

Coconut Telegraph

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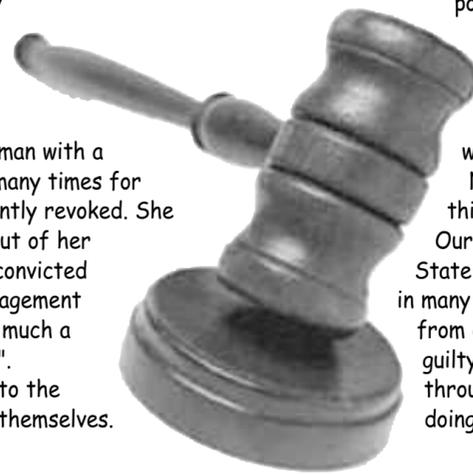
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Editorial: Things are not what they seem...

A con-artist is a person that can con-vince you of something against your better judgment. Some have even been con-victs who have learned to hone their skills in the prison system. Several years ago I exposed a woman who said she had cancer and then threw a benefit for herself. Many people were furious with me for even suggesting that she did not have cancer. It turned out I was right and she was arrested after the police gave her months to prove her innocence. I could not understand why so many people wanted to believe her and not me. She had been arrested many times and I have never been arrested. She was that con-vincing.

Recently I was a victim of battery by a woman with a criminal history. This woman was arrested so many times for DUI that she has her driver's license permanently revoked. She was arrested for drugs and beating the crap out of her skinny little boyfriend. My desire was that if convicted she would be able to get some help, anger management and drug and alcohol counseling. It was pretty much a cut and dry case but the jury said "Not Guilty". Sometimes it is necessary for people to get into the system to get help, those who won't do it for themselves.



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Most of us who have computers know that we can do a free background check in Monroe County by logging on to www.keyssso.net. By checking out the Sheriff's Department website I learned that the young man that was accused of robbing many businesses and homes in the Keys lived on my street! It is important to know those faces should they show up at your house uninvited. This has been a very strange election year. Business owners were seen fighting over politics. I had one person flip out on me over my bumper sticker that was promoting a candidate for State Attorney. My belief is that we are all entitled to our own opinion and we should be able to have a disagreement without verbal or physical abuse.

Next time you are selected to be on a jury think about all the work involved to get you there. Our Sheriff's Deputies work 12-hour shifts. The State Attorney's and Public Defender's offices put in many hours as well. When they bring in a witness from out of town and the defendant is found not guilty, you pay for their mileage and hotel rooms through your taxes. Think about it... who are you doing a favor for?

Useless Facts You Should Know

Compiled by Rachel R. Peine

- Key West has 32% of the entire population of the Keys.
- Monroe County consists of a portion on the mainland that is almost entirely in Everglades National Park, as well as the Keys from Key Largo to the Dry Tortugas.
- The Florida Keys are the exposed portions of an ancient coral reef.
- The Keys were originally inhabited by Calusa and Tequesta Native Americans.
- Key West grew prosperous on wrecking. Legend says that wreckers removed navigational markers from shallow areas to strand unsuspecting captains.
- The Keys are the only frost-free place in Florida. Why aren't we growing more oranges down here?
- Some plants that we think of as representative of the Keys are not native, including coconut palm, bougainvillea, hibiscus, and papaya.
- In summer, the airport at Marathon can be a good spot to see one of the keys' specialty birds, the Antillean Nighthawk, which is active beginning just before sunset.



- Some other unique birds can be observed after sunset in their native habitat in Key Largo at the Pilot House outdoor bar.

Visit Coconut Telegraph's new website at
www.theconchtelegraph.com

"Pets and Piña Coladas" Saturday Dec. 6th & Sunday, Dec. 7th!

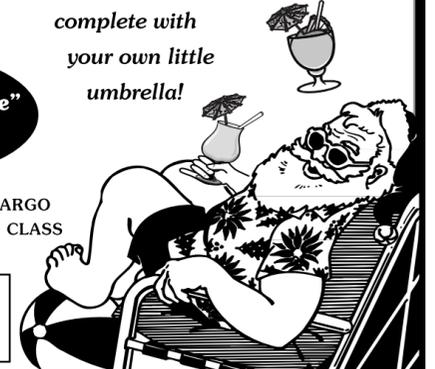
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