So. Dade crop: Salmon

Atlantic salmon is being added to the basket of cash crops grown in Homestead's fields. Homestead’s Atlantic Sapphire will have the capacity to produce 10,000 metric tons of salmon a year from egg to final product by August, with the ultimate goal of becoming the largest supplier of salmon to the United States by 2021. See story on page 124.

Rental apartments to be ready in May

By JILL ZIMA BORSKI
Free Press Staff

MARRIAGE — Forty-five apartments available for rent are coming online for occupancy in May in central Marathon, fulfilling a housing need that is most in demand, according to Marathon Oceanfront Landings’ management. The new luxury apartment complex is the first new rental property to open in Marathon in at least a decade. See RENTAL, page 10A.

Key West has a new plan for the Keys — except the keys

By THERESA JAVA
Free Press Staff

Soon after the new year began, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary began a housing need that is most in demand, according to Marathon Oceanfront Landings’ management. The new luxury apartment complex is the first new rental property to open in Marathon in at least a decade. See RENTAL, page 10A.

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Wave of costs follows FEMA hazard line

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because they have minimal map changes could be to Phillip Decker, regional team property owners elected to have tion and doubt for many. In the program started the excitement their homes.

Rebuild Florida program in February 12, 2020 Florida Keys Free Press

Wave

Properties with an X zone fall outside the area targeted for assistance because they have minimal risk of flooding, but... (continued)

Next page for renewal. That's why... (continued)

result from the... (continued)

Properties with an X zone fall outside the... (continued)

Florida Ankle and Foot Institute

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Fellow American College of Foot & Ankle Orthopaedic Medicine
Fellow American College of Foot & Ankle Surgeons

• Fascia & Tendons
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• Joint Pain or Arthritis
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• Neuropathy
• Tendonitis/Tendons Injuries
• Repetitive Motion Injuries

Dr. William Thetford
American College of Foot and Ankle Surgery

Access to medications can be 100% higher today than outdoors. Everyone can benefit from Rebuild Florida is taking to get what they want, and they are working on it. Decker is so... (continued)

The Free Press first reported the... (continued)

trigger points can be treated by orthopedic surgeon, (Achilles or Others) • Tendonitis/Tendon Injuries

Healthy Air Productsakah... (continued)
redistrict boundaries for the tions are crucial because Barras said. to Democrat — and give could go from Republican controlled House, including seats in the Republican- Rebman Lopez, who lives at Village Councilman and the Ocean Reef Club in R-Key Largo.

The others are Islamorada of the Keys and a section seat, which includes all

Barras is one of three her term limit this fall, and Barras is the only

R-KP Key Largo. Raschein will reach

the conclusion, why not me," came with a lot of
crowd to complain. I have been working on the water quality issue.

A casual redistricting in the work plan does not mean the state will immediately audit funding, but "gives no more ammunition to request funding," Barras said. "It gives us a leg up."

The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council and longtime board member Len Carruthers said. "I have been following the water quality issue. … I'm excited. I have been working on the water quality issue. … I'm excited. I have been working on the water quality issue. … I'm excited. I have been working on the water quality issue. … I'm excited. I have been working on the water quality issue. … I'm excited.

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Man wanted in Mexico arrested at Ocean Reef Club

Coast Guard ends boat’s trek over violations

Man accused of killing mother goes before judge

Suspects in separate murders nabbed

The 42-year-old man, wanted in Coahuila, stopped at the Ocean Reef Club last Thursday morning, according to sheriff’s office deputies. The man was running a pass to enter Ocean Reef. He was attempting to enter the property to work. The sheriff's office learned Delgado Munoz has been wanted by Interpol for murder with a gun in Mexico since 2004 when his name was run through law enforcement databases, according to Linhardt said. Delgado Munoz was immediately detained by the sheriff’s office. The U.S. Border Patrol arrived on scene and Delgado Munoz was turned over to their custody. Delgado Munoz's arrest came four days after a 51-year-old man wanted by Interpol for trafficking women and minors for prostitution in Romania was located and arrested in Lower Keys by the sheriff’s office. Captain Alanest Lupu was turned over to U.S. Border Patrol agents at the residence where he was found allegedly resid- ing on Jamaica Lane in Stugafied Key.

Man accused of killing mother in Jacksonville headed through the Florida Keys, went before a judge Friday on the murder charge as well as an unrelat- ed charge from an unpro- voked assault on a former girlfriend.

NORTH KEY LARGO — Monroe County Sheriff’s Office deputies arrested a man wanted in Mexico as he tried to access the most exclusive and wealthy communities.

The man, wanted in Coahuila, Mexico for murder, was liv- ing in Homestead but was arrested at the Ocean Reef Club last Thursday morn- ing, according to sheriff’s office spokes- man Alan Linhardt. Edgar Delgado Munoz, 40, was stopped at the entrance gate by Ocean Reef security and the sheriff’s office, according to Linhardt said. Delgado Munoz did not have a pass to enter Ocean Reef. He was attempting to enter the property to work. The sheriff’s office learned Delgado Munoz has been wanted by Interpol for murder with a gun in Mexico since 2014 when his name was run through law enforcement databases, according to Linhardt said. Delgado Munoz was immediately detained by the sheriff’s office. The U.S. Border Patrol arrived on scene and Delgado Munoz was turned over to their custody. Delgado Munoz’s arrest came four days after a 51-year-old man wanted by Interpol for trafficking women and minors for prostitu- tion in Romania was located and arrested in the Lower Keys by the sheriff’s office. Captain Alanest Lupu was turned over to U.S. Border Patrol agents at the residence where he was found allegedly resid- ing on Jamaica Lane in Stugafied Key.

