Dining · Shopping Lodging · Humor



# The Conch Republic

THE COCONUT TELEGRAPH IS PROUD TO BE THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE NORTHERNMOST TERRITORIES OF THE CONCH REPUBLIC

101425 Overseas Hwy. · PMB #628 · Key Largo, FL 33037 · 305-304-2837 · www.theconchtelegraph.com · December 2025



#### **Attractions**

Feeding Island Families Blue Jay by Carol Ellis Luke Sommer Glenn Blog

#### What's Hot & What's Not

Artist of the Month: Jeanne Brennan

Remembering Friends Who Passed this Year

#### Maps

Key Largo Locator Map Page Getting from Here to There

#### All the Buzz

Coco-Nut Funnies Business in the Keys Adopt a Key Largo Shelter Pet Conch Characters Classifieds



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## Coconut Telegraph

December 2025 Volume 20 Issue #232

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#### Deadline

for the Coconut Telegraph's next issue is Wednesday, December 17, 2025

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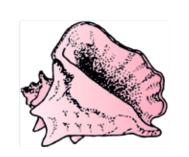
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# Feeding Island Families by Karen Beal

It is no surprise. Community food banks and meal services are seeing an increase in demand, possibly due to diminished food assistance funding, but also because of the holidays. County budgeting recently cut back on support making the equation even more out of balance.

There are 4 major food assistance locations in the Upper Keys. Hundreds of people use them every week and if you need help putting food on the table you should not hesitate. You will be met with a warm smile and generous hand. Most are "Client Choice," meaning you can choose what your family needs/

wants from the shelves. This reduces food waste and respects limitations in preparation.

While local businesses, particularly Publix, regularly supply food, if you are food secure and want to help, your time and donations will be welcomed.

#### St. Justin's Catholic Church at mile marker 105.5

FOOD PANTRY: Mondays 1:30-5pm.

WANT TO HELP?

- · Donate nonperishable food items.
- St. Justins welcomes volunteers. Show up Monday mornings at 8am to help organize items for the food bank.

QUESTIONS? Office 305-451-1316

#### First Baptist Church of Key Largo at mile marker 99

PANTRY BOX: 24/7 pantry box is located on the corner of Fisherman's Trail and U.S.1 and stocked with nonperishable items. It is available to anyone in need. The office also keeps food items, water, toilet paper and other emergency items. People can come to the office from 9am-1pm Monday - Friday.

**MEALS**: Hot dinner is served Wednesdays 4:30-5:30pm. Eat in or take out. They prepare 150 dinners weekly. Dinners are also delivered by volunteers to the homes of people who are not able to come to the church.

OVER AND ABOVE: The church makes showers available to those in need. Come to the church office 9am-1pm Wednesdays and Fridays. Clean towels are provided.

WANT TO HELP?

· The church welcomes volunteer help Tuesdays with cooking and Wednesdays to serve.

QUESTIONS? Office 305-451-2265



#### Burton Memorial U.M.C. at mile marker 93

FOOD PANTRY: Wednesday 9am-noon and Thursday 5-7pm. Offers bags of nonperishables and some bread, produce and meats.

MEALS: God's Kitchen serves a hot meal Thursday 5-6:30pm. Eat in, or take out limited to two meals per person. Over 100 meals are served each week and are provided by various businesses and groups in the community.

WANT TO HELP?

- · Volunteers are needed during the pantry hours and Thursday 9-11am to help receive deliveries.
- · Financial donations can be made online or by check made out to the church, designating the food pantry. www.bmumc.net/give
- Donate food: drop off nonperishable food items to the church.

QUESTIONS? 305-852-2581 Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm

#### First Baptist Church of Islamorada at mile marker 81

#### FOOD PANTRY/CLOTHING CLOSET: Tuesdays 10am-noon and 5-6pm

MEALS: Community meal is served on Tuesday 5-6pm and is eat-in only.

Light breakfast and faith group on Tuesday at 9am.

OVER AND ABOVE: A licensed counselor can offer free counseling on any of life's challenges. They also have a "Celebrate Recovery" 12 step program.

WANT TO HELP?

With a food budget of \$6,000 a month, food and finances are the church's biggest need.

QUESTIONS? Community Ministry (305) 306-7842

#### WONDERING WHAT TO DONATE?

Check out Dollar Tree/Aldi's/Walmart for good prices. Suggestions: a large bag of white rice (to divide into 1 lb bags), dry or canned black beans, soups, pasta and sauce, instant mashed potatoes, canned tomatoes. green beans or other veggies, peanut butter and jelly, cereal/boxed milk, canned tuna and chicken, mac & cheese.

Lindi Mallison, a member of the Community Resource Council, provided much of this information and also noted: hot meals are available three days a week: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at First Baptist Islamorada, First Baptist Key Largo and Burton Memorial respectively.

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December 2025 · The Coconut Telegraph · 5 4 · The Coconut Telegraph · December 2025



This is my seed table: Aggressive behavior toward another Blue Jay. Blue Jays scare away other birds and devour the sunflower seeds and wild bird food provided.

One of the things I appreciate most about living in the Upper Keys is the amount of birds and wildlife seen here every day. Everywhere I look there is life; it's almost like nature could be taken for granted. In stark contrast to Florida ends at the mainland near the urban areas to the north, and even in the Keys, just 100 miles south and west in Key West, there are far fewer critters.

So why is it when folks visit our tropical archipelago, the first thing they want to do is go to Key West because it is on their "bucket list?" There's a lot Key West has to offer that we lack here, such as traffic and parking problems, tacky t-shirt shops, touristy bars, and people-watching... why do you think they call it Key Weird?

