

Cayman's

We Are Fun News Not Fake News!

A non-profit publication for our visitors to the FAR SIDE

FUN NEWS

FREE

A VISITORS GUIDE TO THE FAR SIDE • BODDEN TOWN • BREAKERS • EAST END • NORTH SIDE & OUR SISTER ISLANDS

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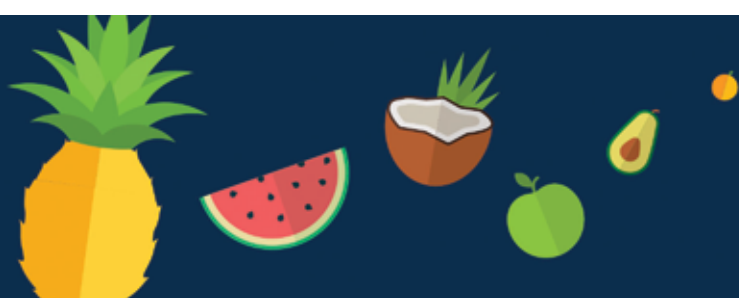
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Lion Fish - From Bad to Good

Steve Broadbelt and his team at Ocean Frontiers have culled way over 12,000 lionfish from East End reefs; Chef Ron Hargrave from Tukka and Chef Wayne from Eagle Rays have purchased a majority of these predators to cook up in delectable local dishes. Lionfish are beautiful, resilient and strong - a cool fish, but they are deadly to our reefs and if we don't stop them from multiplying, we have a serious problem. Steve Broadbelt has watched the invasion and has deep concern for the marine environment. "Lionfish are still around,

but largely under control, but we still need to weed the garden to keep on top of any increases in their population" says Steve. Once the "bad" predators are bagged and brought to the surface, there's more to the story. Public enemy # 1 on the reef becomes the famous lionfish Taco. Rather than being discouraged by the lionfish presence, many communities have decided to turn this challenge into an opportunity to explore a unique and delicious culinary experience. When alive, lionfish are known for their venomous fin rays, which makes them hazardous to other ma-



rine animals, as well as humans. However, after a visit to the frying pan, this fish becomes a delight in your

belly. So when visiting the Far Side, be sure to place an order for these invaders at your favourite restaurants.

FUN NEWS

We are a Fun, non-political and most of the time a non-profit publication that lets our Far-Side visitors and "Snow-Birds" know where to dine, dance, dive, drink, shop and walk quiet beaches on the Far-Side. The Far-Side meaning from Pedro Castle on east and north and over the sea to our sister islands.

We appreciate any positive comments, feedback and suggestions. Anything negative we will return at your expense. Don't send us any suggestions dealing with politics or negative world news, we are FUN NEWS - keeping things happy during your vacation.

Contact us at: **Email** barefoot@candw.ky
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Editor - Laura Hardman
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Eat Like A Local

The food of the Cayman Islands includes traditional Afro-Caribbean fare such as cassava, johnny cake, bread fruit, plantain, and meat patties. Jamaican cuisine has also been an influence in the Cayman Islands, and jerk seasoning has become popular for use on meat dishes such

as chicken, fish and pork. Curry is also used frequently in rice, chicken, and fish dishes. Traditional Caymanian fare includes dishes made from turtle meat, conch, goat, and fish such as grouper and snapper.

You'll find in the Far-Side districts such dishes



Nothing like a huge juicy sweet mango that drizzles through your fingers - what a messy delight.

are more available than on the 7 Mile Beach side. The Grapetree Cafe in Bodden Town is famous for it's fish-fry on the beach. Don't miss the jerk pork or jerk chicken created by Denise at the Czech Inn, located also in Bodden town. At the South Coast

(Seaside) Grill in Breakers, Tony serves up lots of local favourites including Fried sprats and weekly Lobster Feasts. Lion Fish Tacos are famous at TUKKA - "fresh from the sea to your plate". Also Over The Edge and Rum Point always have some interesting surprises

on the menu.

If you are in town for a day trip, the large supermarkets like Foster's Food Fair put on a daily lunch and dinner buffet which always includes plenty of local fare such as curried

Cont. on page 7

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Bush Medicine

There was a time in Cayman, when the seriously sick could not call an ambulance, the nearest hospital was in Jamaica this was way before any sort of flying craft even came near the Cayman Islands. The journey, by sail, could take several days, or longer, subject to wind conditions. Often, depending on the illness, the patient would pass away before reaching Jamacia. Fortunately, most Caymanians at the time remained rather healthy due to lots of sunshine, healthy eating habits, hard work and few virus-carrying visitors.

With families to maintain and daily chores to be done, Caymanians of yesteryear living off the land and sea had to learn to make use of the resources on hand, which included the local herbs. The knowledge about the medicinal and therapeutic uses of these plants, once passed down from generation to generation, is sadly difficult to access these days. However, thanks to the efforts of a few individuals and organizations, among them North Side's Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, that knowl-

edge is being preserved.

Medicinal plants have their own special section of the park's Heritage Garden. The garden also features a traditional Caymanian cottage built circa 1900 and once owned by Julius Rannekin of East End, a front sand garden, grounds for the cultivation of root crops and vegetables, and a collection of traditional fruit trees.

