

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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Attractions

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Possoms by Carol Ellis

Musicians Relief Fund Photos

Entertainer of the Month:
Jenny Newman

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Editorial: Musicians Relief Fund

After the hugely successful fundraiser on April 27 for the Musicians Relief Fund, the Elks Lodge has decided they no longer want to host our account. Much of the \$4,000 we raised was in checks and we are not able to deposit them.

We have found a possible new home but it will take a couple of weeks to follow proper procedure. If you were kind enough to support our local musicians with a check made out to

the Elks, hang in there, we will be contacting you soon. The Musician's Relief Fund was started in April 2016 through the Elks Lodge to assist local entertainers in need.

The MRF has over the years helped many musicians who were not able to work due to health reasons.

Thank you to everyone who helped, donated and participated. The fundraiser was a blessed day and we plan to be having more events as the need arises.



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Support LOCAL MUSIC

Musicians
RELIEF FUND
Upper Keys



Felix the Catt jams with Jenny Newman and others



Kimberly Etheridge, tee shirt detail



Appreciative audience



JoJo on the maracas, Bob Bunz in the spotlight



So many musicians turned out to jam for the cause!



Thanks for Coming Out
for Some Fun and Supporting
the Musicians Relief Fund!



Munchies Contest 1st place winner Gianna Rendina



Valerie Barth, 3rd place winner with Jan Gould



Jimmy Hawkins tore it up!



Tony Taylor in the house!



Corrine and Andrea were busy behind the bar



The perfect cake for the occasion



Key Largo Wood Rats took the stage



Critters in Our Midst: Possums (Didelphis virginiana)

by Carol Ellis

Not sure if the possum cared that I was photographing it. Maybe it couldn't see me or was just used to my presence?

Although I espouse the principles of planting for wildlife, I always seem surprised when it actually works. Wildlife need food, water, cover and a place to raise their young in order to live. Though there's little in this world I can control, there's an opportunity to make a difference when we plant for wildlife.

Though sometimes I may put a handful of sunflower seeds on the "seed table" for the resident cardinals or blue jays, I don't feed the critters. I do make sure my planting choices and practices are compatible with the needs of our native creatures. The best thing you can do to attract wildlife is plant native plants and they will come.

Critters can be pretty sneaky. Case in point: the gardener picked a ripe avocado and put it beside his lunchbox only to return to find it had disappeared. Hmmm? He assumed I had picked it up. I had not. A short while later we opened a storage box and there was movement and I screamed (of course), as I've never become accustomed to

actually seeing wildlife in my yard, and an enormous possum crawled out. It must've weighed 15 pounds! It had been the culprit that stole the avocado, and by



A common misconception about possums is that they hang by their tail. This possum is perched on a thick branch of a Wild Tamarind (Lyceloma) tree.

the looks of things may have consumed many more. The possum just lumbered off when it saw us. My thought is there's enough here for both of us, and I don't mind sharing some fruit or produce from my garden. One morning in January while surveying the

yard, looking for ripe fruit or vegetables, and clearing up any rotting fruit on the ground, I came across what appeared to be a dead possum. It was intact, no

appearance of foul play, although I am aware that some homeowners put out bait to kill the rats, so perhaps this critter was an unfortunate secondary victim, since their diet consists of mice and rats... perhaps it ate a poisoned rat. Opossums are nature's

"Sanitation Engineers". They also eat insects including cockroaches, crickets and beetles, and snails, as well as dead meat.

I picked it up, placed it in a grocery bag, and put it in the trash can. I didn't think any more of it. That is until I told the story to a naturalist who asked me if I



Sleeping or just sniffing out its next insect meal.

was sure it wasn't "Playing Possum"... you know, acting dead to dissuade a predator.

A possum will hiss, growl and flash a mouthful of 50 fierce-looking teeth in hopes of scaring a predator. If that doesn't work they will play dead, since the predator is less interested in dead meat. The naturalist said it's an involuntary comatose-like state induced by extreme



Side view of the possum shows one of its 50 teeth, more teeth than any other mammal in North America.

Possums... CONTINUED Photos by Carol Ellis

"We discovered a large possum enjoying some scraps outside the front door the other night. We used to have one who came so regularly every evening you could set your watch by him. I do believe that nothing in nature is ugly; however, I must also admit that there are some things that aren't exactly beautiful, and the possum is one them! This particular one was quite tame and would be quite still to be stroked.

His coat was as silky and soft as goose down which made him beautiful to touch. Perhaps we lay too much store in believing beauty to be a visual thing, whereas in fact it should involve all the senses." (January 1980 - TORN (The Ocean Reef News))



Is this possum "Playing Possum" or is it dead?

fear, and somehow the opossum's body knows when the danger has passed. They could not control it, but would "come to" again. Nature's mystery! Putting it that way, I was not able to say I tested for temperature or life signs. It just looked dead.

That made my husband Ted remark,"When I die will you make sure you get a second opinion? To make sure I am dead?" He is one of a not-so-small

fraternity / sorority / "e-ternity" of people who have died (for Ted 8 minutes flat-line) and come back to life. People who have had this experience return with glowing stories of family reunions, or a sense of knowing about the glory of the afterlife.



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.

AN OPOSSUM RESCUE

One lucky orphaned possum was adopted by my webmaster Brittney Novalsky, who named it "Paris," and she raised it from the size of a tiny mouse until 3 years old. Brittney says Paris loved to cuddle, go on bike rides, and had a very special diet to keep her healthy. Brittney drove an hour round trip to get Paris quail eggs.



The opossum is North America's only marsupial. Infants stay inside the mother's pouch to nurse and develop, but if the mother dies while still nursing,

her offspring rarely survive. At 7 weeks old, the young leave the pouch but stick close to mom, still nursing and often riding atop her back



Though a possum's life span is a short 3-4 years, Brittney says the experience of knowing love from an opossum was worth it.

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.

ORIGINAL LOCAL ARTWORK BY



A Little Father's Day History



Sonora Louise Smart Dodd first brought up the idea of a father's day in 1909. She wanted a special day to honor her father, William Smart.

When Sonora's mother died in childbirth with her sixth child, William was left to raise the newborn and five other children by himself on a farm in Washington state. As an adult, Sonora realized how strong and unselfish her dad had been raising his kids as a single parent.

