

The Conch Republic COCONUT TELEGRAPH

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

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Attractions

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Luke Sommer Glenn Blog

What's Hot & What's Not

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All the Buzz

Coco-Nut Funnies

Business in the Keys

Adopt a Key Largo Shelter Pet

Conch Characters

Daily OM



Looking forward to turning the corner on the slow season and to the arrival of our snowbird friends from up north! Happy Thanksgiving to all, and please remember those less fortunate this time of year.

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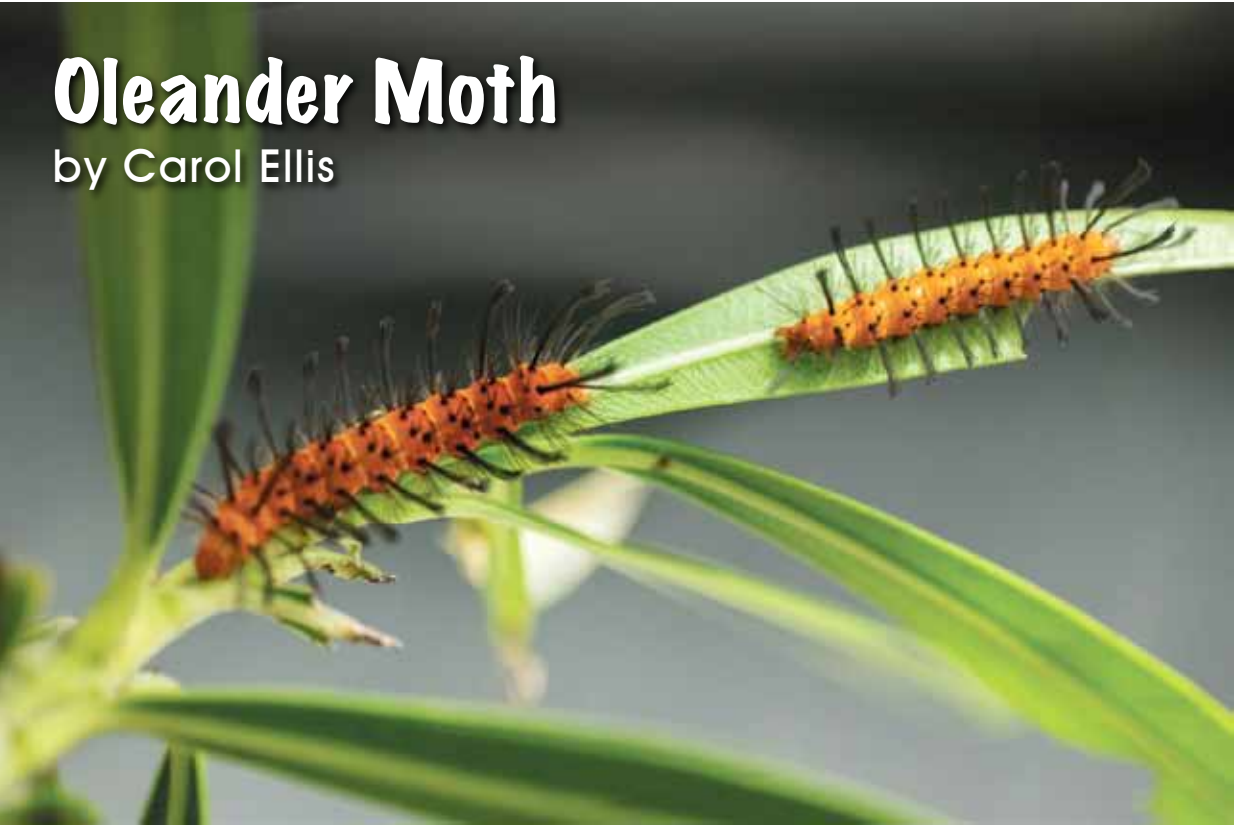
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The oleander is the preferred food source for the Oleander caterpillars.

All of what I classify as the important stuff in my life has been learned, one concept at a time, driven by my curiosity. Photography, my career and passion; its concepts were learned by doing. I'd seek out photographers, attend their workshops, and pour over photo books to gain inspiration and learn technique.

