

**Coconut Telegraph**

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**Deadline**

for the Coconut Telegraph's  
next issue is **Friday,**  
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**Editorial - Big, Fat Online Issue**

In 14 and a half years of publishing the Coconut Telegraph this is the first time ever that we have not had the paper printed and we sure hope it is the last time. We decided to publish this issue online only so we could give our loyal advertisers free ads to thank them. It gave us the opportunity to add pages!

Many of our advertisers have elected to stay open to serve their customers and many of their employees are working for tips only. Some businesses and their employees decided to close temporarily. Kathy Giles and her partners recently opened the High Tide Restaurant, right before the Corona hit the fan. She, like all other small business owners have that "deer in the headlights" look on their face trying to fathom the future. Still undeterred, Giles declared "If it's the last breath I take I will be here for take out orders and to support the community."

We salute all the folks that spent hours on sewing machines to make masks and give them out for free. I personally thank Marilee Free's mom and Christie Sheehan for mine. They are so much better than the scarf I was using. Scarves are hard to breathe in.. It felt like I was

going to face plant myself on the floor at Publix from lack of oxygen! Face masks are the new fashion and the Keysier the better.

A huge thank you to all the locals who pooled their talents and gave out free meals. Maggie Mckeehan at the American Legion was one of the first. She has been handing out meals every Wednesday and Thursday from 5 to 6 PM for those impacted by the virus and will continue for as long as needed. I salute Maggie as she has no ulterior motive and is not using her generosity to plug her business nor is she running for public office.

Florida Keys Farm will be giving out free food for 500 families on May 7th from 10 AM to 1 PM at the old Red Cross Building at MM 94 bayside. For more info call Candice 401-447-6787.

We are hoping for businesses to start opening to locals very soon.

Rodney Nelson, one of the greatest artists that ever lived, passed away in April. He and I collaborated on the Key Largo and Islamorada Treasure Maps. His friends and fans can pick up a free copy of the Key Largo map at the High Tide Restaurant MM 99.

We appreciate all of our faithful readers that tell



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us how much they love the Coconut Telegraph, saying it brings laughter and happiness to them. Please don't thank us, thank our advertisers, as we could not do it without them.



Costa Morada: Maryanne Vondertann, Ft. Lauderdale; Mary Moll, Big Pine Key; Cindy Clegg, Islamorada; Dawna Young, Cape Coral; Betty Bauman, Ft. Lauderdale and Theresa Gaisserf, Cape Coral.

Women, men and teens can learn and have an option to charter fish at the LLGF Screamin' Reels Tournament June 5 - 7, Islamorada, FL. The event kicks off with an educational presentation and appetizer contest at the Tavernier Elks Club.

Fishing is on Saturday and Sunday, followed by \$1200 in awards to be given on Sunday at Whale Harbor

Marina when the boats return. There will also be daily prizes on Saturday. Guided charter fishing with equipment and license supplied should be booked early as charter boats fill quickly.

Registration of \$89 per adult angler early entry, \$99 regular, \$45 for teens includes about \$20 in gifts. Backup dates Aug. 14 - 16.

Contact: Go to ladiesletsfishing.com, call (954) 475-9068; email info@ladiesletsfishing.com, or facebook.com/ladiesletsfishing.



Blue Chip Too: Carol Woodard, Apollo Beach, FL; Tammy Warren, Farmington, MS; Mary Ann McMillen, Apollo Beach, FL; Eve Overby, Tampa, FL; Linda Ricks, Lutz, FL and Robin McFaddin, Greensboro, NC.

**Rest in Peace, Rodney Nelson**



Rodney Dale Nelson, 62, of Key Largo, passed away at his residence on April 9, 2020. He was born in Miami on November 25, 1957, to parents Harold and Myrna Nelson. Rodney had many titles: father, brother, uncle, friend, artist, but the one he loved most was Ampa. That is what his grandkids called him. They were the light of his life.

Nelson was a very talented artist, whether it was airbrushing, oil paints, or glass etching. A lot of his work can be seen in Ocean Reef and if you have ever eaten at Buzzard's Roost you have probably sat at a table he painted. You can see the mural he did behind the original Mrs. Mac's Kitchen, make sure you look for the hidden things in the sky and in the sea, as he was famous for this. He also painted a small mural inside Num Thai.

Two of the most recent projects he completed were the Coconut Telegraph Treasure Maps for Key Largo and Islamorada, showing the many businesses and their cartoon-headed owners along the Overseas Highway. He was always willing to help with charity work and would at times go to the local school and do face painting for the kids. Rodney also painted a mural in a wing at the Childrens Hospital of Miami. His memory will live on in all his artwork throughout the Florida Keys.

Rodney is survived by his daughter Courtney Dale Nelson, sisters Tammy Brown and Judy Smith, and his grandchildren Gracelyn Adell Cummings, Logan Dale Cummings and Hailey Elizabeth Valentino, as well as a host other relatives and friends.

Due to social distancing and COVID-19, services are postponed until further notice. The family will post plans on his Facebook page. Please feel free to leave your memories and photos of Rodney's artwork on his Allen-Beyer tribute wall and his Facebook page.



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