Research vessel taking reef’s vital signs

BY THERESA JAVA
Free Press Staff

Florida Keys — That unusual shape offshore is no oil rig as some might think. Instead, it is OceanX’s research vessel, Alucia, and it is studying oceanography and coral health off the Florida Reef Tract.

OceanX, along with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Mote Marine Laboratory, began traveling the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary last week on a scientific expedition to assess the health of the entire reef in real time.

This mission — a partnership between OceanX, Blumenthal Philanthropies’ Vibrant Oceans Initiative — is a sort of visual sign check of sorts to help determine what keeps coral healthy and what makes them sick. One of the goals is to help scientists better understand Stony Coral Tissue Loss disease, according to OceanX Vice Chairman Vincent Pieribone.

“We hope to use scientific data from this mission to inform and support conservation and restoration efforts to revitalize the reef,” he said.

Alucia is carrying a team of 11 scientists who will delve into the shallow water reefs and conduct research more than 100 nautical miles off shore.

The vessel, equipped with an 8,000-pound submersible vehicle, NADIS, enabled the team to test areas up to 3,280 feet below the surface.

“The research will involve fine-scale analyses of micro-habitats using both manned and remotely-operated vehicles and technology tools and coupling them with real-time area mapping,” said Pieribone.

Residents want return of pristine canal

BY THERESA JAVA
Free Press Staff

Key Largo fire department shortchanges itself

Recent federal funding will complete a three-part effort to raise portions of the Tamiami Trail to allow more fresh water into Everglades National Park and Florida Bay. Earlier work on one of the Tamiami bridges is pictured above. See story on page 3A.

Study steps up salaries for top county employees

BY TIMOTHY D’HARA
Free Press Staff

Monroe County — County leaders will soon have to make some hard — and possibly expensive — decisions that will have long-term impacts on its annual operating budget.

The Monroe County Commission and Monroe County Sheriff’s Office hired Evergreen Solutions to conduct salary studies and will soon have to decide whether to implement some or all of its findings and recommendations, which include generous salary increases for some of the highest-paid workers.

Those employees already earn more than $100,000 a year plus benefits and have received similar rates for the past four years.

The salary adjustments for the county employees would roughly add roughly $2.5 million a year to the county’s operating budget and $500,000 a year when the firstpeople’s raises are included, according to county Human Resources Director Bryan Cook. The changes would grow the sheriff’s office payroll by at least $2 million as well, according to Mike Rios, bureau chief for the sheriff’s office.

Evergreen Solutions completed the county government salaries with other government agencies in the Florida Keys and South Florida and found that some of the county’s “administrations” and “directors” are earning roughly 25 percent less than colleagues with the other agencies.

The recommended salary adjustment would take the minimum pay range for an administrative county administrator position.

See SALARIES page 5A

Rowell’s design nears completion

BY THERESA JAVA
Free Press Staff

Key Largo — Since the last public input meeting in Rowell’s Waterfront Park two months ago, a major portion of the park has been drafted. A follow-up public meeting last week to unveil the plans has been scheduled for next week.

The ongoing public input meetings have been not the least of Jim Rodina, who works in the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. He said there must likely won’t be a full committee panel at the next meeting due to scheduling conflicts.

“We have the final preliminary design plan, consistent upon the Parks and Rec committee approval,” Bottine said.

Once a recommended park design is approved by the five-person committee, it will be submitted to county officials and the Monroe County Commission for approval.

“Yep, there’s a splash of red in the design,” Bottine added. “We listened to what people want. There are a lot of elements that have been requested. There will be a walking path with multiple shade pavilions. We’ll have a dog area and there’s still a lot of open greens space.”

Park consultant Jack Kasbi, who served as

Advisory group to hear sanctuary use reports

BY KEVIN WADLOW
Free Press Staff

Markstew — Reports of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary’s underwater ecosystem and how people use it will be presented in a June 16 meeting of its User Advisory Group.

The day-long Sanctuary Joint Advisory Group meeting starts at 9 a.m. Tuesday, at the Hyatt Place Key Largo hotel. Advisory group meetings include an announcement of when the sanctuary’s management plan update, called the Resource Blueprint, will be released.

A tentative timeline points to an August release of the plan, which began with a working “comdi-

See REPORTS page 11A

Letting it flow

Recent federal funding will complete a three-part effort to raise portions of the Tamiami Trail to allow more fresh water into Everglades National Park and Florida Bay. Earlier work on one of the Tamiami bridges is pictured above. See story on page 3A.
School district considers $22.5M loan for capital projects

That loan will finance the new athletic fields at Marathon High School, the new baseball/softball fields at Key West High School, Stanton Elementary School, and Doris Miller Magnet School in Coral Shores High School and other capital projects.

Finally, Chavez Murphy, the district’s executive director of assessment and accountability, told the council that third-grade reading assessments to determine the school’s performance on the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) Grade 3 are scheduled for this summer in the school district.

The board passed a resolution on the “Proposition E Voting.”

On top of the meet being a district competition, the Monroe County School Board will borrow from FSC, for which “we have a closed account that we can draw to阅读“to reading” to “reading to learn,” experts say. School officials take special note of students who struggle to read in third grade as a way to ensure they can get caught up and stay on track.

Wayne Reed Sheppard is preceeded in death by his mother Patience Harris.

Wayne was born at Eglin Air Force Base in Valparaiso, Florida, where his father was stationed. He grew up in Key West.

Wayne was a key leader in the development of key educational institutions in Monroe County, including Marathon and Key West high schools, the Monroe County Courthouse, and the Monroe County Courthouse Annex.

Wayne was a member of the Florida Legislature, serving as a member of the House of Representatives from 1978 to 1992.

Wayne was known for his leadership in the development of key educational institutions in Monroe County, including Marathon and Key West high schools, the Monroe County Courthouse, and the Monroe County Courthouse Annex.

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Deep Rover 2, both rated submarines, NADIR and the previously approved more than The Florida Legislature pre-
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Mobile home owner accused of bilking FEMA

KEY LARGO — A Key Largo property owner has been charged with grand theft for allegedly bilking a federal agency out of $4,864 in disaster-related money following Hurricane Irma.

Alfredo M. Latour Jr., 54, was booked into the Monroe County Detention Center on June 3, on a charge of grand theft of $100 or less than $5,000, based on a warrant prepared by State Attorney's Office of Inspector General of Homeland Security’s Office of the Inspector General of the Federal Emergency Management Agency of receiving $4,843 from FEMA for home-repair assistance.

Latour applied for the rental assistance in October 2017 and more rental assistance in March 2018. He told them he and his wife and Brian Calvery in April 2018 that his primary residence was not his residence, failing to provide full information about the property he was applying for in the application.

The $4,843 overpayment happened when the Key Largo Volunteer Fire Department submitted outdated information in an application to receive a Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Fire and Emergency Protection Grant.

The grant funds, which have already been accepted by the district, were intended to pay for an increase in the number of full-time firefighters, wages for additional firefighters for the first two years, and drops to 25 percent for the third year.

The district is obligated to sustain its agreement with FEMA and maintain its conditions. Any funds not used for three years will be returned in the next three years.

