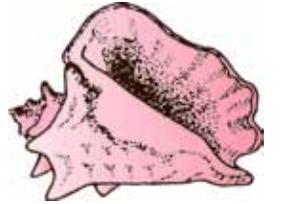


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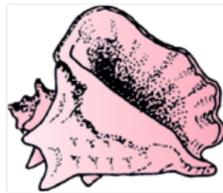
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Temptation Never Sleeps — A blog by Luke Sommer Glenn

I walked in the store, passing the tables full of baked goods and sweet treat specials, into the fruit and vegetable section to grab healthy crap, like bananas and apples. One thing I noticed was the price of beer and soda has increased exponentially in the last 6 years since I cut those types of beverages from my routine. Especially the good beer.

I still have the occasional soda pop, but I had my last beer on my birthday in 2020. No more fun stuff of any kind for me. Marijuana doesn't count. What used to be just for fun is required maintenance now. That and I've never gotten so high that I had to apologize for shit that I didn't remember doing the next day. Getting drunk on the other hand, I've had to apologize for plenty of things I didn't remember doing.

I used to eat plenty of nuts and raw carrots, but I have a lack of teeth these days. Too many years of sucking on cough drops while singing and chewing tobacco at the same time took its toll and I now must avoid all things crunchy or hard. I used to chew on ice on long road trips to avoid having to stop and take a piss every two hours.

I used to love crunchy peanut butter with that rich, roasted peanut taste, but now I am reduced to boring-ass creamy. I use the all natural stuff but who the really knows? The FDA labeling division leaves a lot to be desired. Words and phrases like "organic" and "grass fed" have no meaning until they are defined by the corporate agriculture industrial complex.

Now that I've made it past the cheap, easy for me to eat treats, passed by the beer aisle and all the nuclear sugar cereals that I loved as a kid (though there are way more

these days); I have to resist the temptation of the frozen food aisle.

Extremely convenient, frozen salt bombs that have enough preservatives to keep the turds it makes discoverable to the next race of intelligent species that inherit the Earth after we go extinct; pizzas, Salisbury steak, and ZZ Top even likes the chicken if the sauce is not too blue... 2 1/2 minutes in the microwave and you're ready to eat, with a few cold spots here and there. Just don't look at the ingredient list on the back... does anyone even call them "TV dinners" anymore?

The worst temptation for me though, is ice cream. My dad would sit down and eat an entire half gallon box. He sometimes liked to split open a cantaloupe, shovel out all the seeds and fill that hole up with vanilla ice cream. He struggled with being overweight for as long as I can remember, he would blow up to 400 pounds then crash diet his way down to 250 pounds and repeat...

My mom's father was a dairy farmer and I remember making fresh ice cream after a hail storm up on the farm one summer, using the fallen ice and real cream. You cannot appreciate farm fresh cream unless you've had it. Nothing in the store is remotely close, not even. So, it runs in my DNA.

Unfortunately, if you're trying to lower your cholesterol and especially triglycerides, dairy fat is the ultimate worst. Cut out dairy and eat lot of beans for a month and you will be free of the high fat content in your blood. And that means pudding as well. I love pudding. Legumes really are the magical, musical fruit. You might have a Beano before...

At the checkout is an entire array of impulse temp-

tations. That's where they stick things that look like it's M&M's but it's actually "lemon meringue flavored M&M's" or the "peanut butter, cinnamon bun M&M's." They put those there because nobody in their right mind would buy them if they knew what they were. The packaging resembles regular M&M's so this hapless soul throws them to the clerk real quick as I give in to the temptation, and they make it in the bag. That's the advantage of self check out - there isn't enough room in the area for impulse items to be displayed. (The area is surrounded by impulse items, however.)

Nothing worse than getting home, opening the bag, popping the evil treat into my mouth and then realizing, it's nasty. It's only then that I look at the bag and realize, "What the @#%\$? I promised myself I wouldn't be fooled again. No wonder they were buy one get one free!"

Dollar store treats are at your own risk, for some reason they can sell the stuff the other stores can't, loop holes that allow them to sell products with banned dyes and a higher chance of being stale or moldy. It only appears to be more affordable, but they sneak in smaller sizes, cheaper packaging that is harder to open among the myriad other illusions.

Waking up in the middle of the night with a sweet tooth and leg cramps is its own unique torture. In an effort to save me from myself, my wife hides the sweets. She is 5 foot tall and hides everything down low knowing that it pains me to bend over. She has secret chocolate stashes all over the house.

She's the type that will take one bite out of a two bite cupcake and hide the other

Luke Sommer Glenn is a local entertainer and Conch Character.



For more info:
www.lukesommerglenn.com

half bite in the fridge somewhere until it turns into a hardened clump, but at least (in her mind), I didn't eat it. It's her job to torture me every day and part of that torture is making sure I live long enough to be sufficiently tortured. I'm not sure who holds the measuring stick but I'd like to kick them in the balls...

Is it just me or do the scanners at the Publix sound similar to slot machines or a video game sound? To me, it sounds like losing money, I can't get out of the store fast enough.

The Winn-Dixie in Tavernier has increased their prices after briefly lowering them enough to sucker us Key Largo people down after losing our crummy Winn-Dixie. Now I noticed their prices are just about the same, if not higher in some instances. They seem to be struggling to keep up with the increased traffic from Key Largo.

But it's not just the grocery stores that have the impulse snack items, hardware, drug and department stores all sell crap at the counters that's bad for people like me. It's like finding a bar at a Denny's; I came for breakfast, but left with a buzz...



Turtles by Carol Ellis



A Yellow-bellied slider emerges from the pond for a gulp of air. They are excellent swimmers and can hold their breath for up to 30 minutes.

One of the first close-up wildlife experiences for typical suburban kids may have come in the form of a "turtle oasis" purchased at the local pet store.

I had turtles. They lived in our Florida room in a round plastic container filled with fresh water. The habitat had a raised center area, filled with sand and adorned with a plastic palm tree. The turtles, who were always named "Tommy," would swim in circles around the ring, and climb out to dry off in the center.