Gardening, the same approach; my understanding of the natural environment has evolved one hike, one plant, one critter at a time. The "Education of Carol" is an ongoing and noble cause. My network of "dirty" friends are a good source of information. I can usually rely on my



The orange Oleander caterpillar black hairs mimics stingers. Not so! The hairs do not produce pain unlike certain other hairy caterpillars.

friend, one I fondly refer to as the "barefoot naturalist," when I am looking for info about nature. I asked the naturalist if they'd seen any oleander butterflies? Answering me and correcting at the same time... you mean the Oleander Moth (Syntomeida epilao?) Now that you mention it, I called it a butterfly since it flies during the day, like butterflies do. It really looks more like a wasp, due to its slender wings. Its overall coloration is dark metallic blue with white polka-dots on its wings and upper abdomen and a bright red abdomen.. That's why they call it the Uncle Sam Moth; for its red, white and blue colors. Moths usually are dull brown in color, hairy and generally only come out at night. Butterflies are typically colorful and are easy to spot in the middle of the day gathering nectar from bright blooms. There are butterfly exceptions in the form of the Skipper butterflies, whose wings are mostly brown with patterns of blue, blue-green, orange, beige or white.

"Barefoot" directed me to a location where there was a large oleander growing beside the road. There were Oleander moths chewing the foliage. It looked as if they had been there a day or two since there were plenty of chewed leaves, but overall the entire plant was mostly intact with healthy leaves. Oleander caterpillars can totally defoliate a plant in about a week. After the caterpillar has eaten or skeletonized the leaves, there is no long term damage to the plant, though it won't look so good until new leaves return. This usually gets homeowners upset, so they cut and spray until death do us part.

The Oleander moth is easy to spot by its bright red abdomen. The Oleander plant contains chemicals oleandrin and neandrin which are toxic if ingested. Since the caterpillar feeds on the oleander, the Oleander moth has these chemicals in their bodies, and the moths red abdomen serves as a warning sign: "Do Not Eat Me."

Birds are a great natural predator of caterpillars in the landscape, but birds and small mammals will not feed on the Oleander caterpillar. Its only natural enemies are predatory stink bugs, parasitic wasps and the red imported fire ant.

The orange Oleander caterpillar has another survival mechanism with its clumps of black hairs arising from bumps on its body. The first thing you think of when seeing these hairs is that the hairs are actually stingers. Not so. The hairs do not produce pain unlike certain other hairy caterpillars. I can't wait to tell that to the Comcast technician whose main control box is underneath an oleander tree. It was his complaining and fear of the caterpillars that led me to this research. He's going to feel a lot better about his job.

When you first notice the Oleander caterpillars on the plant, either by seeing the small eggs on the underside of the leaves, or tiny orange caterpillars with black hairs, you can control an infestation by cutting off the affected leaves, and removing from the vicinity of their larval host plants, which also includes the Desert Rose. Ironically, the Oleander caterpillar used to feed

Oleander Moth... CONTINUED - Photos by Carol Ellis.

exclusively on a now rare native plant, the Devil's Potato Vine (Echoes umbellata.) In the 17th Century when the Oleander was introduced here, the caterpillar switched its diet to the oleander. There is a Devil's potato vine in my yard which I am constantly cutting back, and I have never seen an Oleander caterpillar near it. I may move a few caterpillars to my yard and see if they remember that the Devil's potato vine was their original food of choice.

I am a life-long learner. I am blessed that curiosity has led me down numerous paths on this journey we call life. Stay curious, my friend.



The Oleander is an easy to grow shrub or tree whose flowers come in white, pink, red, coral, or yellow, depending on the variety.



The Oleander moth is called the Uncle Sam Moth for its red, white and blue colors.

CAROL ELLIS has lived in South Florida her entire life and Key Largo for over 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.



The hungry caterpillar can graze the fleshy surface of the leaf, leaving the veins intact or totally consume the leaf. The chewing activity does not produce any long term damage to the plant. Oleander caterpillars can totally defoliate a plant in about a week.



Moths usually are dull brown in color, hairy and generally only come out at night. Butterflies are typically colorful and are easy to spot in the middle of the day. This Mangrove Skipper is a butterfly though its coloration may indicate otherwise.



WORLD TOILET DAY IS NOVEMBER 19

Everyone Needs a Place to Go

Of all the things we take for granted, having a safe and reliable sanitation system is high among them. Yet according to the World Health Organization, some 3.4 billion people throughout the world still live without safely-managed sanitation services, contributing to disease and death that largely affect children.

World Toilet Day, an observance of the United Nations held annually on November 19, is designed to raise awareness of people living without access to safely managed sanitation. Visit <https://www.un.org/en/observances/toilet-day> for more information. But it's also a great time to educate ourselves about a growing nationwide problem that is compromising the integrity of our own sanitation treatment systems.