Melina M. Salazar

Firefighter grant falls short in costly oversight

By THERESA JAVA Fire Prep Staff

KEY LARGO — A federal grant application from the Key Largo Fire Rescue & Emergency Medical Services District’s fire-rescue contractor has resulted in the under budgeting of payroll for the next three years.

The $190,904 oversight happened when the Key Largo Volunteer Fire Department submitted outdated information in an application to receive a Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Fire and Emergency Protection Grant.

The grant funds, which have already been accepted by the district, were intended to pay for an increase in the number of full-time firefighters, wages for additional firefighters for the first two years, and drops to 25 percent for the third year.

The district’s 2018-19 budget earmarks $200,768 for 75 percent of funding for five full-time firefighters. Although funding is tiered, it didn’t include vacation time, which was a total oversight.

My numbers total about $75,000 over the three years that we could have received for the vacation time. That’s a hell of an oversight.

The SAFER grant provides funding for 75 percent of the pay for the additional firefighters for the first two years, and drops to 25 percent for the third year.

Meanwhile, an initial discussion about raising the property tax cap was largely acrimonious before it was tabled. District commissioners must eventually decide by how much to raise taxes beyond the current rate of $100 per $1,000 assessed land value to raise its fire and EMS services. Exceeding the cap requires approval from a public referendum. After last year’s discussion in a past meeting, the fire department revealed that it had spent roughly $129,005 in vehicle repairs and mainte- nance since 2017. This includes $55,461 for work on an old fire engine at Station 24 and $51,011 on a ladder engine at Station 25.

The department will look to upgrade these aging vehicles.

Commissioner George Morebelli asked if the for- mer vet reserve team van parked at Station 25 would be included in the sale. His question remains unanswered.

The next Key Largo Fire Rescue & Emergency Medical Services District meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, June 24, at Station 3 located at 1 East Drive in Key Largo. For more information, visit keysnews.com.

“Be bust our fannies to save money... We can’t let this happen again.” — Bob Thomas, Commissioner

North Key Largo — A 19-year-old Ocean Reef Club man accused of near-ly striking a deputy on the Ocean Reef man faces reckless driving charge

See REDKEYS, page 78

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Mega VMT 2 for until June 1st

Ocean Reef man faces reckless driving charge

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Design

Continued from page 1A

Miami-Dade County’s parks director for more than 30 years, has helped facilitate the design, according to Boilini.

An online petition garnered more than 700 signatures in support of a children’s splash pad, which has also been requested during public comment at advisory board meetings. The former marina was purchased in December 2013 for $5 million as the 21st county-owned park. It opened to the public in June 2016, then closed its gates for about 10 months to stage vegetation and defunct appliances following Hurricane Irma in September 2017.

The property’s redevelopment as a passive park has been planned in stages, beginning with the public restrooms and parking. Permitting paperwork for wastewater collection has been filed with the state. The restroom design and parking area is being funded in part by a $125,000 Florida Department of Transportation highway beautification grant with the rest coming from the Monroe County Tourism Development Council, for a total of $146,944.

Vegetation and grass has been added to Rowell’s Waterfront Park. The property’s former marina now serves as a swimming area.

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Residents hope canal can become aquarium-like again

BY KEVIN MABLOW

ISLAMORADA — Residents along a Plantation Key canal enjoyed swimming and frolicking with fish in a clear basin they called “a big aquarium.”

Then came Hurricane Irma, which piled up sand and mud to the bottom to discourage large vessels and commercial traffic. “The canal was never plugged,” Fiorentino said. “The water flow was restricted, but there was always a water exchange. Small boats had access at high tides. Now it doesn’t flow like it used to.”

“We could see to the bottom,” neighbor Jodi Yeager said. “There were manatees, dolphins, red fish and tarpon.”

“Gus Rios at DEP deserves a lot of credit for the state Department of Environmental Resources,” environmental Councilman Ken Davis and Frezza met with city and other agencies on permitting and regulatory issues. “We’re trying to understand what the process would be to get permits for removal.”

“I’m optimistic,” Davis said. “Gas Boss at DEP deserves a lot of credit. They have brainstormed. I think state agencies are going to start looking at the environmental hazards created by these partially plugged canals.”

Field inspections and water quality tests will be undertaken before any decisions are made. “We didn’t put the sand there, but it has caused real ecosystem damage,” Fiorentino said. “We want our canal back.”

Boat runs aground

ISLAMORADA — A deck boat running at speed ran aground on a grass flat off the southern end of Upper Matecumbe Key around 5 p.m. Thursday, witnesses report.

“Certainly something didn’t know where they were going. We saw them go off the flats while the tide was going out pretty fast,” a Lazy Days restaurant patron described the grounding. “Everybody watching was waiting for it.”

“They dug into the flat really bad,” the witness said. “They were so far up on the flat, they were there for hours, high and dry.”

There was a lot of mud on the vessel. The deck boat—a powered vessel about 18 to 19 feet long and configured for maximum deck space—was carrying five or six passengers.

A Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officer was dispatched to the grounding. A report was pending at press time.

Causing damage to the ocean floor, including seagrass, could result in toxic algae and recreation costs.

Migrant interdiction

ISLAMORADA — The Coast Guard interdicted six Cuban migrants last Thursday approximately 30 miles west of Islamorada. The cutter crew on scene and embarked the six people due to safety of life at sea concerns with the unsalvageable vessel. Approximately 500 Cuban migrants have attempted to illegally enter the U.S. by sea in the past year, with a 53-foot vessel sunk in the Florida Keys in fiscal year 2018.
Marine electronics reported stolen

KEY LARGO — The theft of multiple marine electronic units from two boats at Manatee Bay’s Saltwater Marina was reported late Thursday to the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office.

Theft of marine electronics was reported from two boats at the Manatee Bay’s Saltwater Marina. The thefts were reported late Thursday to the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office.

Anyone with information about the crime is asked to call the sheriff’s office at 305-853-5201. Callers who wish to remain anonymous can call Crime Stoppers at 1-866-471-8477.

Like most property crimes, marine related thefts are primarily crimes of opportunity. The sheriff’s office recommends the following steps to help keep your boat safe:

• Remove the keys from the boat, if it is on a lift, turn the breaker off in the house to disable it.
• Install motion sensor lights. Make sure areas around the boat are well lighted.
• Install surveillance cameras and make sure they are not visible to an intruder. Camera are often installed too high and only capture the top of a suspect’s head or the bottom of his feet.
• Whether on a trailer or in a canal, make sure you can see your boat from neighbors and/or deputies patrolling the neighborhood.
• Remove the wooden shield if the boat won’t be used for a long time.
• Install a GPS tracking device on your boat and its engine.
• Install a boat alarm system. A very effective at preventing equipment and boat thefts.
• Disconnect the batteries to disable the trim/tilt function. Keep the engine bolts on and bend the engine or put extra-long boot one of the wheels to prevent the entire boat and trailer from being stolen.
• Keep a trailer hitch lock.
• Install boat locks on the engine or put something heavy on and bend the end.
• Disconnect the wires on a bolt so the nut can be removed.
• Beat the boat close to a house, wall, or other stationary object.
• Keep valuable electronic units in a secure location. It might be a house, but it will save you thousands of dollars in the long run.
• Engrave your driver’s license number or make a distinctive marking on your valuable property for identification purposes.
• Take pictures and record serial numbers if available.
• Don’t leave fishing and diving equipment unattended outside; it only takes a few minutes to take the equipment.
• If you are going on an extended trip, alert the local sheriff’s office saturation and deputies will check your property on patrol.

