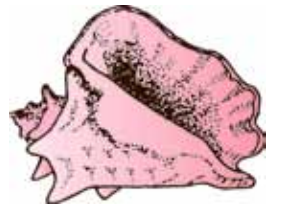


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Critters in Our Midst:  
Helping Wild Birds  
Where is Key Largo's  
Fire Museum?

## What's Hot & What's Not

Artist of the Month:  
Tony Allen

Luke Sommer Glenn Blog

Navigation Tips for Boaters

## Maps

Key Largo Locator Map Page  
Getting from Here to There

## All the Buzz

Coco-Nut Funnies  
Business in the Keys  
Adopt a Key Largo Shelter Pet  
Conch Characters



A baby Red Shouldered Hawk sits beside its parent after being rescued from a fall to the ground.. By Carol Ellis; see the article on pages 4-5 for more bird rescues and information.

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EDITORIAL - Wayne Newton Saved My Life!

Many years ago I dated Tom, a Disc Jockey/ Radio Station owner 20 years my senior and bald as a cue ball. He had a Doctorate in Psychology that he earned as a result of becoming an ordained Catholic Priest, 'tho he wasn't Catholic, and he had taught Parapsychology at Cornell University. He was involved with the Jane Roberts sessions, the lady who channeled a being known as Seth. He and his group set out to disprove the spirit but in the end could not.

When I met Tom he was a Howard Stern wannabe with a drinking problem. According to those who knew him, he wasn't wrapped too tight. But we were in love and wanted to buy a radio station together. Then one day he dropped by my house when I was happily cleaning and dancing to the tunes of Wayne Newton on my boombox. I'd seen Wayne Newton in Las Vegas and was astounded at how talented the man was. He could play so many different instruments! Tom, the geezer, walked in the door and just started screaming that he HATES Wayne Newton and to turn off the music or change it RIGHT NOW! What a buzz kill! How could anyone hate Wayne Newton? "You must be joking" I said. He was not joking. When I just stared at him dumb-founded he turned and walked out of my life. God Bless Wayne Newton!



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## Invasion? No, Ablation — A blog by Luke Sommer Glenn

I wasn't driving my usual 10 miles an hour over the limit on the stretch as I wasn't excited about going through this procedure. I was completely taken by surprise when my wife actually complained that I wasn't driving fast enough. I asked if she heard what she said and she couldn't believe it herself. She normally complains about my lead foot and says she doesn't enjoy going fast. Oh well, here we are and in I go. As far as I was concerned they couldn't start the anesthesia soon enough. And it would've been cool if they would've let me sleep through the recovery instead of not trying to move for three effing hours.

This sucks! I'm having a really hard time with this recovery. I'm flat on my back. Way uncomfortable. It's hard for me to breathe when I'm flat on my back. The air is so cold that it's keeping my

throat dried out and scratchy.

What a wuss! I was a lot tougher just 3 years ago when I went through this same procedure. The pain from the surgery ain't shit compared to the arthritic pain in my neck.

The problem is that I can't move around enough to keep the stiffness out. I'm driving the poor RN nuts because she is in charge. She was nice about it but said if I didn't quit squirming around she was going to have to restrain me.

I had to call in the wife to literally hold my hand. It's goddamned cold as a well digger's ass in here and anyone that knows me knows that I don't do well in the cold. I was shivering underneath the hot, fresh out of the dryer, blankets.

I also find it difficult to urinate into the bottle thing while lying flat. It's hard to

for myself...

I hope this procedure helps and lasts until I drop dead. Definitely too much of an old wussy to do this again. I'm sure the nurse would prefer that as well. I feel for anyone that has to be restrained especially when your privates itch or a hair finds its way into your nose or eyes.

Looks like hospital food for the evening meal. It's illegal to just get up and leave with an IV connector still attached and I'm not inclined to pull it out myself, that wuss thing again...

The wife finally broke down and went out to have a smoke. I have my Trupod that I'm finally able to reach. It says tobacco free campus, didn't have anything about vaping weed.

I have an indica cartridge which, for the uninitiated, is a very relaxing strain and I am relieved of the post-procedure anxiety. Now I remember why the last time was so much easier. I had taken a 100mg indica pill concentrate before the surgery.

The nurse noticed I am much calmer now. I didn't let her in on the reason straight out but I did tell her about taking a THC pill from the dispensary the last time I was here. She is only 22 years old. Most of the nurses here seem very young but very polite. Youth is great while it lasts.

The wife is napping in the reclining chair, it's not like a Lazy Boy but she is very short so it works for her. The nurse even gave her some toasty blankets. She fell asleep watching a movie while I typed this.

It's easier to get discharged from the military than it is the hospital. More



The wife napping in the reclining chair, it's not like a Lazy Boy but she is very short so it works for her.

bedpan for number two. How do you even wipe your ass while laying flat? Hope I never have to answer that

Luke Sommer Glenn is a local entertainer and Conch Character.



For more info: [www.lukesommerglenn.com](http://www.lukesommerglenn.com)

paperwork than a g.d. car dealership and nobody leaves until they see the accountant. I'm patiently counting down every single second that flashes on the digital clock. One, zero, one, zero... It's digital so no tic tock.

Normally I would be looking forward to some chow but it's the hospital. Not everything is horrible but it's not to my humble tastes. A drummer friend of mine once worked in the kitchen here if I remember right. He was proud of the food they served, was the takeaway from the conversation.

Ok, with any luck I'll be up and running sooner than expected as they only made one incision this time instead of using two, one on each side of the groin. That definitely makes it easier to get around and gives the puppy grrr at least one leg to sleep on.

Addendum: I actually feel really good. I have too much energy now to be having to take it easy but that's the way it has to be. I'm not supposed to lift anything over 10 pounds, walk upstairs or get in the pool for two weeks which means I should be good to go by this Sunday.

Once again I have the Good Health Clinic to thank for keeping me going. I hope you will continue supporting their efforts to help the people like me in our little, local community here that fall through the gaps in the system, as well as the denied, the delayed, and the deposed...





Critters in Our Midst:  
Helping Wild Birds  
by Carol Ellis

Red Shouldered Hawk perched in the sun just outside a tree-filled area in my yard.

At a recent “Luck of the Irish” event at Ocean Reef, two very lucky rehabilitated Red Shouldered Hawks (*Buteo lineatus*) were featured as they were returned to the wild by the Florida Keys Wild Bird Center (FKWBC), who made the rescue and eventual release possible.