From baby wipes to a bulb syringe, from makeup to mop heads, from dentures to diapers. Those are just a sampling of items discovered in sewer pipes and wastewater processing facilities - items that cause backups and breaks, ultimately leading to costly repairs at taxpayer expense. In addition, so-called "flushable wipes" have become a major problem. Workers often have to clean out check valves on a daily basis, removing hundreds of

pounds of "gunk" that, left unchecked, could significantly damage the sewer system.

To Flush Or Not To Flush? Only Flush The "Three Ps"

As illustrated by the types of items

retrieved from clogged toilets and governmental water treatment systems, the things people flush range from surprising to unbelievable. In contrast, the types of things safe for flushing can be easily understood by this simple phrase: Only flush the three Ps - Pee, Poop and (toilet) Paper. The first two Ps are obvious, but the third one is an area of growing concern with the popularity of various wipes and the degree to which these are truly safe for our home plumbing and community sewer systems.

Toilet paper is designed to break down and fall apart quickly when it contacts water and is agitated, which allows it to dissolve well when it flows through your pipes and enters the sewer or septic system. In contrast, most wipes are made from synthetic or blended fibers that take a long time to break down, causing snags and clogs and accumulating to form major blockages. This can be easily demonstrated by dropping a sheet of toilet paper and a single wipe in separate glasses of water, side-by-side. After only a few seconds, the toilet paper will fall apart in your hand, while the wipe will likely maintain its form even after trying to pull it apart.

Bad Flushing Habits Can Cost You Big Bucks Later

"Just Because It Can Be Flushed, Doesn't Mean It Should." That's the tagline of the "Get FlushSmart" campaign sponsored by the Responsible Flushing Alliance, an independent, nonprofit trade association committed to educating consumers and reducing damage to critical sewage infrastructure. Visit <https://www.flushsmart.org> for more information. The Alliance says that, on average, it costs between \$300-\$450 to repair home plumbing system damage caused by clogs, and from \$4,000-\$15,000 if a whole-house re-pipe is needed. According to the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, wipes add almost half a billion dollars per year in operating costs for US water utilities - costs that will likely be borne by taxpayers. Visit <https://www.nacwa.org/home> for more information.

Are Flushable Wipes Really Safe To Flush?

Whether a wipe is marked "do not flush" or "flushable," most experts agree they aren't good for our water supplies and the systems that treat them. Just because a wipe fits inside your toilet's siphon jet (that's the small opening at the bottom of your toilet bowl that creates the "flushing power"), doesn't mean it will disintegrate once it disappears from your view. The International Water Services Flushability Group, comprised of water services providers and the associations that represent them, have created specifications for products marketed as truly safe when flushed down the

toilet. Visit <https://www.iwsfg.org> for more information. While some states have passed laws with respect to labeling, there is currently no state law in Florida nor federal standard that flushable wipes meet specific standards in order to be labeled as such.

The Bottom Line

Stick only to the Three Ps when it comes to being confident about what's safe to flush down your toilet. Recognizing the importance of this issue to customers and communities, the Florida Governmental Utility Authority is developing an educational campaign that will be launched in the months ahead. Details will be announced at <https://www.fgua.com>.

The Florida Governmental Utility Authority (FGUA) owns and operates almost 100 water and wastewater utility systems in 15 Florida counties, providing service to more than 120,000 customer connections. Counties served by FGUA include Citrus, Hillsborough, Lake, Marion, Orange, Pasco, Polk, Seminole, Hardee, Lee, Alachua, Flagler, Putnam, Volusia and Nassau.



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Check Out What's Happening at the Upper Keys Libraries!

November is a time where we spend those extra few moments celebrating family. Don't miss what the library has to offer. from family storytime to makerspace activities, there is always something happening!

KEY LARGO BRANCH LIBRARY

1st Friday Concert, Nov. 6th hosts Daniel Gallup

Adult Craft, Nov. 12th will be creating a holiday table centerpiece.

Wednesday nights exciting Reel Deal: Movie Club, every 3rd Wednesday at 5pm Oct. to Apr.

Cuentame con Café, every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month.

Kids Programming every afternoon Monday through Friday.

Plus: Art Classes, Gaming, LEGO, Tech Support, Sit & Sew, STEM Lab, Poetry, Story Time, Creative Writing and more... follow the link to find out!

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for loads of information
about these and
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ISLAMORADA BRANCH LIBRARY

Celebrating our Diamond Jubilee with a speaker Tuesday evenings:

Nov 3rd, Corey Malcom, FI Keys History Center historian

Nov 10th, Islamorada Area State Parks, Lignumvitea Key

Nov 17th, Rita Troxel & Maria Chavez, the filming of "Bloodline"

Nov 24th, Jerry Lorenz, History of Conservation in the Upper Keys

Kids Programming, daily M-F.

