

The Conch Republic COCONUT TELEGRAPH

THE COCONUT TELEGRAPH IS PROUD TO BE THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE NORTHERNMOST TERRITORIES OF THE CONCH REPUBLIC

101425 Overseas Hwy. • PMB #628 • Key Largo, FL 33037 • 305-304-2837 • www.theconchtelegraph.com • February 2020

FREE
Dining • Shopping
Lodging • Humor
Entertainment



Inside:

Attractions

Conch Artist Spotlight:
Rita Szopinski

Conch Captain Spotlight
Capt. Lorelee Carpenter

Bob Bunz - Sweet Music

What's Hot & What's Not

The Simpson Family Farm

Garden Walk is February 25th

Key Players are Working 9 to 5!

Maps

Key Largo Locator Map Page

Getting from Here to There

All the Buzz

Dawn Wiggins, Ed. S.

Coco-Nut Funnies

Conch Characters

Business in the Keys

The Mangrove Galley

Classified Ads

Snook's Bayside is a hidden-away gem of a location for waterfront dining and relaxing.



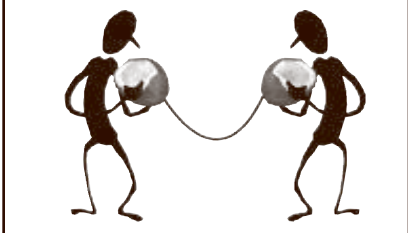
305-453-5004 • www.snooks.com • Key Largo MM 99.8 • Southbound Lane at Traffic Light & Down Our Private Drive

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Deadline
for the
Coconut Telegraph's
next issue is
Friday,
February 14, 2020

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



Florida weather this week
just throwing out temps
like it's the powerball

29, 37, 42, 48, 56, 69

To all our
northern
friends.
Your weather
is in Key
Largo.
We're going
to need you to
come and
get it, please.

HAVE YOU BEEN HIT BY A FROZEN
IGUANA FALLING FROM A FLORIDA PALM TREE?

YOU MAY BE ENTITLED
TO A SETTLEMENT.

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PRAY FOR FLORIDA

22 24 22 28 28 29 32 35

**NOTHING IS WRONG,
IT'S JUST REALLY COLD!**

For Valentine's Day

"If you ask me, you can't go wrong with this
beautiful bouquet of marijuana."

**facebook
closed**

FACEBOOK will not be accessible
February 29, 30 and 31.

PLEASE SHARE

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COCONUT TELEGRAPH
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Key Largo, Florida Keys
33037

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Remember:
Having sex on a
regular basis helps
keep your memory
alive.
I wish you all
a great 2016

THIS IS A
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

It was not meant to be,
but that's the way it
has turned out.

HOW TO WRITE GOOD:

- AVOID ALLITERATION. ALWAYS.
- PREPOSITIONS ARE NOT WORDS TO END SENTENCES WITH.
- AVOID CLICHES LIKE THE PLAGUE. (THEY'RE OLD HAT.)
- ESCHEW AMPERSANDS & ABBREVIATIONS, ETC.
- ONE SHOULD NEVER GENERALIZE.
- COMPARISONS ARE AS BAD AS CLICHES.
- BE MORE OR LESS SPECIFIC.
- SENTENCE FRAGMENTS? ELIMINATE.
- AVOID TAUTOLOGY AND SAYING THE SAME THING TWICE.
- EXAGGERATION IS A BILLION TIMES WORSE THAN UNDERSTATEMENT.
- PARENTHETICAL REMARKS (HOWEVER RELEVANT) ARE UNNECESSARY.
- A DOUBLE NEGATIVE IS A NO NO.
- WHO NEEDS RHETORICAL QUESTIONS?

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2 Steve Webb 5-9pm	3 The Carousers 5-9pm Michael Trixx @ Sunset	4 Harry French 5-9pm	5 Webb & Davidson 5-9pm Michael Trixx @ Sunset	6 Webb & Davidson 5-9pm	7 Taylor King Band 5-9pm Michael Trixx @ Sunset	8 SPECIAL EVENT "Frank & Dean" 12-3pm Spank the Band 5-9pm
9 Webb & Davidson 5-9pm	10 The Carousers 5-9pm Michael Trixx @ Sunset	11 Harry French 5-9pm	12 Webb & Davidson 5-9pm Michael Trixx @ Sunset	13 Webb & Davidson 5-9pm	14 Valentine's Day Steve Venini Band 5-9pm	15 Micah Gardner 11-3 Write Sounds 5-9pm
16 Harry French 11-3 Webb & Davidson 5-9pm	17 SPECIAL EVENT "Mark Healey" 11-3pm The Carousers 5-9pm Michael Trixx @ Sunset	18 Harry French 5-9pm	19 Webb & Davidson 5-9pm Michael Trixx @ Sunset	20 Webb & Davidson 5-9pm	21 Brothers of Others 5-9pm "SPECIAL EVENT" Michael Trixx @ Sunset	22 Mark Hill 11-3 OVRHOL 5-9pm
23 Harry French 11-3 Webb & Davidson 5-9pm	24 The Carousers 5-9pm Michael Trixx @ Sunset	25 Harry French 5-9pm	26 Webb & Davidson 5-9pm Michael Trixx @ Sunset	27 Webb & Davidson 5-9pm	28 Steve Venini Band 5-9pm Michael Trixx @ Sunset	29 Naked Pete 11-3 The Dropouts 5-9pm

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Florida Keys Farm - The Simpson Family Farm in Key Largo

From where the old Red Cross building has sat vacant for years, and all the way back to the Florida Bay, sits 6 acres of land belonging to the Simpson family and their investing partners that is the Florida Keys Farm. They hold the only wholesale farmers market license in the Keys! Just a few steps off the main highway, you take a step back in time to old Florida, before all the prime properties such as this were leveled to make way for the hundreds of sprawling hotels that now inhabit this once peaceful chain of islands.

Farming in the Keys is perhaps the second oldest profession and it dates back to the 1800s in Monroe County. The wreckers farmed the land when they couldn't be at sea.

I was enthralled when



Vicki Simpson and the goats.

OJ Simpson (not the infamous one) gave me a half-dozen, farm-fresh, free-range, organic eggs from his farm in Key Largo to try. Farm fresh eggs are healthier than store bought as they have less cholesterol. The eggs were delicious and I was able to visit the farm at MM 94 and meet the family.

OJ's son Jonathan, who runs the farm, is also a general contractor who builds pump stations throughout Florida's agricultural lands. He holds two Masters degrees, in Finance and Real Estate. Jonathan introduced me to his mother, Vicki... several pregnant Nubian goats, and a slew of friendly chickens! One of the goats was ready to deliver at any moment. When she stood up and shook her backside

we thought "Here it comes!" but it was a false alarm - just another biological function.

The family plans to use goat milk to make soap and other products. Jonathan pointed out dozens and dozens of pineapple plants, and 60 bee hives, and then rattled off a list of all the organic citrus they plan to grow in the rich soil they compost. They have great plans for the future, including turning the old Red Cross building into a Farmers Market where other locals can bring their organic fruit and vegetables to sell. They also plan to grow hemp plants.