Yes, there is the diving and snorkeling, and the Dry Tortugas are a must see, but lets face it, what Key West is truly lacking is the Blue Jay! Cornell Ornithology eBird database lists only two reported sightings of Blue Jays in the Key West/Stock Island area in the last 10 years.

The Blue Jay is one of the most familiar and recognizable birds, and is a permanent resident of eastern North America, all the way through Florida, ending at Marathon in the Florida Keys.

So why are Blue Jays rare in Key West?



A quick loop to make sure the other bird got the message.



Now where were we? The Blue Jay resumes its meal.

It has to do with the Blue Jays' diet. They like acorns... so much so that Blue Jays have been credited with the proliferation of oak forests in their range. The natural range for oaks in Homestead. There are scattered live oak trees in the Middle and Upper Keys, these oaks having been planted since oak trees are not native here. Key West has zero oak trees and therefore no acorns. (Though I'm sure there's a few nuts down there.)

Part of the reason they can survive here is that Blue Jays are omnivorous; they have a varied diet consisting of fruit, seeds, nuts, insects, spiders and



Side view of an alert Blue Jay at the seed table

small living creatures such as mice, and the eggs and hatchlings from bird nests. John James Audubon depicted Jays raiding a mourning dove's nest--but stomach analyses show eggs and chicks comprise an insignificant portion of their diet.



Their tendency to "cache" or stash their bounty near their breeding sites, ensures against going hungry, which is why they return to the feeder for multiple helpings.

Anyone who has ever watched a Blue Jay at a bird feeder understands that they are voracious eaters. Blue Jays disrupt the other birds, overpowering smaller and less aggressive birds, scaring away other birds near their food. In their pursuit of never going

#### Blue Jay... CONTINUED - Photos by Carol Ellis

hungry, they can collect up to six acorns at a time, using their throat as a pouch to transport their cache to their breeding grounds, where they bury the acorns. Because Blue Jays don't remember where they hide every acorn, they have been credited with propagating oak forests.

Blue Jays are beautiful birds. Did you know that it is nearly impossible to differentiate between a male and female Blue Jay since males and females share the same plumage? For the gender neutral crowd, Key West sounds like the perfect spot if you were a Blue Jay. One way you are able to tell males and females apart is by their size, since male Jays are slightly larger.

The world is pretty confusing these days... not everything is as it seems. Blue Jays are not really blue!

The Blue Jays' feathers are actually brown but we perceive them as blue because of a phenomenon called light scattering, according to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The pigment in Blue Jay feathers is melanin, which is brown. The blue color is caused



Blue Jay close-up, with its crest relaxed.

by scattering light through modified cells on the surface of the feather

Jays have bright blue top feathers, with white underneath. Their wings and tail are streaked with black, their tail has white outer feathers. They have a black "chinstrap" from ears down to chest, and the head sports a blue crest which lays flat when the bird is at ease. The crest stands up when in an aggressive posture. Blue Jays lower their crests when they are feeding peacefully.

The Blue Jay's heavy neck muscles rival those of the woodpecker. It has a straight black bill which can pierce dense acorns or eat locusts and grasshoppers, fare usually too big for smaller birds to handle.

The Blue Jay, also known as Jaybirds,

are members of the crow family, which explains why they are large, loud and domineering. It kind of reminds me of the characteristics we see too often in our fellow humans whom I try to avoid. What Blue Jays do is part of a natural balance and shouldn't be judged as either good or bad.



Blue Jays use their throat as a pouch to collect as many as six acorns.

**CAROL ELLIS** has lived in South Florida her entire life and Key Largo for 40 vears.

Currently a Master Gardener volunteer, Carol has a degree in Journalism from the University of Florida and is the resident photographer /artist at Ocean Reef Club.





#### Just Folks by Edgar A. Guest Blue Jay

All Winter long the blue jay stays, When richer throated birds have fled. About the cedar tree he plays And Waits our daily gift of bread The men who claim to know him best Insist he's cousin to the crow, A feathered robber, gayly dressed, Not fit for decent birds to know. Of morals he has none at all; of manners, really very few. There is no music in his call; his charm lies in his coat of blue. And yet I like him just for this: On many a dismal Winter day, When all the other birds I miss, this fellow's brave enough to stay.