The release took place in a relatively natural area, from a dock close to the mangroves. Before the release Erin Allison, Executive Director of the FKWBC, gave a brief history of both hawks. One had been at the center for nearly five months, being treated for damaged feathers, head trauma, a yeast infection and conditioning for flight. The second hawk came in about two months ago after a suspected car hit. It had severe head trauma, couldn’t stand and exhibited neurological symptoms. The initial head swelling was quick to resolve, but it took about a month to regain its ability to fly.

**Ready - Set - Not so Fast!** The first hawk was slow to figure out what was happening, but within seconds it flew out like a dart! The second hawk was to be “toss-released” - where the bird is taken out of the enclosure and tossed into the

sky. But the hawk had other ideas, as it unexpectedly flew out between the legs of Bayleigh MacHaffie, Operations Director. Both releases were celebrated by oohs, aahs and applause from the crowd of approximately 40 persons.

“Keep Them Flying” is the motto of the FKWBC and their mission is to rescue, rehabilitate and release wild birds. Their bird sanctuary in Tavernier (93600 Overseas Highway) is open to the public Monday to Sunday, from sunrise to sunset. It is a beautiful spot in a mangrove forest, where visitors may walk on a boardwalk and view 40 non-releasable birds— those that due to their condition cannot safely return to nature.

These hawks got a second chance... others are not so lucky. Habitat loss, scarcity of food and places to raise their young, as well as dangerous obstacles take a terrible toll on bird populations.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), as of 2017 the top causes of bird mortality: collision with building glass (600 million), collision with vehicles (215 million), poison (72 million),



Red Shouldered Hawk in transport cage. Bayleigh MacHaffie, FKWBC Operations Director with the first of two hawks set to be released to the wild on this day.



“Ready to Go!” Reluctant at first, the hawk had to figure out what was happening. Then within seconds it flew off toward the mangroves.

collision with electrical lines (25.5 million), collision with communication towers (6.6 million), electrocutions (5.6 million) and cats (2.4 billion).

**If you find an orphaned or injured bird, what should you do?**

The first thing is to call the FKWBC. Bird Emergency Hotline (305) 852 - 4486 ext. 1 They will guide you on the phone, and walk you through the situation. The best thing to do is to safely contain an injured bird with a towel or a blanket, place it inside a warm, dark crate or box, and bring it to the FKWBC. If the bird is on the road in an unsafe place such as a bridge, the FKWBC works with local law enforcement to make sure everyone involved is safe. The FKWBC admits birds into their hospital 24/7 and has a staff member on call to respond to new intakes after hours. There is an after-hours drop box (sunset to sunrise) at the hospital, so anyone can bring in a bird at any time. Instructions are to text/call the FKWBC

**Helping Wild Birds...** CONTINUED



Nearly 40 onlookers of all ages came out to witness the release, learn about the injuries and rehabilitation of the two hawks. The Florida Keys Wild Bird Center’s mission is to rescue, rehabilitate and release injured or orphaned birds.



The second hawk was “On a Mission!” Though a “toss-release” (where the bird is taken out of the enclosure and tossed into the sky) was planned, the hawk unexpectedly flew out between Bayleigh’s legs!

once you’ve dropped off the bird, and they will respond immediately to intake and start treatment.

If you are unable to contain the bird, they ask that you to keep eyes on the bird until they can get there to rescue it. Every situation is unique, but they do what is best for the bird. If someone has a contained bird from Ocean Reef, the FKWBC will meet them at the front gate or at the Circle K in Key Largo. They also work with Everglades Outpost in Homestead, which has a drop-off spot for injured birds found on the mainland.

In 2016 I witnessed the rescue of a baby Red Shouldered hawk that fell out of its

nest, high in a mature Gumbo Limbo tree in my neighbors yard. The FKWBC responded, and enlisted the help of the Florida Keys Electric Coop (FKEC). Once the bird was checked out, and found to be uninjured, the FKEC worker in the bucket truck returned the bird to its nest.

Here we are in 2025. Red Shouldered Hawks are frequently seen in my yard, however, the pictured hawk nest in the Gumbo Limbo tree next door ... is gone. The homeowner took down the trees, preferring a grass lawn instead.

It is curious that we hear a lot about the loss of tropical forests in countries far from our shores, but remember... the Florida Keys is also a unique habitat with tropical forests... located right here, which also needs our protection. We must preserve native habitat, and rehabilitate our developed spaces with wildlife-friendly plants wherever possible.

There are simply not enough native plants left in the “wild”... that is, not enough undisturbed habitat remaining in the Florida Keys, to support the diversity of wildlife we would like to see survive.

A healthy earth full of a diversity of species takes more than luck. It takes people, dedication and effort. We are lucky to have the FKWBC in our community.

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**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.



The Florida Keys Electric Coop (FKEC) and the Wild Bird Center teamed up on this 2016 rescue. Bernie Lietaert (no longer with FKEC), Isaiah Leake, two FKWBC employees/ interns, Sara Hamilton, Lance Good (no longer with FKEC), and FKEC Right of Way Crew Leader Marcus Martin.



The rescue effort was made possible utilizing the FKEC bucket truck. The man in the bucket is Isaiah Leake.



The baby Red Shouldered Hawk sits beside its parent after being rescued from its fall to the ground.





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## Artist of the Month: Tony Allen

The Coconut Telegraph is proud to present Tony Allen as Artist of the Month. Tony moved to Key Largo in 2010 and purchased the Beyer Funeral Home from Marilyn Beyer, who was retiring. You may remember noticing the name change to Allen-Beyer Funeral Home, which is located at MM 101.6 Bayside. Tony immediately embraced the Upper Keys community and became active in several organizations. He has served as the elected Commissioner of the Key Largo Fire and EMS District since 2012.

After graduating from Bradford County High School in Starke, Florida Tony enlisted in the Marine Corps with the intention of serving the USA for a career. When he was hurt on the job, he returned home to Florida to discuss his future career possibilities with his father and uncle, who were both medical doctors.

With the help of the GI Bill Tony applied to Gumption-Jones College of Funeral Service and was accepted. He graduated from there with an A.S. Degree in 2003. After obtaining his Florida Funeral and Embalmer License he earned a Bachelor in Business Management from American International University.