Sonora wanted Father's

Day to be celebrated on the first Sunday in June, because it was close to her dad's birthday. Instead, the first Father's Day celebration took place on June 19, 1910 in Spokane, Washington.

In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson made the third Sunday of June Father's Day.

It wasn't until 1972 that President Richard Nixon made Father's Day a national holiday - about 60 years after Mother's Day had been made a national holiday.



1791 Narcissus Ave., Big Pine Key

This is a great investment opportunity. A duplex in a wonderful location in the Keys. Very close to Key West. Beautiful sunsets in the evenings to enjoy from your balcony. There's a canal in the back for your boating excursions. 13-ft elevation gives you plenty of room to store RV's boats and more. 2/1 on each side, with central AC and baha shutters. A metal roof. This unit is a 2 unit duplex and there's another two unit duplex also available just down the street at 1547 Narcissus.



547 Narcissus Ave., Big Pine Key

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ENTERTAINER OF THE MONTH: JENNY NEWMAN

Jennifer (Jenny) Newman is a musician & entertainer residing in Key Largo, FL. She has graced many stages over the years doing comedy, dance and improv in NYC and the Jersey shore. Moving here in 2016 after the death of her husband the previous year, she went on a mission to learn bass guitar and assimilate into the local music scene. She found a need to reinvent herself and start fresh.

Jenny has spent the majority of her adult life involved in some sort of performance or entertainment as a source of income or pleasure seeking, so moving onto music was a likely path. Over the last eight years, she has played with a variety of musicians to further hone her craft. Always a student of life, she is now expanding her guitar and vocal skills, writing original songs and developing a solo act on guitar.



Karaoke night at the KL Moose.



Jennifer Newman (right) at the recent Musicians Relief Party with Jimmy Hawkins, John Baxter and friends.

Integrating into the local jam nights in the Upper Keys and Homestead, Jenny developed a network of local musicians and has played with everyone who would play with her. This allowed her to become familiar with multiple genres of music and expand opportunities to get pickup jobs with many local bands. She also started a karaoke night at the Key Largo Moose Lodge #2287 that has grown into a popular Thursday night event frequented by locals and visitors year 'round.

In the last couple of years, Jenny has been the bass player with Lady A Band, Four Sheets to the Wind and The Key Largo Wood Rats. Most recently she started playing with the Luke Sommer Glenn Band.

Her schedule is as follows:

Wednesday 7-10: Key Largo Moose Lodge w/Key Largo Wood Rats

Thursday 8-11: Key Largo Moose Lodge Karaoke Night

Saturday 7-11: Caribbean Club w/Luke Sommer Glenn Band

Also, one Friday per month at Tavernier Elks Lodge for Karaoke Night. See the Big Chill calendar for more Luke Sommer Glenn Band gigs. Other dates can be found on Facebook & other social media.



Jenny with the Lady A Band.



Luke Sommer Glenn and Jenny at the Musicians Relief Party.



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The Nature of Things -- A blog by Luke Sommer Glenn

At 55 years of age I had congestive heart failure and as a result I have this nagging thrombosis in my left leg- an occlusion, a blockage I've had it roto-rootered 3 or 4 times so now it's only 95% clogged. Needless to say that leg is what I sarcastically refer to as my good leg. It is prone to infections, it feels like I'm wearing a ten-pound sock that is wrinkled up on the bottom and swings between all the wonderful sensations of neuropathy. At least it feels hot more often than not.

My favorite chore is blowing the never ending stream of leaves from our giant "Shady Lady" tree. (More sarcasm). While not cussing the ridiculousness of blowing leaves when I could just mulch it up with a lawn mower in ONE pass but alas my landlords chose effing pea rock.

Pea rock is great for people who don't mind spraying chemicals in their environment, although I see a lot of

weeds becoming resistant to even the gasoline-grade weed killers sprayed around our infrastructure. We pull the weeds by hand because we have fur babies.

At any rate, I managed to back into a potted plant which led to a fall and a nasty cut on my good leg. The back of it where an older, not as flexible man can't see very well. The wife flushed it out and applied the anti-infection cream but to no avail. A trip to the doctor, some antibiotics and a few weeks of hobbling around and it is on its way to becoming yet another scar.

After the loss of our little fluff ball Lily the house was feeling empty and sad. Tinker kitty would meow loudly at 5AM in search of his playmate. Tinker loves his puppies and there is nothing better than coming home to a dog. So happy to see you, it takes the strain of the day away. So we stopped at a shelter to find a cat-friendly dog. The first one

to be let out of the cage came straight up to me and bit my good leg.

The bite became infected while I was doing a very rare out of town gig a 3-hours drive one way. By the time I got back to town on Sunday afternoon it was swollen, very angry in appearance and I was running a low grade fever so it was a necessary evil to go to the ER (expensive room) at the hospital. Another scar for my good leg.

I try my best to shield my left lowermost extremity from befalling injury but it seems like it is marked by destiny to absorb the impact of the chaos that is life for the old and unsteady. My right leg, which is less affected by the diabetic induced neuropathy seems to escape the onslaught because it is far less likely to get infected by relatively minor cuts and bites. That seems to just be the way things on this planet work, its very nature.

Last night my 18 year old Tinker kitty was circling my legs and meowing impatiently as I'm exiting my van which is a #\$\$%ing process with groceries, cell phone, medicines

Luke Sommer Glenn is a local entertainer and Conch Character.



For more info:
www.lukesommerglenn.com

and the like. I didn't notice he decided to lay right where I'm stepping and somehow I managed to step on his tail which caused him to retaliate with a hard bite to the only place that the nature of things insists upon..my good effing leg. Damn it man. I would have been better off stepping on a bear trap.

The wife is yelling at me for bleeding on the floor, Mia the puppy dog is trying to help by licking up the blood. For a guy on Eliquis anti-clot medicine, I quit bleeding within minutes. The question is whether or not to wait and see if it gets infected or just go ahead and call the doctor for more antibiotics. I'm doing my best to keep the wound washed out with anti-microbial soap and hot water then slather on the Neosporin. Stubborn as I am I have no choice but to wait and see.

That's just my nature.

Peace, Love, Happiness,
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Tinker the Mighty Hunter is a handsome boy.

It's Kitten Season! Fix Those Felines!

Please help "fix" pet overpopulation by spaying and neutering your pets.



Free spay and neuter clinics at Key Largo Animal Shelter, normally every 2 weeks.