BY TIMOTHY O’HARA
FREE PRESS Staff

PLANTATION KEY — A young man suspected of killing his mother in Jacksonville and who was arrested last Thursday after- noon heading through the Florida Keys, went before a judge Friday on the murder charge as well as an unrelat- ed charge from an unpro- voked assault on a former girlfriend.

Deputies spotted a black 2010 Toyota FJ Cruiser sport utility vehicle matching the suspect’s description provided by Jacksonville authorities driving south- bound on U.S. 1 at mile marker 94.2 at approx- imately 3:15 p.m. The license plate number also matched the number provided by Jacksonville authorities. Deputies also noticed a firearm in the vehicle. On Friday, McPherson was also arraigned in court on battery charges of a person over the age of 65 stemming from his alleged assault on Peter Dau on Feb. 2, which led to the vic- tim being taken to Lower Keys Regional Medical Center.

On Friday, McPherson was arrested, according to sheriff’s office spokes- man Alan Linhardt, and the suspect’s pass to Ocean Reef was revoked. The suspect, a young man suspected of killing his mother in Jacksonville, was arrested last Thursday after- noon heading through the Florida Keys. The sheriff’s office received a call from Jacksonville authorities that a person matching the suspect’s description was heading through the Florida Keys from Jacksonville. Two deputies from Coast Guard Cutter Charles David Jr. boarded the fishing vessel Salt Shaker II after allegedly discovering multiple marine resource violations during a boarding last week southeast of Key Largo.

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The Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen’s Association cited a need to improve water quality and boater education, along with having more marine patrol officers.

“Capt. Erra Pitas stated that resolving these problem areas would remedy most, if not all, of the obstacles the sanctuary is now dealing with,” wrote executive director Bill Kelly. “Yet the 350-page Draft Environmental Impact Statement does not contain one single word addressing these issues.”

The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Authority is currently reviewing about 200 comments it has received on behalf of its “more than 650,000 members nationwide and over 150,000 members in Florida.” Enforce officers total of three NOAA law enforcement officers assigned to the 1,290-square mile sanctuary, with supplemental law enforcement provided in FWC personnel. However, over the past three years the sanctuary has cut supplemental funding to FWC, instead of more than $800,000 annually to pay over $300,000. In spite of this, the sanctuary seeks to increase its footprint by an additional “585 miles.”

Capt. Akins, a staff, or with the Florida Keys chapter of the nonprofit National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, and Key Largo operator Rob Bleser both cautioned about proposed “idle speed” zones around the reef tract.

“It is not feasible for a watercraft to maintain ‘idle speed’ in open water where wave action and current effects ‘idle speed’ will not allow a mariner to safely operate/navigate the vessel,” Bleser wrote.

He added, “Some of the suggested expansions of existing sanctuary protection areas make sense, but there are mitigating issues to be considered.” Professional mariners with local knowledge of the areas should be recruited to assist in design and placement of those boundaries.

Dr. Akins recommended a rule on anchoring within an 180 meter (600 foot) radius sanctuary-wide to prevent damage to nearly sensitive habitats. If a habitat is sensitive to anchor damage, the sanctuary can place a mooring buoy at that location. This would replace the proposed large area no-anchoring zones and the no anchoring in 40 feet provisions.

Other boaters and fishers objected to the suggested 122-square-mile area off Key Largo where no anchoring would be allowed. The Florida Keys Fishing Guides Association opposes closing several flats to catch-and-release fishing.

“Flats fishing is a sustainable industry with low environmental impacts. As such, the KEKOS plan should consider facilitating, rather than limiting, this marine use and the habitats that support it,” Commodore Steve Friedman wrote.

Fishing groups and members Long Key residents vehemently protested a proposed shoreline-to-deep-water zone around Tennessee Reef.

Fishing groups and many of the NOAA proposals are effects. ‘Idle speed’ will do not allow a mariner to safely operate/navigate the vessel, Bleser wrote.

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Fishing groups and many

McPherson continued from page 4A

Keys police chief Darin reminded the attack. McPherson stepped on his foot prior to the attack, preventing him from getting up...” Diaz said he lost consciousness after McPherson struck him the first time and eventually water zone around Tennessee Reef.

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BY KEVIN WADLOW

Warning buoys installed in deadly, narrow passage

ISLAMORADA — Boaters speeding through a narrow wheel ditch off Whale Harbor Channel now have been warned. “Slow Speed/Minimum Wake” buoys were installed Feb. 10, one at each end of the hazardous passage north of mile marker 84. Fines for violating the neutral speed limit now start at $50.

“This project has been a great community collaboration for public safety,” said Peter Frezza, Islamorada’s Environmental Resources manager. “It started at the local level and was passed onto the Near Shore Water Resources Citizens Advisory Committee, then approved by the Village Council with the support of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.” The unofficial channel, about a third of a mile in narrow width, less than 75 length, was created by decades of boater use. It’s near mile marker 88.6, bay side, returns to the county near the Marlin Food Store. A canal ends at the north side of the property, this would be the sixth time that the council endorsed a call for the Florida Legislature to allow home rule on disposable plastics. “Bouys and bio-degradable containers are considered to be the best option to reduce waste and litter, protect wildlife and conserve resources,” said a section of the proposed resolution. In other items on the Feb. 13 agenda:

A quasi-judicial hearing on a vacant U.S. 1 lot near mile marker 84 in bay side, returns to the council for a ruling on possible zoning and future land use map changes. Islamorada’s planning staff endorsed the applicant’s proposal with conditions.