While still just a student at Gumption-Jones, one of his professors claimed that Allen was a "natural" at restorative art. He is an expert at working with wax and clay to liquid latex.

For Halloween, Allen and his wife Amanda have the most amazing costumes, and Tony designs and creates the them as meticulously as he operates his business. The pictures show various costumes and make-up worn by the couple over several years.



If you stop by the Allen-Beyer Funeral Home you will find a huge, 200-gallon tropical fish tank that reflects Allen's soothing personality and the attention to detail that makes Allen-Beyer Funeral Home the best in South Florida. They are caring professionals who look out for us locals while doing a great job. We, and our loved ones, deserve the best! For more information check out AllenBeyer.com, or call 305-451-1444.

Note: Beware of funeral homes on the mainland advertising cheap prices as a come on.



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Photo from MCSO

As we were going to press, a fire on the stretch shut down traffic on the stretch and Card Sound Road for hours, and it is assumed the fire also caused a prolonged internet outage. To make things worse, a cell tower also burned in the fire. This is why we need to support our firefighters!!



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# Where is Key Largo's Fire Museum?

by Karen Beal

Name a very small building with a very long name... Key Largo Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Inc. Fire Museum.

It is the 1955 original fire station next door to the larger Key Largo Fire Station 24 at the 99 mile marker oceanside, on East Drive. Now two separate entities, in 2014 the current Fire Department became a new corporation, taking over the 9-1-1 duties of fire/rescue services. The original volunteer fire station is now the KLVFR Inc. Fire Museum.

A small group of past volunteer firefighters and supporters have taken up the challenge of organizing the large history of the original volunteers and fitting it into the tiny building. This has been a 10-year effort to update the old station and organize its contents to create the museum.

An Open House is planned on July 4th. The museum is near the popular parade route and organizers hope many people will stop in to see what is on display including memorabilia, a tribute to 9-11 victims, many photos, equipment that was state of the art at the time, and newspaper accounts of fires and crashes. More information on the Open House will be coming!

As an all-volunteer group of local citizens, the original volunteer department created subgroups that filled the needs of the community and offered volunteers of any level of training and commitment an opportunity to participate.

The Upper Keys Assist Team of men and women managed traffic control at accidents and fire scenes. They also offered coffee stops for drivers on US1 during special holidays.

KVFD's original Engine 66, a 1962 Howe 500-gallon pumper, one of the first six new fire trucks in Monroe County. The photo was taken in the late 1980s. See the old Key Largo Shopper Supermarket in the background? (It was located on the current CVS site.)

Couples and parents also did whatever they could to support the fire department.

Firefighters had special State-level training for Firefighter I or II classification. The training took a commitment over and above your regular job and family commitments. Equipment needed to be maintained not only to respect the tax payers' investment but to assure your own safety. Between fire calls the volunteers maintained a high level of skills with frequent training. Employers and families committed to the work of each volunteer.

The Extrication Team trained constantly to upgrade skills and shorten time for getting victims out of wrecked cars. The team would compete in extrication challenges and often came home with national recognition. Remember, in the 70s the stretch did not have the cement barrier and US1 was one lane in each direction. There were many head-on, high speed accidents. A sign at the top of the stretch would state the number of deaths for the year... and it was dozens.

The Water Emergency Team (WET)

added dive certification, boat handling, fire suppression and underwater rescue in addition to firefighter training. One of their projects included assisting with the preparation and sinking of the Spiegel Grove. The WET worked with MCSO to train for rescues from a helicopter over water, and using hydraulic tools underwater for rescue. There is a Memorandum Of Understanding with the MCSO with the KLVFR Inc. that the MCSO main-

tains water recovery services and the water rescue truck is located in the old station.

The Marine Emergency Response Team was created to bring better on-scene communication and coordination between all the Upper Keys resources: Sheriff's Office, Marine Patrol, Coast Guard, fire departments, ambulances and others. Back then, each had their own communication systems and it was difficult to share information as a scene developed.


An Honor Guard group was formed to serve at government functions and funerals. To secure the future of the department, an Explorer Post was created inviting young men and women to assist the volunteers.

All these efforts and the stories of the volunteers that saw a need and served their community are captured in the contents and narrative of the Key Largo Volunteer Fire Rescue, Inc. Fire Museum.

If anyone has items to donate or loan, or photos of fire department volunteers or events, the Fire Museum encourages you to contact Frank Conklin at klvfrdMuseum@gmail.com.



# Water Meditation



Because water is life, meditating with it can create a profound experience.

Our bodies are more than 50 percent water, so it makes sense that human beings have always considered water to be a sacred source of life and healing. It is literally half of who we are, and well over half of the Earth's surface is water. Water cleanses and hydrates, contains and produces nourishment, and when we enter it, holds us in an embrace that leaves no part of us untouched. Meditating with water can be a powerful way of aligning ourselves more fully with this support system that makes life both possible and pleasurable on so many levels.

We may wish to conduct our meditation while in physical contact with a body of water, whether in the intimacy of our bathtub or the vastness of an ocean. We might float on our backs in a swimming pool or sit with just our feet submerged in a pond or creek. On the other hand, we may simply close our eyes and select a location based on our imagination. Whatever we choose, we begin by

closing our eyes and listening to our breath. At the same time, we tune in to the particular music of the water we have chosen — the loud rushing of a river or waterfall, or the surreal silence of the world beneath the surface of the ocean. We might consider how the type of water we opted for reflects what we seek — the peace beneath the hectic surface of life, the cleansing power of a river racing through a canyon, or the mood lifting, bubbling of a lively creek.

As we move between awareness of our breath and awareness of the water in which we find ourselves, we can release the things we no longer need or release ourselves completely into the water's embrace. When you feel you are ready to return to more solid ground, ease your body back onto Earth. In your mind or in reality, lie flat on your back, allowing the water to bead and roll off your skin. Let it soak into the Earth and evaporate into the air, leaving you cleansed, healed, and renewed.

