

MARATHON WEEKLY

Oct. 29, 2026



NOT SO SCARY

It's Halloween in Marathon | PGS. 8,18

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE
Marathon greenlights audit | P.4

MORE POWER
Races come back to Key West | P.12

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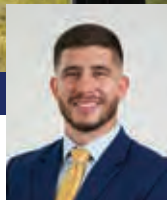


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News Deadline
Tuesday Noon
Advertising Deadline
Tuesday 2 p.m.

NUMBER OF THE WEEK

\$13.5B

Just how much will consumers spend on spooking trick-or-treaters and filling their buckets with candy this year? According to the National Retail Federation, consumer spending is expected to hit \$13.5 billion this year. Activities like handing out candy, dressing in a costume, decorating the house and carving pumpkins are among the top ways consumers mark the occasion.

ON THE COVER

It was a cuteness overload for many young participants at the city of Marathon's Trick or Treat at the Beach on Oct. 23. See page 18. ROSS SMITH/Keys Weekly

MARATHON GREENLIGHTS BUILDING RIGHTS AUDIT – BUT WILL IT SATISFY THE STATE?

Council seeks answers after years of resident complaints

ALEX RICKERT
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Nearly five years after a high-profile development controversy cost Marathon some of its independence in issuing permits, city officials are considering an independent audit of past building decisions in hopes of repairing trust with both the public and Tallahassee.

Following an exhaustive debate lasting more than two hours at its Oct. 27 special call meeting, council members directed staff to pursue a third-party review of Marathon's transfers and determinations of transferable building rights (TBRs) over the last 10 years.

The costly problem

In February 2022, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), later renamed FloridaCommerce, revoked a 17-year memorandum of understanding (MOU) that had allowed Marathon to issue many less-consequential building permits without first submitting them to Tallahassee, as otherwise required within the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern.

The decision followed a dispute over the controversial Boat Works development at the end of 39th Street, where building rights previously associated with live-aboard vessels were transferred in order to permit construction of new homes on land at the same site.

The state challenged the city's development approvals, and later issued a notice of violation after Marathon granted permits for four homes while an appeal was pending.

A replacement MOU signed in May

2022 gave the city back some, but not all, of its autonomy from the previous agreement, and still required significantly more decisions to undergo state review. Though the underlying Boat Works lawsuits were settled in 2024, the more restrictive permitting arrangement remains.

For contractors, that can mean an additional 45 days of waiting for state approval before starting or altering critical projects.

Andrew George, CEO of local contracting firm Design Center, described how even minor revisions to construction plans can add months to projects. He cited a local family's home that could miss its intended Thanksgiving completion date because of a relatively small modification of a berm in their yard.

"(The state review) basically gives us almost three months for every revision," he said.

Speaking on behalf of his board of directors, Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce CEO Daniel Samess urged council members to commission an independent compliance audit, examining Marathon's adherence to its own procedures and codes after contractors approached the chamber about permitting delays affecting their businesses, subcontractors and customers.

Narrowing the scope

Although the discussion began with calls for a citywide audit, as previously supported by councilwoman Robyn Still, the majority of public comments contained allegations of favoritism, inconsistent permitting decisions and questionable development approvals during former city manager George Garrett's term. Others said limiting the audit appeared to target individual grievances with those who had received additional building rights.

Resident Greg Smith questioned a 2023 letter in which Garrett discussed anticipated changes to square footage limitations in a development planned

for the Florida Keys Country Club – before the city council had approved the changes, which were ultimately denied.

"Circumstances like these raise legitimate questions about the city's internal procedures, communication and oversight," he said. "If assurances of this nature were being provided before council approval, what other representations or commitments have been made to private interests without the council's knowledge or authorization?"

Both public commenters and council members made measured references to what they called questionable determinations of building rights, with some applicants receiving a second unit attached to their homes while others were denied after allegedly meeting the same requirements for exterior entrances and utility meters.

In recent years, the rights have carried significant value in an island chain with restrictive development ordinances, at times eclipsing more than \$200,000 in value if transferred off the owner's property and sold on the open market.

"When certain favors are worth a quarter-million dollars, that's a lot more than a favor," said councilman Kenny Matlock, while stopping short of accusing a specific individual of misconduct.

Per Marathon's current MOU, all determinations and transfers of building rights are sent to Tallahassee for state review and approval.

Council members discussed the possibility of reclaiming improperly awarded building rights and taking corrective action against employees if violations are uncovered, but again stopped short of guaranteeing an action plan before seeing audit results. Per Marathon's charter, the council is tasked with hiring and firing its city manager and attorney, with all other decisions left to city staff.

Vice Mayor Debbie Struyf initially advocated for a 10-year review en-

continued on page 10

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MESSAGE FROM THE SHERIFF

Marathon Halloween traffic advisory

Please help the Sheriff’s Office by spreading the word regarding temporary traffic changes and restricted neighborhood access behind the Florida Keys Marathon International Airport from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Halloween, Saturday, Oct. 31, 2026, intended to provide a safe environment for trick-or-treaters.

- Dolphin Drive, Gulfstream Boulevard, and Harbor Drive will all operate strictly as one-way streets during event hours
- Tuna Drive, Shark Drive, Bonito Drive, Porpoise Drive, and Marlin Drive will be closed to all non-resident motorists during event hours
- See the QR code and MCSO social media pages for more specific street information in the area

Reduce speed, watch carefully for children, and adhere to all posted signs as well as directions from law enforcement. Pedestrians should wear reflective clothing and carry flashlights.

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RIGHTS & ROADBLOCKS

County commission tackles building schedule, U.S. 1 traffic study

W

ALEX RICKERT

alex@keysweekly.com

A plan to distribute hundreds of new building permits throughout the Florida Keys will wait another month as commissioners work to satisfy state objections, while discussions of traffic studies also filled a busy agenda at the Monroe County Commission's Oct. 21 session.

ROGO revisions

Earlier this year, state legislation allowed for up to 900 new building rights to be distributed throughout the Keys on a timeline of at least 10 years, accomplished by raising the island chain's allowable hurricane evacuation clearance time from 24 to 24.5 hours and designating the rights solely for use on vacant, but buildable, properties.

Of those new rights, 657 were earmarked for use in unincorporated Monroe County, with staff originally planning to split the award into 120 market-rate units and 537 for a newly-coined "market rate workforce" category.

Eschewing the financial limitations of traditional deed-restricted affordable housing, commissioners and staff touted the new classification as a way to promote local homeownership while allowing residents to build equity and benefit from spikes in property values.

The rights would be reserved exclusively for owners earning 70% or more of their income in Monroe County and carry a 99-year deed restriction.

But following state review of the county's proposed amendment to its comprehensive plan, needed to accept and distribute the rights, an Objections, Recommendations and Comments (ORC) report from FloridaCommerce identified two issues – a proposed expansion to allow affordable housing construction in high-hazard V-zones as designated by FEMA, and a lack of housing rights set aside for traditional affordable housing.

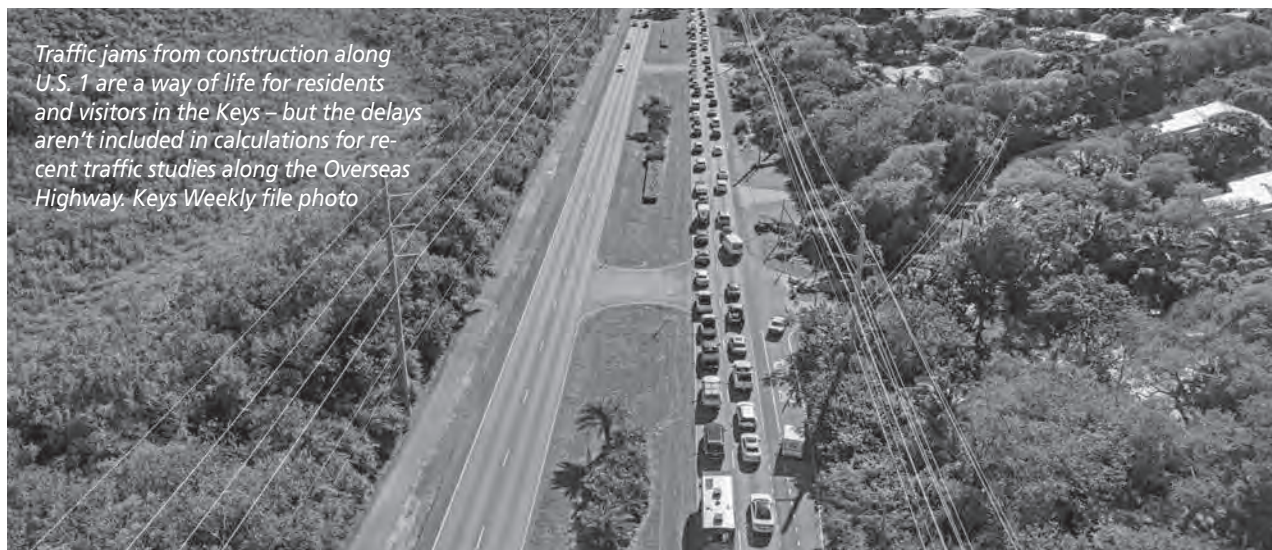
In the report, by bureau chief of community planning and growth Yazmin Valdez, state review teams wrote that county staff had not adequately justified removing the county's existing ban on building affordable housing in "high-risk coastal flood areas," noting that the county's own scoring system for awarding building rights subtracts significant points for projects planned in these zones.

A second objection targeted the exclusion of traditional deed-restricted affordable housing rights from the new distribution schedule.

Addressing the commission, planning director Devin Tolpin said the original omission of traditional rights, and high proportion of workforce market rate rights, was intentional to prioritize feasible projects for rights that could be only awarded on a one-per-vacant-lot basis.

Over the last five years, she said, the county has

Traffic jams from construction along U.S. 1 are a way of life for residents and visitors in the Keys – but the delays aren't included in calculations for recent traffic studies along the Overseas Highway. Keys Weekly file photo



issued only six affordable housing rights for use in single-family projects, versus 426 for multifamily builds. High land and construction costs force developers to chase economies of scale via larger, more financially viable builds.

"What (those numbers) show me is that our local market does not appear to be very conducive to large-scale single-family affordable housing developments," Tolpin said. "Our concern, if we preserved a greater number for affordable housing, is that they would not be able to be utilized."

To satisfy the state, commissioners supported staff's recommendation to reserve 33 allocations, or 5% of the total, exclusively for affordable housing, while preserving the prohibition on V-zone construction.

Other changes include replacing quarterly ROGO allocation periods with semiannual distributions and allowing qualifying applicants already in the system a one-year opportunity to switch categories without losing their original application dates.

The modified distribution plan will return for consideration Nov. 17 in Key West.

Traffic study debates

A new U.S. 1 traffic study found that travel speeds throughout the Keys remain above the county's minimum standard. But numerous residents and environmental organizations blasted the methodology behind the measurements, saying the study fails to reflect the reality of life in a one-highway island chain with constant construction.

Tasked with conducting the study that would partially inform new development decisions throughout the island chain, consultant AECOM reported an overall median travel speed of 46.2 mph, up from 45.6 mph in 2025 and above the county's 45-mph threshold for an acceptable level of service.

Of 24 highway segments measured, only one in Islamorada – from the Tea Table Relief Bridge to Whale Harbor Bridge – received a failing grade of D, with a median travel speed of 39.2 miles per hour. Eighteen of the 24 measured segments showed faster median travel speeds, while the other six slowed down.

But representatives of Keys Last Stand and other organizations argued that the decades-old study methodology artificially inflates speeds by excluding unavoidable delays, including road construction, school zones, buses and drawbridge openings.

"You're measuring a fantasy," said Key Deer Protection Alliance president Hareen Gershman, criticizing the exclusion of recurring traffic disruptions. "If you remove (those delays), you aren't measuring the Florida Keys anymore."

Sugarloaf Shores Property Owners representative Jan Diamondstone said the methodology used in the study excluded four and a half hours of traffic delays while making two critical assumptions that don't apply to Keys traffic as they would on the mainland.

"(The study) assumes there are detours and alternative routes – true in the mainland, but not in the Keys," she said. "The second assumes that construction is supposed to be temporary. ... We know, for example, that FKAA water main construction is projected to continue for decades. The location will move, but there will always be an FKAA project somewhere along U.S. 1. It's nuts to ignore this in the overall level-of-service grade."

Last Stand representative Stuart Schaffer said a citizens' committee had enlisted a Miami-based traffic consultant to review the methodology, which he argued fails to capture the congestion drivers actually experience.

Committee concerns were outlined in a letter to the commission the week before Wednesday's meeting, supported by 24 activist organizations throughout the Keys. Groups urged commissioners to reconvene a U.S. 1 level-of-service task force for a more comprehensive review.

The most recent study also faced a technical problem: Data from one of 28 scheduled travel runs was corrupted. AECOM presented several options to compensate for the missing information, all producing essentially the same overall results.

Commissioner David Rice said that several options to alleviate traffic in key areas weren't supported by residents, including a four-lane expansion through historically slow sections of Islamorada.

"We could move traffic, (but) we might negatively impact our quality of life in our communities," he said. "We're kind of locked into restrictions of what can and can't be done while living with those constraints."

"There's not a big conspiracy to work this study to benefit the speed of traffic," added commissioner Craig Cates. "The methodology is good the way it is, but it might be able to be better, and I don't argue that."

Commissioners unanimously voted to accept a revised study using a duplicate of the run with the longest travel time to replace the corrupted data, a conservative approach to be incorporated into a report returning next month.

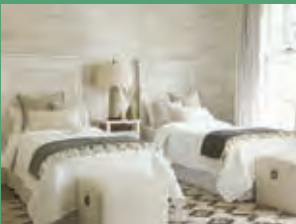
They directed staff to explore the feasibility and costs of reconvening a task force or hiring outside traffic consultants in preparation for a follow-up study in either 2027 or 2028.



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Switlik Halloween carnival serves up a sweets overload

ALEX RICKERT
alex@keysweekly.com

Pencils, notebooks and paper were replaced by masks, pumpkins and more sugar than an army of children could possibly want at Stanley Switlik Elementary's annual Halloween carnival. Organized by the school's PTO on Oct. 25, the day included carnival games and activities, face painting, bounce houses and the famed Halloween "cake walk." Hundreds of volunteer hours from parents and community members, along with the generosity of more than 30 business sponsors, made the day's success a reality. *Photos by ROSS SMITH/Keys Weekly*



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Marathon Council from page 4

compassing building, planning and code enforcement, while Mayor Lynny Del Gaizo questioned the potential expense of the more comprehensive audit supported by Still.

City Manager Steve Williams said a cost estimate of \$50,000, brought forth by council members, was based on a limited 2023 audit of Key West's building and planning departments, not a comprehensive citywide review. No funding was specifically allocated for the new audit in Marathon's recently adopted budget.

Williams said the city's code enforcement practices could prove difficult to audit, as staff have the authority to impose appropriate and varying fines based on individual circumstances, while a comprehensive building department review would add a significant expense.

Council members eventually agreed to begin with a 10-year examination of TBR procedures, with the possibility of expanding the scope depending on the findings.

Williams said he would approach the Corradino Group, which performed the Key West audit and already holds a continuing services contract with Marathon, to expedite the process without requiring a new competitive bidding procedure.

If the cost exceeds Williams' \$35,000 spending authority, the proposal will return to council for approval. He hoped to provide an update by December, with auditors potentially beginning work that month.

Weighing the consequences

Despite extensive debate over the audit's scope and necessity, one crucial question remained by the end of the evening, acknowledged by staff, council members and commenters alike: What will be the reaction from the state?

Struyf emphasized that despite repeated conversations with Tallahassee officials, the city has yet to receive confirmation that an audit would help restore Marathon's former permitting authority.

"We need to ask the state what kind of clear plan we have and what they want us to do," she said. "If we're doing everything to fix it, they may work with us a little bit better."

Williams clearly stated that he was not against an audit, but offered a sobering possibility: Depending on what auditors uncover, the review could invite further state scrutiny, worsening the permitting delays that contractors already face.

Based on that possibility, he said, while Tuesday's meeting was recorded to satisfy legal requirements, it was not broadcast on Marathon's usual online streaming services.

"We needed to have a full discussion and frank discussion, and people needed to be able to speak their minds without fear of repercussion," Williams said. "We're talking about people who have not always been friendly, and not just to Marathon. They have been ugly with other jurisdictions on occasion."

Regardless, he cautioned that the city cannot control what information eventually reaches state regulators, or how they respond.

"Sometimes they learn things and they can't be unlearned," he said.

Despite the warnings, council members said they were prepared to face the consequences if an audit uncovered wrongdoing.

"Is Tallahassee a goal to rectify the situation? Of course it is," said Matlock. "You have to take the good with the bad, and the recourse of uncovering and doing the just thing is something we're going to have to deal with."

ELECTION TO DECIDE FLORIDA GOVERNOR, STATE SENATOR

Sunshine State also has key races for U.S. Senate, House

JIM MCCARTHY
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Less than a week remains before a general election will decide who will be Florida's next governor.

Gov. Ron DeSantis' time as governor is just about up, and hoping to lead the Sunshine State come January 2027 are Republican Byron Donalds, a current congressman, and David Jolly, a Democrat who also spent time in Washington, D.C.

Donalds served in the Florida House from 2016 to 2020. During his time in Tallahassee, he chaired the House Insurance and Banking Subcommittee.

"Florida cannot become too expensive for working families and seniors on fixed incomes. The status quo has a cost. Progress doesn't pay the bill sitting on your kitchen counter today — it's time to bring down costs," Donalds said.

