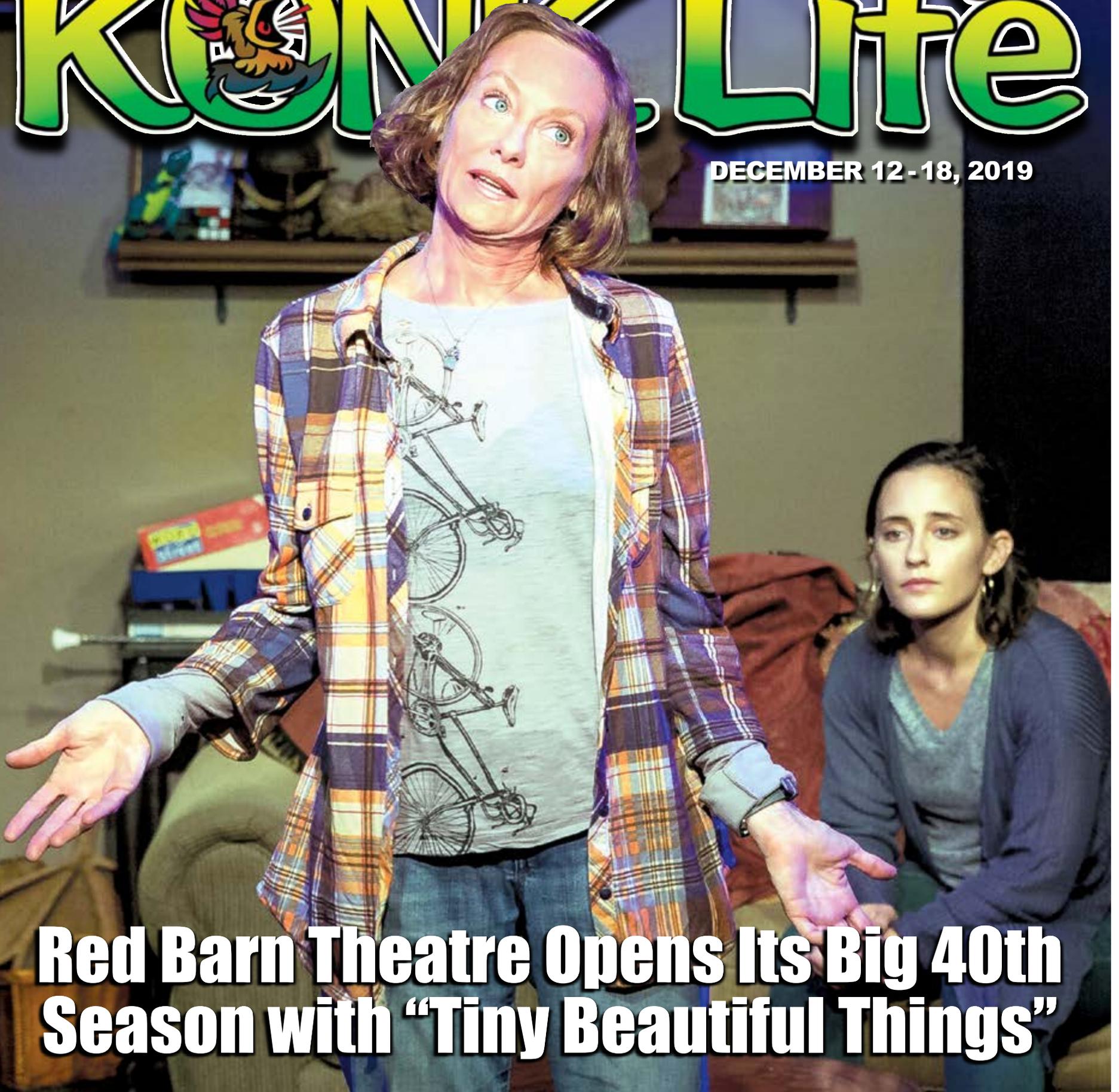


KONIK Life

DECEMBER 12 - 18, 2019



Red Barn Theatre Opens Its Big 40th Season with "Tiny Beautiful Things"

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Photos: Larry Blackburn • Cover: JT Thompson

Daytime markets possible at Mallory Square Commission says

BY TERRY SCHMIDA
KONK LIFE STAFF WRITER

The City Commission on Tuesday gave conditional but near-unanimous encouragement to possible expansion of the famed daily Sunset Celebration at Mallory Square.

The commission, by a margin of six-to-one, voted to renew the five-year lease of the Cultural Preservation Society on the basis of two previous five-year agreements. The Society has managed the nightly attraction for the past decade. This time around, however, the CPS will be allowed/encouraged to experiment with “the extended use and occupancy of the area for the purposes of providing an artisans’ market on days when cruise ships are in port,”

according to the meeting agenda.

The sole dissident in the vote was Commissioner Sam Kaufman who, while agreeing that “activating Mallory Square during the day makes a lot of sense, especially when cruise ships are in,” urged a cautious approach. Earlier, Kaufman put forward a motion to postpone the resolution for another day, but didn’t receive a second, and later withdrew the motion.

Among the issues being discussed were the lack of shaded areas around Mallory Square during the heat of the day, and who exactly would be responsible for daytime activities there, as some confusion arose on that front. The project was to be an “artisan-type market” arranged by the CPS, not to be confused with the Key West Artisan Market, an

organization separate from the CPS. However, that organization and others like it would be encouraged to collaborate with the CPS so that all interested parties would be able to take part.

Any further steps in the direction of a daytime vendor presence in the square would ultimately require the approval of City Manager Greg Veliz, a point on which Commissioner Clayton Lopez provided some clarification..

“I alluded to that in the meeting,” he said afterward, hinting that his support was conditional upon the city retaining the power to approve or deny daytime market proposals by the CPS.

“Just go forward with what we have tonight,” Commissioner Weekley agreed, adding that he felt the current agreement was adequate to

address any concerns.

“I’d like to keep things as they are,” the CPS Treasurer Ryan Steimers agreed.

And Sunset Celebration performer Will Soto spoke about prospects for the square during the day-time.

“I’m not kidding you, it’s 120 degrees there during the day, on the bricks,” Soto said. “There’s no way you’re going to get people out there in the afternoon without addressing the shade issues.”

The final resolution was that the CPS shall also have the right to establish guidelines, subject to approval by the City Manager . . . The extended period will begin at 10 a.m. and continue into the Sunset Celebration.”

The City Commission will meet next in the new year. ■

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KONK Life

Jackson Square metered parking OK'd Commissioners also debate meeting once a month during day

BY PRU SOWERS
KONK LIFE STAFF WRITER



Figuring out parking regulations in Key West is a moving target. But, after several postponements, the formerly free nighttime parking lot behind the county courthouse on Thomas Street will transition to a metered lot in about a month.

However, to lessen the pain to locals who had complained about losing one of the last free public parking opportunities in the downtown area, city commissioners voted to allow four parking permit programs to use the lot and adjoining 500 block of Thomas Street, which will also be metered, in the evening.

The parking lot is currently limited to Monroe County Courthouse staff during the day but open to the public for free after 6 pm. Now, drivers will have to pay by the hour to park there in the evening. But three residential parking permit programs and one program aimed at Monroe County drivers living close to Key West will be permitted to park for free in the Jackson Square area for a minimum of four hours per evening.

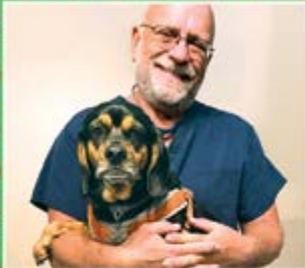
The parking permit programs that if approved on second reading will be allowed to use the Jackson Square parking area are the “basic” Key West workforce permit program, which allows downtown workers to park at the Truman Waterfront Park and in the Old Town Park and Ride garage for

\$25 a month; the “deluxe” resident permit program, which for \$175 per month, not including tax, allows a driver to park up to 12 hours a day at any meter; the residential permit program where for \$20 a year drivers can park up to four hours a day for free in five different public parking lots; and the Monroe County residential program, which charges county residents \$25 a year to park up to four hours a day for free at the Truman Waterfront Park. Commissioners sweetened the deal for county residents by voting to increase the area covered by the permit from Mile Marker 11 to 33.

“We’ve tried to mitigate the impact to residents, both in Key West and up the Keys,” said Key West Parking Director John Wilkins.

The vote to meter Jackson Square and the 500 block of Thomas Square passed narrowly by 4-3. Commissioners Clayton Lopez, Billy Wardlow and Greg Davila have consistently voted against the resolution, calling it another tax on residents. Indeed, the resolution was initially voted down on Sept. 4. But a need for new revenue for city spending and the inclusion of local parking permit holders to park for free for a minimum of four hours daily convinced the commission majority to approve the metering program. Initially projected to provide a \$244,000 increase in annual revenue to the city, that estimate has been reduced to \$100,000 in the current city budget.

► Continued on page 8



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Known Unknowns

By Roger C. Kostmayer

America is eleven months away from a presidential election, which is both a political eternity and a looming event. Anything is possible, but the probable is limited.

A few known unknowns are: The make up of the Democratic ticket - their choice for president and vice president; The impact of a presidential impeachment on both the public and US Senators; The Electoral College vote in 2020; Whether next year's elections will be fair and interference free; And, will the economy feel good or bad to average voters next Fall.

There are also a few unknown unknowns, and they include: New legal rulings by the courts; What Trump's tax re-

turns reveal; Possible "smoking gun" testimony from key actors at legal risk, such as Bolton, Pompeo, Pence, Giuliani, McGahn, Mulvaney, Barr and others; and what the final Republican ticket will look like in November 2020.

To get elected or reelected to our highest office, a candidate must get sufficient popular votes to win those states that produce a majority of electoral votes. For this incumbent president to have a reasonable path to reelection, he must win exactly the right states, as he did (with support from Russia and Putin in 2016) by 77,000 votes. The polls and data show a president who has never been able to reach 50% approval (of the popular vote), "under water" today in states he needs to win.

The key swing states in 2016 were Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania where he is now behind by 14%, 14% and 7% respectively. Surprisingly, the President is also minus 13% in both Iowa and Minnesota, and minus 5% in Ohio. Even two blockbuster states Trump won, Florida and Texas, are close, only plus 1% and 5% today and getting closer.

