

The Conch Republic COCONUT TELEGRAPH

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

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Happy Valentine's DAY

Attractions

Critters in Our Midst:
Hermit Crabs by Carol Ellis

History of Diving Museum
hosts Annual Art Exhibit

What's Hot & What's Not

A Blog by Luke Sommer Glenn
KL Library Programs this Month

Maps

Key Largo Locator Map Page
Getting from Here to There

All the Buzz

Coco-Nut Funnies
Business in the Keys
Classifieds
Daily OM
Conch Characters



A stunning New Years Eve sunset view from the Tamarind Bay Club at MM 104.5, bayside. Photo by Linda Weber.

*Valentine's Day
Specials*

**Dinner
Specials
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February 14th

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4-7pm
Monday - Friday

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IN THE UPPER KEYS ON THE BAY
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Coconut Telegraph

February 2024
Volume 18 Issue #210

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Monthly Events:

1st Saturday: Full Breakfast 8-10 am, \$7

2nd Wednesday: Sons & Daughters of Italy 6:30 pm

3rd Wednesday: Show Me the Money 7 pm

4th Thursday: Civic Club Pot Luck Dinner and Meeting 6 pm

Hall Rentals Available, call Greg Bianchini 917-862-3979 for info.

209 Ocean Bay Drive (at MM 99 Oceanside)

This Valentines Day, take a romantic, nostalgic ride on the African Queen!

The iconic vessel the African Queen is located in Key Largo. Made famous in the 1951 movie of the same name starring Humphrey Bogart and Katherine Hepburn, she still remains a timeless classic. This famous steamboat is available for daily canal cruises in the Port Largo Canal area and also for private events.

HISTORY OF A CLASSIC

1912 - The African Queen was built in 1912 at Lytham shipbuilding in England. Originally she was named the S/L Livingstone. She was immediately shipped to the British East Africa Railways company on the Victoria Nile and Lake Albert. Lake Albert is located on the border of the Belgian Congo and Uganda. She was built in a narrow way to navigate this river and was used to carry mercenaries, missionaries, cargo and hunting parties on their voyages.

1951 - John Huston saw the vessel and commissioned her for the movie he was directing "The African Queen". She was renamed



The newly restored African Queen in 2012 with Stephen Bogart, son of actor Humphrey Bogart, aboard. Photo by Andy Newman/Florida Keys News Bureau.

after her starring role.

1968 - The vessel was purchased by a restaurant owner in San Francisco and brought to the US for charter operation.

1970 - A man named Hal Bailey from Oregon purchased the boat for the price of her boat yard bill and took her to

Oregon for charter operation which was so successful he decided to bring her to Florida for year-round charter operation.

1982 - In 1982, late attorney (and Bogart buff) Jim Hendricks, Sr., discovered the vessel languishing in an Ocala, Fla., cow pasture and purchased the piece of movie history for a reported \$65,000. An equal amount of funds was invested to get the boat operational and Hendricks began offering visitors rides in 1983 while the vessel was homeported at Key Largo's Holiday Inn.

Among the vessel's highlights outside of the Florida Keys, Hendricks shipped the African Queen to England for the Queen Mother's 90th birthday celebration and for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Dunkirk evacuation in the English Channel. It also visited Sydney Australia, New York and Ireland.

In 2001, the African Queen's engine broke, yet it

remained on display for curious tourists and film buffs to view.

2012 - Captain Lance and Suzanne Holmquist signed a long-term lease with Jim Hendricks' son to restore the vessel in time for her centennial year celebrations. The Holmquists have overseen repairs and have taken pains to date it as it appeared in the film, replacing steel in the hull, replacing the boiler and oiling the black African mahogany to condition the wood. Once finished they put her back into operation as she once was offering canal and dinner cruises in Key Largo.

You can book a 1.5 hour cruise that departs from the Marina Del Mar and travels down the Port Largo Canals to the Atlantic Ocean before turning around to return. \$59 pp. Available at 10am, 12pm, 2pm, 4pm, & 6pm.

For private cruises and gift certificates, contact them directly at 305-451-8080 or 305-896-8004, or suzanneholmquist@bellsouth.net



The African Queen arrives at the Pilot House during a dinner cruise.



Hermit crabs make their way from the ground up into the trees and everywhere in between.


Often when people move to the Keys, the first thing they try to do is make their new home just like the place they left. Locals can pick up pretty quickly who these “they do it where I come from” newcomers are, but within five minutes of meeting Angela and Brian, and observing their efforts to caretake our fragile Florida Keys environment, I knew they were a good fit here.

They came down as a family when their middle child Logan was transferred to Coast Guard Station Islamorada, and once here, decided not to leave. Jokingly Brian and Angela always said, “when the kids are gone we are going to quit our jobs, run away to the Keys and become bartenders, live in a one room shack with an A/C that is halfway broken and we wouldn’t care if there are roaches!” A positive twist on the old story “Come on vacation... leave on probation.”

They researched house prices, and soon realized

they couldn’t quit their jobs and become bartenders. Luckily, their jobs allowed them to work from anywhere, so they got more of their full dream than most anyone would want.

The house they found online, located in Harry Harris Park, from an aerial view on Zillow, was your typical pea rock yard and stilt house property. The backyard borders a natural mangrove and buttonwood preserve, which if you were



Signs by Amy’s Creations of the Florida Keys give the property a Keysy flair.

to crawl a few hundred yards through the County-owned property, you could reach the shoreline.

Soon after moving in Angela noticed shells near the A/C condensate drainpipe, picked one up, and saw it was a land hermit crab (Coenobita clypeatus). In honor of their new-found friends, Brian and Angela named their property ~ “Crustacean Plantation.”