Jolly served in Congress for Florida's 13th district as a Republican from 2014-17. He is an attorney and has spent nearly a decade as a political analyst on NBC and MSNBC.

"Believing in better isn't just a campaign slogan. I really mean that," Jolly said. "I believe that we can do better for so many people here in the state of Florida. I believe that we can have better housing, better healthcare, better education, but more importantly, I believe that we can be better to one another."

The two governor hopefuls never took the stage to debate one another in person. But they've traded plenty of jabs over their records and plans. High costs facing residents in the Sunshine State and data centers have been two of the major issues heard throughout the governor's race.

Other key races include the U.S. Senate race between Republican incumbent Ashley Moody and Democrat Angie Nixon. The winner will fill the remaining two years of Marco Rubio's term. Rubio was tapped by the president for U.S. Secretary of State, and Moody was appointed by DeSantis in 2025. Moody is a former attorney general for Florida. Nixon has been a state representative for the Jacksonville area since 2020.

In the House, voters in South Florida and the Keys will decide between Republican incumbent U.S. Rep. Carlos Gimenez, Democrat Phil Ehr and non-party affiliate Eddy Rojas for District 28. Gimenez was first elected to the U.S. House in 2020. He's a former mayor of Miami-Dade County. Ehr is a retired U.S. Navy commander.



Byron Donalds



David Jolly

Voters will also decide Florida attorney general between Republican James Uthmeier and Democrat José Javier Rodríguez; chief financial officer between Republican Blaise Ingoglia and Democrat Annette Taddeo; and agriculture commissioner between Republican Wilton Simpson and Democrat Joey Mendoza Atkins.

Voters in South Florida and the Florida Keys will also decide the next state senator for District 40. Republican incumbent Ana Maria Rodriguez is seeking another term to serve constituents in Tallahassee. She's being challenged by Democrat Jose Antonio Stoute and non-party affiliate Ramiro Orta.

In the Florida Keys, only a few local races are taking place this election cycle.

Voters will also be asked whether they support sending a justice back to the Supreme Court and several judges back to the Third District Court of Appeals. And there are three constitutional amendments on the ballot. The most notable one is Amendment 3, which would increase the homestead property exemption to \$150,000 in 2027 and \$250,000 in 2028. It would also cap the annual assessment increases on nonhomesteaded property from 10% to 5%. The proposed constitutional amendments need 60% voter approval in the state.

As of Oct. 28, 14,830 county voters either voted early or sent their ballots via the mail. There are 54,683 registered voters in Monroe County.

Early voting concludes Saturday, Oct. 31 at 5 p.m. Voting on Election Day runs from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Election Night results as they come in can be found at votemonroeflkeys.gov.

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Sea Clear was founded by Chris Faber and Chris Gleadall, who saw firsthand how quickly salt and grime can obscure the incredible water views that make the Florida Keys such a special place to live. Their goal is simple: help residents and businesses enjoy those views through clean, clear glass while providing dependable, professional service from people who live and work in the Keys.

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The 2026 Fantasy Fest theme of 'Musical Icons & Iconic Musicals' was clearly a crowd pleaser. Most of the 35 parade entries embraced some version of this year's theme. Photos by LARRY BLACKBURN & CAROL TEDESCO



FANTASY FEST LASTS FOREVER IN PHOTOS

2027 THEME: SUMMER CAMP COUTURE

The body paint finally washed off, but the glitter isn't going anywhere. The 47th Fantasy Fest parade is in the books and on every social media channel. Prizes were awarded for parade entries and suitcases were packed as people returned to the real world. So, are you ready to start planning for next year? Have you heard the 2027 Fantasy Fest theme? "Summer

Camp Couture." Do with that what you will. "Whether you're a veteran of a band camp, dance camp, space camp — or have visions of a dystopian camp catering to alien invasion survival — our 2027 Fantasy Fest theme will spark couture creativity for next year's festival," said Nadene Grossman Orr, Fantasy Fest director and president/CEO of We've Got the Keys. — Keys Weekly staff report



KEY WEST: POWERBOAT PROVING GROUND

More than 100 vessels will compete; 4 world champs to be decided

More than 100 powerboats are expected to compete Nov. 1-8 for the Race World Key West Championship powerboat races. FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU/Contributed

More than 100 offshore powerboats are expected in Key West Nov. 1-8 for the 45th annual Key West World Championship presented by XINSURANCE. Key West's race week is the season finale for offshore powerboat racing, and the stakes are high this year.

For the first time, four classes will decide their world championship during the Key West races: Class 1, Class 2, Super Cat and Super Stock. Those championship titles are settled at the end of Friday's race, and the champions are crowned at 8 that night on Duval Street.

"Key West is where this sport comes to settle things. For 45 years the best teams in the world have built their seasons around one week on this island, and this year four world titles will be decided in our harbor," said Larry Bleil, president of Race World Offshore, which produces the annual races and associated events.

Racing starts at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday on a course of 4.5 miles through Key West Harbor. Champions in all 14 classes will be recognized at the awards ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 1 at 6 p.m. at the Coffee Butler Amphitheater. "This course runs right through the harbor. Class 1 boats come past the pier at 140 miles an hour — close enough that you feel it. With more than 100 boats expected, every class has a real fight in it, and nobody leaves Key West with a title they did not earn," said race director Rodrick Cox.

Miami throttleman Johnny Tomlinson, in his 41st season with more than 160 wins, will run the Class 1 GC Racing / MTI catamaran with owner and driver Willy Cabeza. "Key West is the ultimate goal. It's the culmination of a long season, and everybody wants to win Key West," he said.

Race week opens Sunday, Nov. 1, at 4 p.m. with the World's Fastest Boat Parade on Duval Street. Organizers expect teams from at least five countries, a field larger than the 98 boats registered in 2025 and more than 50,000 people over the week.

The best viewing is from the Outer Mole at Truman Waterfront Park, with tickets sold on site and at raceworldoffshore.com. Fans can also watch from Mallory Square. Every race streams live on the Race World Offshore and XINSURANCE Sports YouTube channels.

Powerboat schedule
Sunday, Nov. 1 @ 4 p.m.: World's Fastest Boat Parade, on Duval Street. Free to watch.
Tuesday, Nov. 3 @ 8 a.m.: Opening ceremonies with Mayor Sam Kaufman, Navy and Coast Guard.
RACE DAYS: Wednesday, Friday & Sunday, Nov. 4, 6 & 8 @ 10 a.m. in Key West Harbor.
Friday, Nov. 6 @ 8 p.m.: World champions crowned on Duval Street.
Sunday, Nov. 8 @ 6 p.m.: Awards banquet at Coffee Butler Amphitheater.

— Contributed



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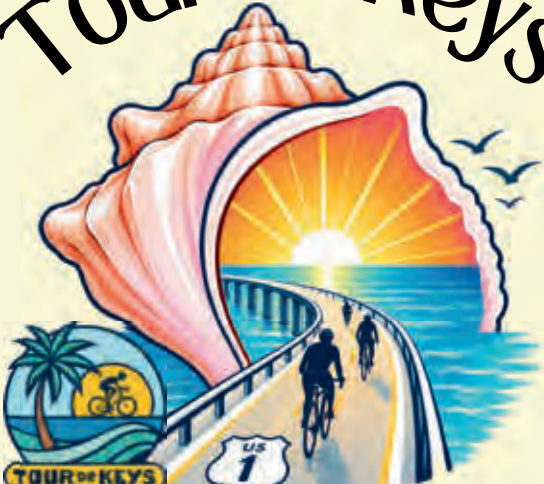
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GOVERNOR SIGNS DEATH WARRANT FOR MAN WHO KILLED KEYS COUPLE, UNBORN BABY IN 1991

A man convicted of strangling and killing a couple at their Tavernier home in 1991 will be executed, after Gov. Ron DeSantis signed a death warrant on Oct. 21.



Thomas Mitchell Overton

In 1996, Thomas Mitchell Overton was arrested following a breakthrough in the case. A jury convicted him of first-degree murder in the deaths of Michael, who was a pilot, and Susan MacIvor, a third-grade teacher. Jurors also recommended he be put to death.

By March 1999, he was sentenced to death for the murders. Decades later, Overton's death warrant was signed by the governor. He is set to be put to death on Nov. 19 at 6 p.m.

This is the 20th death warrant signed by DeSantis this year.

According to investigators, the MacIvors were found blindfolded and strangled to death inside their residence. Susan

was eight months pregnant at the time. The baby lived up to 30 minutes after his mother died, and there was evidence he attempted to breathe on his own.

Overton was also convicted of burglary and sexual assault. Investigators determined through evidence collection that Overton raped Susan. Investigators found presumptive seminal stains on her pubic area, buttocks and inner thighs and on a fitted sheet and mattress pad. Swabs from her body failed to reveal the presence of sperm cells. But subsequent testing established that the DNA in the stains from the bedding matched Overton's DNA.

The Florida Supreme Court affirmed his convictions and sentence. The U.S. Supreme Court denied certiorari. In the following years, Overton, now 70, attempted postconviction litigation in state and federal courts. Those tries were unsuccessful, as he was denied postconviction relief.

A letter from James Uthmeier, Florida's attorney general, to DeSantis states there are no stays of execution issued by any court in this case.

— Keys Weekly staff report

15 ARRESTED IN LOWER KEYS SEX CRIME STING

Defendants face charges for prostitution, child exploitation



Timothy Turso of Key West (left), and DeWayne Smith of Copeland, Florida, were among 15 arrested in a Lower Keys sex crime sting operation last week. Both were charged with soliciting a child and traveling to meet a minor for sexual activity, among other crimes. MCSOI/Contributed

Monroe County Sheriff's Office special investigations detectives, in partnership with the Florida-based Anti-Predator Project, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Florida Department of Correction Probation & Parole Services, U.S. Homeland Security Investigations, FBI, U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service, and U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service, conducted an operation that focused on human trafficking, the exploitation of children on the internet, and other illegal sexual activity last week in the Lower Keys that resulted in multiple arrests.

In total, 15 suspects were arrested and charged with sex-related crimes:

- Timothy William Turso, 47, of Key West, was charged with using a computer to seduce/solicit/lure a child, traveling to meet a minor for sexual activity, use of a two-way device to facilitate a felony, possession of cocaine and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- DeWayne Steven Smith, 41, of Copeland, Florida, was charged with using a computer to seduce/solicit/lure a child, traveling to meet a minor for sexual activity and use of a two-way device to facilitate a felony.
- Deshoneta Cobina Ward, 29, of Fort Lauderdale, was charged with offering to commit prostitution.

- Jan Petko, 45, of Key West, was charged with solicitation of prostitution.
- Daisy Dee Bock, 62, of Key West, was charged with working as an unlicensed health care professional.
- John Ray Jackson III, 36, of Sugarloaf Key, was charged with solicitation of prostitution.
- Nelson Steven Cary Jr., 36, of Key West, was charged with solicitation of prostitution.
- Lauren Elaine Perlmutter, 65, of Summerland Key, was charged with offering to commit prostitution and working as an unlicensed health care professional.
- Yadaimy Chiviano, 37, of Miami, was charged with offering to commit prostitution.
- Maibelin Marti Aguila, 35, of Miami, was charged with offering to commit prostitution.
- Davianni Grean Jerez, 34, of Miami, was charged with offering to commit prostitution.
- Rismay Rivera Fuente, 42, of Stock Island, was charged with offering to commit prostitution.
- Geibys Ruiz, 40, of Miami, was charged with offering to commit prostitution.
- Thomas Gerard Russomano, 62, of West Candell, New Jersey, was charged with solicitation of prostitution.
- James Jesse Seemiller, 22, of Key West, was charged with solicitation of prostitution.

— Contributed

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STATE RECOGNIZES SCHOOL DISTRICT

Monroe County designated ‘academically high-performing’



Students at Sigsbee Charter School in Key West, conduct a science experiment. Sigsbee was named a Florida School of Excellence, along with Plantation Key School and Treasure Village Montessori. SIGSBEE CHARTER SCHOOL/Contributed

The Monroe County School District is one of 18 districts in Florida to be an Academically High-Performing School District by the state board of education. Plantation Key School, Sigsbee Charter School and Treasure Village Montessori have been named as Schools of Excellence as well. The district joins a group recognized for outstanding academic performance, operational excellence, fiscal responsibility and adherence to the state’s high standards. The designation is based on a comprehensive review of the 2025-2026 school and district grades, class-size limits and 2024-2025 financial audit results. This designation examines the entire operation of a school system. It recognizes districts that not only produce exceptional student achievement, but also demonstrate responsible stewardship of public resources, compliance with state requirements and a commitment to excellence. The designation confirms that the district excels in the classroom and behind the scenes, ensuring that students benefit from a system that is high-performing, well-managed and fiscally sound, states a press release from the school district. “This designation is a tremendous source of pride for the entire Monroe County School District,” Superintendent Ed Tierney said. “It reflects the hard work of our students and employees, the support of our families and community, and our commitment to both academic excellence and responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted to us. I am incredibly proud of our team and we will continue

working every day to provide every student in the Florida Keys with an outstanding education.” Monroe County schools have distinguished themselves through strong academic performance, innovative instructional practices and a student-centered culture that prioritizes achievement, opportunity and continuous growth. From early-learning classrooms to advanced academic programs, career and technical education pathways, and college-readiness initiatives, the district has demonstrated that students in the Florida Keys can compete and succeed at the highest levels. This designation further validates the district’s reputation as one of Florida’s premier educational systems. Behind this achievement are the professionals who make student success possible. Monroe County’s teachers inspire, challenge and nurture students while maintaining the high expectations that drive academic growth. Support staff members ensure schools operate effectively and provide critical services that help students thrive. Principals and school leaders foster cultures of excellence within their campuses, while district administrators provide resources, support and vision. They form a team united by a shared commitment to doing what is best for students. This distinction also belongs to the students and families of Monroe County. Students across the district continue to rise to meet high expectations. Their accomplishments are supported by families who partner with schools and reinforce the importance of education, creating strong learning communities.

— Contributed



RELAY FOR LIFE OF THE FL KEYS HOPE WALK as Presented by Isla Bella Beach Resort in memory of Clara and Jerry Mayette

Thanks the following:
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SAND, SUN & SUGAR RUSHES

Marathon's beachfront trick-or-treat delivers sweet seaside fun

ALEX RICKERT
alex@keysweekly.com

Sombrero Beach traded sunbathers for superheroes, sandcastles for skeletons and dive masks for dinosaurs on Oct. 23 as the city of Marathon's second annual Trick or Treat at the Beach brought hundreds of costumed kids and their families to the shoreline.

With the beach's scenic sidewalks transformed into a candy-coated parade of ghosts, princesses, Pokémon trainers and pint-sized monsters, local businesses, nonprofits and community groups pulled out all the stops with elaborate displays, festive decorations and enough sugary loot to keep every local dentist living large.

The city-sponsored event continued the beachfront tradition launched last year, giving Marathon families a seaside spin on the classic Halloween trick-or-treat experience. *Photos by ROSS SMITH/Keys Weekly*



Welcome Dr. Zuba!



Dr. Stanley Zuba has spent nearly thirty years as the pediatrician Keys families trust, caring for children at Florida Keys Pediatric & Adolescent Center in Tavernier since 1997. A Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and board-certified since 1990, he trained at Cook County Children's Hospital in Chicago and has served as Medical Director of Island Dolphin Care for over 25 years. Dr. Zuba is now joining Keys Kids Health Centers, continuing his commitment to ensuring every child in the Florida Keys has a doctor who knows them.

At Keys Kids Health Centers, we made a promise: every child who walks through our doors will be seen, heard, and cared no matter their family's circumstances.

A child's smile is priceless. So is their health. But for too many families, a toothache or a fever brings a quieter fear: what will this cost us? That fear makes parents wait, hope it passes on its own, and sometimes choose between their child's health and the rent or groceries.

We've seen it firsthand, a kindergartner quietly living with a toothache because her parents didn't know where to turn, and couldn't have afforded it if they had. A small cavity left untreated until it became a painful, costly emergency. Never because a parent didn't care. Only because they were afraid of the bill.

So we changed the story. Every child we see is treated at no/low cost to their family, before small problems become painful ones. No forms standing in the way, no bill waiting at the end of the appointment, just a child who gets to keep smiling, and a parent who gets to breathe a little easier.

That's what this promise really protects: not just a child's teeth or health, but their family's peace of mind and future. No family should ever have to choose between their child's health and food on the table.

We can't keep this promise alone. It's kept by everyone who believes our kids are worth investing in...every donor, every partner, every person who trusts us with their child's care.

Welcome Dr. Tabassian!



Dr. Lilia Tabassian is excited to join the team at Keys Kids Health Centers, bringing compassionate dental care to children throughout the Florida Keys. A Florida native, she completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Florida and earned her dental degree with honors from the prestigious Harvard School of Dental Medicine, followed by a two-year Advanced Education in General Dentistry residency in Nashville, Tennessee. There she developed a passion for public health and for helping young patients feel comfortable and confident in the dental chair. Dr. Tabassian believes every visit is an opportunity to build trust with a child.

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- Sugarloaf School, Sugarloaf Key**
W & F, 7:30AM - 3:30PM

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M & W, 7:30AM - 3:30PM

Gerald Adams, Key West
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Horace O'Bryant, Key West
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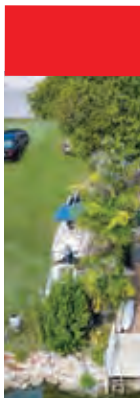
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SAT., 10/31, 11A-1P



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OPEN HOUSE
SAT., 10/31, 11A-1P



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FUNCTIONALLY CAFFEINATED WELLNESS

MY BRAIN IS THRIVING. MY HIPS HAVE COMPLAINTS.

