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Attractions

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Luke Sommer Glenn Blog

What's Hot & What's Not

Artists of the Month:

Artful Treasures

Remembering Mr. Bill Beaver

Maps

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Getting from Here to There

All the Buzz

Coco-Nut Funnies

Business in the Keys

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Conch Characters

Daily OM



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Coconut Telegraph

October 2026
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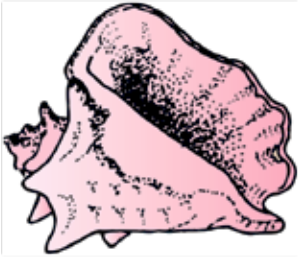
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Key Largo, Florida Keys
33037

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Cuban Tree Frog

by Carol Ellis

By the mid-1920s, Cuban Tree Frogs had arrived in the Florida Keys via cargo, such as bananas, transported on ships.

Our Canadian friend George was seated on the toilet when suddenly something jumped from inside the bowl and attached firmly to his family jewels. This rugged and stoic hunk of a real man bolted up, freed the frog from his hang me down and ran outside to distance himself from the critter. A Cuban Tree Frog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*)... AKA Frogzilla (Godzilla has nothing on this guy)... was in the most sacred room of the house and George wanted as much distance between he and it as possible.

Florida was never George's favorite place and this incident did not improve the situation. Tree frogs are associated with trees like Canadians are to hockey rinks. It is totally natural for a tree



During the day the Cuban Tree Frog seeks shelter under shutters and around screen doors. This polite invader tries to use the door knocker to gain access.

frog to climb a tree. They have specially suited suction cupped toes that make them excellent climbers. Once up in the tree the frog jumps onto the roof of a house where they seek out the warmth of the shingles.

Once warmed up, they start searching for a cooler area, and the toilet vent pipe is often the place. Frogs can fall into your bathroom vent pipe and that's how they end up in the toilet. This incident never would have happened if George had simply cut back the trees that hung over his roof and installed a wire mesh screen over the toilet vent pipe. These frogs are known to be nuisance pests that often invade plumbing systems, toilets and sink drains, but can also can cause havoc with utilities and make a general mess wherever they hide.



Cover roof vent pipes with hardware cloth and wire mesh to prevent entry into buildings by Cuban Tree Frogs. Credit: UF/IFAS

During the day they seek out cool places, often under shutters and between patio doors. Each Spring when we lubricate the accordion shutters before hurricane season, we always find stains down the wall behind the panels where the frogs have been hiding. As we close the shutters, the frogs emit mucous that is noxious to humans and pets, and can cause an allergic reaction and trigger asthma.

At night Cuban tree frogs are attracted by lights, which attract bugs and provide a powerful incentive for tree frogs looking for a meal.

There is nothing more tropical than the croak of frogs on a humid summer evening. It starts with a single utterance from a lone frog, then seconds later another chimes in, and before you know it is an out of tune stereophonic chorus resonating from the pond, the hedges, the tree tops, the gutter track and rainwater cistern. Be



quiet and listen, as there is no way you can talk over the noise. What was the Grimm brothers message in their fairy tale The Frog Prince? Was it that beauty is in the eye of the beholder? Some may see a frog, but the princess sees something more beautiful, so she kisses the frog and a curse is broken and the frog becomes her handsome prince. It reminds me of an incident that happened during my sailing days, at English Harbor, Antigua. The Captain's daughter, who was about 5 years old at the time, paused to marvel at a frog sitting on a tree. As she grew closer, the frog jumped onto her face! Yikes. No prince appeared however. Frogs are a bit creepy, and slimy but also beautiful in their creation.

Since the first Cuban Tree frogs were discovered in Key West they have progressively spread north to the Florida mainland most likely by the construction of State Road A1A in the 1940s, on trucks full of plants and produce. They are now are firmly

Cuban Tree Frog... CONTINUED - Photos by Carol Ellis except as noted.



The non-native Cuban Tree Frog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*) is the largest tree frog in N. America and its size ranges from 2 - 5-1/2 inches long. They can change their color and pattern for camouflage.

established as far north as South Carolina. Their ability to thrive in urban areas have made it highly invasive. Cuban Tree Frogs are commonly available in pet stores.