According to the Florida Department of Agriculture, Hemp can replace plastic and has over 25,000 uses! They will also give tours of the

farm to local school children. What an asset this is to the community!

However, although they don't have any cows it seems Monroe County has a "beef" with them and is causing such a stink that the Simpsons have had to file a lawsuit to stop the harassment. Florida farms are regulated by the State of Florida, who is behind the family 100%.

In the lower Keys the Townsend Farms have two locations, the primary farm is located at 1605 N. Roosevelt Blvd in Key West and the other at 3180 US 1 at Baby's Coffee. A private farmer in Islamorada has a commercial citrus grove across the street from Founders Park, and in Big Pine Key there is an old tropical fruit Grove called Grimal Grove. Why shouldn't we have one here?



Jonathan Simpson



O.J. Simpson (not that one!)



The old Red Cross building, future site of a Farmer's Market.

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SATURDAYS THIS MONTH:

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 Sat., Feb. 15 SPUNK THE BAND 1-5 PM	 Sat., Feb. 15 SHADOW CREEK 7-11 PM	 Sat., Feb. 22 SOUTHERN STAMPEDE 1-5 PM	 Sat., Feb. 22 MAINSTREET 7-11 PM
 Sat. Feb. 29 CAT DADDIES 1-5 PM	 Sat. Feb. 29 MOJO SCOUNDRELS 7-11 PM	Most Saturdays MICHAEL TRIXX 8 pm show	

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Hyperbarics international Needs Your Help

Hyperbarics international needs your help to continue treatments, research and educational activities. In 45 years with Hyperbarics International, Dick Rutkowski has been treating and teaching all levels of diving and clinical medical personnel their continuing education credits. He has treated over 1200 patients including veterans, many with no income or insurance, many needing multiple treatments.

Running a free-standing clinic, Dick has noticed many patients improvement with Hyperbaric Oxygen (HBO) and Isobaric High Pressure Surface Oxygen for approved and non-approved indications (no insurance).

In addition to treatments and teaching, Dick continues to study and conduct research in the following focused areas: physiology of existing HBO treatments and treatment tables, Isobaric Surface Oxygen Therapy, Traumatic Brain injuries, and all other dysfunctional brain injuries, as well as leukemia, lymphoma, and

other forms of cancer.

Research is also needed for the misuse of medical antibiotics, for animal injuries, toxins, infections, diseases, health concerns of humans with animals aboard aircraft, restaurants, etc. Published papers are available for most of these subjects.

100% of donations made to this campaign will contribute directly to Dick Rutkowski and Hyperbarics International to provide Hyperbarics Therapy sessions and education at no cost to those who are in need. This has been ongoing on for 45 years, but your help is needed to continue.

GOOGLE: gofundme Dick Rutkowski



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GARDEN CLUB OF THE UPPER KEYS MONTHLY MEETING
THE IMPORTANCE OF HONEYBEES
Tuesday Feb. 18, 6:30 pm
at Francis Tracy Garden Center 94040 Overseas Hwy. (MM 94 bayside)
Guest Speaker: John David, Founder of Keez Beez
He will focus on the role of honeybees as major pollinators, their history, their effects on our environment, and what goes on inside a bee hive on a daily basis.
Our meetings, workshops and special events provide education and information on the fun of gardening in the Keys. Come grow with us! All are welcome.
gardenclubupperkeys.org GardenClubUpperKeys@gmail.com

ReTirement!

Question: How many days in a week?
Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

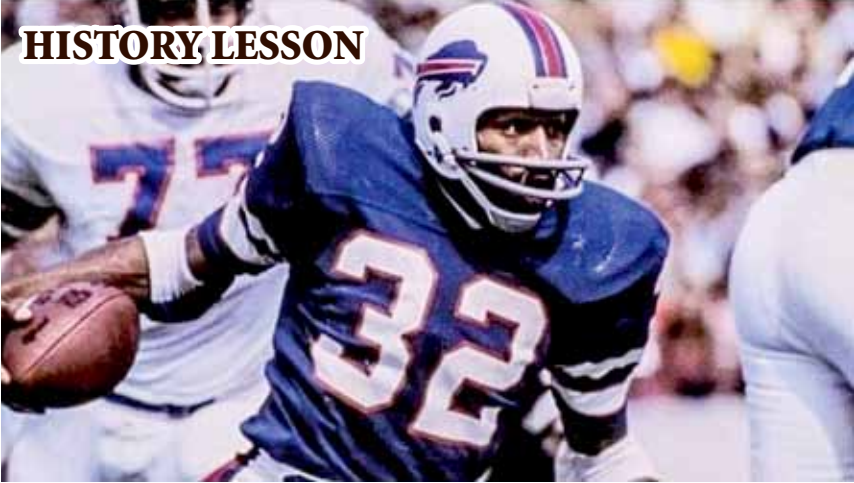
Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?
Answer: Two hours after falling asleep on the couch.

Question: How many retirees does it take to change a light bulb?
Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.

Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?
Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.

Question: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?
Answer: The term comes with a 10% discount.

Question: Among retirees, what is considered formal attire?
Answer: Tied shoes.



HISTORY LESSON

The Buffalo Bills barely lost a game in 1970 by missing on a bad pass for a touchdown. The loss allowed them to get the first pick in the draft, where they took O.J. Simpson.

O.J. lived in Buffalo where he met his wife Nicole. Later, in L.A., he allegedly killed her. He then hired Robert Kardashian to be his lawyer, and they won the case, making the Kardashian family somewhat famous. Then Kim drops the sex tape and becomes really famous.

So basically the 1970 Buffalo Bills are the reason we have to deal with the Kardashians today. If they would have won that one game, they wouldn't have had the pick to get O.J., so he would have never met Nicole, and thus never had the chance to kill her, preventing the entire Kardashian family from ever being even a sliver of a subject in modern culture.

Damn you Buffalo Bills.
Damn you.

How I'm Protecting My Keys Home in 2020

Took down our Rebel flag and peeled the NRA sticker off the front door. We've disconnected our home alarm system and quit our candy-ass Neighborhood Watch.

Bought two Pakistani flags on eBay and raised them in the front yard, one at each corner, plus a black flag of ISIS in the center. Now, the local police, sheriff, FBI, CIA, NSA, Homeland Security, Secret Service and other agencies are all watching the house 24/7. I've never felt safer and we're saving \$49.95 a month.

Spotlight on Entertainer of the Month: Bob Bunz

by Marilee Free



Long-time local karaoke legend Bob Bunz with his band the Funkin' Soul Rock Revue can be seen wowing the crowds at various fundraisers and events. The Revue consists of Arno Lamb ripping lead guitar, Jon Henderson playing rhythm guitar, Dale Henderson thumbs the Bass, Pete Baldwin serenading on sax and keys, and Angel banging on the drums. Bob always sparkles and shines with glittery outfits and shoes that light up. His amazing voice and Motown style gets the crowds up and dancing with high

energy. His band recently performed at the Ralphie Smith Bra Walk Strides Against Cancer event at the Caribbean Club. He



Cakes for all occasions.



