

# The Conch Republic COCONUT TELEGRAPH

**FREE**  
Dining • Shopping  
Lodging • Humor  
Entertainment



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

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## Attractions

Gardening for Life by Carol Ellis  
So Much J.O.Y.!

## What's Hot & What's Not

Key Largo Volunteer Fire/  
Rescue Museum Events!

Mark Sorenson Youth  
Sailing Program

## 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



US Sailing Level 1 Certified Coaches, Alex Brehm and Sophia Figueredo, participate in this year's 16th Annual Buccaneer Blast Regatta at the Upper Keys Sailing Club. Both Coaches are instructors in this summer's Mark Sorensen Youth Sailing Program. See page 11. Photo by Natalie Stroster.

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# Critters in Our Midst: Gardening for Life

by Carol Ellis

Picked leaves can be used fresh, or dried out. Dried leaves make a stronger tea.

When I reflect upon my work in the garden, I ask, “Am I keeping the plants in the garden alive, or is the garden keeping me alive?”

Gardeners nurture their plants by adding water, compost and nutrients, and by removing sunlight-blocking weeds. In return the plants produce abundant growth, flowers and edibles.

Oftentimes homeowners consider ornamental plants solely because they look good, are fast growing or are inexpensive... none or few redeeming qualities for life. Edible landscaping is a concept that replaces ornamental plants in the landscape with plants that produce food for humans. Planting for

wildlife is a form of edible landscaping, for the birds, bees, pollinators, small furry creatures, insects and reptiles in our midst. When we plant native plants, we are planting for wildlife.

The plants growing in our gardens tell a story. It may be as simple as the plant came with the house, or the birds planted the seeds as volunteers. When my sister Lillian comes to visit, she always brings cool and unusual plants. She brought fragrant lemongrass which is thriving, and a pomegranate tree which gifts me with delicious fruit. The Vanda orchid “Josephine” she brought came from a 100-year-old collection. Oh, the responsibility is

huge... thankfully the orchid is very happy near my pond.

Often trees are planted as a living tribute for a family member or friend who is no longer with us. In my yard, that plant is the Soursop, aka Guanabana (Annona muricata) planted for my former photography assistant Ronnie Navarro, who died from cancer. Over the course of his treatment involving chemotherapy and radiation, Ronnie would tell me what he’d learned about a natural anti-cancer alternative from the Soursop tree. Research and anecdotal accounts, not necessarily true or reliable, have shown Soursop leaves and stems consumed as a tea, and by eating the fruit, can benefit you by reducing inflammation and preventing/curing certain types of cancer. Ronnie planned on eating the fruit and drinking the tea as soon as he got out of the hospital. He never got that opportunity.

The two trees planted in Ronnie’s honor have now expanded to ten, all from seeds that sprouted near the original trees. Each week I brew a batch of fresh Soursop tea. Maybe I am fighting cancer? The use of Soursop to prevent cancer is no more crazy a concept than traditional medicine’s use of Coumadin, an anticoagulant, which is actually rat poison. If you can use rat poison as a blood thinner, then what’s so strange about having fruit to prevent cancer? The lack of human studies and clinical trials doesn’t stop me from experimenting with Soursop.

Food is medicine. The health benefits

## Gardening for Life... CONTINUED - Photos by Carol Ellis



Carol holding a Soursop fruit. While looking up at the Soursop tree I think of Ronnie, in whose memory the trees were planted.

from growing your own allows you to pick fruits and vegetables at their peak freshness and nutrition. In the Keys (zone 11) tropical fruit trees include Avocado, Mango, Figs, Carambola, Mulberry, Pomegranate, Loquat, and Soursop. Eggplant, okra, turmeric, ginger, lemon grass, pineapples, bananas, papaya, scallions, rosemary and other herbs grow year round. It is best to choose planting locations with early morning and late afternoon sunlight, and avoid the extreme heat. Fruits and vegetables need 6-8 hours of sunlight.

You can learn a lot about the plants that grow in the Keys when speaking



with our friends and neighbors who have lived in the Caribbean Islands or Central America. Often the best and only medicines are found growing in their native landscape. Lemongrass is good for head congestion. Boil a pot of water and lemongrass for 5-10 minutes. Remove from the stove, cool until the mixture is warmish. Remove the grass. Sit in a bathtub and pour the water over the head to open sinuses. Aloe Vera calms burns, including sunburn, and helps heal wounds. A sprig of Rosemary in your water makes you smarter... well maybe not, but reading this article might!

Gardens... we nurture the plants and keep them alive, but what about the opposite? Not sure whether I am here to keep the plants alive, or they are here to extend my life. Can plants nurture our spirit as well as provide food and medicine? Truth is written on a stone in my garden: “An Hour in the Garden Puts Life’s Problems in Perspective.”

Picking Soursop leaves for tea. The new growth is preferred for the best green tea. Adding stems to the tea increases the strength of the brew.



Truth is written on a stone in my garden: “An Hour in the Garden Puts Life’s Problems in Perspective.”



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

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.