Cubans are the largest tree frogs, varying in size from 2 to 5.5 inches in length. They eat insects, but also prey on our native tree frogs, including their tadpoles. The invasive Cuban variety outcompete our native tree frogs such as the American Green Tree Frog (*Hyla cinerea*) which is only 1 to 3 inches long and the Squirrel Tree Frog (*Hyla squirella*) which is smaller, only 1 to 1-1/2 inches long. A Cuban female can lay several hundred to 1000 eggs at a time, and eggs hatch in 30 hours and tadpoles can fully develop in one month.

Features that can help identify Cuban Tree Frogs are their large physical size and larger sticky pads on their toes. They can change color and patterns, and can be white, beige, brown, yellow, green or combinations of these colors. Their skin is rough and warty.

Cuban Tree Frogs are considered invasive, so you can attempt to contain them by making a Tree Frog House. By remov-



The native American Green Tree Frog (*Hyla cinerea*) grows to 1 - 3 inches long. Credit: UF/IFAS



Cuban tree frogs are mostly gray, brown, or green. This young frog, resting on an orchid leaf has a more greenish color than an adult.

ing Cuban Tree Frogs, you can help native tree frogs survive. This UF extension publication explains more: <https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/UW308>

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.



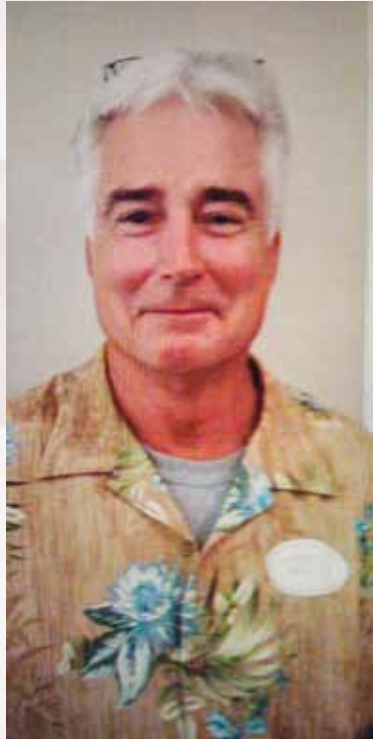
This Cuban Tree Frog apparently likes the warmth of the vehicle's hood.



The coloration of the Squirrel Tree Frog ranges from green to tan, gray or brown. Credit: USGS



The native Squirrel Tree Frog (*Hyla squirella*), is only 1 to 1-1/2 inches long and are rapidly disappearing due to predation by the invasive Cuban Tree Frog. Credit: UF/IFAS



Stephen Vincent Ford
June 27, 1954-August 25, 2026

Stephen was born in Coral Gables, FL. He graduated from Nova High School where he participated in multiple athletic programs. He went on to attend some community college. He moved to Key Largo not long after, along with his parents Joan and John (Jack) Ford and brother Richard Ford. Stephen then went on to join the United States Navy, and after being honorably discharged, returned to Key Largo, where he was employed at different businesses throughout the community. An avid fisherman, he loved to be outdoors and on the water and surrounded by family and friends. Stephen moved from Key Largo with his mother to Sebring, FL, married in 2014, and adopted his son in 2023. Hedied peacefully at his home in Inverness, FL. He is survived by his wife, Lynda Holt Ford, his son Jace Ford, his nephews John and Christopher Ford and his cousins Paul and (Laura) Struve, Christine Fletcher and John and (Vanessa) Struve. The family will return his cremated remains to his beloved Keys at a later date. Stephen was a wonderful husband, friend and father. He had the kindest heart and was very caring and giving. Stephen will be greatly missed by all who loved him and knew him.

Key Largo Branch Library *Free!*

Concert Series

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



Things I've Learned from Watching The Movies

1. If staying in a haunted house, women should investigate any strange noises wearing their most revealing underwear.

2. If being chased through town, you can usually take cover in a passing St Patrick's Day parade - at any time of the year.

3. It's easy for anyone to land a plane, providing there is someone in the control tower to talk you down.

4. Once applied, lipstick will never rub off - even while scuba diving.

5. The ventilation system of any building is a perfect hiding place. No one will ever think of looking for you in there and you can travel to any other part of the building without difficulty.

6. Should you wish to pass yourself off as a German officer it will not be necessary to speak the language. A German accent will do.

7. A man will show no pain while taking the most ferocious beating but will wince when a woman tries to clean his wounds.