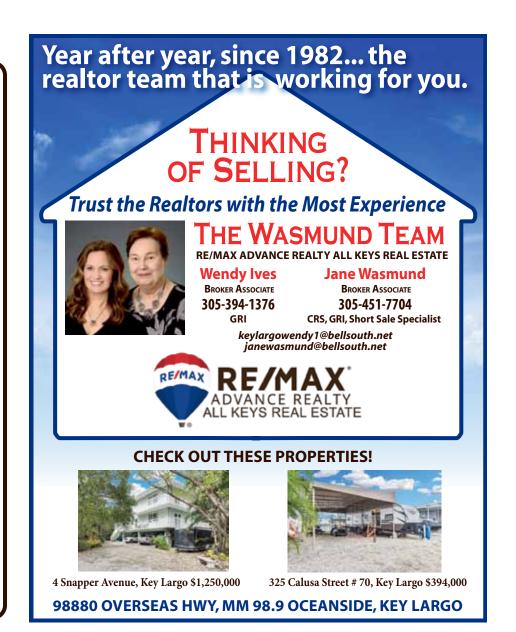


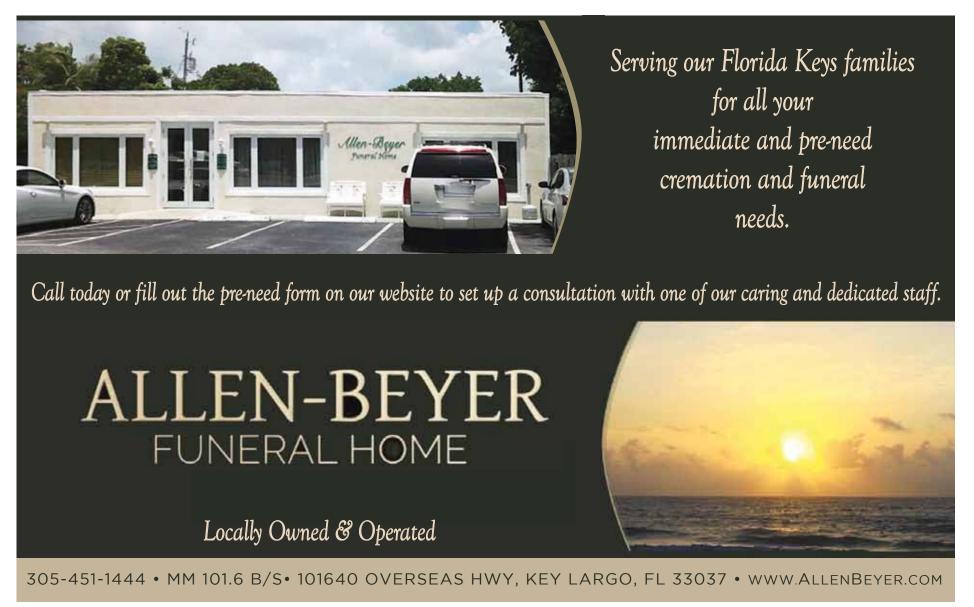
The Blue Jay is a well-tuned feeding machine, They can hold multiple seeds at the same time. possessing the ability to flick seeds into its stout beak

# Conch Characters



Amanda and Tony Allen - more amazing makeup and costumes!!









**THANK YOU for your support!** We, quite literally, can't grant the wishes without YOU!

Registration Starts at 5:30. RIDE starts at 6:30 from **CAPCON Construction, 102901 Overseas Hwy** 



Requested Donation \$20 adult \$10 kids 15 and under Follow us on Facebook: Lighted Bike Ride-Key Largo



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Top Tuna: Merida Garrell, Bottom'd Out.

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practice, and experience

place January 30 at the

awards on February 1 at Safe

Harbor Angler House. Women

individual awards while fishing

will compete for team and

fishing on the water.

hosted by Ladies, Let's Go

Fishing!®, January 30-

rada, Florida.

The Islamorada Women's

Top Mahi: Nicole Edwards, Sendit Tavernier FL January 31 and February 1 from their own boats or aboard charter vessels. A limited number of individual charter slots are available for

those who register early. Registration and details winning educational fishing are available online at www.ladiesletsgofishing.com/is Ladies, Let's Go Fishing! gives lamorada-womens-sailfish-women the chance to learn, tournament



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## FREE Healthy Frozen Meals! NOT A PATIENT? NO PROBLEM! Open to ALL Florida Keys residents. Pick-Up Locations & Times: Marathon Office: Tuesdays, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Tavernier Office: Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM Take home up to 5 meals per family member No paperwork required Good Health Clinic

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oin us for a series of adult art classes each based on the style of an artist. Learn about the painter and their work

then try your hand at painting in a similar style.

Oct 24 Monica Bankowski Nov 14 Carmen Kelley Marcia Brito

Feb 27 Mary Ellen Holler

Jan 17 Gloria Avner Modigliani Jan 23 Gisela Llorens Monet Kahlo Feb 14 Diane Smith

**CLASSES LIMITED TO 20 ADULT STUDENTS.** Check times: 1-5 pm. WAIT-LIST WILL BE AVAILABLE.

Sign up will be available two weeks before each event.

Follow Key Largo Public Library on FaceBook bit.ly/keylargo-library-events







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Van Gogh

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LIVE MUSIC - Friday 5:30-8:30, Saturday 5-9

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# Artist of the Month: Jeanne Brennan The Keys Spark Creativity by Karen Beal

My first question of Jeanne Brennan was "How does a geophysicist end up in the Keys creating art?" Working in Houston, Texas, Brennan met her husband, JD Carballo, a Miami/Keys native. From 1992 on, they traveled several times a year to the Keys and after retirement in 2020, moved here.

Brennan loves the small town feel. "You recognize people in the store or restaurant and can build friendships more easily than in a bigger place. And the sunrises and sunsets are pretty spectacular."

"One of the things that makes life special here is the many Keys non-profits that

contribute to building a better place for us all to live, play and work. These organizations shouldn't be taken for aranted."

Jeanne has always loved art, inspired by her mother's pastels, but a serious career was her first objective. In 2003 she started taking night classes at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts. Her skills in photography, watercolor and acrylic grew. When she retired, they blossomed.

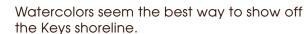
Natural beauty is her most common creative spark. Every day she finds something new to admire in the beautiful skies and waters of the Keys. This is particularly evident in her photography

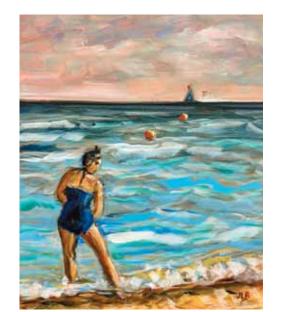
of birds and their environ-

Brennan is a member of The Art Guild of The Purple Isles (AGPI), an Upper Keys art community that provides opportunities for both new and established artists. There are many art shows during the winter season to

showcase the creativity of its members. Classes, a photo group and workshops taught by talented members are available throughout the winter months. The AGPI annual membership fee is very reasonably priced. Brennan urges everyone to check them out at AGPI.us.