As proposed, the lot — about eight-tenths of an acre — would be used by Overseas Services LLC for offices and retail space. It currently is zoned for residential use. The property lies between Monroe Drive and Village Street, across from the Martin Food Store. A canal ends at the north side of the property.

Flip Palotto, Sports Director, Islamorada Poseidon Marine Towing, installed new “Slow Speed/Minimum Wake” buoys on a narrow wheel ditch channel off the north side of Whale Harbor on Monday. See BOYS, page 7A.

2019 Ranked #1 C21 Sales Agent in the Keys

6A

2020 Florida Keys Free Press

BY KEVIN WADLOW

Village to try once more to curb plastics

ISLAMORADA — Odds may be long but the Islamorada Village Council likely will try again to seek authority to curb use of disposable plastics.

“At the council’s Feb. 13 meeting, members will be asked to renew a resolution that would allow local governments to use home rule to enact ‘Slow Speed/Minimum Wake’ buoys on a narrow wheel ditch channel off the north side of Whale Harbor on Monday. If approved during Thursday’s meeting, this would be the sixth time that the council endorsed a call for the Florida Legislature to allow home rule on disposable plastics. “Bouys and bio-degradable containers are considered to be the best option to reduce waste and litter, protect wildlife and conserve resources,” says a section of the proposed resolution. In other items on the Feb. 13 agenda:

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Bay advocates seek park stewardship agreement

Florida Bay forever members have submitted a proposal to the Islamorada Village Council to manage Green Turtle Hammock, a conservation property that includes the historic Russell Cottage.

As outlined in the stewardship proposal, the historic Russell Cottage could be opened as an ecocenter with a museum and exhibit space to help visitors, community groups and school classes learn more about Florida Bay and the local biodiversity. Other concepts include nature walks, a science center and access to the park's paddle sports basin.

A two-story masonry home overlooking the boat basin has been approved by the village for demolition. The empty house has badly deteriorated over the decades and would require extensive and cost-ly repairs, staff and council members agreed.

Green Turtle Hammock is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily with no admiss-ion. Leashed dogs are wel-come.

Reservations are request-ed for the Feb. 19 program on Florida Bay. Email info@FloridaBayForever.org.

kevin.wadlow@keysnews.com

Buoys

Continued from page 4A

feet across, proved deadly in April 2014. A 12-year-old woman riding as a passen-ger on a hoverboard skidded on an ongoing boat and plunged into mangroves.

“No one should be going through there on planes, especially if you meet another boat,” said Bob Mitchell, the late chairman of the Near Shore commit-tee who championed speed reductions after the crash. “It’s too damn narrow.”

Minimum Wake rules say “a vessel must be fully off plane and completely set into the water” and must “avoid the creation of an excessive wake or other hazardous condition.”

kevin.wadlow@keysnews.com

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Florida Keys Free Press • February 12, 2020 • 7A

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Christy Hughes, Realtor®
Cell: 305.393.6190
clc.hughes@gmail.com

106 Hilson Court, Tavernier
Sunday 10 am to 12 pm
$545,000
4 beds
2 baths
1,288 sq ft
MM 93/B

Alina Davis Team, Realtors®
Sidney: 954.816.0003
Sidney@YourFLKeysAgent.com

75475 Overseas Highway, Islamorada
Sunday 1 pm to 3 pm
$2,075,000
3 beds
3 baths
1,825 sq ft
MM 75/B

Alina Davis Team, Realtors®
Alina: 305.393.0541
Alina@YourFLKeysAgent.com

193 Gulfview Drive, Islamorada
Sunday 9:30 am to 11:30 am
$1,199,000
4 beds
3 baths
2,545 sq ft
MM 74.5/B

Alina Davis Team, Realtors®
Alina: 305.393.0541
Alina@YourFLKeysAgent.com

89 Venetian Drive, Islamorada
Sunday 11 am to 2 pm
$2,425,000
5 beds
5.5 baths
3,959 sq ft
MM 74.5/B

Patti Stanley Realtor®
Cell: 305.393.4433
patti.stanley@me.com

Christopher Engel Realtor®
305.395.0486
901 Lobster Lane, Key Largo
Saturday 11 am to 2 pm

$895,000
3 beds 3 baths 1,820 sqft
Bay/Ocean

April Struhs, Realtor®
Cell: 305.399.6297
aprilstruhs@cbcschmitt.com

132 Harbor Lane, Plantation Key
Saturday 11 am to 1 pm

$1,799,000
4 beds 4 baths 3,385 sqft
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The Newman Team, Realtors®
Brett: 305.393.1770
brett@brettnewman.com

149 Stromboli Drive, Islamorada
Saturday 10:30 am to 1 pm

$2,200,000
5 beds 4 baths 3,884 sqft
Bay/Ocean

Keller Porter Team, Realtors®
Jan: 305.664.7069
Charlotte: 305.393.2749

65700 Overseas Highway #C8, Long Key
Saturday 10 am to 12:00 pm

$550,000
2 beds 2.5 baths 1,138 sqft
Bay/Ocean

Alina Davis Team, Realtors®
Alina: 305.393.0541
Alina@YourFLKeysAgent.com

65700 Overseas Highway #F4, Long Key
Saturday 10 am to 12:00 pm

$635,000
3 beds 3.5 baths 1,746 sqft
Bay/Ocean

Alina Davis Team, Realtors®
Sidney: 954.816.0003
Sidney@YourFLKeysAgent.com

94825 Overseas Highway #91, Key Largo
Saturday 11 am to 4 pm

$760,000
2 beds 2.5 baths 1,650 sqft
Bay/Ocean

Maria Barroso, Realtor®
Cell: 786.382.3765
mariakeylargo@gmail.com

129 Villa Bella Drive, Islamorada
Saturday 3 pm to 5 pm

$2,425,000
5 beds 5.5 baths 3,959 sqft
Bay/Ocean

The Keller Group, Realtors®
Patti: 305.393.4433
Patti.stanley@me.com

89 Venetian Drive, Islamorada
Saturday 11 am to 2 pm

$2,425,000
5 beds 5.5 baths 3,959 sqft
Bay/Ocean

The Keller Group, Realtors®
Patti: 305.393.4433
Patti.stanley@me.com

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BY JILL ZIMA BORSKI
Free Press Staff

MARATHON — Something香滑了整
ten in Marathon, but all has been resol
ed. The Incredible Fruit Stand, for
merly operating in front of Crane Point, has found a new home such Saturday at St. Columbus Church, 53rd Street, gulfside.