The conclusion for Democrats and others who are concerned is to work hard and avoid complacency. If they get out the young, educated, suburbanite and minority voters, and continue to draw moderates and Independents who want a return to "normalcy", they will give America a new President and new Senate Leader next November. ■

The Choice

By Roger C. Kostmayer

WE THE PEOPLE are about to witness one of the most critical decisions in our history. The decision is not just about the impeachable acts and pattern of behavior by a current President, or the violence they do to our laws and traditions. Nor is it about gaining partisan political advantage. What's at stake is the future - and the future means behavior this historic precedent will or will not allow all presidents of any party.

The impeachment decisions that will be made can mean the difference between democracy and fascism; between free and fair elections and the ability to suborn foreign attacks on our system of government; between enforcing a sacred oath of office and using American power to leverage personal gain.

The judgments by the people and each Senator should be based on the evidence and the welfare of our nation. The specific charges will likely include Bribery and extortion most clearly revealed in the Presi-

dent's words he shared publicly from a telephone conversation with the president of a vulnerable foreign ally. Charges may include Abuse of Power for attempting to pervert the will of Congress by withholding \$391 million of military aid. There will also be multiple charges and evidence of Obstruction of Congress and Obstruction of Justice.

At the end of the day, both the People and each Senator should follow President Lincoln's advice by listening to their "better angels". ■

Sounds of the Season

BY SARA HOREL
KONK LIFE STUDENT WRITER

Drum roll, please! The steel pan is very popular in Key West. Mike Truhan, who has been teaching the steel pan for 20 years now at Key West High School, states that it is “very rewarding.” As the steel pan is only a drum, Truhan points out that, “a student can find success fairly quickly without ever having to have experience on it.”

Ironically, he does not actually play the steel pan himself. He states, “My experience and degree in college is in the field of music education, which is the skill to teach learners how to play instruments, even though I don’t necessarily spend time on the instrument myself. So, steel drum is not something



The Key West High School steel pan band during their first performance of the year. Photo by SARA HOREL

I ever played, but I do enjoy teaching it.” He adds, “At least I get the time to work with students on it... Someday,

maybe, if I have enough time, I’ll actually learn how to do it.”

Truhan, however, is still capable of much musical talent. “I grew up as a brass player, playing low brass, tuba, for the most part. I also play guitar because I’ve spent some time on it. I do teach guitar as well, and I’ve spent more time on that than I ever have steel drum.” As a former band director, he also says that he can play all types of band instruments.

Truhan’s classes had their very first performance of the year just last month at Key West High School. He notes how he was “very, very pleased” with the show. “I think all the songs went successfully. We had one group that was made up of all new performers and another that was made up of already experienced performers, and I really think

that the new people went out there and did the best that could possibly be done, which was incredible.”

In addition to their first performance at the high school, Truhan says that they will also perform at different places around the island. “We try to perform at least once in nine weeks, but it doesn’t stop there.” They also had a show at the Customs House downtown for a museum event. “We’ll likewise perform at the holiday concert here, which should be about the second week of December.” That concert that will be at the Key West High School auditorium on December 11-12 at 7 p.m. and should help get the holiday spirits going, but if you miss that performance, Truhan assures, “We also have some thoughts lined up for spring.” ■

20 Years of Service Award



City Manager Greg Veliz, during Tuesday’s City Commission meeting, commended Charlie Pons for his 20 years of service to the City.

Pons started with the City as a maintenance worker in 1999, but over the

years has primarily served as a mail courier and bus driver. Currently, Pons drives the Duval Loop. “It’s been a tremendous pleasure to work with Charlie,” said Veliz, presenting Pons with a gold watch and a 20-years of service challenge coin. ■



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Forth Annual I Love Stock Island Festival Offers a Myriad of Events and Activities



The I Love Stock Island Festival is a city-wide event December 13-15 celebrating the heritage and history of Stock Island. Not limited to any one specific venue or happening, guests are invited to experience three full days of free & ticketed events showcasing Stock Island's culinary, entertainment, artistic, cultural & historic gems.

The Festival kicks off Friday December 13 with 'Food Truck Finds' from 7 am to 4 pm where guests are invited to discover the flourishing food truck scene on Stock Island. These trucks and take-aways are hidden in plain sight all over the island and are excited to have guests try a special \$5 sample to taste what they have to offer. Stops include Taco Express Key West on Cross Street next to the bus stop behind the Sandal Factory, Yahman's Authentic Jamaican Jerk Shack at the end of Front Street, One Love Key West with Chef Clive at Stock Island Chevron, DeLuna's Bar & Grill at Boyd's Key West Campground, Until It's Gone - Food Truck off Peninsular in KW Fisheries trap yard. The Jerk KW @ The Art Shack Key West 6404 Front Street. Stock Rock Cafe @ Cow Key Marina on 5th Ave. and The Oceans Edge Café/Starbucks at Oceans Edge Key West Resort and Marina.

Also tempting to foodies, Friday the Taste of Stock Island ticketed event starts at 4 pm. Guests travel by trolley to seven or more stops for amazing small plate pairings. This is an intimate affair offering an authentic experience to meet the chefs, restaurant owners, artists and musicians that make Stock



Island unique. Participating businesses include FishBusterz Retail Seafood Market, Roostica Wood-Fire Pizzeria, Stock Rock Cafe, DOLPHIN DELI, Hogfish Bar & Grill, El Mocho Restaurant, Matt's Stock Island Kitchen & Bar, The Barrel House, Stock Island Yacht Club's LL's Test Kitchen, Oceans Edge Key West Resort and Marina Yellowfin Restaurant, The Jerk KW Caribbean Food Truck at The Art Shack Key West and Keys Fresh Seafood Market & (soon to open) The Docks Stock Island Restaurant with booze by Key West Distilling, Cayo Hueso Brewing, Key West Smuggler Whiskey.

Taste of Stock Island guests will be finished just in time to enjoy the 3rd annual Lighted Boat Parade at Stock Island Marina Village presented by Sunset Watersports. This free event starts at 4 pm with happy hour at the Perry Hotel, parade at 7 pm. Guests will delight seeing the bright lights on everything from tri-masted schooners to dinghies to the Shrimp boats that call Stock Island home. Come early for great food at Matt's, the Salty Oyster and the new Barrel House bbq joint as well as concessions and multiple bars throughout the property. Walk the docks to see spectacular decorations and lights on the boats and liveboards

who make Stock Island Marina Village home. Free parking and viewing events at Stock Island Marina Village and Safe Harbor with live music at Hog Fish Bar & Grill at the official after party. This is Stock Island can't miss holiday tradition.

On Saturday December 14, visitors and locals alike are encouraged to Discover Stock Island and find a little bit of Old Key West. At 9 am, the ILSI Rooster Run 5k presented by FYT will offer a course that takes runners in and around our waterfronts, neighborhoods and businesses. T-shirts, medals and refreshments are offered to participants. The Cuban Pig Roast: Chinabox Challenge II is open to amateur and professional chefs. Winners will receive trophies and bragging rights. Attendees will purchase \$5 tasting ticket and vote for their favorite; judges will score and select the Judge's Choice winner. Free guided tours by Up the Keys and Sunset Watersports will offer insights into all our businesses, restaurants, galleries and attractions. Other highlights include \$10 mini mangrove kayak tours from Kayak Kings of Key West, \$35 Sail General Patton's When & If, holiday shopping at eclectic artist studios with the Arts Strolls and the Holiday mart at Stock Island Marina Village and brunch with Santa at the Stock Island Yacht Club.

Saturday evening there's a free, family friendly Dive-In Movie showing the Grinch at Ocean's Edge Resort and Marina and an adult party at The Art Shack with live music, libations and corn hole.

For the Stock Island Studio Tours Sunday from 11 am to 4 pm, use the phone map to bike (or drive) to visit the many talented and eclectic artists that make Stock Island their home.

Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm the famous Hogfish Bar & Grill will offer an amazingly delicious and affordable old time classic shrimp boil featuring Key West Pink Shrimp fresh off the shrimp boats, smoked sausage, new potatoes and sweet corn on the cob. Guests are invited to kick back and enjoy the freshest seafood, panoramic waterfront views and outdoor dining. Or for another ocean-side experience, hit the Brunch & Pool Party at Matt's Stock Island Kitchen from 10:30 am to 2 pm. This smorgasbord features three amazing buffets, unlimited small plates, unlimited bloody mary's & mimosas and live music. Then guests are invited to hang out at their gorgeous pool and soak in the view. It's a great way to wind down from a full I Love Stock Island Festival.

Also on Sunday, Up the Keys van history tours will depart from Stock Island Marina Village at 11 and 12:30 pm; General Patton's boat, the SV When & If, will offer discounted sailing excursions at 10 am, noon, 2 and 4:30 pm from Stock Island Marina Village and the Sherriff's Animal Farm will be open for a free holiday open house, complete with Santa, from 1 to 3 pm.

Stock Island has always been the 'working side' of Key West. Many service businesses are located here along with the waterfront marine and commercial fishing, shrimp & lobster industries. It is home to more than 50 artists and craftsman. The marinas are expanding and two new first-class hotels have been built. There are so many good things happening, the I Love Stock Island Festival hopes to celebrate and encourage the community and visitors to come over and take a fresh look. For a complete schedule of events visit www.ILoveStockIsland.org. ■

Community invited to 6th Annual Parade of Paws & Holiday Bazaar family-fun fundraiser at Higgs Beach

On Saturday, December 14, the Florida Keys SPCA invites the public and their leashed canine friends to celebrate this year's Parade of Paws & Holiday Bazaar, a fur-tastic fundraiser and family-friendly event featuring a Blessing for the Animals at 9:45am by Reverend Steve Torrence, a promenade of dogs in costume around Higgs Beach at 10:00am, photos with Santa, a holiday bazaar with local vendors, live music, raffles, and a Smooch a Pooch booth for sloppy kisses until 2:00pm.

All proceeds from the 6th Annual Parade of Paws directly benefit the Animal Care Fund, a program that provides food, vaccinations, medical care, enrich-



Top four-legged fundraisers will earn crowns, fame and glory at the 6th Annual Parade of Paws at Higgs Dog Park in Key West on Saturday, December 14. (Provided photo)

raise over \$112,000 at this event in the past five years," says FKSPCA Development Director Tiffany Dunsmore.