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C. Candy	P. Pop	C. Doodles	P. Peep
D. Clumsy	Q. Pink	D. Marshmallow	Q. Candy Pop
E. Sparky	R. Loco	E. Bubbles	R. Snuggle Bunny
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H. Thumper	U. Carrot	H. Rain Drop	U. Cup Cake
I. Purple	V. Bugs	I. Fluffy Tail	V. Sugar Kiss
J. Daffodil	W. Hoppy	J. Sugar Cakes	W. Sparkle Pop
K. Dizzy	X. Shimmer	K. Carrot Cake	X. Carrot Stick
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## "Red Right Return"

- Triangle
- Red
- Even number



### Navigation Tips for Florida Keys Boaters

from [salstrong.com](http://salstrong.com), for more go to the website and watch the video with Capt. Mark "Hollywood" Johnson from [FloridaKeysFunFishing.com](http://FloridaKeysFunFishing.com)

Here are some phrases to help you remember what each marker means:

**"Red Right Return"**  
This is the most important phrase and it means that whenever you're heading from sea to home port, the red marker will be on your right side. This is true if there's a red and a green marker, or if there's only a red one.

**"Red & green, stay in between"**  
If you see red and green markers, they mark the channel, stay in between. One thing to note here is that local and private channels don't always follow these same rules, but if you're in waters controlled by the United States Coast Guard, this is how they set things up.

If you're in clear, shallow water, a good pair of polarized sunglasses will go a long way towards helping you navigate safely. They'll help you see depth and bottom structure, which, in addition to the channel markers, can help you navigate.


Here are some phrases to help you:

**"Blue, blue, run on through"**  
If you're in shallow water and you see blue, that means it's deeper water and you're usually good to go.

**"Green, green, nice and clean"**  
If you're in shallow water and you see green, that also means it's likely deeper water and you're usually good to go.

**"Brown, brown, run aground"**  
If you see brown, that means it's likely muddy bottom or there's grass or oyster bars, so the water will be shallow and you may run aground.

Thank you Dottie!



## Eric Warner Beattie

10-13-1964 - 02-25-2025

Eric Warner Beattie, age 60, passed away on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at his home in Key Largo.

Eric is survived by his son, Craig W. Beattie, age 24, of Jacksonville, FL, and his former wife, Elizabeth Beattie, of Amelia Island. He is preceded in death by his parents, Alan G. Beattie and Susan A. Beattie, and his brothers Bradford G. Beattie and Craig A. Beattie.

Eric was born in New Jersey, but moved to Key Largo as a teenager. He was an Eagle Scout, and a Divemaster, and worked as a real estate broker for many years.

Eric will be missed by his son Craig, and the many friends he made over the years in the Upper Keys.

Arrangements by Allen-Beyer Funeral Home.



## American Legion Post 333 - Key Largo

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**Mondays 6:30pm**  
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**Tuesdays 6pm**  
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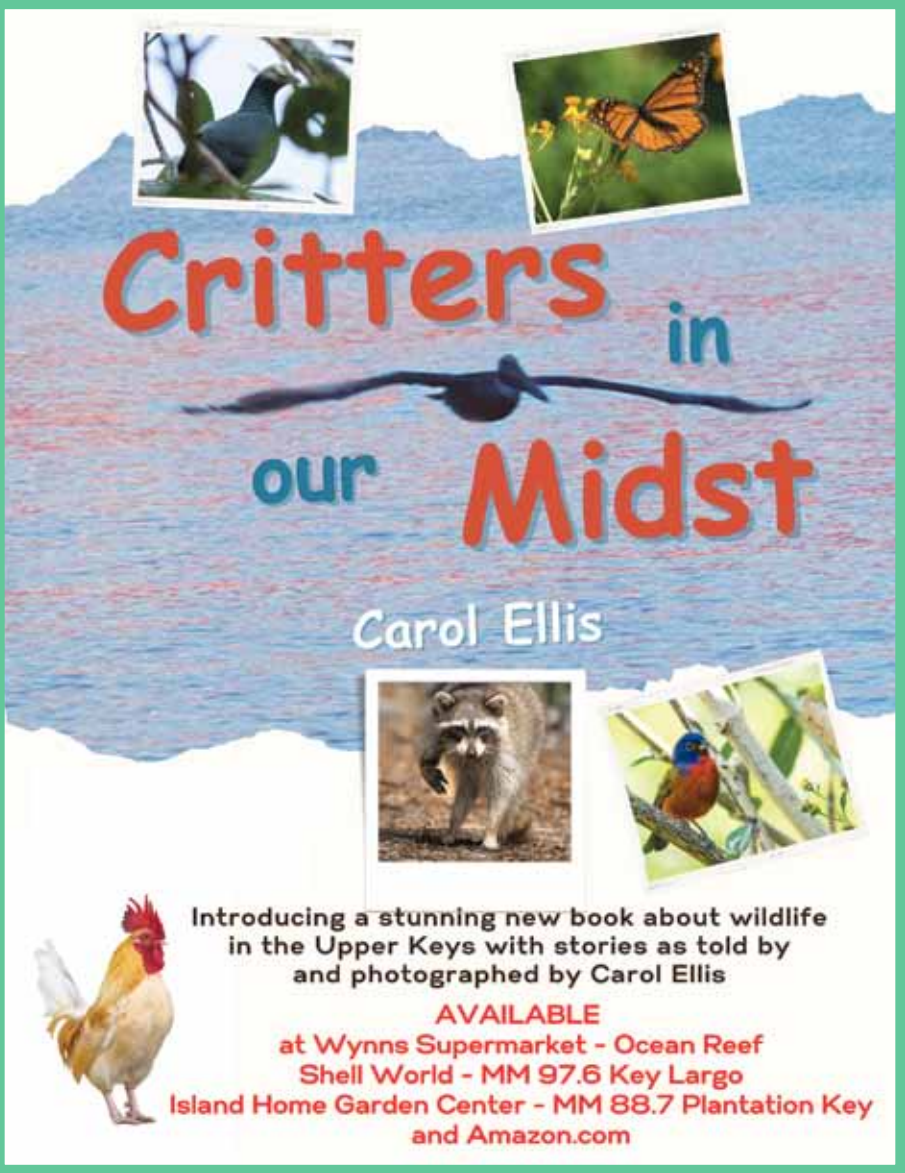
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PONDERABLES

Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery?  
Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?  
Why is bra singular and panties plural?  
Insanity is my only means of relaxation.  
Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?  
Can fat people go skinny dipping?  
Why is the word abbreviation so long?  
When companies ship styrofoam, what do they pack it in?



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

Please call the shelter for details and appointments.



Ruby Stern known as "Miss Ruby", was the matriarch of Downtown Card Sound. She was a familiar site to travelers across Card Sound bridge.