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First
FRIDAYS
6-7 PM



Oct 2	Brian Smalley
Nov 6	Daniel Gallup
Dec 4	Mike Fuller
Jan 8	Bing Futch
Feb 5	Patchouli
Mar 5	The Kennedys
Apr 2	Sarah McCulloch

Brought to you by the **Friends of Key Largo Library**
For more information inquire with staff



Key Largo Branch Library

Free!

Paint with the Masters

Join us for a series of adult art classes, each based on the style of an artist. Learn about the painter and their work then try your hand at painting in a similar style.

Oct 23

Monica Bankowski
Wayne Thiebaud



Nov 21

Diane Smith
Gustav Klimt



Jan 16

Peter Turner
Kinsuiga quilting



Jan 29

Gloria Avner
Piet Mondrian



Feb 12

Mary Ellen Holler
Georges Seurat



Feb 26

Gisela Llorens
Edgar Degas



CLASSES LIMITED TO 20 ADULT STUDENTS. 2-5 pm. WAIT-LIST WILL BE AVAILABLE.
Sign up will be available two weeks before each event.

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Artist of the Month: Marty Leone

Up-cycled and Up-lifting Art as a Way of Life

by Karen Beal

Energy, artistic flare and reverence for God, his country and the Keys - those words define Mariano "Marty" Leone. Prolific, generous and engaged make a good second line.

A retired school teacher, his studio is at his home. Well, under and beside his home to be exact. His work spills out in a tumble of color and the fresh smell of wood. He sees potential in every board, frame and piece of unwanted wood furniture.

Early in life Leone worked construction with his father and brothers. "Waste not!" was the key to success. He makes up-cycling a religion. Everything gets the splash of color and well-aimed swipes of white and navy outlines.



Jellyfish dancing in the canal.



Getting ready for the next art fair, Leone makes art sturdy enough to brighten a patio or courtyard. These Cobia are small enough for a visitor to take home and there is no limit to worry about.



Leone's work has been seen in the Southeby Gallery and can be found in just about every art fair in the Upper Keys. Rather than simply dropping off work at a gallery and driving home, he loves the give and take of stories and smiles and the art fair vibe. He blames that on living in New York before he came to the Keys.



"You would be amazed at the wood furniture that people get rid of! It is all waiting for a new life," Leone says.



A hogfish is an easy catch on canvas.

"Keys living surrounds us with color, music and fishing. Birds, sea life and flowers give me endless subjects. The recycled lumber provides me with plenty of canvases." Leone shares with a smile. "Teaching and living in the Florida Keys for a couple decades has heightened my awareness of the environment and the need to preserve and protect what God has given us."

You can reach Marty at 305-321-5466.



Patriotic themes coexist with sports fishing in Leone's workshop.



Flowers in an up-cycled gilded frame.



Who doesn't love a beautiful dolphin fish?



Flying fish.



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Food Bank Donation Tips

The following guidelines can help you decide what to donate to a food drive or pantry:

Don't just "clean out your pantry" and donate food that you don't want or can't use anymore unless it meets specific guidelines.

Purchase food specifically for the food drive. Think about what foods other families like yours might like to eat. Also keep in mind that food pantry and food bank recipients range in age from infants to the elderly.

Donate retail-sized food containers. In other words, the size of items you'd pick up at your local grocery store for yourself or family.

Donate food that is in its original package with the label intact—unopened and not damaged.

Do not donate food that is past its "best by," "use by," or "sell by" date. Although some food is still safe to consume after these dates it is best practice not to donate them.

Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. It needs milk and butter, so that can make it hard to use.

Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal.

Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.

Recipients can't always eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup you donate unless you put a can opener in too or buy pop top cans.

Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a Roni and other commonly donated dishes.

Spices or salt and pepper are appreciated

Tea bags and coffee are wonderful luxuries.

Sugar and flour are treats.

Canned meat - tuna, chicken, Spam, ham, etc. is very much appreciated.

Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.

Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.

Plastic jars of unsweetened applesauce provide a quick snack, fiber and vitamin C.

Loaded with protein and fiber, canned beans provide an excellent, nutritious way to fill a hungry tummy.

Perfect as a snack or as a base for canned meats, crackers are shelf-stable and portable.

Fruit, whether dried, canned or in plastic cups, makes excellent snacks for kids and adults and provide some nutrition and fiber.

Food banks are always in need of quick and easy items that families can toss into lunches or eat on the go, and granola bars are just the thing.

An entire meal that's shelf-stable and in one package—dinner doesn't get easier than that, which is plus for those without stocked kitchens.