Never having had a hermit crab as a pet, her first reaction was “I don’t know how this works,” but she learned. She started by counting her hermit crab encounters, and began numbering the shells. At some point past 100 crabs she stopped counting.

Hermit crabs have soft abdomens which require

protection of a shell, and who require bigger shells to suit their bodies as they grow.

She observed encounters where one crab was trying to hijack another crab’s shell. A crab will approach a shell, be it occupied or not and tap on it with it’s own shell. If it is occupied it will continue its incessant thumping until the resident crab gives up the shell willingly, or is evicted by force. Lost pinchers or legs found on the ground are evidence of crab shell fights. Realizing a need, Angela started purchasing shells to put out



A surveillance camera captured this opossum cruising through the shells. Squirrels, possums, raccoons, birds, lizards, iguanas, anoles, and land crabs live here. The “Transfer Station” is where Angela puts out shells for the hermit crabs who are on the quest for the perfect shell.

in a designated “Transfer Station” and almost immediately small or broken shells were traded off for the new and roomier models, kinda like a used car lot for hermit crabs. Broken shells are left vacant, as they no longer provide protection or cannot hold fresh water needed to lubricate the crab’s gills.

Angela and Brian have spent hours in the garden, adding mulch and soil, making new beds for the native and

Hermit Crabs CONTINUED *Photos by Carol Ellis except as noted.*



Hermit crabs are social animals, despite their name, piling onto each other beneath a coral rock ledge.



Angela poses beside a hollowed out tree on the boundary between her yard and the native woods.

flowering plants, and adding water sources for the critters. Bricks and boulders line the raised beds full of soil and mulch. Hermit crabs need soil or sand substrate in order for them to molt; since the Keys doesn’t have dirt, the hermit crabs must surface molt or find leaves, and bury themselves during this vulnerable time. In their new beds, Angela and Brian have seen little dig piles where a hermit crab has gone to molt. “We have provided them a “crabtat” - something they probably wouldn’t normally have.”

Creeping zoysia grass covers the former barren pea rock yard, leading up to an undisturbed tidal rocky area in the back of the property where the crabs



A hermit crab in the hardwood hammock sporting a tree snail shell.



A crab mistakes a plastic bottle cap for a new home. According to the Journal of Hazardous Materials, 570,000 hermit crabs die annually on two South Pacific islands from getting stuck in plastic debris. Photo by Capt. Deb Deyo.

hang out. As we approach we can hear clacking as the crabs retreat and their claw clamps shut the shell opening; hermit crabs have keen eyesight so it is hard to sneak up on one. We stare at the rocks, and soon detect movement; a shell blending in perfectly contains a hermit crab on the move. A sign “Hermit Highway” designates where the crabs cross to go to the ocean to lay their eggs, and after having done so return to the dry land to resume their lives.

The “Crustacean Plantation” is on the Garden Club of the Upper Keys garden walk, Saturday, February 17th.

(gardenclubupperkeys.org/garden-walk-tickets). It is located in the Harry Harris Park area, a hidden gem, full of natural beauty, and a livable community for those who work here, and the creatures who were here before we came.

You might want to bring along a shell or two for a hermit crab in need.



A crab blends in with the rocks and shells scattered in the woods.



Hermit crab racing is a sport imported from the Caribbean. Crabs are placed in the center a table, which has a ring painted in the center. The first crab to crawl past the outer ring is the “winner-winner, crab dinner!”



CAROL ELLIS has lived in South Florida her entire life and Key Largo for 37 years.

Currently a Master Gardener volunteer, Carol has a degree in Journalism from the University of Florida and is the resident photographer /artist at Ocean Reef Club.

LOST KEYCHAIN



Small - Gold "Colored" Key Chain - with 2 Silver Fobs made by my Father in the early 1950s. Huge loss for me!!! It went missing Feb. 2023; first weekend of February, at MM 90, oceanside - at the Coral Shores Art Fair and Church/ Garage Sale.

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Habitat for Humanity of the Upper Keys Receives \$100,000 Grant from Publix Super Market Charities for Affordable Housing Project

Habitat for Humanity of the Upper Keys is delighted to announce the generous support of Publix Super Market Charities with a substantial grant of \$100,000. This significant contribution will play a pivotal role in the funding of a new 4-unit affordable housing project in the Upper Keys. The grant from Publix Super Market Charities underscores their commitment to community development and addressing the critical need for affordable housing in our region. HFHUK is profoundly grateful for this partnership, as it enables us to advance our mission of providing affordable housing for local families.



"The mission of Publix Super Markets Charities is to endeavor to meet the needs of the people within our communities. We remain devoted to the highest standards of community involvement as demonstrated by our founder, Mr. George Jenkins. To that end - Publix Charities is proud to support the Habitat for Humanity of the Upper Keys in their efforts to alleviate homelessness in their community," said Kelly Williams-Puccio, Executive Director.

February Book Sale



All month long you can take home fabulous reads at the Friends of the Key Largo Library Book Sale.

Choose as many as you like - for a price you can't resist: "Make a donation to the Friends." Donate \$10 or more - earn a free book bag. New books will appear each Wednesday - so stop by often.

Cards & Gift Shop • Large Print Books • Audiobooks
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Key Largo Branch Library at the Tradewinds Shopping Center
Monday through Saturday
Friends of the Key Largo Library
fundraises to supplement and support community programs and concerts at the library.

History of Diving Museum Hosts its 6th Annual Art Exhibit

The History of Diving Museum in Islamorada is hosting its 6th annual art exhibit; it opened January 16th showcasing participating artists from the Art Guild of the Purple Isles and Monroe County students, and runs until April 17th.