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does special events, private parties and charity functions often with the 'FSR Revue.' To book an event call 305-664-1030.

You can catch Bob doing his Karaoke show at the Elks Lodge in Tavernier one Friday every month. "There is nothing more exhilarating than the feeling I get from the crowds, when the energy I give performing comes back." Bob has a magic ability to make people move and groove, and he loves it.

Bob's older brother John was his biggest motivation to sing growing up.



Bob Bunz with the band (L-R): Jon Henderson, Arno Lamb, Bob Bunz, Dale Henderson and John Baxter, who often plays with the band.

John was a self-taught musical prodigy, he had an amazing voice and could play any instrument he picked up. Not to be overshadowed by his big brother, Bob started singing at age 12 with the church men's groups. He was mentored by two friends, Ruben and Randy, when they realized his talented abilities and ease of range from baritone to falsetto.

When I first met Bob in 1996, we were both karaoke hosts at Woody's in the pre-strip club days. We were competing in a contest for Aretha Franklin concert tickets and a limo ride to the show. Bob showed up dressed as Aretha and sang 'Never Loved a Man' and brought the house down. Needless to say, I didn't win that contest! That left a lasting impression and started our 20+ year friendship.

Bob moved to the Keys from Philadelphia in 1992, shortly after Hurricane Andrew had blown through. As he was driving through the devastation, he remembers thinking, "What did I get myself into?" But it all worked out well. He first worked as Head Baker at Ocean Reef, then for the bakery at Publix in Key Largo and Key West.

His dream of owning a restaurant came true soon after that, when he took over the Islamorada Restaurant and Bakery, which is now called Bob's Bunz.

With his culinary degrees and apprenticeships from Longwood Gardens and Hotel on Top of Bellevue in Philadelphia, he was on his way to creating artistic delights that satisfy every palate.

Bob's Bunz Restaurant and Bakery is open 7 days a week from 6am - 2pm for breakfast and lunch, serving home-style comfort food that combines the Keys with Philly flare. In the bakery, he decorates amazing wedding cakes and makes mouth-watering home-made pastries. His most famous creations are his cinnamon and sticky buns.



Bob and his Bunz!

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THURSDAY Thirsty Thursdays

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SUNDAY 11am-2pm Brunch & NFL Sunday 17 Flatscreen TVs

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Bar Menu
Daily Specials

The 16 Commandments of Growing Old

- #1 - Talk to yourself, because there are times you need expert advice.

#2 - Consider "In Style" to be the clothes that still fit.

#3 - You don't need anger management. You need people to stop pissing you off.

#4 - Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.

#5 - The biggest lie you tell yourself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."

#6 - You have days when your life is just one tent away from a circus.

#7 - These days, "on time" is when you get there.

#8 - Even duct tape can't fix stupid - but it sure does muffle the sound.
- #9 - Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller ?

#10 - Lately, you've noticed people your age are so much older than you.

#11 - "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering why you're there.

#12 - When you were a child, you thought nap time was punishment. Now it feels like a mini vacation.

#13 - Some days you have no idea what you're doing out of bed.

#14 - You thought growing old would take longer.

#15 - Aging sure has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.

#16 - You still haven't learned to act your age, and with luck you never will.

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IS LIKE BEING IN A DARK ROOM
AND LOOKING FOR A BLACK CAT

METAPHYSICS
IS LIKE BEING IN A DARK ROOM AND
LOOKING FOR A BLACK CAT THAT ISN'T THERE

THEOLOGY
IS LIKE BEING IN A DARK ROOM AND
LOOKING FOR A BLACK CAT THAT ISN'T THERE
AND SHOUTING I FOUND IT!

SCIENCE
IS LIKE BEING IN A DARK ROOM AND
LOOKING FOR A BLACK CAT USING A FLASHLIGHT



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.

Conch Artist Spotlight On...

Rita Szopinski:
Every Picture Tells a Story

by Marilee Free



Rita Szopinski paints watercolor likenesses with heart and soul. With her intense color and robust story behind every creation, it's not surprising she has won coveted awards from the Florida, Miami, and Gold Coast Watercolor Societies. Her spirit shines in her expression of people, nature scenes and real-life images of Keys scenes and pictures taken while traveling. I thought one must be a photograph, it was a watercolor of Park Ranger Shep. He's climbing to retrieve a flag torn from the 'Spirit of Pennecamp' glass bottom boat, that had blown into a tree with salt-sprayed, broken, branches, barren of leaves after Hurricane Irma. It grabbed me, I stopped, and admired the bravery portrayed. Resilience in a time where the Keys might have taken a tough blow, but the determination to rebuild shined through. #Keysstrong

With her new-found passion for painting Rita discovered in 2007, she used the expression of watercolors to stay strong and beat the obstacles in life. Through her hard work and dedication, she was named the President of the Florida Watercolor Society in 2017. Currently, she is Communications Director for FWS and helps



Rita and her husband, Ranger Dan.

to organize the Annual Art Convention. She sends email blasts and prepares the quarterly newsletters. I perused a FWS art catalog, very impressive, beginning with a quote from Vincent Van Gogh, "I Dream of Painting" on the front leaflet, "and I Paint My Dream," on the back. The art between those pages was full of color, imagination and brilliance. The Florida Watercolor Society's annual event for 2020 is in St. Petersburg. For more details go to floridawatercolorsociety.org.

BJ Royster and Rita are teaming up to paint sea creatures on a mural that can be seen at John Pennecamp



State Park. She displays some of her masterpieces at the Coconut Grove Art Gallery.

Dearborn, Michigan is where Rita grew up. Her father was in the auto industry. We share an admiration for Henry Ford. After she graduated, she began working at Detroit Metro Airport in ground service (she's tough, brrrr!) and customer service. Opting for warmer winters, she moved to Miami in 1981, and later to Ft. Lauderdale. She met her husband, Dan in the airport industry. They have lived in the Keys for over four years. Rita is a most recently a retired dental hygienist.

This September is Rita and Dan's 39th wedding anniversary. Cheers to your love and dedication! Ranger Dan is a featured musician at the Legion 333's Thursday Jam Night. He protects and patrols the parks by day, and we thank him. Their two grown sons are living in the Los Angeles area. The youngest, Alex, got Dan's musical gene and Rita's eye



for art. He is a 3D Environmental Artist in the gaming and movie industries and paints with acrylics. Their eldest, Sean, is the rocket scientist with a degree in Aerospace. He is a lead game designer at a top gaming company. With his wife, Erin, and their 4-year old son, James, they keep Rita and Dan busy traveling to the west coast often to visit their family.



Spirit of Pennecamp

Some of Rita's natural ability to paint stems from her uncle, a professional artist. But her true-life changing inspiration came when she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2006. She credits Gene Wilder for creating Gilda's Club, a worldwide support group with a center in South Florida. Gene created cancer awareness and support centers in memory of Gilda Radner's fight with cancer. Gilda's Club offers support to anyone whose life cancer affects. Rita's therapy was painting, and with her paintbrush, the support from a loving husband, family, friends, her doctors, and Gilda's Club, she is a survivor.