Earlier this month, the Florida Keys Land Trust board, which operates the Crane Point Museum and Hammock, told the owners of the Incredible Fruit Stand that they will no longer be allowed to use the property. The Land Trust has been taking steps to enhance the visibility of Crane Point and drive greater attention to the art sculpture.

The owners of the fruit stand, Peter and Mara Pittman, had operated in front of Crane Point for a half-day each Saturday for 20 years along U.S. 1.

Despite conversations for the better part of two years, the action sent waves of anger through the Middle Keys. Many won
dered why the fruit stand was asked to move in what some thought was a sud
den decision.

The Pittmans received the official notice Feb. 2, and asked on social media for support in trying to get Crane Point officials to reconsider their request.

A local newspaper article dated Dec. 18, 2017 shared, "The management of Crane Point said it offered Marie and Peter Pittman a long-term, open-ended lease on the highway right-way on the west end near the Marathon Garden Club."

That lease was never executed, partly due to the Trust wanting the fruit stand to have insurance, which it did not. The fruit stand, also, paid no rent in return for the use of the space, nor did the Land Trust ever seek any rent.

Now, the highway front-age on the southwester
en end of the property is destined to receive a large pyramid-like sculp
ture, named "The Bridges," by Jamie Emerson, one of nine artworks in the Florida Keys Council of the Arts Sculpture Trail. The sculpture, also, will convey the contours of Crane Point and enhance its visibil
ity, said Charlotte Quinn, CEO. "We are very excited about the art coming to us through the Arts Council."

Quinn said the under
stood five other spots in addition to St. Columbus were offered to the Pittmans after the social media post.

"I think the church is a good fit for them," she said.

The Pittmans support local charities and some of their proceeds; the church's scholarship fund is the current recipient. Also, the fruit stand is now covered under the church's insurance policy.

The Pittmans did not return several requests for comment.

jzima@keysnews.com
Marathon News

City considers plastic straw ban, streetlight repairs and land lease

BY ALL ZIMA BORSKI

MARATHON — The Marathon City Council was to consider a plastic straw ban, streetlight repairs and a land lease on Tuesday, Feb. 11. The meeting took place after press time.

Marathon must pass an ordinance if it wishes to exclude the city from Monroe County’s prohibition on the distribution or sale of single-use plastic beverage straws or utensils with enforcement to commence Jan. 1, 2021. Marathon City Council determined the straw prohibition is not in the best interests of the city, citing enforcement challenges, so rejection of the ban was expected.

The council also was to consider a resolution for repairs of Sombrero Beach Road streetlights resulting from damage from Hurricane Irma. The lowest bid was from Marathon Electric Sign & Light at $33,950. The majority of the work is subject to FEMA reimbursement at 75% of the cost. Nearest Electric Co., of Key West bid $62,052. The council had the option to continue to move affordable housing ahead with a resolution to approve the purchase of a $300,000 property. This purchase from DFB, Inc. would be funded by approximately $150,000 from the city’s affordable housing fund and $150,000 from Land Authority Habitat for Humanity of the Middle Keys. The city is interested in the deferral of the purchase price and will attempt to close in the last seven plus years. After the resolution was passed, it was transported by truck to Miami Seaquarium for evaluation, treatment and rehabilitation. It is hoped that he will fully recover from the injury and be a candidate for re-release into Florida Keys waters.

Hurricane Irma. The low-road streetlights resulted in the need for repairs of Sombrero Beach Road, to consider a resolution for the interests of the city, citing prohibition is not in the best interests of the city, citing enforcement challenges, so rejection of the ban was expected.

Upper Keys Marine Construction, Inc.

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Manning Perez-Morales was charged with resisting arrest.

Multiple deputies responded to 5427 Overseas Highway, at approximately 12:30 a.m. regarding a, according to Douglas Lewis, growth management director. Staff were to bring back to the council a long-term lease agreement between the city and Habitat for Humanity of the Middle Keys for the use, redevelopment and/or construction of 11 affordable housing units, management of the property and limited commercial use of the property solely for the use of Habitat for Humanity of the Middle Keys.

Marathon’s code department has been in the process of bringing two additional code officials, according to Douglas Lewis, growth management director. Staff were to bring back to the council a long-term lease agreement between the city and Habitat for Humanity of the Middle Keys for the use, redevelopment and/or construction of 11 affordable housing units, management of the property and limited commercial use of the property solely for the use of Habitat for Humanity of the Middle Keys.

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Man accused of leading deputies on wild chase

BIG PINE KEY — A 26-year-old local man was arrested early last Wednesday morning after he allegedly fled from deputies and a passenger jumped from the moving pickup truck he was driving.

Jeffrey James Holroyd was charged with felony fleeing and eluding, according to the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office.

There were no reported serious injuries.