A wise Jewish woman once told me: “When you speak the name of the deceased, they live. Their name is the key to their soul.” Each time I walk by the Soursop trees planted in Ronnie’s memory, I think of Ronnie, and he lives.

### SOURSOP TEA

- GREEN OR BROWN SOURSOP LEAVES
- 12 CUPS OF BOILING WATER
- STAINLESS STEEL POT WITH LID

- Bring the water to a boil.
- Crush the soursop leaves (2-3 LEAVES PER CUP) in your palms, then add to boiling water.
- Return to a full boil, stir, then turn down to simmer. Let simmer covered for 10 - 15 minutes or until leaves are a uniform color.
- Turn off heat. Cover with lid and let steep. Drink hot or cold
- Suggested serving is one 8 oz. cup of tea per day
- A Cran-Pomegranate juice “topper” adds sweetness



Soursop leaves and fruit. Fruit grows close to the stems all over the tree.



Soursop looks prickly, but it is not.



Green soursop leaves are submerged in simmering water to make tea. Though fresh fruit is available only in the summer, the leaves can be consumed as tea year round.

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## So Much J.O.Y.!

by E. G. Merkel

The whimsical artwork of Sara Reizen can be seen in numerous Just Older Youth (J.O.Y.) Center social media posts. It embodies the joy members at the J.O.Y. Center feel each week and the joy the new Board of Directors (President, John Cooper; Vice President, Eva Merkel; Secretary, Averil Kimble; and Treasurer, Dawn Cale) wants to spread to many more of our Upper Keys seasoned citizens.

If you missed it, the J.O.Y. Center moved to two days of programming at its new location at the Plantation Key Community Center (53 High Point Road) last year. From Yoga to ukulele, Mah Jongg to line dancing, crocheting to Five Crowns, there is a lot of variety for everyone. The newest courses include Belly Dancing and Tai Chi. Classes are free, but donations keep J.O.Y. afloat.

With more than 53% of Upper Keys residents aged 50 or older, the need for a place to find enrichment and community is growing. Having a place to learn, socialize, and have fun is crucial for mental, physical, and spiritual health. Having such a location where you have chosen to age in place is a gift. The dream for "the teen center for people over 50" in the Upper Keys is to have a permanent location open seven days a week. The commitment to make this happen is building momentum!

Three major areas of focus for J.O.Y. Center growth are:

1. Increase membership. In 2024, 551 individuals had 4,713 experiences at J.O.Y. Most members, 66%, said they heard about J.O.Y. from a friend. We need more friends!
2. Recruit enthusiastic volunteers. Most of the classes offered have come from someone volunteering to teach. Many hands make light work. We need more hands!
3. Expand community partnerships. More classes and events offered over more days need more space and more funding. Imagine having a county commitment to having a space for our growing population wanting to age in place. We need more partners!

### J.O.Y. needs YOU!

Come in for a visit on Tuesdays or Wednesday from 8 am to 5 pm at 53 High Point Road, Plantation Key. Check out the newly revamped website for specific class times at [justolderyouthinc.org](http://justolderyouthinc.org). Check out their Facebook and Instagram pages.

Might you have a specific skill just waiting for a noble purpose? J.O.Y. has a place for you.

Drop J.O.Y. an email at [justolderyouthinc@gmail.com](mailto:justolderyouthinc@gmail.com) or call 786.883.6548.



**JOY CENTER**

## Tuesdays

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

8:30 - 11A	Original Chat Room - Rm A
9 - 9:45A	Belly Dancing for Seniors - Rm B
10 - 10:50A	Gentle Flow Yoga - Rm B
11 - 11:45A	Stretch & Stress Relief - Rm B
11:15 - 12:15	Crocheting Rm A
12 - 12:45	Tai Chi Quan Rm B
1 - 1:45p	Book Club (held once per month)
1 - 2p	Tech Support - Rm A
2-4P	Original Chat Room - Rm A





**JOY CENTER**

## Wednesdays

8:30 AM - 4:00PM

8:30-11A	Original Chat Room - Rm A
8:45 - 9:50A	Tech Savvy
10 - 10:50A	Gentle Flow Yoga - Rm B
11 - 11:45A	Line Dancing - Rm B & ZOOM
11A - 12:45P	Mah Jongg - Rm A
12 - 12:30P	Ukulele Beginners - Rm B
1 - 2:30P	Ukulele JOY - Rm B
1 - 2:00P	Tech Support
1 - 3:45P	5 Crowns - Rm A
2:00 - 4P	Original Chat Room

# SHIPWRECKS

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## CHI'S KEY LARGO HEALTH CENTER IS OPEN!

We're excited to introduce our new Key Largo Health Center, a state-of-the-art facility located in the heart of Key Largo, as we continue to bring over 50 years of comprehensive care in Key West, Marathon, and Key Largo. This new location marks another milestone in our mission to provide high-quality, accessible healthcare in convenient locations for the communities that need it most, with dedicated and experienced primary care and pediatric professionals ready to serve you and your family.

**July 17, 2025**

**Key Largo Health Center**  
228 Atlantic Blvd  
Key Largo, FL 33037

**5:30pm to 7:30pm**

Come celebrate this new chapter in community health with us!