For the first time in more than 15 years of working in the health, wellness and fitness industry, I took two consecutive weeks off. I know. I barely recognize myself either.

Now, before anyone pictures me stretched out on a beach somewhere with a frozen drink in my hand and absolutely no idea what day it is, let me clarify what I apparently consider “time off”: continuing education. Because nothing says rest and relaxation quite like sitting in front of a computer for hours taking notes, watching lectures, reading research and periodically questioning why I chose a profession that requires me to continue learning things for the rest of my natural life.

Mentally, though, it has been fantastic. I love learning and I love having the time to dig into research without simultaneously answering emails, writing programs, training clients and trying to remember whether I ate lunch.

My brain is having the time of its life. My body, however, would like to file a complaint. My hips hurt. My back is stiff. My neck is annoyed. After sitting for a few hours, I stand up and immediately feel like every part of my body needs a minute to remember what we are doing.

And it has reminded me of something I talk about all the time but rarely experience to this degree myself. Human beings really do not do particularly well when we stay in one position all day. That does not mean sitting is some horrible activity we need to eliminate from our lives. Please sit down. Eat dinner. Watch a movie. Read a book. Enjoy your couch. I am not coming into your living room and replacing all of your furniture with standing desks. The problem is not sitting. The problem is staying there for hours.

You can exercise regularly and still spend way too much of the rest of your day sedentary. Those are two different things. You could wake up, go to the gym for an hour, have a fantastic workout and then spend eight or

nine hours sitting at a desk. Your workout absolutely counts and provides enormous health benefits, but it does not magically erase all of those hours spent barely moving. I know this intellectually. After these past two weeks, I now know it from my hips.

Research on prolonged sitting has found that simply interrupting it with very short periods of movement can make a difference. In studies where people sat for several hours, researchers had participants periodically get up for brief bouts of light walking, sometimes for only two or three minutes at a time. Those little movement breaks improved the way the body handled glucose and insulin after eating, compared with uninterrupted sitting. Other research has shown benefits for things like blood pressure as well.

Notice what I did not say. Nobody had to change into workout clothes, drive to a gym or carve another hour out of an already busy day. Nobody needed a Peloton, and nobody was doing burpees next to the conference table. They got up and moved for a couple of minutes. That is an important distinction because I think we have made movement and exercise synonymous when they really are not.

Exercise is intentional, structured physical activity. Strength training, running, cycling, swimming, taking a yoga class or whatever else you intentionally do to challenge your body. Movement is everything else. Walking to refill your water. Taking the dog outside. Standing while you are on the phone. Walking down the hall instead of sending a message. Going outside for five minutes between meetings. Doing a lap around the house while waiting for the coffee to brew. None of those things is going to earn you an athletic achievement award, but your body still notices them.

Your body likes changing positions. Muscles contract. Joints move through different ranges of motion. Blood circulates. Your hips get to extend after spending hours flexed in a chair. Your glutes receive confirmation that



JENNIFER HARVEY

...is a Marathon-based ACSM-certified personal trainer and precision nutrition coach who owns and operates Highly Motivated Functionally Caffeinated LLC.

they are still employed. And perhaps most importantly, you interrupt these enormous blocks of sedentary time without having to turn every moment of your day into another workout.

You also do not need to jump out of your chair obsessively every 20 minutes because your watch yelled at you. But if you regularly look up from your computer and realize you have not moved since some time around breakfast, we have some room for improvement. Every 30 to 60 minutes, stand up. Walk around. Refill your water.

Stretch your legs. Take the long way to the bathroom. If you work from home, congratulations — nobody can judge you for doing a few squats in the kitchen.

And please do not make this complicated. You do not need another wellness gadget. You do not need a special desk treadmill. You do not need to “movement snackMAXX” anything because I swear if the internet turns standing up into another wellness trend, I am quitting. Just move.

My two weeks of continuing education have taught me plenty of new information that I will hopefully use to become a better coach. But spending this much time sitting has also been a pretty effective reminder that sometimes health does not require another complicated protocol, another piece of equipment or another hour-long workout. Sometimes your body is asking for something much simpler.

Get out of the damn chair.

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Resources for pregnant
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A nutrition program for women who are pregnant or have recently been pregnant, breastfeeding, infants, and children under age 5.

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- **Nutrition Education**
- **Breastfeeding Support**

You are income eligible for WIC if you are currently receiving Medicaid, Temporary Cash Assistance, or SNAP. Working families who have a low or moderate income may also be eligible for WIC. You can get WIC before your first doctor's appointment for your pregnancy. Call to schedule an appointment:

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COLLEGE HOSTS MEET- THE-PRESIDENT EVENTS

Jared Ochs connects with
Key West & Upper Keys
communities Nov. 2 & 4



College of the Florida Keys interim president Jared Ochs will meet with community members at receptions Monday, Nov. 2 in Key West and Wednesday, Nov. 4 in the Upper Keys. CONTRIBUTED

The College of the Florida Keys will hold two "Meet the President" events to introduce Jared Ochs, interim president.

The first event will be on Monday, Nov. 2 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Tennessee Williams Theatre on the Key West campus. The second will be on Wednesday, Nov. 4, from 4 to 6 p.m. at CFK's Upper Keys Center.

"Getting to know our stakeholders, hearing their perspectives and developing relationships is a priority as I enter this new role leading the college in its mission to serve and strengthen our community," Ochs said.

He began as interim president on Monday, Oct. 19 after serving as a deputy chief of staff in the executive office of Gov. Ron DeSantis. His career included senior positions across state government, including the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR), the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, the Florida Department of Education and the Florida House of Representatives.

More information is at cfk.edu/discover/office-of-the-president/.

— Contributed

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Looking for: A very loving home with someone extra kind and patient.
Turnoffs: The start of my life was really awful. I try not to think about the past.

SWIPE RIGHT

Adorable furry faces are waiting for families at the Florida Keys SPCA

Keys Weekly is thrilled each week to showcase some "forever" friends that are ready, waiting and available for their perfect adoption match at the Florida Keys SPCA's Marathon campus – complete with their best qualities, preferences and turnoffs to ensure the best fit.

From cats and dogs to Guinea pigs, hamsters, rabbits, reptiles and birds, the perfect addition to your family is waiting for you at one of the SPCA's two campuses, in Key West and Marathon. The SPCA's knowledgeable staff will help with advice and care tips while working to ensure a good fit between each pet and its people.

See all the animals waiting for a home at fkspca.org. To contact the Marathon campus, call 305-743-4800 or visit 10550 Aviation Blvd.

Hurricane fosters needed. With hurricane season upon us, the SPCA needs volunteers and fosters in case of a storm. Over 100 animals would need to be evacuated, so it is crucial they all have homes in place before an impending storm. The SPCA provides everything you need; all



STELLA
1-year-old female domestic shorthair.
Looking for: A home where I can be queen bee.
Turnoffs: When I don't get my way. I'm in charge here.

you do is give an animal a safe haven during the storm and return them to the shelter once it's safe – that is, if you don't fall in love. For more information on becoming a hurricane foster, visit <https://fkspca.org/volunteer/become-a-foster-volunteer/> or call 305-743-4800.



NEIGHBOR OF THE WEEK

KRIS ROEHRIG

Grassy Key Millwork

W JEN ALEXANDER
www.keysweekly.com

No matter how many individuals appear in the pages of each edition of Keys Weekly, there are always so many more of our community members who deserve to be recognized. In an effort to shine a spotlight on more of the incredible individuals who live and work in these islands, Keys Weekly is proud to present our Neighbor of the Week feature, dedicated to celebrating a community member with each issue.

This week's Neighbor of the Week feature highlights woodworker and master builder Kris Roehrig. Working together with close friend Matt Sexton, Kris is realizing a long-held dream: shaping "Downtown Grassy Key." Situated in the area near Bon-go's Restaurant, the upcoming complex will host Roehrig's woodworking shop and a variety of future vendor spaces. In his spare time, he loves hanging out with friends on the water and making unique masterpieces with his hands.

How long have you been in the Keys and what brought you here? I've been in the Keys off and on for the past 20 years. My family used to come here a lot when I was a kid, so it's always felt like home to me.

What is your favorite thing about living in the Keys? I would say the people and the lifestyle. I love the small town vibe and I've made some of my best friends I've ever had

here. I love the ocean and all the aspects of living by the ocean.

If you were any animal, real or mythical, what would you be and why? I'd be a liger. They are fierce and are rare. I love that they enjoy the water, swimming and solidarity like tigers, but they are social and comfortable living in groups like lions; kind of like me. They also can't reproduce. Neither can I any more.

What is your favorite type of wood to work with? Definitely purple heart. It's a really gorgeous hardwood. It's a heavy, dense wood that comes from South America. When freshly cut, it's a super vibrant purple and over time, it ages into a deep purplish-brown color. I've used to make skateboards, cutting boards and all sorts of fun inlays with it.

What's a Keys food you can't get enough of? Bahamian-Style conch ceviche. My favorite was from Johnson's Grocery Store in Key West. I would go there all the time as a kid. The owners were always so nice and it's one of my fondest memories as a kid.

Between living in Maui, building a home from scratch in Alabama and living in the Keys, you've experienced three very different lives. Which life has stood out? I would say my time in Alabama was very special. My wife and I moved there so she could finish out her life there. We built our house from scratch all by ourselves, grew our own food and just spent time together there. We stood out there with our dreadlocks, but I was a really respected woodworker there, so even the preachers and the people that you would think would kind of shy away from you became very close friends.

What life lesson has woodworking taught you? For sure, patience. Woodworking is all about being patient. When you start doing inlays and stuff like that, just take deep breaths. Sit down. Shut up. Relax. Do it right the first time. You can't come back.

If you were given \$1,000, but you had to spend it all in one hour on something completely useless, what are you buying? I would take my friends to an amazing sushi dinner. Ambrosia Sushi was my favorite back in the day but now I guess I'd take everyone to Castaway. I love their lionfish!

If you had to pick a personal theme song that played every time you walked into a room, what song is blasting? I would say "Ghostwriter" by RJD2. It just seems like it's fitting for my unique personality.

Know someone who would be a good "Neighbor of the Week?" Email keysweeklyjen@gmail.com.

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GETTING SCARY IN THE FLORIDA KEYS

ROBERT THE DOLL MAY BE THE SPOOKIEST RESIDENT

With Halloween just around the corner, it might be fun to highlight some of the scary things that call the Florida Keys, and the waters surrounding them, home.

To start, waking up in the middle of the night, turning on a light and seeing a cockroach crawling on the counter can be startling. While they are completely harmless and cannot bite, they do have little spikes on their legs that poke if you grab one. They're scariest when they spread their wings and fly. If they land on you, or in your hair, it can elicit a scream.

Other creepy crawlers include spiders and the orangish Florida Keys giant centipede, which can grow up to 8 inches long and has scores of legs that make it twist and run really fast. In the same arena, watching a scorpion crawl up the wall in your house can be scary. People used to grease the legs of their beds so they couldn't crawl up and get between the sheets.

Snakes can be a fright. My wife used to scream when she was working in the yard and one slithered out. After living with a backyard herpetologist for the last 20 years, she doesn't scream any more. All they do is eat things like insects, mice and rats – varmints often featured in haunted houses.

Sharks can be scary, more for the baggage they carry than anything they do. In 1975, Steven Spielberg's summer blockbuster "Jaws" cast them as bloodthirsty monsters and they've paid the price ever since. In reality, they are not the monsters they have been portrayed to be. According to the International Shark Attack File, Monroe County has had 17 unprovoked attacks since 1882. Sharks are the last thing to worry about.

For anyone enjoying one of the Florida Keys' premier features, the waters surrounding the island chain, sunburn is a more substantial threat.



Mizpah and Gene Otto, around 1905. Gene is wearing the sailor's suit currently worn by Robert the Doll. FLORIDA KEYS HISTORY CENTER/Monroe County Library

The sun can be brutal on exposed skin and leave it a scary red color. Wear your sunscreen!

Seeing a crocodile in the wild can get your heart pumping. They are becoming a more familiar sight as their numbers continue to rebound. The American crocodile differs from more aggressive, bona fide man-eaters like the Nile crocodile and the saltwater crocodiles found in Australia. Over the last century, only a handful of crocodile attacks have been documented in Florida. Alligators, by contrast, are a different story. While South Florida and the Florida Keys have both alligators and crocodiles (the only place in the world where they coexist), neither poses a threat in the Keys, unless your name is Spot or Fluffy.

Hurricanes can be scary, especially when they are treated as a party and not given the respect they have earned. Fortunately, advances in weather forecasting have made them much easier to navigate. On that note, fingers crossed for the continued balmy conditions.

Some drivers sailing down the Overseas Highway can be truly scary. One problem with having a single lane traveling up and down the island chain is that not everyone drives the way you want them to. People can get frustrated and drive like they have more important places to be. It is much easier to relax, enjoy the views and go with the traffic flow, even if it takes a few extra minutes. Tickets are expensive, accidents cost more and sometimes take lives, which is the real horror.

The Keys are home to traditional scares of a more Halloween nature, too. Key West is considered one of the country's most haunted cities. One of its spookier residents is Robert the Doll. Nothing is scarier than Robert, whom some consider the most haunted artifact in the county.

Wild things have been said about him. Robert stands 40 inches tall and is stuffed with excelsior, or wood wool made of slivers cut from logs. The eyes are shoe buttons, and the face, originally, was painted blue and red like a court jester. Those colors have long since faded, and all that is left of the façade is the doll's spongy countenance.

Robert has developed his own unique history, much of it passed around by people sipping rum and telling tales. The doll has zero affiliation with Chucky and his successful "Child's Play" film franchise. An angry Bahamian servant didn't stitch the

doll together. Rather, the Steiff doll was a birthday present. Steiff is the German company that produced the first teddy bear.

The Ottos, a prominent Key West family, brought the doll here. Thomas Osgood Otto was a third-generation doctor who married Minnie Elizabeth; they moved into their home at 534 Eaton St. in 1898, where Robert Eugene, the youngest of three boys and a girl, was born.

Robert Eugene Otto was given the doll on Oct. 25, 1904, as a present for his fourth birthday. He gave the doll his first name and kept Gene for himself. He also dressed him in the sailor suit he wears today. The two were inseparable. For a spooky sleepover, Robert's old haunt is now a bed-and-breakfast. The Victorian-style structure is home to the Artist House.

Today, Robert lives at the Fort East Martello Tower Museum. Sometimes, when you take his picture without asking first, people say, Robert makes bad things happen. A wall at the Civil War-era fortification is decorated with letters apologizing for taking his picture without asking permission. Just in case, ask first! For a truly haunting time, check out David Sloan's Robert the Doll Experience, where the doll's fascinating history is shared while Robert sits in the room with his stuffed toy lion.

Robert the Doll's 122nd birthday was last Sunday. Happy belated birthday, Robert!

There is one truly horrifying Keys experience, perhaps even scarier than Robert, that some people can't help but fall into. It is known as the Key West vortex. The Key West Gravity Chronicles' Facebook account documents its victims. According to the page, "Yes, our beloved island has mysterious and powerful vortices that grab hold of unsuspecting locals and tourists, often nullifying their ability to resist gravity and then pinning them to the earth."

There might not be anything scarier than waking up and seeing yourself pictured on the site. Be careful out there. Happy Halloween!



FLORIDA KEYS HISTORY WITH BRAD BERTELLI

Brad is a local historian, author, speaker and Honorary Conch who loves sharing the history of the Florida Keys.

NO ONE WALKS ALONE

Hundreds flood the 2026 Hope Walk with pink on U.S. 1

The side of Overseas Highway ran pink on Oct. 24 with the return of the Florida Keys Hope Walk. Starting at the Marathon Fire Rescue station, walkers of all ages put one foot in front of the other for a cause hitting close to home. The annual walk celebrates survivors, honors lost loved ones and shows those still fighting cancer in the Florida Keys and beyond that the community has their back. The 2026 walk served to honor

and remember longtime locals Clara and Jerry Mayette, with a luminaria walk at Crane Point up next on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 6 to 9 p.m. Donations are still open for the event, benefiting the American Cancer Society. For more information or to make a donation, scan the QR code. Photos contributed



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MARATHON AUTO & MARINE SERVICE
2525 OVERSEAS HIGHWAY, MARATHON

A Cuban vireo seen in Key West in 2016. MARK HEDDEN/Keys Weekly


MARK HEDDEN

... is a photographer, writer, and semi-professional birdwatcher. He has lived in Key West for more than 25 years and may no longer be employable in the real world. He is also executive director of the Florida Keys Audubon Society.

The red, white and black notice arrived in the mail the other day, filling me with a bit of hope.

Sure, jury duty reminds us to embrace our role as U.S. citizens; to help maintain law and order and fairly apply the principles of justice in American society — all in service to that whole life-liberty-and-pursuit-of-happiness thing. But also, my last jury summons had led to one of the rarest birds ever seen in North America, mainly because I had strong opinions about native plants.

I've been called for jury duty in Key West four or five times over the years. I usually get dismissed for sta-

tistical reasons — 100 people show up for a trial that only needs 15 or so jurors. But this time I had made it to *voir dire*. Typically confined to courtrooms, Law & Order episodes and John Grisham novels, *voir dire* is the legal process by which defense attorneys and prosecutors question prospective jurors or witnesses to ascertain bias, competence and suitability.