8. When paying for a taxi, never look at your wallet as you take out a note - just grab one at random and hand it over. It will always be the exact fare

9. During all police investigations, it will be necessary to visit a strip club at least once.

10. Cars and trucks that crash will almost always burst into flames.

11. A single match will be sufficient to light up a room the size of a football stadium.

12. It is always possible to park directly outside the building you are visiting.

13. All single women have a cat.

14. One man shooting at 20 men has a better chance of killing them all than 20 men firing at one.

15. It does not matter if you are heavily outnumbered in a fight involving martial arts - your enemies will wait patiently to attack you one by one by dancing around in a threatening manner until you have knocked out their predecessor.

16. When you turn out the light to go to bed, everything in your room will still be clearly visible, just slightly bluish.

17. Dogs always know who's bad and will naturally bark at them.

18. Rather than wasting bullets, megalomaniacs prefer to kill their arch-enemies using complicated machinery involving fuses, pulley systems, deadly gases, lasers. etc.

19. No matter how fuzzy the photograph, it can be enlarged and enhanced to show the finest detail.

20. A million dollars in cash or cocaine will invariably take up exactly the amount of space available in your briefcase.
-

You have Friends at the Key Largo Branch Library... and your Friends have been busy!

by Karen Beal

October begins the "Busy Season" for library events. In addition to the many programs run by staff that include children's reading and teen STEM and gaming opportunities, art classes, guided discussion groups and singer-songwriter concerts are sponsored by the Friends of the Key Largo Library. Six free concerts are being hosted by the Friends starting on October 2 (Brian Smalley, then November 6 (Daniel Gallup) and again at the beginning of each month through April. The singer-songwriters come from all parts of Florida and have won awards or been featured on Michael Stock's Folk & Acoustic Guitar program. New talent and some returning favorites will begin playing at 6pm each month on the first Friday night.



Six art classes each using the skills of a different master artist are scheduled between October 23rd and the end of February. During the month of March the students' work will be on exhibition at the library. There is no charge for the

classes but they are limited to 20 students; registration starts 2 weeks before and fills up fast!



Creative Monday (1-3pm) each week will offer a mini-class to loosen up your creative spirit. Members from the Art Guild of the Purple Isles generously volunteer to lead each meeting.

Great Decisions is an informative discussion exercise. Dates and topics will be announced. The Foreign Policy Association created the program covering eight topics of worldwide interest. We are hoping for a return of the Beginner Ukulele class and Conch Shell Blowing class in 2027, to be announced with much fanfare, no doubt. Watch for more programs and dates and come visit your Friends at the library! The Book Sale and your donations make these programs possible.



Friends of the Key Largo Library

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

October is a hauntingly perfect time to visit your local library and open a book to find the specter inside. There is always something happening at your local library. Don't miss out as there is something for everyone!!

KEY LARGO BRANCH LIBRARY

1st Friday Concerts return at 6pm, every 1st Friday from October to April, see ad on page 6 for headliners.

Creative Mondays are back! Join in and release the artist within.

Wednesday nights bring excitement: **Reel Deal: Movie Club**, every 3rd Wednesday at 5pm October to April, **Cuentame con Café**, every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month.

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

MM 101.4 OCEANSIDE •TRADEWINDS PLAZA

Scan the QR or use the link for loads of information about these and many other free activities at your branch libraries!



bit.ly/upper-keys-calendar



ISLAMORADA BRANCH LIBRARY

Crafting Co-op offers an evening of fun, October 6th & 20th at 5:30pm, all ages are welcome to enjoy an evening of crafting from jewelry to painting!

Kids Programming, every day, Monday through Friday.



Plus: Stem Stuff, Dungeons and Dragons, Tech Support, Gaming, Book Club, Art Adventures, Creative Writing, Crafting, Homeschool Activities and more... follow the link to see!

MM 81.8 BAYSIDE ON OVERSEAS HWY.

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 <i>Wayne Thiebaud</i> 	Nov 21 Diane Smith <i>Gustav Klimt</i> 	Jan 16 Peter Turner <i>Kinusaiga quilting</i> 
Jan 29 Gloria Avner <i>Piet Mondrian</i> 	Feb 12 Mary Ellen Holler <i>Georges Seurat</i> 	Feb 26 Gisela Llorens <i>Edgar Degas</i> 

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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LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UPPER KEYS

League of Women Voters of the Upper Keys is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization

Artists of the Month: Artful Treasures

by Karen Beal

Two Debbies meet at an antique shop... the start of our story...

Debbie Cherubini explains, "My friend invited me to join her at her new shop, Debbie's Emporium."