Also slated is the crowing of the Royal Court, which celebrates the fundraising efforts of two special four-legged friends who have secured the most pledges from family, friends, and the community at large.

The Parade of Paws & Holiday Bazaar is one of numerous events happening during the island-wide Key West Holiday Fest, which runs through the month of December and is presented in part by the Lodging Association of the Florida Keys and Key West and the Monroe County Tourist Development Council. For more information, contact Tiffany at Tiffany@fkspca.org or call 305-294-4875 x 120. ■

ment and other needs for the care of animals served by the Florida Keys SPCA.

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Jackson Square...

► Continued from page 3

In other news from the Dec. 3 commission meeting, City Manager Greg Veliz reported that a meeting with the owner of the Margaritaville Key West Resort & Marina over the opening of Admiral's Cut may lead to an agreement without the city having to sue for the right to bridge the 45-foot water gap to allow pedestrian crossing. City officials have been trying to work out an agreement for years but Margaritaville and the previous owner, Westin Hotels, haven't budged.

"They [Margaritaville officials] mentioned they would have a couple of conditions they would want us to meet," Veliz said, not identifying the conditions. "They promised they would have those conditions to us within 90 days, or March 1."

"We've waited 15 years," said Commissioner Jimmy Weekley, who has led the drive to bridge Admiral's Cut. "What does [90 days] matter?"

Also, at the meeting, Mayor Teri Johnston floated her idea to switch city commission meetings to the daytime, instead of the current 5 pm start time. She also broached the idea of holding meetings once a month, instead of every other week. Commissioners did not vote on the proposal but agreed to take up the issue at their Jan. 15 workshop after talking with their constituents.

"In my particular district, my constituents work [during the day]," Commissioner Davila said.

"My biggest concern would be public participation," said Commissioner Lopez.

"I will tell you this," said Johnston. "It has very strong support from staff." ■

Free Community Gingerbread House Making Party for Kids of All Ages

A Holiday Event Hosted by Old Island Restoration Foundation

On Saturday, December 14, 2019, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the Old Island Restoration Foundation and Somerset Island Prep School will host the twelfth annual community gingerbread house making party in the garden of The Oldest House at 322 Duval Street in Key West. Kids of all ages are invited to attend this fun and free event. Each person attending is encouraged to bring edible items for house building and decorations, like gumdrops, candy canes or cookies to share. There will be tables full of house building and deco-

rating supplies to create any gingerbread house (or car or village or who knows what) that can be imagined. Every one attending will take home their gingerbread creations for a festive addition to holiday celebrations.

You are encouraged to use your imagination in choosing items to bring for house building and decorations, with the only rule being that it must be edible. Necco wafers make great roof tiles, and shredded wheat cereal can make a thatched roof. Shredded coconut can be used

for snow, marshmallows for snowmen, sugar cones for trees, and candies of all sorts for, well, all sorts of things.

Bring the family, enjoy the holiday music and create your gingerbread memories. The Oldest House is located on Duval Street, between Eaton and Caroline Streets. This wildly popular holiday event is generously underwritten by The Smith Law Firm. Several other community businesses and sup-

porters, including Little Room Jazz Club, Curry Mansion, Inn, Cheney Brothers, Jimmy Weekly, Fausto's Food Palace, Key West Citizen, Waterfront Brewery Restaurant, The Restaurant Store, Cole's Peace, Sheri L. Lohr of Sea Story Press, Audio Video In Paradise, and Four Star Rentals have generously contributed to bring this special holiday event to the community, which promises to be an unforgettable experience. ■



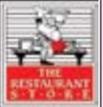


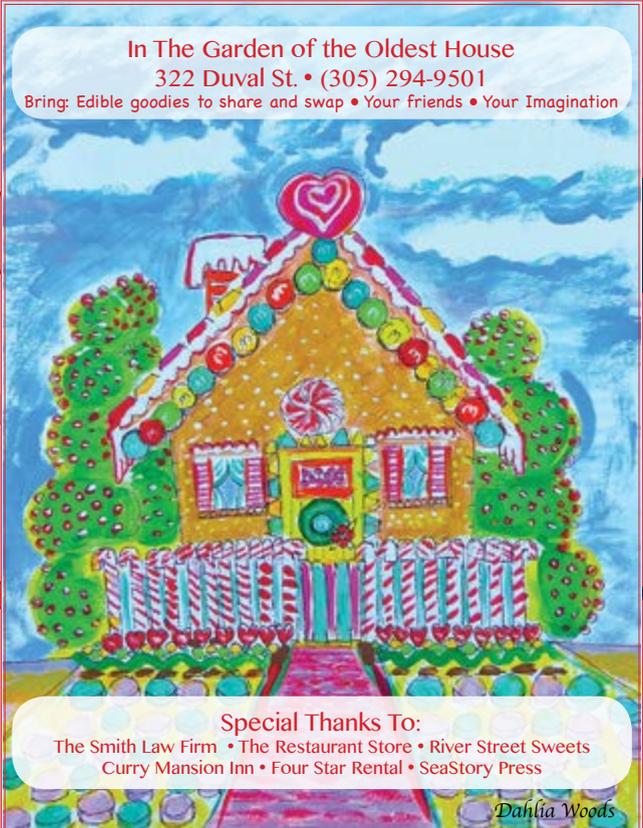
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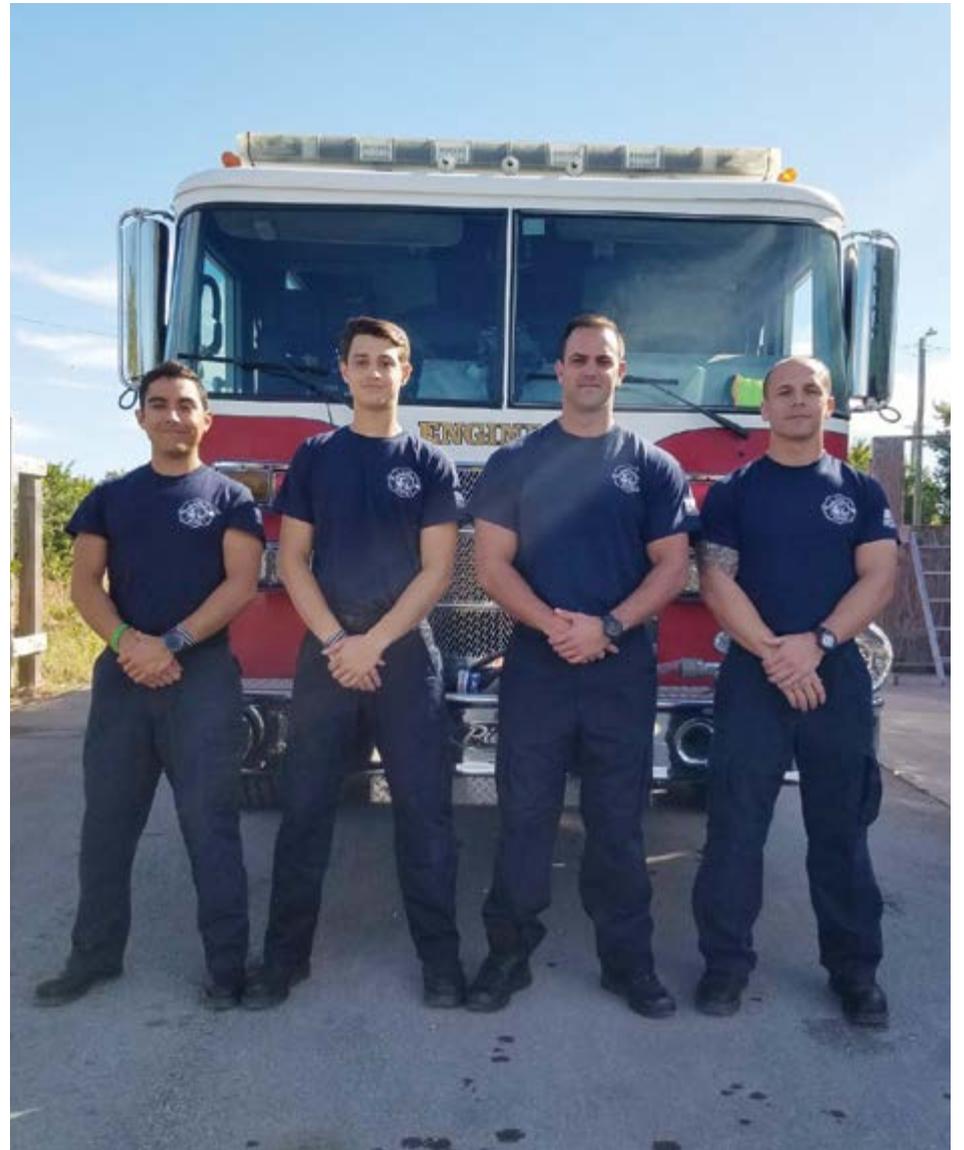


Photo: Monroe County Fire Rescue

Monroe County

Monroe County Fire Rescue is pleased to welcome its newest Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician's Angel Moreno, left, Zachary Muller, and Alex Amexaga, and Firefighter/Paramedic Michael

Martin. The new hires completed their orientation and have received their shift assignments. Moreno and Muller are graduates of the Monroe County Hot Shot program, a free firefighting and first responder training for qualified Monroe County residents. ■

Card Sound Toll Annual Pass Available Through January at Murray Nelson Government Center and Ocean Reef Club

The Card Sound Toll Annual Pass is available for purchase at the Monroe County Building Department Office in the Visitor's Center at the Ocean Reef Club on Tuesdays through Thursdays through Dec. 18 and then from Dec. 30 through Jan. 30. The Annual Pass is also available for purchase at the Murray Nelson Building in Suite 220 on Mondays and Fridays through Dec. 13 and then from Dec. 30 until Jan. 31. Offices are open between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The annual pass allows unlimited trips for the registered two-axle vehi-

cle through the toll plaza. The pass can be used from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2020, and the cost for the 2020 calendar year is \$370 payable by check or credit/debit card. Credit cards will include a \$7.50 convenience fee.

