

FLORIDA WEEKLY[®]

KEY WEST EDITION

WEEK OF JULY 19-25, 2018

www.FloridaWeekly.com

Vol. 3, No. 16 • FREE



COURTESY PHOTO

Capt. Justin Jennings Annarino of Keys Custom Fishing Charters.

Fishing in the Keys

BY LAURA RICHARDSON

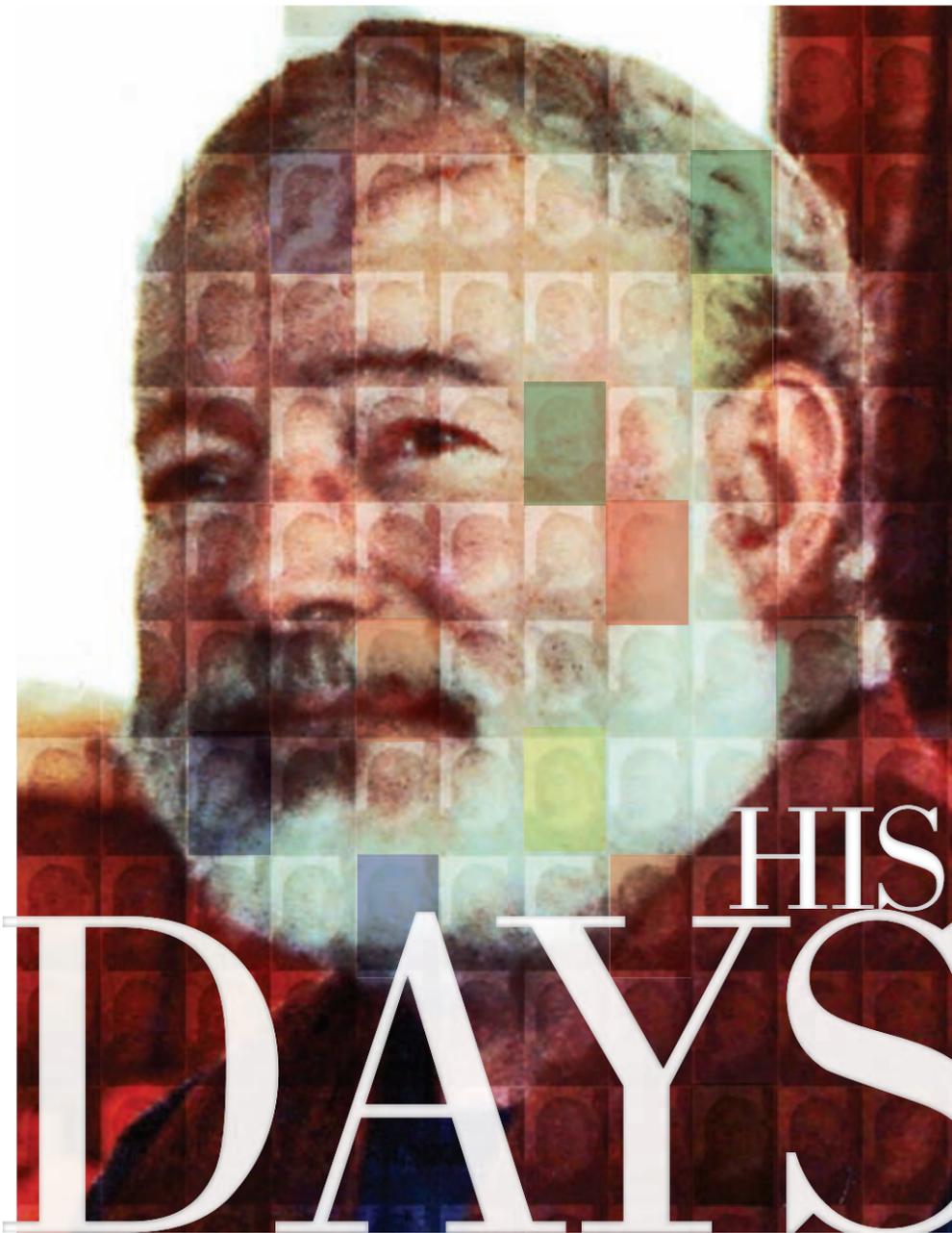
Florida Weekly Correspondent

Though the residents of the Florida Keys have a reputation as being hardy stock, weathering everything from natural disasters like Hurricane Irma to the worst hangovers known to man (Fireball is not your friend), there are three little words that typically strike crippling, ocean-avoidant fear into the hearts of any local worth their Florida Keys sea salt: Lobster mini-season. The dreaded time of year is upon us when the hordes of mini-season lobster hunters descend on our precious island, invade our pristine waters and jet home with their coolers full of Key West's crustacean aquatic bounty.