ORIGINAL LOCAL ARTWORK BY  
*Little Salt* by Carol Ellis  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
305-451-7778

On the shirt back is Carol's image of Ruby Stern, matriarch of Downtown Card Sound Road, a place that doesn't exist on any map... yet was home to a community of free spirits, fishermen and independent thinkers who took up residence there. Located on the west side of the road south of Alabama Jack's, and the toll booth, the shack was originally built by workers who constructed the toll bridge around 1968. In 1972 Ruby moved in and lived there for 27 years. She'd sit on the steps of her shack, with an old Colt 44 daring anyone to throw her off the land. She stayed. Not even the destructive forces of hurricane Andrew and the county's condemnation of the shack could send her from her spot on the bay on Card Sound. She moved to a trailer alongside and lived there until 1999 when she had to leave due to illness, and died at age 90.

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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SPF 50, long sleeve fishing performance shirt in aqua, limeade and white

The Easter Bunny and Other Traditions

The Bible makes no mention of a long-eared, short-tailed creature who delivers decorated eggs to children on Easter; nevertheless, the Easter bunny has become a symbol of Christianity's most important holiday. The exact origins of this myth are unclear, but rabbits, known to be prolific procreators, are an ancient symbol of fertility and new life.

The Easter bunny first arrived in America in the 1700s with German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania and bought their tradition of an egg-laying hare called "Osterhase" or "Oschter Haws." Their children made nests for it to lay its colored eggs.

Eventually, the custom spread across the U.S. and the fabled rabbit's Easter morning deliveries expanded to include chocolate and other types of candy and gifts, while decorated baskets replaced nests.

Easter Eggs

Easter is a religious holiday, but some of its customs, such as Easter eggs, are linked to pagan traditions. The egg, an ancient symbol of new life, has been associated with pagan festivals celebrating spring. From a Christian perspective, Easter eggs are said to represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and resurrection.

Decorating eggs for Easter is a tradition that dates back to at least the 13th century. One explanation for this custom is that eggs were formerly a forbidden food during the Lenten season, so people would paint and decorate them to mark the end of the period of penance and fasting, then eat them on Easter as a celebration.



Easter egg hunts and egg rolling are two popular egg-related traditions. In the U.S., the White House Easter Egg Roll, a race in which children push decorated, hard-boiled eggs across the White House lawn, is an annual event held the Monday after Easter.

Easter Candy

Easter is the second best-selling candy holiday in America, after Halloween. Among the most popular sweet treats associated with this day are chocolate eggs, which date back to early 19th century Europe. Another egg-shaped candy, the jelly bean, became associated with Easter in the 1930s. For the past decade, the top-selling non-chocolate Easter candy has been the marshmallow Peep, a sugary, pastel-colored confection. The original Peeps were handmade, marshmallow-flavored yellow chicks, but other shapes and flavors were later introduced, including chocolate mousse bunnies.

Easter Parade

In New York City, the Easter Parade tradition dates back to the mid-1800s, when the upper crust of society would attend Easter services at various Fifth Avenue churches then stroll outside afterward, showing off their new spring outfits and hats.

Average citizens started showing up along Fifth Avenue to check out the action.

The tradition reached its peak by the mid-20th century, and in 1948, the popular film "Easter Parade" was released, starring Fred Astaire and Judy Garland and featuring the music of Irving Berlin. The title song includes the lyrics: "In your Easter bonnet, with all the frills upon it/You'll be the grandest lady in the Easter parade."

The Easter Parade tradition lives on in Manhattan, with Fifth Avenue from 49th Street to 57th Street being shut down during the day to traffic. Participants often sport elaborately decorated bonnets and hats. The event has no religious significance, but sources note that Easter processions have been a part of Christianity since its earliest days. Today, other cities across America also have their own parades.





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ON THE MAP

**Key Largo**

In Key Largo, we navigate by Mile Markers! Look for the little green signs and mile indicators on power poles to find your way.



**Legend**

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

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ON THE MAP

## April 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 and the Florida Keys Children's Foundation. Visit [KeysLibraries.org](https://www.KeysLibraries.org) for books, streaming movies, ebooks, events and more.

**KEY LARGO BRANCH LIBRARY • TRADEWINDS SHOPPING CENTER AT MM 101.4 OCEANSIDE.**

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

April Art Exhibit in the Community Room: Come and see the amazing work of **John David Hawver**, who lives and works by the ocean in Islamorada. He paints his poetic visions, finding inspiration in nature's design.

April 6-12 is National Library Week. This year's theme is Drawn to the Library.

**April 1, 4 pm LEGO Club:** Anything but a Lego Day - for April Fool's Day, we'll be using toys other than Legos during this session. For Ages 6-11.

**April 2, 9 am-12 pm 1st Wednesday Plant Clinic Plus.** Master Gardener Volunteers will be at the Key Largo Library to answer your gardening/landscape queries. Plus, celebrate National Gardening Day with your own DIY Mini Hydroponic System! Discover the joy of growing fresh herbs, veggies, and plants at home! Supplies provided.

**April 3, 2 pm Great Decisions: India: Between China, the West, & the Global South.** Watch a brief video on the topic, then discuss. Sponsored by the Friends.

**April 4, 6 pm 1st Friday Concert Finale: Katherine Archer** writes songs aimed to inspire positive change. Katherine takes the audience through a heartfelt landscape of toe-tapping tunes incorporating guitar, mandolin, and ukulele in the concert. This event is free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Friends of the Key Largo Library.

**April 7-11 Celebrate National Library Week with Daily Kids Crafts!** Monday- Friday, kids can drop in and enjoy a different craft—no registration required!

**April 8, 4 pm STEM:** Beautiful Pollinators We will learn about bees and their importance to life on our earth. We'll make a cozy space to attract bees to your backyard. All supplies provided. Ages 6+

**April 9, 10 am - 1:30 pm Free Legal Help** for low-income residents of Monroe County. Call (866) 686-2760 or register at [legalservicesmiami.org](https://legalservicesmiami.org). Sponsored by Legal Services of Greater Miami & the FL Keys.

**April 10, 2:30 (English), 3:30 (Español) Hurricane Preparedness Training** for Adults/Preparacion para Huracanes, Desastres y Emergencias para Adultos By American Red Cross and the Center for Independent Living. More info: 305-453-3491 (English/Español).