More information on the two Card Sound Toll discount programs and the Card Sound Toll Annual Pass application can be found at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/cardsoundtoll. For questions, call the Card Sound Toll Superintendent Don Crouch at 305-797-1702 or 305-453-8761. ■



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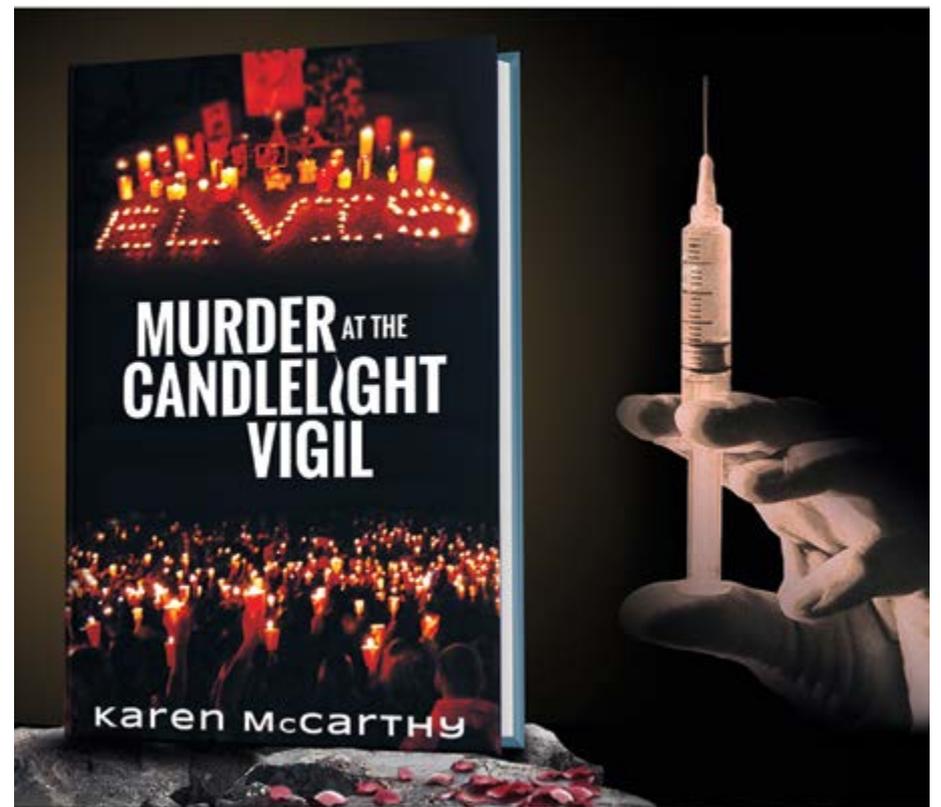
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Monroe County Receives \$15 Million for Voluntary Home Buyout Program

Monroe County

The State of Florida announced today Monroe County will receive \$15 million for the Voluntary Home Buyout Program. The voluntary program aims to reduce community risk by purchasing homes in high flood-risk areas impacted by Hurricane Irma. The City of Marathon received an additional \$5 million.

“This is so meaningful to Monroe County recovery,” said Christine

Hurley, Assistant Monroe County Administrator. “This is the beginning of changing the face of the Florida Keys by eliminating high risk properties and recreating a resilient community.”

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity said the funds should be contractually awarded to the County by May 2020, at which time Monroe County can begin program implementation. The County developed a grant application prior to deadline that in-

cluded 62 applicants in unincorporated Monroe County. This program allows the County to purchase both the land and the structure at the pre-Hurricane Irma fair market value.

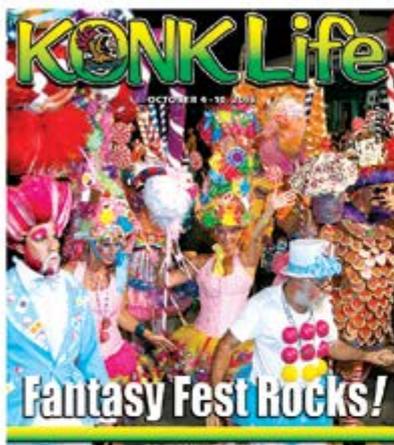
“Given the vast interest in the program, it is possible the County may seek more funding in future grant cycles,” said Helene Wetherington, Director of Monroe County Disaster Recovery.

The registration process for the program is closed but may open if the

State of Florida issues an additional funding. For additional information on the Voluntary Home Buyout Program and ongoing updates, visit www.monroecounty-fl.gov/hurricaneirma.

Following Hurricane Irma, the State designated a set aside for several programs for Monroe County, including Rebuild Florida programs. With the new allocation, the Hurricane Irma recovery set aside is now at \$105 million countywide. ■

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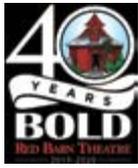
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Tiny Beautiful Things A beautiful thing to watch

By Joanna Brady



After reading the novel on which this play is based, I wondered how it could possibly be dramatized. It is after all, based on letters, i.e. the written word, rather than narrative, which would seem to preclude action on a stage. The book, by Cheryl Strayed (author of the NYT bestseller *Wild*, and a few other novels, was based on Ms. Strayed's exchange with troubled writers to her 'agony aunt' blog on an online zine called *Rumpus*. Imagine, if you will, a play based on some letters to Dear Abby or Ann Landers. Quite a challenge.

But in the play version of "Tiny Beautiful Things," opening Tuesday, Dec. 10 at the Red Barn Theater, the transition from letters to stage was very cleverly adapted by Nia Vardalos of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* fame. She has done so with brilliance and adeptness to produce a play which is intense and riveting about healing, forgiveness and a multitude of other serious themes; yet it manages to be entertaining.

The happy collaboration of Strayed's inspiration, Vardalos's editing, and the shrewd direction of Joy Hawkins, has brought out the best of the selected letters, and especially the answers. Sugar's answers. Sugar is the anonymous name Ms. Strayed chose to mask her true identity in the online column.

In her epistolary novel, *Tiny Beautiful Things*, it is Strayed's answers which reach into our souls with emotional depth. In fact, each answer becomes an essay in which she relates the problems in the letters to her own life. Strayed published the book in 2012 while still in her mid forties, but even then, she was a lady who had lived a very full life and drunk deeply at the spring of experience. This was a woman with a dysfunctional family, grief for her mother, and with the guilty burden of a broken marriage behind her; one who did the Pacific Trail



Photo by Larry Blackburn.

alone and on foot (it was on this experience she based her novel, *Wild*). Having survived horrendous life situations like child abuse and drug addiction, she was more than up to dispensing the advice sought by her correspondents.

Volunteers who answer suicide lines usually come to realize that most people who call in are not soliciting advice. They want someone who'll listen to their problems. And Strayed often verbalizes this truism in her book. Yes, if they skewer her for an answer, she frequently does give them specific direction, but much of the time, she tells them they already know what to do and she is only reinforcing their decisions by giving examples from her own experience. When she does dispense advice, she always nails it.

This becomes evident in the play. Nicole Nurenberg is excellent as Sugar, a writer and mother of two young children, bringing to the role just the right combination of vulnerability and authority. David Black, Morgan Fraga Pierson, and Arthur Crocker all excel as the letter writers. Personified to bring the letters and their answers to life with an intimacy that is absent in the book, the writers join Sugar on stage, doing ordinary things, like snacking on nuts and building sandwiches in her homey kitchen.

In the play, as in her novel, Strayed shows a great deal of empathy in her answers. Sometimes her snappy replies will make you laugh; and some of them will make you cry. Life is like

that. Lovers leave, children can get sick, be taken from you by a drunk driver; all the worst that can happen is dealt with. But Strayed never allows the answers to get maudlin. Either direct or roundabout, her answers are always interesting. And this play, by careful selection of the very best of the Q's and A's in the

novel, has managed to make it terrific theatre. It's a tiny, beautiful thing. A jewel of a play. See it.

"*Tiny Beautiful Things*" opens Tuesday, Dec. 10, at the Red Barn Theater, 319 Duval St. (Rear) and runs Tuesdays through Saturdays till Jan. 4, 2020—no performance Christmas Eve., Dec. 24, and New Year's Day, Jan. 1. All curtains at 8:00 pm. Runs 90 minutes. No intermission. Not for children. Note: There will be a special Talk-Back with the Director and cast following Sat. Dec. 14 performance.

For tickets, call 305 296-9911 or go to redbarntheatre.com

(Joanna Brady is a local writer, author of the historical *Key West* novel, *The Woman at the Light*, published by St. Martin's Press) ■

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Schooner Wharf Bar
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SchoonerWharf.com

BAHAMA VILLAGE MUSIC
ROGRAM, 6pm

LAST MANGOES BAND
6:45 - 11:45pm

Thursday 12/12
MICHAEL McCLOUD
noon - 5pm

MAGIC OF FRANK
EVERHART
9:00 pm - 1am



ISLAND TIME DUO
6:45 - 11pm

Schooner Wharf Bar/Absolut Vodka
Lighted Boat Parade

Sunday 12/15
MICHAEL McCLOUD & FRIENDS
noon - 5pm

MAGIC OF FRANK
EVERHART
9:00 pm - 1am

ISLAND TIME DUO
6:45 - 11pm



MAGIC OF FRANK
EVERHART
9:00 pm - 1am

Captains' Meeting
Lighted Boat Parade

Monday 12/16
Raven Cooper
Noon - 5:00 pm

Friday 12/13
MICHAEL McCLOUD & FRIENDS
noon - 5pm



LAST MANGOES BAND
6:45 - 11:45pm



ZACK SEEMILLER
6:45 - 11pm

MAGIC OF FRANK
EVERHART
9:00 pm - 1am

Tuesday 12/17
GARY HEMPSEY
noon - 5pm

TOM TAYLOR
6:45pm - 11pm

Saturday 12/14
MICHAEL McCLOUD & FRIENDS
noon - 5pm



Whats Happening

▶ Continued from page 14

Wednesday 12/18

TONY BALTIMORE
noon - 5pm

RAVEN COOPER
6:45 - 11pm

MAGIC OF FRANK
EVERHART
9:00 pm - 1am

The Smokin' Tuna

4 Charles St., (305) 517-6350
smokintunasaloon.com

Thursday 12/12

Ken Johnson & Andi Zack 5pm
Caffeine Carl & The Buzz 9:00pm

Friday 12/13

Ken Johnson & Andi Zack 5pm
Caffeine Carl and Friends 9:00pm

Saturday 12/14

Caffeine Carl and Friends 9:00pm

Saturday 12/15

Dr VonHilsheimer 2pm
Ken Johnson & Andi Zack 5pm
Marjory Lee 8pm

Saturday 12/16

Ken Johnson & Andi Zack 5pm
Miles Mancuso & Friends 9pm

Saturday 12/17

Ken Johnson & Andi Zack 5pm
Charlie Miller 9pm

Saturday 12/18

Ken Johnson & Andi Zack 5pm
Caffeine Carl & The Buzz 9:00pm

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Thursday 12/12

Piano Bar Happy Hour with James
King 5:30-7:30
Peter Diamond & Company 8-11

Friday 12/13

Piano Bar Happy Hour with Larry
Smith 5:30-7:30
Ericson Holt 8-11

Saturday 12/14

Piano Bar Happy Hour Peter
Diamond 5:30-7:30
Denis Hyland jazz Quartet 8-11

Sunday 12/15

Piano Bar Happy Hour with Any
Mayo 5:30-7:30
Barry Cuda & The Sharks 8-11

Monday 12/16

Sing-A-Long Piano Bar Happy
Hour with Jerilyn Barrick 5:30-7:30
Larry Smith and Christine Cordone 8-11