Jeanne works in many different media. Acrylics offer color and texture opportunities.

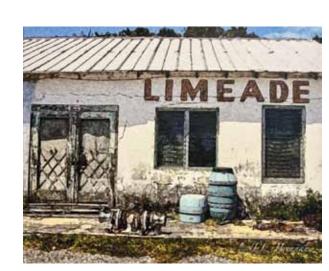


Photography has helped Jeanne capture the beauty of the Keys. It is its own art form and helps her find images for painting.





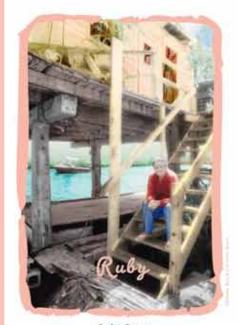
Having gained an appreciation for photo graphy from her father, it became a new tool to be creative. She uses LightRoom to tweak her Keys photos to reflect her vision



An artful digitally enhanced image of a local historic building.







known as "Miss Ruby", was the matriarch of Downtown Card Sound. She was a familiar site to travelers across Card Sound bridge. ORIGINAL LOCAL

ARTWORK BY

and lived there until 1999 when she had to leave due to illness, and died at age 90. 305-451-7778 Dress like a Florida Keys local and be comfortable in the sun in our DRI-FIT shirt designed by Carol Ellis | Little Salt Photography

HISTORIC FISHING VILLAGE OF DOWNTOWN CARD SOUND

featuring original artwork of the





SMART PHONE TO PURCHASE



On the shirt back is Carol's image of Ruby Stern, matriarch

map... yet was home to a

community of free spirits,

fishermen and independent

thinkers who took up residence

there. Located on the west side

of the road south of Alabama Jack's, and the toll booth, the

shack was originally built by

bridge around 1968. In 1972

for 27 years. She'd sit on the

Ruby moved in and lived there

steps of her shack, with an old

Colt 44 daring anyone to throw

her off the land. She stayed. Not

even the destructive forces of

county's condemnation of the

shack could send her from her

spot on the bay on Card Sound.

She moved to a trailer alongside

hurricane Andrew and the

workers who constructed the toll

of Downtown Card Sound Road,

a place that doesn't exist on any



SPF 50, long sleeve fishing performance shirt in agua, limeade and white

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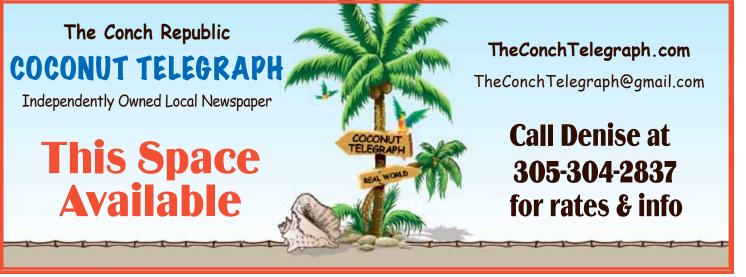
HAPPY HOUR: 4-6 excluding Sundays

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#### Members & Guests WEEKLY EVENTS

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Welcome

Hours 11am - 11pm

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Mondays 6:30pm

Tuesdays 6pm "Show Me the Moosebucks"

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With your annunciators jammed

on full and your depth gauge

Your accumulator's dry of oil and your air banks all are

"is my life's boat rigged for

"am I dead or still alive?"

scorn and curse the flaws of

Into realms of Rex you've stepped, and here you'll make

at the bottom of the sea.

Will your conscience do you justice when the final muster's

should in every port you've

and many, many more,

Are locked in the hearts of sailor men from Cannes to

So, when your day for mast rolls 'round the choice is up to

Sailor chart your course of life

Now's the time to flood your tanks and trim up 'fore and aft.

Your final billet lies below, on

So, be ready when that last

word's passed: Sailor, rest your

"old ocean's" floor.

right now; chart it straight and

It's a trifle late when the klaxon sounds to square away your

your stand.

been?

Singapore.

you,

true.

craft

oar.

You pace the flooded decks with

To live your life, as sailors must,

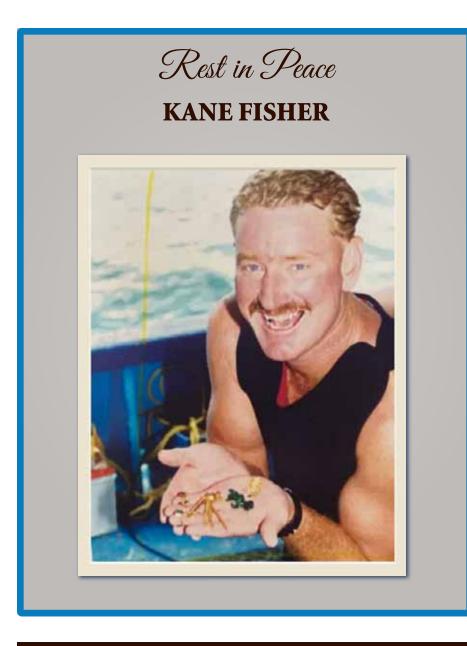
There's one you'll have to reckon - that one, my friend, is thee.