This program is privately funded by Humane Animal Care Coalition for Upper Keys residents.

Please call the shelter for details and appointments.

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Instant Karma



My ex-husband had an annoying habit of bringing greasy old carburetors and things into the house to work on. So, last week, when my friend called to tell me this story, I had to share it.

The way my friend told it, this guy pushed his motorcycle from the patio into his living room, where he began to clean the engine with some rags and a bowl of gasoline. When he finished, he sat on the motorcycle and decided to start it to make sure everything was still OK. Unfortunately, the bike started in gear, and crashed through the glass patio door with him still clinging to the handlebars.

His wife had been working in the kitchen. She came running at the noise, and found him crumpled on the patio, badly cut from the shards of broken glass. She called 911, and the paramedics transported the guy to the emergency room.

So far, the story is humorous — in a "that is what you get for being a big enough lout to bring your motorcycle into the house" kind of way.

But wait, there's more! Later that afternoon, after many

stitches had pulled her husband back together, the wife brought him home and put him to bed. She cleaned up the mess in the living room, and dumped the bowl of gasoline in the toilet.

Shortly thereafter, her husband woke up, lit a cigarette, and went into the bathroom. He sat down and tossed the cigarette into the toilet, which promptly exploded because the wife had not flushed the gasoline away. The explosion blew the man through the bathroom door.

The wife heard the explosion and her husband's screams. She ran into the hall and found him lying on the floor with his trousers blown away and burns on his buttocks. The wife again ran to the phone and called for an ambulance.

The same two paramedics were dispatched to the scene. They loaded the husband on the stretcher and began carrying him to the street. One of them asked the wife how the injury had occurred. When she told them, they began laughing so hard that they dropped the stretcher, and broke the guy's collarbone.

Talk about instant karma.

Free Gun Lock

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Florida law states: anyone who stores a loaded firearm and knows that someone younger than 16 is likely to gain access to it without adult supervision must secure it with a lock or in a locked container.

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- Fla. Keys Pediatric / Adolescent Center
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- "Açai" is a Portuguese word that means "expensive blueberry."
- Açai berries reverse the aging process and if you eat too many you will turn into a baby.
- Açai berries are a good source of bromocyanins, vitonoids, biostanins and other words I just made up.
- Açai berries are not a "superfood" and a lot of the health facts surrounding them are vastly overstated.
- Those are blueberries in that picture up there.
- Anyone can make up a bunch of fake açai berry facts and put them in the newspaper.

Ladies Hook 180 Fish at Ladies, Let's Go Fishing's Screamin' Reels

Ladies came from as far away as Texas to compete at the non-intimidating Ladies, Let's Go Fishing Screamin' Reels tournament May 17-19, 2024 in Islamorada. Hosted by the nonprofit Ladies Let's Go Fishing Foundation (LLGF), the tournament kicked off on Friday at the Tavernier Elks Club, followed by friendly fishing competition on Saturday and Sunday. A total of 180 offshore and inshore fish were hooked by women fishing from private or charter boats.



KK IV Saturday– Pam Ridgle, Murchison, TX; Brook Johnson, Bullard, TX; Alissa Johnson, Chandler, TX; Jackie Busa, Naples; Mary Lemak, Key Largo & Nicole Ehart, St. Augustine.



Dawna Gibson, Destin, FL; Pam Ridgle, Murchison, TX; Alissa Johnson, Chandler TX and Brooke Johnson, Bullard, TX on Blackwater Charters with Capt. Dylan Scoble.



Sea Horse Sunday – Penny and Jen Jacobus, Pinecrest, FL; Isabella and Jolene Chandler, Jacksonville, FL and Kim Royal and Lachelle Reece, Orlando FL.



Big Dave Saturday - Susan Anthony, Fort Myers, FL; Kyllene Carter, Miami Shores, FL (Second Place Offshore); Sundie Wilcox, St. Augustine, FL; Lachelle Reece and Kim Royal, Orlando, FL and Dawna Gibson, Destin, FL with mate Dave Duncan.



Tatiana Andronik, Indian Trail, NC (First Place Offshore); Elena Kuska, Islamorada, FL; Penny and Jen Jacobus, Pinecrest FL; Isabella and Jolene Chandler, Jacksonville Florida with mate Colby in between on Sea Horse. Isabella Chandler, age 13, took First Place Teen Angler.

WINNERS:

First Place Offshore: Tatiana Andronik, Indian Trail, NC 4.75 lb. Mahi on "KK I

Second Place Offshore: Kyllene Carter, Miami Shores, FL 4.4 lb. Mahi on Big Dave

First Place Jack Division: Penny Jacobus, Pinecrest, FL 48.5 lb. Amberjack on Sea Horse

First and Second Place Inshore: Elizabeth Palma, Key Largo, FL 26 and 22 inch Redfish on Uno Mas

Top Teen: Isabella Chandler, Jacksonville, FL 35.5 lb. Amberjack on Sea Horse

Some ladies caught the first fish of their lives. There were three mother/daughter teams and for one pair the event was a Mother's Day gift.

\$1,000 in prizes including Penn combos, art prints, shirts and more were presented on Sunday upon the return of boats at Whale Harbor.

Commented Betty Bauman, LLGF Founder, "Screamin' Reels is a different breed of tournament, where it's game on for almost every legal offshore or

inshore species in the sea. It's perfect for novice or average anglers and those who never caught a fish nor would dream of entering a fishing tournament."

Featured on national network television and more, the series is supported by major partners including Sunset Inn, Islamorada and Monroe County Tourist Development Council. Supporters and other contributors are listed on the website.



Elizabeth Palma, Key Largo, FL won First and Second Place Inshore for redfish on Uno Mas.

Upcoming events; register in advance at www.ladiesletsgofishing.com.