Debbie Fisher is the owner of The Emporium, oceanside at 91 mile marker. "I love the mix of vintage place settings, sparkling crystal stemware, curated art and tchotchkes," she says. "And finding the story behind each item." Like an artist, Fisher loves creating tables and shelves that beg for your eye to linger. Living in the Keys makes beautiful items seem exotic.

Fisher started visiting the Keys in 1971 and later moved here full time working at Largo Honda. Her selling experience proved helpful at the Emporium.

Debbie Cherubini has art in her blood. Her grandfather had studied in Europe and was a painter. With some formal art education at Michigan State, she switched gears and became a teacher in Miami-Dade Schools. When she left teaching, Cherubini took watercolor classes from Christine O'Neil at Founders Park. That was just the push she needed.

Cherubini shares, "There are many artists and art events here that I enjoy. Keys' people are warm and welcoming as most people have transplanted themselves from other states and are eager to make friends. I first came to the Keys in 1974 during Spring Break. I loved the beauty and having grown up in Michigan I especially loved the weather."

In a world where long-term friendships are a thing of beauty, Debbie's Emporium is the place to find something special.



Debbie Fisher shows off the eye-catching storefront at MM 91 oceanside in Tavernier.



Deborah Cherubini with Poppies.



Palms Blowing in the Breeze, acrylic.



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To Have Nothing and Yet Have it All: Remembering Mr. Bill Beaver

by Karen Beal



Bill Beaver was a Keys character who lived life on his own terms. I followed him on Facebook from 2024-2020.

He hitchhiked to Oregon several times. Its was 3,447 miles one way from Marathon Florida to Oregon. Along the way he would ask folks to take his photo with them and post it on his Facebook Humans of the Keys page to let his friends know where he was and that he was OK. He did this trip 4 times for a total of 13,787.6 miles.

Here is his story in his words:

"When I was young, everyone was in my head except me; sometimes there are too many people in your life that try to tell you what to do. My mother always said that some people are easily led, and that was me. I had a construction job in Miami but the people I worked with were drug users. I left. Now I am homeless. I don't smoke, drink, or take dope, nothing negative whatsoever. I have a pretty good reputation and everyone here knows me and the cops leave me alone. I chose to live simply.

"I hang out at the tree behind the store here and I

meet a lot of people. I don't know why I am meeting them, you wouldn't believe it. I thought it would be a bunch of drunks and dope addicts but it hasn't been that way whatsoever. I meet people from all walks of life and from all over the world actually. My life's dream is to go to Oregon. I want to go see the Oregon State Beavers play, because my last name is Beaver. That makes sense, right? "



In September of 2020 Bill passed away. He had the phone number of a friend in his wallet, so the police called her. It was confirmed there is no foul play suspected.

Bill was a wonderful human being. He spread hope, positivity and love everywhere he went. In today's world where hate, dark hearts, and bullying is running rampant, he is a wonderful example of how we are to treat each other.



So many posts like these:

"I happened to be driving and saw this man walking down the road. Something told me to go check and see if he needed anything. Turns out he walks all over the country! I really wanted to cry when he began to tell me his life story and how he has been through so much in his younger days. He has an impact on every person he meets. "



"Bill made it safe to Creswell, OR. First time in my entire life I picked up someone walking down the road. I stopped thinking I was doing something nice and he was the one that did me a favor with his amazing and kind words!!"

"So we just saw Bill. He told us he is heading down to Corvallis to see The Beavers stadium, and then he is heading back to Marathon. He really wants to get home to the Keys before cold weather sets in. If any of you are heading that way and want a great conversation, it is a once in a lifetime experience. He is a really amazing man."



"OMGoodness, I am so happy to tell ya'll that I found and heard back from Corey Gibbs for the Oregon State Beaver ticket and he is waiting to hear from Bill to get him his ticket on the 50 yard line, front and center at the Beavers game that he was promised 4 years ago!!"

"It was a real joy to me to buy him that ticket and I mailed it to one of his friends at the hardware store across the street from his light pole and he emailed me that he gave it to Bill who was overwhelmed with joy. I'm going to try to watch the game Friday to see if I can see him and the smile on his face.



"I hope our paths cross again. I work at the Beaver store every home football game. Please stop by when you get that game ticket and allow me to buy you a souvenir. Good luck!"

"I met Bill on a street in Corvallis, OR. He is very excited to have a ticket to the OSU Beaver football game. Later, after working my shift, I said goodnight to Bill who was sitting on the sidewalk next to the bike shop. Bill was leafing through about 40 pages of his Facebook notes that the ladies at the library had printed for him.."