It was a civil trial. Neighbor A sues Neighbor B because Neighbor B had gone onto Neighbor A's property while they were away and cut down a patch of native trees to improve the view from Neighbor B's property.

When the defense attorney asked my opinion about such matters, I told the lawyer that chopping down trees on someone else's property was bad, but chopping down native trees was much worse. Florida Keys ecosystems were facing death by a thousand cuts — a few half-acres here, a few fewer trees there. I told the defense attorney native habitats need protection, and he told me I could leave.

I had already cleared my schedule, in case I was chosen. But my binoculars and camera were in the car — in case I wasn't.

It was mid-April 2016, the time every spring when migration ramps up, and when rare birds are often discovered. I headed to Fort Zachary Taylor, where I was not surprised to meet up with the small gang of birders who were there most mornings — Carl Goodrich, Lee and Tharon Dunn, and regular out-of-town visitor Murray Gardler.

Carl was the best birder among us, one of the best in the country, in my opinion. People called him the Bird Whisperer as he would find the rare birds everyone else had missed. I would joke that I didn't need to go out and look for birds, I could just wait for Carl to call.

Lee and Tharon were solid birders too, and generally good company. They walked around the island far more than they drove.

Murray was an exquisite crank, but a sweetheart once he decided you were okay. He'd worked with a lot of car dealerships

RARE BIRDS AND CIVIC DUTIES

WILD THINGS

before retirement and always drove new cars. He and Carl had been friends for years, and Carl told me a story once about them being out birding when Murray realized he'd locked his keys in the car. Instead of calling AAA and waiting around, he just picked up a rock and smashed the driver's side window, knowing they could put a new one in quick at the local dealers.

Murray was in his later years by this time and set up a lawn chair to stare into a section of the hammock where your skulkier ground specialist species are often seen — gray-cheeked thrushes, Swainson's thrushes, Swainson's warblers. Birds that took patience and vigilance to see, and didn't require much walking. The rest of us roamed around as a pack.

Honestly, I can't remember what other birds we saw that day, though looking it up on eBird we saw just under 50 species. And I can't remember how long we roamed. But I do remember finding the bird.

We were working the edge of the entrance road, an area with a lot of trees and bushes. We heard it first — a two-part call with a quick down-up note followed by a quick up-down note. None of us knew what it was, but all of us knew we'd never heard it before. We froze and stared into the same bush.

We could see a shape hopping around a set of branches several layers deep. It looked to be a songbird slightly larger than a warbler.

Then the bird popped out into an open space at the edge of the bush. I raised my camera and caught a few frames. I think Carl did too, and maybe Lee.

The bird was a dull yellow in the belly and gray on top. It had a thick-ish bill and faint wing bars. The most distinctive field mark was a white half circle, like a parenthesis, behind each eye, properly called a postocular crescent.

We all knew it was something we hadn't seen before. Carl knew what it actually was — a

Cuban vireo, a species never recorded in North America, or anywhere outside of Cuba.

After summoning Murray, we all stood huddled on the side of the road, keeping a wary eye on the traffic, but mostly watching the bush to see if the bird popped out again. We had very brief glances of it, but it never exposed itself as clearly as it did in those first moments.

It was the most spectacular unspectacular bird I had ever seen.

We knew we had to put out the word out about what we'd found, but we also knew it would draw small hordes of birders dying to see such a rare thing. And in those small hordes, as in any crowd, a few overzealous people would turn a bird sighting into a life-or-death matter and perhaps inspire them to stray from the trail of acceptable human comportment.

The bird stayed for nearly a week — and lured plenty of people to the state park. There were two or three rude people. They'd shove their head into the bush to flush out the bird. They'd walk up and stand directly in front of us and others to stare into the bush, muttering something about it being a free country. But overall everyone was polite, thoughtful and grateful to see such a bird in such an unlikely place.

Sadly, Murray died a few years after that. Then Tharon a few years later. Carl and Lee both sold their houses here and now spend their time in coastal Massachusetts. But every time I go into the park I still feel I might bump into one of them.

When I called the number on my most recent jury summons I learned they weren't seating a jury this week. But I might head over to Fort Zachary Taylor in the morning. Just in case.



**CHRIS
MCNULTY**

is an astrologer, wanderer, bartender and advocate for queer justice. He is a loquacious Gemini with a cozy Cancer rising. Find him at hearthandherald-astrology.com

Happy Hermes

the island astrologer

**POTENTIALLY
IMPETUOUS**

We have officially plunged into the emotional and cagey depths of Scorpio season. This is when we learn whom we can trust by probing the unspoken motivations of those around us. Scorpio wants to know what makes you tick so it can decide whether to put its faith in you to survive the dark and cold that lies ahead. 'Tis the season of taboo, obsession and connections that are deeper than blood. This week is actually rather tame astrologically. By that I mean we don't have a lot of planetary interactions taking place, although Venus and Mercury are both retrograde, so we are still revisiting and reframing our relationships and communication styles. The major transit taking place this week is a connection between retrograde Mercury in Scorpio and Mars in Leo. They are forming a 90-degree square to one another on Friday, Oct. 30. We can expect their influence to last into early next week. This planetary combo portends publicly visible corrective action, investigations that lead to conflict, communication breakdowns that cause frustration and conversations in which both parties speak over each other. Prepare to make choices with limited information or for fights to break out over misinformation. Ultimately, though, these potential frictions call for creative solutions, and that is where we ought to turn our energy amidst the possible chaos that can occur under this sky. Be careful not to jump to conclusions or act too brashly.

Here are your horoscopes for retrograde Mercury in Scorpio square Mars in Leo. Read for your rising and sun signs.

SCORPIO

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Happy birthday season, tough and tender Scorpio. This is a rather self-reflective birthday season for you, complete with soul-searching and being a bit overly critical of yourself. Go ahead and take stock, but avoid unnecessary self-criticism. Make sure you're crossing your Ts at work, as there is potential for conflict to arise because you overlooked something while stuck in your head.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

You're thinking a lot about your solitude and maybe even ruminating on loneliness. Perfect timing. How do you manage the quiet times without falling into despairing feelings? There is goodness and possibility in reflective alone time. There is some conflict between the desire to do something new or different and the reflective state you're in. Breathe and decide your course of action.

CAPRICORN

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

This looks like a week of competing loyalties. You're reflecting on the hopes and dreams you have for yourself and who in your life supports your goals. You also have the drive to invest your time and energy into a shared goal with a team. These appear to be two different things. There's a real friends vs. vocation vibe here. Let your decision percolate a bit and don't allow yourself to feel rushed.

AQUARIUS

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Work has got you thinking. Perhaps you're trying to figure out a complex problem or wondering if you're working in the right place. Reflecting on your role in the public sphere is healthy and natural. However, your partner seems to be asking you to do something that conflicts with your thoughts about work. Don't get locked into a battle; rather, investigate the friction.

PISCES

Feb. 19 - March 20

You have stuff to do, Pisces. It looks as if you have the energy to get your act together. You are utilizing your routines and getting your hands dirty to accomplish your goals. Keep that energy going. The conflict arises when you think about all the things you could be doing that are different from what you are doing. Don't let wistfulness derail you. It's OK to plan for future adventures, but stay connected to what you've been building.

ARIES

March 21 - April 19

You're likely wondering how to participate in shared existence. Perhaps you want to volunteer. Maybe you want to invest. Or you may want to be vulnerable with another person. But the time and energy it takes to participate with other people takes away from the energy needed to pursue your own creative projects. Sit in the paradox for a bit. Make your choices later.

TAURUS

April 20 - May 20

Partnership can take many, many forms. It appears you are reviewing or reflecting on what partnership means to you and what structure would work best. Perhaps you're even thinking about partners you've had in the past. It's all good stuff to consider. Use this analysis to put some energy into home-and-family building. Staying connected to your past will help you build your future.

GEMINI

May 21 - June 20

What to do and what to say can be fraught decisions. You have some fiery and fierce words

to express, and you are also reflecting on your actions. Don't get your wires crossed, as it can lead to hasty and messy choices. Speak your truth-to-power now, and think about how you might build new daily practices into your repertoire.

CANCER

June 21 - July 22

Doesn't having to work to make money and needing to manage the things you own feel like a drag? It's just an incessant obligation. But it looks like you've got the energy to get these things under control right now. You also have some unfinished projects that are asking for your attention. How can you carry on with your momentum AND pick up the pieces from the past? Get clear on your priorities.

LEO

July 23 - Aug. 22

Leo, you are on fire. You have so much energy coursing through your mind and body right now that you might feel a bit manic. Are you directing that energy into projects or activities that are personally affirming? Things at home have you deep in thought and revisiting the past, but remember to keep moving in the present.

VIRGO

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

It appears you are considering how your immediate environment helps form you and your methods of communication. You and your local environment are part and parcel. You affect the world as much as it affects you. How can you use that knowledge? Get aggressively meditative. Use your alone time to be really active. See what you learn.

LIBRA

Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

Do you have enough? When you take stock of what you have, would you say your needs are met? And how might your goals change once you have all you need physically? What's next after basic survival needs? With those met, would you start aspiring to achieve things that are harder to quantify, like knowledge or love. Use this week to determine what's next for you and who will help you get there.

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BRIEFLY



MCSO establishes traffic pattern for Halloween night

The Monroe County Sheriff’s Office will implement temporary traffic pattern changes and restricted neighborhood access behind the Florida Keys Marathon International Airport, on Halloween night, Saturday, Oct. 31, from 6 to 10 p.m. According to a news release from MCSO, motorists can expect delays in three areas. Dolphin Drive: reduced to one-lane inbound traffic only. All vehicular traffic entering the neighborhood must enter via Dolphin Drive. Gulfstream Boulevard: designated as one-way traffic as vehicles route through the area. Harbor Drive: designated as one-way outbound traffic only. All vehicles exiting the neighborhood must exit via Harbor Drive. Dolphin Drive, Gulfstream Boulevard and Harbor Drive will all operate strictly as one-way streets during event hours. The Sheriff’s Office will enforce road closures to all non-resident traffic on Tuna, Shark, Bonito, Porpoise and Marlin Drive. Checkpoints will be established and access will be restricted to local residents. Drivers should be prepared to present proof of residence or state their destination. Reduce speed, watch carefully for children, and adhere to all posted signs as well as directions from law enforcement. Pedestrians should wear reflective clothing and carry flashlights. Sheriff’s office deputies will be out in force patrolling popular trick-or-treating areas.

City of Marathon begins Movies Under the Stars

It’s that time of year where the days grow shorter, the temperature cools and the bugs aren’t as bad – perfect for the city’s “Movies Under the Stars” series at Marathon Community Park Amphitheater. The city of Marathon will host a free Saturday night “Movies Under the Stars” series at the Marathon Community Park amphitheater, beginning Nov. 7 with a showing of the Halloween favorite “Ghostbusters.” Movies start at dusk; participants are reminded to bring chairs, blankets, snacks and drinks. No alcohol is allowed. The remainder of the series is as follows: Nov. 14: “The Great Outdoors”; Nov. 21: “Raiders of the Lost Ark”; Dec. 5: “Fred Clause”; Dec. 12: “Elf”; Dec. 19: “A Christmas Story”; Jan. 16: “Sleepless in Seattle”; Jan. 30: “Toy Story 5”; and Feb. 6: “Blue Beetle.”

Commercial boat slips available at 7-Mile Marina

Six commercial boat slips remain available at the City of Marathon’s recently redeveloped 7-Mile Marina. The marina, located at 1090 Overseas Highway near the east end of the Seven Mile Bridge, is anticipated to open around Nov. 1, according to city ports director Sean Cannon. The remaining slips, which cost \$35 per foot of vessel, will be given out on a first-come, first-served basis. Slips cannot be resold or sublet. There will be one slip per person/agency. The city requests insurance, income verification, background check, and appropriate licenses. The marina offers cleaning tables and water, and electricity will be available at a later date. Email marina@ci.marathon.fl.us with any questions.

Hobbs park playground to close for upgrade

The playground at Jesse Hobbs Community Park is getting ready for a refresh and will be closed from Monday, Nov. 9, through Monday, Nov. 23. The project includes upgrades to the playground surface area by adding mulch. During the closure, the basketball court, benches, bleachers and bathroom facilities will remain open. A grand reopening of the playground area is planned for Nov. 23 at 10 a.m., according to facility and construction project manager Mark Tuschel.

Marathon Moose holds Monday bingo nights

The Marathon Moose Lodge located at 11601 1st Ave. Gulf in Marathon will host bingo nights open to the public each Monday. Doors open at 5 p.m. and bingo starts at 6:15 p.m. in the newly-renovated and smoke-free hall. Six-game packets are available (6 squares or 12 squares) plus two bonus games (shotgun and coverall). A progressive jackpot is available on coverall. Participants must be 18 years of age to play. Water, soda and light snacks are available for purchase.

Anne McKee Fund opens fine art auction submissions

Beginning Nov. 1, the Anne McKee Artist’s Fund will be accepting artists’ submissions for the 2027 Fine Art Auction. Submissions are accepted until 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 30. Online applications and accompanying photos are available at www.mckeefund.org. Artists will be notified of acceptance no later than Dec. 11. The art drop-off is Jan. 30, with the auction preview hosted at The Studios of Key West Feb. 4-17. Each participating artist receives 50% of the proceeds from the sale of their work, while the McKee Fund receives the remainder to award to other Keys artists for select projects. Only 40 entries will be accepted due to space and time limitations. The annual art auction raises money for project-based grants to Keys visual, literary and performing artists. Attendees can bid on original paintings, sculpture, photography, fiber art, ceramics, mixed media, jewelry and more. For more information, visit www.mckeefund.org.

Channel 5 bridge lane closures begin

Nighttime single-lane intermittent closures will take place from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday on the Channel 5 Bridge. This work is anticipated to continue for roughly eight weeks. Flaggers will periodically stop traffic in one direction to allow vehicles from the opposite direction to pass safely. At times, traffic in both directions may be stopped for up to 15 minutes to accommodate special bridge operations. Please follow all posted signs and instructions from on-site personnel. More information is available from FDOT’s Communications Office at (305) 470-5349 or www.southflroads.com.

Musicians wanted for holiday concerts

The Lower Keys Community Choir and the Keys Chamber Orchestra are seeking musicians to join the group for a series of holiday concerts on Dec. 15, 16 and 17. The group rehearses on Big Pine Key on Sunday afternoons at varying times, starting Nov. 1. Those interested in joining may email keyschamberorchestra@gmail.com for more information.

Marathon Moose to host first responders dinner

The Marathon Moose Lodge will host an event on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 5 to 7 p.m. to celebrate local first responders. The event is open to the public, and all first responders will eat free. The night will include live music by Freddie Bye and John Bartus, a cornhole tournament and an ornament painting art project, along with a lottery basket with \$2,000 in scratch-off tickets and \$500 cash. All five Moose lodges located in the Florida Keys will hold an event on the same night, and the lottery basket drawing will be live streamed from Key West. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Florida Sheriffs’ Youth Ranches.

Come take a class at the Marathon library

The Marathon library has a wide variety of class offerings, ranging from photography to book clubs, robots, virtual reality and more. Scan the QR code here to see the schedule and get involved.

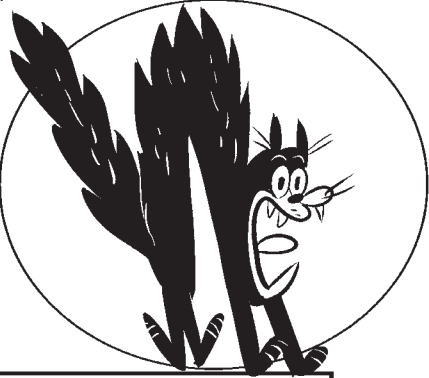


KidSpot
By Dan Thompson

10-29

Halloween words
Hidden in the word grid are 10 Halloween words. Look for them going across, down, backward and diagonal.