The exhibit, titled "Dive Into Art: Coral Creations" is a collaborative effort by K-12 art students in Monroe County schools, member artists from the Art Guild of the Purple Isles (AGPI), and the History of Diving museum. In keeping with the exhibit's theme, the show will focus on the Reef, and will include a variety of coral and all the life that it supports... fishermen, divers, birds, all sea life. Along with the student exhibits, member artists of AGPI will



Student working on a project for the museum exhibit.

display similarly themed art work in all mediums. Some of the more than 60 pieces will be available for purchase. AGPI co-chairs Diane Smith and Mary Ellen Holler said that this year's show is expected to be "one of our best." The art exhibit at the museum will be on display until April 17th. The History of Diving Museum is located at Mile Marker 83; open daily 10am- 5pm.

The Art Guild of the Purple Isles is a non-for-profit group of artists supporting the visual fine arts in all media and photography in the Upper Keys.

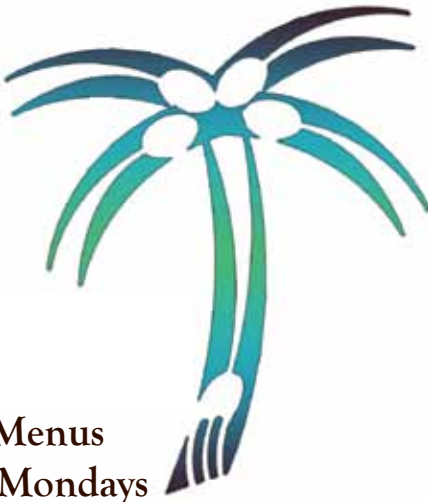
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Garden Club of the Upper Keys

Saturday February 17, 2024

10am - 4pm, rain or shine!

TICKETS: \$30

www.gardenclubupperkeys.org

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MM 87 Islamorada Chamber of Commerce

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Dress like a Florida Keys local and be comfortable in the sun in our DRI-FIT shirt designed by Carol Ellis | Little Salt Photography featuring original artwork of the HISTORIC FISHING VILLAGE OF DOWNTOWN CARD SOUND



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DRI - FIT FISHING SHIRTS

SPF 50, long sleeve, fishing performance shirt in aluminum, blue mist or white.



FRED'S TILTON HILTON - DOWNTOWN CARD SOUND ROAD

On the back of the shirt is Carol's original image of Fred's Place - the "Tilton Hilton." The restaurant, complete with slanting dance floor, blue crabs and cold beer, was located on the curve just across the Monroe County line, in the historic fishing village of Downtown Card Sound.

The photograph, taken in 1988 is a reminder of the once thriving community of nonconformists, squatters, and fishermen, who made their living from the surrounding waters, mostly by selling blue crabs. In its peak during the late 50's, this area was home to 100 residents, some who had State issued leases for "fishing camps."

Hurricane destruction, along with the politics of environmental safety, ushered in clean-up crews and by 2010, just a few wooden docks, and Alabama Jacks remain in Downtown Card Sound.

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Updates, Clarifications and Nonsense

A blog by Luke Sommer Glenn

I get asked quite a bit about how I'm feeling and I usually say, "With my hands." Some of you might remember that as a Three Stooges joke but I first heard it from my Dad, who was born in 1922.

It's going on 4 years this month (Jan. '24) that I had congestive heart failure caused by diabetes.

Blood clots in one leg or the other is a common after affect of heart failure and that continues to be an ongoing issue for me.

I've been "roto-rootered" several times when the blockage caused ulcers (open wounds) on my left foot. The blockage as of my last test was estimated to be back to 85-95%. It makes walking very far or very fast painful but it's necessary to keep on moving while I still can.

Another after effect of the CHF was afib (atrial fibrillation) which became constant and made it impossible to sing/work. THANKS to all those who supported me through that summer while I was down, the Musicians Relief Fund and all the musicians who contributed their time and talent to the benefit.

Finally in the fall of 2022 I was given an ablation to

stem the errant electrical storm causing the misfire in my heart. Now according to the app for that, my afib varies in frequency, about 20% of the day, on average.

Just when I thought I could get back to rocking and rolling, the herniated discs in my lower back erupted in pain so severe I had to cancel the band shows.

It took 6 weeks of chiropractic manipulation to get me back on my sore feet. Thanks to Dave White for being a "roadie." We wouldn't have been able to go back to work without his invaluable assistance.

I've got a lot of wear and tear, arthritis, and a litany of age-related issues. I still haven't recouped my full vocal range from the CHF 4 years ago. I'm grateful for being able to play as much as I do, though I can't play as much as I want and need to in order to make a living.

The crazy thing about life is how different yet similar the human experience is for everybody. When I died briefly while in the hospital, my brief foray into the "afterlife" let me see how ridiculous and vain humanity is... we worry about the DUMBEST shit...the only

thing that matters is how we treat one another... not beliefs or politics.

It's also been 4 years since I've had an "adult" beverage. Drank too many before I was considered by law to be an adult anyway but it's all fun and games until you go blind from self-induced diabetes (Type 2) and whatnot. The great American diet of beer, bacon, processed bread, cheese and butter dipped in sugar, seasoned with salt and topped with fat, coated in chocolate...

My last vices now are weed, pizza and ice cream. I effing hate moderation but goddamn it, it is the key to achieving balance.



Miami Dolphins belt buckle.

Luke Sommer Glenn is a local entertainer and Conch Character.



For more info: www.lukesommerglenn.com

So I spend most of the day craving shit I shouldn't eat. I used to be a junk food junkie. At one time I weighed 286 pounds, before the CHF. I've managed to stay at 170 for a couple of years or so now.