Public invited to one of two ‘fill’ meetings

By Kevin Madlow
Florida Free Press Staff

ISLAMORADA — Residents have had their fill of the fill at the Islamorada Key fill site.

At 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 18, the Islamorada Village Council held a special meeting to hear concerns and suggestions for the scenic stretch of U.S. 1 that links Upper Matecumbe Key to Lower Matecumbe Key, between mile markers 77.5 to 79.8.

“This is something the people have been asking for,” Councilman Ken Davis said. “This will be residents’ opportunity to voice their opinion while also hearing other issues that confront the village when dealing with state agencies.”

Representatives of state agencies may not attend the session that seeks discussions and options for how to address the offshore-changes, damage to the mangroves and shoreline, and the erroneous estimates of the trash left behind by visitors to the fills on weekends and holidays. Islamorada public information officer Mary Sweny said.

Concerns from the June 18 meeting at the Founder’s Park Community Center will be delivered during a closed-studio meeting June 21 with representatives of the Florida Department of Transportation, Department of Environmental Protection and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Department of Health and Little Havana at the Miami Beach Police Department’s Crime Stoppers.

“Hopefully we can make decisions and options for how to address the offshore changes, damage to the mangroves and shoreline, and the erroneous estimates of the trash left behind by visitors to the fills on weekends and holidays,” Sweny said.

Concerns from the June 18 meeting at the Founder’s Park Community Center will be delivered during a closed-studio meeting June 21 with representatives of the Florida Department of Transportation, Department of Environmental Protection and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Department of Health and Little Havana at the Miami Beach Police Department’s Crime Stoppers.

Contact information for the June meeting was not immediately available. People who cannot attend the June 18 meeting may “submit comments and suggestions for de- signation to all Village Council members and the village manager.”

Davis urged people attending the public meeting to “read up on the issues” to understand why Islamorada cannot mandate changes on its own.

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Two charged with illegal harvest

Marathon — Two Melbourne men were charged last Friday with a felony of land-related crimes.

Monroe County Sheriff’s Office Marine Deputy Willidco Guarita was patrolling Indian Cove Guard Station Marathon at 6:30 p.m. on a Yamaha WaveRunner when he observed two men fishing without a flag near an inflatable boat. Guarita conducted a stop and identified the men as Lance O’Connor Rossbach, 19, and Clay Guerra, 22, both of Melbourne, reports say.

The deputy asked to inspect their catch, and Keys pulled five wrung lobster tails from his shorts pocket, reports say. Three of the lobster were unlicensed. All had been speared. Rossbach reached into his pocket and produced two more lobster tails, reports say. One of the lobsters unlicensed. The men were charged with possession of out-of-season lobster, undersized lobster, speared lobster, lobster tails in the water and no measuring device as the worst-wide harvesting lobster. They were taken to jail. The lobster tails were returned to the water.

Emergency Management Agency, Florida, is a factor of safety usually unappreciated to lot above base flood levels for the purpose of land development management. “Freeboard,” as added height above FEMA’s projected flood levels, tends to compensate for wave action, bridge openings and the hydrological effects of urbanization. Freeboard is not required by National Flood Insurance Program standards, but communities are encouraged to have at least a one-foot freeboard. Freeboard is contemplates a three-foot cadmium above base flood elevation for new construction and significant revise. Freeboard results in significantly lower flood insurance rates due to lower flood risk. Upzoning is simply changing the Future Land Use Map to a category that would allow higher densities, such as “residential low,” to “residential medium.” In Marathon, building codes, which would mean going from one unit per two acres to due units per acre, Garrett said.

Upzonings require comprehensive plan and land development regulations amendments, which in turn require public hearings.

“We have a free to my term at the city, but very soon,” Garrett said. Development permits are limited in number and require public hearings.

Freeboard and upzoning enter council discussion

By Jill Zima Borski

Marathon — The Marathon City Council last month discussed a couple of new projects concerning both freeboard and upzoning.

Marathon is contemplat- ing the inclusion of a one-foot freeboard and the requirement of a comprehensive plan and land development regulation, which in turn require public hearings. Marathon was charge with possession of out-of-season lobster, undersized lobster, speared lobster, lobster tails in the water and no measuring device as the worst-wide harvesting lobster. They were taken to jail. The lobster tails were returned to the water.

Two Melbourne men were arrested for illegally harvesting some lobster tails, which are pictured on the back of a shop- lifter’s office Wallhanger.

Students receive awards

Marathon — Marathon High School seniors Suarez from Bank of America Financial Center and Kapow program and the Marathon Public Supermarket through grants from Bank of America students said her support for the support we get from the Kapow program and the Marathon Public Supermarket through grants from Bank of America and Foundation and Public Supermarket Charities.

The student awarded were chosen based on outstanding achievement in the Individual Determination Belotti, Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) and English teacher said. “We have a free to my term at the city, but very soon,” Garrett said. Development permits are limited in number and require public hearings.

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Tourist faces 3 attempted murder charges

BY ALEX WILSON
Florida Keys Free Press
awilson@keysnews.com

 BIG PINE KEY — A tourist from Biloxi, Miss., was arrested last week on attempted murder charges after allegedly firing a handgun from his vehicle and injuring two men who were approached by Orallo, who said the four had arrived earlier in the evening and began firing toward the back of the vehicle and shattering a window. One of the bullets hit Orallo in the head.

Detectives later found the men’s baseball cap, helmet and a window. One of the bullets hit Orallo in the head. The men appeared to be intoxicated, detectives noted.

The men said they scarred in a separate direction from their work vehicle, reports say.

Orallo refused to answer questions about it prior to the shooting. She said Orallo was sitting in the bedroom and confronting the men about it prior to the shooting. She said Orallo refused to answer questions about the shooting. She said Orallo had been thrown into the canal.

Detectives later found 5mm bullet casings in the area, but the gun was not found. A subsequent search by a Key West Police Department K-9 Unit led officers to believe the gun was thrown into the canal.

He then confirmed that his girlfriend brought a handgun with them, but added he hadn’t fired a gun in 30 years.

Orallo’s girlfriend, who detectives noted also appeared to be intoxicated, told investigators that she noticed her gun was missing from the nightstand in the bedroom and confronted Orallo about it prior to the shooting. She said Orallo refused to answer questions about the shooting. She said Orallo had been thrown into the canal.

The girlfriend added she believed he had been attacked by the men, but she couldn’t explain why she thought that.

Detectives noted that Orallo was bleeding from his arm, but they added that if there had been a physical confrontation, he would have had to go back to his side of the duplex to retrieve the gun before confronting the men with it.

“Based on the evidence and the statements gathered from the scene, it did not appear to be an issue of self-defense since Orallo had to leave the area and then return with a gun,” senior Detective Spencer Curry.

The men were approached Orallo, asked him what he was doing and told him to get out of the vehicle. The men confirmed he was drunk. He refused to answer questions about the shooting.

The girlfriend brought a handgun with them, but added he hadn’t fired a gun in 30 years.

Detectives said Orallo and his girlfriend were in the Keys for a week and just moved in that day. They said they did have to move in that day.