Tuesday 12/17

Piano Bar Happy Hour with Coffee
Butler 5:30-7:30
Bluesday Tuesday with Larry
Baeder 8-11

Wednesday 12/18

Piano Bar Happy Hour with Karen
Heins 5:30-7:30
Victoria Horne 8-11

Dave Cole plays solo at the Hog's Breath Saloon

Nashville rocker Dave Coleman will play solo at the Hog's mid-shift gig, 4:30 – 8:30 pm, Dec. 12 - 15. Catch the more personal side of Dave the singer-songwriter Coleman's CD,

"Nowhere's Too Far," was called an eclectic rock record that's a raucous as Saturday night in East Nashville.

For more information, call 296-4222. ■

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A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood



In the late 1990s, the irreverent writer Tom Junod met Fred Rogers for a profile in *Esquire* magazine. Rogers, the children's TV host, was fascinated by Junod as a "bad boy" journalist. In this new screen adaptation of the published article, the famed man senses that Junod is putting up barriers and Rogers wants to help him. Observing the writer's bruised nose, Rogers asks "what happened?"

The journalist brushes it off as a baseball injury but after Mister Rogers presses Junod says, "I had a fight...with my father." The film "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" by the inimitable Marielle Heller (*Diary of a Teenage Girl*) is the story of this friendship.

Here Junod is Lloyd Vogel (Matthew Rhys), a troubled, emotionally reserved man who detests his father (Chris Cooper) for his unfaithfulness regarding his mother on her deathbed. Rogers keeps pressing and Vogel reveals more than he thinks he should.

As Mister Rogers, Tom Hanks is spot on and stellar. Rogers' voice: calm, steady and measured yet with a rising inflection

that is sincerely interested. It is all there.

Vogel is being hounded by his careless irresponsible father and going to pieces. When he gets the assignment to profile Mister Rogers, he doesn't know what to expect, but the writer is taken aback. Rogers' calmness must be hiding something, surely he is not that nice.

But...he is.

Rogers saw TV as an intimate sacred space where he could talk to children about ideas, giving them tools to viscerally experience life in whatever situation that they happened to be. This empathy made Rogers able to pick up on Vogel's frigidity and break through much like a psychiatrist.

At first Vogel wants none of it.

Though Vogel is intriguing, the most compelling enigma of all is Fred Rogers, who has the eerie ability to see through people he meets. Oddly, rather than something frightening or off putting, it is comforting. In one great scene, Rogers says "Do an exercise for me, take a minute to think about all of the people who loved you into existence."

The exercise works.

Rogers is ritualistic and routine oriented. His toy-like construction of "The Neighborhood" can be thought of as an insulation against the chaos of life where all is confusion and noise. Rogers slows life down, making it not only tranquil, but digestible and reflective.

Consequently, this cardigan-clad man became the most beloved in TV history, a parallel to actor Tom Hanks. There is a touching scene where the entire train composed of kids and adults sing the theme song to Mister Rogers. The tone of this scene curiously recalls "Churchill." Both Churchill and Rogers were beloved but the latter has the modesty, and Hanks plays it flawlessly with tremendous warmth.

At one point the film slides close to melodrama. Vogel comes home to find his father laughing with his wife (Susan

Kaleechi Watson) over pizza. Vogel goes ballistic causing Dad to collapse. Though this feels at first to be emotionally over the top, the film switches to a *Twilight Zone* atmosphere that recalls that series' episode "Mirror Image." Vogel sees Mister Rogers everywhere he goes, from the hospital to the bus station. This demonstrates the facile skill of Heller in offering a mixture in tone, of not taking the conventional biopic path.

The quiet, steady-gaited, WASPish looking man is always two steps ahead of Vogel, a tiger cat puppet in his back pack.

Also interesting is the concept of the child within the adult. This was very important to Rogers. He believed every adult contained a child and to access this was to bring about peace and happiness. Vogel becomes a mature father through this awareness, just about saving his marriage.

As said, the most arresting mystery is Mister Rogers himself. "I was chased and called fat Freddie when I was ten...I cried...but there are many ways to deal with anger...maybe you swim as fast as you can or maybe you play the lowest notes on the piano... (and he mimics striking the piano) DRUM!"

Vogel asks Rogers more. He responds, "What do you think about that?"

The writer relents.

But the question of Rogers' tranquility remains.

At the film's end, after a long day Fred Rogers retires to the piano. He starts a soothing tune, but then the lights go dim. Rogers pounds on the low scale of the piano—DRUM! Darkness surrounds the beloved man and Fred Rogers remains a cypher.

But for most of us, it is more important to remember Fred Rogers as a gentle trailblazer, nourishing a generation with expansive ideas and creating a giddy mindfulness that we are all unique just as we are. ■

Dark Waters



The most palpable thing about "Dark Waters" is that it is a real life Apocalypse story. It is the mid-1970s in Parkersburg West Virginia. A group of teens go swimming in a stream, having a wonderful time. Suddenly, another teen finds a deformed frog. The alert is unheard. The kids are having too much fun leaping and playing in the water.

Then in the mid-1990s, a farmer Wilbur Tennant approaches attorney Rob Bilott for help. His cows are, inexplicably, becoming sick and dying at an alarming rate. So begins "Dark Waters," a film by Todd Haynes, the true story of a DuPont fiasco in West Virginia.

Bilott (Mark Ruffalo, who is also the film's producer) is approached again by farmer Tennant (Bill Camp) once more and Bilott tours the farmer's homestead. The farmer shows him tumors, huge gall bladders, diseased livers, and black teeth, all specimens from his cows. It is a graveyard, a farm of absolute frights. When Bilott is about to leave, Tennant spies one of his cows that is deformed and beyond help. The farmer shoots it with a shotgun. The recoil knocks him to the ground.

Bilott wants to help, but his firm is incredulous, reasoning that there are issues that you just don't confront and besides, the farmer must have been negligent. Bilott finds more and becomes convinced, but he agrees to work with DuPont's science panel. Then he finds information that contradicts the research. He is flabbergasted. He agrees to go to a chemical award

► Continued on page 20

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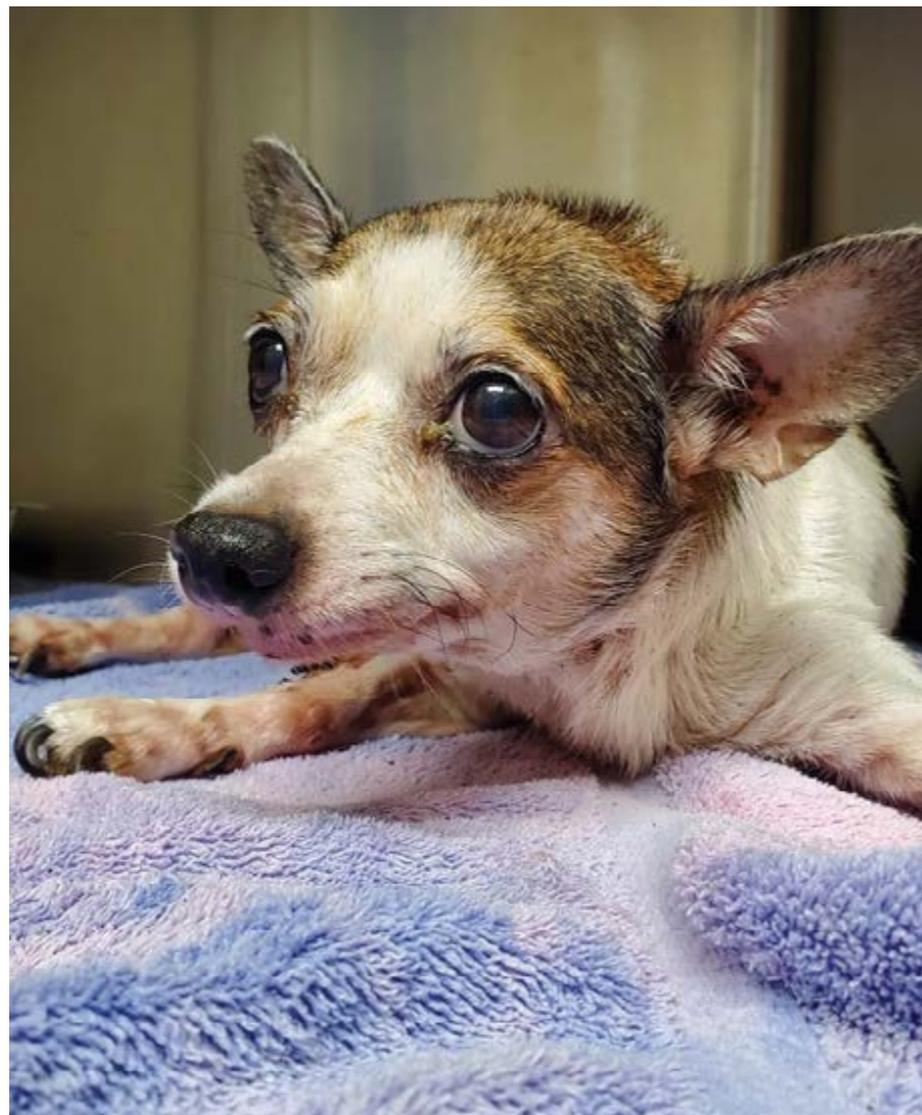
BY TARA MCFARLAND

Florida Keys SPCA Director of Operations
(Marathon Campus)

When we saw her, our hearts instantly broke. Her frail body was littered with large tumors and her nails curled into her soft pads so that she was unable to walk. It was simply too painful. With just a few mangled teeth left and the smell of infection looming from her mouth, the tiny abandoned Chihuahua mix lay frightened on the exam room table. The finder claimed she was left in a crate on the side of a road under a bridge, a claim we will never be able to verify. Regardless of how she came to be in that condition, all we could do now was care for the little old dog.