WHO WE ARE

The Elks are a national fraternal order with nearly a million members and a 141-year history, comprised of a network of nearly 2000 lodges in communities all over the country.

In addition, the organization is a generous charitable foundation that each year gives millions in scholarships, an inspiration to youth, a friend to veterans and more.

WHERE WE ARE

Located in the heart of Tavernier, the local Lodge is a wonderful facility for Elks and friends to socialize, hold events and otherwise give back to the community.

MM 92.6 Bayside • Tavernier
Open 3-10pm Daily • 305-852-1872

There's always something going on at the Tavernier Elks Club!
CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION
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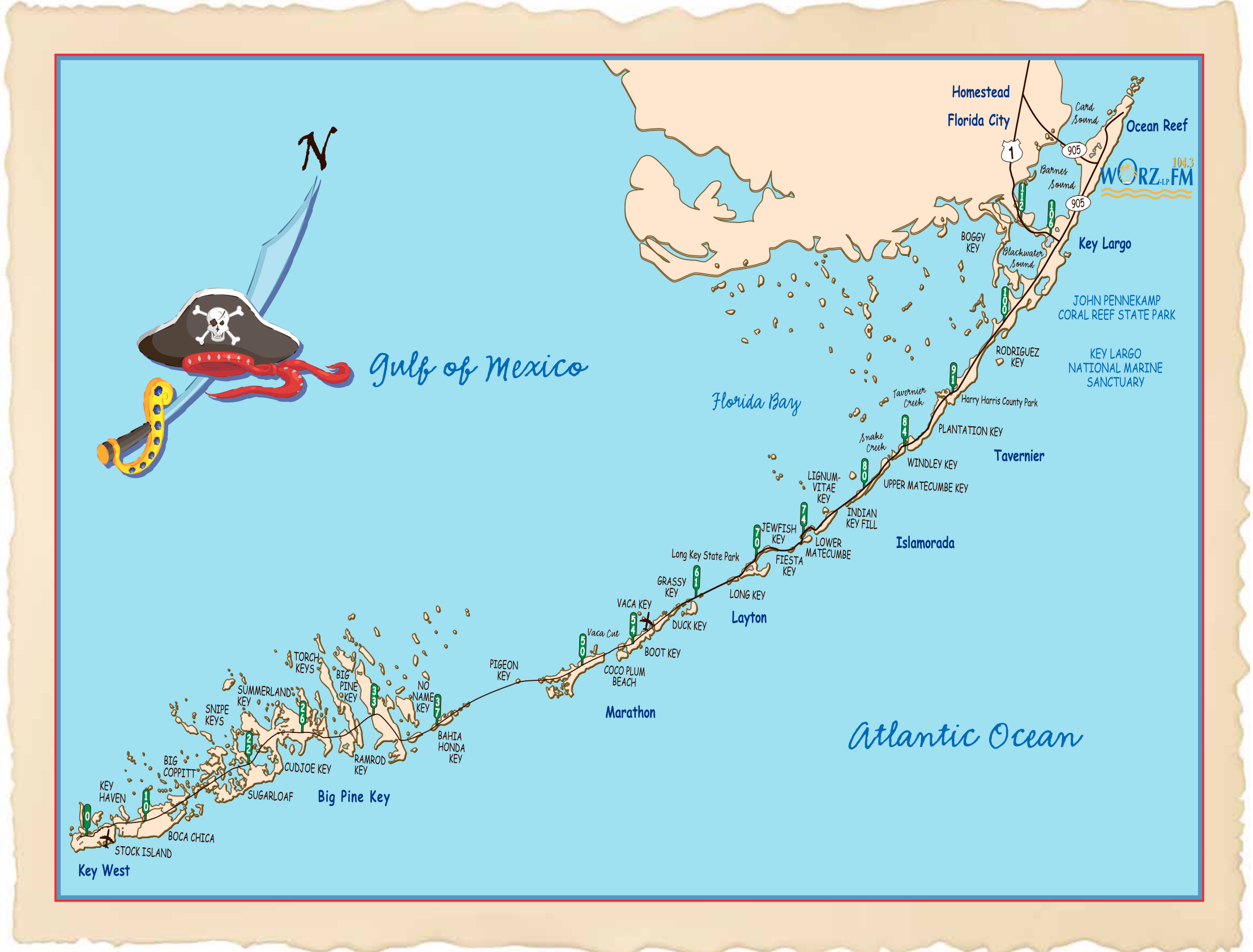
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Left, Right, Center

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mile marker 98.8 in the median

WHO WE ARE

The Elks are a national fraternal order with nearly a million members and a 141-year history, comprised of a network of nearly 2000 lodges in communities all over the country.

In addition, the organization is a generous charitable foundation that each year gives millions in scholarships, an inspiration to youth, a friend to veterans and more.

WHERE WE ARE

Located in the heart of Tavernier, the local Lodge is a wonderful facility for Elks and friends to socialize, hold events and otherwise give back to the community.

MM 92.6 Bayside • Tavernier
Open 3-10pm Daily • 305-852-1872

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Conch Characters / Around Town



Sunset docking at Snooks Bayside.



Key Largo Wood Rats entertain at the Key Largo Moose.



Ray Jaworski plays at Lorelei and the Islamorada Brewery, among many others.



Marilee Free on the Carolina Moon.



A friendly sea lion at the Dolphin Research Center. Photo by Rob LeBrun.



Harry French is back in the Keys. Catch him at Lorelei every Tuesday night.



Spotted at the American Legion.



The perfect place to while away the day - Snooks!



The Sharp Keys at the American Legion - awesome!



The Florida Keys Brewery party bus. Photo by Rob LeBrun.



Conch Captain Spotlight on Captain Lorelee Carpenter

On the Good Ship with Captain Lolly

by Marilee Free

at Playa Largo to book excursions at Caribbean Watersports. You may also dine at the restaurants, have a libation at the open-air bar, or enjoy a relaxing spa treatment.

Growing up on a small lake in Chicago, Lolly began sailing at 6 years of age. Her parents enjoyed vacationing in Islamorada, where she fell in love with the Keys and the pristine waters surrounding the islands. The Keys inspired Lolly's dream of being a boat captain, a scuba dive instructor and marine biologist.

What a spectacular way to kick off 2020! With January's wind in my hair, I set sail with 8 fun-loving vacationers from Michigan, Indiana, and Wisconsin, plus Captain Lolly and Captain Ginny. We enjoyed a 2-hour Bayside sunset cruise aboard the 'Carolina Moon,' a 38-foot catamaran, that holds up to 24 people. It departs from the Caribbean Watersports' docks at Playa Largo, MM 97, Key Largo.