Word list:
bat
candy
owl
zombie
brew
cat
pumpkin
broom
ghost
witch



N B A T B Y T

B I A K R D S

R C K L O N O

E Q W P O A H

W O X D M C G

W I T C H U Q

E I B M O Z P

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UNIVERSAL
Sudoku Puzzle

1 3 8

4

9

8

4

6

1

2 9

6

3 4

4

8

1

7

3

2

3 5 6

Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Previous puzzle solution

7	1	4	3	9	8	5	6	2
5	9	2	7	4	6	1	8	3
6	8	3	1	2	5	9	7	4
2	6	7	5	1	3	4	9	8
3	4	9	8	6	2	7	5	1
1	5	8	4	7	9	2	3	6
8	3	1	9	5	4	6	2	7
4	2	5	6	8	7	3	1	9
9	7	6	2	3	1	8	4	5

7/31

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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7/30

NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1 Sleeve filler
4 Drop
8 Venomous snakes
12 Female deer
13 Judicial garb
14 Plunder
15 "I — — Camera"
16 Indigo dye
17 Norse god of mischief
18 Threatens
20 Saltpeter
21 Go by plane
22 Actor — Pesci
23 Hackneyed
26 Boring
30 Coal scuttle
31 Swamp
32 Broad st.
33 "What's the —?"
34 Annoy
35 Army rank (Abbr.)
36 Makes numb

39 In front
41 — King Cole
42 State near Ga.
43 Singer — Manilow
46 Military unit
50 Grad
51 Designer — Cassini
52 Clear
53 Took the train
54 Judge — Bader Ginsburg
55 Tip
56 — -do-well
57 Finest
58 Farm enclosure

DOWN
1 Eve's partner
2 European capital
3 Nasty
4 Prophet
5 "The Color of —"
6 Bird with long legs

Answer to Previous Puzzle

M	P	H		A	R	T			R	A	F	T
I	R	A		S	H	O	W		A	R	I	A
F	E	Z		S	O	L	O		B	A	L	L
F	E	A	S	T		D	E	C	I	B	E	L
	N	R	A			F	A	D				
		D	I	P		B	U	N		P	I	N
G	E	O	D	E		O	L	D		A	C	E
E	M	U		S	R	O		O	C	T	E	T
E	S	S		T	A	N		R	U	T		
			T	E	N			B	Y	E		
D	I	V	E	R	G	E		F	A	C	T	S
O	B	I	T		E	V	I	L		A	H	A
M	I	L	O		R	E	N	O		K	E	G
E	D	E	N			N	N	E		E	R	E

7 Business card abbr.
8 United
9 Chimney dirt
10 Prod
11 Recipe verb
19 Toward the stern
20 — de plume
22 Worthless stuff
23 Dull sound
24 Romantic flower
25 Notion
26 That girl's
27 Storm

28 Eye part
29 Fix
31 Discover
37 Rooftop window
38 Isle of —
39 Settle on a branch
40 Crone
42 Worries
43 Storage building
44 Lotion additive
45 Impolite
46 Azure
47 God of war
48 Force
49 Circular current
51 Sphere

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18				19				20				
				21			22					
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30					31					32		
33					34					35		
36				37	38				39	40		
				41				42				
43	44	45				46				47	48	49
50					51					52		
53					54					55		
56					57					58		

8-26

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The Mini Page

Founded by Betty Debnam



OUR STATES: OKLAHOMA

All photos by Hollie Westring

Oklahoma became the 46th state in the U.S. on Nov. 16, 1907. Oklahoma comes from two Choctaw Indian words. “Okla” means “people,” and “humma” means “red.” The state capital is Oklahoma City. It is one of the largest cities in land size in the country. It ranks 20th based on largest area. It is the 28th most populous state with 4.12 million people. The Mini Page learns more about Oklahoma this week.

OKLAHOMA HISTORY

Oklahoma is a southwestern state and home to more Native American tribes than any other state. It has 38 tribal headquarters. Powwows, or modern Native American festivals, are held all over the state. They feature authentic Native American food, dancing and art.

Oklahoma is a land rich in natural resources with its many plains, forests, fertile farmlands and four mountain ranges. It is a leading producer of oil and gas.

Farmlands cover three-fourths of the state. Beef cattle are important, and Oklahoma is a top producer of wheat.



The land was opened to homesteaders in the late 1880s. Some tried to claim the land before that date and came sooner than the others. Oklahoma was nicknamed the “Sooner State.”

FAST FACTS

- The state capital is Oklahoma City. It is one of the largest cities in land size in the country.
- The fiddle is the state musical instrument.
- The state bird is the scissor-tailed flycatcher.
- The American bison is the state animal.
- Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico and Colorado are the states that border Oklahoma.
- In 2025, the Oklahoma City Thunder won their first NBA Championship.
- Famous Oklahomans include: musicians Blake Shelton, Garth Brooks, Reba McEntire and Carrie Underwood; Mickey Mantle, baseball player; Jim Thorpe, gold medal Olympian; S.E. Hinton, author; Joy Harjo, first Native American United States Poet Laureate; Kristin Chenoweth, Tony- and Emmy-winning actress, singer and author; Isaac, Taylor and Zac Hanson of the band Hanson.



MINI FACT: Oklahoma is home to 400 miles of Route 66, which is the longest drivable portion of the road in the U.S.

ROUTE 66

Route 66 is a historic highway in the U.S. that starts in Chicago, Illinois, and spans all the way to Santa Monica, California. It goes through eight states and was a major path of transportation when it opened in 1926.

Nov. 11, 2026, marks the 100th anniversary, or centennial, of Route 66, which is also known as the “Mother Road.” Oklahoma has 400 miles of Route 66 within its state lines, so the Mother Road has a lot of signage and attractions there.

The Round Barn in Arcadia, Oklahoma, is the only round barn on Route 66 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. It’s said that William Harrison Odor made the barn round because at the time (1898), round barns were thought to be tornado-proof. While that has not been scientifically proven,

people traveling along Route 66 in Oklahoma have enjoyed stopping and touring the barn for many years.



RESOURCES

ON THE WEB

- bit.ly/4aXnRuE
- bit.ly/4vlnUlr

AT THE LIBRARY

- “O is for Oklahoma: Written by Kids for Kids” by Boys and Girls Clubs of Oklahoma County

FIND IT

ART, BARN, BISON, CATTLE, CENTENNIAL, FARMLAND, FIDDLE, FLYCATCHER, GAS, HISTORY, MILES, OIL, OKLAHOMA, POWWOW, ROUND, ROUTE, SOONER, TRIBAL.

Words that remind us of Oklahoma are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

R A R T G E V O P O F B A R N
G E M Q S A G O K D N U O R T
F M I L E S N L Y R O T S I H
A R E H C T A C Y L F W V G P
R E Z X D H R W N T R I B A L
M L C K O U P E K E L T T A C
L D V M L A I N N E T N E C R
A D A W O W W O P O Z Z L Q Z
N I E T U O R I Q G O P I O Z
D F I W J F N O S I B S O U D

ECO NOTE

Some areas of the planet experienced record-breaking storms of sand and dust during 2025, including northern China and the U.S.-Mexico border, the U.N.’s World Meteorological Organization (WMO) says. El Paso, Texas, had its dustiest year since the Dust Bowl era, while northern China endured its worst storm in a decade. Tiny particle levels in the air rose many times above what health experts consider safe. Dust naturally carries minerals across continents and oceans, but drought, damaged soils and poor land and water management are making dust storms more frequent and destructive. The WMO says early dust warnings are essential.

Adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

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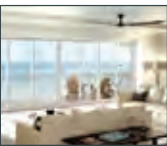
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KEY COLONY BEACH	MARATHON
72 closed sales	215 closed sales
\$1,690,910 average sales price	\$1,378,416 average sales price
141 average days on market	149 average days on market

*Data From Flex MLS 1/1/2026-10/25/2026

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SPORTS

SPORTS

October 29, 2026

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MERCY

Hurricanes spoil Leonard's Senior Night | P.8

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THE SCOREBOARD			OCT. 19 - 24	
Team	Sport	Opponent	Date	Result
Coral Shores	Football	John I. Leonard	10/23	W, 48-0
Key West	Football	Miami Springs	10/23	L, 14-10
Marathon	Volleyball	Williston	10/24	L, 3-0

THIS WEEK IN KEYS SPORTS			OCT. 29 - NOV. 4	
Date	School	Sport	Opponent	Start Time
10/29	Marathon	Cross Country	@ Pine Crest	TBA
10/29	Key West	Boys Soccer	@ Belen	6 p.m.
10/30	Coral Shores	Cross Country	@ Jr. Orange Bowl	4:45 p.m.
10/30	Marathon	Football	Parkridge Academy	7 p.m.
10/30	Key West	Football	@ Barron Collier	7:30 p.m.
10/30	Coral Shores	Football	Cocoa Beach	7 p.m.
11/2	Key West	Swimming	@ Regionals	TBA
11/4	Coral Shores	Girls Soccer	Key West	4 p.m.
11/4	All Keys Schools	Girls Weightlifting	@ Key West	4 p.m.



ON THE COVER

OCTOBER 29



Fresh off a 48-0 blowout win over John I. Leonard, the Coral Shores Hurricanes will face one final test against Cocoa Beach at home before turning their eyes to the postseason. See page 8. *Photos by Natalie Goodwin*

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Now

Charles ROYAL

Sophomore, Coral Shores Football

“Every time he steps onto the field, he makes our team better.”

– Ed Holly, Coral Shores head football coach



105

yards

8

carries

Coral Shores’ Charles Royal is making a statement this season on both sides of the ball. Last week, the sophomore linebacker recorded two solo tackles, two assists, a quarterback pressure and a tackle for a loss. His disruptive defensive play helped the ‘Canes blank their opponent, but Royal’s contributions did not stop there.

Offensively, Royal racked up 105 yards on eight carries and found the end zone in Coral Shores’ 48-0 win against John I. Leonard. Coach Ed Holly says Royal “plays with passion for the sport. He’s a tremendous competitor and a great teammate.”

For his contributions on the field and his emergence as a leader for the Hurricanes, Charles Royal is the Keys Weekly Athlete of the Week.



TRACY MCDONALD
SPORTS WRITER

fled to the Keys from the frozen mountains of Pennsylvania hours after graduating from college and never looked back. She is a second-generation coach and educator, and has taught in the public school system for over 25 years. She and her husband met at a beginning teacher meeting in 1997 and have three children born and raised in Monroe County. In her free time, McDonald loves flea markets, historical fiction and long runs in the heat.



SEAN MCDONALD

grew up in Miami and moved to the Keys in 1997. He has spent the last 25 years teaching physical education and coaching virtually every sport for Florida Keys kids ages 4 to 18. If you are reading this and live or lived in the Florida Keys, he has probably taught, coached, or coached against someone you know.

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KEYS WEEKLY SPORTS WRAP

The Keys Weekly Sports Wrap is proud to be the only locally-owned publication providing prep sports coverage from Key Largo to Key West. Together with our writers and photographers, we are committed to providing a comprehensive overview of the world of Keys sports with photography that allows our readers to immerse themselves in game action.

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23 CALLS, 4 OFFERS, 1 PACK

After drawing interest from top programs, Conch junior Kade Maltz commits to N.C. State

For most high school baseball players, a call from a Division I program would be the opportunity of a lifetime. For Key West's Kade Maltz, 23 such opportunities came knocking on the same day.

On Aug. 1, the first day of his recruiting window, Maltz heard from nearly two dozen Division I baseball programs across the country. Four extended offers, leaving the talented Conch with plenty of options for his future. Ultimately, the junior center fielder and right-handed pitcher decided to join the Wolfpack at North Carolina State University.

Despite the attention, Maltz said his decision came down to more than the prestige of a program or the number of offers he received.

"The recruiting process is really about getting to know each other and making sure the player is a good fit for the program and the program is a good fit for the player," Maltz said.

And Maltz certainly gave college recruiters plenty to consider.

Following a breakout freshman campaign that earned him All-Keys honors, Maltz continued to make his mark on one of the state's most competitive high school baseball programs. As a sophomore last spring, he was a fixture near the top of the Conchs' statistical leaderboards, making his presence known at the plate, in the field and on the mound.

In 12 pitching appearances, including 10 starts, Maltz posted a 1.47 ERA and an .875 winning percentage. He was also credited with a no-hitter and a perfect game, adding to an impressive pitching résumé.

Defensively, Maltz recorded a .977 fielding percentage, but his contributions hardly stopped there. At the plate, he bat-



ted .323 with a .441 on-base percentage, collecting 31 hits, including 10 doubles, four triples and a home run. He scored 30 runs, drove in 22 more and led the Conchs in stolen bases.

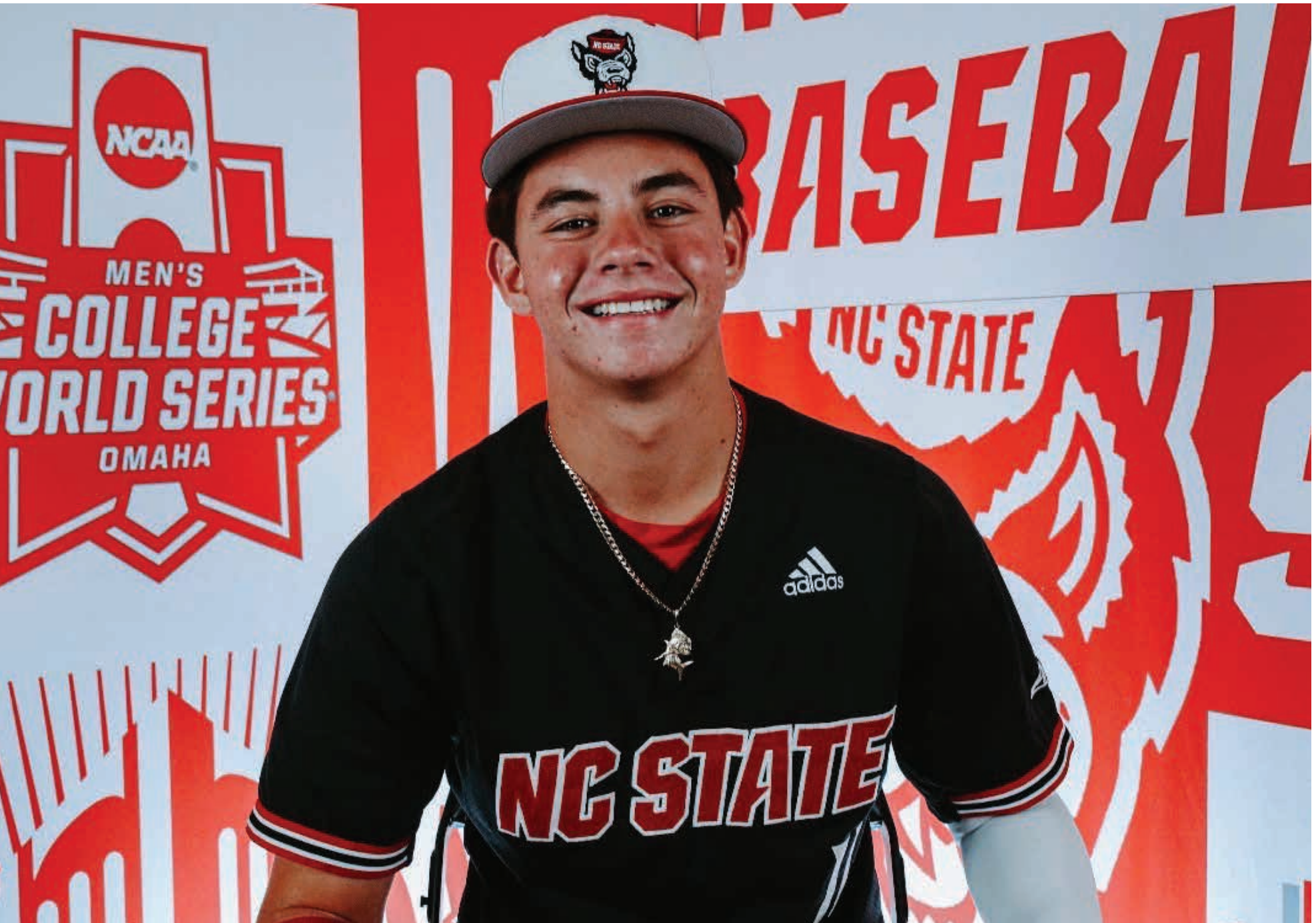
For Maltz, the realization that he could compete at the collegiate level came during that sophomore season.

"I was competing against guys who were going on to play college baseball the following year, and I was having some success against them," he said. "That gave me confidence that I could compete at that level, too."

While his success in a Conchs uniform helped establish his reputation locally, much of Maltz's national recruiting attention came through travel baseball. Rather than relying heavily on individual

The uniform may change, but the colors won't be much of a stretch. Key West's Kade Maltz is trading Conch red for Wolfpack red after committing to North Carolina State's baseball program. Photos contributed





camps and showcases, he made his mark competing against elite players – and drawing the attention of college coaches – on the tournament circuit.

His performances also earned him a selection to the Futures Games, a major summer recruiting event that Maltz said drew more than 400 college scouts.

With four offers on the table, Maltz had a decision to make. What ultimately separated N.C. State from the other programs wasn't just the opportunity to compete in the Atlantic Coast Conference, but the people who would be guiding his development.

"I think the biggest deciding factor was the coaching staff," he said. "It was really important to me to be around coaches who believed in me and who I felt comfortable with."

Assistant coach J.T. Jarrett played a significant role in Maltz's recruitment, following the young prospect throughout the summer and maintaining regular contact after Aug. 1. Those conversations weren't always about baseball.

"Sometimes to talk about recruiting, and other times just to check in and see how I was doing," Maltz said of Jarrett's communication.

Head coach Chris Hart also made a lasting impression. Hart, who took over the Wolfpack pro-



The recruiting process is really about getting to know each other and making sure the player is a good fit for the program and the program is a good fit for the player."

— Kade Maltz

gram in 2026 after more than two decades on its coaching staff, brought an approach to hitting and player development that resonated with Maltz.

"It was important to me to go somewhere I could continue to grow as a hitter and position player," Maltz said. "I really connected with coach Hart's approach to hitting and the game in general."

The two also shared a connection beyond baseball. Hart played at Florida State, giving the Florida Keys standout another reason to feel at home.

"He's from Florida, and us Florida boys have to stick together!" Maltz joked.

A visit to Raleigh, where Maltz toured the campus and facilities and met with the coaching staff,

sealed the deal.

"The entire coaching staff at NC State was awesome, and I really couldn't see myself anywhere else," he said.

With his college destination decided, Maltz still has two seasons remaining in a Conchs uniform, including his upcoming junior campaign. For a player who has already established himself among the area's top talents, the opportunity to continue developing before heading to Raleigh is considerable.

And though 23 programs came calling, only one will ultimately get to call Maltz one of its own.

"Go Pack!" he said.



THE BACK NINE

Keys golfers close regular season with Senior Night celebrations and a pre-districts tuneup

The sun has set on the regular season of prep golf in Florida, but Keys golfers aren't ready to put away their clubs just yet. Marathon and Key West celebrated their seniors with a pair of matches last week, each claiming a victory on their home course, while Coral Shores closed out its schedule with a strong showing on the mainland. Next up for all three teams is the postseason, with district tournaments that began Oct. 26.