The garden reflects the importance of the Earth's bounty to survival in Cayman's challenging conditions. Herbs provided medicine for health, flavor for the pot, fragrance for the skin and hair, and, for some, the added recreation of a good smoke. "There was no modern medicine back in Cayman's early days, and people had to rely on what is known as 'bush medicine,' which, what people may not be aware of, is the origin of many modern medicines as we know them today," said park manager John Lawrus. "Most societies in the Tropics valued the therapeutic uses of plants, and the same was true in the Cayman Islands," he said. "Some of these traditional remedies are now becoming well



Ms. Toosie, who before her passing, resided in Breakers. She would get regular visits from a Government nurse who would take her blood pressure and leave her pills. She put the medication in the cookie jar and never use it. She'd place leaves under the Pacman cap instead to relieve fever and headaches.

known in alternative medicine to treat various ailments."

In Cayman, families grew or gathered these valued plants, dried and preserved them for future use, and kept seeds from year to year. Plant traditions were passed down to children, who accompanied their parents inland to the family grounds to help with seeding the soil after helping

to harvest the crops. Herb plants were cherished, and folks watched to see that only what was needed was picked, so that others could make use the benefits of the plants. Even today, with a modern Government hospital and facilities such as Health City, some of the old-timers still prefer their medication comes from the bush rather than a pharmacy.

Open 9 AM to 5:30 PM
Last admission at 4:30 PM
We close Christmas Day
and Good Friday
We close at noon on Christmas
Eve and New Year's Eve.



Congratulations Archie Whittaker

Awarded by Trip Adviser, 5th Best of the Best in the World - The Crystal Caves in North Side - don't miss this on your island tour.



Situated in a lush tropical forest, the Cayman Crystal Caves are one of the island's newest natural tourist attractions. Your guide will take you on a 45 minute walk through three different caves. Venture through the open-ceiling cave, the roots cave, and the lake cave. Here you'll see the stalactite and stalagmite crystal structures and otherworldly formations made by single drops of water and the slow passage of time.

After exploring the caves, take a 30-minute nature walk through the unique tropical forest under which the caves formed. Among the forest are captivating tropical plants and animal life including strangler balsam trees, air plants, parrots, and bats. There will be 15 minutes of free time to explore the viewing deck where there is also a snack and gift shop.

Do Not Miss A Stop At This Place!

Hidden
Gem In
Bodden
Town



Czech out The Czech Inn. Charming enclosed patio bordered by a collection of surfboards. An extensive menu, including grilled Brie appetizer with balsamic glaze, salads, monster burgers, whole red snapper, and Chef Georges's famous jager schnitzel with garlic potato wedges. A huge selection of beers and wine. It's become a gathering spot for local celebrities.

Check out the Menu - <https://czechinngrill.com/>

Check out the HIT song & video - you tube - by Nicholas George <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3e5BvJSpSo>

Local Artist and Mark Cuban In Nashville

Recently local recording artist ‘The Barefoot Man’ made an appearance with Mark Cuban in Nashville. ABC TV was there filming an upcoming series of ‘SHARK TANK’ where ‘Barefoot’ was invited to perform one of his original songs. In this image, taking their picture is Nick Nowak who appeared on the show in November 2023 presenting his idea of the ‘TIK-PIK’ - the pick that sticks (to a guitar). Cuban liked the idea and the pitch presented by Nick and his partner Kevin Mac - he wrote them a check \$\$\$, and the rest is TIK-PIK history.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



We did the rounds on the Far-Side. Loved Over the Edge. Sitting on that seaside deck and lunching on lobster, plantain and other local goodies was a huge divergent from our home back in Long Island, New York. Later we visited Rum Point and the Crystal Caves. Our family had so much fun we did it all again the following day. Thanks FUN NEWS for all the info.

The Laguatti family, Long Island New York

Diving with Ocean Frontiers is like diving with the best of the best. We stayed on the 7-mile beach side and heard some folks rave about their experience with that company. They happen to have a copy of the FUN NEWS with them and there was an article about Ocean Frontiers, so we rented a car and did the long drive East - it was worth it, an amazing SCUBA experience, first-class. We know where our next vacation will be spent - out East.

Bob and Lauri Newton, NC USA

Thank you for all the e mails, and even some snail-mail. We did get plenty of (political points of view) concerning the USA election. No need to send us this boring information, we are NOT interested. We are FUN News, just happy stuff accepted. Write to PO Box 1249, GT Cayman Islands or drop an email to barefoot@candw.ky.



Winner - Fun News Readers favorite East End Waiter

Meet Mike Putchie, extraordinaire waiter in the EAST as voted by our FUN - NEWS readers. You can find him serving tacos and smiles at TUKKA EAST. From the country of Nicaragua, Mike loves Cayman, visitors... and tips. While at TUKKA EAST, reserve a seat on their new dock and check out the new song by Barefoot Man, titled ‘TUKKA DOCK’ on You-Tube or download at your favorite streaming service.

Come Visit Our Cigar Store In Bodden Town

"There are no bad cigars, only better ones".

Over the Edge

RESTAURANT AND BAR

A charming local restaurant in Old Man Bay on the Far Side, overlooking the Caribbean Sea. Join us seaside for a fresh ocean breeze, swaying palms and the real taste of Cayman in a casual atmosphere. Seafood is our specialty.