**April 11, 4pm Conch Shell Blowing Class:** Develop the skills to blow the conch shell and enjoy the majestic, calming tones it creates. Sponsored by Shell World. The first 15 to register will receive a conch shell at the class. Register at [KeysLibraries.Org](https://KeysLibraries.Org). Have your own shell? Call to be added to the class. 305-451-2396

**April 12, 11am Chess Information Session & Play.** Calling all Chess players! We'll have Chess sets for you to play. Call 305-451-2396 for more info.

**April 12, 3 pm Crochet Information Session.** Looking for fellow crocheters to connect and share designs? Bring supplies and ideas! Call 305-451-2396 for more info.

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

The Library will be closed April 18, for Good Friday

### WEEKLY EVENTS

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

**Quit Your Way - Tobacco Free Florida, Weds. 1pm**  
Counseling and free nicotine replacement therapy. Hosted by AHEC.

**Tech Tutor**  
Weds. 1-4pm, Bring your device and questions for 1-on-1 help.

**Creative Tuesday**  
1-3 pm: An informal creative afternoon with fellow artists connecting to inspire, rejuvenate, and encourage artistic growth. Bring your own painting supplies and finish your own art or do organized activities.

**SBDC Weds., 2-5 pm. (except Apr. 23)**  
The Small Business Development Center at FIU offers no-cost consulting at the Library. Reservation: [bbarnes@fiu.edu](mailto:bbarnes@fiu.edu)

**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 Book Club and Arts & Crafts for adults to LEGOS to STEM programs. Scan the code to see the complete schedule.



Monthly Community Group Meetings:  
1st Sat.: Florida Keys Quilters  
1st Mon.: Upper Keys Fishing Club 6:30pm



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The Key Largo Animal Shelter, operated by Humane Animal Care Coalition, has a full-time position open for an Animal Control Officer or Animal Caretaker.

The applicants must be energetic, flexible with duties and hours. Experience preferred but will accept an applicant that loves animals. HACCC will provide the necessary training for the new applicant.

Salary based on experience/skills. Benefits include fully paid retirement program, paid holidays and annual leave; health insurance.

Apply at 105951 Overseas Highway, Key Largo, MM106 or call (305) 451-0088, ask for Marsha, the Shelter Director.

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## Zen For Those Who Take Life Too Seriously



1. Save the whales. Collect the whole set.
2. A day without sunshine is like, night.
3. On the other hand, you have different fingers.
4. I just got lost in thought. It wasn't familiar territory.
5. 42.7 percent of all statistics are made up on the spot.
6. 99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
7. I feel like I'm diagonally parked in a parallel universe.
8. Honk if you love peace and quiet
9. Remember, half the people you know are below average.
10. He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
11. Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
12. The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
13. I drive way too fast to worry about cholesterol.
14. Support bacteria. They're the only culture some people have.
15. Monday is an awful way to spend 1/7 of your week.
16. A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
17. Change is inevitable, except from vending machines.
18. Get a new car for your spouse. It'll be a great trade!
19. Plan to be spontaneous tomorrow.
20. Always try to be modest, and be proud of it!
21. If you think nobody cares, try missing a couple of payments.
22. How many of you believe in psycho-kinesis? Raise my hand.
23. Ok, so what's the speed of dark?
24. How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?
25. If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.
26. When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
27. Hard work pays off in the future! Laziness pays off now.
28. Everyone has a photographic memory. Some just do not have film.
29. If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?
30. How much deeper would the ocean be without sponges?
31. Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
32. What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
33. I used to have an open mind but my brains kept falling out.
34. I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder.
35. Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?
36. Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what happened.
37. Remember - if the world did not suck, we would all fall off.
38. Light travels faster than sound, which is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

## Who made the Everglades?



The Matecumbe Historical Trust will hold their next free presentation on Tuesday, April 8th at the Islamorada Public Library, located at 81830 Overseas Highway, starting at 6 pm.

Our guest speaker is Sara Ayers-Rigsby, Director of the Southeast/Southwest Regions of the Florida Public Archaeology Network and Florida Atlantic University Anthropology Department. Her subject will be "Who Made the Everglades?"

In this talk we will learn about the science of archaeology, and the identification of major archaeological sites in South Florida. This talk will explore the geological and cultural history of the Everglades. In particular, we will look at the role of early Native Americans and initial tree island formations, and how we continue to impact the Everglades today.

The program is free and open to the public. For more information please call 305-393-0940.

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# Coco'Nut' Funnies

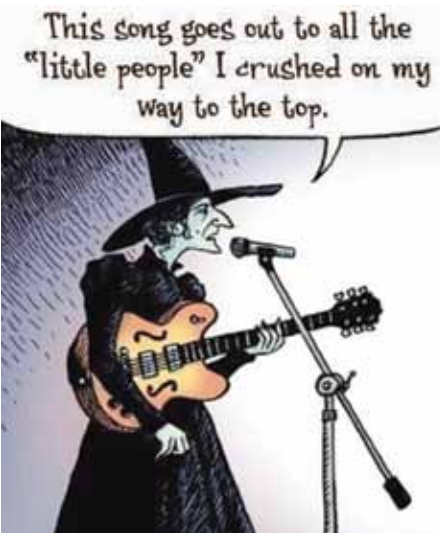
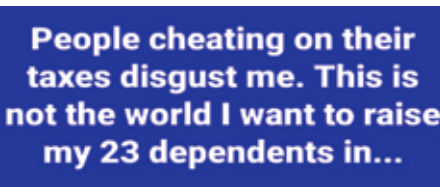
At a wedding ceremony, the priest asked if anyone had anything to say concerning the union of the bride and groom. It was their time to stand up and talk, or forever hold their peace.

The moment of utter silence was broken by a young, beautiful woman carrying a child. She started walking toward the pastor slowly.

Everything quickly turned to chaos. The bride slapped the groom. The groom's mother fainted. The groomsmen started giving each other looks and wondering how best to help save the situation.

The priest asked the woman, "Can you tell us why you came forward? What do you have to say?"

The woman replied, "We can't hear in the back."