"Last night Bill went to the Beaver's game and will be heading home soon. I don't know if there are pictures, I just watched his belongings while he was at the game, big bags are restricted in the stadium."

"Yesterday a good Samaritan gave Bill a ride to a nearby town in an old converted ambulance (he loved that!). He found a replacement for his travel cart...on sale! This morning Bill had just done his laundry at a nearby public park and was drying pants and two shirts on the cart handles.

"I had the great experience of hanging with Bill Beaver today. I passed him, looked in my rearview mirror and I had to go back. He got in and I introduce myself as did he - and he kept talking the whole way, and I didn't mind one bit- (what a cool old man I kept thinking)."



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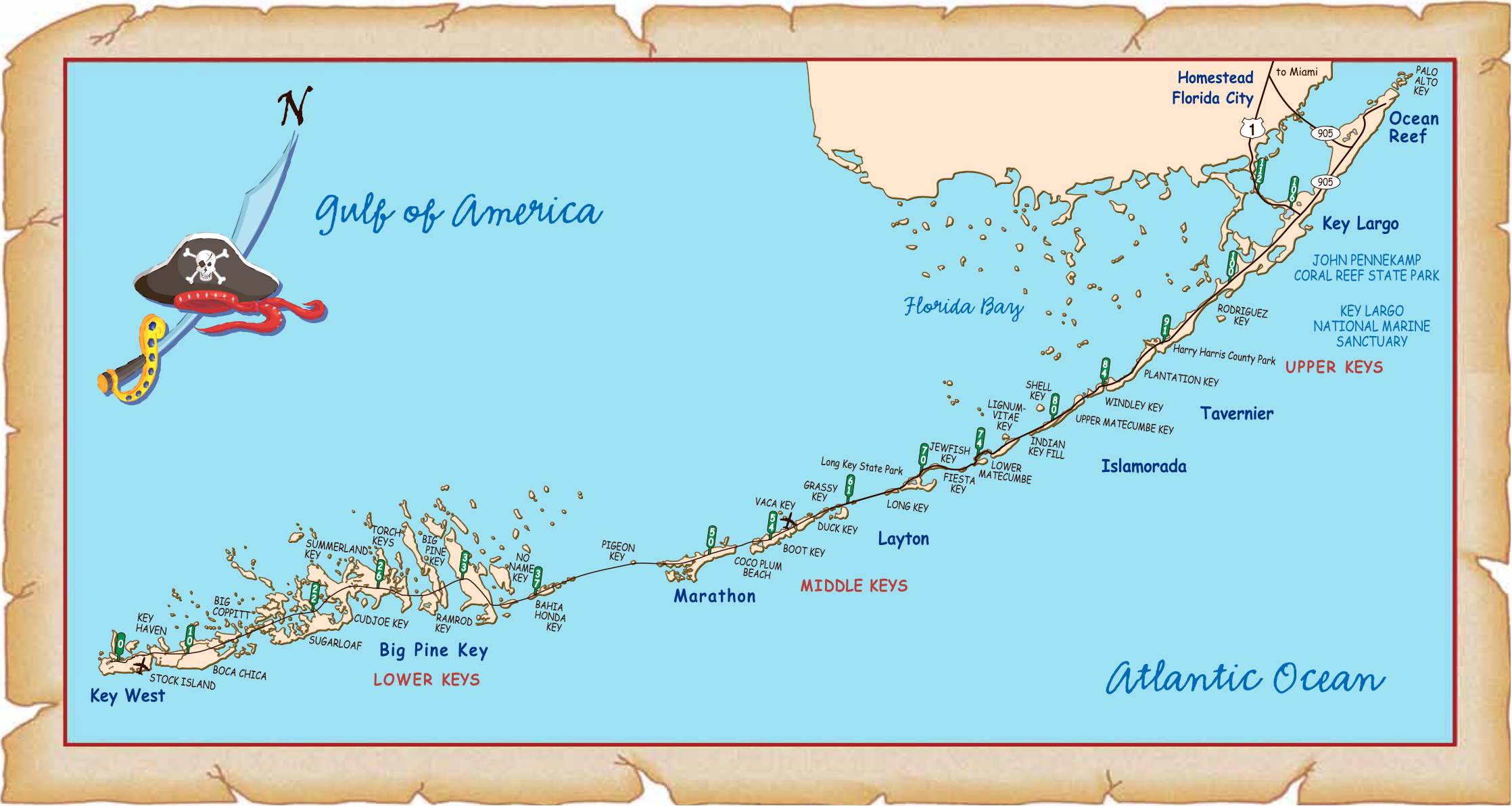
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Straight Line on a Crooked Highway — A blog by Luke Sommer Glenn

I've never been good at toeing the line. I've always been too sloppy, clumsy or inebriated. I can't draw a straight line, much less cut anything straight. It's hard to walk straight on a crooked highway.

