## Coconut Telegraph

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### Deadline

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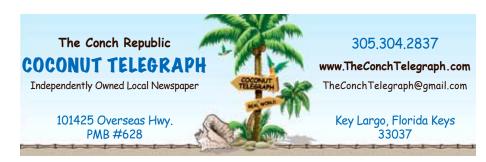
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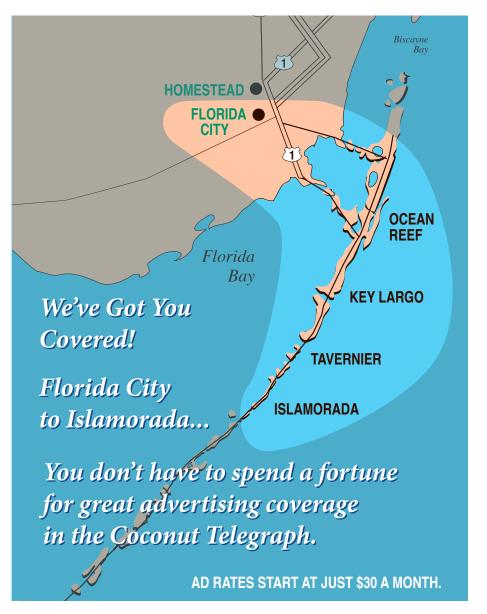
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BE READY, AS IT IS TIME FOR CELEBRATION,
NEW YEAR BRINGS
NEW HOPES AND ASPIRATION,
HAVE A FANTASTIC YEAR FILLED WITH
PEACE AND HEALTH,
WITH LOTS OF LOVE AND LOADS OF WEALTH.

Wishing you a happy new year!

Denise & the Staff of the Coconut Telegraph



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# Before You Pop Your Cork...

Did you know that Champagne corks can fly at 50 mph?

It's impossible to pinpoint just how much that tension-bursting "pop!" adds to the enjoyment of a bottle of Champagne, but human ingenuity has found ways to measure the speed at which a cork shoots from its mooring.

In 2008, a German scientist calculated that the average speed of a Champagne cork is just under 25 mph, though they also noted that 62 mph could be reached under the right conditions. Other sources, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology, have noted that champagne corks can easily go flying at around

50 mph.

This high-speed bedazzlement is the result of the way Champagne (and all sparkling wine) is created. Since that magical late 17thcentury day when Dom Perignon discovered the recipe — and likely even before that — the beverage has been made by adding yeast and sugar to an existing base of wine. Sealed tight in a bottle. this mixture undergoes a second fermentation that produces its signature carbon dioxide bubbles.

That second fermentation swells internal pressure to 90 pounds per square inch — approximately three times the level of an inflated car tire. Upon finally achieving release when the

bottle's wire is unwrapped and its stopper nudged, the pent-up carbon dioxide not only ejects the cork at parkway-level speeds, but also generates supersonic shock waves that resemble those unleashed by rockets and jets!

Of course, such a violently ejected projectile needs to be handled carefully; while it's used to comic effect in movies, a poorly aimed cork can shatter glass and result in ghastly injuries like a split eyeball or detached retina.

Drinkers will want to follow safe-opening guidelines that include chilling the sparkling wine to reduce pressure, aiming away from the body, and gripping the cork while twisting the bottle.



