

### Coconut Telegraph

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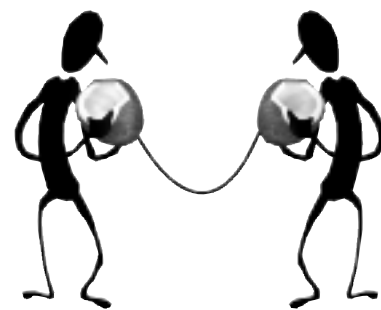
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### Deadline

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February issue is  
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## Entertainer of the Month Kim Bankston



Story and photo by Rachel R. Peine

An evening with Kim Bankston is a musical journey through time and space. From Motown to Brazil, from the 50's sound of the Platters to Van Morrison, Bankston's voice takes you on tour along with his piano, saxophone, flute, marimba vibes, and steel pan drum. Watching Bankston set up, you wonder where the rest of the band is. But as you hear him start his set, you see him picking up one instrument after the other, each one flowing around his warm, mellow voice.

Bankston was born and raised in the Miami area. He started playing drums at the age of 13, learned piano by ear, and was a key boardist and vocalist for the R&B band Formula Six in Opa Locka for seven years. He always loved Brazilian music, and taught himself Portuguese so he could sing his favorite songs.

Most nights you can find Bankston playing solo gigs at clubs in the Keys and Miami. He's also a member of the International Platters, touring in the U.S. and Europe along with the International Supremes. Both groups perform the songs of the original Platters and Supremes,

with new voices taking the places of the performers who made the songs and the sound famous.

On Wednesdays and Saturdays, Bankston plays at the Pilot House in Key Largo from 6:30 - 10. If it's Thursday, he's at Marker 88 in Islamorada from 5:30 - 9:30, and he also performs during their Sunday brunch from 11-3. He goes back up to Coconuts in Key Largo on Sunday nights. You can also catch Bankston in the Cutler Ridge on Tuesdays from 7 - 10 at O.C.'s Bar and Grill, 20537 Old Cutler Rd. The Supremes joined Bankston for a great double-bill at O.C.'s on January 9th, and they may be performing with him in the Keys in February.

Bankston's CD, "Timeless", showcases the variety of his music, including "Save the Last Dance for Me", "Samba de Verao", and "Strangers in the Night". Hear cuts from the album on CDBaby.com, where the album is described as "Memorable and timeless love songs from the 40's, 50's, and the doowop era along with beautiful Brazilian classics. An absolute must CD to buy." Find out more about Bankston at [kimbankston.net](http://kimbankston.net).

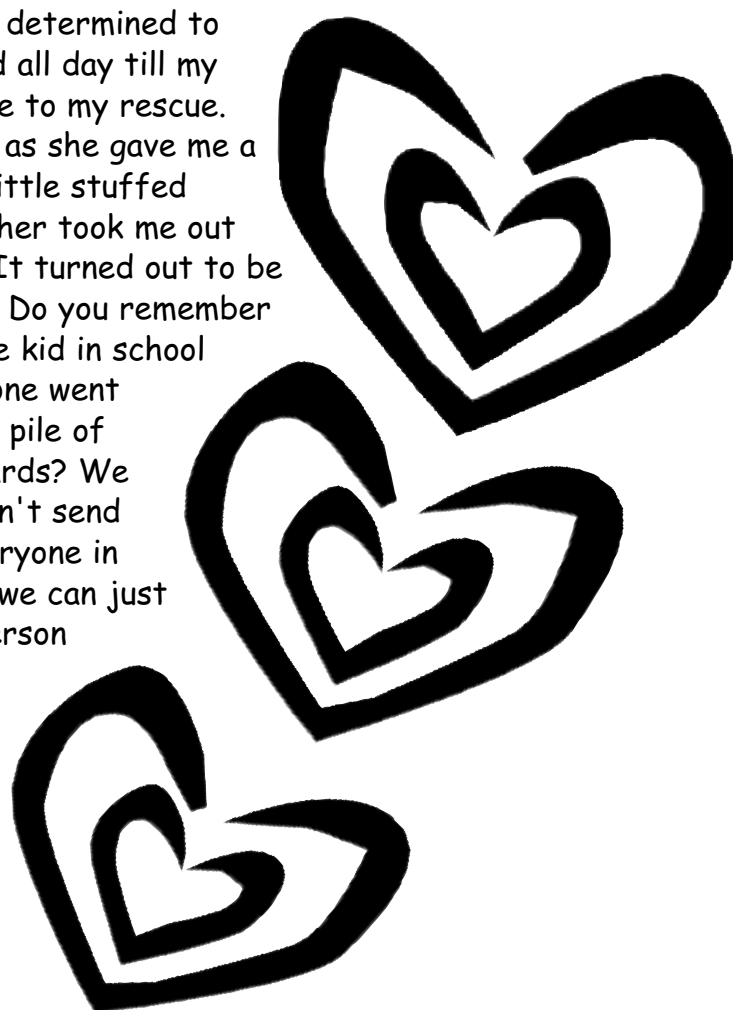
## Editorial

Once again this wonderful caring and generous community has come together to help one of our own. On Thursday February 8th there will be a benefit at Gilbert's Resort from 6 to 10 PM for Bobbi Campbell. She passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in December. Her husband Dave is on Social Security and unable to pay for her funeral expenses and her hospital bills are piling up. So we decided to throw a party. There will be live music by Jimmy Hawkins and friends, Felix the Catt, Ron Forster, Viva, Steve Venini and Grateful Ted to name a few. Chris Fleming will conduct a live auction and there will be plenty of raffles. Many area merchants have donated items to be auctioned

off. If you have something you would like to donate or want to help contact Cheryl Ryan at Gilbert's 305-451-1133. If there was a category in this paper for Woman of the Month it would have to be Cheryl. She jumped in with both sneakers to help this family and keeps on running. You go girl!

It's February and Valentines Day is right around the corner. It's a time for couples to celebrate their love and affection. Flowers, chocolates, romantic dinners, jewelry, etc., but not for everyone. There are people out there like Dave Campbell who just lost his wife, people that are newly single and people that are just plain lonely. Last year I was one of

them. I was determined to mope around all day till my friends came to my rescue. One giggled as she gave me a card and a little stuffed animal, another took me out for dinner. It turned out to be a great day! Do you remember being a little kid in school when everyone went home with a pile of Valentine cards? We obviously can't send them to everyone in town but if we can just make one person smile it will surely be a day to remember. **Look for more details on page 14.**



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