Please RSVP by emailing Lourdes De La Nuez at [ldelanuez@chisouthfl.org](mailto:ldelanuez@chisouthfl.org) or calling (305) 252-4861

Key Largo Volunteer Fire / Rescue Museum Events!



The Key Largo Volunteer Fire / Rescue Museum is coming together for its big Open House on July 4th from 9 am to 5 pm. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be grilling and hats and T-shirts will be available for a donation. Kids can pick up swag and everyone can meet former firefighters and hear stories about the equipment and feats of heroism. The mission of the museum is preservation and education of the Keys fire service. After the Open House, the next dates the building will be open to the public are August 5th for National Night Out, 5-8pm, and September 11th, to honor 9-11. The Museum is located on East St., at MM 98.8 Oceanside, adjacent to the Fire Station.



Mural by local artist "Art by Ginger" illustrates the first new fire truck Monroe County bought, a 1962 Ford Howe 500-gallon fire engine pumper.



*It's Back!*

## Sunday Brunch

11 AM to 2 PM

Complimentary Glass of Champagne, Mimosa or Bloody Mary with each Entrée

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## Key Largo Library Summer Reading Program

# READ THE RAINBOW



### Exciting Weekly Programs bursting with color and imagination in June & July for Kids and Families!

Explore a world of stories, creativity, and discovery through weekly programs designed to entertain, educate, and inspire. Each session will feature a unique guest, performance, or hands-on experience. Free and open to all ages!

Visit [keylibraries.org](http://keylibraries.org) or the Key Largo Library social media pages, or stop by for more info!

**Fantasy Theater Factory**  
Tues., June 3, 1:30 PM

**Marine Lab**  
Wed., June 4, 1:30 PM

**Patty's Primary Songs**  
Thurs., June 12, 2 PM

**Windell Campbell, Puppeteer**  
Wed., July 2, 2 PM

**MC Sheriff's Office Animal Farm**  
Wed., July 9, 10:30 AM

**Didgeridoo Down Under**  
Friday, July 25, 10:30 AM

...and many more surprises!

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# The Power of Staying Positive

Positive thinking dramatically increases your chances of success in any endeavor.

Our thoughts are not simply random pieces of information that enter our minds and then disappear. The words and ideas that we think can shape our lives and drive us toward success and happiness or failure and distress.

How you think and feel can have a profound effect on your ability to recognize opportunity, how well you perform, and the outcome of the goals that you've set for yourself. When you maintain an optimistic outlook and make an effort to harbor only positive thoughts, you begin to create the circumstances conducive to you achieving what you desire.

When you feel in control and fewer of life's challenges seem truly overwhelming because it is in your nature to expect a positive conclusion.

An optimistic mind is also an honest one. Staying positive does not mean that you ignore difficulties or disregard limitations. Instead, it means spending time focusing only on the thoughts that are conducive to your well-being and progress.

When you're sure that you are worthy and that achievement is within your grasp, you start to relax and look for solutions rather than dwelling on problems. You are more likely to imagine positive situations or outcomes and disregard the thoughts related to giving up, failure, or roadblocks. If you anticipate joy, good health, happiness, and accomplishment, then you will experience each one.

Whenever a negative thought enters your mind, try immediately replacing it with a constructive or optimistic one. With persistence, you can condition your mind.

It is within your power to become as happy, content, or successful as you make up your mind to be. Staying positive will likely have a profound and instantaneous effect on your mood and the quality of your experiences. Let it become your predominant mind-set.

Once you are committed to embracing positive thinking, you'll start believing that everything that you want is within your grasp.

Reprinted from DailyOM - Inspirational thoughts for a happy, healthy and fulfilling day. Register for free at [www.dailyom.com](http://www.dailyom.com)

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## Sailing Through Youth by Karen Beal



Conor Da Silva, in his second summer course, takes a friend and his sister Carolyn, with one year under her belt, out on the boat at the end of last summer's camp season. They are both signed up for this summer's session. Photo: Sara Hamilton

Kids these days - right?! They lounge around the house on their phone or maybe play a video game. Well, I have news for you! There is a place in town that offers a summer camp experience that can translate to a year-long (or maybe life-long) opportunity to enjoy and excel at something special to the Keys.

Between June and Aug 8th, the Mark Sorensen Youth Sailing Program (MSYSP) offers 9 week-long day camps (5 days a week 9am-3pm) at the Upper Keys Sailing Club in the heart of Key Largo. Sailboats of all sizes and training to all skill levels, paired with time on the water, is an exciting experience.

The youngest camp group is 6-7 years old. Basic sailors group is 8-12 and Advanced is



Sailors come in all genders and sizes!



Summer camp crews heading to the bay where seasoned teen sailors teach skills to the younger students. Photo: Sara Hamilton



US Sailing Level 1 Certified Coaches (L-R) Sophia Figueredo, Alex Brehm, Luke Nimark, Ethan Osborne, Sarah Naylor (shoreline support) ready to take the beginners group out on the catamaran where they each have a turn on the tiller.