2024 remaining LLGF events are:

June 21-23 South Florida Offshore seminar and fishing Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Aug. 6-11 Azores Fishing

Sept. 20-21, 2024 Guy Harvey Outpost Bass Seminar & Tournament Camp Mack, Lake Wales, FL

Oct. 18-20 2024 Keys Saltwater Weekend seminar and fishing plus Fishing Fever Tournament, Islamorada, FL

Nov. 23-24, 2024 St. Augustine Surf Fishing Academy Guy Harvey Resort



Contact: (954) 475-9068;
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Sunday Bingo starts at 5 pm

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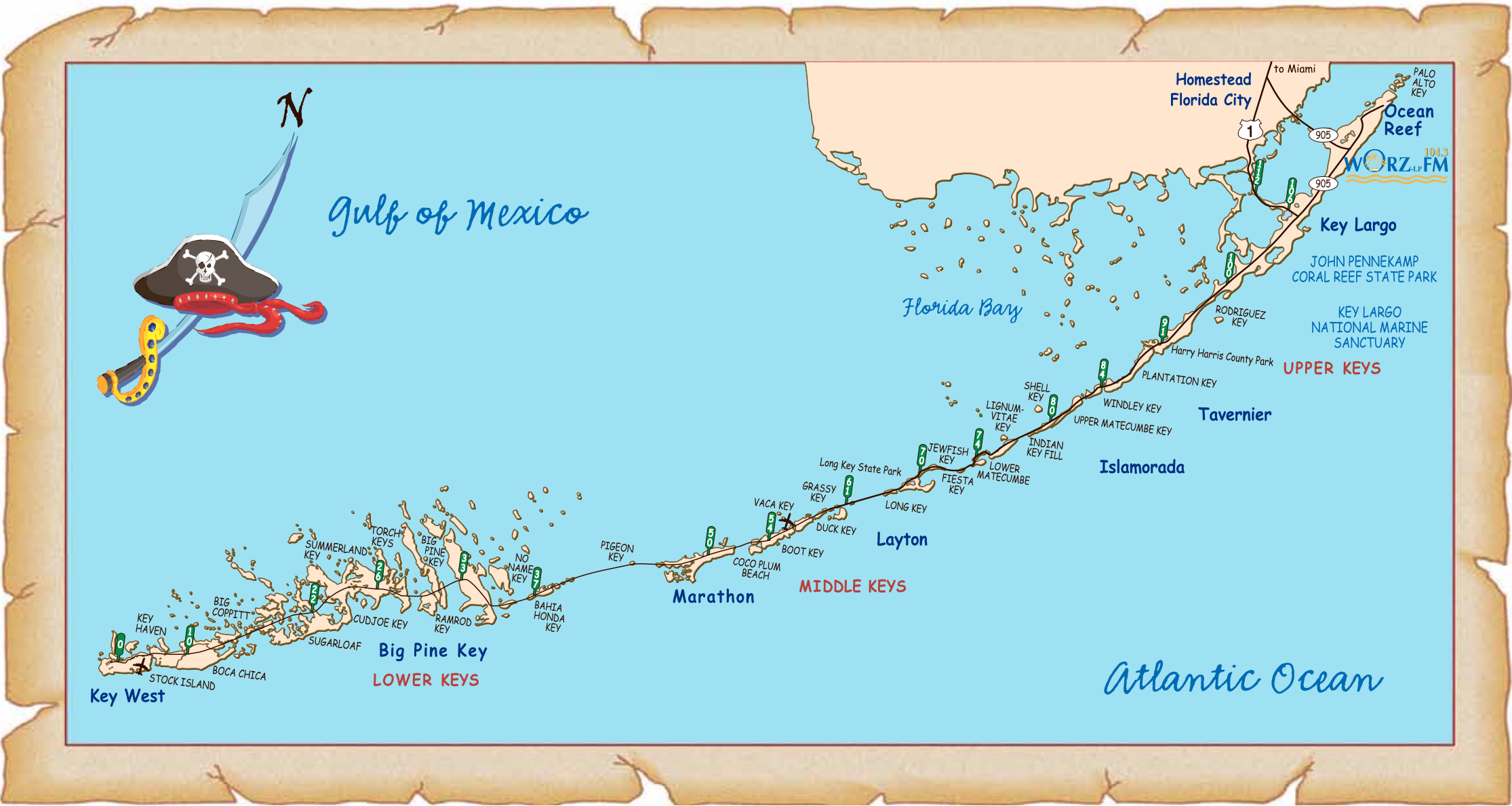
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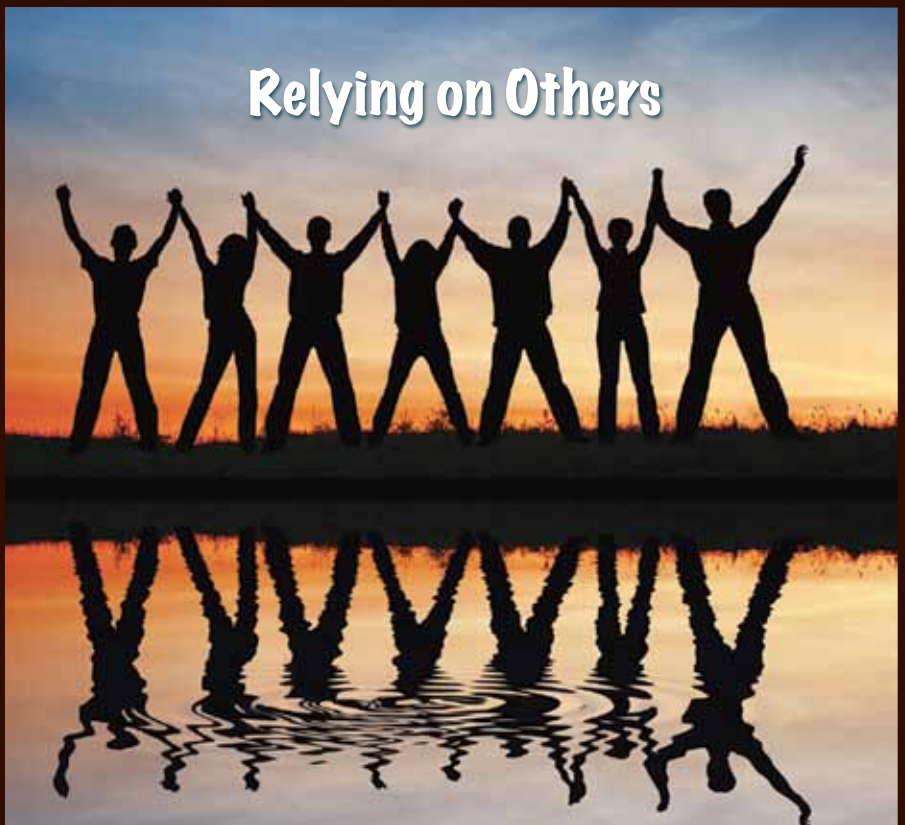
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Relying on Others



A deep feeling of gratitude can emerge as we open to the experience of being helped.