The frail dog would require numerous medical interventions for her own safety and comfort. Doctors were concerned the masses were cancerous, most of her teeth would need to be removed and the newly discovered bladder stones would require surgical extraction. Despite her age, surgery had to be performed.

We named her Charlie Brown, and the little old dog underwent three surgeries to remove two enormous mammary masses, bladder stones, ovariohysterectomy and a dental. Each time she went under anesthesia we held our breath hoping she was strong enough to make it through. Charlie Brown had a strong will and each surgery made her stronger and healthier. She was not to be defeated and her confidence soared. Soon she was strutting her stuff, and bossing everyone around. She demanded attention, fresh chick-



en and plenty of love from her foster mom. Her little dog personality began to shine and soon, it was time to find Charlie Brown a family.

Visiting the Keys from Tampa, Patricia couldn't help but fall in love with Charlie Brown. With two special seniors at home, she wanted nothing more than to bring Charlie Brown home, to be with her forever. At the time, Charlie Brown still needed more surgeries and couldn't be adopted quite yet. When the time came, we gave her a call and Patricia hopped in the car and drove back down the Keys to make it official. Charlie Brown was adopted!

All of us at the FKSPCA are thankful that this little dog is going to have a

wonderful holiday season. But it could not have happened without our donors. The extensive medical care that Charlie Brown needed was entirely donor-supported through our special "Oscar's Fund," which was created to help pets like Charlie Brown.

To help give more animals like Charlie Brown a second chance in life, please consider making a donation to Oscar's Fund -- visit our website at <https://fkspca.org/donate/ways-to-give/specialty-funds/oscar-fund-gift/> or call 305-294-4857 for more information. The Florida Keys SPCA is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization that receives no funding from any national organization. ■

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Program

- Greensleeves with piano, cello and violin
- O Come, All Ye Faithful with flute and piano
- A selection of Traditional Polish Christmas with mezzo soprano and piano
- Stille Nacht, (Manheim Steamroller) with violin, cello and piano
- Walking Through the Air (theme from, The Snowman) with baritone, violin and piano
- Silent Night, with baritone, cello and piano
- I Saw Three Ships with piano
- Variations on Noel Nouvelet with organ
- Nutcracker with piano
- Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas with baritone. ■

Rams Head Presents – Key West announces rock legend, George Thorogood & The Destroyers at the stunning Sunset Green Event Lawn in Key West

Since 1975, they've sold over 15 million albums, built a classic catalog of hits, and played more than 8,000 ferocious live shows. They broke records with their 50 Dates/50 States tour, delivered landmark performances at Live Aid and on SNL, and became mainstays of radio, MTV and stages worldwide for more than two generations. Through it all, they've remained one of the most consistent – and consistently passionate – progenitors of blues-based rock in pop culture history. For the past 45 years, it's been very good to be George Thorogood & The Destroyers. And in 2020, their Good



To Be Bad Tour: 45 Years Of Rock will prove why like never before.

It's on tour that George & The Destroyers flip the switch nightly, delivering what The Toledo Blade calls "a gut-bustin', guitar-wailin', face-melting', fiery-tempoed, take-no-prison-

ers, good old-fashioned lunch-bucket rock & roll show" that includes their signature hits "Get A Haircut", "I Drink Alone", "One Bourbon, One Scotch, One Beer", "Move It On Over", "Who Do You Love" and the definitive badass anthem "Bad To The Bone", along with several surprises. "George has been honing the set list since our bar band days," explains 43-year Destroyer bassist Bill Blough. "It's been a constant evolution to make it all killer, no filler. We hear our walk-on song, the lights go down, and something still inherently clicks the second we step on stage. We feel the audience's

energy and the show just explodes." And as in past years, a portion of proceeds from every date on the Good To Be Bad Tour will benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

After 45 years of rock – and no signs of stopping – can Thorogood point to what continues to make it all matter? "My highlight is every night when I walk on that stage and play our hits for those happy people," he says. "At the end of the show, the audience is smiling, I don't see any police and everyone got their money's worth." George

► Continued on page 20

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Rams Head Present...

▶ Continued from page 19

laughs with his familiar rasp. "I think everyone has thoughts about retiring, but the phone keeps ringing. You want me and The Destroyers to come to your town, set up our gear, wear some badass clothes and play 'Who Do You Love?' End of conversation. Let's rock!"

Make your way to Sunset Green Event Lawn on March 8th for what is sure to be an epic night of live music with George Thorogood & The Destroyers! Sunset Green is situated between 24 North Hotel and The Gates Hotel in Key West, Florida. Surrounded by luxurious

pools and lush greenery, Sunset Green Event Lawn provides the ultimate escape to indulge in the Key West lifestyle. On October 28th, Sunset Green will transform into a music venue providing food, drinks, state of the art sound and production creating the ultimate concert experience. Tickets available at keywestconcertseries.com. ■

George Thorogood & The Destroyers
March 8th, 2020

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3820 N. Roosevelt Blvd

Tickets: keywestconcertseries.com

Visit: Key West Theater's box office at 512 Eaton Street Wednesday through Saturday from 12-6PM

Dark Waters

▶ Continued from page 16

ceremony to represent the firm and tries to warn a DuPont official who hurls hateful expletives at him.

We might want Ruffalo to become Hulk and smash everything to a pulp, but here the actor is Rob Bilott, a real life hero: kind, empathetic and steadfast. Bilott never gives up.

The story follows a template reminiscent of "Spotlight," "The Report," and "All the President's Men." The star is Ruffalo as Robert Bilott, who is unfailingly kind and vulnerable as a result. The actor's eyes tell the entire story: confused, horrified then driven by what's right and good.

Anne Hathaway is Mrs. Bilott, who is driven to the breaking point along with her husband.

This is another excellent performance by Mark Ruffalo, who portrays the great humble

qualities of Rob Bilott within his entire body. Like Lon Chaney Jr., Ruffalo is wonderful in his portrayal of torment. The actor's face becomes shifting, pliable and his eyes water.

Bilott discovered that the water and other elements in West Virginia were tainted by C8, a toxic chemical used by DuPont to make the popular Teflon, a non-stick surface used in cooking pans. Teflon is discontinued in the US, but C8 still remains in many industrial products and virtually every human has something of C8 in the bloodstream, known to promote cancer, diabetes, liver and kidney disease.

"Dark Waters" is a genuine disturbing horror story but we are all better for the true tangible heroics of Bilott who was proactive with grace and resolve, pointing the way to corporate consciousness. ■

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Fringe Theater Key West Lillian Baxter is Back at The Little Room! Show Dates: Dec 26-31 2019



Fringe Theater announces the return of Lillian Baxter to the Little Room Jazz Club, Dec 26-31, in the all new *An Evening Lost with Lillian Baxter* with John Vessels and Jay Schwandt. Musical theater meets cabaret as these two guys create a spectacular one-woman show!

"Audiences fell in love with Lillian, when we first introduced her in 2016," says Fringe Artistic Director Rebecca Tomlinson. "I think it was a combination of her knock-out voice and upbeat approach to life's little foibles. So we asked John and Jay to bring Lillian back!"

Just who is Lillian Baxter?

Lillian is a fictional character created by actor and writer John Vessels. "She was almost huge in the 1960s," John explains. "Our show lovingly follows Lillian's long trek into obscurity. The stories are fun and the music is just divine." In fact, Lillian belts out songs from stage, screen, and even your radio (assuming you're of a certain age).



"We are Lillian's biggest fans," explains Jay Schwandt, the show's pianist and musical arranger. Jay also plays Corky Weinstopper, Lillian's third (and favorite) husband. John Vessels is Lillian Baxter, a formidable and true believer in making lemonade from lemons!

Jay and John both came to theater by way of music. Jay's degrees are in music composition, and John's degree is in opera. When not performing, John teaches voice and acting in In-

dianapolis and Jay teaches in the Department of Theatre and Dance at Ball State University.

Critics rave: "John Vessels has a masterful level of vocal control which he pairs with a pitch perfect portrayal of Lillian as a super star that never was. And Jay Schwandt shines with his impressive piano skills and arrangements."

An Evening Lost with Lillian Baxter runs Dec 26-31 at 7pm at the Little Room Jazz Club which is located at 821 Duval Street. Doors will open nightly at 6pm so patrons can enjoy the Little Room's tasty menu and full bar. The Little Room's music schedule resumes nightly at 9pm.

Tickets for *An Evening Lost with Lillian Baxter* are \$35 general admission and \$50 reserved seating. A limited number of New Year's Eve tickets still remain for the closing night show. All tickets are available online at www.fringetheater.org or by calling 305-731-0581. Seating is limited so advanced ticket purchase is encouraged.

Fringe Theater is Key West's community-focused theater which offers unique opportunities for people to see and do theater. Fringe is a 501c3 nonprofit with a vibrant and inclusive outreach and education program. For more information about Fringe, contact info@fringetheater.org. ■

Heather Vidal, Plays the Hog's Breath Saloon

Trained classically in college, Heather, while respecting the genre, never really embraced jazz and classical music the way she had always embraced her folk rock roots.

Vidal plays the Hog's Breath Saloon's outdoor stage Dec. 16-22, 4:30-8:30 pm.