Marathon celebrated its seniors Oct. 19, and Roco

Piscetello closed the chapter on his home course in style. Piscetello earned medalist honors with an impressive 33, finishing 3 under par. His stellar score was fueled by birdies on holes 1, 3 and 6. It also helped propel Marathon to a 152-176 victory over Key West in the Dolphins' final regular-season round at Florida Keys Country Club.

Emmett Merryman has two more years to sharpen his game, a promising prospect considering the sophomore finished 2 under par with a 34. Merryman birdied on the first three holes and again on No.

6, but a pair of bogeys left him in second place.

Key West's Dominick Novotny was third with a 38, while Marathon's Jackson Millard finished fourth with a 40. Conch Sonny Bowden's 42 was good for fifth before a school of Dolphins filled out the top 10. Ethan Wohlers and Jack Dunn tied at 45, followed by Brett Clark and Jase O'Rourke. Key West's Brody Smith and Anthony Barrows tied for 10th place.

In the ladies' competition, Key West claimed the top spots. Mary Alice Davila earned medalist honors with

a 51. Teammates Lexi Finigan and Stella Tutlewski joined Coral Shores' Woodsley Franklin in a three-way tie for second at 53. Marathon senior Makenna Haines and middle school athlete Elleanna Mowry rounded out the competition, finishing sixth and seventh, respectively.

Two days later, it was the Conchs' turn to celebrate their seniors and close out regular-season action on their home course. Fittingly for the occasion, Key West seniors Geo Twyman and Lexi Finigan each earned medalist honors.

Twyman shot a 39 to edge

out teammate Jakub Krytinar and Marathon's Piscetello, who tied for second at 40. Coral Shores' Scout Oliver was one stroke behind in fourth place. Marathon's Cullen Coleman-Sayer finished fifth with a 42, followed by Key West senior Dominick Novotny, who shot a 43. Marathon's Ethan Wohlers was seventh with a 47, while Bowden, teammate Brody Smith, Coral Shores' Sawyer Hendrix and Marathon's Jack Dunn finished in a four-way tie for eighth at 49.

Finigan's 47 was the best score in the girls competition and gave the senior one final



1. Makenna Haines.
2. Charlize Lopez.
3. Dominick Novotny.
4. Jackson Millard.
5. Cullen Coleman-Sayer.
6. Geo Twyman.
7. Stella Tutlewski, left, and Mary Alice Davila.
8. Roco Piscetello.

Photos by Natalie Danko and Rocky Gonet

home-course win before districts. Teammate Davila was next, shooting a 49, followed by Marathon's Makenna Haines in third with a 58. Stella Tutlewski and senior Charlize Lopez finished fourth and fifth, respectively, with scores of 59 and 60. Franklin and Mowry rounded out the female finishers.

The final competition for Keys golfers came Oct. 23 in a Miami matchup at Briar Bay Golf Course. The Hurricanes dominated the individual leaderboard against Riviera Prep, claiming six of the top eight spots. Scout Oliver took medalist honors with a 3-over-par 34. Nash Andruski was third, shooting a 41, while Sawyer Hendrix, Landon Baker, Gavin Guzzelli and Bryce Vaeth

also finished in the top eight.

Vanessa Gabriel (57) and Franklin (59) finished third and fourth, respectively, in the girls competition, giving the Hurricanes a strong finish heading into the postseason.

With the regular season in the books, Keys golfers now turn their attention to district competition. Marathon's boys competed Oct. 26 at the Biltmore Golf Course, with the girls following on Oct. 27 (results not available at press time). Key West and Coral Shores competed in their Class 2A district tournaments, with the boys scheduled for Oct. 26 at Redland and the girls Oct. 27 at Miami Springs (results not available at press time).

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A blowout win on Oct. 23 gave Coral Shores plenty to smile about before the playoffs.

Dominik Jimenez

HURRICANES BREEZ

Coral Shores secures home playoff game; Key West falls in district battle, Marathon wins by forfeit

Key West came up just short in a hard-fought district matchup last week, Marathon picked up a win without taking the field and Coral Shores delivered a dominant performance to secure its postseason position.

The Conchs hosted Miami Springs in a defensive battle that ultimately went the way of the visiting Golden Hawks, 14-10. Despite a strong defensive showing from Key West, Miami Springs managed to take a 7-0 lead into halftime.

"Springs had a good defense; they flew," said Key West head coach Johnny Hughes.

The Conchs came out swinging in the second half, evening the score at 7 on a touchdown run from Matthew Oviedo. The powerful punch-in was the only scoring play of the third quarter, setting up a fourth-quarter showdown.

Miami Springs struck again in the final period to reclaim the lead, but Key West was not finished. Owen Lindley connected on a 29-yard field goal, pulling the Conchs within four points and keeping the game within reach.

Key West had an opportunity to take the lead in the closing moments, but a fourth-and-7 attempt came up agonizingly short. The Conchs were stopped just half a yard shy of a fresh set of downs, ending a promising drive.

Penalties proved costly throughout the night,

with several significant offensive gains called back, preventing the Conchs from establishing momentum despite flashes of explosive play.

"The defense played great. They neutralized the pass rush and put on a lot of pressure," Hughes said.

Despite the loss, preliminary rankings updated Oct. 25 placed Key West ahead of Miami Springs in the Class 3A District 16 standings. Whether those positions hold remains uncertain, leaving the Conchs' postseason outlook unresolved.

Key West will close out its regular season on the road against Barron Collier in Naples, with its playoff fate still to be determined.

For Marathon, the path to victory was considerably less complicated. The Dolphins collected a forfeit win over a beleaguered BridgePrep Village Green program, adding a victory to their record without having to suit up.

The Fins will close out their regular season at home on Friday, Oct. 30 against Parkridge Christian of Coral Springs. A victory would keep Marathon in contention for a postseason berth, though the Dolphins would need considerable help elsewhere for that possibility to become reality.

While Key West and Marathon await clarity on their postseason prospects, Coral Shores has already punched its ticket to the playoffs.

The Hurricanes traveled to Class 8A John I. Leonard on Oct. 23 and turned the game into something resembling a Coral Shores highlight reel, finding the end zone seven times in a lopsided victory that solidified their standing in the Sunshine State Athletic Association.

David Beltran opened the scoring with a 36-yard touchdown run, and John Oughton followed with a pair of trips to the end zone, scoring from 6 and 36 yards out. Quarterback Sterling Keefe then connected with Dominik Jimenez on a 27-yard touchdown

pass before finding Beltran for a 23-yard scoring strike just before halftime. The Hurricanes carried a commanding 35-0 lead into the break.

Coral Shores wasted little time picking up where it left off in the third quarter. Luke Gookins intercepted a John I. Leonard pass, and Charles Royal capitalized on the turnover with a 5-yard touchdown run.

Trailing by more than 40 points on senior night, the Lancers took to the air in hopes of getting on the scoreboard, but Marco Gudino had other ideas. Gudino intercepted a pass to give Coral Shores excellent field position, and freshman Declan Wampler finished the job with a 3-yard touchdown run for the Hurricanes' final score.

Coral Shores amassed 388 yards of total offense, including 311 on the ground and 77 through the air. Royal led the rushing attack with 105 yards, followed by Beltran with 77 and Oughton with 66.

The Hurricanes were equally impressive defensively. Ekon Edwards registered two solo tackles and four assists, while Royal added two solo tackles, two assists, a quarterback pressure and a tackle for loss. Sean Connolly contributed four solo tackles, two assists and two pressures, and Alex Radovanovic recorded five solo tackles, one assist and a pass breakup.

The victory secured Coral Shores' place in the Sunshine State Athletic Association playoff bracket and gave fans an extra treat — a home playoff game.

The Hurricanes will host Cocoa Beach at Barley Stadium on Friday, Oct. 30, with kickoff scheduled for 7 p.m. The matchup marks Coral Shores' first home playoff contest in more than a decade.

A win would send the Hurricanes on the road the following week as they continue their pursuit of a postseason title.



Ekon Edwards

Marco Gudino

E INTO POST SEASON



1



2



3



4



5



6

- 1. Deon Cartwright (6) celebrates a Conch touchdown.
- 2. Roman Van Loon (13) pitches the ball to Matthew Oviedo.
- 3. Jayson Michel (2) hands off the ball to Chace Gaertner (7).
- 4. Chace Gaertner (7) pushes through a Miami Springs blockade.
- 5. Chace Gaertner (7) stares down a Golden Hawk defender.
- 6. Cain Hughes (32) takes an angle against the Miami Springs ball carrier.

Photos by Rocky Gonet and Natalie Goodwin

WE HAVE LIFT OFF

Coral Shores, Marathon flex their muscles in girls weightlifting season opener

Athletes and coaches participating in Florida's earliest winter sport wasted no time getting their first competition under their weight belts. Marathon met Everglades Prep at Coral Shores in Tavernier for an Oct. 20 girls weightlifting meet, just one day after the season officially began.

Though several athletes are still rostered on their fall sports teams, the results look promising. Coral Shores won both the Olympic and traditional competitions, earning 42 points in each. Marathon finished second in both categories, scoring 27 points in Olympic lifts and 29 in traditional, leaving Everglades Prep with single-digit scores in both.

All of last week's winners were double winners, meaning each athlete who won in the traditional category also won the Olympic event. Traditional scoring combines a lifter's best clean and jerk with her best bench press, while the Olympic event combines the snatch with the clean and jerk.

Coral Shores won the lion's share of weight classes in its home opener. Kirsten Doorly started things off with a win at 101 pounds, followed by Emily Hurt at 110 and Nic Giordano at 119. At 154, Kayden Costlow claimed a double win, and Lily Ooms made it five weight-class victories for Coral Shores with a pair of wins at 199.

Marathon's Rilynn Richards broke up the Hurricane monopoly at 129 pounds, and teammate Sofiia Konyk picked up a second set of wins at 139. Alyssa De La Torre finished first at 183, and Nivi De La Torre won the unlimited weight class to make it four weight-class victories for the Fins.

All three of Monroe County's public high schools have girls weightlifting teams, and the squads meet almost weekly, taking turns hosting. The postseason window opens Jan. 11, with states scheduled for the first week of February.

Top: Kayden Coslow.
Bottom left: Nivi De La Torre
Bottom right: Rilynn Richards

Photos by Natalie Danko and
Tracy McDonald.



END OF THE ROAD

Marathon's historic volleyball season ends in regional semifinal

October 24 spelled the end of the road for prep volleyball in the Keys this season, but not before Marathon's Lady Fins made a little history of their own.

Fresh off their first district championship in nearly a quarter century, the Dolphins embarked on the long journey to Williston, where they faced the region's top-seeded Red Devils in the Rural Region 4 semifinal.

Marathon's future is bright with multiple underclassmen and statistical leaders returning from the 2025-26 district champion squad. Photos by Natalie Danko

The hosts proved to be formidable opponents, defeating Marathon in straight sets, 25-11, 25-7 and 25-14, to advance to the regional final. The loss brought an end to the Dolphins' postseason run and officially closed the book on Monroe County's volleyball season.

Marathon was the last Keys team standing in the hunt for a state title, outlasting its island neighbors and bringing home a district trophy for the first time in more than two decades.

Though the Dolphins will lose four seniors to graduation, the program has plenty to build upon, including the return of several statistical leaders with the experience and talent to defend their district title.



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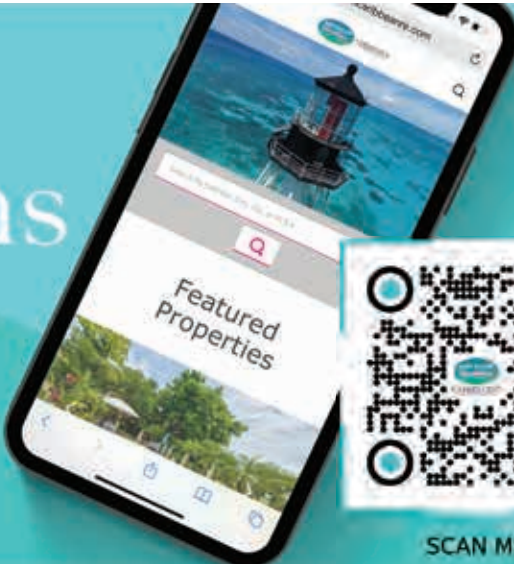
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Key Largo Location

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SCAN ME

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
U-HAUL COMPANY OF MIAMI
Notice of Public Auction for monies due on Storage Units. Auction will be held on November 9th, 2026, at or after 8:00 AM on https://www.storage-treasures.com. Units are said to contain common household items. Property is being sold under Florida Statute 83.806. The names of whose units will be sold are as follows:
Location: 103530 Overseas Highway, Key Largo, FL 33037
Behrendt, Jessica 1755
Press, Brian 1116
Amos, Kyle 1216
Publish:
October 29 & November 5, 2026
The Weekly Newspapers

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
BEST LIEN SERVICES: 7290 SW 41 ST MIAMI, FL 33155 WILL SELL AT A RESERVED PUBLIC SALE AT 9:00 AM THE VESSEL LISTED BELOW AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS TO SATISFY LIEN PURSUANT TO SECTION 328.17 OF THE FLORIDA STATUTES.
LOCATION: PILOT HOUSE RESTAURANT AND MARINA LLC, 13 SEAGATE BLVD, KEY LARGO, FL 33037 P#:305-747-4359
DATE/TIME: NOV. 12, 2026 AT 9:00AM
2007 LEPORD VS RACA2014L708
OWNER/LIEN HOLDER: QUEENSBAY INC/NONE
ANY PERSON(S) CLAIMING ANY INTEREST IN THE ABOVE VEHICLES SHOULD CONTACT: BEST LIEN SERVICES (1-866-299-9391) AT LEAST 1 WEEK PRIOR TO THE LIEN SALE.
Publish:
October 22 & 29, 2026
The Weekly Newspapers

DISTRICT IV ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC IV)
(Between the Long Key Bridge and Mile Marker 90.939) of the

LEGAL NOTICES

MONROE COUNTY TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL has an opening for a TOURIST RELATED BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE - shall be persons involved in business which is interdependent upon the tourist industry who have demonstrated an interest in tourist development but who shall not be employed in any position within the lodging industry (motels, hotels, recreational vehicle parks, and other tourist accommodations and whose business is in the tax collection district for which they are applying). Any person wishing to participate on the District IV Advisory Committee of the Monroe County Tourist Development Council within the district so noted above may request an application by emailing angela@fla-keys.com. Completed applications should be emailed to angela@fla-keys.com, or may be sent via U.S. Mail to the address below:
Department DAC
Monroe County Tourist Development Council
1201 White Street, Suite 102
Key West, FL 33040
Deadline for receipt of application at the above address is 5:00 p.m. Friday, December 4th, 2026. A resume may be attached to the application.
Publish:
October 29, 2026
The Weekly Newspapers

DISTRICT V ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DAC V)
(from Mile Marker 90.940 to the Dade/Monroe County Line and any Mainland portions of Monroe County) of the
MONROE COUNTY TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL has an opening for a TOURIST RELATED BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE - Shall be persons involved in business which is interdependent upon

LEGAL NOTICES

the tourist industry who have demonstrated an interest in tourist development but who shall not be employed in any position within the lodging industry (motels, hotels, recreational vehicle parks, and other tourist accommodations and whose business is in the tax collection district for which they are applying). Any person wishing to participate on the District V Advisory Committee of the Monroe County Tourist Development Council within the district so noted above, may request an application by emailing angela@fla-keys.com. Completed applications should be emailed to angela@fla-keys.com or may be sent via U.S. mail to the address below:
Department DAC
Monroe County Tourist Development Council
1201 White Street, Suite 102
Key West, FL 33040
Deadline for receipt of application at the above address is 5:00 p.m. Friday, December 4th, 2026. A resume may be attached to the application.
Publish:
October 29, 2026
The Weekly Newspapers

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 16TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROBATE DIVISION
FILE # 26-CP-449-P
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF ROBERT JOSEPH SOMOGYI
Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of, ROBERT JOSEPH SOMOGYI, deceased, whose date of death was 14 September 2025, is pending in the Circuit Court for Monroe County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 88770 Overseas Highway, Tavernier, Florida 33070. The names and addresses of the Personal Representative and the

LEGAL NOTICES

Personal Representative's attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this notice is October 29, 2026.
Personal Representative:
Robert Jaqy Somogyi
501 Brunswick Pike
Lambertville, NJ 08530
Attorney for Personal Representative:
Tom Woods, Esq.
Florida Bar No.: 0525197
116 Porto Salvo Drive
Islamorada, Florida 33036
Phone 305.664.2200 Fax 2205
Email: tom@tomwoodslaw.com
Publish:
October 29 & November 5, 2026
The Weekly Newspapers

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
FILE NO.: 26-CP-541-P
DIVISION: UPPER KEYS
IN RE: ESTATE OF JEROME G. ZAVAR
Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of Jerome G. Zavar, deceased, whose date of death was September 6, 2026, is pending in the Circuit Court for MONROE County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 88770 Overseas Highway, Suite 2, Tavernier, FL 33070. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
The personal representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, Florida Statutes, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.2211, Florida Statutes. The written demand must be filed with the clerk.
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this notice is October 29, 2026.
Personal Representative:
ERIN ESTELLE ELLIS
4227 Fox Trace
Boynton Beach, Florida 33436
Attorney for Personal Representative:
Robert M. Wolf, Attorney
Florida Bar Number: 306479
Wolf & Wolf, P.A.
55 NE 5th Ave., #500
Boca Raton, Florida 33432
Telephone: (561) 338-5060
Fax: (561) 395-4701
E-Mail: robert@wolfplanning.com
Secondary E-Mail: RMWBoca@aol.com
Publish:
October 22 & 29, 2026
The Weekly Newspapers