Most of us pride ourselves on our self-sufficiency. We like to be responsible for taking care of ourselves and pulling our own weight in the world. This is why it can be so challenging when we find ourselves in a situation in which we have to rely on someone else. This can happen as the result of an illness or an injury, or even in the case of a positive change, such as the arrival of a newborn. At times like these, it is essential that we let go of our feeling that we should be able to do it all by ourselves and accept the help of others.

The first step is accepting the situation fully as it is. Too often we make things worse either by trying to do more than we should or by lapsing into feelings of uselessness. In both cases, we run the risk of actually prolonging our dependency. In addition, we miss a valuable opportunity to practice acceptance and humility.


The ego resists what is, so when we move into acceptance we move into the deeper realm of the soul. In needing others and allowing them to help us, we experience the full realization that we are not on our own in the world. While this may bring up feelings of vulnerability, a deep feeling of gratitude also may emerge as we open to the experience of being helped. This realization can enable us to be wiser in our service of others when we are called upon to help.

It takes wisdom and strength to surrender to our own helplessness and to accept that we, just like every other human being, have limitations. The gifts of surrender are numerous. We discover humility, gratitude, and a deepening understanding of the human experience that enables us to be that much more compassionate and surrendered in the world.

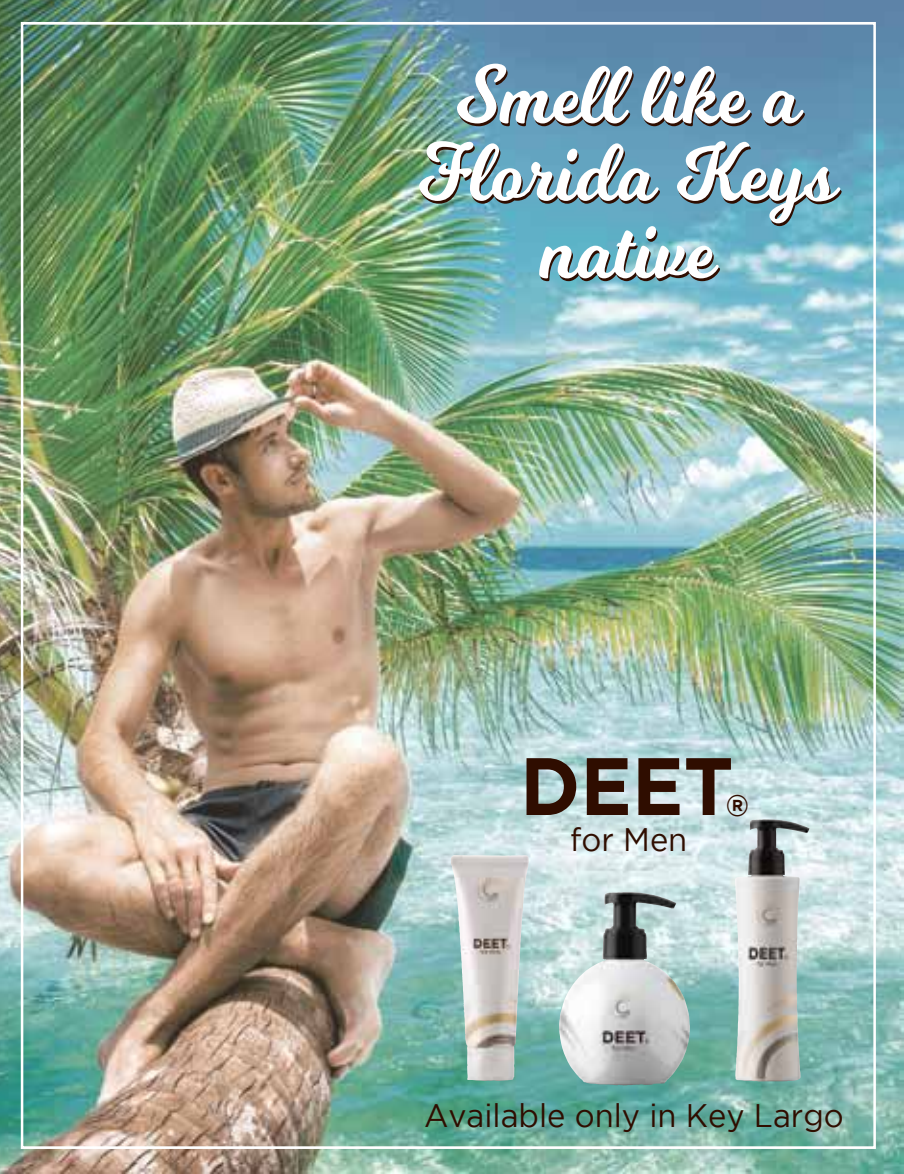
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THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW TO LIVE IN THE SOUTH

1. A possum is a flat animal that sleeps in the middle of the road.
2. There are 5,000 types of snakes and 4,998 of them live in the South.
3. There are 10,000 types of spiders. All 10,000 of them live in the South, plus a couple no one's seen before.
4. If it grows, it'll stick ya. If it crawls, it'll bite cha.
5. Onced and Twiced are words.
6. It is not a shopping cart, it is a buggy!
7. Jawl-P? means: Did you all go to the bathroom?
8. People actually grow, eat, and like okra.
9. Fixinto is one word. It means I'm going to do something.
10. There is no such thing as lunch. There is only dinner and then there's supper.
11. Iced tea is appropriate for all meals and you start drinking it when you're two. We do like a little tea with our sugar. It is referred to as the Wine of the South.
12. Backwards and forwards means I know everything about you.
13. The word jeet is actually a question meaning, 'Did you eat?'
14. You don't have to wear a watch, because it doesn't matter what time it is, you work until you're done or it's too dark to see.
15. You don't PUSH buttons, you MASH em.
16. Y'all is singular. All Y'all is plural.
17. All the festivals across the state are named after a fruit, vegetable, grain, insect, or animal.
18. You only own five spices: salt, pepper, mustard, Tabasco, and ketchup.
19. Everyone you meet is a Honey, Sugar, Miss (first name), or Mr (first name)
20. We don't need no dang Driver's Ed. If our mama says we can drive, we can drive!!!