Nuts provide easy protein and nutrients in a hurry.

Kids and adults like it, and it's high in protein, making peanut butter one of the most popular items at food banks. Add some jelly for the kids!



Celebrate with Friends

by Karen Beal



In 1989 the opening of the new library was big news. Imagine the pride of walking into this space. Photo by Ken Fukuyama.

Join the Friends of the Key Largo Library December 9th at 4pm to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the group that helped make the library we know today. County Historian, Corey Malcolm, will join in the event, remembering the start, while you can admire the current library.

Key West had the beginnings of the Monroe County Library in the 1940s. In 1966 the Key Largo Civic Club offered book cabinets and was open to the community 20 hours a week with a librarian, Lenora Albury. (Ms. Albury was paid \$100 a month for her service!) And so it began... this year marks 60 years for the Key Largo Library.

With that modest beginning, advocates convinced the Board of County Commissioners that the growing population deserved a real library. Two locations were rented over the next decade, each a little bigger than the last.

In 1986, supporters formed the Friends of the Key Largo Library to champion the need for a permanent library for the community. For 3 years they petitioned the BOCC and argued their case - at every BOCC meeting - with vigor.

A few years later, Kmart wanted to put in a big shopping center and was having trouble getting permitted. They offered the "corner anchor" space in the plaza for the location of a new library.



That negotiation allowed the County to build a 12,680 sq. ft library at half the cost of purchasing property and building from scratch. And it was the perfect community location. Permit granted.

The County pledged \$750,000 to build, and the Friends pledged \$150,000 (that's \$420,000 in today's dollars) to furnish the inside - an amazing accomplishment. The library was finished and dedicated in 1989.

The volunteers who serve today on the board or at the

donation desk continue the legacy of the original members. Martha Paez, Sharon Berry, Deb Martin, Medina Roy, Nancy Truesdale and Karen Beal comprise the board. Kathy Mead, Shelagh Abbot, Dorea Schramm, Bonnie Roberts, Cindy Davis, Sarah Marter, Georgie Dunn and Linda Kloepper volunteer at the desk.

If you are want to learn more about the Friends and how you might help, contact FriendsKeyLargoLibrary@gmail.com.



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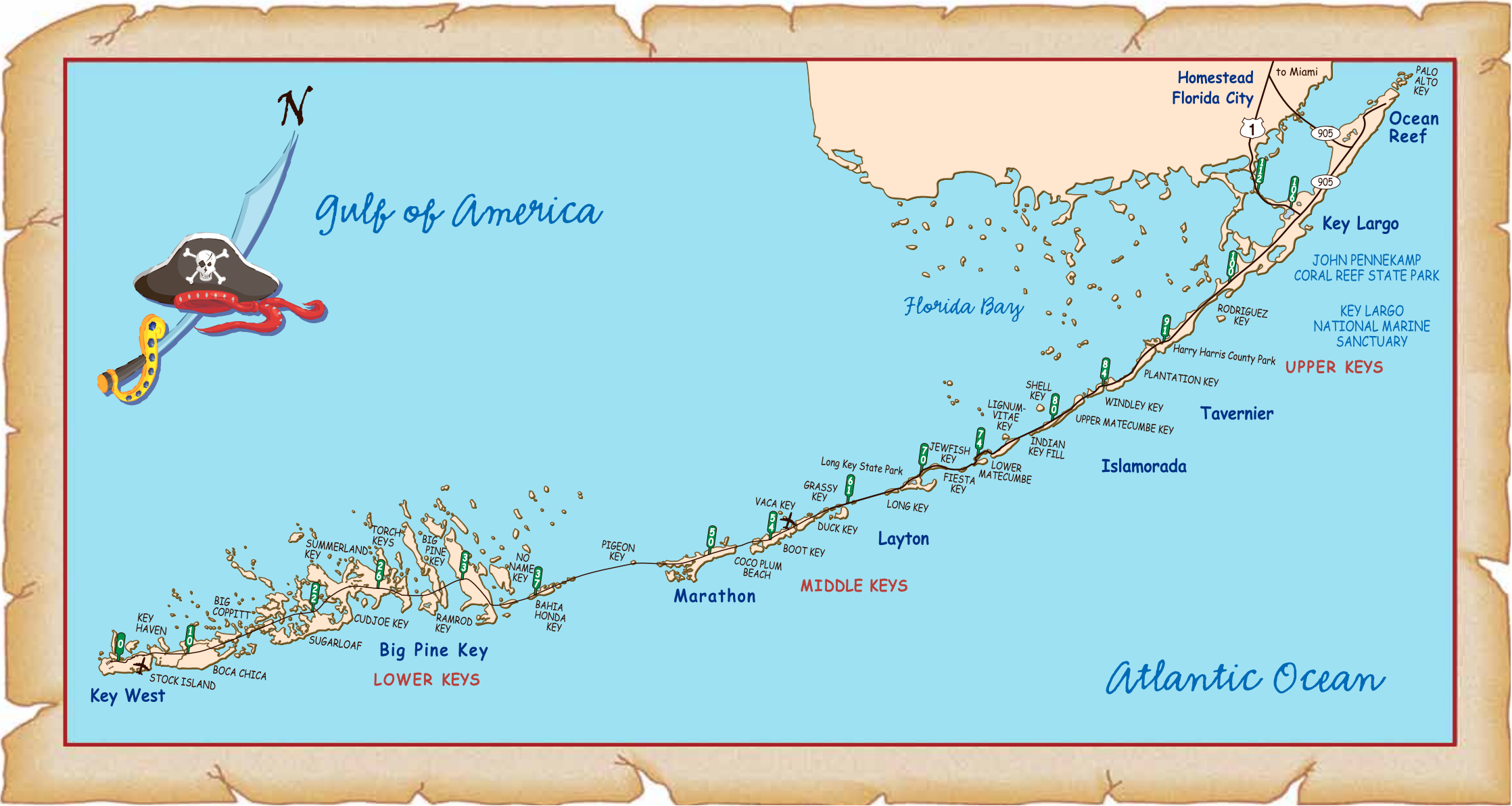
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The Day the Turkey Broke the Speed Limit