The tenants, four men from West Palm Beach who are in the Keys for a construction-related job, were approached by Orallo on Monday after the four had arrived at their rental.

Detectives said Orallo and his girlfriend were in the Keys for a week and just moved in that day. They said they did have to move in that day.

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Man accused of stealing Jeep

MARTHA’ S — A 40-year-old homeless Key West man was arrested Tuesday, June 4, after deputies say he was caught in Marathon with a 2018 Jeep Wrangler stolen from a house on Stock Island.

Jason Aaron Gibson, 40, from a house on Stock Island. Gibson from a house on Stock Island.

The owner of the Jeep was contacted and said he had not given anyone permission to drive it. He added that he did not know Gibson.

Gibson initially denied knowing anything about the Jeep, but then mooded up, placed his hands behind his back and admitted to stealing the Jeep for the purposes of having a “joy ride,” reports say.

Gibson was taken to jail.

It is very possible that we would be telling a different story about this accident if blood search was available on the inflight transfusion,” said Lynda Rusinowski, Trauma Star chief nurse.

“The addition of blood on the helicopter gives the flight crew a tremendous tool for stabilizing a patient before reaching a specialty hospital.

If You Are Considering Selling or Buying A Property

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122 VENETIAN WAY • ISLAMORADA

139 VENETIAN WAY • ISLAMORA

Couples Welcome!

Marathon — A male-by-law-issued found burn- ing in Boot Key Harbor in Marathon Sunday morn- ing has been identified as 76-year-old Gregory Hall Smith, according to the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office.

The sheriff’s office and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission were called to the cluster of live-aboards just west of Boot Key Bridge at 10:30 a.m.

Another live-aboard reported finding Smith, impacted boat, Knot A Case, was nearby. There were no signs of a struggle or foul play.

Several live-aboards told investigators that Smith has been known to fall in the water on occasion.

Autopsy reports are pending.

Trauma Star provides first inflight transfusion

OHH KEY — Monroe County Fire Rescue pro- vided its first inflight blood transfusion aboard Trauma Star to a man injured by a sailboat motor propeller during Memorial Day weekend, just 17 days after the pre-hospital care hospital was added to the air ambulance.

Osmany Zamora of Miami Gardens was rushed to the Sunshine Key Marina, where Monroe County Fire Rescue was waiting and then airlifted to Jackson South with nurse Jorge Bolivar and medic Tony Perez.

Zamora had a significant loss of blood and his blood pressure dropped to danger- ous levels before he was stabilized with the blood transfusion.

The addition of blood on the helicopter gives the flight crew a tremendous tool for stabilizing a patient before reaching a specialty hospital.

“Would you advise our readers to think twice before drinking and driving,” said Lynda Rusinowski, Trauma Star chief nurse.

“Of course, but I think we should all be trying to drink and drive responsibly,” Gibson was released from the hospital last Wednesday.

“We are very grateful for the rescue and Trauma Star,” said Zamora’s wife, Ivon. “He saved his life.”

Zamora was released from the hospital last Wednesday.

He was taken to jail.

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Several live-aboards told investigators that Smith has been known to fall in the water on occasion.

Autopsy reports are pending.

Pizzeria catches fire

Marathon — The 7 Mile Pizzeraria, 2204 Overseas Highway, caught fire about 11 p.m. Sunday June 2.

The structure was fully engulfed as Monroe County Sheriff’s Office deputies evacuated nearby residents.

There were no reported injuries.

Fire crews are investigat- ing the blaze.

Council

Continued from page 9A throughout the keys. Most recently, the coun- cil rejected by a 3-2 vote to redevelop prop- erties near mile marker 48.

The owner wanted to cre- ate an affordable mobile- home park at 1477 Overseas Highway and 291 15th St. Mayor John Bartus favored moving forward with the property as it would provide badly-needed affordable housing, but he did view Mayor Steven Cook were outvoted.

In rural areas, the role of housing, but he and Vice Mayor John Bartus favored moving forward with the property as it would provide badly-needed affordable housing, but he did view Mayor Steven Cook were outvoted.

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Fire Rescue, Thompson
of local drowning prevention
year old [and] they only
"We start at 6 months to 1
survival," Thompson said.
"It’s drowning prevention — it’ s
Keys Drowning Prevention
Andrea Thompson, founders
establish what you need to
said. "Parents can sign up by visiting
ed can sign up by visiting
keys2swim.com. Once on
get done."
"Children typically only
attention span for 15 minutes or so —
you lose their concentration."
Thompson said. "Teen
in time what you need to
done."
"Parents interested can sign up by visiting
keys2.com. On the waiting list, Thompson
everyone will receive
an email about the next
class. After the announcement, registrations
Bonita Springs, said, "Now it’s time to do even
more to respond to threats
and keep it healthy," Kerr
the Florida Department of
"With Florida poised
a report on "human-
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Connections between
Other topics at the
sanctuary website. "We have a list
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the Florida Department of
"With Florida poised
20 years of experience and
sunscreen," a narrator says in a video at
"It is imperative that we
are at an important
turnpoint of the future in the
Florida Keys," said
Superintendent Sabbagh Yangfan says in a video on
the advisory website. "We have a list
and need to work exceptional-
ly hard, harder than we’ve
ever worked before, to come
together and
address these challenges. So that when
history is written about this place it’s, people really
came together and made a
difference!"
Coral disease, pollution, rising ocean temperatures, invasive species and hurri-
canes rank among the top concerns.
"Now it’s time to do more
responsible and better protect and even
restore natural resources," a narrator says in a video on
FloridaKeysCares.org.
When the draft manage-
ment plan and its envi-
ronmental impact assess-
ment are released, they are
expected to be a reference for regula-
tions and possible bound-
aries for the protection areas.
A series of public hearings will take place
over the following months.
State elected officials and
eye agencies representatives
will attend on the pro-
gress.
A report on the cur-
rent status of Florida Keys’ Fishery Blueprint is slated for
2:30 p.m. at the Juno
meeting on March 22. A public
comment session follows at
3:00 p.m.

Other topics at the
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More, they filter the direct and from the front for car windows, from light to dark and from the front to rear, which can help prevent skin cancer and photoaging. "Tinted windows may also help retain youthful fullness of the skin," said Yami Deleon.

The couple opened their window film business 33 years ago, just as the industry was beginning to bud. That is when tint manufacturers like 3M began making metal-meshed tints as opposed to the dye-based films that often bubbled and peeled.

"We started with the basics," Tony said. "But over the years, we've seen what the heat can do to damages dashboards, leather seats and headliners." Yami said tinted windows may also help retain youthful fullness of the skin. "We help people squat in the sun, reducing heat in cars, homes and businesses. We block the heat, not the view," said Tony. Tints "N" More, which moved to the Keys from Miami, offers three shades for car windows, from light to dark and from the front to back window film business.

"Heat rejecting window film is a whole different thing. It can be different here," said Tony of his company. "There are a lot of different people who have different needs. This is a whole different market." The foundation also aims to educate the public about the importance of using window film. Tony said the film is easy to apply and remove.

"But I wasn't very good at the writing side of things," said Downey, who recently spent 11 years as advertising director with the Virgin Islands Daily News in the U.S. Virgin Islands. "I moved to the Keys from Plantation Key in Washington, D.C., but it was a different thing. It can be exceedingly cruel in the Keys and from light to dark and from the front to rear, which can help prevent skin cancer and photoaging. "Tinted windows may also help retain youthful fullness of the skin," said Yami Deleon.