I was hanging out with a bartender and her family. They were recent transplants from up north and had very different customs than my upbringing.

Grandma was into the whole Catholic, Virgin Mary weirdness. There were statues depicting the ladies of Fatima, Lourdes and Guadalupe, in every corner of the house.

Being Southern Baptist, I was taught that all that stuff was blasphemous, so I didn't regard it as "sacred" as I should have. Grandma was having wine and seemed to be loosened up. The rest of the family didn't mind their p's and q's, so I figured they didn't take their religion so seriously.

Totally unlike my own Bible-thumping Mother and siblings who NEVER indulged in any form of alcohol and didn't use coarse language

I thought Grandma would enjoy a little harmless joke about the priest and the nun with the "\$10 bucks, same as downtown" punchline. Boy was I wrong. There went my chances with the bartender's pretty-faced younger sister with the pear-shaped ass...

I had told what I thought were far more offensive jokes that evening, but I guess the wine turned psycho in Grandma Fatima and drama exploded. The entire family erupted into some kind of fight that had to have been festering just beneath the surface for a while.

The bartender's husband and her father came to blows over the son-in-law's inappro-

priate behavior towards the doll-faced little sister. Mom, little sis and Grandma were screaming simultaneously—who knew about what.

I made my exit with my bartender friend on my heels. When we got to my truck, I stuck the key in the door and turned around to apologize for stirring up the hornet's nest when she jumped up on me, threw her arms around my neck, wrapped her legs around my midsection and laid a stunningly passionate kiss on me.

It have lasted longer than I perceived because next thing I knew, Grandma was peeling her granddaughter from around my person and gave me a look like I was Lucifer incarnate.

The neighbors had called the police. The bartender's husband and dad both went to jail. After everyone, including myself, gave a statement to the officials, the drama was over. Grandma went to her room.

The bartender had wanted to hook me up with her sister, at least that was the original plan. Her sister was cute but lacked personality to put it nicely. The bartender saw something in me that she liked but her sister didn't. That's okay because, other than her being married, the bartender and I had natural chemistry.

Acted upon or not, animal attraction can awaken the hope of something better than what we have—or somewhere better than where we are. I think my bartender friend just wanted some excitement, something different than her day-to-day.

It's hard to toe the line in a hurricane and sometimes it really isn't my fault.

A few years earlier, a good friend and fellow partier made the mistake of marrying a girl nicknamed "Tits." She was the

closest thing to an actual succubus I had run afoul of at that naive age.

My friend wasn't the beach lover that I was, and she was a sun sponge, so he didn't mind her taking me to the beach.

We'd been acquaintances previous to their nuptials, and I let her read through my box of poems and stories I had been writing since I was a child.

Before things got weird, she spent months to convince me to hand over the box. She promised to type it all up and organize it for me. I repeatedly refused until she finally said, "If you were really my friend, you'd let me do this for you." I gave in. What a sucker!

It was all fun and games until she started showing up at my hangouts. I'd tell her to go back home to her husband. My guys would run her off when she would come around looking for me.

I was at the ABC Lounge drinking fifty-cent bourbon on ice, sink or swim night, because I've always drank for the buzz.

They had a jukebox. When it played a song I didn't like, I would hip check it and it would play the next song. All my buddies had gone home, but I had recently been dumped and was doing a fine job of drowning my sorrows.

After \$20 worth of rotgut bourbon, I thought I heard an angel calling out. Then an abrupt voice asked a question that cut through the blurry-eyed fog of inebriation; it took all the lead out of my pencil—"What about Joe?"

My heart sank as I realized who was doing the talking. A

rage shot through me—I was mad at myself, mad at her for putting me on the spot. She KNEW the ramifications.

The twist to it was she wasn't really interested in me; just wanted to cause great pain to Joe- who loved her.

Had it been an honest mistake she wouldn't have rushed home to torture him, withholding who her co-conspirator was for hours. When she finally told him it was me, he grabbed a gun and was mad enough to kill. Luckily for me he had reconsidered everything by the time he found me; he recalled the time I talked him through what could've been a bad acid trip and all the times he'd heard me admonish her for following me around.