Telephone 947-9568 • over-theedge.com

The Cayman Islands National Anthem

Composed by - Leila Elberta Ross-Shier (born McTaggart 16 November 1886 - she worked as an educator, librarian and was an official Registrar of Births and Deaths. Despite the norm of segregation at the time, she encour-

aged all high school students to read, no matter the colour of their skin. Ross-Shier wrote "Beloved Isle Cayman" in 1930. She also wrote hymns and ballads, organized concerts and was a church organist. Ross-Shier was one of the signers of a petition that led

to granting women's suffrage in the Cayman Islands in 1959. Ross-Shier died on September 26, 1968, in Grand Cayman.

On You-Tube - National Anthem of the Cayman Islands: "Beloved Isle Cayman"

"Beloved Isle Cayman"

O land of soft, fresh breezes
And verdant trees so fair,
With the Creator's glory
Reflected ev'rywhere,
O sea of palest em'erald,
Merging to darkest blue,
Whene'er my thoughts fly Godward,
I always think of you.

Dear, verdant island,
set in blue Caribbean Sea,
I'm coming, coming very soon,
O beautiful isle, to thee.
Although I wandered far,
My heart enshrines thee yet.
Homeland, fair Cayman Isle,
I cannot thee forget.

Away from noise of cities,
Their fret and carking care,
With moonbeams' soft caresses,
Unchecked by garish glare,
Thy fruit with rarest juices,
Abundant, rich and free,
When sweet church bells are chiming,
My fond heart yearns for thee.

When tired of all excitement
And glam'rous worldly care,
How sweet thy shores to reach
And find a welcome there,
And when comes on the season
Of peace, goodwill to man,
'Tis then I love thee best of all,
Beloved Isle Cayman.

Did you Know? Who was Owen Roberts?



Caymans Owen Roberts International Airport is the main airport for the Cayman Islands as well as the main base for Cayman Airways. The airport is named after British Royal Air Force (RAF) Wing Commander Owen Roberts, a pioneer of commercial aviation in the country.

Owen Roberts Airport is one of the two entrance ports to the Cayman Islands. At one time, it was the only international airport remaining in the Caribbean with an open-air observation "waving gallery" until January 2017, when it was closed due to reconstruction. The upgraded Owen Roberts International Airport passenger terminal no longer has an outdoor observation "waving gallery," and that's too bad: the gallery is very much missed by locals.

Wg Cdr. Owen Roberts was

a Wing Commander in the Royal Air Force, during World War II. Following the war, Roberts retired and later founded Caribbean International Airways (CIA). By 1950, Roberts had established regular service between Grand Cayman and Tampa, Florida; Kingston, Jamaica; and British Honduras (now Belize). During the early 1950s, Caribbean International Airlines was operating weekly seaplane service between Grand Cayman and both Tampa and Kingston with Consolidated PBY Catalina amphibian aircraft as the airstrip on Grand Cayman had yet to be completed. In 1953 Roberts died in a plane crash.



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Stinky The Randy Dolphin Makes Headlines (Cayman-Sept 2012)

Were you hoping to get lucky on your vacation? You know, like Dudley Moore in the movie ‘10’. Well, that was fiction, this is fact. Back in 2012 a randy dolphin, by the name of ‘Stinky’ was looking for love in all the wrong places, in the waters off the Cayman Islands. He’d been getting frisky with divers in the area and was caught on video. The encounter with “Stinky” the dolphin was filmed by Michael Maes, an underwater videographer based on Grand Cayman Island. The video, posted to Maes’ You-Tube page, shows the lonesome dolphin circling and trying to “ride” Maes before turning to Maes’ friend. Stinky is then seen rubbing his body along the other diver’s back before trying to roll him over. Maes said he posted the video, which went viral with more than 102,000 views, to show the dangers of lone dolphins like Stinky, who was looking for a mate. “It remains a wild animal and Stinky is in an awkward situation, which can turn him into a playful killer-machine,” he wrote on his YouTube page. At the time Maes said - “Please be prudent people and get out of the water when you see him. Believe me, if he decides, you don’t stand the



slightest chance!”

The sight of the dolphin delighted many boaters, swimmers and divers, but his antics dismayed scientists who traveled to study him. They said at the time, “Stinky could be a danger to humans. This was confirmed by Laura Engleby, a marine mammal

branch chief with the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

At the time, Cayman Islands TV station CITN posted a poll on its site asking viewers whether the government should try to stop

Cont. on page 8

Eat Like A Local

Cont. from page 3

goat, Cayman style beef, rice and peas and baked plantain. Now, don’t forget to top all of this with some local award winning Tortuga Rum Cake, Tortuga Rum and a Cayman Cigar.

Bon Appetit



Seaside dining at Over The Edge

What is it?

IT’S AN AGOUTI

Agoutis have five toes on their front feet and three toes on their hind feet; the first toe is very small. The tail is very short or non-existent and hairless. The molar teeth have cylindrical crowns, with several islands and a single lateral with enamel fold. Agoutis may grow to be up to 60 cm (24 in) in length and 4 kg (8.8 lb) in weight. Most species are brown on their backs and whitish or buff on their bellies; the fur may have a glossy appearance and then glimmer in an orange colour.