The couple opened their window film business 33 years ago, just as the industry was beginning to bud. That is when tint manufacturers like 3M began making metal-meshed tints as opposed to the dye-based films that often bubbled and peeled.

"We started with the basics," Tony said. "But over the years, we've seen what the heat can do to damages dashboards, leather seats and headliners." Yami said tinted windows may also help retain youthful fullness of the skin. "We help people squat in the sun, reducing heat in cars, homes and businesses. We block the heat, not the view," said Tony. Tints "N" More, which moved to the Keys from Miami, offers three shades for car windows, from light to dark and from the front to back window film business 33 years ago, just as the industry was beginning to bud. That is when tint manufacturers like 3M began making metal-meshed tints as opposed to the dye-based films that often bubbled and peeled.

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"Heat rejecting window film is a whole different thing. It can be different here," said Tony of his company. "There are a lot of different people who have different needs. This is a whole different market." The foundation also aims to educate the public about the importance of using window film.

Tony said the film is easy to apply and remove. "He can probably do it with his eyes closed by now," Yami said of Tony's expertise in installing window film. "He's installed it with his eyes closed.

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Use caution on Card Sound Road

I just read a story about a mishap going on along Card Sound Road. I have my own story. I recently started working at Ocean Reef and had a morning shift at 6 a.m. on June 6. I commuted from Homestead and was about five miles north from the cell phone tower on the right side of the road going south when I witnessed something strange.

It was about 6 a.m. and I was on I-95 coming down and was wondering what could be going on. The vehicle was flashing its lights, it looks like it was switched off — maybe they were warning other cars or it was an accident. As I got closer I realized these were other light rail cars on the road. I assumed it was a Statue, so I slowed down to approach 10 mph. Then all of a sudden a two-man team ran out of my way to stop a woman standing right side of the road and on the right side. They had flashlights on, and when I got closer to them, the man on the right side jumped in front of my car. I held my brakes down and sped off. I noticed a little old Ford car like the ones the police used to use to chase the side of the road. Once I got away from the scene, I called the police to alert them because these men were brazen to get someone killed.

One of my coworkers arrived shortly after I did and said she saw the man walking down the side of Card Sound Road with a flashlight on his head. No stop and I'm thankful for that. Everyone needs to be alerted that people may be trying to rob or harm people on Card Sound Road in the darker hours. More police should monitor this area or we should have lights installed for these kinds of reasons. Imagine if someone stops or if these men caused someone to be killed. This is a very dangerous road with lights or protection.

I'm sending this to warn others who are using this road after the sunset and before sunrise. Be safe and be careful.

Kathryn Hillsdale, Homestead

Focus on transportation, not housing

We need to question if our goal as a community is to allow all income levels a chance to own a home in the Upper Keys, or is to solve the worker scarcity issue? Considering we are dealing with limited lands, I am sure the focus should be on worker scarcity. I understand that this is not a popular position, but providing new homes for our Upper Keys workers each year, while a noble deed, is clearly not cost effective.

As we all understand, economical housing for our Upper Keys workers costs a lot. The finite solution to this is less affordable housing, less housing in its various forms. However, as a community we may have 500,000 people here each year that all take a different road to move around. It is an impractical and non-sensical approach to housing because it takes to build one affordable housing a roof over one family’s home. Each generally includes only one or two potential Upper Keys worker.

Possibly, we would be better served by channeling these funds into more frequent and reliable bus service from Homestead to the Upper Keys, or possibly subsidizing the current bus system. Look, I’m not saying we can’t do both! In Key West, there is an almost endless resource of workers for the Upper Keys workers. It’s like a Golden Key because you can’t get to Key West at any time or you can’t get to Key West. There is also an endless resource of workers for the Upper Keys because the entire world or Florida Keys. I can only imagine how far the hundreds of thousands of dollars that it costs to build each affordable housing unit would go if we treated this as a transportation issue, not a housing issue.

And now for the cold and heartless part: in my opinion, if we create one more working, a job, is one of the funds to allow a home in the Upper Keys (at current market rates), well then, good news! But will it attract other employers to build one or two free or discounted homes but rather going as many folks as possible the opportunity to apply themselves and succeed. It’s time we find a cost-effective method of doing this.

Lee Harris, Tavernier

Possible date to 2020 early closures of commercial snapper fishery draws ire

BY TIMOTHY O’HARA
Florida Keys Free Press

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The Upper Keys Rotary Foundation awarded more than $200,000 in scholarships to local graduating seniors, current college students and those seeking career technical education. Scholarship amounts ranged from $500 to $5,000 and included several scholarships administered by the Rotary Club of the Upper Keys. The total amount includes a donation of $40,000 to the Take Stock in Children program, which is matched by the not-for-profit Monroe County Education Foundation, as well as $40,000 to Key Largo Rotary for its work during the Nautical Flea Market to award additional scholarships. Pictured are Coral Shores High School graduates receiving their scholarships. Presenting the awards are Rotary President Terry Abel and scholarship committee leaders Frank Derfler and Tricia Hynes.

UPPER KEYS ROTARY AWARDS $200K IN SCHOLARSHIPS

GARY CRALLÉ/TDC

During last week’s U.S. Travel Association international conference in Anaheim, Calif., from left, David Kurtz, vice chairman of Discover America Norway, discusses Florida Keys travel opportunities with Monroe County Tourist Development Council staff including Sabine Pons-Chilton, international sales manager; Stacey Mitchell, director; and Jim De Keyrel, sales director. America’s top inbound travel trade show traditionally generates some $4.7 billion in annual travel to the United States. Attendees include 6,200 travel buyers and global media representatives from more than 70 nations.

MARKETING KEYS TO WORLD

He’s tinted windows in high-rise buildings and multimillion-dollar mansions.

“I've been doing this for so long, I never know what I'm going to get into until I see the job,” Tony said.

Tint “N” More also offers boat wraps, car wraps and sign installation. The company also does hydrographics, or water transfer printing, which is a custom film design adhered to marine console panels, car dashboards, interior trim and car rims.

Yami pointed to a photo of a flat black Porsche, with chainmail armor on the console and rims. She said the Porsche, before Tony wrapped it in vinyl, was silver.

Car window films are at the Tint “N” More shop, where Tony can control the weather elements in a box. It usually takes less than two hours for four doors with appointments accommodated by the next day.

Tint “N” More guarantees its films if damaged by elements or an accident.

“We go by doing the right thing for our customers,” Yami said. 

Shop hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Tints “N” More is located at 104535 Overseas Highway in Key Largo. For more information, visit tintsnmore.com, find them on Facebook or call 305-233-3600.

tjava@keysnews.com

Tint Contact two page 12A

Tints “N” More tints car windows, homes and businesses, does vinyl wraps and more.
New app offers walking tour of historic wrecking village

ISLAMORADA — Indian Key was in the early 1800s home to a restaurant, saloon, hotel, a nine-pin bowling alley and all the shops, wharves, and warehouses needed to accommodate a thriving marketplace. It is coming to life again, this time via a smartphone app. MarineLab, the Florida Keys Marine Resources Development Foundation has been hosting hands-on learning programs for more than 30 years. The non-profit environmental education arm of the foundation has developed an app that offers a tour of the historic village.