Deputy Zachary Eason was on patrol on Big Pine Key at 3:32 a.m. when he reported a serious eluding, according to the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office.

The truck continued until stoppage near Avenue D. The driver, identified as Holroyd, was detained without further incident, reports say Holroyd declined to speak with deputies.

The passenger was found under a trailer between Avenue A and Avenue B. The 26-year-old passenger stated he and Holroyd were coming from Coconuts Bar & Liquor Store and were in a hurry to get home, reports say. The passenger stated he feared for his safety as it was his belief Holroyd had a firearm in the truck, so he leapt from the moving truck, reports say.

There was no firearm found in the truck. The passenger was not arrested. Holroyd was taken to jail.

Center celebration Saturday

BIG PINE KEY — The Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges Complex and the Florida Keys Wildlife Society are hosting a free celebration of the new Refuge Nature Center from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, at 30587 Overseas Highway.

Although the center has been open to the public since September, the refuge and its volunteer support group wanted to provide a grand opening celebration that seasonal residents could attend.

An opening ceremony begins at 9:30 a.m., followed by a 10 a.m. ribbon cutting.

Activities will follow including wildlife-oriented games and activities, fish casting and archery challenges, nature sketching and photography, a plant clinic, and music and food.

For more information, visit fws.gov/refuge/nation- al-key_deer_refuge or facebook.com/FloridaKeyparkes.
Salmon farming coming to Homestead

BY THERESA JAVA
Palm Press Staff

HOMESTEAD — Although an unlikely place to raise cold-water Atlantic salmon, the agricultural community of South Dade will soon be home to one of the largest salmon aquafarms in the U.S.

With its first phase of a large-scale salmon farm slated to be completed this summer, Atlantic Sapphire hopes to tap into more than half of the U.S. market consumption of salmon.

The Norwegian-based company's Homestead project is a long-term plan divided in different phases of construction to be complete by 2031.

The first phase buildup of the 9-acre aquafarm building, being called the “Bluehouse,” will tentatively be finished by August, according to Lola Navarro, Atlantic Sapphire's public and community engagement manager.

Once the first phase is completed, Atlantic Sapphire will have the capacity to produce 10,000 metric tons of salmon a year from egg to final product.

"After that, we will continue with the build-out of the following phases of our Bluehouse, which will allow us to gradually increase our capacity until reaching our target goal of 220,000 metric tons of Atlantic salmon a year by 2031," Navarro said.

That would be more than half of the current annual U.S. consumption.

The U.S. market consumes about 400,000 tons of salmon a year, which isn't very much per capita at about 2.2 pounds per year, according to atlanticsapphire.com, but industry leaders are projecting salmon consumption to rapidly grow.

Since Atlantic salmon are anadromous, meaning they leaves the ocean to return to freshwater streams to breed, Atlantic Sapphire must provide both environments.

The salmon tanks will draw 15.88 million gallons of water per day from the brackish Floridan aquifer, an amount that has been permitted by the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority.

Atlantic Sapphire expects to complete the first phase of its large-scale salmon farm by August.

The salmon tanks will draw 15.88 million gallons of water per day from the brackish Floridan aquifer, an amount that has been approved by state, federal and local governments.

"The South Florida Water Management District issued a consumptive use permit to Atlantic Sapphire to use 15.88 million gallons per day of water for their salmon farm," said Randy Smith, the SFWM District spokesman.

The Florida Aquifer will provide more than 95% of the water needed for the aquafarm. The rest will be fresh water pulled from the Biscayne Aquifer. The Biscayne Aquifer supplies the region with drinking water.

Atlantic Sapphire hopes to significantly increase consumption to rapidly grow.

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Big Pine Key gallery going strong for 25 years

BY JILL ZIMA BORSKI

The art gallery, which opened in January 1994 as a pop-up shop committed to showcasing a variety of local art. Initially, a few friends came together to form the gallery's website. As a cooperative gallery, founding members are involved in all aspects of running the business.

In 1995, “success followed as the art friends formally created Artists in Paradise Gallery with 19 founding members,” says the gallery’s website. As a cooperative gallery, members are involved in all aspects of running the business.

BIG PINE KEY — The Artists in Paradise Gallery celebrates 25 years this year as a full-time gallery.

The art gallery, which offers a full range of classes during season, formed in January 1994 as a pop-up shop committed to showcasing a variety of local art. Initially, a few friends came together calling themselves Artists in Paradise to temporarily show their art work in a vacant storefront. Soon, they were a committed group that just kept growing. In 1995, “success followed as the art friends formally created Artists in Paradise Gallery with 19 founding members,” says the gallery’s website. As a cooperative gallery, members are involved in all aspects of running the business.

Among the founding artists, a few are still involved as the art friends, with the focus still on diversity. Through the years and many hurricanes later, the gallery has survived and thrived.

“Artists in Paradise Gallery with 19 founding members,” says the gallery’s website. As a cooperative gallery, members are involved in all aspects of running the business.

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Hotel expansion breaks ground

MARATHON — Connor & Gaskins Unlimited LLC has broken ground on the expansion of a Fairfield Inn & Suites in Marathon. The work is expected to be completed by November.

Concrete poured for new Marathon hospital

MARATHON — Construction for the new Fishermans’ Community Hospital appeared on schedule, according to Baptist Hospital officials. The new hospital is scheduled to open in the fall of 2021.

A community ceremony that included CEO Development — the national firm overseeing management of more than 500 properties — took place recently. Connor & Gaskins Unlimited has completed an 80-foot east parking garage and is now pouring more than 140 yards of concrete for the foundation of the hotel.

The new Fairfield Inn & Suites is slated to open by November.