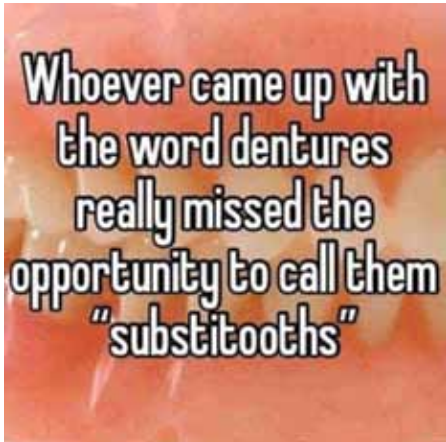
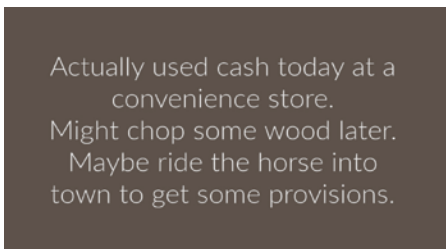
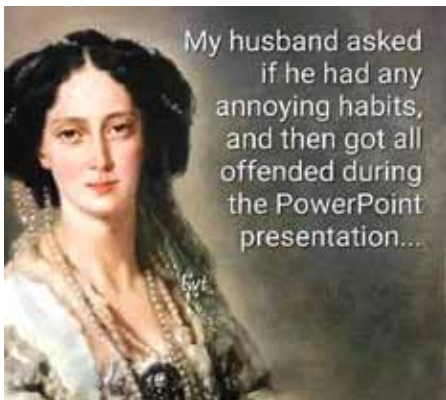
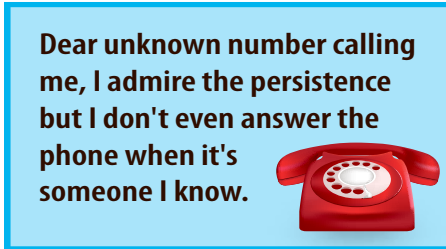


So I'm at Publix buying a bag of dog food for my dog. While in the check-out line, a woman behind me asked if I had a dog. Why else would I be buying dog food, RIGHT???

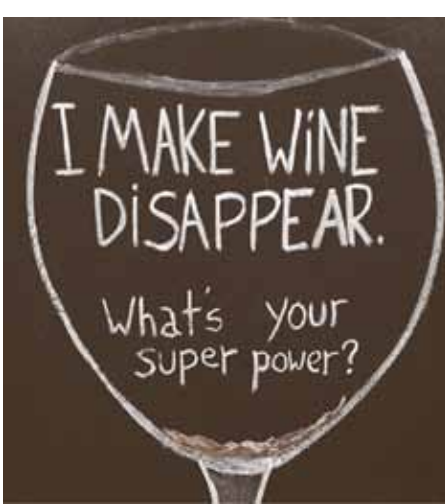
So on impulse I told her that no, I didn't have a dog, I was starting the Dog food Diet again, and that I probably shouldn't because I ended up in the hospital last time, but that I'd lost 50 pounds before I awakened in intensive care with tubes coming out of most of my orifices and IVs in both arms.

I told her that it was essentially a Perfect Diet and all you do is load your pockets with food Nuggets and simply eat one or two every time you feel hungry. The food is nutritionally complete so it works well and I was going to try it again.

(I have to mention here that practically everyone in line was now enthralled with my story.) Horrified, she asked if I ended up in intensive care because the dog food poisoned me. I told her no, I stepped off a curb to sniff a poodle's butt and a car hit me. I thought the guy behind her was going to have a heart attack he was laughing so hard.



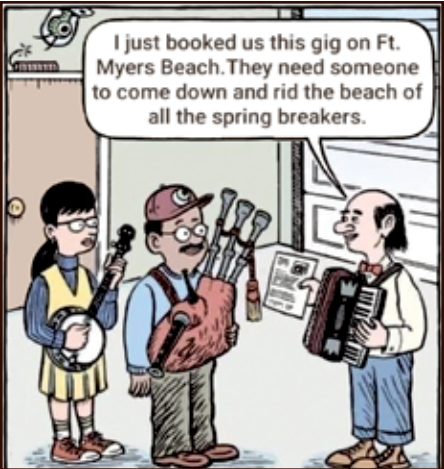
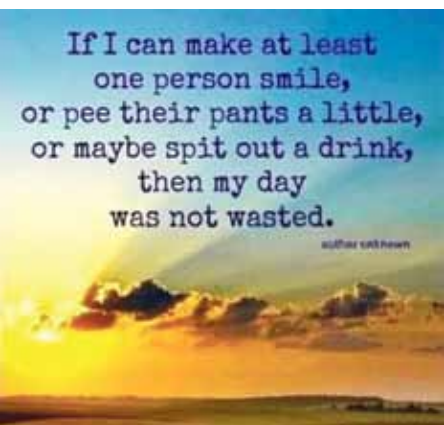
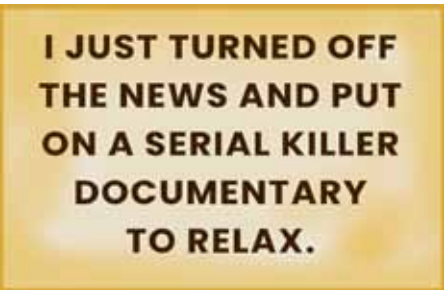
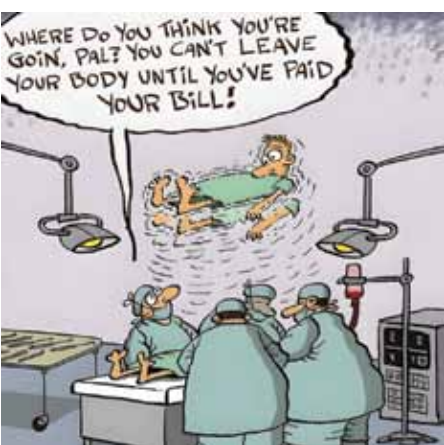
"Go home and let your dog lick your face. Dog saliva is the most effective antidepressant you can get without a prescription."



This actually happened to my friend: I just remembered being on a flight on a new plane a couple of years ago. While taxiing the steward comes over the intercom and gives us some basic stats on the new craft and explains that it is kitted out with a new advanced intercom/ordering system that as soon as we reach altitude all you have to do is to speak into the hidden microphone next the reading lights, speak your beverage order and it will be delivered automatically to your seat.

So, we take off and level out and a ton of passengers start yelling: "I'd like a flat white"; "a coke would be nice"; "...a glass of Chardonnay please".....

I was laughing my butt off and then the steward comes over the horn snickering and states that he was only kidding. It was an April Fools joke....



