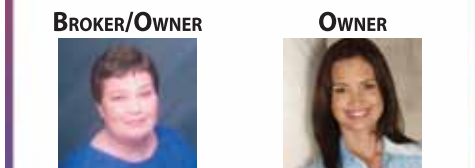


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AND ON THE MAP

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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

Points of Interest: A (African Queen Community Pool and Park), B (Post Office), C (Murray Nelson Government Center), D (Sunset Cove), E (Key Largo Public Library), F (Pehnekamp Entrance), G (John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park), H (Grecian Rocks), I (Key Largo Government Center).

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AND ON THE MAP

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RATES
KEY LARGO MAP PAGE

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Skyscraper:
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Hurricane Irma—Where is my Home?

by Kimberly Lahr

I used to say that I never felt homesick—even when on extended vacations. But now that I don't have a home to come back to, I am beginning to understand the full meaning of the word.

Home conjures up words like security, warmth, familiarity, and friends. Things we sometimes take for granted. Yes, we hear and see the devastation of others who have lost everything on our television, and on social media. But when it happens us, only then can we can fully relate to all those people to whom we referred to as the unfortunate. "Those poor people," we say. "It must be awful." It is.

Many people have communicated to me that I should be thankful for the things I still have, i.e. my

family, and my pet Amazon parrot, "Buckwheat." And yes, I am very grateful; and I am cognizant of the fact that it could have been worse. I could have lost everything.

But — when you return to the place that you have called home for so many years, and you see all of your things destroyed, well, -it is a very painful and humbling experience.

I saw people standing by what used to be their homes and crying, or just staring in shock. There are so many things that run through your head all at once. Where do we go from here? I lost my job; where am I going to find another? Where are we going to live? Will I ever see my friends again? Will my insurance cover all this? Do we even have insurance?



It must have been a shock when the owners of this Marathon home returned.

This hurricane and other disasters, some in the past, and some in the near future, make us aware of how tenuous our lives are, and that we are fully at the mercy of Mother Nature. The control that we think we have is ultimately non-existent. My heart goes out

to all of you who have had a loss, and now truly comprehend the meaning of the word. I hope we never have to go through something like this again. But this is the Keys. We are tough, and we are resilient. We do not give up, nor do we back down.

Conch Characters



Dave Bowman at Bayside Grill.



Friends gather at the Big Chill post-Irma. Photo by Kathy Ramsey.



Coach and Larry Calvano at the Big Chill served pizza to first responders.



Callum Allison beside the beautiful landscaping he donated at the VFW pre-Irma.



Sharkey's showing that Conch Strong spirit!



Keys Adventure Watersports is open at the Big Chill.