The narrated tour, with 12 stops on the 11-acre island, delves into the rise and fall of the community the Spanish attack by American Indians during the Seminole War, and in most notorious event, John Jacob Housman.

"Even if you think you know the island’s tremendous history, odds are that while listening to Walk Indian Key, you will hear a story or two you have never heard," said Brad Bertelli, Florida Keys History and Discovery Foundation curator, who selected the historic stops. "We have interviewed the narrative and compiled the accompanying photos.

Walk Indian Key was developed by the foundation in partnership with the Florida Humanities Council and the Department of State’s Division of Cultural Affairs.

The app is accessible via kayak or small watercraft. The tour begins at the park pavilion and takes visitors through the town square, home runs, and the observation town, the 1840 post office ruins and a final stop with a view of Alligator Reef Light.

See APP, page 2B

MarineLab hosts ‘Family Fun Day’ at Jules’ Emerald Lagoon

BY KEVIN WADLOW Free Press Staff

UPPER KEYS — Acoustic guitarist Scott Youngberg quotes a Lauren Bacall line from "Key Largo" to explain his orchestra as a Florida Keys performer. "The roots took hold. Now I’m like one of those mangroves," he said.

"I just love playing music down here," Youngberg said. "It’s the Caribbean soul — the people, the culture and the islands. It’s a way of life. We’ve got to understand the rhythms of life in the Keys." That includes being on friendly terms with other talented musicians who have settled in the Upper Keys for the long term.

"I worked in Nashville where it can be cut-throat. It’s not like that here for the most part," Youngberg said. "We keep our phones and work together at community events like the Key Largo Original Music Festival." Soon after moving to the Keys in 1997, Youngberg settled in the Upper Keys, where he had access to community events like the Key Largo Original Music Festival.

"We both knew, independently, that we wanted to move somewhere with a beach," he said. "It turned out to be Key Largo near a quarter-century ago.

See MUSICIAN, page 2B

MarineLab Undersea Lab Museum now top of the organization’s Key Largo property.

BY THERESA JAVA Free Press Staff

KEY LARGO — MarineLab Educational Environmental Education Center is providing the perfect way to get kids to live up by the seashore, learn or swim for an afternoon among the tennacles of its neighboring lagoon, Jules’ Undersea Lodge Emerald Lagoon.

The 30-year old app offers a tour of the historic Indian Key wrecking village.

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at the movies …

Home, a man in a black suit, emerges with a degree from MIT, but to uncover the truth behind his bear-finnen crime spree, he needs an education and a very fast car that holds the galaxy.

If (R, Crime/Gangster, Action/Adventure and Thriller)

Sharon, Steve Buscemi, Chloe Sevigny, Rosie Perez, Sofía Coppola, Tom Waits and more.

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History of St. Mary Star of the Sea to be shared

ISLAMORADA — The Matecumbe Historical Trust's next presentation will be "The History of the B援助 St. Mary Star of the Sea," by guest speaker Bob Bertelli. It is set to begin at 6 p.m. Monday, June 17, at Island Community Church, 83250 Overseas Highway.

Though the original St. Mary Star of the Sea Church complex was lost to fire in 1951, the new church on Windward Street was completed within four years. The church's construction embodied the island's natural elements using stone blocks made from the oolitic limestone dug from the church grounds.

Bertelli will offer stories and imagery of the only Catholic Church in Key West and its famed granito by Louis Simon Gabriel containing the remains of burials.

The event is part of the library's 2019 summer reading program, "A Step at a Time," and is open to all ages. The event is part of the library's 2019 summer reading program, "A Step at a Time," and is open to all ages.

The library can be reached at 305-853-3277. For more information, call 305-393-0490.

Book club reading

Scott's "The Kept"

KEY LARGO — The Key Largo Library meeting room will open at 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 10, to discuss "The Kept" by Scott "James the "Scott." The premiere of "The Kept" at the Cannes Film Festival in May 2018, a woman returns from her job at a model house to find her husband and four of her children murdered. This is a dark tale of the lost innocence of the remaining youngest son Caleb as he embarks on a quest for vengeance.

For more information, call 305-606-4815.

Future releases:

In Key West …

KEY WEST — J.E. Irvin, a resident of Springfield, Ohio, has placed first in an international competition to claim the 2019 Mystery Writers Whodunit Award, which will be presented on Sunday, June 23, at the 6th Mystery Fest Key West.

"The Day's Doil X (R, Thriller) — The greatest zombie cast ever disassembled features Bill Murray, Adam Driver, Danny Glover, Steve Buscemi, Chloe Sevigny, Rosie Perez, Sofía Coppola, Tom Waits and more.

The Secret Life of Pets 2 (Kids/Family and Animation)

The movie's premise is that animals possess the same characteristics as humans. While humans leave for work or school each day, Secret Life of Pets 2 will follow the lives pets lead after humans leave for work or school each day.

For more information, visit mysteryfestkeywest.com.

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ISLAMORADA — The Matecumbe Historical Trust's next presentation will be "The History of the Baux St. Mary Star of the Sea," by guest speaker Bob Bertelli. It is set to begin at 6 p.m. Monday, June 17, at Island Community Church, 83250 Overseas Highway.

Though the original St. Mary Star of the Sea Church complex was lost to fire in 1951, the new church on Windward Street was completed within four years. The church's construction embodied the island's natural elements using stone blocks made from the oolitic limestone dug from the church grounds.

Bertelli will offer stories and imagery of the only Catholic Church in Key West and its famed granito by Louis Simon Gabriel containing the remains of burials.

The event is part of the library's 2019 summer reading program, "A Step at a Time," and is open to all ages. The event is part of the library's 2019 summer reading program, "A Step at a Time," and is open to all ages.

The library can be reached at 305-853-3277. For more information, call 305-393-0490.

Book club reading

Scott's "The Kept"

KEY LARGO — The Key Largo Library meeting room will open at 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 10, to discuss "The Kept" by Scott "James the "Scott." The premiere of "The Kept" at the Cannes Film Festival in May 2018, a woman returns from her job at a model house to find her husband and four of her children murdered. This is a dark tale of the lost innocence of the remaining youngest son Caleb as he embarks on a quest for vengeance.

For more information, call 305-606-4815.
stands or espaliers. The vine knows every step needed to choreograph its Palm trees. The vine creates no more spectacular inflorescence than that the Mexican flame vine flung over a chainlink fence. Hundreds of day-glow orange blossoms grow with flame vine flung over a chainlink fence. The vine needs to be called butterfly love vine because all kinds of butterflies and hummingbirds frequent this soft-omnous vine, attracting monarchs, swallowtails, pellitory hawksmoors, Julia irlm longings and queens. In fact, without this vine, queen butterflies cannot get the raw material that they need to manufacture a phenomenon, drummed, without which queens cannot successfully bred. This is a butterfly aphrodisiac. Bees like it too.

Get in.
Get out.
Get better.

Buddleia is typical of the Mexican flame vine.

Mexican flame vine wants to do the same. If this vine sinks along the ground, it roots from its leaf stumps. These grow if cut off, dropped in root tone and planted. Hanging baskets make a suitable pot as does a pot next to a fence. Most plants are grown from cuttings, which readily sprout in a glass of water.