In the wild, they are shy animals and flee from humans; in captivity, they can become trusting. In Trinidad, for example, they are renowned for being very fast runners, able to keep hunting dogs occupied by chasing them for hours. In Cayman they are known as a Cayman rabbit and can be seen



LilBit at the Parrot Sanctuary welcoming guests.

often dashing through the bush and wild of the North Side and East End part of the island. The Cayman Parrot Sanctuary in East End is the home of ‘Lil-bit’, considered the most famous rodent in the Caribbean. He loves taking pictures with visitors. Cayman rabbits (when cooked by a local) are also quite a delicacy - but don’t tell ‘Lil-bit’ that.

SUNDAY BRUNCH

EAST END 11:30 - 3 pm

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Rum Point Club Shines Bright: A Paradise for Food, Fun & Adventure



Rum Point Club continues to captivate beachgoers and food lovers with its vibrant charm and dynamic offerings. Whether you're here for a culinary adventure, a day of seaside adventure, or a shopping spree, this destination delivers an experience like no

other.

The culinary delights at Rum Point Club are a feast for the senses. Expert chefs have created a menu that harmoniously blends local Caribbean flavors with global inspirations. From tangy ceviche made with the day's fresh-

est catch to perfectly spiced jerk chicken marinated in secret island herbs, each dish is a celebration of flavor. Vegetarian and vegan options abound, ensuring something delicious for every palate.

Beyond its stellar cuisine, Rum Point Club boasts an array of amenities designed to make your visit unforgettable. Lounge chairs and cabanas invite relaxation by the sea, while adventurous guests can dive into exciting water sports like snorkeling, paddleboarding and jet skiing.

The on-site retail store, Treasure Chest, adds another layer of charm. Recently refreshed, it offers a curated selection of beachwear, souvenirs, and everyday essentials. Whether you're looking for the perfect memento or a last-minute item for your day in

Cont. on page 17



More people are killed every year by falling coconuts than by shark attacks. Every time you drink our local WHITE TIP beer - you help save a shark.

Stinky Cont. from page 7

Stinky's advances. Fifty-one percent of viewers said no, 33 percent said yes and 8 percent said they didn't know or they didn't care.

Dolphins in the wild are common sightings in the Bahamas, but

not so much in Cayman. Especially randy dolphins. No one knows what ever happened to 'Stinky' - hopefully he found a mate and lived happily ever after- Check out on YouTube - Dolphin Encounter - Stinky @ Hepps, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands



The Parrot Sanctuary collaborates with the Department of Environment for expert advice and veterinary treatment. Some 43 parrots have been released back into the wild.

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WHERE TRADITION LIVES AND LIVE IS CELEBRATED .

Grand Old House, built in 1908, is Cayman's oldest restaurant, situated in a historic Caymanian heritage landmark, it continues to be where tradition lives, and life is celebrated!

The beautifully preserved old house is the connection between times gone by and today's modern elegance.

Serving classic international dishes, boasting the largest wine collection in the Caribbean and a live Cuban cigar roller onsite are just some of many highlights. With seating's either on the waterfront deck starring nightly spectacular sunsets, or dining in one of our 8 air-conditioned private dining rooms adorned with art and wines. Every corner of this house serves the purpose of creating a truly spectacular dining experience.



MORE THEN JUST GORGEOUS WATERFRONT DINING!

The Wharf, a colorful waterfront restaurant, characterized by the sea surrounding it, est. in 1988, serving Caribbean fare and boasting the BEST VALUE wine list in the Caribbean. It has the perfect setting on the breezy edge of the ocean for a complete dining experience in a fun and relaxed atmosphere, where kids and adults alike can partake in the entertaining nightly fish feeding! The perfect experience for the entire family!



40 Minutes To Paradise - Little Cayman



With a population of only about 150 people, Little Cayman, an island of coral and sand that just got electricity in 1990, is an absolute paradise of beaches, lagoons, lush foliage and amazing diving. Jacques Cousteau declared Little Cayman’s waters

to be among the top three diving sites in the world. Reefs, shipwrecks and Little Cayman’s Bloody Bay Wall, considered the Caribbean’s most sensational wall dive, create unforgettable dips. Walk or rent a bike to get around the ten-mile-long island. This is without question the jewel of the Cayman Islands and location of Cayman’s 4th Island set in the gin clear waters of South Hole. South hole is more of a South sea style lagoon. A visit to Owen Island is an absolute must. Why? Population - Zero, now what could be better than that if you are true lover of solitude and have a Robinson Crusoe mindset.

It’s a short 40 minutes flight from Grand Cayman - Fun News highly suggests you plan your next vacation there, or for a weekend or for a day trip. Looking for nightlife, five star restaurants, and roundabouts? - Stay in Grand Cayman!



CAYMAN EXPRESS

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KINGSTON BIGHT

Awesome Sunsets, Hang Out With The Locals and Richard Your Host



Kingston Bights Sunsets - Fun News Staff

Red sky at night is a sailor’s delight, and it also makes for some pretty spectacular sunsets. But why are some sunsets so extra-special? Generally, what’s considered a magnificent sunset is a particularly colourful one, with hues of red, orange and pink streaked across the

evening sky. And when it comes to color, the brighter the better. The colors we see - or don’t see - in a sunset are the results of a scientific phenomenon called light scattering. The color we see is determined by the different wavelengths of light, plus the size of the particles in the atmosphere.