The turtles were of the slider variety, so designated because they slide into the water when approached. I fed them



A baby Red-footed tortoise was found in a backyard and now lives at the nature center at Ocean Reef.

hamburger meat and turtle food. Though they can live 20-40 years with proper care, my turtles died.

Red-eared sliders and Yellow-bellied sliders are the typical species of turtle you will find at the pet store. The yellow-bellied variety is native to North Florida. Yellow-bellied sliders are recognized by the yellow markings on their belly and neck. The non-native Red-eared slider gets its name from the red stripe around its ears, and is included in the list of the world's 100 most invasive species.



This Red-footed tortoise is native to South America.

Well-meaning folks who have out-grown their need for a pet turtle, have released their pets into the wild, only to have let loose a non-native turtle that can out-compete native species. Don't do that.

On the other hand, in a world of disappearing natural spaces there is a lot of competition for a place to live. That is why it is great to create home landscapes that have natural habitat where wildlife can live.

My neighbor Penny Dinsmore's home is dominated by a water feature that naturally incorporates plantings, rocks and ledges to be as close to resembling a natural occurring pond as possible. The building contractor excavated the length of the property between the house and the street, creating a tidal pond 8-10 ft. deep. There is a raised rocky area in the center, and sloping walls that meet a ledge just above the water level. A foot bridge leads up to the house; shades of Monet's Giverny in Key Largo.

The sound of moving water and lush foliage cascading down the sloping banks completes the tropical oasis, or



Though turtles live near the water, they lay their eggs on land.



A Yellow-bellied slider turtle showed up in a water feature at Ocean Reef. The homeowner named the turtle "Mystery." A total of four adult turtles live in the pond, and babies have been spotted this year.

Turtles... CONTINUED - Photos by Carol Ellis



A box turtle is rescued from the middle of the road and placed in the brush near Crocodile Lake.

They prefer damp environments such as wetlands and swamps, but they do not enter water deep enough to swim.

Box turtles live on land, and often wander into residential neighborhoods.

shall we say "turtle oasis," after the pond caretaker brought a turtle named "Tiggles" to live in the pond. A second turtle appeared, so Penny named it "Mystery." Two more of the same species "Ginny" and "Raptor" were purchased. The turtles are Yellow-bellied sliders (*Trachemys scripta scripta*). Penny is a true turtle mom; she provides a great turtle habitat, with lots of hidey holes where turtles can be out of sight, or protected from the weather, as well as regular feedings. Small turtles have been spotted recently, so the turtle family is becoming established in a very special place.

In 1513 Ponce de Leon encountered the seven coral reef islands 70 miles off Key West, and named them "Las Tortugas" (The Turtles) for the bounty of turtles found there. Subsequent explorers found the islands lacking fresh drinking water, and they changed the name to "Dry Tortugas."

The earliest maps of Key West show that people kept turtles along the shores of Key West. The early settlers



A young Spur-thighed tortoise retreats inside its protective hard shell.



An 86-year-old Male Spur thighed tortoise and 16-year-old female "playing" around. These tortoises are from Africa, and despite the female producing eggs, they do not hatch due to unsuitable conditions in South Florida.



Turtle shells are made of bone that develops from ribs that grow sideways, and form plates that join to protect the body. The shells are covered in scales made of keratin.

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.



captured green sea turtles and stored them in "kraals" until needed for meat, eggs or soup. Krall comes from the Dutch word for "corral," and were shallow water enclosures with wooden poles spaced close enough to keep the turtles in, yet allow water to flow through.

A turtle is a reptile which has a bony shell. Turtles live in the water, but lay their eggs on land. Tortoises live on land. All tortoises are in fact turtles, but not all turtles are tortoises.

Florida has a native tortoise called the Gopher tortoise, and it lives in northern Florida. They create burrows in the ground which provide homes to a range of other creatures in addition to the tortoise. Though the native Florida Box Turtle lives on land, and often wanders into residential neighborhoods, it is not considered a tortoise. They prefer damp environments such as wetlands and swamps, but they do not enter water deep enough to swim.

You can encounter non-native tortoises such as the Spur-thighed tortoises from Africa and Red-footed Tortoises from South America at wildlife centers and zoos. The Everglades Outpost located in Homestead, used to be a place to encounter reptiles, including tortoises, however the growing sprawl of new housing developments creeping closer to the Everglades has forced its closure.

Spur-thighed tortoises can live to more than 100 years old. In fact, one was donated to the nature center at Ocean Reef after consideration by family members who decided it should not be included in a man's last will.

Maybe a turtle trust?

Paul “Tall Paul” Dickens

Paul “Tall Paul” Dickens (February 2, 1950 - January 19, 2026) passed away peacefully in his sleep following complications from Parkinson’s.

Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Paul lived in Key Largo, Florida, off and on since 1978, and several years in Gainesville and Starke. Wherever he lived, Paul became a familiar and well-loved presence in the community. Known for his warm spirit, easygoing nature, and a sense of humor that was never far from the surface—always ready with a joke, a grin, or a story that made people feel at ease. His smile was infectious, and his laughter even more so.

An avid Cleveland sports fan, Paul proudly supported the Cleveland Browns, Cavaliers and Guardians, rarely missing a chance to cheer on his hometown teams.

Paul lived a richly varied life. In his early years, he traveled coast to coast, embracing new places, people, and experiences along the way. A free

spirit at heart, Paul valued life experiences, family and friends over possessions.

Over the years, Paul held many roles and wore many hats. He worked with the railroad, was a professional painter, coached youth sports, and some may

remember Paul tending bar at the Caribbean Club back in the late 1970s and early 1980s, where his personality was as much a draw as the drinks.

For many years, Paul worked as a school bus driver in Monroe County, a role he truly cherished. He took pride in caring for the children he transported each day and was honored as Monroe County School Bus Driver of



the Year, a recognition that reflected both his professionalism and his heart.