Students in mid-June class await direction

13-18. Coaches for the summer camp are Level 1 Certified sailing club members or past students and 8 students (or fewer) to one coach ensures quality guidance.

A week of camp runs \$350 for Keys kids (\$600 for 2 weeks) and \$475 a week for non-locals. Scholarships may be granted with an application process.

And the fun need not end with camp! There are sailing programs all year long at the Upper Keys Sailing Club as a part of the MSYSP. The "Buccaneers" have sailing events including the Buccaneer Blast - which is a huge 'blast,' believe me! Students can also become paid instructors by earning the Level 1 Certification. (There are also scholarships for that.)

John Sorensen, President of Programing, sees it as a family legacy and a way to give back to his Keys community. "Sailing teaches self-discipline and the problem-solving skills use math and science. These translate to a successful life. We expect respect and civility at the classes - and give respect in return."

Pirates Dive Shop, CBT Construction, First Horizon Bank and The Sorensen Trust are some of the sponsors of the MSYSP along with the Upper Keys Sailing Club members. The program, a 501c3, is always looking for individual or business sponsors for scholarships or equipment.

Spaces and scholarships are still open for the remaining classes. Call 305-391-8661 or [marksorensenyouthsailing.com](http://marksorensenyouthsailing.com)



We always have something "Elk-citing" going on!  
(Members and Their Guests are Welcome)

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Tuesdays 6pm  
"Show Me the Moosebucks"

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Hours 11am - 11pm

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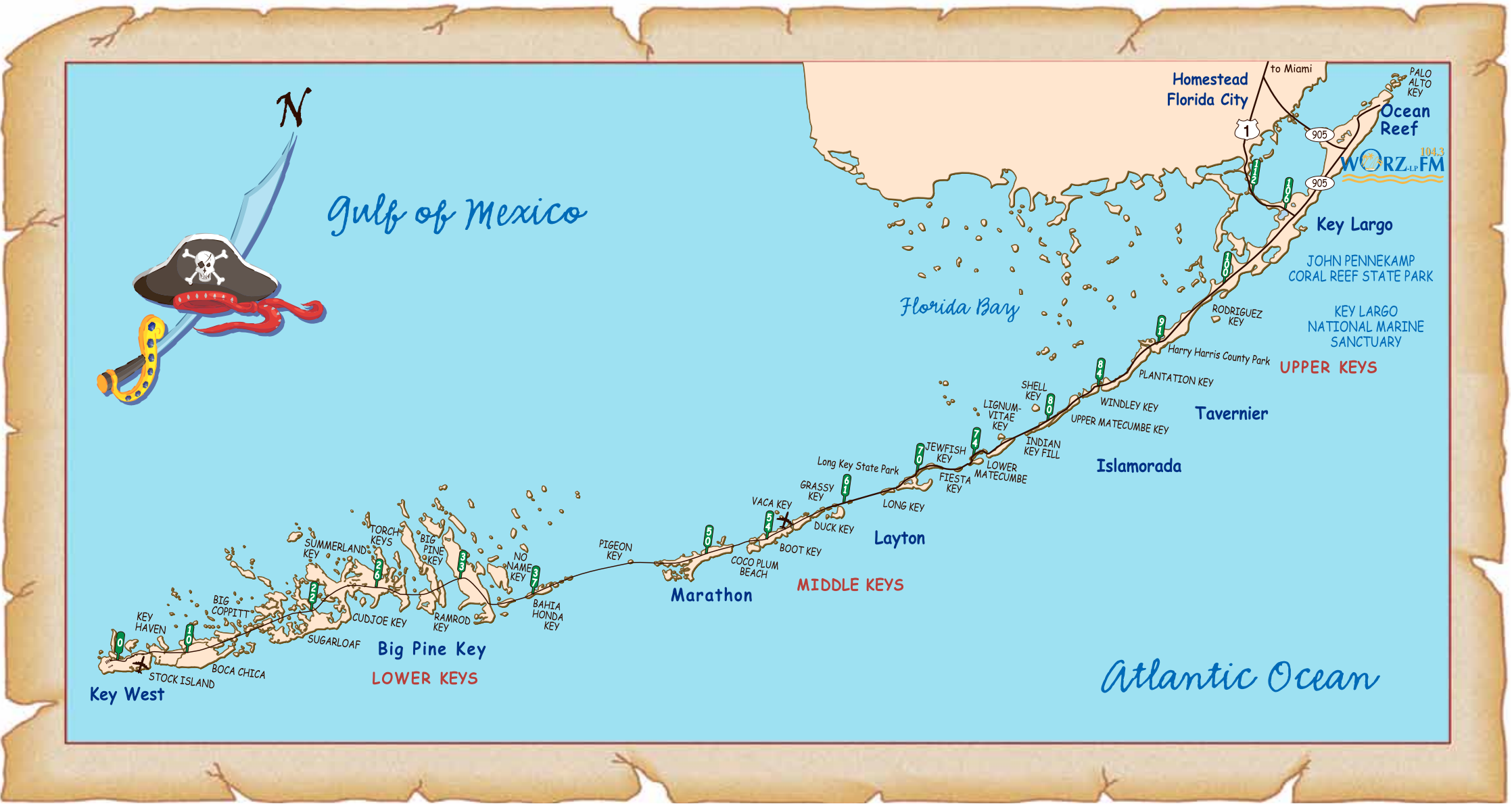
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Bernie Kay