LEGAL NOTICES

Personal Representative:
Hermine C. Zavar
105 Court Contessa
Islamorada, Florida 33036
Attorney for Personal Representative:
Richard E. Warner
Attorney
Florida Bar Number: 283134
RICHARD E. WARNER, P.A.
12221 Overseas Highway
MARATHON, FL 33050
Telephone: (305) 743-6022
Fax: (305) 743-6216
E-mail: richard@rewarnerlaw.com
Secondary E-Mail: pamelaa2@rewarnerlaw.com
Publish:
October 29 & November 5, 2026
The Weekly Newspapers

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA
PROBATE DIVISION
FILE NO.: 26-CP-522-P
DIVISION: UPPER KEYS
IN RE: ESTATE OF HARRY THOMAS ELLIS, JR.
Deceased.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of HARRY THOMAS ELLIS, JR., deceased, whose date of death was August 18, 2026, is pending in the Circuit Court for MONROE County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 88770 Overseas Highway, Suite2, Tavernier, Florida 33070. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.
The personal representative has no duty to discover whether any property held at the time of the decedent's death by the decedent or the decedent's surviving spouse is property to which the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act as described in ss. 732.216-732.228, Florida Statutes, applies, or may apply, unless a written demand is made by a creditor as specified under s. 732.2211, Florida Statutes. The written demand must be filed with the clerk.
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN FLORIDA STATUTES SECTION 733.702 WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
The date of first publication of this notice is October 29, 2026.
Personal Representative:
ERIN ESTELLE ELLIS
4227 Fox Trace
Boynton Beach, Florida 33436
Attorney for Personal Representative:
Robert M. Wolf, Attorney
Florida Bar Number: 306479
Wolf & Wolf, P.A.
55 NE 5th Ave., #500
Boca Raton, Florida 33432
Telephone: (561) 338-5060
Fax: (561) 395-4701
E-Mail: robert@wolfplanning.com
Secondary E-Mail: RMWBoca@aol.com
Publish:
October 22 & 29, 2026
The Weekly Newspapers

LEGAL NOTICES

LLC,
An Oklahoma Limited Liability Company,
Plaintiff,
Vs
SHERRY HANNAKA, and
UNLIMITED HEALTH CARE SERVICES, INC., a Florida Corporation
Defendant,
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY given that pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued in the County Court of Broward County, Florida, on the 19th day of August, 2026, in the cause wherein HEALTHPRO HERITAGE AT HOME, LLC, An Oklahoma Limited Liability Company, was Plaintiff, and SHERRY HANNAKA, and UNLIMITED HEALTH CARE SERVICES, INC., a Florida Corporation was defendant, being case number CONO-25-073091, in said court, I, Richard A. Ramsay as Sheriff of Monroe County, Florida have this day levied upon all the right, title and interest of the defendant, in and to the following described real property to wit: SPECIFIC DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY
From the warranty deed that states the following all that certain land, situate in Monroe County, State of Florida viz:
Legal Description(s) – Unit B-5, EXECUTIVE BAY CLUB CONDOMINIUM, a Condominium according to the Declaration of Condominium thereof, recorded in Official Records Book 806, at page(s) 1066, of the Public Records of Monroe County, Florida.
SPECIFIC LOCATION OF REAL PROPERTY:
87200 Overseas Hwy., #B-5, Islamorada, Florida 33036
PARCEL ID: 00093241-001500
All bidders must have a valid Driver's License with them and must register with the clerk at location of sale prior to start time of sale. I shall offer this property for sale, at the Monroe County Sheriff's Office Headquarters building located at 5525 College Road Key West, Florida 33040 in the County of Monroe, State of Florida, on the 3rd day of December, 2026, at the hour of 10:00 A.M. or as soon thereafter as possible. I will offer for sale all of the said defendant's right, title, and interest in the aforesaid real property at public auction and will sell the same subject to all taxes, prior liens, encumbrances and judgments, if any, to the highest and best bidder for cash or cashiers check in hand. The proceeds to be applied as far as may be to the payment of costs and the satisfaction of the above described execution.
Dated at Key West, Monroe County, Florida this 1st day of October, 2026.
Richard A. Ramsay
Sheriff of Monroe County,
By: Donald Stulken
Deputy Sheriff
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons with disabilities needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Civil Division no later than seven days prior to the proceeding at (305)809-3041
Publish:
October 15, 22 & 29 and November 5, 2026
The Weekly Newspapers

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 16TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 26-DR-1194-K
RIGEL VALDES MARRERO, Petitioner, and
INGRID SAMANTHA LOPEZ ESTRELLA, Respondent.
NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (NO CHILD OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT)
TO: INGRID SAMANTHA LOPEZ ESTRELLA
RESPONDENT'S LAST KNOWN ADDRESS:
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for dissolution of marriage has

LEGAL NOTICES

been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on RIGEL VALDES MARRERO, whose address is on or before , 2026, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at 500 WHITEHEAD STREET, KEY WEST, FL 33040 before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.
The action is asking the court to decide how the following real or personal property should be divided: NONE
Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request. You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the address(es) on record at the clerk's office.
WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.
Dated: October 9, 2026
Kevin Madok, CPA, Clerk
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Monroe County, Florida
By: Shonta McLeod
Deputy Clerk
Publish:
October 15, 22 & 29 and November 5, 2026
The Weekly Newspapers

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA
CASE NO.: 26-DR-1207-M
JULIO GABRIEL MILIAN, Petitioner, and
YADELYN QUINTANA, Respondent.
NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE (NO CHILD OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT)
TO: YADELYN QUINTANA
RESPONDENT'S LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: 65821 OVERSEAS HIGHWAY, LOT 232, LONG KEY, FL 33001
YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action for dissolution of marriage has been filed against you and that you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on JULIO GABRIEL MILIAN, whose address is 65821 OVERSEAS HIGHWAY, LOT 232, LONG KEY, FL 33001 on or before November 22, 2026, and file the original with the clerk of this Court at 3117 OVERSEAS HIGHWAY, MARATHON FL 33050 before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter. If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.
The action is asking the court to decide how the following real or personal property should be divided: NONE
Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. You may review these documents upon request. You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. (You may file Designation of Current Mailing and E-Mail Address, Florida Supreme Court Approved Family Law Form 12.915.) Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed or e-mailed to the address(es) on record at the clerk's office.
WARNING: Rule 12.285, Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.
Dated: October 13, 2026
Kevin Madok, CPA, Clerk
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Monroe County, Florida
By: Leslie Turner



CITY OF MARATHON
CITY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE SESSION
NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the City Council consisting of Mayor Del Gaizo, Vice Mayor Struyf, Councilmembers Landry, Matlock and Still, Interim City Attorney/City Manager Steve Williams, Assistant City Attorney Alexandra Heller and Special Counsel Hudson Gill will meet in an Attorney-Client Session, pursuant to Section 286.11 (8), Florida Statutes to discuss the following case:

Rodney Shands vs. City of Marathon, a Florida Municipality; Case No. 2007-CA-99-M pending in the Circuit Court for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit in and For Monroe County, Florida.

The meeting will be held on **November 10, 2026 at 5:00 pm** at the Marathon City Hall, 9805 Overseas Highway, Marathon, Florida.

Publish: October 29, 2026. The Weekly Newspapers

• CLASSIFIEDS, PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES • 305.743.0844

LEGAL NOTICES

Deputy Clerk
Publish:
October 22 & 29 and November 5 & 12, 2026
The Weekly Newspapers

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2025-CC-000397-K NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE BY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Kevin Madok, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Monroe County, Florida, will, on the 10TH day of November 2026 at 11 o'clock a.m., at 500 Whitehead Street, Monroe County, in the City of Key West, Florida, offer for sale and sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for CASH the Following described property situated in Monroe County, Florida, to wit:
Unit D12, Week 21, Beach House, a Condominium according to the Declaration of Condominium thereof recorded in Official Records Book 1510, Page 225, Public Records of Monroe County, Florida, and all exhibits attached thereto, and any amendments thereof (the "Declaration"). Pursuant to the IN REM SUMMARY FINAL JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AS TO COUNT(S) IV entered in a case pending in said Court, the 13TH day of October 2026.
Style of which is:
BEACH HOUSE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION OF KEY WEST, INC., A NONPROFIT CORPORATION UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA Plaintiff VS.
ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES WHO CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES, ADMINISTRATORS OR AS CLAIMANTS, BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST JILL CHRISTINE LESTER, DECEASED AND JASON LESTER, AS POTENTIAL HEIR TO JILL CHRISTINE LESTER Defendant
And the Docket Number of which is Number 2025-CC-000397-K WITNESS my hand and the Official Seal of Said Court, this 16TH day of October 2026
KEVIN MADOK
Clerk of the Circuit Court Monroe County, Florida
By: Shonta McLeod Deputy Clerk
Florida Statute 45.031: Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.
Publish:
October 22 & 29, 2026
The Weekly Newspapers

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2026-CC-000022-K NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE BY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Kevin Madok, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Monroe County, Florida, will, on the 10TH day of November 2026 at 11 o'clock a.m., at 500 Whitehead Street, Monroe County, in the City of Key West, Florida, offer for sale and sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for CASH the Following described property situated in Monroe County, Florida, to wit:
Unit F13, Week 7, Beach House, a Condominium according to the Declaration of Condominium thereof recorded in Official Records Book 1510, Page 225, Public Records of Monroe County, Florida, and all exhibits attached thereto, and any amendments thereof (the "Declaration"). Pursuant to the IN REM SUMMARY FINAL JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE entered in a case pending in said Court, the 13TH

LEGAL NOTICES

day of October 2026.
Style of which is:
BEACH HOUSE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION OF KEY WEST, INC., A NONPROFIT CORPORATION UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA Plaintiff VS.
ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES WHO CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES, ADMINISTRATORS OR AS CLAIMANTS, BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST LAUREN LONGOBARDI, DECEASED AND RICHARD LONGOBARDI, AS POTENTIAL HEIR TO LAUREN LONGOBARDI Defendant
And the Docket Number of which is Number 2026-CC-000022-K WITNESS my hand and the Official Seal of Said Court, this 16TH day of October 2026
KEVIN MADOK
Clerk of the Circuit Court Monroe County, Florida
By: Shonta McLeod Deputy Clerk
Florida Statute 45.031: Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.
Publish:
October 22 & 29, 2026
The Weekly Newspapers

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2025-CC-000366-K NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE BY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Kevin Madok, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Monroe County, Florida, will, on the 10TH day of November 2026 at 11 o'clock a.m., at 500 Whitehead Street, Monroe County, in the City of Key West, Florida, offer for sale and sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for CASH the Following described property situated in Monroe County, Florida, to wit:
Unit F23, Week 25, Beach House, a Condominium according to the Declaration of Condominium thereof recorded in Official Records Book 1510, Page 225, Public Records of Monroe County, Florida, and all exhibits attached thereto, and any amendments thereof (the "Declaration"). Pursuant to the IN REM SUMMARY FINAL JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AS TO COUNT(S) I entered in a case pending in said Court, the 13TH day of October 2026.
Style of which is:
BEACH HOUSE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION OF KEY WEST, INC., A NONPROFIT CORPORATION UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA Plaintiff VS.
ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES WHO CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES, ADMINISTRATORS OR AS OTHER CLAIMANTS, BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST FRANCIS JOAN MONTELLA, DECEASED; DARYL MONTELLA, AS POTENTIAL HEIR TO JOSEPH MONTELLA, AND DAVID MONTELLA, AS POTENTIAL HEIR TO JOSEPH MONTELLA Defendant
And the Docket Number of which is Number 2025-CC-000413-K WITNESS my hand and the Official Seal of Said Court, this 16TH day of October 2026
KEVIN MADOK
Clerk of the Circuit Court Monroe County, Florida
By: Shonta McLeod Deputy Clerk
Florida Statute 45.031: Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.
Publish:
October 22 & 29, 2026
The Weekly Newspapers

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2025-CC-000517-K NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE BY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Kevin Madok, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Monroe County, Florida, will, on the 10th day of November 2026 at 11 o'clock a.m., at 500 Whitehead Street, Monroe County, in the City of Key West, Florida, offer for sale and sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for CASH the Following described property situated in Monroe County, Florida, to wit:
Unit 5423, Week 27, Annual Windward Pointe, a Leasehold Condominium ("Condominium"),

LEGAL NOTICES

Publish:
October 22 & 29, 2026
The Weekly Newspapers

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2025-CC-000413-K NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE BY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Kevin Madok, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Monroe County, Florida, will, on the 10th day of November 2026 at 11 o'clock a.m., at 500 Whitehead Street, Monroe County, in the City of Key West, Florida, offer for sale and sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for CASH the Following described property situated in Monroe County, Florida, to wit:
Unit 5712, Week 24, Annual Windward Pointe, a Leasehold Condominium ("Condominium"), according to the Declaration of Condominium thereof recorded in Official Records Book 1803, Page 844, Public Records of Monroe County, Florida, and all exhibits thereto, and any amendments thereof (the "Declaration"). Pursuant to the IN REM SUMMARY FINAL JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AS TO COUNT(S) I entered in a case pending in said Court, the 13th day of October 2026.
Style of which is:
WINDWARD POINTE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION OF KEY WEST, INC., A CORPORATION NOT-FOR-PROFIT UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA Plaintiff VS.
MARYELLEN PAGAN, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS POTENTIAL HEIR TO JOHN JOSEPH PAGAN; T.J. COOK; PAMELA A. COOK; AND ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES WHO CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES, ADMINISTRATORS OR AS OTHER CLAIMANTS, BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST JOHN JOSEPH PAGAN, DECEASED Defendant
And the Docket Number of which is Number 2025-CC-000517-K WITNESS my hand and the Official Seal of Said Court, this 16TH day of October 2026
KEVIN MADOK
Clerk of the Circuit Court Monroe County, Florida
By: Shonta McLeod Deputy Clerk
Florida Statute 45.031: Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.
Publish:
October 22 & 29, 2026
The Weekly Newspapers

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2025-CC-000620-K NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE BY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Kevin Madok, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Monroe County, Florida, will, on the 10TH day of November 2026 at 11 o'clock a.m., at 500 Whitehead Street, Monroe County, in the City of Key West, Florida, offer for sale and sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for CASH the Following described property situated in Monroe County, Florida, to wit:
Unit A33, Week 30, Beach House, a Condominium according to the Declaration of Condominium thereof recorded in Official Records Book 1510, Page 225, Public Records of Monroe County, Florida, and all exhibits attached thereto, and any amendments thereof (the "Declaration"). Pursuant to the IN REM SUMMARY FINAL JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AFTER DEFAULT entered in a case pending in said Court, the 13TH day of October 2026.
Style of which is:
BEACH HOUSE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION OF KEY WEST, INC., A NONPROFIT CORPORATION UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA Plaintiff VS.
GARY RANDALL SIMMONS AND JANET ANN SIMMONS Defendant
And the Docket Number of which is Number 2025-CC-000620-K WITNESS my hand and the Official Seal of Said Court, this 16TH day of October 2026
KEVIN MADOK
Clerk of the Circuit Court Monroe County, Florida
By: Shonta McLeod Deputy Clerk
Florida Statute 45.031: Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.
Publish:
October 22 & 29, 2026
The Weekly Newspapers

LEGAL NOTICES

October 22 & 29, 2026
The Weekly Newspapers

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2025-CC-000540-K NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE BY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Kevin Madok, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Monroe County, Florida, will, on the 10th day of November 2026 at 11 o'clock a.m., at 500 Whitehead Street, Monroe County, in the City of Key West, Florida, offer for sale and sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for CASH the Following described property situated in Monroe County, Florida, to wit:
Unit 5111, Week 21, Annual Windward Pointe, a Leasehold Condominium ("Condominium"), according to the Declaration of Condominium thereof recorded in Official Records Book 1803, Page 844, Public Records of Monroe County, Florida, and all exhibits thereto, and any amendments thereof (the "Declaration"). Pursuant to the IN REM SUMMARY FINAL JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE entered in a case pending in said Court, the 13th day of October 2026.
Style of which is:
WINDWARD POINTE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION OF KEY WEST, INC., A CORPORATION NOT-FOR-PROFIT UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA Plaintiff VS.
ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES WHO CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES, ADMINISTRATORS OR AS OTHER CLAIMANTS, BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST BARBARA JOHNS FOWLER, DECEASED; WAYNE E. JOHNS, AS POTENTIAL HEIR TO BARBARA JOHNS FOWLER; WAYNE E. JOHNS AS CO-SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE OF THE MICHAEL & BARBARA FOWLER LIVING TRUST DATED APRIL 21, 2016, AS POTENTIAL HEIR TO BARBARA JOHNS FOWLER; RUSSELL S. FOWLER AS CO-SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE OF THE MICHAEL & BARBARA FOWLER LIVING TRUST DATED APRIL 21, 2016, AS POTENTIAL HEIR TO BARBARA JOHNS FOWLER; AND RUSSELL S. FOWLER, AS POTENTIAL HEIR TO BARBARA JOHNS FOWLER Defendant
And the Docket Number of which is Number 2025-CC-000540-K WITNESS my hand and the Official Seal of Said Court, this 16TH day of October 2026
KEVIN MADOK
Clerk of the Circuit Court Monroe County, Florida
By: Shonta McLeod Deputy Clerk
Florida Statute 45.031: Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.
Publish:
October 22 & 29, 2026
The Weekly Newspapers