Paul was also deeply devoted to caring for his mother, Ruth, whom he lovingly supported and cared for in his home for many years through-

out her battle with dementia.

Music was a constant companion in Paul’s life. He loved the blues, classic rock, humorous genre-bending music, and Americana storytelling that told honest stories about life, time, and the people we meet along the way. He especially enjoyed live performances and playing acoustic guitar

In his later years, with his long hair,

relaxed demeanor, and unmistakable presence, Paul was often said to resemble singer-songwriter Leon Russell—a comparison he wore well, with ease and good humor.

Paul appreciated life’s simple pleasures: a good drink and—most of all—good company. Paul will be remembered as a kind soul, a storyteller, a music lover, and a family man who lived authentically and freely.

Paul is survived by his loving wife, Joan Johnston-Dickens; his children, Sean Dickens and Whitney Dickens Gonzalez (Jean); grandchildren Jack, Jordan, Leo, Troy, Maverick and Ozzie; his sister, Debora Dickens Kodger, of Destin, Florida; his brother, Dan Dickens, of Coral Way, Florida; his nieces, Emily Kodger Madden (Christopher), Amy Kodger Jones (Jason) and Megan Dickens; and his nephews, Dillon Dickens and Logan Dickens; and many more family and friends whose lives were brighter for having known him.

Community Arts and Culture presents the 28th annual Afro Roots Fest in Islamorada April 4

The nonprofit organization Community Arts and Culture (CAC) curates and produces the longest-running world music event, Afro Roots Fest. On Saturday, April 4, 2026, the award-winning festival returns to the Morada Way Arts and Cultural district, and the Florida Keys Brewing Company (MM81.6) beginning at noon with a series of workshops, and featuring Cortadito (Cuba), the Everglades Songbook Suite (U.S.), Sanba Zao (Haiti), Famato (Guinea, West Africa), percussion and instrument-making workshops, vendors, and more. It’s a free event, with a few ticketed workshops, all ages welcome.

“The flavor of this year’s festival is decidedly Caribbean, with a dash of West Africa, and I am proud to once again present these acts to the global music fans of South

Florida,” says Grammy-nominated musician, composer, and producer, Jose Elias, known for his work with Cortadito. He will perform with his other project, the Everglades Songbook Suite ensemble.

Since its origin 13 years ago, Cortadito has evolved into one of the torchbearers of a pop culture phenomenon that is two centuries strong. Named the Miami New Times’ Best of Miami “Best Latin Act” in 2009, the band focuses on performing one of the earliest styles of Cuban country music, known as Son (pronounced sOwn), a sound best described as reminiscent of the famed Buena Vista Social Club.

The vastly resplendent Everglades has inspired countless works of literature and art, including the musical project “Everglades Songbook Suite,” which was created by

Elias. The project, which stands as the creative and artistic statement of his experiences at Everglades National Park, came to fruition in 2021 as a short film shot in the Everglades.

In 2022, the project received the support of the Kennedy Center to produce pop up concert events at two other Keys locations. The collaborative performance included artists and composers from around the world.

Sanba Zao is a master drummer and Haitian roots music legend. He was also a professor at L’Ecole National des Arts, Haiti’s national arts school, and has devoted his life to teaching and promoting the culture and music of Haiti.

Famato is a West African musical ensemble based in Gainesville that plays traditional music from Guinea,

particularly from the Mandinka tribe. The group’s name is a Sanso word that means “come and see,” and is led by Amo Soumah, a master drummer from Guinea, West Africa. They play instruments such as the Djembe drum and the balafon combined with vocals.

Workshops include Percussion for Peace Workshops led by master artists Soumah and members of Sanba Zao, as well as community partner Power of Percussion. Families and youth can participate in instrument-building workshops through The Inheritants Project, CAC’s Miami-based Afro-Indigenous youth music and dance initiative. This, along with programming by musical instrument maker Eddie Osborne will run from noon to 4 p.m., with the live music from 4-9:30 p.m.

For more information, visit AfroRootsFest.com.

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In the past, people in Russia and Finland would put live frogs in milk to keep it from going bad. This practice is based on the fact that the skin of frogs contains antimicrobial compounds and peptides that can prevent milk from spoiling.

The skin of the European brown frog contains a variety of peptides that can fight harmful microbes and prevent infection. These peptides are as effective against Staphylococcus and Salmonella bacteria as prescription antibiotics.

The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute writes: As bacterial infections become more resistant to antibiotics, the toxins on the skin of frogs presents huge opportunity for new drug discovery. As human diseases become alarmingly antibiotic resistant, identification of new pharmaceuticals is critical. The cane toad and other members of the Bufonidae family produce substances widely used in traditional folk medicine, but ...some frogs... may disappear before revealing their secrets. Smithsonian scientists and others have created a compendium of the known chemicals produced by this amphibian family in the Journal of Ethnopharmacology highlighting their largely unexplored potential for new drug discovery.

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Artist of the Month: Deb Riolo's Creative Energy

by Karen Beal

What do you do when color and paint cross your mind no matter what you are doing? You give in to temptation! On the water, in the garden or in a classroom - Deb Riolo brings color and joy to the scene.

Deb and her husband Rich are retired with a combined 58 years as Career Education Instructors from Michigan. Riolo was a graphic design and illustration instructor, so art is her love language. Follow her @BellaNonaArt. They have been living in the Upper Keys for 9 years.