Most people could care less that people say irregardless. This misuse should of been nipped in the butt long ago. Maybe they are just escape goats for the broader problems of the decline of education, but even though I have been biting my time here, cringing at the next foe par while they get off scotch free, it's truly a mute point these days. Face it: it's a doggie dog world. I think I'll just go curl up in a feeble position. Ex cetera, ex cetera, ex cetera...



HEARD IN THE UPPER KEYS...

Went to see a play by the Key Players about fly fishing. The cast was amazing.

I could tell the traffic was bad in Islamorada when even Siri said "Are we there yet?"

Traffic jam noted on Facebook - caused by a truck load of terrapins hitting a pickup load of tortoises. Turtle chaos

Friend of mine barged through the traffic the other day near the Snake Creek Bridge. Didn't even know he had a boat...

I had a phobia of orange barrels but I'm slowly getting over it.

Biggest cause of road rage? Cross roads.

The potholes on the stretch will change your radio station and unlock the doors.



# LOR-E-LEI

Restaurant & Cabana Bar

Look for the Mermaid at MM 82 Islamorada

Open 7 Days A Week

Breakfast 7 am - 10:30 am

Lunch from 11 am

Dinner from 4 pm

Live Music Every Night

**WATERFRONT DINING**

FREE WIFI PROPERTY WIDE • LOCALS' FAVORITE • LIVE MUSIC NIGHTLY!

**Breakfast On The Bay**

Fresh Seafood

Local Specialties

We'll Cook Your Catch

Fishing Guides Available

Amazing Sunsets

Pet Friendly

**Daily Happy Hour**  
4-6 pm

\$4 Well Drinks

\$1 off Bottle Beers

\$1 off House Wines

\$2 Domestic Drafts

\$3.50 Craft Drafts

## COCONUT TELEGRAPH CLASSIFIED ADS

### BUYING

Buyers agent is buying Vintage Costume Jewelry  
Call & leave msg.  
305-304-2837

### 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.  
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

### MUSICIANS

Amateur & seasoned musicians wanted!  
Keys Community Concert Band begins rehearsals in the fall.  
More info call 305-451-4530.

### GET CLASSIFIED

\$10 per col.inch per month!  
Bold Listing \$12./inch per mo.  
MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE

Classified Display Space \$15/inch.  
Drop off your ad and payment at  
The UPS STORE  
101425 Overseas Hwy., by Publix at Tradewinds  
Questions? Call 305-304-2837.

Classified ads will not be accepted without payment.

## 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.



Milo



Trinity



Holly



Cooper



Jewel & Ruby



Cate



Stella



Pumpkin



Leo



Clarise

## Conch Characters / Around Town



Alex Toshich had a chicken lay an egg on his Jeep at Tradewinds Plaza. He ate the egg!



Key Largo Moose Trivia night with Deb Starcher and Tony Allen.



Happy Birthday!  
Jan Gould celebrates at the Moose.



Elizabeth Young, Mary-Carlin Porter and Joyce Burd of the Arts Council of the Florida Keys visited the Key Largo Library to enjoy the fruits of their Art Builds Community Grant awarded to provide concerts, lectures and adult art classes. Everyone was pleased with the results of the multi-faceted community project.



Florida Keys Wild Bird Center hawk release team (L-R): Bayleigh MacHaffie, Addison Mulvey, Candace Key, Erin Allison, Gemma Matthews, and Alec Schmach.



Theresa and Dave at the Key Largo Moose.



**BYOCS** (Bring your own Conch Shell)! April 11th at 4pm at the Key Largo Library, Shell World will sponsor 15 people with a conch shell to keep. Sign-up starts April 1st. If you have a conch shell, cut and ready for playing, you can join in the class too! Most people are Conch-fused about the Conch-cept of making sounds with the shell. The class offers a Conch-cise demonstration to help people make joyful sounds by blowing into the shell. Photo by Lindi Mallison.



# LOR•E•LEI

Islamorada  
Restaurant & Cabana Bar  
MM82 at the Mermaid



**Nightly  
SUNSET  
CELEBRATION!**

**Voted the best sunset  
location year after year!**

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**Happy Hour** 7 days • 4-6pm

- \$4 Well Drinks
- \$1 off Bottle Beers
- \$1 off House Wines
- \$2 Domestic Drafts
- \$3.50 Craft Drafts

*Plus a great selection of low-priced munchies!*

**Open for Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner • 7am-10pm**  
Enjoy breakfast on the deck overlooking the water.  
Enjoy lunch or dinner on the beach.



**The Rockin' Magic of MICHAEL TRIXX**  
Most MONDAYS • WEDNESDAYS • FRIDAYS at Sunset

This Month's Live Entertainment and Events at the Lorelei						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
LIVE MUSIC 7 DAYS A WEEK!	Water Front Dining	1 Micah 6-10	2 Webb & Davidson 6-10	3 Webb & Davidson 6-10	4 Jade Storm 6-10	5 John Ciulla 12-3
			Michael Trixx @Sunset		Michael Trixx @Sunset	Uncle Rico 6-10
6 Micah 12-3	7 Carousers 6-10	8 Leah Sutter 6-10	9 Webb & Davidson 6-10	10 Webb & Davidson 6-10	11 Brothers of Others 6-10	12 Abstract Radio 6-10
Webb & Davidson 6-10	Michael Trixx @Sunset		Michael Trixx @Sunset		Michael Trixx @Sunset	
13 Mark Hill 12-3	14 Carousers 6-10	15 Micah 6-10	16 Webb & Davidson 6-10	17 Webb & Davidson 6-10	18 Uncle Rico 6-10	19 Abria 6-10
Webb & Davidson 6-10	Michael Trixx @Sunset		Michael Trixx @Sunset		Michael Trixx @Sunset	
20 Micah 12-3	21 Carousers 6-10	22 Steve Venini 6-10	23 Webb & Davidson 6-10	24 Webb & Bellamy 6-10	25 Shadow Creek 6-10	26 Abstract Radio 6-10
Webb & Davidson 6-10	Michael Trixx @Sunset		Michael Trixx @Sunset		Michael Trixx @Sunset	
27 Mark Hill 12-3	28 Carousers 6-10	29 Leah Sutter 6-10	30 Webb & Davidson 6-10	<b>"SUNDAY SCHOOL"</b> \$3 Bloody Marys, Mimosas & Screwdrivers every Sunday, 7 to 11 am		
Webb & Davidson 6-10	Michael Trixx @Sunset		Michael Trixx @Sunset			