With 30+ years of marine experience, Captain Lolly does an amazing job raising the sails and the spirits of her passengers. She and the crew make sailing seem effortless; on the "good ship," even a windy day feels smooth. Your cares will be whisked away as you sight-see around the mangrove islands. Watch for a great white heron or pelican to fly overhead; you could encounter manatees or dolphin passing by as the sun sets on another day in paradise. Lolly has had the honor of hosting at sea vow renewals, marriage proposals, bachelor and bachelorette parties, memorials and celebrations of life, and other milestone events. Every trip is uniquely crafted and fun for all ages.

Captain Lolly and Caribbean Watersport's knowledgeable staff of captains, guides and mates are available for daily 2-hour sunset sails, eco-tours, parasailing, reef and bay snorkeling, bayside island adventure tours, kayaking, stand-up paddleboards, sailing on Hobie Cats. They also host corporate events and specialty day trips.

Playa Largo is a five-star, desired destination beach resort that opened September 2016, an elegant transformation of the former America Outdoors Campground. Captain Lolly has been making cherished memories and taking incredible pictures of passengers sailing on the 'Carolina Moon' since May 2017. You don't have to be a guest



find her with her husband of 10 years, Lynn, and her Papillon, Rascal, frequenting the Moose Lodge. Lolly and I started a musical friendship years ago singing karaoke at the Elks. She also collects unusual liquor bottles for her bottle art projects.

Hop onboard the 'Carolina Moon' with Captain Lolly, and let the magic unfurl with the sails on the beautiful Bayside waters of Key Largo. Call Caribbean Watersports for rates and availability: 305-619-7844 or check out their website: caribbeanwatersports.com.

plished all those dreams. Starting her career in the dive industry in 1988, she worked as a captain and instructor for local dive shops for 20+ years. Highlights include; running the 'SunCruz I' gambling boat, sailing her 43' Hunter in the Bahamas, and delivering dive boats to a friend's shop in the Exumas. She earned her coveted 500-Ton Captain's License, but she's happiest at the helm of the 'Carolina Moon,' mingling with passengers, taking photos and sharing her knowledge of sailing and marine life.

When Lolly's not making memories on the high seas, you can





**Saturday Feb 8th
12-3pm
Frank and Dean...
and then some**

Frank & Dean capture the fun of the Rat Pack era. Combining timeless music and fan friendly comedy, Frank & Dean will make it a show to remember! You can expect to hear favorites from Frank's Fly me to the Moon, to Dino's That's Amore' and then some! The guys also perform some well known and loved favorites from Elvis, Neil Diamond, The Blues Brothers and more.

Special Events at the Lorelei in February

**Monday Feb 17th
11-3pm
Mark Healey
from Badfinger**

Mark Healey is the bass player and a singer for the famous band Badfinger. The UK band is known for their hits like: Day After Day, Come and Get It, No Matter What and Baby Blue.

When Mark is not touring with Badfinger, he performs a fantastic solo show that features the band's staples and his own work, and covers from the 60s to today. Mark is touring to promote his new album "Inside Out" and will be at Lorelei for one show only. This is a "don't miss" show!



**Friday Feb 21st, 5-9pm
Michael Trixx's 20-Year
Anniversary Show, featur-
ing Brothers of Others**

Michael Trixx (featured on NBC's America's Got Talent) is a professional magician who combines his two passions, magic and rock 'n' roll to create an exciting, high energy show guaranteed to entertain both young and old. The show includes the produc- tion and vanishes of 10 live birds, levitations, a confetti blizzard, fire and so much

more! Michael is a mainstay of the Keys, and really honed his craft after moving to the Keys back in 2000. February 21st marks the 20-year anniversary of Michael's first performance at The Lorelei. The Miami band "Brothers of Others" are making a special appear- ance. Michael will try out some new tricks, bring back some old favorites, and dazzle you with a show like no other!



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Buyers agent is buying Vintage Costume Jewelry Call & leave msg. 305-304-2837	VESSEL SAFETY The USCG Auxiliary conducts vessel safety checks at Blackwater Sound Marina, MM 103.8 Bayside, every third Saturday of the month.Public welcome. 305-998-8400	Florida Keys Orchid, Fern and Bromeliad Society meets the 3rd Thurs. of every month at Key Largo Library Community Room at 7pm. Open to the public. 305-451-2396.	NOW FIRING We're letting many of our employees go, so good news for you - jobs available! Call 305-555-JERKS	GET CLASSIFIED \$10 per col. inch per month! (generous 1.72 column width) MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE Classified Display Space \$15/inch. Drop off ad and payment at The UPS STORE 101425 Overseas Highway Next to Publix at Tradewinds Questions? 305-304-2837

Tumble out of Bed and Stumble to the Theater! Key Players are Working "9 to 5"

Key Players is at it again with a monster Broadway show! Dolly Parton's **9 to 5 The Musical** is coming to Key Largo in February! This is their biggest show (with the biggest budget) since **Shrek the Musical**. Twenty actors rehearsing 4 days a week, plus tons of cos- tumes, props, set pieces and a mega projector! Fabulous singing, dancing and acting will keep you thoroughly entertained and singing along.



Seated from left: Jenny Lea Brown, Kristine Ingold, Cristina Von Essen, Christina Neel, Mary-Margaret Dale, Russell Holmes, Cathy Austin. Standing from left: Rhonda Crutcher, Tommy Chambers, Julien Baidet, Lilly Cascamo, Jonelle Kop (Director/Producer), Charlene Sammis, Zander Wolfgramm-Smilgin, Laura Nelson Not pictured: John Rudolph, Doug LaRue, Craig Zabransky, Jaimie Evans



Franklin Hart (John Rudolph) is finally put in his place by Doralee (Mary-Margaret Dale)

frazzled divorcée Judy Bernly and sexy secretary Doralee Rhodes — to turn the tables on their "sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocriti- cal bigot" of a boss. The story follows the original movie with fabulous music written by Dolly herself. In fact, her presence will be felt with the 25' wide video



Doralee (Mary-Margaret Dale)

Based on the hit 1980 film, which starred Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda and the stage show's composer/ lyricist Dolly Parton, the Broadway musical adapta- tion follows office manager Violet Newstead, who joins her fellow co-workers —



Doralee, Judy and Violet enjoying their new friendship and dreams

they are adding to the performance. So, tumble out of bed and stumble into the the- atre! The show opens Thursday, February 20th and runs for two weekends only!

9 to 5 The Musical is produced in conjunction with the Friends of the Key Largo Cultural Center, at the Murray Nelson Government



Doralee giving Hart (John Rudolph) a little western justice



Actors Tommy Chambers & Doug LaRue having fun at rehearsal



Doralee's husband, DeeWayne (Russell Holmes) and Franklin Hart, Jr. (John Rudolph)



Justice, Violet's style (Cristina Von Essen)



Judy (Christina Neel) and Franklin Hart face off

The Mangrove Galley by Sandi Mieszczeni

PEAR COMPOTE

3 to 4 ripe pears
¾ cup brown sugar
¼ teaspoon cinnamon

Core the pears and chop into ½ inch cubes. Place all of the ingredients in a saucepan and stir until well blended. Cover the pan and stew on medium low heat until the mixture starts to bubble. Reduce heat to simmer and stir occasionally until the pears are soft to almost mushy; approxi- mately 25 minutes. Let cool and refrigerate until ready to use.