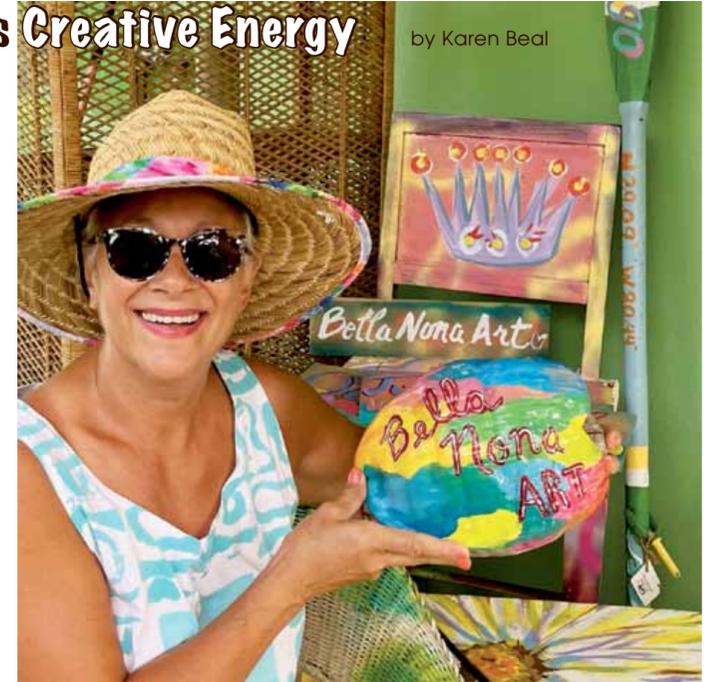
She is involved with many community groups: Art Guild of the Purple Isles (AGPI), Upper Keys Garden Club, Florida Keys Orchid Club, San Pedro Catholic Church and Wild Women On the Water - to name a few.

When she became a member of the Upper Keys Garden Club, Riolo took going native to heart. Her yard, once a sand lot, is now a showpiece for her neighborhood and an inspiration for her floral paintings.

As fresh and salt water anglers, the couple made time on the water memorable for their children and grandchildren, catching fish and creating artistic gyotaku prints. Art finds its way into many aspects of her life.

Another art outlet is up-cycling furniture with one-of-a-kind tropical paintings. When expressing her love for Florida's native plants, palms and marine life, her art is a take-home slice of paradise. Keys art fairs are the perfect opportunity to showcase her work and make new friends. Riolo loves finding kindred spirits who enjoy her wild and colorful creations.

Working with Key Largo School and homeschool students who express an interest in art has always been an interest. Donating rejuvenated furniture to schools and the Children's Shelter is her favorite way of giving back to the community.



Riolo and her bright art can be found at many art fairs and community events during the winter months.

"I would like to see my work grow into a commission-based business. However, I've set personal goals to participate in events AGPI has offered." Riolo says, "This year I hope to submit an art piece to every art exhibit. Starting with the Dive Museum, Tassel Building show and the Judged Show at the Dolphin Hospital."

Riolo offers Paint & Sip sessions as fundraising opportunities for local nonprofits. A group can engage her at a minimal reimbursement for supplies and create an event where



While acrylic paint is her usual medium, Riolo explored watercolor in a recent workshop.

they can charge attendees, as they provide a venue and refreshments. Email Deb at BellaNonaArt@gmail.com for details. The events have been very successful and can cater to a topic that fits the group.



A personal goal of showing her art in more professional venues has begun to be realized this past year through Art Guild events and local exhibits.



Painted furniture turned tropical with various sea creatures. This set is now at the Key Largo School in the library for fun story time seating.



Paint & Sip events and classes taught at the library are always fun for everyone involved. Riolo gives her positive energy back to the community she loves.



2025 KLS Earth Day mural involving 400+ students. Riolo will be working to create a 2026 Earth Day mural with KLS students and teacher Pam Caputo's vision.



One-Sided Relationships

Relationships can get out of balance and one-sided, if we don't occasionally check in with each other.

One of the most beautiful qualities of an intimate relationship is the give and take of energy that occurs between two people. In the best-case scenario, both people share the talking and listening, and the giving and receiving of support, equally.

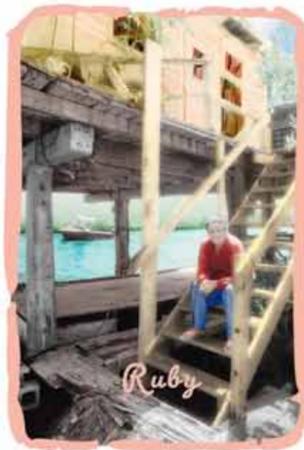
Occasionally, within any relationship, the balance shifts and one person needs to listen more, or give more. Generally, over a long period of time, even this exception will take on a balanced rhythm; we all go through times when we take more and times when we give more.

However, there are also relationships in which the balance has always felt one-sided. You may have a friend whom you like, but you have begun to notice that the conversation is always about their life and their problems and never about yours. You may also have a friend who seems to require an inordinate amount of support from you but who is unable or unwilling to give much in return.

Over time, these relationships can be draining and unsatisfying. One option is simply to end the relationship, or let it fade out naturally. Another option is to communicate to your friend that you would like to create a more equal balance in you also get some airtime. They may be taken aback at first, but if they are able to hear you, your friendship will become more sincere. They may even thank you for revealing a pattern that is probably sabotaging more than one relationship in their life.

A third option is to simply accept the relationship. There are one-sided relationships that actually work. An example of this is a mentor relationship. Another example is a relationship in which you are helping someone who is sick, disabled, or otherwise needy. In these instances, you can simply be grateful that you are able to help and be helped, trusting that the balance of give and take will even out in the big picture of your life.

Reprinted from DailyOM - Inspirational thoughts for a happy, healthy and fulfilling day. Register for free at www.dailyom.com



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



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**



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



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'Duo Muse' Art Collaboration now at the Islamorada Library

The Islamorada Library invites the public to visit the new Art Adventure titled **Duo Muse**, a female art collaboration, curated by local Visual Artist Marcia Brito, on display until April 3 at the Islamorada branch of the Monroe County Public Library (MM 82), during Library hours.

A Pre Morada Way Art Walk Event is scheduled on Thursday, March 19, from 4-6pm. There will be a Meet & Greet and exhibit tour with the artists at 5 PM. Patrons are welcome to leave their

cars parked at the Library lot and walk to the Art Walk.

With a passion for supporting the Fine Arts in the Keys, Brito's goal in this exhibit is to share her love for the arts with young kids - maybe future artists - who frequent the library on a regular basis and to beautify the community with original art. Paintings and photographs are on view. This is the third exhibit that Brito has curated at the Library.