All of our mutual acquaintances were dismayed, and I had a few hairy confrontations over it. They divorced and I went on the road. I've never seen the big box of everything I had written from first grade to the age of 25 again, she "lost" it or more likely threw it away. That was my punishment for dancing with the Devil.

Another cruel twist for human beings: everything fun, especially sex and food, is another fine line that moves as we age. It's extremely difficult for some of us to toe the line. Moderation is the key to life, and I'm wired to run wide effing open.

Luke Sommer Glenn is a local entertainer and Conch Character.



For more info:
www.lukesommerglenn.com

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ON THE MAP

WINNER: Worst Job Experience Contest: Bad Day at the Office

This is even funnier when you realize it's real! Next time you have a bad day at work think of this guy.

Bob is a commercial saturation diver for Global Divers in Louisiana. He performs underwater repairs on offshore drilling rigs.

Below is an e-mail he sent to his sister. She then sent it to radio station 103.5 FM in Indiana, who was sponsoring a worst job experience contest.

Needless to say, she won. Read his letter below:

Hi Sara,
Just another note from your bottom-dwelling brother. Last week I had a bad day at the office. I know you've been feeling down lately at work, so I thought I would share my dilemma with you to make you realize it's not so bad after all. Before I can tell you what happened to me, I first must bore you with a few technicalities of my job.

As you know, my office lies at the bottom of the sea. I wear a suit to the office. It's a wet suit. This time of year the water is quite cool. So what we do to keep warm is this: We have a diesel powered industrial water heater. This \$20,000 piece of equipment sucks the water out of the sea. It heats it to a delightful temperature. It then pumps it down to the diver through a garden hose, which is taped to the air hose.

Now this sounds like a darn good plan, and I've used it several times with no complaints. What I do, when I get to the bottom and start working, is take

the hose and stuff it down the back of my wet suit. This floods my whole suit with warm water. It's like working in a Jacuzzi.

Everything was going well until all of a sudden, my butt started to itch. So, of course, I scratched it.

This only made things worse. Within a few seconds it started to burn. I pulled the hose out from my back, but the damage was done. In agony I realized what had happened. The hot water machine had sucked up a jellyfish and pumped it into my suit!

Now, since I don't have any hair on my back, the jellyfish couldn't stick to it, however, the crack of my butt was not as fortunate. When I scratched what I thought was an itch, I was actually grinding the jellyfish into the crevice.

I informed the dive supervisor of my dilemma over the communicator. His instructions were unclear due to the fact that he, along with five other divers, were all laughing hysterically. Needless to say, I aborted the dive.

I was instructed to make three agonizing in-water decompression stops totaling thirty-five minutes before I could reach the surface to begin my chamber dry decompression. When I arrived at the surface, I was wearing nothing but my brass helmet As I climbed out of the water, the medic, with tears of laughter running down his face, handed me a tube of cream and told me to rub it on my butt as soon as I got in the chamber. The cream put the fire out, but I couldn't take a crap for two

days because my backside was swollen shut.

So, next time you're having a bad day at

work, think about how much worse

it would be if you had a jellyfish shoved up your ass. Now repeat to yourself, 'I love my job, I love my job, I love my job.'

When you have a bad day, ask yourself, is this a jellyfish bad day?



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ALABAMA JACKS
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On the back of the shirt is Carol's original image of a Cuban migrant fishing vessel, brought ashore in 1988 and propped in front of Alabama Jack's in the historic fishing village of Downtown Card Sound Road.

Carol photographed the boat with her film camera and some years later returned to hand-paint the now digital image on her computer.

The passage of time has erased most all the evidence of this once-thriving spot in the Florida Keys, the fishing boat vanquished back to sea with the Category 5 hurricane Andrew. However, the image still survives as a reminder of an earlier time.

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Letter to the Editor
Bike Path to Golf Kart Path

Lots of towns and cities in the U.S. have allowed golf carts to use bike paths and walk ways. Our island needs to do that.

We need to allow golf carts to use our bike path, for several reasons:

1. It would save our citizens money, using electric instead of expensive gasoline to get around our island
2. It is better for our delicate ecology, saving on air pollution, and if you live by US 1 (we all do) you have seen the exhaust and street pollution on your property and automobiles parked in your yard caused by the traffic on US 1
3. It would cut down on traffic, especially during season.