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

9 to 5, THE MUSICAL

Music and Lyrics by Dolly Parton Book by Patricia Resnick
Based on the 20th Century Fox Picture. Originally produced on Broadway by Robert Greenblatt, April 2008
Orchestrator Arrangements and Additional Orchestrations:
BRUCE COUGHLIN STEPHEN OREMUS ALEX LACAMOIRE

9 TO 5, THE MUSICAL
Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com

THU. Feb. 20 7:30 PM
FRI. Feb. 21 7:30 PM
SAT. Feb. 22 7:30 PM
SUNDAY MATINEE Feb. 23 2:00 PM
THU. Feb. 27 7:30 PM
FRI. Feb. 28 7:30 PM
SAT. Feb. 29 7:30 PM

Produced in conjunction with
Murray E. Nelson
Gov. & Cultural Center

Opens one hour before curtain time;
seating 1/2 hour before curtain time.
102050 Overseas Hwy, Key Largo

Admission \$20 at the Ticket Outlets • \$23 at the Door and on Facebook: www.Facebook.com/TheKeyPlayers

Advance tickets available at these locations, or online:
Key Largo Chocolates & Ice Cream MM 100.5
Shear Paradise (Cedar Towers Plaza) MM 99.3
PostNet Store Plaza 88, Islamorada MM 88

More info/online tickets: www.Facebook.com/TheKeyPlayers

Key Largo Map Page

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Garden Club of the Upper Keys Celebrating 40th Garden Walk, Feb. 15

The Garden Club of the Upper Keys cordially invites everyone interested in gardening and landscape design in the Florida Keys to Garden Walk 2020 on Saturday, February 15, rain or shine. Garden Walk is two events in one - the Garden Tour, which allows the ticketed public in to see five spectacular private properties, and the Garden Tea Party, which takes place simultaneously at the Francis Tracey Garden Center at mile marker 94.

We are grateful to our property owners on the tour for sharing these beautiful island garden styles. **Hidden Gem**, tucked in a gated community is a quiet



Beloved South Florida philanthropists Jon and Julie Landau open their garden to viewing for the 40th Garden Walk presented by the Garden Club of the Upper Keys on February 15th. Pictured is the owner of the Old Road Gallery Dwayne King with Jon and Julie Landau. King was commissioned to create the gate which marks the entrance to the oceanfront estate The Landau's are well known for their generosity and support of local, artist, organizations and initiatives.

dense garden with gem-like canal waters and three story decking to observe the lush gardens on multiple levels. **Bali Hai** is an expansive multi-acre masterpiece of rare, large specimens seldom seen. It has extensive pathways winding through a true wonderland of aquatic gardens, a citrus circle and much more. Academy-award-winning movie producer Jon Landau and his wife Julie have generously offered to have their post-hurricane renovated garden on our garden



Flame Thrower Palm

walk this year. **Native Home** is an elegant portrait created by a highly skilled south Florida gardener who has assembled all thirteen native Florida palm trees. This is an opportunity to see and learn all at once. **Old Florida Charmer's** three beautiful canal lots features giant mature mahogany trees and massive bromeliad beds. A most comfortable and relaxing array of your favorite blooming botanicals. Just like a picture book, our final property **Classy Classic** is a pink house with a tin roof perched at an angle on two large lots. Plants of great variety and graceful verandas may remind you that you have seen this before. See if you can figure out which "Bloodline" character lived here.

All five gardens are between mile markers 88 and 94.

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

Garden Tea Party
Stop by the complimentary Tea Party at the Club's historic Francis

Tracy Garden Center grounds at mile marker 94 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Enjoy the exhibit by The Art Guild of the Purple Isles and a Garden Market featuring many vendors with plants of all kinds, crafts, artisan wares, food and unique items.



Tickets
Tickets are \$30 advance or \$35 day of event, cash or check to the GCUK. Proceeds from this event will 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, Wear with All Boutique, Key Largo Florist and Gift Shop, Island Home Nursery, Islamorada Chamber of Commerce and Wild Lily Boutique. On the day of the event tickets will also be available at the Francis Tracy Garden Center and all properties.



Questions?
For more info: email upperkeysgardenwalk@gmail.com or visit the website - gardenclubupperkeys.org

GARDEN WALK
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH
10am - 4pm, rain or shine!

Tour five spectacular private gardens, including "Bali Hai," home of Academy Award winning movie producer Jon Landau and his wife Julie.

Enjoy our famous Tea Party at the Francis Tracy Garden Center (MM 94) Enjoy an art show and shop with our wonderful Garden Market vendors.

For additional information:
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WWW.GARDENCLUBUPPERKEYS.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/GARDEN-CLUB-OF-THE-UPPER-KEYS

Garden Club of the Upper Keys is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

40th

TICKET VENDORS:

MM 106 Key Largo Chamber of Commerce	MM 89 Island Home Garden Center
MM 101 Wear With All Boutique	MM 86 Islamorada Chamber of Commerce
MM 100 Key Largo Flowers & Gifts	MM 82 Wild Lily Boutique

Tickets also available on day of the event at The Francis Tracy Garden Center, MM 94 Bayside

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.



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Parker



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Trisha



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WHY I'M GOING TO HELL

THINGS THAT I FIND FUNNY

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How to Reconnect and Prioritize Your Relationship

by Dawn Wiggins, Ed.S.

Does life feel like it gets in the way of your marriage? Is there a void resting between you and your spouse? If you can answer yes to these questions, know this is common and fixable. But if you let it go too long, the distance can become insurmountable. With all the love and good intentions in marriage, unfortunately, disconnect, and an imbalance in relationship priorities can still happen. Let's get you and your loved one back on track.

Spend Intentional and Quality Time Together - This means putting down the phones and being completely present with one another.

Communicate Often and Listen Well - Many of my clients seeking to repair their relationships talk with their spouse but they listen so they can defend themselves. Listening well is the key here.

Check-In Regularly - Touching base is a way of maintaining relationship security.

Make Plans and Decisions Together - Collaboration



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creates connection and builds trust!

Set Outside Relationship Boundaries - If work, in-laws, or hobbies are MORE important than your relationship, it's time to make some adjustments.

Stop Scorekeeping - You want to feel secure and 'at home' in your relationship. Scorekeeping creates anxiety and tension. So, let it go!

Offer Encouragement - Gratitude and kind words are powerful medicine for anyone, especially your partner.

Seek Professional Therapy - Relationships and life's circumstances can be tough. If you have the "I can figure this out on my own" mentality, you are blocking your path to growth. I've been in my share of therapy, and it has helped me tremendously. Asking for help can be scary at first, but then it becomes a huge relief.

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Jane
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CRS, GRI,
Short Sale Specialist
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Wendy
305-394-1376
GRI

102901 OVERSEAS HWY, MM 102.9 OCEANSIDE

Rest in Peace
DONNA ARROM



We thought of you
with love today,
But that is nothing new.
We thought about you
yesterday,
And days before that too.
We think of you in silence,
We often speak your name.
Now all we have is memories,
And your picture in a frame.
Your memory is our keepsake,
With which we'll never part.
God has you in his keeping,
We have you in our hearts.