Did you lead the kind of life you

The answers to these questions

needles bent,

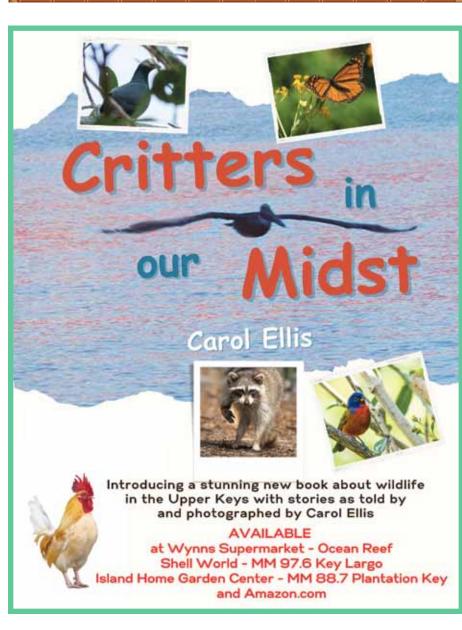
spent,







305-731-9472



#### Sailor, rest your oar ——in loving memory —— We remember our friends who passed this year... When your final dive is made, and your battery's running low, You'll know there lies a boat for you many fathoms here below,



**Geraldine Ataman** 



**Eric Beattie** 



Ty Burke



**Lynn Carpenter** 



**Christopher Elwell** 



**Kane Fisher** 



**Bernie Kay** 



**Steve Miller** 



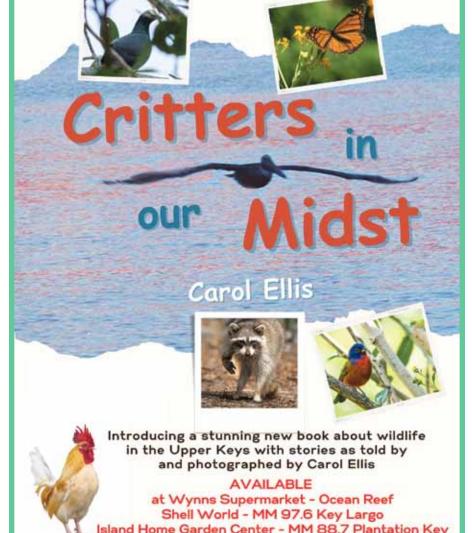
**Steve Roberts** 

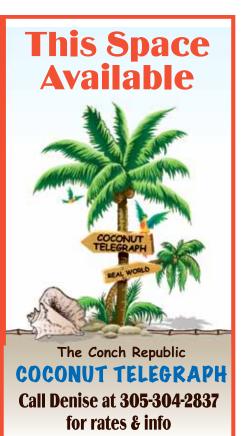


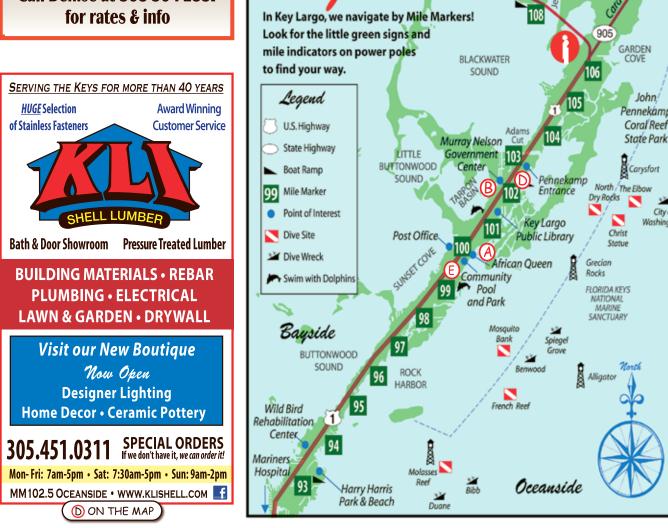
**Janna Robinson** 



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BLACKWATER SOUND

**KEY LARGO** 

(A) ON THE MAP

To Miami





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Eat in or take out - breakfast, lunch & dinner.

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BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER 99411 OVERSEAS HWY • FORMERLY DJ'S DINER

© ON THE MAP

# December Events & Programs at Key Largo Branch Library

The Key Largo Branch of the Monroe County Library System is hosting the following programs this month. All programs are free and open to the public. Program funding provided by the Friends of the Key Largo Library and the Florida Keys Children's Foundation Visit KeysLibraries.org for books, streaming movies, ebooks, events and more.

HOURS: Open 9 am Closes 6 pm Mon-Fri. and 5 pm on Saturday

KEY LARGO BRANCH LIBRARY . TRADEWINDS SHOPPING CENTER AT MM 101.4 OCEANSIDE

#### December Art Exhibit in the Community Room

Details to be announced, go to KeysLibraries.org/events for more info. The exhibit will be open to the public.

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### December 2, 3:30pm LEGO Club:

Join in the LEGO Fun. Release your imagination with a build of your design. Ages 6 - 12, supplies provided.

### December 3, 9am-12pm 1st Wednesday Plant Clinic

Master Gardener Volunteers will be at the Key Largo Library to answer your gardening/ landscape queries. Education points: nutritional value of leafy greens. Activity: examples of a few greens & distribution of seeds.

#### December 7, 4-5:30pm Gaming Groupies

Level up your gaming skills and make memories that will last a lifetime at the Key Largo Library! Connect with fellow gamers as you compete in thrilling tournaments. Join us for non-stop action, mindbending puzzles, and unforgettable multiplayer mayhem. Recommended Age: 6 - 12.





#### December 10, 4pm STEM Lab

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics has never been so fun! Ages 6 - 12. All supplies provided.

#### Deember 11, 2-4pm Adult Craft

Capture a Winter Wonderland within a salt shaker. All supplies December 19, 4-5:30pm provided. Space is limited. Register Online at bit.ly/keylargo-library-events

#### December 16, 4pm LEGO Club:

Join in the LEGO Fun. Release your imagination with a build of your design. Ages 6 - 12, supplies provided.