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Legend

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

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Mariners Hospital
Harry Harris Park & Beach
Murray Nelson Government Center
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Post Office
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Butterwood Sound
Rock Harbor
Mosquito Bank
Benwood
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Mallosses Reef
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Duane

Oceanside

Blackwater Sound
Jewish Creek
Garden Cove
John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park
Caryfort
The Elbow
City of Washington
Christ Statue
Grecian Rocks
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
Alligator
North

Directions:
To Miami
To Ocean Reef

Highways and Mile Markers:
US Highway 1
State Highway 99
Mile Markers: 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108

Points of Interest:
A, B, C, D, E

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Dive Site, Dive Wreck

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 ON THE MAP

May 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 LARGE BRANCH LIBRARY IS LOCATED IN TRADEWINDS SHOPPING CENTER AT MM 101.4 OCEANSIDE.

SPECIAL EVENTS

May 2-30 Key Largo Library Community Room Exhibit:
 Marcia Brito is an Upper Keys photographer concentrating on the beauty of the Keys with an emphasis on the community's responsibility to preserve our environment.

May 1, 9 am-12 pm
1st Wednesday Plant Clinic.
Master Gardener Volunteers
will help with plant identifica-
tion, disease diagnosis, insect
identifications/ problems, and
other services.

**May 9, 2-4 pm Adult Craft-
ing Fun: Nautical Wine Bottle.**
Get crafty and transform some
wine bottles into something fun
and functional with a nautical
theme. Sign up - space is
limited. Supplies provided.

May 2, 2 pm Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions: US-China Trade Rivalry. Visit the library for an article to read ahead of time. We'll watch a brief video on the topic, then discuss. Sponsored by Friends of the Key Largo Library.

**May 10, 1-5 pm Non-Profit
Job Fair:** Bring copies of your
resume & dress to impress. Visit
keyslibraries.org/job-fair-2024
for a list of employers.

May 2, 16, & 30 4 pm
STEM: Intro to Game Design
Are you interested in learning how to make your own animations and games? Join us every other Thursday in May to begin your coding journey! Sign up at the desk to reserve a spot. For ages 10 - 14.

May 13, 11 am-12:30 pm
The Alzheimer's Association
hosts a Care Support Group,
2nd Monday of every month.
To register/more info call
800.272.3900.

May 13, 6 pm
Start Up, Start Right! New Business Workshop
 If you are starting up a new business, attend this in-person presentation and information session. Registration needed. Presented by Bonnie Barnes, Small Business Development Center (FIU).

May 3, 3:30-5:30 pm
Reception for Photographer
Marcia Brito. Artist Presenta-
tion with slide show and addi-
tional commentary from local
environmentalist Barry Wray.

May 15, 12 pm Create a healthy brain-power meal and learn together! Samples are included. Presented by the Center for Independent Living. Recommended for adults.

May 7 & 21, 4 pm LEGO Club
Calling all builders! LOTS of
LEGOs provided. Work on your
own or build as a team. May 7:
Travel Challenge May 21:
One-Handed Challenge. For
Ages 6-11.

May 16, 2 pm Mindful Mus-
ings: The Power of Journaling,
which has been shown to
improve mental and emotional
health. Join Baptist Health
Psychotherapist Janelle Falcon
to learn more about the ben-
efits of journaling.

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

May 23, 4 pm STEAM: Patterns in Art and Math. Explore the world of Tessellations! Children and teens of nearly all ages can get hands-on enjoyment with this mathematical art form. Supplies provided. Ages 6-11.

May 28: Stop by the Key Largo Branch Library starting today to pick up Summer Reading Logs! This year's theme is *Adventure Begins @ Your Library*. Join us June 7 at 3 pm for our *Adventure Awaits* Kick-off event! Ages 6-106.
<https://keylibraries.org/summer-reading-2024/>

May 28, 6-7:45 pm Books on Tap Join us at Keys Meads to discuss "How the One-Armed Sister Sweeps Her House" by Cherie Jones. Borrow the book from the Key Largo Library or the Libby app. Drinks are available for purchase. 99411 O/S Hwy., #6.

May 30, 1-3:30 pm Hurricane Preparedness Presented by the American Red Cross and the Center for Independent Living.

May 31, 3:30-4:30 pm
SLIME TIME - Playdough Fun
 - School is OUT! Let's have some FUN in the library with a summer playdough challenge. You'll make your own playdough and use it to complete the beach themed challenges - and it's yours to keep. All supplies provided. Recommended Age: 6-11.

The Key Largo Library
will be closed
Monday, May 27 for
Memorial Day.

WEEKLY EVENTS

The Small Business Development Center at FIU offers no-cost consulting WED 2-5 pm at the Key Largo Library and TUES 9-1 pm at the Islamorada Library. Email bbarnes@fiu.edu to reserve

Story Time

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

Creative Tuesday 1-3pm
Spend an informal creative afternoon with fellow artists. Bring your own supplies. Periodic organized 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 for one-on-
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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.



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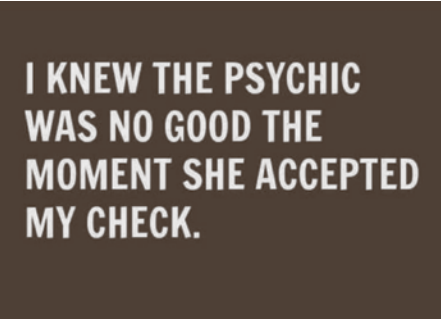
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This is what we, who are aged 70 or 80 years plus, can look forward to.
This is something that happened at an assisted living center. The people who lived there had small apartments but they all ate at a central cafeteria. One morning one of the residents didn't show up for breakfast so my wife went upstairs and knocked on his door to see if everything was OK. She could hear him through the door and he said that he was running late and would be down shortly, so she went back to the dining area.
An hour later he still hadn't arrived, so she went back up towards his room but found him on the stairs. He was coming down the stairs but was having a hard time. He had a death grip on the hand rail and seemed to have trouble getting his legs to work right. She told him she was going to call an ambulance but he told her no, he wasn't in any pain and just wanted to have his breakfast. So, she helped him the rest of the way down the stairs and he had his breakfast. When he tried to return to his room, he was completely unable to get up even the first stair step, so they called an ambulance for him.
A couple of hours later she called the hospital to see how he was doing. The receptionist there said he was fine, he just had both of his legs in one side of his boxer shorts.
I'm sending this to my children so that they don't sell the house before they know all the facts.