I gave up my tobacco habit in 2017, before Irma. I still get wicked cravings but finally it's fewer and further between. The first 5 years were the hardest.

Don't start something that will finish you would be the lesson I took from that experience. Young, dumb and indestructible...

So I hope the best for all of us this year but realistically we're all just here for our fair share of abuse. That's why it's so important to be good to each other.

We live on a planet that is as likely to kill us as sustain us, so can't we all just get along? Agree to disagree? Live and let live? Hell no, let's blow shit up and make everyone miserable! Just jesting... Peace and Love!



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How to Dump a Blind Date...

Occasionally in life, it's handy to be able to get out of awkward social situations. The Coconut Telegraph is here to help..

1. At dinner, guard your plate with fork and steak knife, so as to give the impression that you'll stab anyone, including the waiter, who reaches for it.
2. Collect the salt shakers from all of the tables in the restaurant, and balance them in a tower on your table.
3. Wipe your nose on your date's sleeve. Twice.
4. Make funny faces at other patrons, then sneer at their reactions.
5. Repeat every third third word you say say.
6. Give your claim to fame as being voted "Most Festerous" in your high school yearbook.
7. Read a newspaper or book during the meal. Ignore your date.
8. Stare at your date's neck, and grind your teeth audibly.
9. Twitch spastically. If asked about it, pretend you don't know what they are talking about.
10. Stand up every five minutes, circle your table with your arms outstretched, and make airplane sounds.
11. Order a bucket of lard.
12. Ask for crayons to color the placemat. This works very well in fancier venues that use linen tablecloths.
13. Howl and whistle at womens' legs, especially if you are female.
14. Recite your dating history. Improvise. Include pets.
15. Pull out a harmonica and play blues songs when your

date begins talking about themselves.

16. Sacrifice french fries to the great deity, Pomme.
17. When ordering, inquire whether the restaurant has any live food.
18. Without asking, eat off your date's plate. Eat more from their plate than they do.
19. Drool.
20. Chew with your mouth open, talk with your mouth full and spray crumbs.
21. Eat everything on your plate within 30 seconds of it being placed in front of you.
22. Excuse yourself to use the restroom. Go back to the headwaiter/hostess and ask for another table in a different part of the restaurant. Order another meal. When your date finally finds you, ask him/her "What in the hell took you so long in the restroom?!"
23. Recite graphic limericks to the people at the table next to you.
24. Ask the people at the neighboring table for food from their plates.
25. Beg your date to tattoo your name on their derriere. Keep bringing the subject up.
26. Ask your date how much money they have with them.
27. Order for your date. Order something nasty.
28. Communicate in mime the entire evening.
29. Upon entering the restaurant, ask for a seat away from the windows, where you have a you have a good view of all exits, and where you can keep your back to the wall. Act nervous.
30. Lick your plate. Offer to lick theirs.
31. Hum. Loudly. In monotone.

32. Fill your pockets with sugar packets, as well as salt and pepper shakers, silverware, floral arrangements... i.e. anything on the table that isn't bolted down.
33. Hold a debate. Take both sides.
34. Undress your date verbally. Loudly.
35. Auction your date off for silverware.
36. Slide under the table. Take your plate with you.
37. Order a baked potato for a side dish. When the waiter brings your food, hide the potato, wait a few minutes, and ask the waiter for the potato you "never got." When the waiter returns with another potato for you, have the first one back on the plate. Repeat later in the meal.
38. Order beef tongue. Make lewd comparisons or comments.
39. Get your date drunk. Talk about their philosophy. Get it on tape, and use good judgement in editing to twist their words around.
40. Discuss boils and lesions, and such, as if from personal experience.
41. Speak in pig latin throughout the meal (Or ubber-dubber language, or just nonsense).
42. Take a break, and go into the restroom. When you return to the table, throw a spare pair of underwear on the back of one of the chairs. Insist that they just need airing out.
43. If they are paying, order the most expensive thing on the menu. Take one bite.
44. Bring 20 or so candles with you, and during the meal get up and arrange them around the table in a circle. Chant.
45. Save the bones from your meal, and explain that you're taking them home to your invalid, senile mother, because it's a lot cheaper than actually feeding her.
46. Order your food by colors and textures. Sculpt.
47. Take a thermos along, and hide it under the table. Order coffee, and fill the thermos one cup at a time, taking advantage of the free refills.
48. Insist that the waiter cuts your food into little pieces. In a simliar vein, insist that he take a bite of everything on the plate, to make sure no one poisoned it.
49. Accuse your date of espionage.
50. Make odd allusions to dangerous religious cults.
51. Break wind loudly. Add color commentary. Bow.