#### Dec. 17, 10:30am - 12:30pm Homeschool Meet Up

Bring a lunch. Be prepared to get messy. And most importantly, come willing to share ideas and express how the Key Largo Library can best serve your family!

#### December 18, 12:30-1:30pm In House Book Club

A Council of Dolls by Mona Susan Power Explore three generations of Yanktonai Dakota women from the 19th century to the present. Sissy, born in 1961, Lillian, born in 1925, and Cora, born in 1888, each have a cherished doll in their time that mysteriously acts as both a protector and counselor to each of them. Find out how the spells of love and healing bind these girls, inspiring both them and the reader.



## BEGIN EACH WEEK WITH A **NEW ORNAMENT!**

DROP INTO THE LIBRARY AND SEE WHAT ORNAMENT IS BEING MADE EACH WEEK.

#### December 18, 4-5pm Teen Collab

If you are between 12 & 18, join us each month for a unique activity.

# Gaming Groupies

See December 7 for info.

#### December 20, 9:30-10:30am In House Book Club

A Council of Dolls by Mona Susan Power See December 18th for details.

#### December 27 Bilingual Story Time Come join in the fun at our

NEW Bilingual Story Time! Families can enjoy lively tales, songs, and laughter in English and Spanish. Everyone's welcome - Let's read and play together!

#### COME TAKE A CLASS!

The Key Largo Library has a variety of offerings, ranging from Book Club and Arts & Crafts for adults to LEGOS and STEM programs. Scan the code to see the complete schedule.



Mark Your Calendar for January 2nd, 6-7pm Free Concert: Bing Futch

## WEEKLY EVENTS

Creative Mondays, 1-3pm Creative Tuesdays has moved to MONDAYS! Bring in an art project and sit with friends while you work and interact with other creative minds.

#### Story Time

Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10:30am for ages 0-5.



Quit Your Way - Tobacco Free Florida, Weds. 1pm Counseling and free nicotine replacement therapy by AHEC.

SBDC Weds., 2-5pm. (Dec. 3, 10 & 17) The Small Business Development Center at FIU will provide resources and one-on-one sessions on how to launch a businesses. Space is limited; register today!! https://floridasbdc.org /find/fiu/

Sit + Sew Fri. 9:30am - 1pm.

Bring in a sewing or any fabric art project to Sit & Sew and work with a crafting community who understands fabric and yarn

habits! KeysLibraries.org/events

Facebook.com/KeyLargoLibrary Instagram.com/KeyLargoLibrary



December 5, 6-7pm 1st Friday Concert -Grant Livingston

# BUSINESS IN THE KEYS

# Advertise Here

\$30 per month

Drop off check and biz card to The UPS Store, MM 101.4 Oceanside in the Tradewinds Plaza.



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(4 MONTH MINIMUM, PAID IN ADVANCE) Drop off check and biz card to

The UPS Store, MM 101.4 Oceanside in the Tradewinds Plaza.



#### **HELP WANTED**

Pilot House 13 Seagate Blvd. Applications always accepted. Apply in person. **Open Wednesday - Sunday.** 

## **KEY LARGO MOOSE LODGE HELP WANTED**

Part-time Bartenders and Part-time Motel Housekeeper

> **INQUIRE in PERSON** MM 98.8 in the Median

#### Help Wanted Kitchen Assistant/Barback

Apply in person between 3 and 10 pm at Elks Lodge MM 92.6 Tavernier. See bartender for application. \$15 per hour.

# The Year Loveable Louise Came for Christmas...

As a joke, my brother used to hang a pair of panty hose over his fireplace at Christmas.

He said all he wanted was for Santa to fill them. What they say about Santa checking the list twice must be true because every Christmas morning, although Jay's kids' stockings were overflowing, his poor pantyhose hung sadly empty.

One year I decided to make his dream come true. I put on sunglasses and went in search of an inflatable love doll. They don't sell those things at Wal-Mart. I had to go to an adult bookstore downtown.

If you've never been in an X-rated store, don't go. You'll only confuse yourself. I was there an hour saying things like, "What does this do?" "You're kidding me!" "Who would buy that?"

Finally, I made it to the inflatable doll section. I wanted to buy a standard, uncomplicated doll. One that could also substitute as a passenger in my truck so I could use the carpool lane during rush hour.

Finding what I wanted was difficult. Love dolls come in many different models. The top of the line, according to the side of the box, could do things I'd only seen in a book on animal husbandry.

I settled for 'Lovable Louise." She was at the bottom of the price scale. To call Louise a "doll" took a huge leap of imagination.

On Christmas Eve, with the help of an old bicycle pump, Louise came to life. My sister-in-law was in on the plan and let me in during the wee morning hours, long after Santa had come and gone, I filled the dangling pantyhose with Louise's pliant legs and bottom. I also ate some cookies and drank what remained of a glass of milk on a nearby tray. I went home, and giggled for a couple of

The next morning my brother called to say that Santa had been to his house and left a present that had made him VERY happy but had left the dog confused. She would bark, start to walk away, then come back and bark some more.

We all agreed that Louise should remain in her panty hose so the rest of the family could admire her when they came over for the traditional Christmas dinner.

My grandmother noticed Louise the moment she walked in the door.

"What the hell is that?"

she asked.

My brother quickly explained, "It's a doll."

"Who would play with something like that?" Granny snapped. I had several candidates in mind, but kept my mouth shut.

"Where are her clothes?" Granny continued.

"Boy, that turkey sure smells nice, Gran," Jay said, trying to steer her into the dining room. But Granny was relentless.

