What are you doing tonight?
Area libraries to forgive late fees

The Monroe County Public Library is partnering with Key West Cares, a group of community leaders and citizens working with the Bahamian government to provide emergency aid in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian.

The Key West, Key Largo, Islamorada, Marathon and Big Pine Key library branches are collecting non-perishable food items with pop-top lids, toiletries, first aid items, sanitation and cleaning supplies, children’s books and games, school supplies, diapers and wipes and work gloves.

All items donated will earn credit against outstanding overdue book fines.

Donations are accepted during normal library hours, which can be found at https://keyslibraries.org.

Sugarloaf Lodge hosts Oktoberfest Oct. 6

The Bahama Village Music Program’s annual Oktoberfest celebration is set for 3 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 6, at the Sugarloaf Lodge Tiki Bar, 17001 Overseas Highway.

The annual fundraiser benefits the BVMP, an organization that helps provide free musical education to more than 200 students ages 6-16 who might otherwise miss out on the gift of music.

Guests can anticipate a pork dinner by South of the Seven, the restaurant at the Sugarloaf Lodge, a silent auction and live music by musicians Larry Baeder, Ben Harrison, Bill Blue and many of the program’s students.

Tickets are $15 advance purchase at Sugarloaf Lodge, BVMP at 103 Olivia St., or online at http://www.bvmpkw.org and $20 at the door. All proceeds benefit the music program, which is funded by local donors, foundations and fundraisers.

For information or to make an in-kind auction item or monetary donation, call 305-504-7664 or email info@bvmpkw.org.

Choral group seeks singers

Keys Choral Arts is accepting new singers through Tuesday, Oct. 15. Auditions are not required and members don’t need to read music as audio voice part learning tracks are provided.

The choir rehearses from 6:15 to 9:15 p.m. Tuesday nights at Grace Lutheran Church, 2713 Flagler Ave.

Fall season dues are $135. Membership is open to anyone 16 and older and a limited number of scholarships are available.

For information, call Tim Peterson at 561-445-1709 or email keyschoralarts@gmail.com.

Pier House Goes Pink event set Oct. 16

The Key West Zonta club will present its annual Pier House Goes Pink fundraiser in recognition of breast cancer awareness at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 16, at 1 Duval St.

A fashion show will celebrate local breast cancer survivors and will be accompanied by live music from the Prime Movers and a party on the beach.

Suggested donation is $10 at the door. For information, visit http://www.zontakeywest.com.
Divers to whittle for a win at Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest Oct. 5

Divers should pack their pumpkin carving tools when they gear up for the 21st annual Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest on Saturday, Oct. 5, in Key Largo waters. Hoping to wow judges with jolly jack-o-lanterns during the lighthearted sculpting challenge, two-person teams of crafty carvers will descend approximately 25 feet beneath the surface in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

Their task: transform the naturally buoyant pumpkins into masterful sculptures incorporating frightening facial features, playful sea creatures or traditional toothy grins.

Divers can join in to celebrate the fall harvest fun with Amy Slate’s Amoray Dive Resort, Mile Marker 104.5.

The top three buddy teams who create a pumpkin worthy of praise from the experienced judges (who double as the crew of the dive boat) can win prizes including a dive trip for two and fashionable swag.

The entry fee is $85 per certified diver for the two-location dive including tanks, weights and snorkel equipment. Check-in is at 8 a.m. and the boat departs at 8:30 a.m.

For information, visit http://www.amoray.com or call 800-426-6729.
Florida Keys Music Scene

AQUA
DUELING BARTENDERS featuring Rick Dery
5:30 to 8 p.m. Monday
AQUA IDOL
for Fantasy Fest
King and Queen
6:30 p.m. Tuesday

FIRST FLIGHT
CRAIG JOLLY
Noon to 3 p.m. Monday

BOONDOCKS
TERRY and GARY
6 to 10 p.m. Thursday
GLENN HARMAN DUO
7 to 11 p.m. Friday
BRIAN ROBERTS
7 to 11 p.m. Saturday
GIRLS NIGHT OUT
Adrienne Z
6 to 10 p.m. Sunday
TERRY CASSIDY
and FRIENDS
6 to 10 p.m. Monday
JOHN ANDREWS
6 to 10 p.m. Tuesday

CONCH REPUBLIC
SEAFOOD CO.
JOE THE SHOW
5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday; noon to 4 p.m. Sunday
NICK NORMAN
1 to 5 p.m. Saturday
THE SHANTY HOUNDS
5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Sunday
BAHAMA BOYS
5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Monday
DAN HARVEY
5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday
DIN ALLEN
5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday