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8. HOT AIR: BECAUSE FLYING OVER US-1 BEATS DRIVING IT.
7. HOT AIR: NOISY ENGINES? WE'LL TURN 'EM OFF!
6. HOT AIR: COMPLIMENTARY CHAMPAGNE WITH SUCCESSFUL LANDING.
5. HOT AIR: ENJOY AN IN-FLIGHT MOVIE ON YOUR PHONE.
4. HOT AIR: THE KIDS WILL LOVE OUR INFLATABLE SLIDES.
3. HOT AIR: YOU THINK IT'S SO EASY, GET YOUR OWN DAMN PLANE!
2. HOT AIR: OUR PILOTS ARE RETIRED DRUG RUNNERS AND HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE.
1. HOT AIR: WE MIGHT BE LANDING ON YOUR STREET!



# Keys Expressions that Might Sound Dirty but Really Aren't

10. "Pull up your daggerboard"
9. "Dropping a line"
8. "Dock your dingy"
7. "Time to shutter up"
6. "Pull up the hook"
5. "Going for wahoo"
4. "Blowing the conch"
3. "Sucking down a Rum Runner"
2. "Getting off the rock"
1. "Picnicking on Anne's Beach"



# Critters in our Midst

Carol Ellis



Introducing a stunning new book about wildlife  
in the Upper Keys with stories as told by  
and photographed by Carol Ellis

AVAILABLE  
at Wynns Supermarket - Ocean Reef  
Shell World - MM 97.6 Key Largo  
Island Home Garden Center - MM 88.7 Plantation Key  
and Amazon.com

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ON THE MAP

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On the Water

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

Map of Key Largo showing various locations and mile markers.

ON THE MAP

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ON THE MAP

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COCONUT TELEGRAPH

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KEY LARGO MAP PAGE

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ON THE MAP

## July Events and Programs at Key Largo 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](https://www.KeysLibraries.org) for books, streaming movies, ebooks, events and more.

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

### SPECIAL EVENTS

Art Exhibit in the Community Room: Gloria Avner, Key Largo painter and poet. Her batik artworks have won prizes and ribbons in art shows in South Florida and coastal Maine, where she spends her summer.

July 1, 3 pm LEGO Club: Challenge: Balance Scales, Ages 6-11. Supplies provided.

July 2, 9am-12pm 1st Wednesday Plant Clinic. Master Gardener Volunteers will be at the Key Largo Library to answer your gardening/landscape queries.

July 2, 2pm: Puppets, Stories, and Purple Fun! We are thrilled to welcome Windell Campbell, nationally known puppeteer/storyteller, for creativity and fun! Kids will laugh, learn, and be inspired by delightful puppets and engaging stories. Come celebrate Go Purple in our Read the Rainbow series with this joyful, interactive experience for all ages!

July 7 Movie Monday + Craft, 2pm: Finding Nemo, Rated G 100 minutes.

July 8, 22, 3-5pm Rolling into Robotics with Sphero Lab. Come meet Sphero, an adorable robot that rolls with a lot of personality. No experience is required to start driving and coding this ball of fun. Supplies provided. Ages 8-16.

### 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.

July 9, 10:30am Animal Encounters at the Library—Go Yellow with MCSO!

An unforgettable hands-on experience as the MCSO Animal Farm visits the Library! Learn about their rescued animals, explore fun facts, and meet amazing creatures up close. Go Yellow is part of our Read the Rainbow series, perfect for kids, families, and animal lovers of all ages!

July 9, 1:30-4pm US Naval Academy Admissions Office Information Session. Presentation followed by Q&A. For ages 14-21 & their parents/guardians.

July 10, 1:30pm Green Goals and Great Games! Go Green! Join us for an interactive program with Melody, Monroe County Recycling Coordinator, as she shares tips on how to reduce plastic use and protect our planet. Kids will discover how to recycle smart and win prizes. Less Plastic, More Planet!

July 11, 2pm STEM: DNA Discovery: Come discover the secret code that makes you... you. Extract some DNA and take a look! Supplies provided. Ages 6 - 11.

July 14 Movie Monday + Craft, 2pm: Princess & the Frog, Rated PG 109 minutes.

July 15, 3 pm LEGO Club: Challenge: Coral Reefs. Ages 6-11. Supplies provided.

July 18, 1:30 pm Plunge into the deep blue with Island Dolphin Care during our Go Indigo week of the Read the Rainbow series! Join marine educator Kristen where kids and families can see and touch live marine creatures while learning about the Keys' vibrant underwater ecosystems. Ocean fun with a splash of science-perfect for curious minds and future marine biologists!

July 21 Movie Monday + Craft, 2pm: Trolls Band Together, Rated PG 92 minutes.