Duo Muse has created a beautiful, life-size mermaid mural in the Community Room

of the Library, and provided templates of marine animals for guests to cut, color and affix to the mural. This family-friendly interactive activity is available throughout the exhibit. To participate, ask for materials at the front desk.

The collaborative exhibition presents the artworks of Marcia Brito and Susan Kay Holler side by side, creating an open conversation between two distinct yet complementary artistic practices, allowing relationships to emerge through visual proximity,

thematic overlap, and contrast.

Brito and Holler have each participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions throughout the Florida Keys with sustained success. Both artists maintain expansive portfolios that span multiple media and genres. This new collaboration marks a new chapter in their creative work, uniting their distinct voices in a shared visual dialogue.

A small collection of Brito's artworks is also available to the public at Our Place in Paradise gallery, 88711 Overseas Hwy in Tavernier.

Lighten Up!

1. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. The butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.
6. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
7. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
8. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
9. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
10. A backward poet writes inverse.
11. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
12. Don't join cults: Practice safe sects.



ART SHOWS 2026

January 21-April 15 "Dive Into Art: Stories from the Sea"

The History of Diving Museum MM 82.9

February 4-25 "Photography Exhibit"

Our Place in Paradise Gallery MM 88.7

February 18-March 30 "Judged Art Show"

Dolphin Life Hospital MM 82.7

February 28 - "Botanical Show"

Francis Tracy Garden Center MM 94

March 7-30 "Wildlife of the Keys"

Our Place in Paradise Gallery MM 88.7

Year-round Exhibits:

Tassell Building MM 91.5

Key Largo Chamber of Commerce MM 106

Scan QR Code for RECEPTION DATES & visit www.agpi.us for more info





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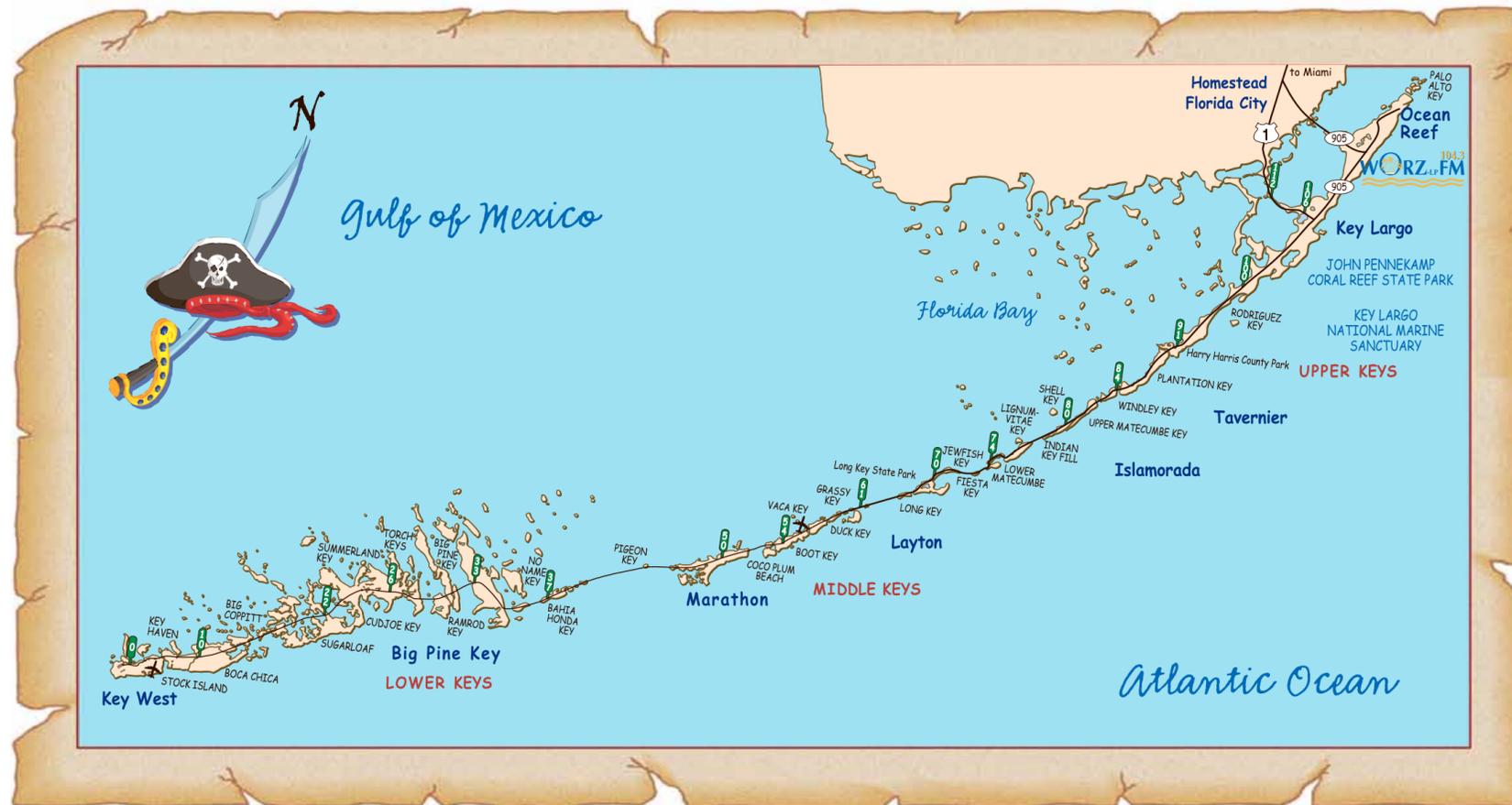
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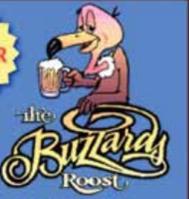
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2026 Schedule

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February 10	July 14
March 10	August 11
April 14	September 8
May 12	November 10