GARDENS HOTEL
NINA NEWTON
5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Tuesday, Wednesday
MICHAEL ROBINSON
5 to 7 p.m. Friday
BOBBY GREEN
5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Sunday
JAMES KING III
5 to 7 p.m. Monday

GALLEON SUNSET
TIKI BAR
TONY BALTIMORE
6 to 9 p.m. Thursday
TONY ROBERTS
2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Friday; 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Sunday
CLINT BULLARD
6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Wednesday; 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Sunday
BEN TADDIKEN
2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday
GARY HEMPSEY
6 to 9 p.m. Monday
MARJORY LEE
6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday

GREEN PARROT
TONY BALTIMORE
and WILDE AWAKE
5:30, 9 and 11 p.m. Thursday, Saturday; 5:30 p.m. Sunday
LEGENDARY JCs
5:30, 9 and 11 p.m Friday, Saturday; 5:30 p.m. Sunday
MIKE EMERSON QUARTET
with Hal Howland, Joe Dallas, Mark Rose
1 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday
UKULELE NIGHT
8 to 11 p.m. Wednesday

HOG’S BREATH SALOON
MYLES MANCUSO
Noon to 4 p.m. Thursday, Tuesday, Wednesday

The Legendary JCs will perform at 5:30, 9 and 11 p.m Friday and Saturday, Oct. 4-5, and again at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 6, at the Green Parrot.
Florida Keys Music Scene

DAN HARVEY
4 p.m. Thursday through Saturday
AGENT 86
9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Thursday through Sunday
KENNY FRADLEY and GUEST
Noon to 4 p.m. Friday
BARRY CUDA
Noon to 4 p.m. Saturday
GARY HEMPSEY
Noon to 4 p.m. Sunday
ZACK SEEMILLER
Noon to 4 p.m. Monday
ROSS SERMONS
4:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Oct. 13
TIM CARTER BAND
9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Monday through Oct. 13

KEY WEST
THEATER
ANDERS OSBORNE
8 p.m. Thursday
CHRIS DUARTE
8 p.m. Saturday
SONGWRITERS SPEAKEASY SERIES
Nick Walker, Sharese Nicole, Marjory Lee
7 p.m. Sunday

LA TE DA
Cabaret:
CHRISTOPHER PETERSON
8 p.m. Thursday
RANDY ROBERTS
9 p.m. Saturday, Tuesday

LA TRATTORIA
OCEANSIDE
PHIL SAMPSON
6 to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday

OCEAN GRILL
AL ROMANO
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday

OLD STONE
COFFEE HOUSE
ADRIENNE Z
9 to 11 a.m. Sunday

PARADISE TATTOO
THE SHANTY HOUNDS
7 to 10 p.m. Friday

PIER HOUSE
ALFONSE SUBARSKY
Noon to 3 p.m. Saturday

RICK’S BAR
THE SHANTY HOUNDS
Noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday

SALTY ANGLER
DANI HOY
Noon to 4 p.m. Monday

SCHOONER’ WHARF BAR
MICHAEL McLOUD
Noon to 5 p.m. Thursday solo, noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday with friends
COOL DUO
Chris Case, Sam Ramos
6:45 to 11 p.m. Thursday
RAVEN COOPER BAND
6:45 to 11:45 p.m. Friday, Saturday
ROSS BROWN
6:45 to 11 p.m. Sunday
RAVEN COOPER
6:45 to 11 p.m. Monday; 6:45 to 11 p.m. Wednesday
JANNIK
6:45 to 11 p.m. Monday
GARY HEMPSEY
Noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday
TOM TAYLOR
6:45 to 11 p.m. Tuesday
TONY BALTIMORE
Noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday

SLOPPY JOE’S
JOHN LAMERE
Noon to 4:45 p.m. Thursday;

TAVERN ‘N’ TOWN
‘N’ TOWN
MICHAEL McLOUD
Noon to 5 p.m. Monday; 6:45 to 11 p.m. Wednesday
JANNIK
6:45 to 11 p.m. Monday
GARY HEMPSEY
Noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday
TOM TAYLOR
6:45 to 11 p.m. Tuesday
TONY BALTIMORE
Noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday

SCHOONER’ WHARF BAR
MICHAEL McLOUD
Noon to 5 p.m. Thursday solo, noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday with friends
COOL DUO
Chris Case, Sam Ramos
6:45 to 11 p.m. Thursday
RAVEN COOPER BAND
6:45 to 11:45 p.m. Friday, Saturday
ROSS BROWN
6:45 to 11 p.m. Sunday
RAVEN COOPER
6:45 to 11 p.m. Monday; 6:45 to 11 p.m. Wednesday
JANNIK
6:45 to 11 p.m. Monday
GARY HEMPSEY
Noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday
TOM TAYLOR
6:45 to 11 p.m. Tuesday
TONY BALTIMORE
Noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday

SMOKIN’ TUNA
CAFFEINE CARL and the BUZZ
9 p.m. Thursday, Wednesday
CAFFEINE CARL and FRIENDS
9 p.m. Friday, Saturday
MARJORY LEE
8 p.m. Sunday
ELMORE’S REVENGE
8 p.m. Tuesday

TAVERN ‘N’ TOWN
‘N’ TOWN
MICHAEL McLOUD
Noon to 5 p.m. Monday; 6:45 to 11 p.m. Wednesday
JANNIK
6:45 to 11 p.m. Monday
GARY HEMPSEY
Noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday
TOM TAYLOR
6:45 to 11 p.m. Tuesday
TONY BALTIMORE
Noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday

SCHOONER’ WHARF BAR
MICHAEL McLOUD
Noon to 5 p.m. Thursday solo, noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday with friends
COOL DUO
Chris Case, Sam Ramos
6:45 to 11 p.m. Thursday
RAVEN COOPER BAND
6:45 to 11:45 p.m. Friday, Saturday
ROSS BROWN
6:45 to 11 p.m. Sunday
RAVEN COOPER
6:45 to 11 p.m. Monday; 6:45 to 11 p.m. Wednesday
JANNIK
6:45 to 11 p.m. Monday
GARY HEMPSEY
Noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday
TOM TAYLOR
6:45 to 11 p.m. Tuesday
TONY BALTIMORE
Noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday

STRAW BARGES
THE SHANTY HOUNDS
7 to 10 p.m. Friday

TWO FRIENDS
JOHN LAMERE
6 p.m. Thursday; Monday through Wednesday

TIM CARTER BAND
9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Monday through Oct. 13

TIPSY and the DONUTS
5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday
LIMA BEAN RIOT
10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursday through Tuesday
TIM HOLLOHAN
Noon to 4:45 p.m. Friday
FOR PETE’S SAKE
Noon to 4:45 p.m. Saturday
FRIENDS OF WAYNE
5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Wednesday
ROSS BROWN
Noon to 4:45 p.m. Sunday, Monday
MOJITO
5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Sunday
PREACHER PETE and the PREFERENCE
5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Monday
BRIAN ROBERTS
Noon to 4:45 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday
JASON LAMSON TRIO
5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday
HONEY EXTRACTOR
10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Wednesday

TWO FRIENDS
JOHN LAMERE
6 p.m. Thursday; Monday through Wednesday

JACK WOLF
9:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday
THE SHANTY HOUNDS
11 a.m. Friday, Sunday
TONY BALTIMORE
2:30 p.m. Friday; 9:30 p.m. Monday
NICK WALKER
6 p.m. Friday, Saturday
BRAD SHADDUCK
2:30 p.m. Sunday
SHARESE NICOLE
6 p.m. Sunday
TIM HOLLOHAN
11 a.m. Monday
JASON LAMSON
2:30 p.m. Monday; 11 a.m. Tuesday
ZACK SEEMILLER
2:30 p.m. Tuesday
DAN HARVEY
9:30 p.m. Wednesday

Tim Carter is a banjo/guitarist whose rich musical heritage of the Carter family runs deep. Carter will be playing at 9 p.m. Monday through Oct. 13, at Hog’s Breath Saloon.
Fantasy Fest marks 40 years with ‘In Tune But ... Off Key’ exuberance

In tune with one of most off-key celebrations on the planet, revelers will gather in Key West to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Fantasy Fest, the island’s internationally renowned masking and costuming festival. Scheduled Friday, Oct. 18, through Sunday, Oct. 27, the exotic extravaganza features masquerade balls, costume competitions, street fairs, performance art, glamorous galas and an over-the-top grand parade.

Themed “In Tune But ... Off Key” the festival includes musically themed merriment in genres from rockabilly to salsa and even a mobile cocktail party featuring a quirky ukulele band.

Fantasy Fest organizers encourage people to march to the beat of their own drum, designing their costumes and parade floats around everything from memories of bebop and “glam” rock to operatic daydreams and campy Broadway musicals.

The festival’s official kick-off is the two-day Goombay Celebration in Key West’s Bahama Village. Held on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 18-19, the Caribbean-flavored Goombay pulses to a reggae beat with nonstop entertainment, island-style food and arts and crafts.

The Fantasy Fest King and Queen will be crowned at the Royal Coronation soiree and stage show on Saturday, Oct. 18, capping a two-month fundraising effort by candidates to benefit the Florida Keys nonprofit A.H. of Monroe County.