"Why doesn't she have any teeth?"

Again, I could have answered, but why would I? It was Christmas and no one wanted to ride in the back of the ambulance saying, "Hang on Granny! Hang on!"

My grandfather, a delightful old man with poor eyesight, sidled up to me and said. "Hev. who's the naked gal by the fireplace?"

I told him she was Jay's friend.

A few minutes later I noticed Grandpa by the mantel, talking to Louise. Not just talking, but actually flirting. It was then that we realized this might be Grandpa's last Christmas at home.

The dinner went well. We made the usual small talk about who had died, who was dving, and who should be killed, when suddenly Louise made a noise that sounded a lot like my father in the bathroom in the morning. Then she lurched from the panty hose, flew around the room twice, and fell in a heap in front of the sofa.

The dog screamed. I passed cranberry sauce through my nose, and Grandpa ran across the room, fell to his knees, and began administering mouth to mouth resuscitation. My brother fell back over his chair and wet his pants. Granny threw down her napkin, stomped out of the room, and sat in the car.

It was indeed a Christmas to treasure and remem-

Later in my brother's garage, we conducted a thorough examination and found the cause of Louise's collapse. We discovered that Louise had suffered from a hot ember to the back of her right thigh. Fortunately, thanks to a wonder drug called gorilla tape, we restored her to perfect health.

Louise went on to star in several bachelor party movies. I think Grandpa still calls her whenever he can get out of the house.



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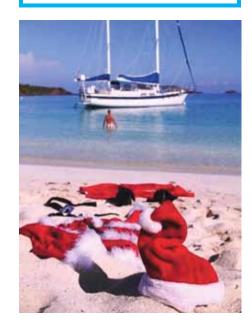
# Coco'Nut' Funnies

Before you mock children who still believe in Santa, remember there are still adults who believe everything they read on Facebook





I accidentally used my mom's fabric scissors to cut wrapping paper and now the cops are here









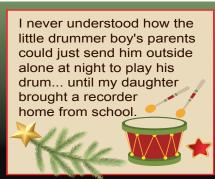








THEY KNEW THAT, SOONER





After 35 years of trudging through rain, snow, and blazing heat, old Mr. Thompson was finally making his last round as the neighborhood mailman.

At the first house, the family greeted him at the door with hugs and handed him a huge aift certificate.

At the second, he was given a box of fine imported cigars.

At the third, a beautiful set of fishing lures.

Every stop along his route was the same—congratulations, farewell cards, and thoughtful gifts. He was touched by the kindness. But nothing prepared him for the last house.

When the door opened, there stood a gorgeous young blonde in a revealing negligee. Without a word, she took his hand, led him upstairs, and gave him the most passionate "thank you" he'd ever received in his life.

Afterwards, she guided him back down to the dining room, where a feast was waiting: eggs, sausage, ham, potatoes, blueberry waffles, and fresh-squeezed orange juice. When he couldn't eat another bite, she set a hot cup of coffee in front of him.

As he lifted the mug, he noticed a single \$1 bill tucked underneath.

Confused, he asked, "Ma'am... this has been the most amazing day of my life. But... what's the dollar for?"

The blonde explained:

"Last night, I told my husband that today was your last day, and we should do something special. He said, 'Screw him—give him a dollar."

She winked. "But the breakfast? That was all my idea."



What has 15 actors, four settings, two writers, and one plot?

632 Hallmark movies. San Maria

This guy goes into a restaurant for a Christmas breakfast while in his home town for the holidays. After looking over the menu he says, "I'll just have the eggs benedict." His order comes a while later and it's served on a big, shiny hubcap. He asks the waiter, "What's with the hubcap?" The waiter sings, "There's no plate like chrome for the hollandaise!"



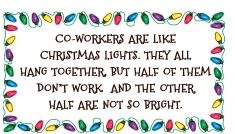
I'm trying to get into the Christmas spirit, but I can't get the damn bottle open.



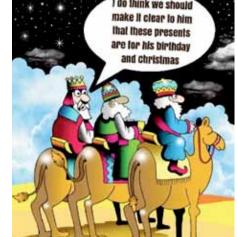
a cat for Christmas. Normally I do a turkey, but hey, if it'll make 'em happy...



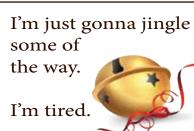
"Explain to me how holiday music is supposed to put me in a festive mood, even though I've heard the same songs over and over until I want to scream?!"

















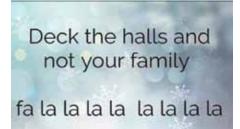










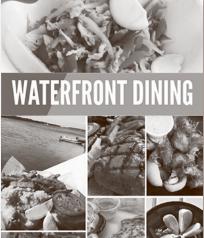




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# COCONUT TELEGRAPH CLASSIFIED ADS

#### BUYING

Buyers agent is buying Vintage Costume Jewelry Call & leave msg. 305-304-2837

#### VESSEL SAFETY

The USCG Auxiliary conducts vessel safety checks at Blackwater Sound Marina, MM 103.8 Bayside, every third Saturday of the month.Public welcome. 305-998-8400

#### GET CLASSIFIED

\$10 per col.inch per month! Bold Listing \$12./inch per mo. MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE

Classified Display Space \$15/inch. Drop off your ad and payment at The UPS STORE 101425 Overseas Hwy., by Publix at Tradewinds Questions? Call 305.304.2837.

#### CLUBS

Florida Kevs Orchid, Fern and **Bromeliad Society** meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Key Largo Civic Club at 6:00pm. Open to the public. KeysOrchidClub@gmail.com

#### THE KEY PLAYERS

Community Theater Group needs volunteers to work behind the scenes & audition for roles! thekeyplayers.org

#### **MUSICIANS**

Amateur & seasoned musicians wanted! **Keys Community Concert Band** begins rehearsals in the fall. More info call 305-451-4530.

