 DJ REGGAE RONNIE 5-9	23 BOBBE BROWN 12-4 RIBS & BEER 5-9PM \$9.99 LOOSE CANNONS 7-11	24 STONE CRABS 1-5 MICHAEL TRIXX 8PM TRIP MACHINE 7-11
25 THE REGS 1-6	26 HAPPY HOUR 4-7PM MON-FRI	27 BOBBE BROWN 5-9	28 HARRY FRENCH 5-9	HAPPY HOUR MONDAY THRU FRIDAY \$2 Bud Light & Miller Lite Drafts 1/2 off Well Drinks and \$2.30 Fireball Shots!		



3RG MIAMI
Sun. Feb. 4, 1-6pm

MR. NICE GUY
Sunday, Feb. 11
1-6 pm



**MR STIX
& THE SPURIENCE**
Sun. Feb. 18, 1-6 pm



THE REGS
Sunday, Feb. 25
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MICHAEL TRIXX
Every Saturday
8PM