Ok, now that sounds like a bunch of scientific gibberish - Now let us get the unsystematic point of view from a tourist or local sitting on a bar stool at Kingston Bight on Little Cayman.
(Actual comments made by visitors to Kingston Bight)

“Wow... this is absolutely amazing - get my camera”.
“OMG... That can’t be real”?
“Just look at that... there is a God”.

Little Cayman is world-famous for its diving, beaches and solitude..... Kingston Bight sunsets are now part of that fame list. Geographically this little island is located at one of the best sunset destination spots in the Caribbean and considering most everyone travels with an image sensor called a complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor (CMOS) sensor. (In other words the camera in your smart-phone) Kingston Bight sunsets have gone global.

OK, the sun has set... step back inside and meet Richard and his crew. Order a drink, have some food, and enjoy the local “chit-chat” and atmosphere of ‘Richards Bar’. It’s a place where the local characters and residents gather for relaxing on an island that’s always laid-back and nonchalant anyway. It’s also the nearest thing to the United Nations south of NY City. When the Fun News team visited the last time we were in the company of citizens from Cuba, Honduras, Jamaica, Somalia, The Philippines, America, and of course Cayman. Do Not miss this stop on your next little Cayman visit.



Sir Turtle - Little Cayman’s Luxury Villa

By G Nowak

Just 70 miles away and a short flight on Cayman Express, lies the jewel of the Caymans. Little Cayman’s population stays at around 200 full-time residents, thousands of birds and many iguanas which still have the right of way. The school has three or four students and two teachers. Owen Island (our fourth Island) is located in Little Cayman’s South Hole Lagoon. There are a few Dive Resorts and restaurants and then there’s Sir Turtle. This Villa was the get-away home for the legendary diver Bob Soto who passed away in 2015.

The property is located high above sea level with unparalleled views of the beach on one side and the official RAMSAR Bird Sanctuary on the other. Designed as a duplex split into two homes, each nautical style villa has four bedrooms (3 king sized beds and one twin room) and two bathrooms and an open loft so it can comfortably sleep 10-12 people. You can rent the red side or the blue side or both for a big gathering. It truly is the most relaxing break away from it all, with both

sides sharing a private beach and dock, private pool and you can feel free to use their kayaks, paddle boards or bikes to explore the island. Both sides are complemented with a spacious kitchen, living area and every small and large appliance you could possibly need to prepare a seaside feast, or if you would prefer, you can hone your grilling skills on the large outdoor gas BBQ which sits on a huge back porch. For more info check out their web site www.sirturtle.com



Cayman’s 4th Island

Owen Island has all the ingredients of a classic south sea “motu” (Cay or islet): coconut trees, powdery white sand, seabirds and best of all, no humans... most of the time. If you do not have a boat, the Southern Cross Club is the closest gateway to Owen Island. This first-class fishing and dive resort (Est 1958) is Little Cayman’s oldest and most celebrated resort. From the Southern Cross Club it’s an easy snorkel or kayak trip to Owen Island. The island is deserted and situated in an inland sea known as South Hole Sound. The beach is blinding white and the lagoon that surrounds it shimmers in the sunlight, a lagoon so clear it would seem invisible if it were not for the dive boats anchored in the distance. On Owen Island there is a sign



under a coconut tree, that reads: **“PRIVATE PROPERTY - VISITORS WELCOME - PLEASE KEEP THIS ISLAND CLEAN”** How charming is that?



On Little Cayman’s far west end you will find the Sunset Bar - where once the IMcoys Dive Lodge was located. The Islands first dive resort in days gone by - Nowadays it’s a fun place for drinks and hanging out with

Maxine and the many stories she has to tell. She will even sing for you - Don’t miss her weekly Bar-B Q. Here is Maxine and a small portion of her family.

Just Chillin On Little Cayman

Just Chillin is a new 2 bedroom property that connects to a semi private pool, with queen size bed in both bedrooms and ensuite bathrooms. It is close to the airport, store and restaurants, the true Island life. Little Cayman is one mile wide by ten miles long, we also provide bikes if you’re adventurous and our waters are blue and crystal clear for the divers and snorkellers, it is paradise and tranquil for the people that just want to chill! Just Chillin is tranquility at its finest.

Note from the publisher: Our staff has often stayed at Just Chillin. The rooms are spacious and clean. Large kitchen, a porch, A/C, and solitude if you are seeking it, or plenty of room for a small family if you plan a Staycation or a vacation. And by the way, Dianne is considered one of the best pastry Chefs in all the islands. We highly recommend this spot. Telephone: 1-345-926-1140 email: diannesherer7@aol.com



Bodden Town – Cayman’s First Capital

(Home of the Grape Tree Cafe’)