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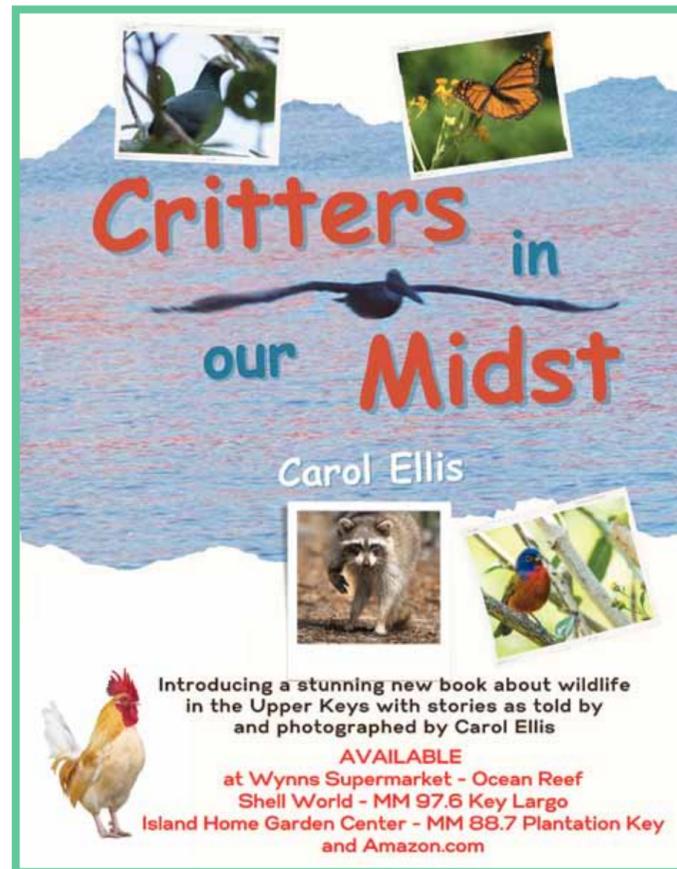
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Key Largo Community Park: More Than a Playground

If you want to see where Key Largo residents really come together, you have to visit the Key Largo Community Park. This isn't just a park; it's the heartbeat of our town. This is where you'll find our local families, our sports teams, and our friends all enjoying the beautiful Keys weather. The park is a testament to Monroe County Parks and Beaches Director, John Allen's commitment to providing a space for recreation, relaxation, and connection for people of all ages.

Located at mile marker 99 oceanside, behind Walgreens, the park is a 14-acre, well-equipped space that has something for everyone. Open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. there is something going on all day long.

For the sports enthusiasts, there are well-kept baseball and soccer fields that are always in use, along with tennis and many pickleball courts. The basketball courts are popular spots for both organized games and spontaneous pick-up sessions. Kids have their own dedicated playground, a place where they



can burn off some energy and make new friends. For those looking for a different kind of activity, there's a skateboard park that is a favorite with our local skaters and a great place to watch some impressive tricks. I often take a walk on the perimeter-trail, which is a perfect way to get some exercise while enjoying the park's vibrant energy.

And then there's the Jacobs Aquatic Center, on the north side of the complex. In addition to the pool facility and children's pool and play area, JAC offers summer break camps and junior lifeguard training. It is the home of the Orange Bowl Swim Classic.

The Key Largo Community Park is also a frequent host for local festivals and events that make our com-

munity special. You'll find things like local sports tournaments, school fundraisers, and community cookouts.

The Fourth of July celebration and the Monroe County Sheriffs Office's Night Out are big ones with events centered around the park, bringing the whole community together. It's a place where we celebrate our town, our friends, and our neighbors.



Photo by Monroe County Parks & Beaches.

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(A) 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
- 99 Mile Marker
- Point of Interest
- Dive Site
- Dive Wreck
- Swim with Dolphins

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(E) ON THE MAP

March 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.

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

HOURS:
9-6 Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri
9-8 Wednesdays:
9-5 Sat

SPECIAL EVENTS

March 3, 9am-12pm
SBDC Workshop: Plan Before You Launch. Florida SBDC at FIU consultants will provide resources and 1-on-1 sessions 1 on how to best launch their businesses. Space is limited to 15; register: <https://floridasbdc.org/find/fiu/>

March 3, 4pm - LEGO Club
Join in the LEGO Fun. Release your imagination. Ages 6-12, supplies provided.

March 4, 9am-12pm
1st Wednesday Plant Clinic

March 4, 4pm
Kids Art Club
Join in artistic expression by releasing your creativity. Ages 6-12, supplies provided.

****NEW** March 4, 6-7:30pm**
Journaling
Explore and decompress through journaling. See how it could fit into your busy schedule. All ages. Journaling supplies for in library use will be available; introductory journals provided.

March 5, 4pm
Artist Reception - Meet the Artists and Instructors of the Friends of KL Library "Paint With the Masters" Series. Light refreshments provided.

March 6, 6pm
1st Friday Concert - The Kennedys

March 7, 9:30am-1pm
Florida Keys Quilter's Meeting

March 9, 9:30am-1:30pm
VITA Tax Preparation

March 9, 3:30-4:30pm
Author Talk & Book Signing - Armagh To America: A Leap of Faith with Mary Jo Gohman.

March 10, 2pm
Conch Shell Blowing Class (Reg. Req. at bit.ly/keylargo-library-events, limited to 15.)

March 10, 4pm
Leprechaun Hunt
Join in the fun with a special scavenger hunt program. Can you find the Leprechaun? Can you catch him? Ages 6-12

March 11, 4pm
STEM Lab

March 12, 2-4pm
Adult Craft
Intrigued by rock painting? Join us and create a piece of "gold" all your own! Register online at bit.ly/keylargo-library-events

March 13, 4-5:30pm
Gaming Groupies
Level up your gaming skills and make memories at the Key Largo Library! Connect with fellow gamers as you compete in thrilling tournaments. Non-stop action, mind-bending puzzles, and unforgettable multiplayer mayhem. Ages 6-12.