July 22, 6pm Books & Bites will discuss Orbital by Samantha Harvey. Num Thai Sushi Bar & Restaurant. Borrow it from the library or download from the Libby app.

July 25, 10:30 pm Go Rainbow with Didgeridoo Down Under - A Spectacular Summer Finale! Join us for the exciting conclusion of our Read the Rainbow summer series! See Darren from Didgeridoo Down Under, a dynamic performer who brings together music, culture, art, and entertainment in one unforgettable show. Featuring the mesmerizing sounds of the didgeridoo, cultural storytelling, and energetic audience interaction, this program is fun for all ages!

July 28 Movie Monday + Craft, 2pm: Sonic the Hedgehog, 3 Rated PG 109 minutes.

The Library will be closed Friday, July 4 for Independence Day

## HAPPY 4th OF JULY!

### WEEKLY EVENTS

#### Story Time

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

#### Chess Club

Wednesdays 11am-1pm. We provide chess

sets; you provide the skill. Chess players of all levels are invited. Ages 6-11.

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

#### Tech Tutor

Weds. 1-4pm, Bring your device and questions for 1-on-1 help.

SBDC Weds., 2-5pm. (except Jun 25) The Small Business Development Center at FIU offers no-cost consulting at the Library, Wednesdays except the 4th Wednesday. Reserve: [bbarnes@fiu.edu](mailto:bbarnes@fiu.edu)

#### Sit + Sew

Fri. 9:30am - 1pm. Bring your current project and meet new friends.

Monthly Community Group Meetings: 1st Sat.: Florida Keys Quilters

[KeysLibraries.org/events](https://www.KeysLibraries.org/events)  
[Facebook.com/KeyLargoLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/KeyLargoLibrary)  
[Instagram.com/KeyLargoLibrary](https://www.instagram.com/KeyLargoLibrary)

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**Position Open**

The Key Largo Animal Shelter, operated by Humane Animal Care Coalition, has a full-time position open for an Animal Control Officer or Animal Caretaker.

The applicants must be energetic, flexible with duties and hours. Experience preferred but will accept an applicant that loves animals. HACCC will provide the necessary training for the new applicant.

Salary based on experience/skills. Benefits include fully paid retirement program, paid holidays and annual leave; health insurance.

Apply at 105951 Overseas Highway, Key Largo, MM106 or call (305) 451-0088, ask for Marsha, the Shelter Director.

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**Help Wanted**  
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Apply in person between 3 and 10 pm  
at Elks Lodge MM 92.6 Tavernier.

See bartender for application.

\$15 per hour.

## Growing Pineapples in the Upper Keys

Florida was filled with pineapple plantations in the late 1800's. Long before citrus, pineapples were being cultivated. Crates of the fruit were shipped by boats from the Florida Keys and Merritt Island on the east coast of Florida to cities in the northeast. They were nicknamed "pines," because they resembled a pine cone.

Florida Keys pineapples - In the rocky Florida Keys pineapple cultivation started in the 1860s. Benjamin Baker, known as "King of Wreckers" for his engagement in the business of salvaging ships, grew pineapples on Plantation Key, typically shipping them by schooner to New York, Baltimore and Philadelphia.

An article about Capt. Ben Baker's early pineapple plantation on Key Largo appeared in Harper's magazine in 1871. Dr J.B. Holder wrote of Baker's pineapple successes in his account, "Along the Florida Reef," After Holder revealed that Baker was making thousands of dollars farming the prickly fruit, other Bahamian families began to arrive and cultivate the Key Largo soil.



On July 20, 1969, as Commander of the Apollo 11 lunar module, Neil Armstrong was the first person to set foot on the moon.

His first words after stepping on the moon, "that's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," were televised to earth and heard by millions.

But, just before he re-entered the lander, he made the enigmatic remark "Good luck, Mr. Gorsky."

Many people at NASA thought it was a casual remark concerning a rival Soviet cosmonaut.

However, upon checking, there was no Gorsky in either

the Russian or American space program.

Over the years, many people questioned Armstrong as to what the 'Good luck, Mr. Gorsky' statement meant, but Armstrong always just smiled.

On July 5, 1995, in Tampa, Florida, while answering questions following a speech, a reporter brought up the 26-year-old question about Mr. Gorsky to Armstrong.

This time he finally responded because his Mr. Gorsky had just died, so Neil Armstrong felt he could now answer the question.

In 1938, when he was a kid in a small mid-western town, he

was playing baseball with a friend in the backyard. His friend hit the ball, which landed in his neighbor's yard by their bedroom window. His neighbors were Mr. & Mrs. Gorsky.

As he leaned down to pick up the ball, young Armstrong heard Mrs. Gorsky shouting at Mr. Gorsky, "Sex! You want sex?! You'll get sex when the kid next door walks on the moon!" It broke them up.

According to Snopes: NASA transcripts of the Apollo 11 mission, show no such statement having been made. Armstrong said in late 1995 that he first heard the anecdote delivered as a joke by comedian Buddy Hackett. But it's a great story!