Among the dozens of events orchestrated for fantasy fans are the wacky Pet Masquerade, a Fantasy Fest favorite for costumed pets and their people that takes place on Wednesday, Oct. 23. The following day brings the Key West Business Guild’s Headdress Ball, where “headliners” compete for prizes in huge and elaborate masks and cowls.

Plans call for the medley of madness to take to the streets on Friday, Oct. 25, with a freewheeling Masquerade March of costumed characters. Marchers are encouraged to bring whistles, noisemakers and percussion instruments to add to the excitement as they strut through part of Key West’s Old Town.

Revelers can also “trum-pet” their fondness for festivities at events including the family-friendly Zombie Bike Ride, rocking Beatles tribute show and look-alike bash, tutu party and bar crawl, Fun House featuring famed circus acrobats, waterfront Woodstock take-off and hippie costume contest, daily BART bar and art strolls, street performances and a “Living Art” competition for painted bodies.

On Saturday night, Oct. 26, nearly 70,000 spectators are expected to line Whitehead and Duval streets for the spectacular Bud Light Fantasy Fest Parade. A dazzling procession of large-scale floats, costumed marching groups and bands, the parade displays the off-key creativity and exuberant spirit that have kept party lovers “tuning in” to the festival for 40 years.
Free attractions for locals this Sunday with ID

A number of attractions in Key West are free to locals on Sunday, Oct. 6. There is no cost for admission for residents with Monroe County identification.

Check with each venue for hours and tour times.

The Custom House
Towering over Mallory's historic seaport, the Custom House is as stunning a sight to visitors today as it was when it opened in 1891. Today, the building is an award-winning museum and official headquarters of the Key West Art and Historical Society. Experience two floors of exhibitions that weave together two centuries of history, art, people and events. The Custom House is located at 281 Front St.

Fort East Martello Tower
Visitors can explore the preserved battlement's collection of relics from the Civil War, learn about the wrecking and cigar-manufacturing industries that shaped the Florida Keys, view the unique folk art of Mario Sanchez and the imaginative metal sculptures of Stanley Papio, as well as meet the ghosts of East Martello, including the infamous Robert the Doll. The fort is located at 111 Front St.

Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden
Locals get in free on Sunday to the Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden, 5210 College Road. The garden is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The entrance fee will be waived for residents with Monroe County identification. For information, call 305-296-1504 or go to http://www.keywestbotanicalgarden.org.

Lighthouse Tower and Keeper's Quarters
The current lighthouse opened in 1848. Today, visitors can walk up the 88 steps to the top of the light as well as explore the belongings, photographs, and words of the lighthouse keepers and their families, who lived a now obsolete, yet never forgotten, way of life. The lighthouse is located at 938 Whitehead St.

Truman's Little White House
While president, Harry S Truman spent 175 days in Key West in Quarters A at the Truman Naval Station. The Little White House is located at 111 Front St.

Tennessee Williams Museum
Self-guided tours are available at the Tennessee Williams Museum from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Visitors will learn about the life and work of the great American playwright who lived and wrote award-winning plays and films in Key West for 34 years. For information, call 305-204-4527. The exhibit is located at 513 Truman Ave.

Historic Tours of America
HTA offers all locals with Monroe County ID a free ride on the Conch Tour Train and the Old Town Trolley, as well as other attractions such as the Key West Aquarium and the Key West Museum. The attractions are located in and around Mallory Square.

KWAHS offers free self-guided history tours

Key West Art & Historical Society offers a multi-platform, self-guided and free tour of the island's historic sites designed to highlight the unique multicultural history and heritage through the Key West Historic Marker Tours website and phone app.

Originally designed and launched by Bruce Neff under the auspices of Key West Historic Markers Inc., the program merged with the Key West Art & Historical Society in 2018. It consists of three primary elements: a map of cultural and museum attractions featuring 121 historic location markers that pay tribute to Key West's colorful past; a phone app that acts as a personal museum docent to support those taking the self-led walking tours; and a comprehensive website that provides a virtual tour of Key West, historic background and community information, digital collections of local postcards and cigar box art and links to Google maps.

Key West has one of the largest historic districts with the densest collection of historic wood-frame buildings in the country. The island's history encompasses unique architecture, Civil War forts, famous authors' homes, connection to wars and revolutions, once-thriving turtle and sponging industries, sunken treasure galleons, slave ships, Flagler's railroad, boom and bust economies and much more.

To plan a tour, visit the Key West Historic Marker Tour website at http://www.kwhmt.org, download the free phone app at http://www.keywestoncell.com, or call 305-507-0300 for a free Key West "Voices of History" phone tour.