Dear Anny Bannanny



Dear Anny Bannanny,

I am so ticked off right now!!!!

I experienced the WORST customer service earlier today at a store on US 1 in the Keys. I don't want to mention the name because I'm not sure how I'm going to proceed. Think Class Action law suit!

On Saturday I bought a little something from this shop. I paid cash for it, no big deal. I took it home and found out it didn't work. So today, less than 48 hours later I took it back to the store and asked if I could get a refund. The sweet young girl behind the counter told me "NO", even though I still had the receipt! I asked if I could get a replacement instead. Again they told me "NO"! At this point I'm getting frustrated.

I asked to talk to a manager as I was really not happy and I explained the whole situation and that it failed work the way I wanted it to work. The manager just smiled and told me to my face that I was "OUT OF LUCK." WTF!???

No refund.

No store credit.

No FREE replacement.

Has this ever happened to anyone else?

Well, what would you do?

I am NEVER buying another lottery ticket from there again !!

Coco'Nut' Funnies

Subject: Prince need help
Date: 12. Jan 2020
From: Harry Windsor (gingerking@sussexestate.co.uk)
To: undisclosed recipients, karpi: ;

Hello dear Friend,

My Name is Harry Windsor. I am wealthy ginger prince living in exile. After 35 years of loyal royal servitude, I was forced to move out of my mothers place (the Queens Palace). I was unable to take all of my million millions with me - but I am holding the corgis hostage.

You do not know me. But I heard good things about you from my beautiful actress wife, who owes you money.

In order to provide you with £ 15 MILLION POUNDS British Sterling Cooper please provide the following:

- All bank information and password
- Credit card information
- Social security number
- Blood type
- Favourite beatle?

I wish to transfer the money urgently into your account. Thanks for your assistance, god shave the queen.

Harry Windsor, Ginger Prince

If you have a crush on me, tell me before I spend my valentines money on alcohol

8 year old: I feel like you're always making up rules and stuff.
Me: Like what?
8 year old: Like if we don't pick up our room a portal will open and take us to another dimension.
Me: Well that's what happened to your older brother
8 year old: What older brother?
Me: exactly.

This book on marriage says, "Treat your wife like you treated her on the first date".
So after dinner tonight I am dropping her off at her parents' house!

Watching the History Channel:
In 1672, a mob of angry Dutch killed and ate their prime minister.
Options. Just putting it out there.



My goal was to lose 15 pounds this year.
Only 20 to go.



Hobosexual
Hobosexual - Someone that enters into a relationship to prevent themselves from being homeless.

CAJUN PREGNANCY
Way down in Louisiana, Boudreaux's old lady had been pregnant for some time and now the time had come. So he brought her to the doctor and the doctor began to deliver the baby.

She had a little boy and the doctor looked over at Boudreaux and said, "Hey, Boudreaux, you just had a son! Boudreaux got excited by dis, but just then the doctor spoke up and said, "Hold on! We ain't finished yet!" The doctor then delivered a little girl. He said, "Hey, Boudreaux, you got yourself a daughter too! She a pretty lil ting."

Boudreaux got kind of puzzled by this and then the doctor said, "Hold on, we still ain't got done yet!" The doctor then delivered another boy and said, "Boudreaux, you done had yourself another boy!"

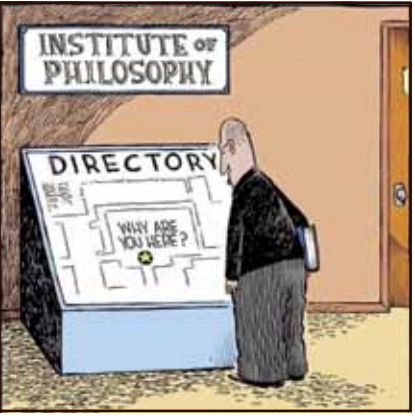
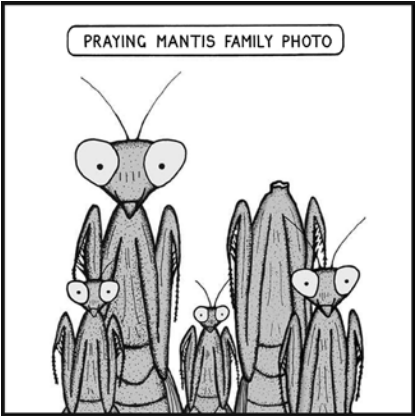
When Boudreaux and his wife went home with their 3 children, he sat down with his wife and said, "Mama, you remember dat night what we run out of Vaseline and we had to use dat dere Tree-in-One Oil?"

His wife said, "Yeah, I do!"

Boudreaux said, "Man, it's a good thing we didn't use no WD-Forty."



When I see rich, snooty looking women at the grocery store, I pretend I need something and say, "excuse me, do you work here?" just to help keep things real.



Husband: I want you to have this bracelet. It belonged to my Grandmother.

Wife: Why does it say "Do Not Resuscitate"?

If 2 meth heads start a relationship, is that considered "speed dating" or "just mething around"?



The best Safe Word you can use is "Meatloaf." It means "I would do anything for love but I won't do that."

The IRS decided to audit Grandpa, and summoned him to the IRS office. The IRS auditor was not surprised when Grandpa showed up with his attorney.

The auditor said, "Well, sir, you have an extravagant lifestyle and no full-time employment, which you explain by saying that you win money gambling. I'm not sure the IRS finds that believable."

"I'm a great gambler, and I can prove it," says Grandpa. "How about a demonstration?"

The auditor thinks for a moment and says, "OK. Go ahead."

Grandpa says, "I'll bet you a thousand dollars that I can bite my own eye."

The auditor thinks a moment and says, "It's a bet."

Grandpa removes his glass eye and bites it. The auditor's jaw drops.

Grandpa says, "Now, I'll bet you two thousand dollars that I can bite my other eye."

The auditor can tell Grandpa isn't blind, so he takes the bet.

Grandpa removes his dentures and bites his good eye. The stunned auditor now realizes he has wagered and lost three grand, with Grandpa's attorney as a witness. He starts to get nervous.

"Want to go double or nothing?" Grandpa asks. "I'll bet you six thousand dollars that I can stand on one side of your desk, and pee into that wastebasket on the other side, and never get a drop anywhere in between."

The auditor, twice burned, is cautious now, but he looks carefully and decides there's no way this old guy could possibly manage that stunt, so he agrees again.

Grandpa stands beside the desk and unzips his pants, but although he strains mightily, he can't make the stream reach the wastebasket on the other side, so he pretty much urinates all over the auditor's desk.

The auditor leaps with joy, realizing that he has just turned a major loss into a huge win. But Grandpa's attorney moans and puts his head in his hands.

