

# Goliath (Jimmy Buffet) Threatens David (The Coconut Telegraph)

Is Jimmy Buffet afraid our newspaper might give people the mistaken impression that we have some association with HIM? Believe it or not, The Coconut Telegraph has received a letter via Federal Express from Greenberg Traurig, Jimmy Buffet's lawyers, accusing us of Trademark Infringement, False Endorsement, and Cyber-squatting. In short, he's claiming WE stole HIS name.

The letter reads, "As you are likely aware, Jimmy Buffet coined the phrase 'Coconut Telegraph' in 1981, the year he released an album and published a hit song of the same name. Since 1981, Jimmy Buffet has performed the song countless times before live audiences. In June 1985, Margaritaville began using THE COCONUT TELEGRAPH in connection with a

newsletter".

What we ARE aware of is that we, the Conch Republic Coconut Telegraph Dining and Entertainment Newspaper have been in business since November 2006, and came up with the name all by ourselves. We freely admit we have no affiliation what so ever with Margaritaville Enterprises, LLC. We are great fans of Jimmy Buffet; however, we do not believe he "coined" the term "Coconut Telegraph". It has been around the Keys longer than most of us have been alive. To put it simply, he stole the phrase from the Conch Republic and made a whole bunch of money on it. It has been reported that he still owns a home in Key West and a membership at the Ocean Reef Club, but other than maybe paying property taxes in Monroe County, what does he give back

to this wonderful community where he made his fortune?

The Coconut Telegraph Newspaper is another story. Our purpose is to serve our community. We run free ads for benefits, charities, and businesses in need of help. We print stories about organizations that provide therapy for kids. We've organized benefits for birds, cats, and other critters; plus we print pictures of shelter pets who need homes. We're currently raising funds for Mariner's hospital through sales of *Dive With Vengeance* and we support The Pirates on the Water Parrot Head club because they do a lot for the community. We believe in giving back, not taking away.

I turned the letter over to our lawyers, our "Keys Dream Team" and they were amused. We did a little research and

found countless independent and unrelated "Coconut Telegraphs" on the internet, from websites in Honduras to blogs in American Samoa. One is even a newsletter in Key Largo! Is Jimmy going to sue them all? So should we run scared of the big bully and change the name to the Coco-not Telegraph? Hell no! As one of our writers said, "Chinese buffet, Warren Buffet, Jimmy Buffet- we're not associated with any of 'em!"

Jimmy, we're no threat to you. We paid for the name and own it fair and square. Instead of sending more lawyer letters, come see us in person. We cordially invite you to perform a free concert in the Upper Keys to benefit charities in our community. How about it? We really don't want to be forced to get out our slingshot and fight back.

# New Jewfish Creek Bridge Opening

Story & photos by Rich Peine

Well citizens, we now have a new bridge over Jewfish Creek. No more waiting for draw-bridge opening and hopefully a safer highway.

The opening came with all the appropriate ceremony. Speeches by the movers and shakers who made the bridge happen. The obligatory ribbon cutting, a parade of cars including a restored 1929 Ford one ton pick-up. There was also a boat parade headed by "Pirates on the Water".

There must have been 150 plus people attending, workers from Granite construction, local folks from various organizations, friends and relatives. The "Pirates" also helped with support on the bridge.

It was great to be able to attend this historic event. The thing that struck me was that this was the passing of an era. It is another inevitable change to our small chain of islands. I know that a drawbridge can be a pain in the ass, but it sure is a part of our history.

I have a fond memory of the drawbridge. While attending the Concert for Bobbie in Feb of 07 at Gilbert's a sailboat got one of its main-stays caught on the bridge. My first thought was what the hell was he doing so close to a drawbridge. My second thought was he was drunk. The second thought was verified when a crewman got off the boat and stopped by Gilbert's to ask where he could catch the next bus out of town. He stated that he would sail with Capt'n Breakfast Beer no more. Bet the bridge tenders have their share of stories, too.

Of course the new bridge is now starting its own history and legend. The opening ceremony is part of it. I'll add another one. Rachel and I met a couple of the construction workers. While shooting the bull we got to discussing the color of the structure. The paint is called Belize Blue. One of the guys said that most of

the workers didn't like the color. Too feminine. Rachel of course loves it.

The next time you're heading off the rock, enjoy the view and the structure you're driving on. The legend begins.



Pirates on the Water headed a bridge opening boat parade.



## Save a Life: Foster a Rescue Pet

You can help a rescued dog or cat by providing a foster home until a permanent home becomes available.

Joy Martin of Marr Properties is president of Marvelous Pet Rescue, which takes in animals that are surrendered, rescued, or found as strays. The number of animals that can be saved is limited only by the number of foster homes.

Loving animals need your help. Contact Joy at 451-4078.

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## Dive with Vengeance

by W.F. Mullen was discovered recently in a storage unit.

W.F. Mullen was a well known writer for several local newspapers. He passed away in 2007 at Mariner's Hospital, and proceeds from sales of his book are to benefit the ICU unit.



On Sale \$10.95

Dive with Vengeance is available at **Keys Visitor Centers** 107900 Overseas Hwy (at Gilbert's) Key Largo, and 92410 Overseas Highway (Vaughan Building) Tavernier, **Kat's Little Hair House** (Tavernier Towne Plaza), **Mariners Hospital** Gift Shop, **Holiday Inn** Gift Shop, **Riki Tiki Tatu** (Key Largo), and **Moore Books** (Pink Plaza, Key Largo).