March 14, 10:30am-12pm
Family Movie Event
Darby O'Gill & The Little People

March 17, 4pm
LEGO Club
Join in the LEGO Fun. Release your imagination with a build of your design. Ages 6-12, supplies provided.

March 18, 4pm
Kids Art Club
Join in artistic expression by releasing your creativity. Ages 6-12, supplies provided.

MONROE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
FLORIDA KEYS - SINCE 1892

Check Online for the latest info on happenings at Key Largo Library!

****NEW** March 18, 6-7:30pm**
Journaling
Explore and decompress through journaling. See how it could fit into your busy schedule. All ages. Journaling supplies provided.

March 19, 4-5pm
Teen Collab

March 24, 4pm
SLIME Society at the Library!
Ages 6-12, supplies provided.

March 25, 10:30am-12pm
Homeschool Meet Up
We might explore a topic, tag a STEM concept or create an artistic masterpiece! Stop in and check it out.

March 25, 4pm
STEM Lab

March 26, 12:30pm
Book Club
Come on in and pick up this month's book. Join in the conversation!

March 27, 4-5:30pm
Gaming Groupies
Level up your gaming skills and make memories at the Key Largo Library! Connect with fellow gamers as you compete in thrilling tournaments. Non-stop action, mind-bending puzzles, and unforgettable multiplayer mayhem. Ages 6-12.

March 28, 9:30am
Book Club
Come on in and pick up this month's book. Join in the conversation!

March 31, 4pm
LEGO Club
Join in the LEGO Fun. Release your imagination with a build of your design. Ages 6-12, supplies provided.

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

WEEKLY EVENTS

****NEW** Saturday Story Time**
10:30am ****Bilingual Mar.7 & 21****
Dance, sing, and listen to stories that will help young children develop their English and Spanish.

****NEW** Domino Club**
Monday, 1pm All ages are welcome to join in the battle of tiles.

Monday, 1-3pm Creative Monday (March 2, 9, 16 only) Bring in a current art project; work and interact with other creative minds.

STORYTIME! **Tuesday, 10:30am**
Story Time,
Ages 0-5

****NEW** Tuesday, 4pm**
Kids Activity

Wednesday, 1pm
Smoking Cessation, Keys AHEC

****NEW** Domino Club**
Wednesday, 1pm All ages are welcome to join in and battle tiles.

Thurs-
day, 10:30am
Story Time,
Ages 0-5

****NEW** Thursday, 4pm**
Kids Activity

Friday, 9:30am-1pm
Sit & Sew
Bring in a sewing or any fabric art project to Sit & Sew and work with a crafting community who understands fabric and yarn habits!

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Coco'Nut' Funnies

An Irish bloke goes to the doctor and says, "Doctor, it's me arse, I'd like you to take a look, if you could?"

So the doctor gets him to drop his pants and takes a look. "Incredible," he says, "There is a £20 note lodged up here".

Tentatively he eases the twenty out of the man's bottom, only to see another £10 note appear. "This is amazing" exclaims the Doctor "What do you want me to do?"

"Well for goodness sake take it out" says Paddy.

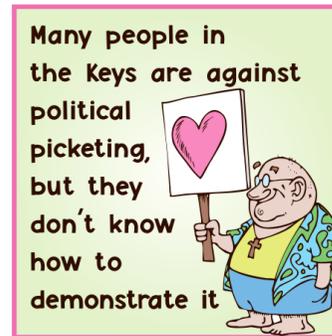
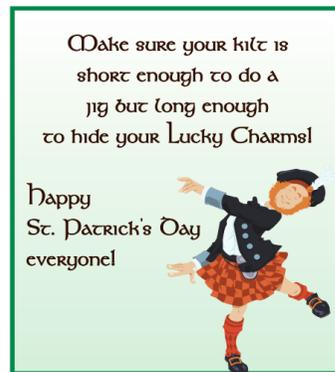
So the doctor pulls out the tenner and another twenty appears, and another and another and so on... Finally the last note comes out and no more appear. "Ah Doctor, thank ya kindly, That's much better, how much is there then?"

The Doctor counts the pile of cash. "£1990 exactly.

"Ah, that'd be right." says Paddy knew I wasn't feeling two grand."



You know you're getting old in the Keys when you pull your left shoulder out of place casting for tarpon in the back country. And you pull your right shoulder putting BenGay on your left shoulder.



Today's SUVs are named for exotic places. Places you never go, like the Dodge Durango or GMC Sierra. There should be truth in advertising. It should be the Dodge Rush Hour or the GMC Islamorada's Too Far.



An airplane was about to crash. There were 5 passengers but only 4 parachutes. The pilot announced of the crash and immediately took his own parachute. The 1st passenger, a math genius, said "41 am the smartest man in American history, so my people don't want me to die."

He took the 1st pack and jumped out of the plane. The 2nd passenger, a doctor, said, "I've got to get to the hospital. There are hundreds of lives waiting to be saved by me!"

The 3rd passenger, the police, said "I've got to get to work too! The city's security depends on me." With that, he too, took a parachute.

The 4th passenger, the Pope, said to the 5th passenger, a 10 year old schoolboy, "My son, I am old and don't have many years left, you have more years ahead so I will sacrifice my life and let you have the last parachute."

The little boy said, "That's okay, Your Holiness, there's a parachute left for you. The smartest man in America, just jumped out of the plane with my backpack."



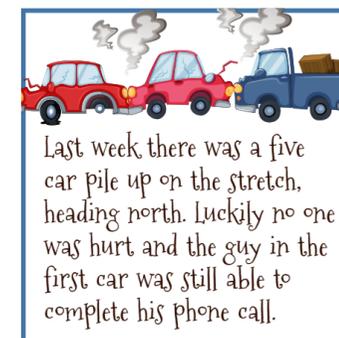
It's true exercising helps with decision making.

I went for a run this morning and very quickly decided to never do that again.



What's the difference between a kleptomaniac and a literalist?