Business & real estate continued

Artists in Paradise hosts the mosaic Connects Project of the Florida Keys Council of the Arts

Gallery

Artists in Paradise breaks ground, 14A

A new artists’ collective, Artists in Paradise, was launched at a reception last week. The group plans to bring a creative space to the keys.

Center & Gaskins Unlimited and OTO Development break ground on the expansion of a Fairfield Inn & Suites in Marathon. The work is expected to be completed by November.
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IN JUNE 2009, "9 to 5" hit Broadway with a performance by the original cast of the movie and on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020, the plays newest production, "9 to 5, the Musical," hit the stage.

In the mid-1960s, development and causeways were proposed for both Indian and Lignumvitae Keys. Local citizens protested the proposals and both islands ended up as Florida state parks.

Florida Keys residents who objected to the Lignumvitae causeway may want to remember to Boehm.

The Upper Keys Humane Society, located next to Tradewinds Plaza, is an independent, no-kill shelter that runs solely on contributions of money and supplies. The shelter provides much-needed support for the little shelter, according to Boehm. All money raised during the Meowsic Music Festival will go to the direct care of the permanent and temporary pets housed at the shelter.

For more information about the Upper Keys Humane Society, or if you are interested in being a vendor or donating to the fundraiser, call the shelter at 305-451-3848 or find them on Facebook. The shelter is located at 101617 Overseas Highway.

The 3rd Annual Meowsic Music Festival runs from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16, at the Caribbean Club, 104080 Overseas Highway. Admission is free.

tjava@keysnews.com

Save the sawfish
Scientist to discuss world’s most threatened fish.

District champs
Coral Shores girls claim title.

Keys actors wage war on the boss in ‘9 to 5’

BY THERESA JAVA
Free Press Staff

KEY LARGO — The three lead women actors in the Key Players’ newest production, “9 to 5, the Musical,” say the comedic satire is as relevant today, as it was when the original movie was released 40 years ago.

In 2009, “9 to 5” hit Broadway with music and lyrics by Dolly Parton, who also starred in the 1980 film and garnered two Grammy Awards for the film’s popular theme song. The play and movie tell the story of women actors in the Key Players’ newest production, “9 to 5, the Musical.”

The Upper Keys Humane Society will present its third Meowsic Music Festival fundraiser at the Caribbean Club in Key Largo.

Music fest benefits Humane Society

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Christina Neal, left, and Mary Margaret Daly rehearse a scene from ‘9 to 5, the Musical.’

Keys actors wage war on the boss in ‘9 to 5’

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Christina Neal, left, and Mary Margaret Daly rehearse a scene from ‘9 to 5, the Musical.’

Keys actors wage war on the boss in ‘9 to 5’
at the movies …

**New releases:**

*Fantasy Island* (PG-13, Horror/Suspense) — The enigmatic Mr. Roarke makes the dreams of his lucky guests come true at a luxurious but remote tropical resort. But when the fantasizes turn into nightmares, the guests have to solve the island's mystery in order to escape with their lives.

*Seiche: The Hedgehog* (PG, Family, Fantasy, Animation and Action/Adventure) — Follows the misadventures of Seiche as she navigates the complex ecosystems of Earth with her newfound best friend, humans Tom Wachowski, Seiche and Tom join forces to try and stop the villainous Dr. Robinson from capturing Seiche and using his immense powers for world domination.

*Doofewil (3, Comedy and Drama) — Randomly escaping an avalanche during a ski vacation in the Alps throws a seemingly picture-perfect family into disarray as they are forced to reevaluate life, and how they truly feel about each other.

*Buffaloed (PG-13, Comedy and Drama) — Hustler Peg Dahl will do anything to escape Buffalo, N.Y. After getting into some trouble, she decides to become a debt collector and wages war with the city's debt-collecting “kingpin.”

*Quinn (R, Action/Adventure and Crime/Gangster)*

*Harley Quinn: Birds of Prey (PG-13, Comedy and Drama) — Harley Quinn, Bride of the Joker, more or less. See the trailer.*

*dvd releases*

**PICK OF THE WEEK**

Ford v. Ferrari (PG-13, Drama) — Henry Ford II and Lee Iacocca battle corporate behemoths and designer and dairy owner Ferry Porsche to create a new Ford that can win the 1966 24 Hours of Le Mans race. Shelby and his team, joined by British race car driver Ken Miles, have 90 days to accomplish the seemingly impossible task of making the rest of the cars either get it clear, or resign.

*PICK OF THE WEEK* — The enigmatic Mr. Roarke makes the dreams of his lucky guests come true at a luxurious but remote tropical resort. But when the fantasies turn into nightmares, the guests have to solve the island's mystery in order to escape with their lives.

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*Harley Quinn: Birds of Prey (PG-13, Comedy and Drama) — Harley Quinn, Bride of the Joker, more or less. See the trailer.*

*Enjoy an art show and a workshop with our wonderful gardener, and enjoy the Key West Garden Club, a truly formidable group of local artists.*

*Three times higher than arborist charges, you'll be thrilled.*

*Break your leg and you're dead. “Break your leg and you're dead.” Hospital bills are more than arborist charges. Get an arborist to open up the large tree or remove large branches.*

*If in doubt, do not climb the tree. Remember the adage, “If in doubt, stop and then you die.”*
"Stories from the Depths" series begins Feb. 24

ISLANDOMADA — The History of Diving Museum is launching a new series of community programs highlighting authors and books about the underwater world. At 2 p.m. Feb. 24, "Immerse Yourself: Love the way you hear again! We can help!" will be presented. For more information, call (305) 809-7663 or email the Islandomada Museum at info@islandomada.com.

