

ST PATRICK'S DAY FUN FACTS

WHY SHAMROCKS?

According to Irish legend, the saint used the three-leafed plant as a metaphor for the Holy Trinity when he was first introducing Christianity to Ireland.

SAINT PATRICK'S BRITISH

Although he made his mark by introducing Christianity to Ireland in the year 432, Patrick wasn't Irish. He was born to Roman parents in Scotland or Wales.

ERIN GO BRAGH

What's the phrase mean? It's a corruption of the Irish Éirinn go Brách, which means roughly "Ireland Forever."

THERE ARE NO FEMALE LEPRECHAUNS

Don't be fooled by holiday decorations showing lady leprechauns. In traditional Irish folk tales, there are only nattily attired little guys.



**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

**It's Kitten Season! Fix Those Felines!**

Please help "fix" pet overpopulation by spaying and neutering your pets.

Free spay and neuter clinics at Key Largo Animal Shelter, normally every 2 weeks.

This program is privately funded by Humane Animal Care Coalition for Upper Keys residents.

Please call the shelter for details and appointments.

Open Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm and Saturday 9am to 5pm

Mile marker 106 Oceanside • phone 305-451-0088

Ruby Stern 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 Little Salt PHOTOGRAPHY by Carol Ellis 305-451-7778

On the shirt back is Carol's image of Ruby Stern, matriarch of Downtown Card Sound Road, a place that doesn't exist on any 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 workers who constructed the toll bridge around 1968. In 1972 Ruby moved in and lived there for 27 years. She'd sit on the 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 hurricane Andrew and the county's condemnation of the shack could send her from her spot on the bay on Card Sound. She moved to a trailer alongside and lived there until 1999 when she had to leave due to illness, and died at age 90.

Dress like a Florida Keys local and be comfortable in the sun in our DRI-FIT shirt designed by Carol Ellis | Little Salt Photography featuring original artwork of the HISTORIC FISHING VILLAGE OF DOWNTOWN CARD SOUND

SCAN CODE WITH YOUR SMART PHONE TO PURCHASE

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

Key Players Entertain with a new Romantic Comedy!

The Key Players are at it again! With their next wonderful show "Almost Maine," the romantic comedy that will split your sides and melt your heart! One cold, clear, winter night, as the northern lights hover in the star-filled sky above, the residents of Almost, Maine, find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and hilarious ways. Knees are bruised. Hearts are broken. But the bruises heal, and the hearts mend—almost—in this delightful midwinter night's dream. A sweet, poignant and witty show of relationships, with both veteran actors and newcomers to the stage, you will find yourself relating to the characters in this tiny town of Almost, in the State of Maine. So come and support Live Theater in the Upper Keys at The Murray Nelson, 102050 Overseas Hwy, Key Largo. Call 305-942-4339 for more information. TheKeyPlayers.org



Jay Ware in "Sad & Glad"



Cindy Smith and Bill Cobey in "Story of Hope"



Gaby and Robert Pozo in "This Hurts"



Cristina Salvesen and Jay Ware in "Getting it Back"

2025 The Key Players

**Almost, MAINE**  
By John Cariani

Directed / Produced by Jonelle Kop

THE ROMANTIC COMEDY THAT WILL SPLIT YOUR SIDES AND MELT YOUR HEART!  
THE STORY: Welcome to Almost, Maine, a place that's so far north, it's almost not in the United States. It's almost in Canada, but it's not quite a town, so it Almost doesn't exist. One cold, clear, winter night, as the northern lights hover in the star-filled sky above, the residents of Almost, Maine, find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and hilarious ways. Knees are bruised. Hearts are broken. But the bruises heal, and the hearts mend—almost—in this delightful midwinter night's dream.

THU. FEB 27 7:30 PM  
FRI. FEB 28 7:30 PM  
SAT. MAR 1 7:30 PM  
THU. MAR 6 7:30 PM  
FRI. MAR 7 7:30 PM  
SAT. MAR 8 7:30 PM  
SUNDAY MATINEE MAR 9 2:00 PM

Performing at the Murray E. Nelson Gov. & Cultural Center 102050 Overseas Hwy, Key Largo

Lobby opens one hour before curtain; seating 1/2 hour before curtain.

Tickets \$20 Online and at the door • Tickets available at the ticket outlets in advance for \$15 Student tickets at the door only \$10.

Key Largo Chocolates & Ice Cream MM 100.5 Shear Paradise (Cedar Towers Plaza) MM 99.3 at PostNet Store Plaza 88, Islamorada MM 88

More info/online tickets: www.TheKeyPlayers.org



Luna Rivera in "They Fell"



Cristina Salvesen in "They Fell"



Cindy Smith and Robert Pozo in "Where it Went"



Julia Rush and Alejandro Godinez in "The Prologue"