Bodden Town was the first settlement of any size on Grand Cayman, situated in the island’s most fertile area and next to what was then, a fine natural harbor, protected by the reef. Originally known as ‘South Side’, by the time it was visited by George Gauld, a Navy surveyor, in 1773, about half of the island’s total population of 400 lived there. Gauld had been commissioned to survey the coast of the island, and it was at this time that the settlement was named Bodden Town. It is thought that this was because of the large number of inhabitants bearing the name Bodden. Gauld states that Isaac Bodden was the grandson of the original Bodden, a soldier from Cromwell’s army. Well, that was then - and this is now. Now the village is famous for the award-winning Grape Tree Cafe’ located right on the beach. You can’t miss it - right near the RUBIS gas Station. We at FUN- News suggest our hungry visitors to take our advice - leave your “ fast-food” thoughts behind and prepare your palate for some real local

fare at the Grape Tree Cafe’. Conch soup, jerk and roast fish, an array of sides, and their very popular fried fish. Mahi bites is the latest addition, and try the red bean soup, cassava, curried goat, oxtail, and the ultra seafood delicacy ‘grilled lobster’. Down that with coconut water... now you just can get more native than that. If you are lucky enough to meet Mr. Ossie, the owner, prepare for a wealth of information about the first capitol and more local edibles. While you’re having your lunch or dinner, you can turn the kids loose to play on the beach - this place is a true Cayman delight.



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— THURSDAY —

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Were there Pirates in Cayman?

Dirty Reid Walker – in the Cayman Triangle

By 1660, the English had established themselves in Jamaica and begun treating the Cayman Islands as natural appendages of the larger territory. However, apart from small settlements on Grand Cayman and Little Cayman, most of the three islands were left untouched. This was ideal for pirates, since Cayman also lay astride the route of treasure galleons returning to Spain, laden with gold and silver from the New World.

This promise of capturing Spanish treasure ships on their way home from the Caribbean soon attracted the attention of a motley crowd of buccaneers, pirates and freebooters. The ‘Golden Age’ of piracy spanned from the 1650s to the 1730s and Cayman’s most notorious pirate was Edward Teach, otherwise known as Blackbeard, who frequented the area from 1713 to his death on the 22nd of November 1718.

The celebration of Pirates Fest (Cayman’s National Festival), which runs in the later part of each year, is downplayed in favor of district heritage days. Some of the biggest names in buccaneering circles, including Lowther, Lowe, Morgan and Blackbeard, prowled the coasts of the Cayman Islands. During Pirates week, there are many costumed Blackbeard and Johnny Depp look-alikes running around the island, getting the tourists in the buccaneer spirit.

According to Neville Williams’ ‘A History of the Cayman Islands’, the abundance of fresh water, turtle meat and wood made Cayman an ideal landing spot. Further-



more, the Islands offered pirate captains the possibility of finding crews to man captured vessels and a quiet location away from the authorities, where pirates could hide their loot and careen and repair their vessels. However, this pirate’s haven only lasted for about 110 years; by the 1730s, the scourge of the buccaneers had been largely tamed, if not discouraged by the growing population. In the early 70’s the movie titled ‘The Cayman Triangle’ was filmed in Grand Cayman. It was an exciting event on the island, way before we had radio, TV or cinemas. Produced and directed by Anderson Humphries, it told the story of Dirty Reid Walker, considered the most notorious pirate of them all - of course, the entire film was a spoof and fictional - it was however well-received by locals and even took some awards at various film festivals. It can be viewed on You-Tube.



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SEVERAL TIMES EACH MONTH



Tortuga Rum Cakes - How The Best Rum Cakes In The World Are Made, Come Take A Tour

In the heart of Grand Cayman, Tortuga Rum Company stands as a testament to the dreams and aspirations of its founders, Robert and Carlene Hamaty. What began as a humble family venture in 1984 has blossomed into the Cayman Islands' premier retail, wholesale, and duty-free liquor business, as well as the home of the internationally acclaimed Tortuga Rum Cakes.

The true essence of Tortuga lies not just in its retail

experience but also in its legendary rum cakes, whose delectable flavors have solidified their place as the Cayman Islands' number one souvenir. Now, Tortuga opens its doors to visitors, inviting them on an enchanting journey through the newly inaugurated Visitor Centre and Bakery Tour at their main location on North Sound Road, George Town. Step into a world of history, art, and aromatic bliss as the exclusive behind-the-scenes

tour takes you on a sensory journey through the meticulous process of baking that has made Tortuga a household name. Peer through observation windows to witness the expert bakers weave their magic, bringing the renowned Tortuga "Original" Cayman Rum Cake to life. As part of the tour, visitors are treated to a sensory extravaganza. Sample a variety of flavors, including the iconic Golden Original, a recipe that has been de-

lighting palates since 1987. Each tasting is a voyage into rich, nuanced flavors, a testament to the craftsmanship and heritage that define Tortuga's identity. The Tortuga Visitor Centre is more than a mere exploration of baking; it's a celebration of a 40 year journey marked by adventure, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit. It's a story that unfolds with each step, revealing chapters that are more exciting than the last. For those curious about the rich history of the Tortuga Rum Company, the enchanting Visitor Centre, and the immersive Bakery Tour, you can find out more and book your tour online at www.tortuga.ky. The sweet symphony of Tortuga awaits, promising an experience that will linger in your memories long after you've left the shores of Grand Cayman. Tortuga Visitor Centre & Bakery Tour on Tortuga Way, North Sound Road, George Town.