The trouble began at exactly 6:00 AM, when Arthur realized he had forgotten to thaw the 24-pound frozen turkey he bought for his in-laws. With his mother-in-law, a woman who judged character entirely by the crispness of a turkey's skin, arriving in six hours, Arthur panicked. He did what any desperate, sleep-deprived man would do: he took advice from an unverified internet forum.

The forum suggested a "hyper-acceleration method": strap the frozen bird securely inside a heavy-duty contractor bag, submerge it in hot water inside a heavy plastic cooler, and drive it around the neighborhood in the trunk of a car. Supposedly, the sloshing action combined with the friction of the vehicle's motion would safely thaw a turkey in under 40 minutes.

Arthur sprinted to the

garage, loaded the cooler into his sedan, and hit the road.

Distracted by checking his watch, Arthur didn't notice his speed creeping up until flashing red and blue lights appeared in his rear-view mirror. He pulled over. A state trooper marched up to the window.

"Sir, do you know how fast you were going in a thirty-mile-per-hour zone?" the officer asked, pen poised.

"Officer, I can explain," Arthur stammered. "I have an emergency in the trunk."

The trooper's eyebrows shot up. "An emergency. In the trunk. Step out of the vehicle, please."

With trembling hands, Arthur popped the trunk. The trooper cautiously approached, hand resting on his holster, and peered inside. There, sloshing wildly inside a neon-green cooler, was a massive, tightly wrapped garbage bag.

"Open it," the officer commanded.

Arthur reached in, untied the heavy knot, and pulled back the plastic to reveal the pale, rock-solid, goosebump-laden carcass of a gigantic bird.

The trooper stared at it for a long, agonizingly quiet ten seconds. He slowly let go of his holster. "Is that... a turkey?"

"It's frozen solid, officer! My mother-in-law arrives at noon! The internet said the kinetic energy from the turns would thaw it!" Arthur cried, entirely losing his dignity.

The trooper sighed, rubbed his temples, and looked at the radar gun. "Well, Arthur, your kinetic



energy clocked in at fifty-two miles per hour. I'm letting you off with a warning because frankly, if I write a ticket that says 'Speeding to agitate poultry,' the captain will make me take a drug test. Go home and use a microwave."

Arthur drove back at a

strict 25 miles per hour. The turkey was served hours late, rubbery, and accompanied by a side of takeout pizza—but it was the only Thanksgiving dinner where his mother-in-law didn't complain about the cooking... she was too busy laughing



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C ON THE MAP

Tomb of the Black Pharaoh by Christopher Michael

Crystal Lake Publishing is thrilled to announce the release of **Danforth Vol. 1: The Tomb of the Black Pharaoh** by Christopher Michael. Michael is an author, law enforcement officer, and former U.S. Army soldier who completed multiple deployments in Afghanistan, East Asia, and Europe. Michael authored the series **Danforth: Eldritch Tales of WWII**, a thrilling combination of

historical fiction and Lovecraftian horror. **Tomb of the Black Pharaoh** is the first entry in the series.