I think to do this, our County should do the following:

1. Put and enforce a speed limit of 12 mph on the kart path which would also hopefully slow down those 30 mph dangerous electric scooters and bikes that use the path
2. Paint a center line down the path for proper karts and bike passing on either side
3. Require head lights and tail lights at night, just like bikes
4. Require karts to cross at our stop-lighted street intersections and the pedestrian crossing at the 100 mile marker
5. To support the cost of center painting the path, require a \$25 a year permit for use of the path with motorized non-combustion vehicles.

Let's ask the County to do something positive for our citizens! If you agree with me please contact monroecounty-fl.gov (phone:(305) 453-8787) and ask our Commissioners to pass this.

Capt Sterling Kennedy
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Not Knowing Is Okay

In many ways, not knowing what the future has in store brings out the qualities we need to grow.



Sometimes, we may find ourselves wishing we knew what our lives were going to look like, or what gifts and challenges were going to be presented to us in the coming months or years. We may want to know if the relationship we're in now will go the distance or if our goals will be realized. Perhaps we feel like we need help making a decision and want to know which choice will work out best. We may consult psychics, tarot cards, our dreams, and many other sources in the hopes of finding out what the future holds. Usually, at most, we may catch glimpses. And even though we think we'd like to know the whole story in all its details, the truth is that we would probably be overwhelmed and exhausted if we knew everything that is going to happen to us.

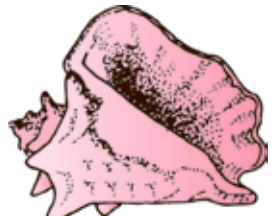
Just consider your life as you've lived it up to this point. If you're like most of us, you've probably done and faced much more than you ever could have imagined. If someone had told you as a child of all the jobs and relationships you would experience, along with each

one's inherent ups and downs, you'd have become overwhelmed. With your head full of information about the future, you would have had a very hard time experiencing your life in the present moment, which is where everything actually happens.

In many ways, not knowing what the future has in store brings out in us the qualities we need to grow. For example, it would have been difficult to commit yourself to certain people or projects if you knew they wouldn't ultimately work out. Yet, it was because of your commitment to see them through that you experienced the lessons necessary to become your best self. Looking back on your life, you would likely be hard-pressed to say that anything in your past shouldn't have happened. In fact, your most challenging experiences with their inevitable lessons may have ultimately brought you the greatest rewards. Not knowing the future keeps us just where we need to be — fully committed and in the present moment.

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

Conch Characters



Leslie Patterson won the member plant at the Florida Keys Orchid Club in September.



Key Largo Fire Rescue Chief Jeff Morse met with the Upper Keys League of Women Voters to provide an update on all of the positive changes at the Fire-Rescue Department. (L-R) KLFR Chaplin Evelyn Hardee, Chief Morse, Karen Beal, Connie Miller, Joyce Peckman, Ginette Hughes.



Congratulations to Jayden Henderson and Katie Rose McKibbin who eloped to Picnic Island (off Key West). Jaden is the son of Angela Boehm and Dale Henderson of Key Largo.

Around Town

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.



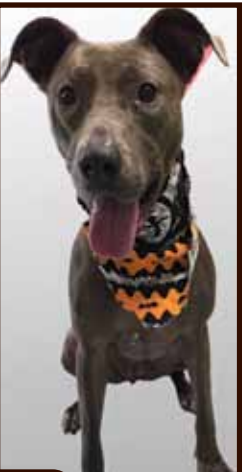
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					Michael Trixx @Sunset	
4 Webb & Davidson 5-9	5 Open for Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner 7am-10pm Enjoy breakfast on the deck overlooking the water.			8	9 Shin Dig 5-9	10 Abstract Radio 5-9
					Michael Trixx @Sunset	
11 Webb & Davidson 5-9	12 Live Music and Waterfront Dining Lunch & Dinner on the deck or on the beach			15	16 Carousers 5-9	17 Brothers of Others 5-9
					Michael Trixx @Sunset	
18 Webb & Davidson 5-9	19 Happy Hour 7 days • 4-6pm • Drink Specials and a variety of low-priced munchies			22	23 Carousers 5-9	24 Abstract Radio 5-9
					Michael Trixx @Sunset	
25 Webb & Davidson 5-9	26 "Sunday School" \$4 Bloody Marys, Mimosas & Screwdrivers Every Sunday 7-11 am			29	30 Shin Dig 5-9	31 Brothers of Others 5-9 
					Michael Trixx @Sunset	



We have 32 world-renowned **FISHING GUIDES** based at Lorelei!