For information, contact curator Cori Convertito at 305-295-6616, Ext. 112.
Paparazzi in Paradise

“Paparazzi in Paradise” is a photo-driven entertainment feature compiled by Citizen staffers from in-house and contributed photos. Snaps of social events, arts and entertainment, related activities and other “wild art” is welcomed for submissions to these pages. Send invitations to cover events keywestphotos@gmail.com, and we will do our best to get a photographer there. If we can’t make it, send your photographs of and information from the event and we will try to get them into publication.

From left, Island Alex, Bobbi Low Norris and Jeep Caliwood are seen performing music ranging from metal to jazz at the ninth annual Key West Musicians Festival at the Smokin’ Tuna Saloon.

From left, Steve Schultz and his wife, U.S. Rep Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, join their Key West friends Diane Shelby, Ann Henderson, Jeffrey Harwell, Lynn Kaufelt and Matthew Helmerich on Monday at Antonia’s on Duval Street.

Island House’s Patrick Herwood shows off the new decking and pool resurfacing recently completed at the resort.

Christopher Peterson, left, is comforted by Tom Mill, brother of the late James Mill Peterson’s partner of 15 years. A celebration of life was held for James Mill at La Te Da.
fun stuff

TO DO

LOCALS NIGHT OUT ON DUVAL
Raffle to benefit Habitat for Humanity

Friday & Saturday
October 4 & 5
5 PM - 11 PM

Key West Cares Fundraising at participating locations.

★ RESTAURANT DISCOUNTS
★ SHOPPING DISCOUNTS
★ LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT
★ SCAVENGER HUNT

For details go to LOCALS NIGHT OUT FACEBOOK PAGE

Brought to you by Wyland Galleries

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR
OCTOBER 4TH - 10TH

JOKER
JUDY
WRINKLES
DOWNTON ABBEY
LINDA RONSTADT
OFFICIAL SECRETS

TROPIC CINEMA
KEY WEST

BUY TIX www.TropicCinema.com
416 EATON STREET • 305.396.4944
fun stuff to do

Orchids in Paradise
at the Curry Mansion

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4TH AT 6PM
511 CAROLINE STREET

A Karen for Queen Event to Benefit AH Monroe
You are cordially invited
for hors d’oeuvres provided by the
Iron Chefs and open bar provided by the
Curry Mansion on October 4th at six o’clock
in the evening. We will have beautiful and
uniquely arranged orchids for auction, with
many outstanding pots and other unique
vessels decorated by local artists.

A night to remember and to help
our community,
with auctioneer Bucky Montgomery and
special guest Tommy Ryan presiding.
$20 suggested donation at the door
for an auction paddle.

I look forward to
seeing you, Karen

Pier House
RESORT & SPA

goes pink
WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 16, 2019
ZONTA BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR FASHION SHOW
kick-off party
Benefiting the Annual ABC Race
6:00PM to 8:30PM
$10 donation admission fee
Donations of a gently used or new bra
are appreciated and will go to the
freethegirls.org

PARTY & CONCERT ON THE BEACH
LIVE MUSIC BY PRIME MOVERS
FROM 6:00PM - 8:30PM
Complimentary Finger Foods
$5 Drinks • Raffle Prizes • Silent Auction

VISIT OUR SPA AND
refresh with care
The Spa at Pier House
8:30AM to 6:00PM
50% OFF
SELECT TREATMENTS

ONE DUVAL STREET
305.296.4600 | PIERHOUSE.COM
Discover Keys birds, marine life, flora at four environmental attractions

Inviting environmental attractions await visitors to the Florida Keys and Key West, whether they're interested in learning about marine mammals, sea turtles, wild birds or the plant species that add color and lushness to the island chain's landscape.

- **Florida Keys Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center**
  Located at Mile Marker 93.6 in the Upper Keys. Bird lovers can stroll the sanctuary's boardwalk and view these beautiful creatures, read each inhabitant's story and expand their knowledge about wild birds and their protection — or help support the place through volunteer opportunities and adopt-a-bird programs. Visit http://www.keepthemflying.org/.

- **The Turtle Hospital**
  Visitors can “meet” rescued sea turtles during behind-the-scenes tours of the planet's first state-licensed veterinary hospital specializing in the fascinating creatures, located at Mile Marker 48.5 in Marathon. A dedicated team at The Turtle Hospital rescues, rehabilitates and nurtures sick and injured turtles and, whenever possible, releases them back into the ocean.

- **Florida Keys Aquarium Encounters**
  Marathon's Florida Keys Aquarium Encounters, at Mile Marker 53, spotlights marine conservation and the underwater habitats of the Keys. Visitors can enjoy an immersive experience with reef fish, invertebrates, stingrays and even sharks — without entering the ocean. They can also feed reef fish, which isn't allowed while snorkeling or diving in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary because it disrupts the animals' natural behavior. The facility's signature feature is a coral reef exhibit and shark habitat housed in a gigantic 200,000-gallon interconnected saltwater aquarium.