The Nazis believe they have found way to see the future. The price is human blood.

Egypt, 1941. A mysterious SS archaeological expedition dispatched by Himmler vanishes into the untamed desert.

Haunted by his experiences beyond the Mountains of Madness, Robert Danforth is recruited by America's fledgling intelligence to uncover the expedition's goals and motives. His investigation takes him from wartime Cairo to hidden tombs and cities across Egypt and Arabia, where kidnapped innocents are to be sacrificed in a ritual older than civilization.

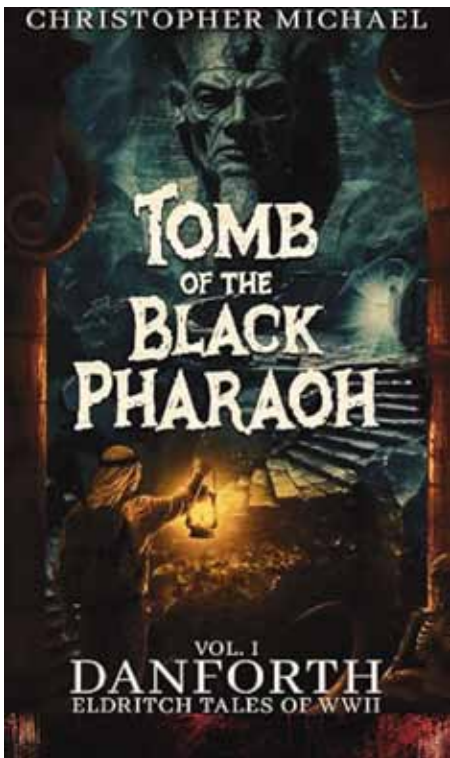


Christopher Michael

The closer Danforth comes to the answers, the more a mysterious power reaches into his dreams. It reveals visions man should witness. It knows his worst fears. It offers answers to every mystery and piece of forbidden knowledge that haunts him but at a horrifying price.

If the SS succeeds, no Allied secret will remain hidden, and the course of the war may be decided before the next battle begins. Some conflicts are driven by the desire for power and territory. This battle will be fought for the very future of humanity.

Bram Stoker Award-winning author, Monique Snyman, says: "I would not hesitate to recommend **Danforth: Eldritch Tales of WWII: Tomb of**



the Black Pharaoh to fans of exciting fantasy horror tales as an absolute must-read."

Danforth Vol. 1: Tomb of the Black Pharaoh is available in paperback and on Amazon Kindle. More info: crystallakepub@gmail.com

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1 cup sugar

3 oz cream cheese

Glaze:

1½ cup powdered sugar

2 tbsp pineapple juice

Mix, bake at 350°F for 45-50 mins, glaze while warm

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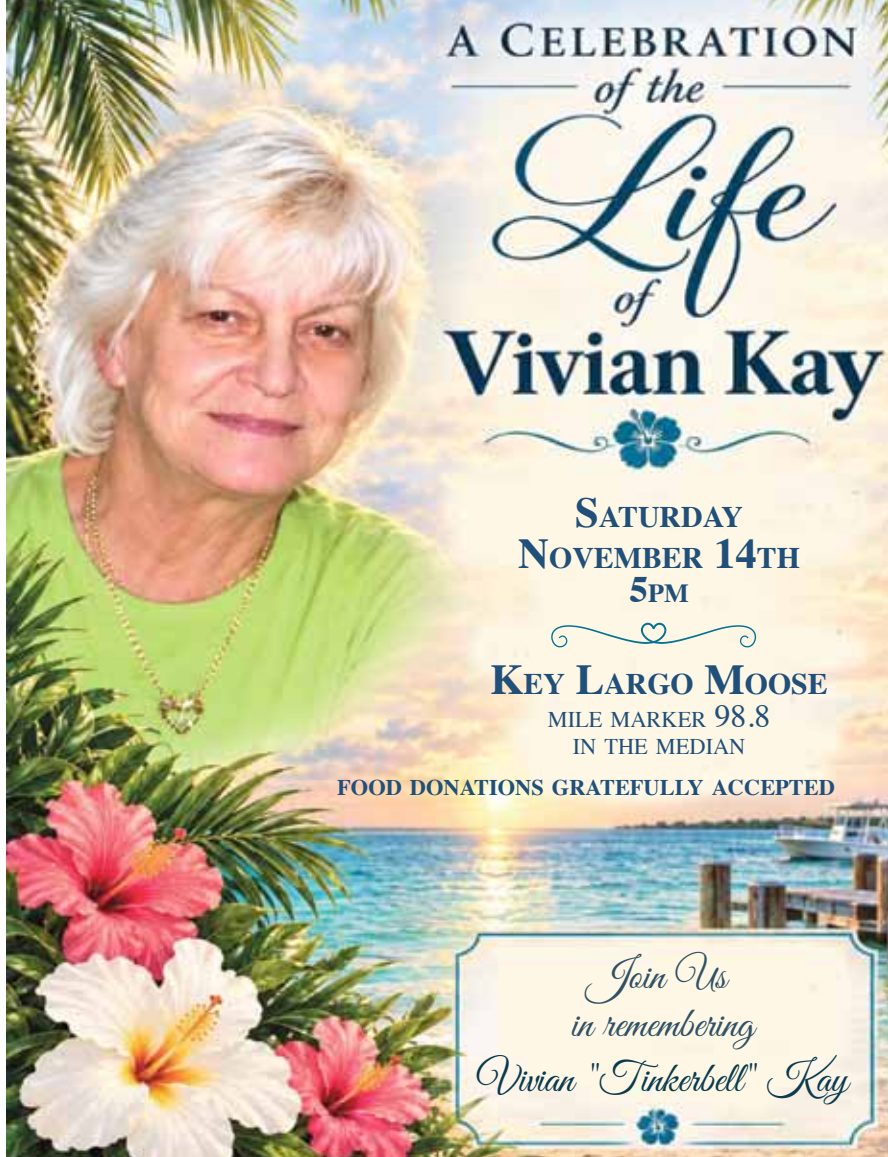
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When the Universe Throws a Curveball