Rummage sale

MARATHON — The Marathon Moose Lodge and Lodge 400 will conduct an indoor rummage sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, in the lodge parking lot at 18501 Fish, Ave. All proceeds will be used to repair lodge facilities. For more information, call (305) 809-7663 or email the Islandomada Museum at info@islandomada.com.

Library events

ISLANDOMADA — The Islandomada Museum-Helen Visual Studio will have its annual book sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, in the library community room, 10430 Overseas Highway. Proceeds will help with renovations and programming at the library. The library’s next free weekly film series will feature "The First Mistake" at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 18, at Island Community Church, 8250 Overseas Highway. Cornwall was born in Cleveland in June 1873 and later moved to Florida in 1883. By the late 1800s, Cornwall was one of the richest men in Key West and a leader of the African American community. Cornwall’s farm was an iconic part of Key West during the middle 1800s. It was a prominent focus on U.S. government survey maps and was intro-

Actor

Cascamo, who volunteers with the Keys Legal Handicapped, an assistance to the disabled, and is an actor and journalist, at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 13, Feb. 3, 2020, at the Sanibel Community Bookstore, 501 S. Drive, Sanibel. Cascamo received her bachelor’s degree from Tufts University and her master’s degree from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Since then, she has lived in Key West for over two decades. Cascamo, who is “Where I Can Breathe,” will be published in early 2020. Admissions are free and open to the public. A meet-and-greet precedes the talk at 1 p.m. 360.387.3969 Cell

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In case of rain, the sale will move indoors.

Library events

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Ogden Lauderdale’s “Lunasea,” won the Performance Handicap Racing Fleet division and Kat Kullkoski, aboard a Hobie 14, won the Portsmouth division. Austin is pictured above at the helm. Below, regatta participants enjoy the festivities at the After Race Reception at Boondocks Grille.
‘Florida's First Ladies’ lecture

I SL A M O R A D A — Keys History & Discovery Center will present “Florida’s First Ladies,” a lecture at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, with Peggy Macdonald, an author, historian and adjunct professor. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at the Keys History & Discovery Center and Islander Resort Conference Center, mile marker 83, Ocean Drive.

Macdonald will share stories about some of Florida’s most memorable First Ladies, from the territorial period to today, and their impact on the Sunshine State.

Appetizers and a cash bar will be available. Members are admitted free. Non-members pay $5. Reservations are recommended and can be made at 305-922-2237 or info@keysdiscovery.com.

Free concerts

KEY COLONY BEACH — The Key Colony Beach Community Association is presenting a series of free concerts from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturdays at Key Colony Beach Park at the end of West Ocean Drive.

The schedule for this series includes Feb. 16, Rick and Dolly Fry, Feb. 23, 4 Sheets in the Wind; March 1, Music by Mike; March 3, Islander Radio; March 22, Michael J and Friends; March 29, Music by J and Friends; March 22, Michael J; March 15, Abstract Wind; March 1, Music by Mike; Feb. 16, 4 Sheets to the Wind; April 5, Lady A Band.

History & more

In addition to the four bridges between the Matecumbe keys, three highway causeways — now commonly known as “the Indian Key Fills” — were largely created by an uncoordinated fill during construction of Henry Flagler's Overseas Railroad.

The stretch also has the quarter-mile-long privately owned causeway to Tea Table Key.

“The debris from the two islands created a barrier to the 15-foot storm surge that made landfall before the storm,” the document continues. “The large expanses of filled causeways between the two islands further restricted the only ‘safety valve’ for the passage of storm waters. ‘The fill created a dam that backed storm waters even higher along both shorelines until it overflowed portions of both islands, causing great loss of life and property. Large sections of Flagler’s Overseas Railroad were also lost, never to be rebuilt. Indian Key Historic State Park is well-known for the deadly 1840 attack on what was once a sailing community that served as the country’s last 3-mile-wide steamship station.

In addition to the four bridges between the Matecumbe keys, three high- way causeways — now commonly known as “the Indian Key Fills” — were largely created by an uncoordinated fill during construction of Henry Flagler’s Overseas Railroad.

The stretch also has the quarter-mile-long privately owned causeway to Tea Table Key.

“So many of the devastation to portions of Upper and Lower Matecumbe Key during the 1911 Labor Day Hurricane is attributed to portions of Upper and Lower Matecumbe Key during the 1911 Labor Day Hurricane is attributed to the poor design of Flagler’s Overseas Railroad.

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KEY LARGO — Sawfish are the world’s most threatened marine fish, with all five species classified as endangered or critically endangered. Florida used to host two of the species, but now only the smalltooth remains.

The last largetooth sawfish was reported in Florida in 1943, according to Tonya Wiley, president of the Havenworth Coastal Conservation based in Palmetto, Fla.

As part of her efforts to raise conservation efforts for sawfish since 2001, Wiley will be speaking at next week’s Delicate Balance of Nature lecture series at John Pennekamp Coral Reef Park as well as an Upper Keys center for older adults.

Scientists estimate the smalltooth sawfish population to be around 2,000.

The peculiar looking smalltooth sawfish has a flattened body with wings like personal fins. It looks like a shark from the back but appears to morph around its midsection into a ray that partially swallowed a saw — its long, tooth-studded rostrum.

Sawfish are part of a group of marine fish in the ray family and have skeletons made out of cartilage. They have a “saw” that is used for hunting, it easily becomes entangled in fishing nets.

“Incidental catch of sawfish in fisheries targeting other species is the main cause of severe population declines,” Wiley said. “It’s mainly the shrimp trawlers that encounter the sawfish, and occasionally rod and reel. They then get caught in the shrimp trawl net. I understand that the net is not their livelihood, so they’ll likely kill the sawfish, but it’s a problem. It’s something we have to figure out how to work around.”