- **Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden**
  Known as the only frost-free botanical garden in the continental United States, this haven for nature lovers contains trees and plants native to the Florida Keys, Cuba and the Caribbean. Situated at 5210 College Road, just across Cow Key Channel from Key West, the 15-acre garden also is a paradise for bird watchers.
  Visit http://www.keywest.garden/.
  These are just a few of the countless Florida Keys spots where visitors can discover the island chain's natural beauty, unique ecosystems and living things. Experiencing one or all four, and forging a connection with the environmental aspects they showcase, adds meaning and memories to a Keys vacation.
  For information on Florida Keys green travel, visit http://www.flakeys.com/greentravel.

A birder need not leave Monroe County to possibly spot 14 different rare ornithological species. There are also plenty of opportunities to find more common species here as well.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission earlier this year released its Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail website. The state entity has been tweaking the site and added more than 500 new pages. It is a handy, electronic tool for any amateur or expert birder looking to locate one of their feathered friends.

In Monroe County, there are 10 public areas that FWC officials say offers a range of species to entice bird watchers. They include Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park, John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, Long Key State Park, Curry Hammock State Park, Crane Point Museum and Nature Center, Bahia Honda State Park and National Key Deer Refuge. The other three are located in and around Key West.

For information on the birding trails in the Keys, visit http://www.florida-birdingtrail.com.
Top 10 movies that practically ended the star’s career

BY SHIRREL RHODES

Stars who pick bad movies can kill their careers. A number of A-list actors have suffered the consequence of bad career choices.

Here are 10 that stand out:

10) “Pluto Nash” (2002) — Eddie Murphy was king of stand-up comedians, a star who churned out solid box office hits throughout the 1980s and 90s. But then he started to turn out flop after flop … perhaps the worst being the space spoof “Pluto Nash.”

9) “Waterworld” (1995) — Kevin Costner was a superstar with dozens of hit films, among them the Oscar-spawning “Dances with Wolves.” But then he insisted on making a movie about a man with gills.

8) “The Love Guru” (2008) — Not only was Mike Myers the voice of Shrek, he starred in those popular “Austin Powers” movies. But after disappointing his fans in “The Love Guru” Myers pretty much disappeared from the big screen.

7) “I Know Who Killed Me” (2007) — Lindsay Lohan’s film career was already on a downward path, a result of her wild partying ways. So when Lohan starred as a stripper in this bizarre thriller, her career seemed to die, too.

6. “Iron Man” (2008) — Having star power, Terrence Howard commanded more money than Robert Downey Jr. in the first “Iron Man” film. However, the actor was recast when he wasn’t willing to take a pay cut for the second installment in the superhero franchise. His friend Don Cheadle took his place, and Howard went on to TV.

5) “Freddy Got Fingered” (2001) — The comedian Tom Green got to write, direct and star in his own big studio movie. A surrealistic dark comedy about an aspiring cartoonist, “Freddy” didn’t ring the bell. And Green’s career came to a screeching halt.

4) “Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith” (2005) — Hayden Christiansen played Anakin Skywalker in George Lucas’s “Star Wars” prequels. But thanks to a wooden performance, the actor slipped into obscurity.

3) “Boat Trip” (2002) — Cuba Gooding Jr. won an Academy Award for his performance in “Jerry McGuire,” but he never recovered from “Boat Trip.” This career debacle may have been ahead of its time by taking on LGBT social issues.

2) “Abduction” (2011) — After the “Twilight” movies, Taylor Lautner’s career went into eclipse. After his follow-up movie “Abduction” was panned by critics and audiences alike, his career went dark.

1) “Showgirls” (1995) — Elizabeth Berkley’s role in Paul Verhoeven’s erotic extravaganza is credited with ruining her career. Now the campy extravaganza about a Las Vegas dancer is being celebrated as a cult classic.

Other star-killer movies?

Superhero roles have not been kind. Halle Berry barely recovered from the lackluster “Catwoman.” “Batman & Robin” drove Chris O’Donnell to TV. And “Superman Returns” starred whom? Brandon Routh hasn’t done much high flying lately.

srhoades@aol.com
The Joker first appeared in a 1940 “Batman” comic book. This deranged villain was the creation of Bob Kane, Bill Finger and Jerry Robinson.

As Kane told it, “The Joker looks like Conrad Veidt — you know, the actor in ‘The Man Who Laughs,’ the 1928 movie based on the novel by Victor Hugo ... Bill Finger had a book with a photograph of Conrad Veidt and showed it to me and said, ‘Here’s the Joker.’ ”

Thus, the insane villain with a clown’s smile was born.