The ability to accept what is happening and let go of your original expectations is key when dealing with unexpected turns of fate.



In life, we're always setting goals for ourselves and working to make them happen. This gives us focus and ensures we use our time and energy efficiently and effectively. It also provides us with a sense of purpose and direction. We know where we're going and what we want to do. But quite often, due to forces outside our control, things don't go as planned — the flat tire on the way to the wedding, the unforeseen flu virus — and we have to adjust to a postponement or create a whole new set of circumstances.

Even positive turns of fortune — an unexpected influx of cash or falling in love — require us to be flexible and to reconsider our plans and priorities, sometimes in the blink of an eye. This is what happens when life throws you a curveball.

The ability to accept what is happening and let go of your original expectations is key when dealing with these unexpected turns of fate. We have a tendency to get stuck in our heads, clinging to an idea of how

we think life should go, and we can have a hard time accepting anything that doesn't comply with that idea. The fact is that life is unpredictable.

The trip you thought was for business — and when the deal fell through, you got depressed — actually landed you at the airport two days earlier than planned so you could meet the love of your life. Your car broke down, so you missed an appointment — and while you never arrived at that important meeting, you ended up spending a few relaxing hours with people you never would have met otherwise.

In order to keep us alerted to opportunity and teach us equanimity, the universe throws us the occasional curveball. Remember that curveballs are not only life's way of keeping us awake, which is a gift in and of itself; they are also often a vehicle for wonderful surprises. Next time a curveball comes your way, take a deep breath, say thank you, and open your mind to a new possibility.

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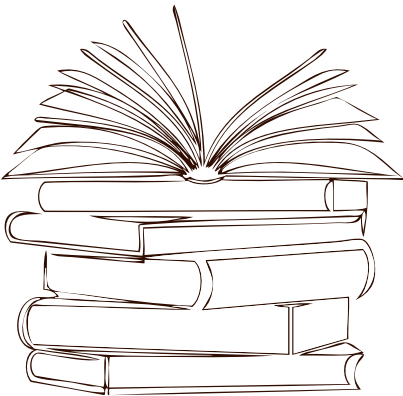
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Sasha

Conch Characters / Around Town



Monroe County Firefighters & EMS from Tavernier showed up at Burton Memorial Church to unload a truck full of pumpkins for their annual sale.



First Friday of the month Free Concert series kicked off with a full house. Six more acoustic, singer-songwriter concerts at the KL Library coming.



Creative Monday at Key Largo Library (every Monday 1-3pm in the Community Room) marks the beginning of a busy art-full season. Join in! No reservation needed, supplies provided.



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8 Webb & Davidson 5-9	9 Carousers 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	10 Leah Sutter 5-9	11 Webb & Davidson 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	12 Webb & Davidson 5-9	13 Shin Dig 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	14 Abstract Radio 5-9
15 Webb & Davidson 5-9	16 Carousers 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	17 Steve Venini 5-9	18 Webb & Davidson 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	19 Webb & Davidson 5-9	20 Carousers 5-9 Michael Trixx @Sunset	21 Brothers of Others 5-9
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