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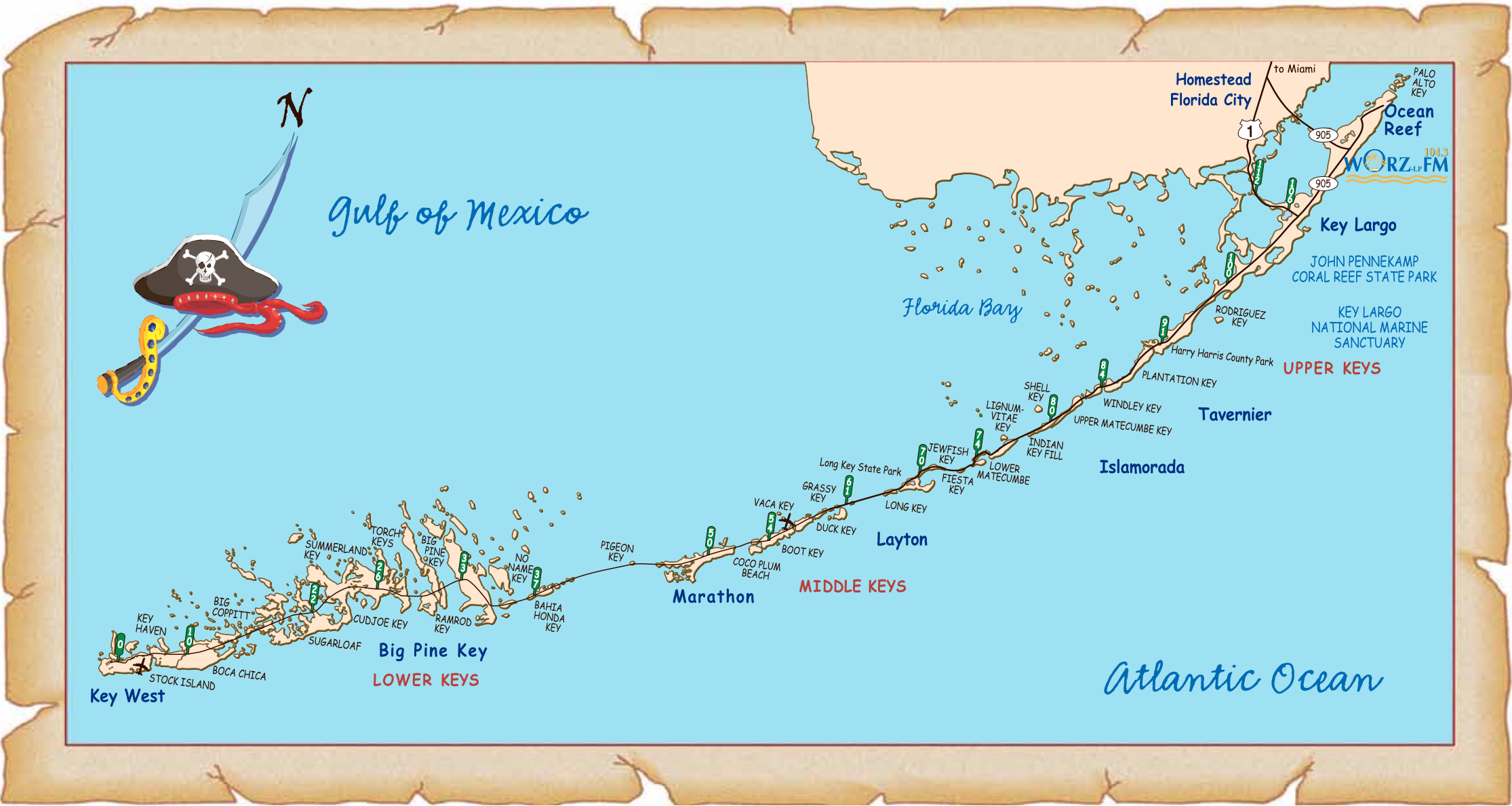
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Finding Your Next Step in Life

When you are willing to listen to yourself and be fearless, figuring out your next step becomes easy.

Our lives are made up of a complex network of pathways that we can use to move from one phase of life to the next. For some of us, our paths are wide, smooth, and clearly marked. Many people, however, find that they have a difficult time figuring out where they need to go next. Determining which "next step" will land you on the most direct route to fulfillment and the realization of your life purpose may not seem easy.

There are many ways to discover what the next step on your life path should be. If you are someone who seeks to satisfy your soul, it is vital that you make this inquiry. Often, your inner voice will counsel you that it's time for a change, and it is very important to trust yourself because only you know what is best for you. Personal growth always results when you let yourself expand beyond the farthest borders of what your life has been so far.

When figuring out what your next step will be, you

may want to review your life experiences. The choices you've made and the dreams you've held onto can give you an idea of what you don't want to do anymore and what you might like to do next. It is also a good idea to think about creative ways you can use your skills and satisfy your passions. Visualizing your perfect future and making a list of ways to manifest that future can help you choose a logical next step that's in harmony with your desires. Meditation, journal writing, taking a class, and other creative activities may inspire you and provide insight regarding the next step in life that will bring you the most satisfaction.

It is when you are willing to listen to yourself and be fearless that figuring out your next step becomes easy. Beneath the fear and hesitation and uncertainty lies your inner knowing that always knows which step you need to take next. Your next step can be as easy as putting one foot in front of the next!

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



Ice Cream and Prayer

A friend told me about a day out with his grandson. This is what he said "Last week, I took my grandchildren to a restaurant. My 6 year-old grandson asked if he could say grace." As we bowed our heads he said, "God is good, God is great. Thank you for the food and I would thank you even more if Grandpa gets us ice cream for dessert. And liberty, peace & justice for all. Amen!"

Along with the laughter and nodding of heads from the other customers nearby, I heard a woman at the next table remark, "That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray. Asking God for ice cream! Why -- I never!"

Hearing this, my grandson burst into tears & asked me, "Did I do it wrong Grandpa? Is God mad at me?"

After I assured him that he had done a terrific job & that God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman

approached the table. He winked at my grandson & said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer." "Really?" my grandson asked. "Cross my heart," the man replied. Then, in a theatrical whisper, he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), "Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is sometimes good for the soul"

Naturally, I bought my grandchildren ice cream at the end of the meal. My grandson stared at his ice cream for a moment, & then he did something I will remember the rest of my life. He picked up his sundae and, without a word, walked over & placed it in front of the woman

With a big smile he looked her in the eye and told her, "Here ma'am, this is for you, you grouchy old bitch. Shove it up your ass and cool off!"