Before college, she fell in love with the singer/songwriters of the day such as Joni Mitchell, Bonnie Raitt, Karla Bonoff, James Taylor, Stephen Stills, and the like. She originally learned by rote and never abandoned her love of song. She readily collaborates today with students as well. ■

Fringe theater key west

An Evening lost With
Lillian Baxter
starring John Vessels and Jay Schwandt

DEC 26-31 | 7PM
Little Room Jazz Club
821 DUVAL STREET

fringetheater.org | 305-731-0581

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Center of the Arts

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Sugar Rum Cherry

A BURLESQUE NUTCRACKER



December 19-21

KEY WEST THEATER
512 EATON ST, KEY WEST

TICKETS & INFO: THEKEYWESTTHEATER.COM



Sugar Rum Cherry: A Burlesauqe Nutcracker

Slip into your stockings and pull out your sugarplums for Key West Burlesque's outrageously cheeky production of "Sugar Rum Cherry: A Burlesque Nutcracker" on Thursday, December 19 through Saturday, December 21 Key West Theater, 512 Eaton Street. This naughty holiday 2-act reverie, set to a combination of big band versions of various Nutcracker suites and classic holiday songs, features eight of your favorite local performers, four international burlesque superstars, and a bevy of sweet "drinks" in the land of libations.

"To say that I've been in love with the Nutcracker since childhood is an understatement!" says creator and producer Tatak Dujour who takes the stage as the Sugar Rum Cherry Fairy. "The costuming, music, and opulence of the Nutcracker is unparalleled. All the things I loved about the ballet as

a child are now all the things I love about burlesque as an adult."

This burlesque version of the holiday ballet classic offers audiences a full theatrical production that is uniquely Key West, celebrating "so much of what makes Key West the place it is—drinking, dancing, and adult fun," says Hunt.

Act 1 of this decidedly grown-up version of Nutcracker is set at the dreamy "Club Sweets" cabaret, with a grown-up Clara performed by local Burlesque favorite Moana Amour, and club show-host Sir Drosselmeyer, performed by a local favorite, who offers the feisty crowd a delicious assortment of burlesque beauty divertissements—including the classic girl-in-giant-cake number, replacing the "doll diversions" in the original Nutcracker.

Act 2 takes place in the "Land of Libations" where the burlesque stars

promise to inebriate the audience with delight as they embody a variety of adult cocktails- Miami's Aurora Natrix as Peppermint White Russian, Florida's own Jamon Buie as Spiked Hot Chocolate, And the lovely Miss Jenna Beth as the Snow Queen and as a French Martini complete with bath-in-a-martini-glass.

The holiday spectacle is fleshed out with Frankie Markstone as the infamous Rat Queen and Key West burlesque creator, Tatak Dujour, as the sugar rum cherry along with spectacular group numbers with titles such as "Dancing Daiquiris" and "Arabian Nights Coffee."

Doors at Key West Theater open at 7:30pm, show starts at 8:00pm. Sponsored in part by the Monroe County Tourist Development Council. Tickets: thekeywesttheater.com or call 305.985.0433. ■

Miles Mancuso Band at the Hog's Breath Saloon

The Miles Mancuso Band plays the Hog's Breath Saloon's outdoor stage, Dec. 16 - 22, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Myles Mancuso is a nationally recognized prodigy who fronts his own band, singing, playing guitar and keyboards. He is considered one of the top 10 guitar prodigies in the world. He has been performing professional since the age of 10.

Mancuso has performed at some of New York City's top bars: BB Kings in Time Square, the Cutting Room, the Bitter End and others

He has been nominated for an Emmy in 2012 and won a Cable Telly Award.

Mancuso's show has been described as a Rockin'-Rhythm-and-Blues event. And also its been called a updated funk/rock twist on traditional American sound. ■

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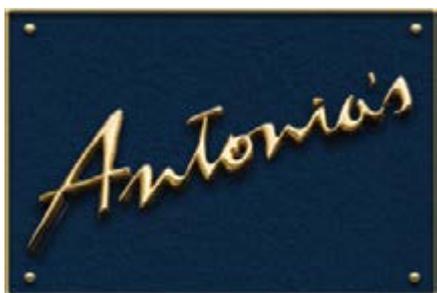
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Photo: DarrellParks.com

Antonia's has it all: Delicious meaty meals, sumptuous seafood, and vegetarian delights

BY TERRY SCHMIDA
KONK LIFF COLUMNIST



I'll say it: I love meat.

And since I've been living in Key West, I've also come to really love seafood. It's a given nowadays that I rarely leave a restaurant without enjoying some kind of meat – or a seafood dish. When I'm sent out to review a local eatery, I mostly choose what I'm to review and I usually try to include a lot of the restaurant's specialties. It's one of the great pleasures of this job. Though far from being a vegetarian, I often come across some delicious meatless meals and find that increasingly, I am delighted by the innovative ways this city's chefs create new things to do using neither seafood nor meat. I was reminded of this recently

when I sampled some of the tasty offerings at Antonia's Restaurant.

Ironically I began with Beef Tenderloin Carpaccio, one of Antonia's specialties. Ironic, because this is a dish that's about as meaty, RAW-meaty, as you can get, sliced so paper thin it's impossible to prepare at home. Antonia's serves those tender slices of delicate beef nestled among sprigs of baby arugula, and cornichons, scattered with generous shards of deliciously crumbly and salty imported Parmigiano Reggiano cheese, drizzled with rare white truffle oil.

There was plenty more to come, starting with the Shiitake Mushroom Frittata, one of several available daily at this legendary restaurant. It was top-notch tasty and satisfying, with perfectly cooked asparagus, sweet roasted red pepper, and aromatic goat cheese.

From there we moved to a seafood delicacy, a Maine Lobster Caesar Salad. Maine lobster is still one of my favorite foods on the planet. (I once ate a pet because it happened to be a lobster - true story!)



Succulent claw meat tossed with crispy romaine, crunchy ciabatta croutons, and more Parmesan, it was fantastic.

At this point in the meal I was expecting some kind of delightful animal protein for my main course. To my surprise I was presented instead with a half-bowl of another house specialty, the Fettuccine with Button & Shiitake Mushrooms.

Where's the beef? I wondered.

But I had missed the point. For this jaw-dropping flavor was a true revelation to me. Could I live as a vegetarian? You bet, if this kind of food was part of that

future. Yes, truthfully, that fresh, house-made pasta and melt-in-your-mouth mushrooms really were that good, as were the asparagus tips, garlic, truffle oil and Parmesan Reggiano cheese.

Days have passed since this memorable lunch. I have worked other beats; eaten other meals, but the mingling of flavors at Antonia's have lingered in my mind. It's great to know that whatever lifestyle choices or possibly dietary restrictions lie ahead of me, mostly veggie foods – with a little seafood thrown in – can be a pleasant part of that future.

For anyone else looking for a culinary revelation, I highly recommend Antonia's – the place where those kinds of food eureka moments take place.

Antonia's, 615 Duval St., is fully-licensed and open for breakfast, brunch, lunch, and dinner, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days. Credit cards are accepted. Don't miss Antonia's sister restaurants, Little Pearl, and Thirsty Mermaid.

For a reservation, or more information, call 305-294-6565, email restaurant@antoniaskeywest.com, or visit www.antoniaskeywest.com/ ■ keyscribe@aol.com

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KONK Life Now distributed from KEY WEST to KEY LARGO!



Photo: Larry Blackburn

Theatre XP and The Studios of Key West announce New 'Classics of Comedy 2'



Key West's eclectic TheatreXP, in association with The Studios of Key West, has just announced the addition to their 2019-20

season schedules of the new edition of the hilarious and highly popular comedy event, "The Classics of Comedy 2", set to run January 9-11, 2020.

Tickets have just gone on sale for the three-night event, which sold out completely in its first incarnation. Those interested in securing the coveted tickets before they sell out again should visit <https://tskw.org/classics-of-comedy-2/> or call the Studios' box office at 305-296-0458.

One of the smash hits of last summer's Key West Summer Stage, "The Classics of Comedy" was a new event created by TheatreXP's founder Bob Bowersox. It only ran for two nights, but the Helmerich Theater at The Studios of Key West was packed to the rafters each night with audiences that literally could not stop laughing.

The evening is a wild and crazy assemblage of faithful recreations of some of the classic comedy sketches by the top comics and comedy teams of the Golden Ages of comedy, some going back to the early days of film and television.

"[Actor] Mathias Maloff and I were sitting around one night trying to remember Abbott and Costello's classic 'Who's On First' bit," said Bowersox, who produces and directs the event. "And it occurred to us that there are probably an awful lot of people who have never seen that fabulous sketch actually performed. The idea just grew from there. There's so much great comedy out there that hasn't been seen for years or never been seen live."

Bowersox assembled a troupe of some of Key West's best comedic actors, including Maloff, Pony Charvet, Tony Konrath, Don Bearden, Melody Moore, Karl Stahl, Tammy Shanley, Donna Stabile, and Susanna Wells. They then combed through hours of old film and TV tapes to find the sketches that made up "Classics of Comedy 1", and meticulously recreated them for the stage.

"We couldn't get through a rehearsal without laughing ourselves to tears," Bowersox said. "Those old bits were written perfectly, and were so naturally funny they never needed a laugh track like today's sitcoms. There's a reason they're called 'classics'."

The new edition of "Classics of Comedy" will feature the top four sketches from the first show, and nine new ones. Joining Abbott and Costello will be Bob and Ray, Nichols and May, the Marx Brothers, Monty Python, Bob Newhart, Dick Van Dyke and Mary Tyler Moore, Johnny Carson, and Cheech and Chong, among others.

"It's a fabulously funny evening," said Studios Board Member Rosi Ware, who attended last summer's inaugural edition. "A truly inspired idea. We can all use a good laugh these days, and this show really delivers."

Tickets for "The Classics of Comedy 2" are \$45 Preferred, \$35 General, with a \$10 discount for members—advanced purchase only. Visit tskw.org or call 305-296-0458 to get yours. For more information, visit theatrexp.org or call them at 302-540-6102.

The event is sponsored by the Harry S. Truman Little White House. ■



The photo by Larry Blackburn.