Call (345) 623-7701
www.tortuga.ky



We work tirelessly in receiving and rehabilitating Cayman Parrots. The Sanctuary was established as a partnership with DOE. With expert advice and veterinary treatment, each and every animal receives care of the highest standards.



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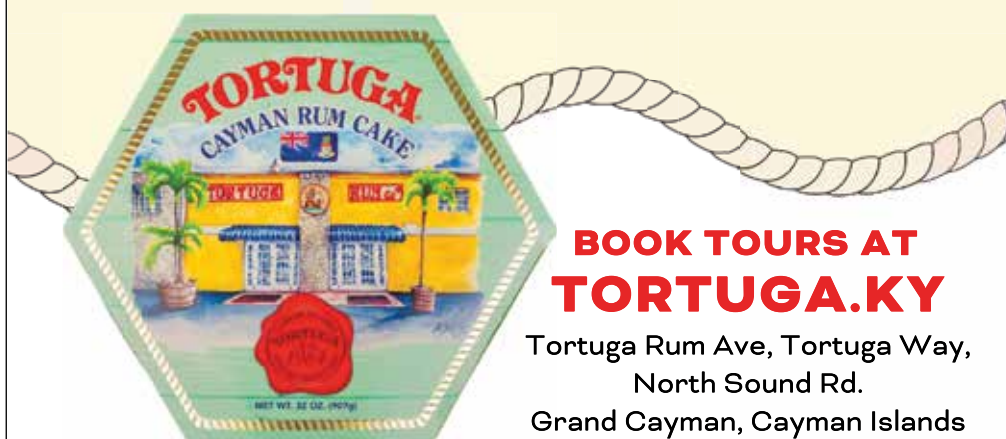


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The Incredible, Eatable Conch

Don't say conch - say it like the local - it's a "konk". The meat of conches are often eaten raw in salads or cooked in burgers, chowders, fritters, and gumbos. Conch is indigenous to the Caribbean and West Indies. Conch is particularly popular in the Bahamas, Turks and Caicos, The Caymans and Jamaica. Conch is often cooked into fritters, stews and curries. In the Dominican Republic, Grenada, and Haiti, conch is commonly eaten in curries or in a spicy soup. It is locally referred to as lambi. In Puerto Rico, conch is served as a ceviche, often called ensalada de carrucho (conch salad), consisting of raw conch marinated in lime juice, olive oil, vinegar, garlic, green peppers, and onions. And there's this thing called 'The Conch spaghetti', a thin, clear spaghetti-like string that makes up part of the conchs anatomy. It has a salty flavor and worth a souvenir video when gulping one down.

Some chefs get stingy when making conch fritters - often they use more dough

than conch... the best way to make conch fritters, no matter your ingredients or spices, is to put lots of conch in it.

If you're lucky - you may even find a rare, valuable conch pearl hidden deep inside the conch belly. Pearls from the queen conch are rare and have been collectors' items since Victorian times. Conch pearls occur in a range of hues, including white, brown, and orange, with many intermediate shades, but pink is the colour most associated with the conch pearl, such that these pearls are sometimes referred to simply as "pink pearls".

A Spectra Fine Jewelry Conch Pearl Diamond Riviera Necklace is priced at \$567,000.



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Visit the Cayman Parrots Sanctuary,
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Crystal Caves, Starfish Point,
The Tortuga Rum Cake Bakery,
The Turtle Centre



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Lil-bit is the most famous rodent in the world – next to Phil from Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.

The Cayman Parrot Sanctuary



The Cayman Parrot Sanctuary all started as a dream, then became an idea, and soon advanced to a project, which is now a reality. Tukka’s Chef Ron Hargrave originally planned to build a simple playground and mini-zoo for his children and the youngsters of East End. A few swings, a slide, a sandbox and then toss in a

few parrots and agoutis to keep the kids busy while he watches over his popular restaurants.. Soon one notion turned to another and now, nearly three years after the idea was hatched it’s become one of Grand Cayman’s major Tourist attractions and a home for snakes, turtles, guinea pigs, rabbits, hermit crabs and a family of Cayman Parrots that share the grounds with other feathered friends, and of course the star of the show Lil-Bit a friendly agouti that everyone comes to see.

Mrs Regina Nowak has become Chef Ron’s of-

ficial zoo-keeper, keeping the sanctuary running smoothly. Mrs. Nowak is well known on the island for her compassion for animals. The sanctuary residents are lucky to have Mrs. Nowak and the Sanctuary team take care of their daily needs. They require fresh water, clean cages, love and food which is within their natural dietary habits, such as sea grapes, almonds, tamarinds, mangos and a mouse now and then for the snakes. Such staples are not always found in your local grocery store, so as the official zoo keeper, Mrs. Nowak spends



lots of time trekking through the back-bush of East End for supplies. On the rare occasion when an animal gets sick or injured, a trip to the veterinarian in George Town becomes necessary. ***The Sanctuary is open Wednesday through Sunday, call 936-4400 for more info.***

PS-Don't forget to pick up a copy of the Parrot Sanctuary Colouring Book, which includes a map of the grounds and lots of interesting, educational reading and colouring



Rum Point Cont. from page 8

the sun, the Treasure Chest is the perfect stop. As day turns to night, Rum Point Club transforms into a magical seaside retreat under the stars, creating the ideal setting for

a lively evening with friends or a romantic escape. Whether you’re here to savour the food, soak up the sun, or enjoy a little retail therapy, Rum Point Club is your ultimate destination for a perfect day by the sea.