The literalist takes things literally. The kleptomaniac takes things, literally.



MY HUSBAND ASKED ME WHY I BOTHER WATCHING COOKING SHOWS WHEN I CAN'T COOK. SO I ASKED HIM WHY HE BOTHERED WATCHING PORN.



It's Dad! Hide the porn!

Farmer John lived on a quiet rural highway but as time went by, the traffic built up and got so heavy and fast that his free range chickens were being run over, at a rate of 3 to 6 a week.

So Farmer John called the local police station to complain, "You've got to do something about all these people driving so fast and killing all my chickens," he said to the local police officer.

"What do you want me to do?" asked the policeman.

"I don't care, just do something about those crazy drivers!"

So the next day the policeman had the Council erect sign that said: SCHOOL CROSSING.

Three days later Farmer John called and said, "You've still got to do something about these drivers. The 'school crossing' sign seems to make them go even faster!"

So, they put up a new sign: SLOW: CHILDREN AT PLAY.

That really sped them up. So Farmer John called and said, "Your signs are no good. Can I put up my own sign?"

He said "Sure." The phone calls to the police station stopped, but the officer, got curious, so he called Farmer John, "How's the problem with the speeding drivers. did you put up your sign?"

"Oh, sure did and not one chicken has been killed."

The policeman was really curious and thought he'd better go out and take a look at the sign. He also thought the sign might be something the police could use elsewhere, to slow drivers down.. So he drove out to Farmer John's house.

His jaw dropped the moment he saw the sign. 'NUDIST COLONY, Slow down and watch out for chicks!'

If there was an award for laziness, I'd send someone to pick it up for me.



An Irishman walks into a bar in Toronto and orders a drink. The bartender, noticing his accent, asks him "What brings you to Canada?" The Irishman says "Well, I was in a pub in Dublin and the coaster under my glass said 'Drink Canada Dry', so I thought I'd give it a shot"



Two parrots are sitting on a perch. One turns to the other and asks, "do you smell fish?"

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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

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

QUILTERS

Meet Florida Keys Quilters: Fridays, come to "Sit and Sew" KL Library 9:30-12:30 floridakeysquilters@gmail.com

THE KEY PLAYERS

Community Theater Group needs volunteers to work behind the scenes & audition for roles! Check the website for upcoming auditions and productions: thekeyplayers.org

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.



Benjamin



Cinnamon



Clyde



Charlie



Sophie



Ruby



Columbo



Dora



Bonnie



Ivan

Conch Characters / Around Town



First Friday Concert crowd at the KL Library enjoy their Coconut Telegraphs while they wait for the entertainment to begin.



45th Annual Islamorada Bartenders Sailfish Open's 1st Place Team Square Grouper.



Top Junior Angler Connor Fesperman and team Two Reel in the Cheeca Lodge and Spa Presidential Sailfish Tournament's Gold Cup Sailfish Championship.



Islamorada Fishing Club Captains's Cup Sailfish Tournament's 1st place team Back in Business.



The month of February was full of art at the Key Largo Library with over 70 pieces on exhibit. Local artists David Bader and Marcia Brito greeted the community at a reception showing their work.



Coco McKimm with hammerhead caught in the 3rd Annual Keys Kids Sailfish Tournament.



Valerie Barth celebrating her birthday at the Moose. Cake by Vicky Bakery.



Top Kingfish winner Kim Kimbro on Poppa Wahoo enjoys her victory at Islamorada Women's Sailfish Tournament hosted by Ladies, Let's Go Fishing.



Top lady angler and first fish Nicole Ellis with winner Angela Wolf, Winn Wolf and Pasta; Capt. Al Flutie Over the Hill Rip-Off Sailfish Tournament.

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This Month's Live Entertainment and Events at the Lorelei

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Webb & Davidson 5:30-9:30	2 Carousers 5:30-9:30 Michael Trixx @Sunset	3 Micah 5:30-9:30	4 Webb & Davidson 5:30-9:30 Michael Trixx @Sunset	5 Webb & Davidson 5:30-9:30	6 Jade Storm 5:30-9:30 Michael Trixx @Sunset	7 Honey Bee 12-3 Uncle Rico 5:30-9:30
8 TIME CHANGES Honey Bee 12-3 Webb & Davidson 5:30-9:30	9 Carousers 5:30-9:30 Michael Trixx @Sunset	10 Leah Sutter 5:30-9:30	11 Webb & Davidson 5:30-9:30 Michael Trixx @Sunset	12 Webb & Davidson 5:30-9:30	13 Shindig 5:30-9:30 Michael Trixx @Sunset	14 Devin Spaulding 12-3 Drop Outs 5:30-9:30
15 Micah 12-3 Webb & Davidson 5:30-9:30	16 Carousers 5:30-9:30 Michael Trixx @Sunset	17 Micah 5:30-9:30	18 Webb & Davidson 5:30-9:30 Michael Trixx @Sunset	19 Webb & Davidson 5:30-9:30	20 Uncle Rico 5:30-9:30 Michael Trixx @Sunset	21 John Ciulla 12-3 Brothers of Others 5:30-9:30
22 Mark Edward Hill 12-3 Webb & Davidson 5:30-9:30	23 Carousers 5:30-9:30 Michael Trixx @Sunset	24 Steve Venini 5:30-9:30	25 Webb & Davidson 5:30-9:30 Michael Trixx @Sunset	26 Webb & Bellamy 5:30-9:30	27 Surprise Guest 5:30-9:30 Michael Trixx @Sunset	28 Rob Garza 12-3 Abstract Radio 5:30-9:30
29 Micah 12-3 Webb & Davidson 5:30-9:30	30 Carousers 5:30-9:30 Michael Trixx @Sunset	31 Leah Sutter 5:30-9:30	LIVE MUSIC 7 DAYS A WEEK!		"SUNDAY SCHOOL" \$4 Bloody Marys, Mimosas & Screwdrivers every Sunday, 7 to 11 am	

We have 32 world-renowned
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