Coco'Nut' Funnies



Three guys were at deer camp. They had to bunk two to a room.

No one wanted to room with Steve because he snored so badly. They decided it wasn't fair to make one of them stay with him the whole time, so they voted to take turns.

The first night, John slept in Steve's room and came to breakfast the next morning with his hair a mess and his eyes all bloodshot. The rest of the guys said, "Man, what happened to you?"

He said, "Steve snored so loudly, I just sat up and watched him all night."

The next night it was Garry's turn. In the morning, same thing - hair all standing up, eyes blood-shot. Once again they asked, "Man, what happened? You look awful!"

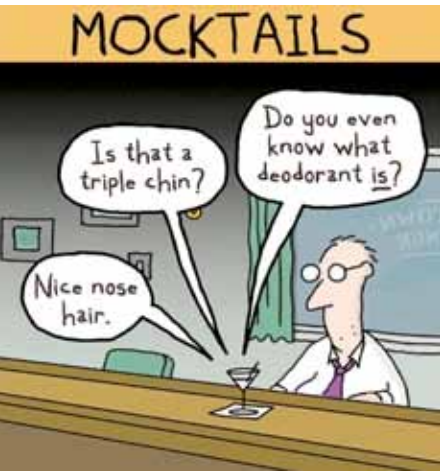
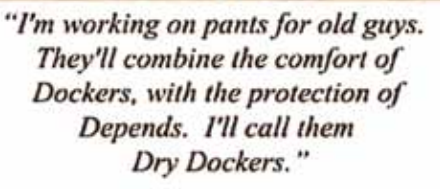
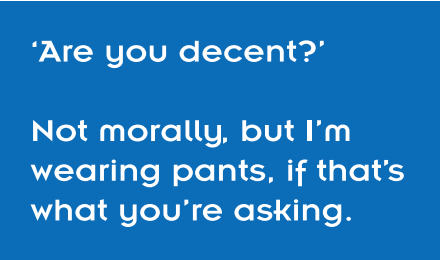
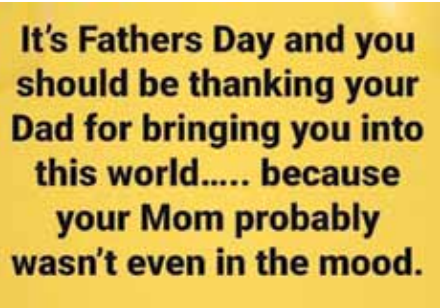
He said, "Man, that Steve shakes the roof. I couldn't sleep a wink. I just watched him all night."

The third night was Herb's turn. Herb was a big burly guy who loved to fish and hunt - a man's man.

The next morning he came to breakfast bright eyed and bushy tailed. "Good morning," he said.

The guys couldn't believe it! They said, "Man, how did it go?"

He said, "Well, we got ready for bed. I went and tucked Steve into bed and kissed him good night. He sat up and watched me all night long."



A 65-year-old woman had a heart attack. While on the operating table she had a near-death experience. Seeing God, she asked "Is my time up?"

God said, "No, you have another 33 years, 2 months and 8 days to live."

Upon recovery, the woman decided to stay in the

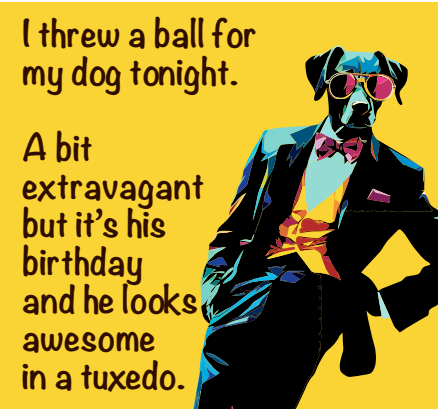
hospital and have a face-lift, liposuction, breast implants and a tummy tuck. She even had someone come in and change her hair color and brighten her teeth!

Since she had so much more time to live, she figured she might as well make the most of it. After her last operation, she was released from the hospital.

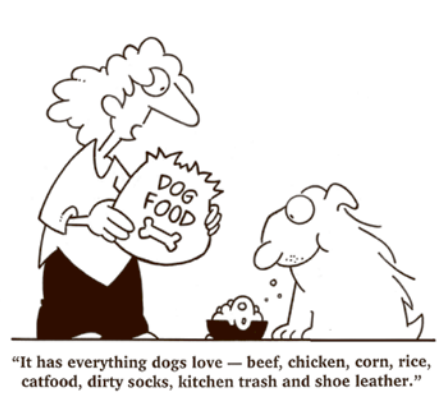
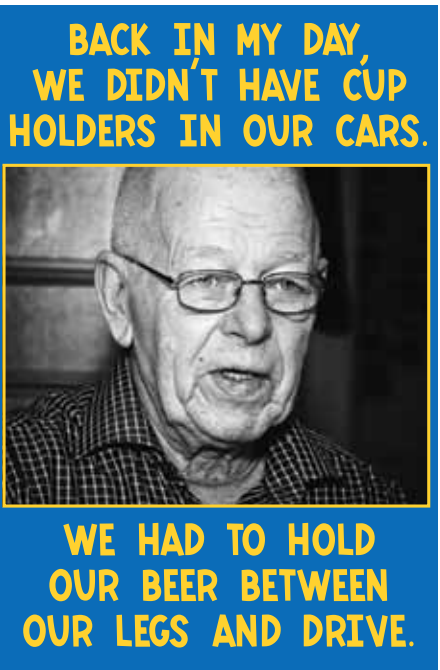
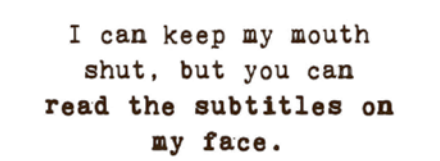
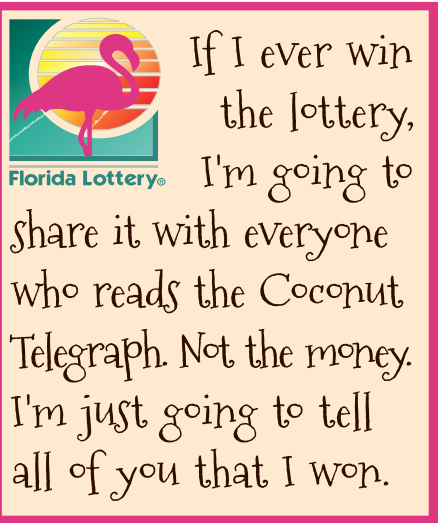
While crossing the street on her way home, she was killed by an ambulance.