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Best in the Caribbean, The 2025 Reader's Choice Award

For the second consecutive year, this Grand Cayman dive resort and dive operation combined to be best in class. Awarded a total of 13 awards, including first-place for **Best Overall Dive Operation and Best Overall Dive Resort** for the second consecutive year. It can be challenging to maintain the excellence that puts you atop your industry's pedestal. That's not the case, however, for Ocean Frontiers and Compass Point Dive Resort, a PADI Five Star Dive Center with a beachfront location on Grand Cayman's East End. This year, both the dive operation and resort took the Reader's Choice honors, a distinction they also earned last year.

With 55 named sites just minutes away from the dock, Ocean Frontiers offers underwater experiences that include walls, pinnacles, canyons, arches, shipwrecks, stingrays, turtles and reef shark encounters. The "X-Dive"

experience explores a select location along the Cayman Trench, with the possibility of seeing sharks and rays, while the "Three-Tank Safari" features two of the wildest and most remote sites, plus the Kittiwake wreck dive.

Ocean Frontiers take pride in providing outstanding quality of service, facilities, boats and dive experiences. Guests receive the "Green Shorts Service," the ultimate in valet treatment. On-board the three spacious 46-foot dive vessels, the crew offers "business class" service. Every seat has ample space, individual mask rinse buckets and gear storage crates. The boats are also equipped with liveaboard-style dive ladders for easy exits and entries. Ocean Frontiers also stands out for its commitment to conservation. It was the first dive operator in the Cayman Islands to receive PADI's Green Star



& Green Fins Dive Center accreditation. Compass Point Dive Resort offers one-, two- and three-bedroom condominiums, a pool with a 12-person hot tub attached and the onsite restaurant Eagle Ray's, which serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. Ocean Frontiers and Compass Point are the gold

Cont. on page 20

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Suggested Wine:
Blue Fish Riesling, Germany. \$6.00 Glass

3rd. Course
Mango Sorbet with Minted Watermelon Cubes
Suggested Wine:
Sandeman Fine Ruby Port, Portugal. \$6.00 Glass

4th. Course
Oven-Roasted, Rock Lobster Tail
Brushed with Herb-Lime Butter
Suggested Wine:
Montevina Chardonnay, USA. \$6.00 Glass

5th. Course
Local Carrot Cake with Raspberry Coulis
Topped with Whipped Cream and Strawberries
Suggested Wine:
Sandeman Fine Ruby Port, Portugal. \$6.00 Glass

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Meet Cayman’s Famous Far-Side Artists

Artists choose to be reclusive for various reasons. Most prefer to avoid the urban noises, roundabouts and the crazy, in-a-hurry, stressed-out drivers we find on the busy side of Cayman. Most artists (including musicians and songwriters) want to focus on their creative work. So they choose to hide on the Far-Side, in the village of Breakers.

Meet Ren Seffer...
who lives in the village of Breakers with her husband Mike, and dog, named Tilly Roo. Ren is originally from Melbourne, Australia. She settled on the Island of Grand Cayman in the mid 90’s after many years of travel. With a passion for art and culture, Ren immersed herself in the local art scene and quickly found her niche by creating a style that has become recognized

and appreciated by many collectors around the world. She has been represented by The Gallery at the Ritz Carlton since 2007 and is included in the permanent collection of the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands. You can contact Renate 345-916-1930 if you have any questions. By the way right next to her studio Ren and Mike have a lovely seaside B and B rental with a pool.

Meet Kay Smith...
Her Gallery is right up the road from White Dog Art - heading east, situated right next to her beachside home.

Kay Smith is from the UK, and has trained hard as a graphic designer. This is clearly reflected in her work today with her masterful use of bold and evocative imagery.

Kay paints full time from



Ren Seffer - White Dog Studios

her studio/gallery from Grand Cayman but her incredible work is sold internationally. As well as this, samples of Kay’s work can be viewed at the Ritz Carlton Gallery in Grand Cayman.

If you are living in the Cayman Islands or visiting we would love to meet you! The studio is open Monday through Saturday for all visitors. However, if you would like to arrange a private appointment or discuss

commissions or anything else please call 345-923-1364.



Kay Smith - Kay’s Gallery

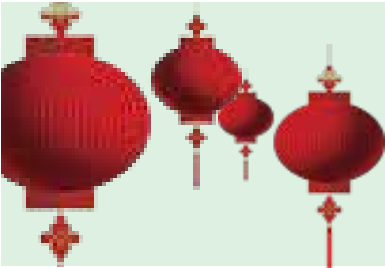


We have about 14 radio stations on this little island, most play the same music they play up north in your hometown. Enjoy some local Caymanian artists where ever you stream your music. Check out: Hi-Tide, Nicholas George, Bob Moseley, The Barefoot Man, Stuart Wilson and Rico Rolando.

Readers Choice Cont. from page 19

standard when it comes to providing everything guests need to dive, snorkel, relax and recharge during a dive vacation. For reservations for diving, snorkeling or

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