> Classified ads will not be accepted without payment.

Meet a few of the animals who are currently available for adoption

# Another Day of L.O.P.E. -A blog by Luke Sommer Glenn

I had to stand and shout obscenities for a few minutes. I had hit maximum rage/frustration/ absurdity. How could such simple tasks morph into a torture test of my patience and sanity? What grand design or karmic oddity could possibly have arranged this perfect storm of negative circumstances? I would normally pay the people with the tools for the job but in an effort to save money...

It's not only me that is bedeviled by the "more complicated than it has to be" thing. Technology is great when it works but cars, quitar effects and kitchen appliances shouldn't come with an app. Next thing you know, you will have to have a subscription to use your windshield wipers or flush the toilet!

If you don't have any signal or "bars" and/or WiFi then the app is useless. And it needs to know where the refrigerator is located on the planet in order for the app to work. Most of it is just marketing hype with no real world value or practicality, just another way of collecting your information.

Off season is when everything breaks, needs maintenance and/or replacement because of the salty paradise that we live in. Nothing seems to break when I have money coming in, though.

I got a notice that my glasses prescription had expired- I figured as much because I was working on something and reached for

my glasses for better focus on the situation and discovered I was already wearing them.

Extra frustration, not being able to see regular print, forget about the fine print. That takes a whole process of finding where I left the magnifying glass with the bfl (bright f\*\*king light), which first requires a trip to the store to buy the gd batteries or waiting for it to charge on the USBthat is if I can find the one that fits. Is it a USB A, B or C type? They all look alike until they're

under a microscope, except for the big one.

My phone is full of pictures of tiny objects and writing that I can "blow up" with my fingers, pretty handy but time consuming to get the exact shot that holds the answers that I seek. Odd pictures of things like the underside of the truck, a propane cylinder, the electrical panel in the RV... Anything I need to see.

I am grateful for the first 40 years of good vision but I am increasingly annoyed by the declining vision of the

Thanks to Dave White for replacing the front wheels on my cart. Just

one of the many maintenance headaches of paradise • rust never

rests. Bad place to have iron balls..



subsequent years. The sun hurts my eyes now but my night vision requires the brightness of daylight to see what it is that I am looking at. What a drag. My dear, departed dad warned me about this.

It's amazing how much I tried to avoid acting like him only to find myself being just like him. Aging is its own torture test and another way of discovering what you're made of. My brief experience being dead gave me the insight to know that nothing here matters on the other sideno judgement, no pain, no memories of planet Earth at all. How could a soul be happy if they carried all the trauma of this place back with them?

If you don't like the program, change the channel. If you don't like the story, read a different book, but don't presume that yours is the only opinion that matters. A person who can't understand normal thinking insists that their delicate sensibilities and beliefs be taken into account by everyone else to avoid offending them. Don't be a person who can't understand normal thinking. Live and let live!

> Peace, Luke

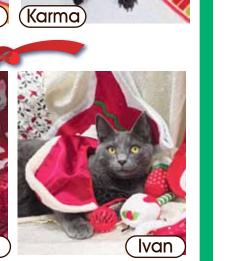
















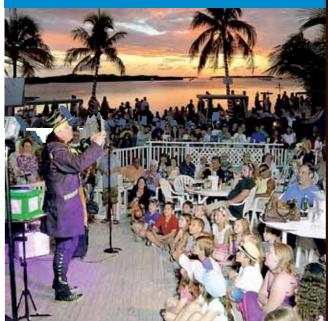
# Happy Hour 7 days • 4-6pm



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Plus a great selection of low-priced munchies!

Open for Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner • 7am-10pm Enjoy breakfast on the deck overlooking the water. Enjoy lunch or dinner on the beach.



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This	Month's	Live Enter	tainment	and Events	at the	Lorelei
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

Sullday	Monday	Tuesuay	Wednesday	Thursday	Triday	Saturday
James Jenery	Carousers 5-9	Micah 5-9	Webb & Davidson 5-9	4 Webb & Davidson	5 Jade 5:-9 Storm	6 Uncle Rico
70	Michael Trixx @Sunset		Michael Trixx @Sunset	5-9	Michael Trixx @Sunset	5-9
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Webb & Davidson	Carousers 5-9	Leah Sutter 5-9	Webb & Davidson	Webb & Davidson	Brothers of Others 5-9	Abstract Radio
5-9			5-9	5-9	Michael Trixx @Sunset	5-9
14 Webb & Davidson	15 Carousers 5-9	Micah	17 Webb & Davidson	18 Webb & Davidson	19 Uncle Rico 5-9	20 Shindig
5-9	Michael Trixx @Sunset	J-9	Michael Trixx @Sunset	5-9	Michael Trixx @Sunset	5-9
21 Webb & Davidson	Carousers 5-9	23 Steve Venini	Webb & Davidson 5-9	25 Webb & Davidson	26 Beach Bandits 5-9	27 Abstract Radio
5-9	Michael Trixx @Sunset	5-9	Michael Trixx @Sunset	5-9	Michael Trixx @Sunset	5-9
28 Walah 9	29 Carousers	30	<sup>31</sup> Webb &	"SUND	AY SCH	OOL"

Davidson



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**Carousers** 

5-9

**Michael Trixx** 

Webb &

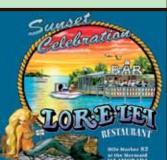
**Davidson** 

Leah

Sutter

5-9





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