A clever way to support the droopy vines is to poke a hole in floral foam and put the vine in the ground. The foam will keep the roots wet and vine in the ground. The gardener can prune as much as is needed and be rewarded with copious blooms. The gardener can prune as much as is liked. She will sprout new tendrils and continue to love with the Keys. She likes our sunny, warm winter droughts, quick-draining, love candy because all kinds of butterflies and hummingbirds frequent this soft-omnous vine, attracting monarchs, swallowtails, pellitory hawksmoors, Julia irlm longings and queens. In fact, without this vine, queen butterflies cannot get the raw material that they need to manufacture a phenomenon, drummed, without which queens cannot successfully breed. This is a butterfly aphrodisiac. Bees like it too.

This fast-growing, full-sun, boron and Pericalus. What a scientific stew.

If there is no trellis or fence, it falls in 20 feet confusion along the ground, hence its scientific name Pseudogynoxus confusus. Because botanists take a per- rovement prodding for him to dip tury theme down pat and he actively supports the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life events in the Keys, including the July 15 Cycle for Life, a 180-mile bicycle ride from Key Largo to Key West.

Youngberg in 2014 spent seven months in Boston where specialists worked to treat his chordoma cancer, a rare type of spinal cancer. “I’ve had a lifetime dose of radiation,” he said of his 22 treatments. “That was my 2014. Now I get to live and play music in the Florida Keys.”

For Youngberg’s future appearances and contact information, visit scot-

By Robin Robinson
Florida Keys Free Press

Extensive vines, which readily sprout in a glass of water.

Got down those mangrove tarry eyes convinced them to put down those mangrove roots.

Butterflies ‘fire dance’ along this blooming vine

Musician Continued from page 1B

A clever way to support the droopy vines is to poke a hole in floral foam and put the vine in the ground. The foam will keep the roots wet and vine in the ground. The gardener can prune as much as is liked. She will sprout new tendrils and continue to love candy because all kinds of butterflies and hummingbirds frequent this soft-omnous vine, attracting monarchs, swallowtails, pellitory hawksmoors, Julia irlm longings and queens. In fact, without this vine, queen butterflies cannot get the raw material that they need to manufacture a phenomenon, drummed, without which queens cannot successfully breed. This is a butterfly aphrodisiac. Bees like it too.

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Other pursuits

DEBUT NOVEL OFFERS CHARACTERS WITH REAL CHARACTER

BY DAVID BECKWITH

Lauren O’Gee’s debut novel, “Daughters of Bad Men,” was a fresh take for the Killer Nashville Claysmore Award. Not bad for a first effort. Before this book’s release, Lauren was a photojournalist with 20 years of experience covering trends in technology. Her photos were widely published and she also serves as a columnist for several trade and consumer publications.

Lauren O’Gee sees Jamie Bush, a skip tracer (a private eye who finds people who are missing but don’t want to be found) and Cookie Hinojosa, her friend and partner. Cookie is described as an intimidating, mammoth, bear of a man with an affinity for Hawaiian shirts. The two friends have a kind of love-hate relationship, and the book is set in Port Alene, a mythical version of the Texas coastal city of the same name near Corpus Christi. Jamie learned the skills for her job from her family. Her father was a con man, and her half-brother, Brian, and her sister, Cookie, chose to follow that lifestyle. Jamie distanced herself from the family and found a way out. Now she wants nothing to do with any of them. But this changes when she is contacted by Brian. His daughter, Kristin, a recovering drug addict, has gone missing, and he wants Jamie to locate her.

At first, Jamie refuses since Kristin has disappeared in the past only to turn up, but as much as she despises Brian and his mid-western scams and other shady dealings, she decides that it’s her duty to find her niece after the nefarious Brian continues to bug her big sis. Jamie locates the dead Kristin, whom she finds with a syringe needle in her arm, and begins to wonder what she sees on the surface is maybe not the case, as she finds a crumpled $2 bill in Kristin’s pocket. Three bills have been used as the calling card for a local drug deal. But if the so-called, now-clean Kristin was the target of a killer, why was she targeted? Or was this maybe a warning for another member of her dysfunctional family?

The book was very easy to read and follow. It never had a dull moment. There were no grammar errors or types or any repetitive or out-of-line sequences. The characters have characteristics. They are likely despite their flaws. This makes them real. I developed a kind of love-hate relationship with each of them. I enjoyed the back and forth between Jamie and Cookie and closeness of their relationship. But let me make this clear, this is not a romance novel; it is a novel about friendship and family loyalty. Nor is it a police procedural or a mystery; it is somewhere in between. Oges’ descriptions of Port Alene are vivid enough that it almost becomes a character itself. The novel angle was fun as well. I didn’t know it is intended to be a stand-alone novel or the beginning of a series, but it could easily be either. Reviewed by David Beckwith, author of “75 Roads Conquered.”

faces & places

PADDLE CAMP FUN

Jennie McIlvain of Key Largo is seen near the surface at Lowes Key Reef, passing a full moon while sailing last summer’s Underwater Music Festival from Big Pine Key. This year’s event will splash down July 13 at Lowes Key Reef. For more information, call 305-451-3018 or visit paddlefloridakeys.com.

FLAG RAISING

Steven Feldish securing a rainbow flag to the mast of an intentionally sanked military ship Friday, June 7, in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. It’s installation on the S-533 long hull was part of a ceremony to honor Key West’s Pride celebration that ended Sunday, June 9. The LGBTI+ banner also bears the Florida Keys’ Cuban Republic insignia.
Contagious wins dolphin tournament

Women flag football coaches leading the way

Special Olympics athletes set sights on aquatic events
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MAGIC BY MICHAEL TRIXX after sunset
JUNE 13 THUR WEBB & DAVIDSON 6pm
JUNE 14 FRI STEV WYNN BAND 6pm
MAGIC BY MICHAEL TRIXX after sunset
JUNE 15 SAT SPANK THE BAND 6pm
JUNE 16 SUN WEBB & DAVIDSON 6pm
JUNE 17 MON THE CAROUSERS MAGIC BY MICHAEL TRIXX after sunset
JUNE 18 TUES DENNIS HOLMES 6pm

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DO YOU KNOW A TOP RESTAURANT THAT SHOULD BE ON THIS PAGE?
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Through the years, I have collected through the years a mile-long line of waypoints that I tagged areas, so I traveled along a than usual and some wide-open snapper heaven. I checked out Creek and throttled up on my house by 4:30 in the morning. The Keys is not having to leave the big plus of fishing in the Florida of my canal by 8:30 a.m. Another was in the water and heading out and get the boat loaded. Still, I ger to put everything together bags of oats, a fist-full of #4 bait filled. I loaded the boat with four morning, my plan would be ful-

The Florida Keys is a popular snapper fishing destination due to its clear water and abundance of fish. Anglers often target red snapper during the summer months when they are more active in the area. The season is typically open for a limited time each year, usually from June 10 to July 20, with specific dates varying each year. However, the exact dates for the next season may change, so it's important to check the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s website for the most current information.

Florida Keys fishing is a popular activity for both local residents and tourists, offering a unique experience of connecting with nature and the local community. The area is known for its diverse marine life, including various species of snapper, which are sought after by anglers for their size and flavor.