The Joker has been listed among the greatest comic book villains and fictional characters ever created. In 2006, the Joker was No. 1 on Wizard magazine’s 100 Greatest Villains of All Time. And in 2011, Wired magazine named him Comics’ Greatest Supervillain.

When I consulted at DC Comics, the editors saw The Joker as Batman’s main nemesis. “The Clown Prince of Crime,” he was called.


Now Warner Bros. (the parent company of DC Comics) is spinning off a “Joker” movie starring Joaquin Phoenix.

Good casting, Phoenix himself is a slightly crazy actor. Remember his 2008 charade about quitting movies to become a rapper?

“Joker” opens Friday at both Tropic Cinema and Regal Key West.

In this so-called psychological thriller directed by Todd Phillips, we get yet another origin story. The film follows Arthur Fleck (Phoenix), a failed stand-up comedian who turns to a life of crime.

Phoenix saw the role as a “character study.” He says, “I always felt, like, there were characters in comics who were really interesting and deserve the opportunity to be kind of studied.”

He wanted to create a character whom audiences could not identify. So rather than studying the performances of previous Joker actors, he read a book on political assassins to get a sense of how killers think. He lost 52 pounds for the role and developed a laugh based on videos of insane people.

In the film, Dante Pereira-Olson plays a young Bruce Wayne, the alter ego of Batman. Douglas Hodge is cast as Alfred, the Wayne household’s ever-present butler. Francis Conroy is Arthur Fleck’s mother, and Zazie Beetz is his love interest. Robert De Niro appears as a talk show host who has a part in Arthur’s downfall.

As Phillips describes his movie: “No one is going to fly in it. No buildings are going to collapse. It’s just going to be on the ground, so to speak.” No fancy CGI, no capes, no high-speed chases. It’s 45 minutes into the movie before anyone fires a gun. “It’s a slow burn,” says the director.

Phillips pitched the idea for “Joker” to Warner Bros. as a low-budget standalone film — costing only $55 million, about a third of most DC superhero movies.

Jared Leto, who currently portrays The Joker in the DC Extended Universe movies, was displeased with the idea of “multiple different contemporary Joker characters.” However, after the success of the standalone “Wonder Woman” film, Warner Bros. decided to create a new series of comic book films under the rubric of DC Black. These new movies will have non-traditional takes on the heroes and villains of DC.

Phoenix liked the idea that this would be an intimate, small-budget movie. And being a one-shot film, he wouldn’t have to repeat the role like with a Marvel blockbuster.

The actor got so wound up in his role as a deranged psychopath that he sometimes had to walk off the set to compose himself. As De Niro tells it, “Joaquin was very intense in what he was doing, as it should be, as he should be.”

“Joker” is the first live-action “Batman” film to receive an R-rating due to its “strong bloody violence, disturbing behavior, language and brief sexual images.” ComicBook.com found the film to be “scarier than most 2019 horror films.” Indiewire called it “potentially toxic.”

No, this is not your kid’s comic book movie.

Reviewed by
SHIRREL RHOADES

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At the Galleries

TSKW

The Studios of Key West gears up for festival season with two new exhibitions opening Thursday, Oct. 3, with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m.

“Master Slacker: Jack McDonald & the Wonderdog Crew,” will open in the Sanger Gallery and “Angels & Insects: Flower Conroy,” will be on display in the Zabar Lobby Gallery.

McDonald was born and raised in Key West and grew up behind the scenes at the Red Barn Theatre. His larger-than-life artistic creations pop up all over the island, taking the form of parade floats, theatre sets, festival props and party backdrops. Inspired by street art, for his solo show McDonald uses spray paint, stencils and acrylics to create a series of off-the-wall immersive paintings with graffiti-inspired concepts.

The First Thursday event is also the opening for “Angels & Insects,” art assemblages and poems by island poet Conroy. Named the 2017 Key West Poet Laureate, Conroy delves deep into themes of love, loss, spirituality, religion, mortality and extinction. Lately, she’s turned her eye toward the visual, and taken inspiration from Cesar A. Cruz’s idea that “art should comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable.” In her newest endeavor, Conroy creates art assemblages using plastic toothpicks, broken jewelry, rubber toys, bones and Christmas lights — and of course, language — to convey weighty ideas with humor and camp.

Leading up to Fantasy Fest, the Wonderdog crew joins in the fun, turning the open space in the Sanger Gallery into a workshop, where glitter, glue, tulle and feathers are transformed into costumes, props and other creative accouterments.

The Studios of Key West is located at 533 Eaton St. For information, visit http://www.tskw.org or call 305-296-0458.