Kinda brings a tear to your eye.



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Boat Ramp

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ON THE MAP

February Events and Programs at Key Largo Library

The Key Largo Branch of the Monroe County Library System is hosting the following programs this month. All library programs are free and open to the public. Program funding provided by the Friends of the Key Largo Library. Visit KeysLibraries.org for books, streaming movies, ebooks, and more.

KEY LARGO BRANCH LIBRARY IS LOCATED IN TRADEWINDS SHOPPING CENTER AT MM 101.4 OCEANSIDE.

SPECIAL EVENTS

In honor of Black History Month, join us in creating a craft portrait of Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Key Largo Library through Feb. 29 during library hours. Supplies are provided.

February 1 - 29 Friends of the Key Largo Library Used Book Sale for a donation of your choice during library hours. New inventory every week. Home décor, jewelry & greeting cards are also available for purchase. Funds help fund adult programming.

Photography Exhibition all month presented by the Photography Club of the Art Guild of the Purple Isles. A reception will take place February 12 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Feb. 1, 2-3 pm Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions: Mideast Realignment. Visit the library for an article on the topic to read ahead of time. Brief video on the topic, then discuss. Sponsored by Friends of the KL Library.

Ages 6-11. Feb. 3 is Take Your Child to the Library Day!

Feb. 6 & 20, 4:30pm LEGO Club Calling all Builders! Be creative and build with LOTS of LEGOs provided by the library, on your own creation or as a team. Ages 6-11.

Feb. 2, 1:30 - 2:30pm Feeding South Florida: Home-school students - join Carmen from Feeding South Florida for a Garden Sort/Plant Parts We Eat activity and food demonstration. Make (and EAT!) a turkey wrap. Materials provided. For students elementary and up.

Feb. 7, 9 am-12:00 pm 1st Wednesday Plant Clinic Master Gardener Volunteers will be at the Key Largo Library to help with plant identification, disease diagnosis, insect identifications/problems, etc. diagnosing gardening/landscape problems.

Feb. 2, 6 pm First Friday Concert Series presents The Kennedys: a New York-based duo that have been perfecting an exhilarating sound that bands 60's style pop-rock with Americana.

Feb. 8, 2-3 pm and 4:30-5:30pm - Sports STEAM Football Challenge Work independently or in groups to build a goal post and test it by playing paper football. Complete a football jersey craft. For elementary students.

Feb. 3, 11am - 1 pm Library Scouts: Learn how to be a Mini Librarian & earn a certificate during this drop-in program.

Feb. 12, - 11:00 am The Alzheimer's Association hosts a Care Support Group. To Register/info 800.272.3900.



FLORIDA KEYS - SINCE 1892

KeysLibraries.org/events
[Facebook.com/KeyLargoLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/KeyLargoLibrary)
[Instagram.com/KeyLargoLibrary](https://www.instagram.com/KeyLargoLibrary)

The Key Largo Library will be closed Monday, January 19 for Preseidents Day

WEEKLY EVENTS

Story Time Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10:30 am for ages 0-5.

Creative Tuesday 1-3pm

An informal creative afternoon with fellow artists to connect in a supportive environment to inspire, rejuvenate, and encourage artistic growth. Bring your own painting supplies and finish your own art or participate in periodic organized painting activities.



Quit Your Way - Tobacco Free Florida, Weds. 1pm

Counseling and free nicotine replacement therapy. Hosted by Beth Dunlap, RN, Florida Keys Area Health Education Center (AHEC).

Tech Tutor,

Weds. 1-4pm

Bring your device and questions to the Key Largo Library for one-on-one help.

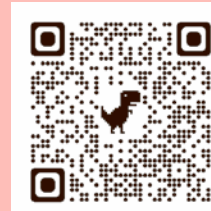
Sit + Sew, Fri. 9:30am - 1pm.

Bring your current project and meet new friends.



Come take a class!

The Key Largo Library has a variety of offerings, ranging from Arts & Crafts to Slime Time. Scan the code to see the complete schedule.



Feb. 14, - 12-3 pm Ukulele JOY will perform all your favorite Love Songs.

Feb. 16, 4:30 pm Screening: "We Are Friends of Old Seven" produced by Marathon's Cliff Rydell. Learn about the local individuals, businesses, and officials who made saving the Bridge a reality. Also March 8, 4:30 pm,

Feb. 21, 1 pm Monroe 200 Dr. Corey Malcom, Lead Historian at the Florida Keys History Center, presents "Monroe 200," an overview of the forces and events that shaped Monroe County from its inception to today using historic Keys photographs to illustrate.

Feb. 22, 2pm - Adult Craft: Decorative Bird Houses - Decorate a bird house in your favorite crafting style. Materials provided. Registration is recommended.

Feb. 27 1-4 pm Volunteer Income Tax Assistance VITA is a United Way program that offers free tax help to those making \$66,000 or less annually.

Feb. 27, 6-7:45 pm Books on Tap - Join us at Keys Meads to discuss Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus. Borrow the book from the Library or the Libby app. Drinks available for purchase. 99411 Overseas Hwy. Unit 6.

Feb. 28, 2 pm and 4:30 pm Slime Time - Be my Valenslimes with gooey heart theme! Your heart will be oozing with love for this Valentines Day Slime. For elementary students + up. Materials provided.