## Monroe County Public Library Offers Wide Selection of Online Reading

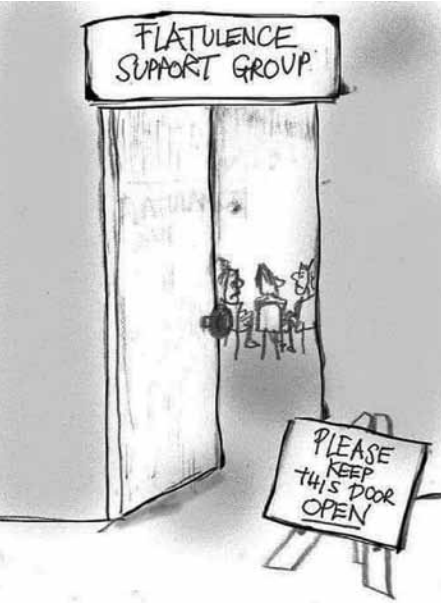
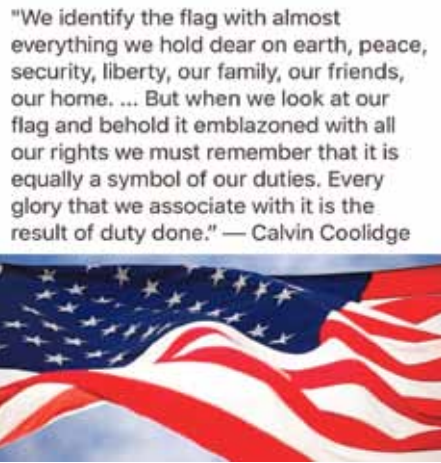
Looking to save some money - and read or listen to the books of your choice? Want to stay up on the news, look for recipes or find out more about a new hobby without expensive subscriptions? A Monroe County Public Library card gives you access to the Libby app, with tens of thousands of choices in eBooks and eAudiobooks, at no cost. You can also browse the selection of more than 5,000 magazines, including backlists, with no waiting. For more information - including how you can pre-register for a Monroe County Public Library card online and get started right away - go to [keyslibraries.org/online](https://keyslibraries.org/online).

Stream ad-free music with your Monroe County Public Library card

A Monroe County Public Library card includes the ad-free music streaming service Freegal. With 18 million songs to choose from, there's something for every musical taste - including the entire Sony Music catalog. You can download up to three songs a week. Make your own playlists or check out the curated playlists on the site. Listen on your computer or with the app - available for Android, iOS and Kindle Fire. For more information about Freegal and other library offerings, including how you can pre-register for a library card online and get started right away, go to [keyslibraries.org/online](https://keyslibraries.org/online).



# Coco'Nut' Funnies



Kid: So Dad, why did Mom lock you out of the house?

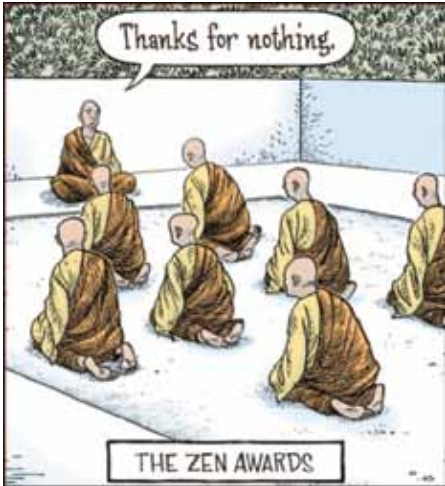
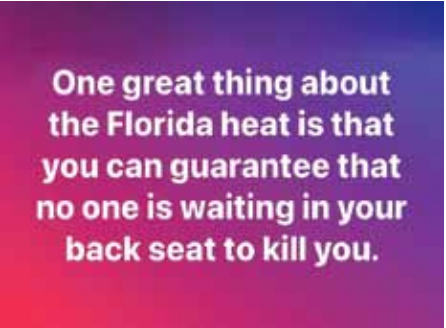
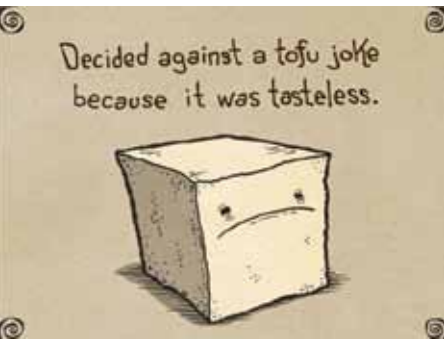
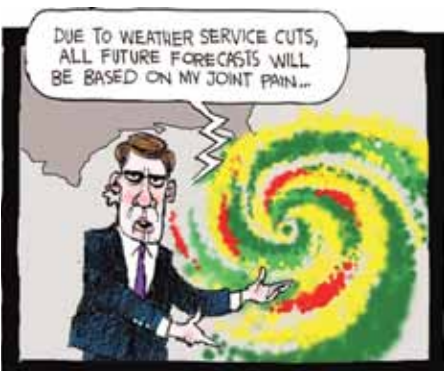
Dad: She heard me on the phone with Uncle Steve talking about running errands.

Kid: So what did you guys do?