Arriving in front of God, she demanded, "I thought you said I had another 33 years? Why didn't you pull me from the path of the ambulance?"

God replied: " I didn't recognize you."



"After my prostate exam, the doctor left. The nurse came in later, with a worried look on her face, and said the three words I was dreading to hear. She said, "Who was that?"



A 70 year old man went to his doctor's office to get a sperm count. The doctor gave the man a jar and said, "Take this jar home and bring me back a sample tomorrow." The next day the 70 year old man reappears at the doctor's office and gives him the jar, which is as clean and empty as on - the previous day.

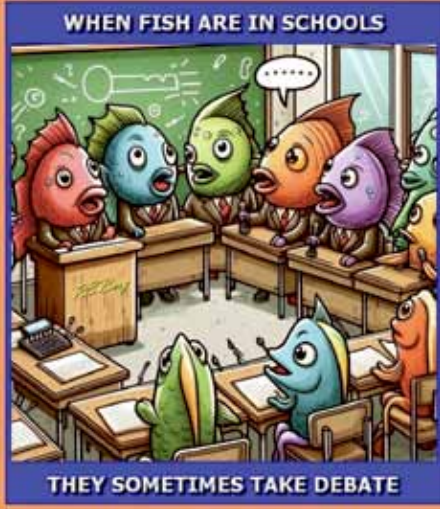
The doctor asked what happened and the man explains: "Well, doc, it's like this: First I tried with my right hand, but, nothing. Then I tried with-my left hand, but still nothing. Then I asked my wife for help. She - tried with her right hand, with nothing. Then her left, but nothing. She - even tried with her mouth, first with the teeth in, then with the teeth-out, and still nothing. We even called up the lady next door and-she tried with both hands and her mouth too, but nothing."

The doctor was shocked! "You asked your neighbor?" the old man replied, "yep, but no matter what we tried we couldn't get the DARN jar open!"



An elderly man was on the operating table awaiting surgery to be performed by his son, a renowned surgeon. Just before they would put him under, he asked to speak to his son:

"Don't be nervous, son, do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me... your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife."



A young man named Chuck bought a horse from a farmer for \$250. The farmer agreed to deliver the horse the next day. The next day, the farmer drove up to Chuck's house and said, 'Sorry son, but I have some bad news, the horse died.'

Chuck replied, 'Well, then just give me my money back.'

The farmer said, 'Can't do that. I went and spent it already.'

Chuck said, 'Ok, then, just bring me the dead horse.'

The farmer asked, "What ya gonna do with him?"

Chuck said, 'I'm going to raffle him off.'

The farmer said, 'You can't raffle off a dead horse!'

Chuck said, 'Sure I can, Watch me. I just won't tell anybody he's dead.'

A month later, the farmer met up with Chuck and asked, "What happened with that dead horse?"

Chuck said, 'I raffled him off. I sold 500 tickets at five dollars apiece and made a profit of \$2495.'

The farmer said, 'Didn't anyone complain?'

Chuck said, 'Just the guy who won. So I gave him his five dollars back.'



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orchidclub@gmail.com

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

THE KEY PLAYERS

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

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Keys Community Concert Band begins rehearsals in the fall.
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Sophie



Olive



Jasmine



Chloe



Max



Amber



Jemma



Callie



Georgie



Clarise

Conch Characters / Around Town



Upper Keys Humane Society Annual Critter Cruise Crawl.



Florida Keys Brewery on tap at KL Moose



Tiffany Sagan and Josh Rawluk got hitched



One of the students wearing the Bomb Squad Unit protection.



Capt. Spenser Bryan, Linda Weber, Karen Beal graduates from the 8 week program.



BLAST FROM THE Past



Michael Trixx and Coach Jimmy Johnson.



Adam and Paul at Sharkeys Rockin the Dock in 2018.



Doc Bollini hosting the live auction at the 2018 Purple Pumpkin Gala.

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Most MONDAYS • WEDNESDAYS • FRIDAYS at Sunset

| This Month's Live Entertainment and Events at the Lorelei | | | | | | | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
| Open for Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner • 7am-10pm Enjoy breakfast on the deck overlooking the water. Enjoy lunch or dinner on the beach. | | | | | | | 1 John Ciulla 12-3 Uncle Rico 6-10 |
| 2 Chris Bellamy 12-3 Webb & Davidson 6-10 | 3 Carousers 6-10 Michael Trixx @Sunset | 4 Dennis Holmes 6-10 | 5 Webb & Davidson 6-10 Michael Trixx @Sunset | 6 Webb & Bellamy 6-10 | 7 Jade Storm 6-10 Michael Trixx @Sunset | 8 Micah 12-3 Abstract Radio 6-10 | |
| 9 Scott Younberg 12-3 Webb & Bellamy 6-10 | 10 Carousers 6-10 Michael Trixx @Sunset | 11 Micah 6-10 | 12 Webb & Davidson 6-10 Michael Trixx @Sunset | 13 Webb & Davidson 6-10 | 14 Brothers Of Others 6-10 Michael Trixx @Sunset | 15 Dennis Holmes 12-3 Spank The Band 6-10 | |
| 16 Micah 12-3 Webb & Davidson 6-10 | 17 Carousers 6-10 Michael Trixx @Sunset | 18 Dennis Holmes 6-10 | 19 Webb & Davidson 6-10 Michael Trixx @Sunset | 20 Webb & Davidson 6-10 | 21 Ego Free 6-10 Michael Trixx @Sunset | 22 Leah Sutter 12-3 Shin Dig 6-10 | |
| 23 Chris Bellamy 12-3 Webb & Davidson 6-10 | 24 Carousers 6-10 Michael Trixx @Sunset | 25 Steve Venini 6-10 | 26 Webb & Davidson 6-10 Michael Trixx @Sunset | 27 Webb & Davidson 6-10 | 28 Beach Bandits 6-10 Michael Trixx @Sunset | 29 Leah Sutter 12-3 Lime Rock 6-10 | |
| 30 Micah 12-3 Webb & Davidson 6-10 | Lorelei can host private parties, weddings and rehearsal dinners. See our website for details. | | | | Waterfront Dining | | |