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Wept over a tragic plot twist	Posted a book review online	Owned an item of lit-inspired clothing	Spent WAY more on books than I planned	Joined a book club
Wish list consists mainly of new titles	Utilized random item as an emergency bookmark	FREE SPACE A NOVEL BY JENNIFER EAGAN	Mixed out your library card	Guilty of book-sniffing
Own a signed copy	Tried to write a book	Recommend books frequently	Secretly judged someone's literary tastes	Follow authors on social media
Read in an odd location (concert? bar? Party? wedding?)	Have a nook in the bookstore you consider "yours"	Pre-ordered an upcoming book	Fell in love with a character	"The book was better."

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Coco'Nut' Funnies

As a child, I always had a fear of someone under the bed at night. So I went to a shrink and told him: I've got problems. Every time I go to bed I think there's somebody under it. I'm scared. I think I'm going crazy."

"Just put yourself in my hands for one year," said the shrink. "Come talk to me three times a week and we should be able to get rid of those fears."

"How much do you charge?"

"One hundred fifty dollars per visit," replied the doctor. "I'll sleep on it," I said.

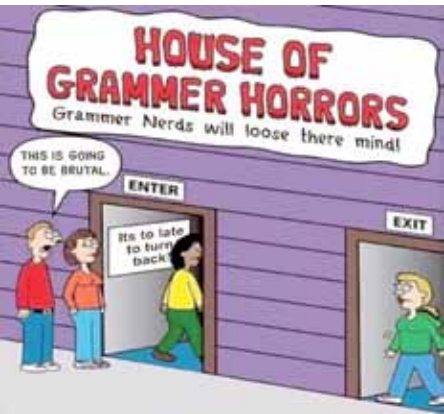
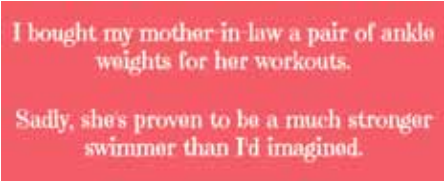
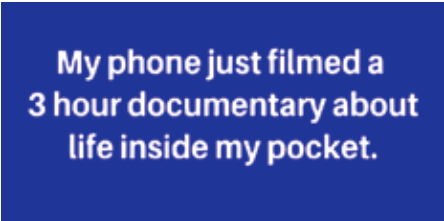
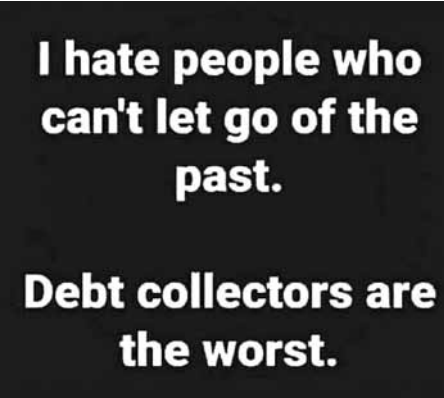
Six months later the doctor met me on the street. "Why didn't you come to see me about those fears you were having?" he asked.

"Well, \$150 a visit, three times a week for a year, is \$23,400.00. A bartender cured me for \$10.00. I was so happy to have saved all that money that I went and bought a new pickup truck."

"Is that so?" With a bit of an attitude he said, "and how, may I ask, did a bartender cure you?"

"He told me to cut the legs off the bed. Ain't nobody under there now."

It's always better to get a second opinion.



Dan was a single guy living at home with his father and working in the family business.

When he found out he was going to inherit a fortune when his sickly father died, he decided he needed to find a wife with whom to share his fortune.

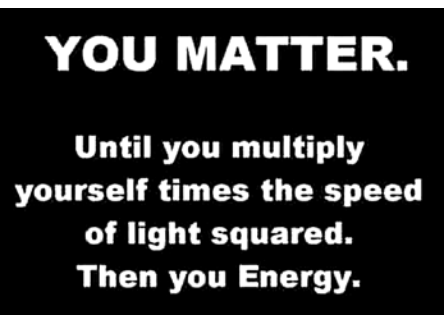
One evening, at an investment meeting, he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her natural beauty took his breath away.

"I may look like just an ordinary guy," he said to her, "but probably in just a few years my father will die and I will inherit \$200 million."

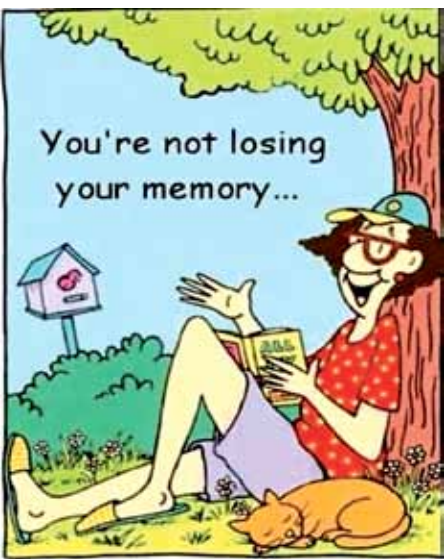
Impressed, the woman asked for his business card.

Three days later, she became his stepmother.

Women are so much better at financial planning than men.



Out of nowhere, my nephew just asked, "Do you think Pavlov thought about feeding his dog every time he heard a bell ring?" and now I'm going to be haunted by this question



I was eating breakfast with my 10-year-old granddaughter and I asked her, "What day is tomorrow?"

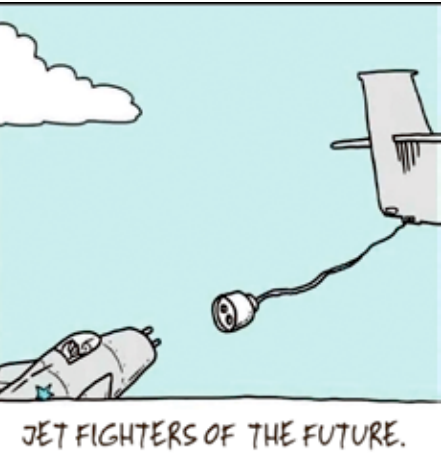
Without skipping a beat she said, "It's Presidents Day!"