SALT Gallery

For the month of October, SALT Gallery will feature “Women with Fish,” a collection of vibrant acrylic paintings by local artist Pam Hobbs, celebrating with an opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 4.

“I came to Key West on vacation after graduating from the Kansas City Art Institute in the late ’70s and never left,” Hobbs says. “Overwhelmed by the color and beauty of the Keys, I use this tropical paradise as an inspiration for my imagery, as well as for my color palette. Taking chances at every opportunity, I love to give my viewer a glimpse into how I think the world should be seen, with swirling skies, bright colors and bold shapes.”

For “Women with Fish,” her newest series of acrylic paintings, Hobbs has elected to try something a little different than her norm. “This is the year of the woman — let’s salute her!” she said. “I had an idea for one painting of a strong woman holding a fish and it grew into 20-plus paintings. I don’t usually paint people so this was a bit out of my comfort zone, but I like a good challenge.”

SALT Gallery is located at 830 Fleming St. For information, call 305-517-6088 or visit http://www.saltislandprovisions.com.

Key West Art Center

The Key West Art Center has announced a “Sip and Create” series of fun, creative and unique classes offered beginning in October.

Classes include various types of Jewelry making, basket weaving, buoy painting and more, taught by instructors with experience in their relative fields.

The Key West Art Center is located at 301 Front St. For information, visit http://www.keywestartcenter.com or call 305-294-1241.

Zazoo Fine Art Gallery

Don Oriolo, artist of the cartoons Felix the Cat, Casper the Friendly Ghost, Elvis, Betty Boop and Popeye will be making appearance at the Zazoo Gallery from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 23, and from 2 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 24-25.

Oriolo will be painting and discussing his work.

The Zazoo Fine Art Gallery is located at 622 Duval St. For information, visit http://www.zazooart.com or call 305-294-8925.
While trying to remember the feeling of having my first cellphone in Key West back around 1999, I couldn't help but wonder if it compared to the feeling of having my own "Cuban" cellphone in 2012 or so. For us in the news-gathering business, being able to instantly communicate via cellphone with tipsters, and even our bosses, was a boon for all. Before that, all we'd get was a beeper message that usually read ‘205 ... 911.’ All that meant was that our little, tyrannical, Napoleonic editor, who resided at extension #205 and shall remain nameless, wanted to chat …immediately, emergency or no. This then meant finding a pay phone and a quarter and calling into the office.

The electronic leash upgrade to a cellphone took a little getting used to, but other than the high price of minutes, it made life much easier, and well worth it. But I have to say, scoring my first Cuban SIM card, and sliding it into a cheap, used, out-of-date Samsung Galaxy from eBay, was even more of a life-changing moment. Before this, if you wanted to reach someone via phone, a few hurdles required jumping. I guess it’s a bit of a “chicken or the egg” scenario, but you definitely needed both of the following to get anything done.

The first chore was finding a phone card. For many years, the phone company, Etecsa, sold hard plastic credit cards with all manner of artwork including the crown jewel, an image of the John Lennon statue in Havana. Somewhere in a box, my collection, including that of the Liverpudlian, and some 50 different cards awaits unearth- ing. After innumerable amounts of time searching the Cuban city and countryside, I finally realized that the Hotel Nacional de Cuba in Vedado always had them for sale. On top of that, they had pay phones that actually worked.

I must admit, for a good, long time, it was nice to completely disconnect from cellphones while visiting Cuba. In those days, from 1999 to 2009-ish, you never saw cellphones in Cuba, and you got by without. However, the amount of time wasted sitting around waiting for “Uncle Jorge,” or whomever our ride was, or trying to notify your host two provinces away of our incredible lateness was an aspect of the trip I could do without. More often than not, a card couldn’t be found or nearby pay phones were of questionable functionality.

These days, I have four or five of these old Samsung cellphones loaded with Cuban SIM cards that not only make communicating with my tour clients a breeze, but also all the people along the way. I’ve effortlessly changed dinner plans, horseback riding trips and ordered more than one birthday cake, all while zipping along the Autopista at 80 mph. On top of that, calls to the U.S., while a tad pricey, are a piece of cake. So it’s true, the presence of cellphones has completely permeated the island, and as this happened, all kinds of new photo ops began to present. The first, now cliché, photo was the Wi-Fi hotspot shot. With limited Wi-Fi, people crowded around hotels with cellphones and headphones, “Facetiming” with friends and family abroad. All along, I knew I wanted to get a shot of someone texting, or least blabbing into a cellphone from the comfort of a classic American car.

The photo above, outside the “El Gallo” market in Havana, isn’t perfect by any means, but it’s a start. High on my November shot list for Cuba will be to get someone texting while driving a classic American car on the Malecon .... safely, of course.

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