A smalltooth’s demise is their threat to sawfish recovery.

“Smalltooth sawfish have been between 22 and 29 on either side for males when they reach 11 feet in length. Smalltooth usually lives for 25 or 30 years,” she said.

Female smalltooth sawfish remain pregnant for a year and give live birth to seven to 14 pups. Baby sawfish are born with sheaths on their saws to protect them. Baby sawfish are tied to red mangrove prop roots to avoid predators.

“Smalltooth sawfish have evolved to live in mangrove habitats, so having healthy mangroves is critical to their recovery. While largetooth species have 44 teeth and they aren’t always paired, smalltooth species have 44 to 58 teeth,” Wiley said.

While scientists estimate the smalltooth sawfish population in the Florida Keys to be around 944, Florida used to host two of the species, but now only the smalltooth remains.

Wiley and Grubbs are part of a statewide conservation collaborative, the U.S. Sawfish Research and Conservation, which encourages people to respect and release sawfish and report sightings. Scientists have developed safe handling recom-

BY THERESA JAVA
Free Press Staff

Sawfish use their rostrum to fend and impale prey. While effective for hunting, it easily becomes entangled in fishing nets.

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BY THERESA JAVA
Free Press Staff
**THURSDAY EVENING**

**FEBRUARY 13**

8:00 PM  | **Tango Fuego**
8:30 PM  | **The Comedians of Comedy**
9:30 PM  | **Toby Keith in Concert**
10:10 PM | **The Black Keys**
11:00 PM | **Lil Jon in Concert**

**WEDNESDAY EVENING**

**FEBRUARY 12**

8:00 PM  | **Luca Vido in Concert**
8:30 PM  | **The Jacksons in Concert**
9:30 PM  | **The Eagles in Concert**
10:10 PM | **Lil Jon in Concert**
11:00 PM | **Lil Jon in Concert**

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**SATURDAY NIGHT**

**FEBRUARY 15**

9:00 PM  | **Sugarland in Concert**
10:30 PM | **Lil Jon in Concert**
11:30 PM | **Lil Jon in Concert**

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**MONDAY NIGHT**

**FEBRUARY 17**

9:00 PM  | **The Black Keys in Concert**
10:00 PM | **Lil Jon in Concert**
11:00 PM | **Lil Jon in Concert**

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**FRIDAY NIGHT**

**FEBRUARY 14**

8:00 PM  | **Sugarland in Concert**
8:30 PM  | **The Jacksons in Concert**
9:30 PM  | **The Eagles in Concert**
10:10 PM | **Lil Jon in Concert**
11:00 PM | **Lil Jon in Concert**

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**TUESDAY NIGHT**

**FEBRUARY 18**

9:00 PM  | **The Black Keys in Concert**
10:00 PM | **Lil Jon in Concert**
11:00 PM | **Lil Jon in Concert**

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**SPORTS & RECREATION**

**Dolphins lose on home court to county rival Coral Shores**

By J.M. CODE

**Early doubleheader earns win for Coral Shores boys soccer team**

By RON COOKE

**FLORIDA KEYS — It was Senior Night for the Marathon High School boys soccer team and the Upper Keys learned that it was going to be a good night as the Dolphins surged past Coral Shores, 5-1, in the third round of District 16-3A soccer playoffs last Thursday night in Marathon.**

**The Lady Canes opened their last District 16-3A season with a 1-0 victory over the Dolphins 1-4 behind a pair of goals and spoil the Hurricanes’ last chance in four years at a district title with a heartbreaking 2-0 defeat.**

**But they are not done. They have to be the difference as we prepare for the clean and jerk during the Region 8-1A event, it was a difficult day as not one lifter was able to advance to the Class 1A State meet.**

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**Florida Keys Free Press - February 12, 2020**

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Dennis America堆，位于佛罗里达州的众议员，于2月20日在美国马洛医院去世。他的书，佛罗里达礁岛，讲述了他在那里的生活。

他留下了他的母亲，Dorothy Fraley，兄弟Kenny Fraley，和一个深爱的祖母。但他认为，他可以引导这个人，如果你愿意，为一些好处提供一些建议。

如果你是癌症患者，不要感到惊讶，因为GEMINI可能会影响你。你可能需要做些决定。这些事情可能不会立即发生，你可能需要在你的生活中找到一个独特的解决方案。

而在Taurus，你可能会遇到一些挑战，你可能会需要做一些重要的决定。这些细节也可能在你的生活中发生，你可能需要在你的生活中找到一个独特的解决方案。

而在AQUARIUS，你可能会遇到一些挑战，你可能会需要做一些重要的决定。这些细节也可能在你的生活中发生，你可能需要在你的生活中找到一个独特的解决方案。

而在LIBRA，你可能会遇到一些挑战，你可能会需要做一些重要的决定。这些细节也可能在你的生活中发生，你可能需要在你的生活中找到一个独特的解决方案。

而在SCORPIO，你可能会遇到一些挑战，你可能会需要做一些重要的决定。这些细节也可能在你的生活中发生，你可能需要在你的生活中找到一个独特的解决方案。

而在SAGITTARIUS，你可能会遇到一些挑战，你可能会需要做一些重要的决定。这些细节也可能在你的生活中发生，你可能需要在你的生活中找到一个独特的解决方案。

而在CAPRICORN，你可能会遇到一些挑战，你可能会需要做一些重要的决定。这些细节也可能在你的生活中发生，你可能需要在你的生活中找到一个独特的解决方案。

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