She's smart, so I asked her "What does Presidents Day mean?"

I was waiting for something about Obama, Biden or Trump, etc.

She replied, "Presidents Day is when the President steps out of the White House, and if he sees his shadow, we have another year of bullshit."

You know, it hurts when hot coffee spurts out of your nose.



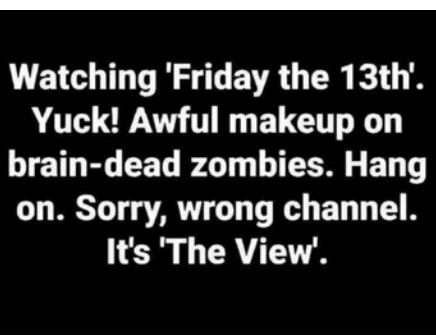
A Key Largo man walks into a bank in Miami and asks for the loan officer. He tells the loan officer that he is going to Washington DC on business for four weeks and needs to borrow \$5,000.

The bank officer tells him that bank will need some form of security for the loan, so the man hands over the keys to a brand new Mercedes Benz S class 500 parked on the street in front of the bank. Produces the title and everything checks out.

The loan officer agrees to accept the car as collateral for the loan. The bank's president and its officers all enjoy a good laugh at the guy for using a Mercedes Benz as collateral against a 5,000 loan.

An employee of the bank then drives the Mercedes Benz into the bank's underground garage and parks it there. Four weeks later, the fellow returns, repays the \$5,000 and the interest, which comes to \$150.

The loan officer says 'Sir, we are very happy to have had your business but we are a little puzzled. While you were away, we checked you out & found that you are a multi millionaire. What puzzles us is, why would you bother to borrow \$5,000?' The Keys guy replies: "Where else in Miami can I park my car four weeks for only \$150 and expect it to be there when I return?"



A husband walks into Victoria's Secret to purchase a sheer negligee for his wife for Valentine's Day.

He is shown several possibilities that range from \$250 to \$500 in price - the more sheer, the higher the price. He opts for the sheerest item, pays the \$500, and takes it home.

He presents it to his wife and asks her to go upstairs, put it on, and model it for him.

Upstairs, the wife thinks (she's no dummy), "I have an idea ... it's so sheer that it might as well be nothing. I won't put it on, I'll do the modeling naked, return it tomorrow, and keep the \$500 refund for myself."

She appears naked on the balcony and strikes a pose.

The husband says, "Good grief! You'd think for \$500, they'd at least iron it!"

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CLUBS

Florida Keys Orchid, Fern and Bromeliad Society meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Key Largo Civic Club at 6:00pm.
Open to the public.
keysorchidclub@aol.com

THE KEY PLAYERS

Community Theater Group needs volunteers to work behind the scenes & audition for roles!
thekeyplayers.org

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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.



Salena



Saki



Rose



Shelby



Simon



Leo



Ginger



Bob & Dylan



Davin



Leo

Conch Characters / Around Town



Karla Milano welcomed Paul and Julie Overstreet to the American Legion. Paul is a world-famous, Grammy-winning songwriter from Nashville. Just ask Randy Travis!



Diving with Pirates Cove Watersports at MM 104.



Daniel Seehafer, National Commander of the American Legion paid a visit to Key Largo Post 333, here with Key Largo Commander Jim Schmeiser.



Ukulele JOY, of the Just Older Youth, Inc. aka The JOY Center, entertained the people who came to the Center For Independent Living of the Keys sponsored Accessible Vaccine Clinics. Your next opportunity for a free vaccine, and to listen to Ukulele JOY is Feb 12th, 10-2.



Lesly Quintanilla Lopez, Center For Independent Living of the Keys Director and Raymond Regades, CILK Board Member give Susan Anderson of Ukulele JOY a \$500 donation for Just Older Youth, Inc. aka The JOY Center.



2024 Anglers in the Keys Kids Sailfish Tournament.



Beautiful view from the Lorelei!



Contributing writer Luke Sommer Glenn.

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This Month's Live Entertainment and Events at the Lorelei							
Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"SUNDAY SCHOOL" \$3 Bloody Marys, Mimosas & Screwdrivers every Sunday, 7 to 11 am				<i>Waterfront Dining</i>	1 Webb & Davidson 5-9	2 Jade Storm 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	3 Uncle Rico 5-9
4 Webb & Davidson 5-9	5 Carousers 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	6 Dennis Holmes 5-9	7 Webb & Davidson 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	8 Webb & Davidson 5-9	9 Brothers Of Others 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	10 Dennis Holmes 11-3 Abstract Radio 5-9	
11 Micah 11-3 Webb & Davidson 5-9	12 Carousers 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	13 Micah 5-9	14 Webb & Davidson 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	15 Webb & Davidson 5-9	16 Ego Free 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	17 John Ciulla 11-3 The Regs 5-9	
18 Micah 11-3 Webb & Davidson 5-9	19 Carousers 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	20 Dennis Holmes 5-9	21 Webb & Davidson 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	22 Webb & Davidson 5-9	23 OVRHOL 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	24 Dennis Holmes 11-3 Rearview Mirror 5-9	
25 Micah 11-3 Webb & Davidson 5-9	26 Carousers 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	27 Steve Venini 5-9	28 Webb & Davidson 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	29 Webb & Davidson 5-9	Open for Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner 7am-10pm		