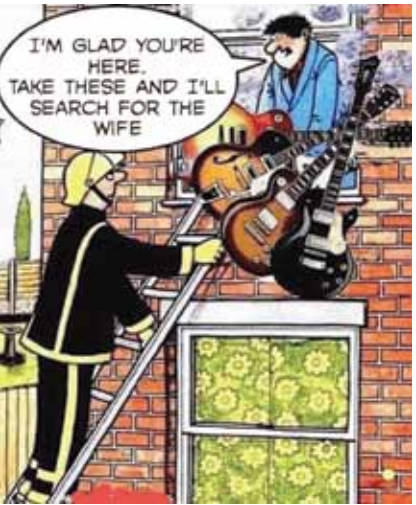
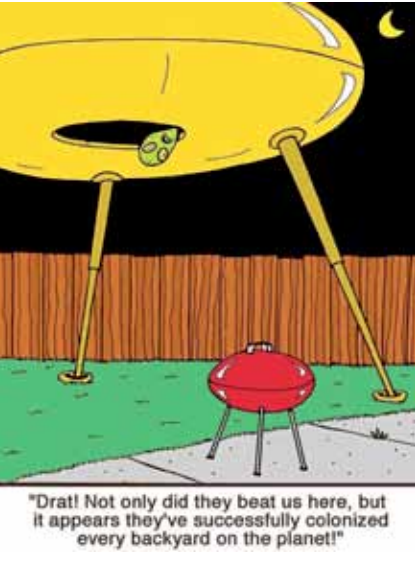
"Are you OK?" the auditor asks.

"Not really," says the attorney. "This morning, when Grandpa told me he'd been summoned for an audit, he bet me twenty-five thousand dollars that he could come in here and pee all over your desk and that you'd be happy about it."

When I see rich, snooty looking women at the grocery store, I pretend I need something and say, "excuse me, do you work here?" just to help keep things real.



WHAT DO WASHINGTON DC AND SUPERBOWL HAVE IN COMMON?
NO PATRIOTS!



A CLASSY WAY TO CALL SOMEONE A BASTARD
A guy was getting ready to tee off on the first hole when a second golfer approached and asked if he

could join him. The first said that he usually played alone, but agreed to the twosome.

They were even after the first few holes. The second guy said, "We're about evenly matched, how about playing

for five bucks a hole?" The first guy said that he wasn't much for betting, but agreed to the terms.

The second guy won the remaining sixteen holes with ease. As they were walking off number eighteen, the second guy

was busy counting his \$80.00. He confessed that he was the pro at the neighboring course and liked to pick on suckers.

The first fellow revealed that he was the Parish Priest.

The pro was flustered and apologetic, offering to return the money. The Priest said, "You won fair and square and I

was foolish to bet with you. You keep your winnings."

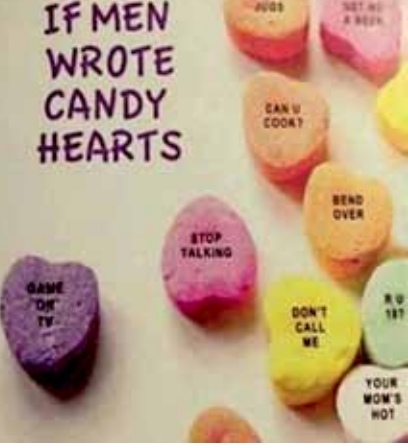
The pro said, "Is there anything I can do to make it up to you?"

The Priest said, "Well, you could come to Mass on Sunday and make a donation. And, if you want to, bring your

Mother and Father along, I'll marry them."



My son is taking part in a social experiment.
He has to wear a Bernie 2020 t-shirt for 2 weeks and see how people react. So far he's been spit on, punched and had a bottle thrown at him!
I'm curious to see what happens when he goes outside.



Accidentally stepped on my husband's foot:
"Sorry."
Accidentally stepped on my dog's paw:
"Oh my God, I'm so SORRY! Are you ok buddy? I'm SO, SO sorry. I didn't mean to hurt you. I LOVE you. You want a treat? You're the best boy, yes you are."



Coconut Telegraph is getting ready to launch a new dating app.
We match with people who are on the same meds as you.
Relationscript.
Watch this space for more info!

**The largest Tiki Bar
in the Keys!**



305-451-1133
107900 Overseas Hwy
www.gilbertsresort.com



Waterfront Tiki Bar, Restaurant, Motel & Marina

There's Always Something Fun Going on at Gilbert's



Join Us for
Valentine's Day
**MUSIC ALL DAY
DINNER SPECIALS**

**HAPPY HOUR:
MON-FRI 4-7PM**
\$2 Bud Light &
Miller Lite Drafts,
1/2 off Well Drinks and
\$2.30 Fireball Shots!



LIVE MUSIC

**JOIN US AT THE
BIGGEST TIKI BAR
IN THE KEYS!**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Free Entertainment at Gilbert's, never a cover charge!		Fresh new music, only at Gilbert's!	HAPPY HOUR MONDAY THRU FRIDAY	1/2 off Well Drinks and \$2.30 Fireball Shots! \$2 Bud Light & Miller Lite Drafts		1 UNCLE SMOKEY 1-5 SHANE DUNCAN BAND 7-11 NO TRIXX
2 THE GROOVE 1-6	3 HAPPY HOUR 4-7 PM MON- FRI	4 SCOTT YOUNGBERG 5-9	5 ROB GARZA 5-9	6 BOBBE BROWN 5-9	7 BOBBE BROWN 12-4 GREEN MEANS GO 7-11	8 DOUBLE DOWN 1-5 THE DROPOUTS 7-11 TRIXX MAGIC 8
9 STEREOTOMY 1-6	10 HAPPY HOUR 4-7 PM MON- FRI	11 SCOTT YOUNGBERG 5-9	12 ALEX CALDWELL 5-9	13 BOBBE BROWN 5-9	14 HAPPY VALENTINES DAY BOBBE BROWN 12-4 RETROSKY 7-11	15 SPANK THE BAND 1-5 SHADOW CREEK 7-11 TRIXX MAGIC 8
16 TRIP MACHINE 1-6	17 HAPPY HOUR 4-7 PM MON- FRI	18 SCOTT YOUNGBERG 5-9	19 ROB GARZA 5-9	20 BOBBE BROWN 5-9	21 BOBBE BROWN 12-4 UNCLE SMOKEY 7-11	22 SOUTHERN STAMPEDE 1-5 MAINSTREET 7-11 TRIXX MAGIC 8
23 THE REGS 1-6	24 HAPPY HOUR 4-7 PM MON- FRI	25 SCOTT YOUNGBERG 5-9	26 ALEX CALDWELL 5-9	27 BOBBE BROWN 5-9	28 BOBBE BROWN 12-4 BACKWATER 7-11	29 CAT DADDIES 1-5 MOJO SCOUNDRELS 7-11 TRIXX MAGIC 8

Sundays are Fun Days at Gilbert's Tiki Bar!



THE GROOVE
Sunday, Feb. 2
1-6 pm

STEREOTOMY
Sunday, July 7
1-6pm



TRIP MACHINE
Sunday, Dec. 8
1-6 pm

THE REGS
Sunday, Feb. 23
1-6 pm



MICHAEL TRIXX
Most Saturdays
at 8pm