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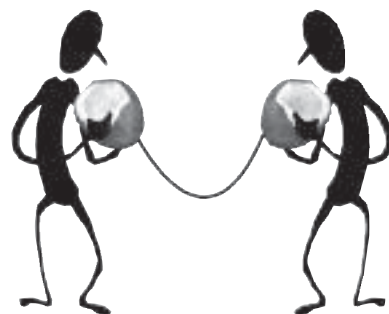
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Editorial: Amateur Meteorologists

On the eve of the first hurricane in 4 years I'm living in a half-house, half-trailer surrounded by water every which way. You can't help but feel a little comforted by the guy you overheard at the Winn Dixie in the meat section telling a friend that there is absolutely nothing to worry about, Issac is going to blow by us.

Others, like myself, are in a last minute shopping frenzy for canned food, bottled water, batteries, beer and chocolate, the usual hurricane necessities. As I round the corner of the isle, there are a couple of ladies sharing hurricane Andrew horror stories, I cringe and head back for more batteries.

I run into a friend who wants to know if I got my storm shutters up okay. When I tell him I don't have any, he shakes his head and warns me to not go outside because I could be decapitated by flying coconuts. I nod my head (that is still at-

tached, so far so good...) and do a u-turn and go back for a large bottle of wine. The produce section looks empty of people and I decide that is a good place to hide out and recheck my shopping list.

While I am hunched over behind the onions the phone rings and its my friend telling me the gang is going to the Big Chill for a hurricane party. "Be right there!" I answer as I zoom to the first available checkout line. If I hurry I can catch happy hour.

We in the Florida Keys have dodged another bullet. We are getting better at this type of thing. The county trucks were out early trimming branches and the Electric Co-op workers were on the spot. Prepare for the worst and hope for the best.

To quote my friend Lissa, "I'm going back to school to become a meteorologist. Where else can I get paid a lot of money for being wrong all the time?"



If you want to get a leg up on the competition you should advertise in the Coconut Telegraph

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Crime Stoppers of the Florida Keys

Crime Stoppers of the Florida Keys is a community-based program designed to help law enforcement solve crimes by rewarding anonymous tipsters who supply criminal information that lead to arrests. A non-profit corporation run by a civilian board of directors, Crime Stoppers can only work through the combined efforts of the community, the media and law enforcement. Rewards are paid from donations raised by the board. Tax money is not used. Crime Stoppers is a successful local, state, national and international program.

How it works: Crime Stoppers operates a 24-hour toll free number that is answered by trained staff members. Anyone who has information about a crime or a criminal can pass it on by calling or using the internet at www.tipsubmit.com. A code number is given to the tipster. Names are never used. Tips are passed on to the appropriate law enforcement agency for investigation. If the tip results in an arrest, the independent civilian board of Crime Stoppers can give a reward of up to one thousand dollars. The tipster picks up the reward at a local financial institution by using the code number. The code number protects the anonymity of the tipster, which is essential to success of the program. The tip line is 1-800-346-TIPS (8477).

Donating to Crime Stoppers, or volunteering your time is an investment in a safer community. If you have any questions, call Crime Stoppers President Greg Artman at 305-797-0019.

**Bartender of the Month
JP Pietrylo at Coconuts**

To be a bartender at Coconuts you have to have a friendly personality, a good attitude and lightening speed to keep up with this fast-paced island night club. JP Pietrylo has it all and then some. He came highly recommended for the Coconut Telegraph Bartender of the Month.

JP grew up in Islamorada and has been tending bar at Coconuts for two years. He loves the late-night crowd and the upbeat, revitalizing music. Late at night, the legendary Coconuts night life sizzles; you can feel the magic in the air. "Wednesday is Ladies Night, ladies drink for free and dance to the beat of DJ Dave. Thursday night it's DJ Julio, and Friday and Saturday nights DJ TJ keeps the place rocking," says JP. "Sunday night is karaoke with Marilee Free inside the lounge."

"Outside on the deck, we have the locals' favorite, Bobbe Brown, 4 days a week: Wednesday, Friday,

Saturday and Sunday. Ricky from Marathon via Ireland is awesome on Tuesdays and Thursdays (the ladies really love him!) and on Mondays Kim Bankston, formerly of the Platters, entertains."

Coconuts is a popular hang out for locals and tourists.

They are open 7 days a week serving breakfast for \$2.99 at 8 am, then lunch and dinner.

Happy hour is every day from 4 to 7.

"We have a special menu along with \$2 drafts and \$3 well drinks", says JP. "And don't forget the annual Coconuts Dol-

phin Tournament - anglers win big prizes here!"

What does a good-looking man like JP do when he isn't working, I ask... He is at the gym working out or spending time with his beautiful fiancée Amber Eastman, who is a server at Lazy Days. They are planning an October wedding. Congratulations guys! JP also mentioned that he would like to thank all his loyal customers. Stop in, and tell JP the Coconut Telegraph sent you.



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