Dad: Steve went to get a used car, I went to the store to get some stuff to get paint off of furniture.

Kid: What's wrong with that?

Dad: Well all Mom heard was, "You go get the Escort, I'll get the stripper and we'll meet up at your place."



A dog and a cat are arguing who is the favorite of humans.

The dog says, "Humans like us more. They have even named a tooth (canine) after us. Naming such an important body part after us shows that they like us more."

The cat smiles and says, "You are really not going to win this one, you know."



I got sick and landed in hospital.

There was this one nurse that just drove me crazy. Every time she came in, she would talk to me like I was a little child. She would say in a patronizing tone of voice, "And how are we doing this morning?" Or "Are we ready for a bath?" Or "Are we hungry?"

I had had enough of this particular nurse. One day at breakfast, I took the apple juice off the tray and put it in my bedside stand. Later I was given a urine sample bottle to fill for testing. So you know where the juice went!

The nurse came in a while later, picked up the urine sample bottle, looked at it and said, "My, my, it seems we are a little cloudy today."

At this, I snatched the bottle out of her hand, popped off the top, and gulped it down, saying, "Well, I'll run it through again. Maybe I can filter it better this time!"

The nurse has been reassigned!



May your July 4th fireworks cause less personal injury than your July 4th alcohol consumption.



Forget frying an egg on the sidewalk, it's not Florida hot until your kayak melts in the sun



You can have my fireworks when you pry them from my cold, dead fingers, which are right over there by the sidewalk.



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Questions? Call 305-304-2837.

### CLUBS

Florida Keys 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  
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thekeyplayers.org

### MUSICIANS

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

**Classified ads will not be  
accepted without payment.**

## Adopt a Key Largo Animal Shelter Pet

Meet a few of the animals who are currently available for adoption at the Key Largo Animal Shelter. If you are interested in taking one of these adorable furry friends home, stop by or call. The Shelter is located at mile marker 106 Oceanside; phone 305-451-0088.

Lucy

Teddy

Rocket

Opie

Stella

Cocoa

Pumpkin, Peach, Mango

Jewel

Oscar

Jett & Alfie

## Conch Characters / Around Town



Patty Shukla, a Youtube celebrity, entertained in June as part of the Key Largo Library Summer Reading Program with music and dance. Programs coming up in July include professional story tellers, exotic animals and didgeridoo music. See page 17 for more info.



Live music with Tim Dressing and friends every Wednesday at the KL Moose.



Pirates Cove Watersports' SeaStar is off on another adventure—loaded with happy pirates and good vibes! From snorkeling the reef to cruising the open water, every trip aboard our ship is a memory in the making. Join the crew and make waves in paradise!



Opening of the Overseas Highway in 1938.



Supervisor of Elections Sherri Hodies addressed the Upper Keys League of Women Voters. One key message was to urge registered voters interested in receiving "vote by mail" ballots to stop in at the Murray Nelson Gov. Center, go to keys-elections.org or call 305-453-8740 to renew your request. Normally before an election Monroe County has over 15,000 requests on record and currently, because of a Florida statute to renew your request every two years, there are only 600 on file. LWV President Barbara Overton (L), Sherri Hodies (R).



Holiday weekend "getaway" at the Sandbar!



Friends of Pennekamp State Park hosted an evening of fun at a local restaurant/bar. Everyone got to try their hand at weaving palm fronds into baskets You gotta love the Keys where basket weaving at a bar is an event. Each month the Friends host a fun happening.



11th Annual Skippers Dolphin Tournament winning team DREAM WEAVER from Naples, FL... taking home over \$42,000 Congrats!

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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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Most MONDAYS • WEDNESDAYS • FRIDAYS at Sunset



We have 32 world-renowned  
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This Month's Live Entertainment and Events at the Lorelei						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>"SUNDAY SCHOOL"</b> \$3 Bloody Marys, Mimosas & Screwdrivers every Sunday, 7 to 11 am		1 Micah 6-10	2 Webb & Davidson 6-10	3 Webb & Davidson 6-10	4 Jade Storm 6-10	5 Uncle Rico 6-10
	6 Webb & Davidson 6-10	7 Carousers 6-10	8 Leah Sutter 6-10	9 Webb & Davidson 6-10	10 Webb & Davidson 6-10	11 Brothers of Others 6-10
	12 Abstract Radio 6-10	13 Webb & Davidson 6-10	14 Carousers 6-10	15 Micah 6-10	16 Webb & Davidson 6-10	17 Webb & Davidson 6-10
	18 Uncle Rico 6-10	19 Spank 6-10	20 Webb & Davidson 6-10	21 Carousers 6-10	22 Steve Venini 6-10	23 Webb & Davidson 6-10
	24 Webb & Davidson 6-10	25 Beach Bandits 6-10	26 Abstract Radio 6-10	27 Webb & Davidson 6-10	28 Carousers 6-10	29 Leah Sutter 6-10
30 Webb & Davidson 6-10	31 Webb & Davidson 6-10	LIVE MUSIC 7 DAYS A WEEK!		Water Front Dining		