LEGAL NOTICES

October 22 & 29, 2026
The Weekly Newspapers

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA CASE NO.: 2025-CC-000540-K NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE BY CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Kevin Madok, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Monroe County, Florida, will, on the 10th day of November 2026 at 11 o'clock a.m., at 500 Whitehead Street, Monroe County, in the City of Key West, Florida, offer for sale and sell at public outcry to the highest and best bidder for CASH the Following described property situated in Monroe County, Florida, to wit:
Unit 5111, Week 21, Annual Windward Pointe, a Leasehold Condominium ("Condominium"), according to the Declaration of Condominium thereof recorded in Official Records Book 1803, Page 844, Public Records of Monroe County, Florida, and all exhibits thereto, and any amendments thereof (the "Declaration"). Pursuant to the IN REM SUMMARY FINAL JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE entered in a case pending in said Court, the 13th day of October 2026.
Style of which is:
WINDWARD POINTE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION OF KEY WEST, INC., A CORPORATION NOT-FOR-PROFIT UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA Plaintiff VS.
ANY AND ALL UNKNOWN PARTIES WHO CLAIM AN INTEREST AS SPOUSE, HEIRS, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, ASSIGNEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, TRUSTEES, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES, ADMINISTRATORS OR AS OTHER CLAIMANTS, BY, THROUGH, UNDER OR AGAINST BARBARA JOHNS FOWLER, DECEASED; WAYNE E. JOHNS, AS POTENTIAL HEIR TO BARBARA JOHNS FOWLER; WAYNE E. JOHNS AS CO-SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE OF THE MICHAEL & BARBARA FOWLER LIVING TRUST DATED APRIL 21, 2016, AS POTENTIAL HEIR TO BARBARA JOHNS FOWLER; RUSSELL S. FOWLER AS CO-SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE OF THE MICHAEL & BARBARA FOWLER LIVING TRUST DATED APRIL 21, 2016, AS POTENTIAL HEIR TO BARBARA JOHNS FOWLER; AND RUSSELL S. FOWLER, AS POTENTIAL HEIR TO BARBARA JOHNS FOWLER Defendant
And the Docket Number of which is Number 2025-CC-000540-K WITNESS my hand and the Official Seal of Said Court, this 16TH day of October 2026
KEVIN MADOK
Clerk of the Circuit Court Monroe County, Florida
By: Shonta McLeod Deputy Clerk
Florida Statute 45.031: Any person claiming an interest in the surplus from the sale, if any, other than the property owner as of the date of the Lis Pendens must file a claim within 60 days after the sale.
Publish:
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COMMERCIAL SPACE

PRIME COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE ON US 1 available for rent in Marathon. 3,000 SF and 2,000 SF avail. Let's make a deal! Call or text Tony at 860-428-1506 Email: R2tpinco@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT

HIRING: Janitor needed for Marathon area. Twice a week, after 5pm. Contact Juan Galan at 7 8 6 - 2 6 3 - 8 4 3 3

Marathon Yacht Club is hiring a part-time Bartender and Server. Flexible evening shifts 3:30-9:00 at a private club. Must provide photo ID, social security card or passport, and checking account. Email office@marathonyachtclub.com or call 305-743-6739 to schedule an interview.

Experienced	FT	Line
Cook needed at the Cabana Club, an ocean front private swim club. 10AM - 5PM, Good Pay. Small friendly staff. Apply in person at 425 E. Ocean Dr. Key Colony Beach or call 404-219-3359 and ask for Dave.		

Serve/Bartend on the ocean! The Cabana Club, an ocean front private swim club is seeking a customer service-oriented Server/Bartender. Serve on pool deck, beach and/or bar lounge. Open year round, 9:30am-7pm daily. Full time/Part time. Small friendly staff. Above average hourly wage plus tips. Apply in person at 425 E. Ocean Dr. Key Colony Beach or call 404-219-3359 and ask for Dave.

EMPLOYMENT

The Housing Authority of the City of Key West now hiring the following position: Full-time Carpenter. To apply, please contact Human Resources at: greenel@kwha.org or 305-296-5621 ext. 225. Applications are available at the Administrative Office located at 1400 Kennedy Dr., Key West, FL 33040 or online at www.kwha.org - EOE & Drug Free Work Place. This opportunity is covered under Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968.

PLACE YOUR EMPLOYMENT AD HERE. \$25/week for up to 5 lines of copy! Call 305-743-0844 or Email Anneke@keyswEEKLY.com

HOUSING FOR RENT

ANNUAL RENTAL - Key Largo - 3BR/2BA new kitchen, Spacious Doublewide modular on canal w/40' dock, direct ocean access. Very nice community \$3500/month 7 8 6 - 2 5 8 - 3 1 2 7

Renovated 2BR/1BA unfurnished 1/2 duplex in Marathon for rent. New A/C, washer/dryer, small backyard. Year lease. \$2,700/mo. Se habla espanol. 954-798-6109

3 BR/2 BA home for rent in Key Colony Beach. 75' premium dock. \$3,800/month + utilities. F/L/S 786-229-0228

2 BR available in Marathon for long term rental. On the water, gated property, \$2,200/month includes limited electricity. First/Security. Small pets ok for separate fee. Call 3 0 5 - 6 1 0 - 8 0 0 2

• CLASSIFIEDS, PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES • 305.743.0844

HOUSING WANTED

HOUSING WANTED
TO RENT: Long-term rental at Cobia Point, Marathon. Will pay top dollar. Current Daytona Beach resident. Former Keys resident who wants to return. Please call Jan Burch at 251-9 7 8 - 6 2 6 7

MISC. FOR SALE

Cargo Container Storage
Units For Sale in Marathon. 20'-50' long, various pricing. Call 305-610-8002

Rosi's Secret Garden - Bromeliads, Episcias & Aglonemas For Sale Anytime. Located on Big Coppit Key. Call 305-296-7183

PLACE YOUR AD HERE!
\$25/week for up to 5 lines of copy! Call 305-743-0844 or Email Anneke@keysweekly.com

RV SITE FOR RENT

RV Site for rent in Marathon. Up to 35', private gated property. Dockage available. 305-610-8002

PLACE YOUR AD HERE!
\$25/week for up to 5 lines of copy! Call 305-743-0844 or Email Anneke@keysweekly.com

WANTED TO BUY

PRIVATE COLLECTOR
WANTS Rolex, Dive Watches and Pilot Watches. Old Model Military Clocks & Watches. Call 305-743-4578

TURN YOUR CARDS INTO CASH! Marathon collector buying any and all Pokemon cards & collections. Call 401-256-0645.

YARD SALES

SARA'S ESTATE SALE at WATERFRONT MANSION on LUX DUCK KEY: 112 Bimini Drive, Duck Key (MM 61, oceanside), Fri & Sat, Oct. 30 & 31, 9a to 1p. This is a do-not-miss sale at a beautiful home filled with beautiful things infused with a luxury coastal vibe. Four standouts: pair of peacock fan back vintage rattan chairs, a Schmidt pool table, a coral & glass dining table that seats 8 & an enormous wicker armoire with intricate detail. Art by Dan Goad & Shay Rieger, crystal by Baccarat & vintage (huge) Kilim rug. We have a white wicker patio sectional with 10 pieces, plus patio dining tables, and two-seat vignettes. Also: Bedroom furniture sets in wicker & bamboo, coastal bamboo living set, giant oatmeal color (white-ish?) sectional sofa and three asian antiques (console, stacked chest, little dresser). A few pieces to interest fly fishermen, top notch kitchen pots & pans, tools & a kayak. To see the full sale, visit estatesales.net. (Turn off US1 near MM61, follow the signs & park with consideration.)

PLACE YOUR YARD SALE AD HERE! \$25/week for up to 5 lines of copy! Call 305-743-0844 or Email: Anneke@keysweekly.com

SEE DOLPHINS
PLAY EVERYDAY!



NOW HIRING!

VOLUNTEER
RESOURCES
ASSISTANT
(FT, Permanent)

DOLPHIN RESEARCH CENTER
is a fun, environmentally friendly non-profit 501(c)(3) organization specializing in education, research, and rescue of marine mammals. DRC provides for the well-being of its employees with a competitive package including: a 401k retirement plan, medical benefits, HSA account, paid holidays/vacation/sick days, an employee assistance program, in addition to, life and disability insurance at no cost to the employee. EOE

COME JOIN THE FAMILY!
Email your resume and a DRC application to drc-hr@dolphins.org



DOLPHIN RESEARCH CENTER
58901 O/S Hwy - Grassy Key, FL



D'Assign Source is seeking the following professionals. Overtime and benefits are available.

Home Décor Sales Consultant
Seeking a customer-focused sales professional with experience in retail or customer service. Creativity and interest in home décor a must. Help customers discover pieces that turn everyday spaces into something special.

Finish Carpenter
Experienced finish carpenter needed for high end residential work. Must have own tools and reliable transportation. Attention to detail and dependable work ethic required. Interior and Exterior work. Competitive pay and benefits.

Working Project Construction Foreman
Competitive pay and benefits.

For complete details and to apply, please visit DAssignSource.com/careers



EXPERIENCED
CONSTRUCTION LABORERS

We are hiring **Experienced Construction Laborers**. 2 yrs or more experience required. Monday-Friday with overtime possible.

Please apply in person at Charley Toppino & Sons, Inc., 129 Toppino Industrial Drive, Key West. Or contact Agnes at 305-296-5606 ext 126 or agnes@charleytoppino.com



EXPERIENCED HEAVY
EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

We are hiring **Experienced Heavy Equipment Operators**. 1 yr or more experience required. Monday-Friday with overtime possible.

Please apply in person at Charley Toppino & Sons, Inc., 129 Toppino Industrial Drive, Key West. Or contact Agnes at 305-296-5606 ext 126 or agnes@charleytoppino.com



Keys Energy Services, in Key West, Florida, is accepting applications for the following position in its Generation Department:

OPERATOR/MAINTAINER

Starting pay rate for this position, depending on qualifications and experience: \$41.95/hr - \$46.99/hr

For more information, including job duties and required qualifications, and to apply for the job, please visit their website at www.KeysEnergy.com. KEYS is an Equal Opportunity Employer. KEYS promotes a Drug-Free Workplace.

Certain service members, veterans, the spouses and family members of service members and veterans, receive preference and priority in employment, and are encouraged to apply for positions being filled.



Keys Energy Services, in Key West, Florida, is accepting applications for the following position in its Transmission & Distribution Department:

SUBSTATION ELECTRICIAN
(High Voltage Substation Electrical Technician)

Starting pay rate for this position, depending on qualifications and experience: \$48.47/hr. - \$54.28/hr.

For more information, including job duties and required qualifications, and to apply for the job, please visit their website at www.KeysEnergy.com. KEYS is an Equal Opportunity Employer. KEYS promotes a Drug-Free Workplace.

Certain service members, veterans, the spouses and family members of service members and veterans, receive preference and priority in employment, and are encouraged to apply for positions being filled.



SUNSET GRILLE
NOW HIRING

**BARTENDERS
WAIT STAFF - HOST/HOSTESS
BUS PERSONS**

Apply in person at
SUNSET GRILLE & RAW BAR
7 Knight's Key Blvd, Marathon



NOW
HIRING!

The Turtle Hospital in Marathon
wants you to join their team!

RETAIL GIFT SHOP
ASSOCIATE

Full-time. \$19/hour to start.

EMAIL resume to:
TurtleHospital@TurtleHospital.org
APPLY in person:
2396 Overseas Highway, Marathon, FL



The Turtle Hospital
Aquarist

The Turtle Hospital has a PT/FT opening for an Aquarist. Major duties consist of: maintenance, repair and cleaning for water filtrations systems and life support systems, water quality monitoring, habitat maintenance and cleaning. Must be physically fit, able to lift 75 pounds and work outdoors. Handyman skills and knowledge of plumbing and electrical systems required. Compensation dependent on experience. Stop by to complete an application or email your resume to turtlehospitalmarathon@gmail.com

• **CLASSIFIEDS, PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES** • **305.743.0844**



The Guidance/Care Center, Inc.
a division of

“Uplifting the human spirit since 1973”

THE GUIDANCE/CARE CENTER, Inc.

IS HIRING!

JOIN A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE NON-PROFIT HELPING PEOPLE COPE AND CHANGE FOR 53 YEARS!

We provide Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Programs to the Florida Keys community while valuing and rewarding our employees.

KEY LARGO

Behavioral Health Counselor (Child, FT)
Front Desk Triage Specialist (FT)
Peer Support Specialist (FT)
*Mental Health Technician (PT)

KEY WEST

Crisis Counselor (PT or FT)
Prevention Specialist (FT)
*Mental Health Technician (FT, PT)

MARATHON

Driver (CDL NOT required) (FT, PT)
Registered Nurse (PT)
Behavioral Health Therapist (Adult, FT)
Behavioral Health Therapist (Child, FT)
*Mental Health Technician (FT)
*Support Worker (Assisted Living) (FT, PT)
*Behavioral Health Technicians (FT, PT)

***No experience required for this position. Will train. A caring heart & helpful hands necessary.**

Background and drug screen req. *EEOC/DFWP*
COMPETITIVE PAY! EXCEPTIONAL BENEFITS!!!
Apply at guidancecarecenter.org - Get Involved/Join our team/Job Opportunities/location/zip

THE GUIDANCE/CARE CENTER, INC.

“Uplifting the human spirit since 1973”

IS HIRING for The Heron Assisted Living Facility!

Interested in gaining health care experience in a comfortable canal front home?
Like giving care & assisting with life skills for 16 residents?
Well-rounded team player able to handle a variety of responsibilities?
Able to make meals, do paperwork, and hold a clean three yr. driver's license?
Available for PT or FT shifts 8am-4pm, 2pm-10pm Monday-Sunday?
If so, you would be a great **SUPPORT WORKER!**

No experience required for this position, we will train. A caring heart and helpful hands are necessary.

We offer flexibility; a minimum 16 hrs. & shift differentials!

Background and drug screen req. *EEOC/DFWP*
COMPETITIVE PAY! EXCEPTIONAL BENEFITS!!!
Apply at guidancecarecenter.org - Get Involved/Join our team/Job Opportunities/location/zip



MARATHON GARBAGE SERVICE

We are now hiring for the following positions:

Diesel Mechanic
Truck Helpers
CDL Drivers

Applicants must apply in person to be considered.
4290 Overseas Hwy, Marathon



Baptist Health

OPENINGS AVAILABLE

PHYSICIAN PRACTICE OPENINGS

- Medical Assistant, Ortho-Tavernier, \$5k Bonus
- Medical Assistant, Primary Care – Marathon, \$5k Bonus
- Medical Assistant, Urology – Marathon, \$5k Bonus
- Patient Access Associate, General Surgery – Tavernier, \$5k Bonus

BAPTIST HEALTH CANCER CARE | KEY WEST

- Medical Assistant, OP Procedures, Key West WCI, \$5k Bonus
- Pool Radiation Therapist
- Radiation Therapist, \$12k Bonus
- Registered Nurse, Chemotherapy Infusion, Per Diem

TAVERNIER MARINERS HOSPITAL

- Cook, \$5k Bonus
- Food Service Worker, Dietary, \$5k Bonus
- Manager of Wellness Center, FT
- Mechanic, Facility Operations, FT
- Medical Technologist, Per Diem
- Multi-Modality Imaging Tech, (CT & X Ray), \$25k Bonus
- Multi-Modality Imaging Tech 2, (Echo & Vascular w/Ultrasound Preferred), \$25k Bonus
- Pharmacy Technician, Mariners Hospital, \$7k Bonus
- Phlebotomist, Laboratory, Per Diem
- Registered Nurse, Surgery, \$15k Bonus

MARATHON FISHERMEN'S COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

- Cook, Dietary, FT
- ED Team Coordinator, PT & FT
- MC Multi-Modality Imaging Tech, CT & X Ray, \$25k Bonus
- MC Multi-Modality Imaging Tech, CT & X Ray, Radiology, \$25k Bonus
- Manager Plant Operations, Facility Operations
- Mechanic, Facility Operations, FT
- Medical Technologist 2, \$20k Bonus
- Multi-Modality Imaging Tech 1, (CT & X Ray), Radiology, \$25k Bonus
- Patient Care/Nursing House Supervisor (MH/FCH), \$20k Bonus
- Patient Financial Associate, \$10k Bonus
- Patient Scheduler, Surgery, FT
- Pool Med Technologist, Laboratory, Per Diem
- Registered Nurse, Emergency Department, FT & Per Diem
- Registered Nurse, Multispecialty Acute Care Center, \$25k Bonus
- Registered Nurse, PACU, \$15k Bonus
- Registered Nurse, PACU, Per Diem
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- Registered Respiratory Therapist, PT, \$12,500 Bonus
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All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status.
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FLEXIBLE HOURS & COMPETITIVE WAGES

Need to have experience driving boats and a working knowledge of the Islamorada area by water. Duties include taking reservations, giving captains lessons and routine boat maintenance.

Email Matt at eliteboatrentalsmatt@gmail.com.

Please include contact information and any relevant experience.



Islamarina

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MARINA CASHIER

Must have customer service experience working in a retail environment and using a point of sale system. Additional duties include restocking, completing purchase orders, daily ordering of basic items in the store, and maintaining a clean appearance in the store. This is an hourly position and compensation is based on experience. Work hours are flexible and we try to maintain a set weekly schedule.

Please respond by email (Matt at islamarinamatt@gmail.com) with any relevant previous experience and at least two references.



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