In addition to fishing, the Florida Keys offer other outdoor activities such as kayaking, hiking, and exploring the natural beauty of the Keys. The Keys are also a popular destination for those interested in learning about the culture and history of the region.

For more information on fishing in the Florida Keys, you can visit the Florida Keys & Monroe County Tourism Department’s website or call the Florida Keys Visitor Information Center at 305-853-7277. The website provides up-to-date information on local events, fishing spots, and other activities in the area.

To learn more about the Florida Keys fishing season, please refer to the next section.
phone app for logging red snapper fishing trips. This app is available on your phone’s app store by searching for Salted Red Snapper for private anglers or Silver/Blue Snapper Guide if you are a charter operator. 

By saving, sharing, and log catches during red snapper season and beyond, anglers can provide FWC researchers with valuable insights into the status of the red snapper.

Whether you use the smartphone app or provide data directly to FWC staff or utilize a Gulf Fish Survey in the mail, the data you provide help to learn more about the fishery, how they are impacted by various factors, and to help with management decisions.

June 12 - June 18

GEMINI - May 22 - June 21

Source: westworldmarina.com 

• Wet bulb or reach the dew point in a hot place. If you can, dress in layers and try to stay cool and hydrated.

CANCER - June 22 - July 22

Source: eastcoastanglers.com 

• A warm place could make you feel worse, so make sure you have shade and water.

LEO - July 23 - Aug 22

Source: westworldmarina.com 

• Be aware of your surroundings and watch for signs of dehydration.

VIRGO - Aug 23 - Sept 22

Source: eastcoastanglers.com 

• Keep hydrated and follow the guidelines for staying cool.

LIBRA - Sept 23 - Oct 22

Source: westworldmarina.com 

• Be aware of your surroundings and watch for signs of dehydration.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 22 - Dec 21

Source: eastcoastanglers.com 

• Stay hydrated and wear sunscreen.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22 - Jan 19

Source: westworldmarina.com 

• Be aware of your surroundings and watch for signs of dehydration.

AQUARIUS - Jan 20 - Feb 18

Source: eastcoastanglers.com 

• Be aware of your surroundings and watch for signs of dehydration.

PISCES - Feb 19 - Mar 20

Source: westworldmarina.com 

• Be aware of your surroundings and watch for signs of dehydration.

June 19 - June 25

If your passion is for fly-fishing, I remember going to his house and on the canal he had kept floating in the water where he practiced his casting skills. You would often see him around town and you couldn’t miss him on the water. The front of his boat had what many of us called a “coping cord.” It was a plastic plan that he had custom made for the boat, so he could aggressively cast and not feel failing. Many others took note of this and designed similar coping platforms.

Pate was a fly-fishing innovator and a fishing legend who challenged some of the world’s angler. One of the biggest contributions Pate made was getting the Tibor reel “pounced” to make fly-fishing rods that could withstand a battle with big saltwater species. These rods are now considered the finest made in the world today. The Tibor reel, made by the Tibor Reel Corporation, was first created for Pate to fish well in his Islamorada tackle shop. Tibor reels, which are originally called the Pate reel (many still are), have landed close to 700 world-record fish.

It was my sincere pleasure to have been able to know Pate, and many others who knew him feel the same way. He passed away in 2011 at the age of 61 from Alzheimer’s disease, but he will always be remembered as one of the greatest fishermen and fisherman of all time.

Pate made a number of famous world records. His second brown trout world record, caught on fly and weighing 45.1 pounds, was caught on a fly rod in 1970 and stood for 21 years. Pate also achieved another world record in 2011 at the age of 81 from Australia with his world-record fish. The Tibor reel that was used to catch Pate’s world record was the Tibor reel he made during his life. Today, the Tibor reel and the Tibor Reel Corporation are still made in Patagonia. Pate traveled there to Argentina 25 years in a row and steelhead, but he was interested in the brown trout world record. He came close, but it never happened.

May 29 - June 4

Source: crestedcoast.com 

• Be aware of your surroundings and watch for signs of dehydration.

June 6 - June 12

Source: westworldmarina.com 

• Be aware of your surroundings and watch for signs of dehydration.

June 13 - June 19

Source: westworldmarina.com 

• Be aware of your surroundings and watch for signs of dehydration.

June 20 - June 26

Source: westworldmarina.com 

• Be aware of your surroundings and watch for signs of dehydration.

June 27 - July 3

Source: westworldmarina.com 

• Be aware of your surroundings and watch for signs of dehydration.

July 4 - July 10

Source: westworldmarina.com 

• Be aware of your surroundings and watch for signs of dehydration.

July 11 - July 17

Source: crestedcoast.com 

• Be aware of your surroundings and watch for signs of dehydration.

July 18 - July 24

Source: crestedcoast.com 

• Be aware of your surroundings and watch for signs of dehydration.

July 25 - July 31

Source: westworldmarina.com 

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The Ocean Reef Community Association, located in North Key Largo, FL, seeks a full-time General Manager. Applicants may apply in person at: OCEAN REEF COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, 2023 Flagler Ave. #301, Key Largo, FL 33037, or send resumes to: info@sheratonkeywest.com or fax: (305) 852-9639. EOE & Dru
The Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District’s Board of Commissioners is soliciting resumes to fill a vacancy on the Board of Commissioners.

The term of office will expire following the 2020 election cycle. Individuals must be a registered elector, residing within the boundaries of the District consisting of Key Largo, extending from east of Tavernier Creek, up to and including Cross Key.

Resumes must be received no later than 5:00 PM on Monday, June 17, 2019. The Board of Commissioners will consider all resumes at a public meeting scheduled to begin at 4:00 PM on Tuesday, June 18, 2019. You are welcome to attend the meeting and to address the Board.

Resumes may be submitted by mail or in person to the District’s administrative office located at 97450 Overseas Highway • Key Largo, Florida 33037 or by email to clerk@klwtd.com. For further information, please contact the District Clerk at 305.451.4019 Ext. 210 or via email at Diane.Bockelman@klwtd.com. Note that all resumes are considered public records and are available to anyone upon request.

For further positions at Playa Largo and Baptist Health, please visit the respective websites for more information.
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AGENT SPOTLIGHT

Kelly K Shaw
305-664-7307
kellykshaw@earthlink.net

SAILLASS TRAK! This custom built home is a 5 bedroom, 6 bath remodeled example of a masterpiece with a floor plan that is laid out expertly. Located on 4 wooded acres, this property is extremely private with a drive that extends more than 700’ and enjoys 190’ on the canal! Offered at $1,900,000.

AGENT SPOTLIGHT

Mykael Marine II
305-439-7730
mykaelmarineii@TheRealEstateCounsel.com

AERO-LAGO Bayfront Estate is what dreams are made of. This home offers 3 bedrooms + office in the spacious main house, adjoining kitchen and dining room, and a separate detached guest suite. Pugs, deep dock and 4k outdoor grill and pizza oven, outdoor bar, seakeline dock, boatlift, outdoor showers, custom pool and fountain, 3 garage spaces, all nestled in a gated, estate, offered at $3,699,000.

AGENT SPOTLIGHT

Karan Moeller
305-522-2857
karan@KaranMoeller.com

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AGENT SPOTLIGHT

Loris Lai
305-842-6044
lai@lorisreal.com

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