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KONK LIFE'S REAL ESTATE in the KEYS

A rare 'Old Florida' vacation rental property right on the open Atlantic Ocean

BY TERRY SCHMIDA
KONK LIFE REAL ESTATE EDITOR
Photos Contributed

There are open water properties – and then there is the Old Florida-style vacation rental home at 100 Sacarma Dr., on Cudjoe Key. With its sweeping vistas of the Atlantic Ocean from two sides of the open-concept living/dining room, the rear deck, and the master bedroom, the effect is similar to being aboard a deluxe cruise ship tied up at water's edge.

It's the perfect place for a weekend or week-long Florida Keys party, tucked away in a small cluster of similar vacation homes a short minute from U.S. 1 on Cudjoe Key. And this residence also presents a great investment opportunity for someone looking to turn the available seller financing and rare Transient Rental (daily-weekly) license into a net profit, that's been providing a 6 to 8 percent Return On Investment – and still enjoy a little time to themselves in the sunny Lower Keys.

Set among over 10,000 square feet of open water land, including sandy upland beach, a dock, and a spa pool on an elevated deck, this 1,200 square-foot, two-bedroom, two 1/2-bath elevated home has never flooded since construction in 1982.

Anchored by the central living room area, the home has been sleeping up to six guests per-stay over the course of a successful 15 year rental program. And there's a professional



The extra large lot, of over 10,000 square feet, provides an enclave of privacy, while adjoining other vacation rental properties, creating the opportunity for larger "retreat-type" vacations rentals.

management agency is in place with bookings well into 2020, which will be conveyed to the buyer upon closing. A guest bedroom is located off the main entrance, and a full bath located nearby. The master suite includes an extra sitting/sleeping room and private bath, and with an easy re-design, could even create a third bedroom.

Offering the best of the Keys in one place, this vacation home/investment

is being sold turn-key. There's lots of room below the sturdy home for storage of bikes, kayaks, and toys (which are all included in the purchase price,) as well as a place for cleaning fish, etc.

With great boat access, this property is a fishing enthusiast's dream!

On the sunset deck of this home is a water feature that's midway between a spa and a pool, with the best features of both, and a perfect view out over the water. It's the perfect center-

piece to the patio which, like the large Florida room immediately adjacent to the deck and roomy living area, provides plenty of indoor/outdoor entertaining space.

Central air-conditioning, stainless steel appliances, and a full-sized washer and dryer are additional features of this dream-come-true Florida beach house, which also has plenty of parking.

With immediate cash-flow from pending reservations through 2020,

KONK LIFE'S REAL ESTATE in the KEYS



The double-sized master suite, with ensuite bath, is the size of two rooms, and could be modified to create a 3-bedroom home.



Beautiful views are everywhere from the open living and dining areas.



Just steps from the living area is the breezy open deck with swim/spa-type pool.

and yearly averages of approximately 40 weeks of rentals, this is a great investment opportunity that provides the owner with some time to themselves at this retreat, in between rentals.

There is no "for sale" sign on this property and no trespassing is permitted. So book a private showing today – and don't forget your sunglasses!

100 Sacarma Dr., on Cudjoe Key is being offered at \$1,275,000.

To schedule a showing, or for any other information, call Realtor/Broker ChelleBe Blades of Realty Executives Florida Keys at 305-394-4750, email Blades@RealtyExecutives.com, or contact Realtor/Executive Amy Hanson, who is also the home's Property Manager at 305-745-4030 or AmyHanson@RealtyExecutives.com. ■

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2



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3

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 2016 Patterson Ave. - Buyer
 29859 Overseas Hwy. - Seller
 105 Key Haven Rd. - Seller
 58 Palm Ave. - Seller
 1405 Petronia St. - Buyer
 1119 Whitehead St. - Buyer & Seller
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The enclosed patio with windows, doors, and screens, provides an outdoor living room, Florida-style.



This is a tranquil oceanfront setting for the whole family to enjoy. There's a dock for boating, and a sandy kayak launch too. (All the toys are included in the purchase price.) Cudjoe Bay offers great boat access to the local reefs, and a super "swimming hole" right off the beach and dock!



With its private beach and dock this home is a watersports lovers' dream.

FEATURED HOMES

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\$899,000



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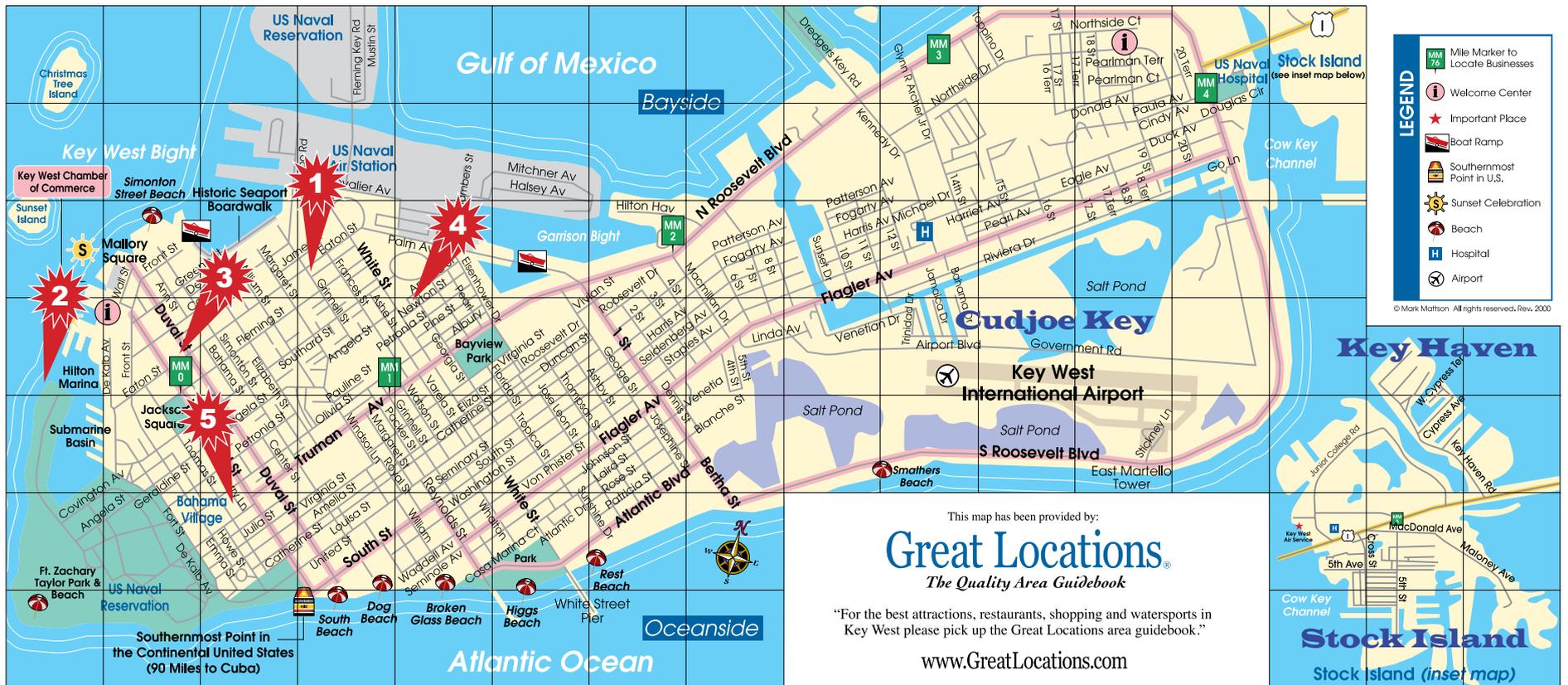
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KONK LIFE'S FEATURED HOMES

Featured Home Locations



Featured Homes — Viewed by Appointment

Map #	Address	#BR/BA	Listing Agent	Phone Number
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	109 Front St., #214, Key West		Mike Caron, Keller Williams Key West Compass Realty	508-269-8565 305-296-7078
	336 Duval St, Key West, FL		Derek Epperly & Jenna Blackwell Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Knight & Gardner Realty	305-923-4833 305-393-6573
	1215 Newton St. Key West, FL 33040		Tina M Masters Coldwell Banker Schmitt Real Estate Co. (KW)	305-923-0062
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Bascom Grooms Real Estate	Coastal Collection	11/27/2019	\$ 549,000	\$ 525,000	1325	20th St	1963	Single Fam	3	No	4
Keller Williams KW Compass	Keller Williams KW Compass	11/25/2019	\$ 500,000	\$ 436,800	2905	Venetian Dr	1972	Single Fam	3	Yes	3
Truman & Co.	Ocean Sotheby's International	11/25/2019	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 1,150,000	1220	2nd St	1950	Multi-Unit	8	No	3
Ocean Sotheby's International	Vacasa Florida	11/26/2019	\$ 235,000	\$ 220,000	3312	Northside Dr, #412	1980	Condo	1	No	3
Preferred Properties	Preferred Properties	12/3/2019	\$ 575,000	\$ 550,000	2601	Roosevelt Blvd, #202A	1967	Condo	2	Yes	3
Coldwell Banker Schmitt	Coastal Collection	12/3/2019	\$ 288,000	\$ 275,000	3312	Northside Dr, #608	1980	Condo	2	No	3
Coldwell Banker Schmitt	Coldwell Banker Schmitt	11/26/2019	\$ 529,900	\$ 515,000	1800	Atlantic Blvd, C219	1987	Condo	2	Yes	2
Royal Palms Realty	Lokation Real Estate	11/27/2019	\$ 845,000	\$ 825,000	1901	Roosevelt Blvd, #302S	1995	Condo	2	No	2
Preferred Properties	Preferred Properties	11/29/2019	\$ 1,395,000	\$ 1,200,000	1525	Von Phister St	1947	Single Fam	3	No	2
Keller Williams KW Compass	Coastal Collection	11/25/2019	\$ 620,000	\$ 620,000	904	Truman Ave	1933	Multi-Unit	3	No	1
Truman & Co.	Preferred Properties	11/27/2019	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 4,500,000	1100	Flagler Ave	1958	Single Fam	5	No	1
Truman & Co.	Coastal Collection	12/2/2019	\$ 1,195,000	\$ 1,100,000	904	Olivia St	1968	Single Fam	2	No	1

Based on information found in the Key West Association of Realtors® MLS from November 25th, 2019 to December 3rd, 2019.

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