Although we fully support the hunt (and we won't lie — we've certainly tickled our fair share of lobsters out of their hidey holes), if you want to avoid the crustacean-crazy crowds that are millions of other creatures that call Key West's oceanic ecosphere home. We're talking about the innumerable sea-borne delights best enjoyed sautéed in a bit of white wine and butter and served simply with a lemon wedge and a glass of cold rosé. And in the dead of summer here in Key West, sometimes the only way to beat the heat is to pick up a rod and start fishing. Thankfully, there are infinite fishing options to please every pescatarian sportsman looking to catch his or her supper.

While plenty of places across the globe claim to have "The Best Fishing on the Planet," Keys residents back up their claim with a literal pupu platter of fish species thanks to Florida's proximity to the third largest barrier reef on the planet. Each year, thousands of tourists from the farthest flung corners of the world travel here

SEE FISHING, A14 ►



ERNEST HEMINGWAY PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION, JOHN F. KENNEDY PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM, BOSTON
ILLUSTRATION BY ERIC RADDATZ / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Celebrate Hemingway Days with lookalike contest and more



ANDY NEWMAN, FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU PHOTO
2017 winner Richard Filip, left, is congratulated by Fred Johnson, right, and other previous winners of the Hemingway Look-Alike Contest at Sloppy Joe's Bar in Key West. Filip, of Fayetteville, Texas, won last year's title on his seventh attempt.

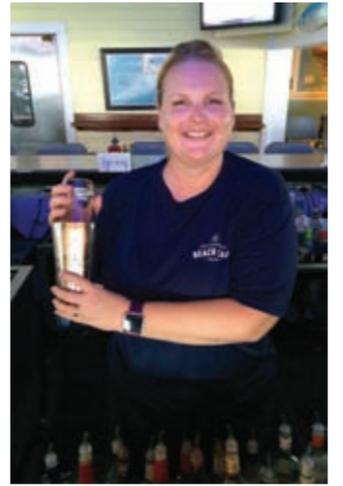
BY LAURA RICHARDSON

Florida Weekly Correspondent

OPPRESSIVELY HOT though it may be, there is a certain unique beauty to be found in July in Key West. Palms sway gently in the breeze, frozen drinks render the blazing humidity that much more bearable, chubby grandpas with great white beards flood every inch of our beautiful little island ... wait, what? Why are all of these vacation-ready Santa Clauses roaming around Duval Street in Hawaiian shirts,

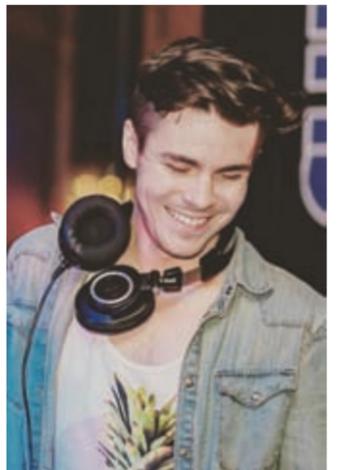
SEE HEMINGWAY, A10 ►

INSIDE



Bartender of the Week

Gretchen Richmond: Daughter of a sailor. **A13 ►**



Music

D. J. Johnny 2 Shots wants to make you dance. **A16 ►**



Theater

In the wings: "Hunter's Moon" and "Fresh Ink Shorts." **A6 ►**



Top picks

Check out great things to do on the island this week. **A9 ►**

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FLORIDA WEEKLY

KEY WEST EDITION

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Florida Media Group LLC
100 Grinnell Street • Key West, FL 33040
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www.FloridaWeekly.com

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OFF OFF DUVAL

The most traveled and visible street in Key West is only the beginning, the surface, of what the town has to offer. Ask the locals about their favorite spots, stroll through quiet neighborhoods or down alleyways off Duval and you'll begin to dive deeper into the quieter, more diverse and less readily apparent offerings. Here are eight spots that you might not see at first glance.

Better than Sex, 926 Simonton St. 305-296-8102; www.betterthansexkeywest.com. A great place for couples. Swing by this dessert only, adults only restaurant late in the evening. Indulge your senses with chocolate dipped wine glasses and cheeky, homemade desserts and beverages such as an Ephemere Apple Spiced Ale in a tall beer glass with a signature caramel rim-job. Lick it good.

Mellow Café and Gastro Pub, 1605 Roosevelt Blvd. 305-745-3874; www.mellowventureskeywest.com. Located near the water in Old Town Key West, the café is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner and offers unique island fare with a mellow atmosphere to match. The menu items are crafted with fresh locally sourced ingredients and include a fresh catch, Havana roasted pork, romaine leaf plates and caramelized banana chocolate tacos. Drink options include a large selection of craft beers, 11 rotating tap beers, wine, house-made sangria, and champagne cocktails. They have a great happy hour daily from 5 to 7 p.m. and delivery is available.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Mellow Café and Gastro Pub is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Cuban Coffee Queen, 284 Margaret St. 305-292-4747; www.cubancoffeequeen.com. The strong Cuban coffee at this hole in the wall is also rich in Key West heritage. A Café Con Leche paired with a classic Cuban sandwich or some Havana rice and beans will keep you going long into a Key West night.

Firefly, 223 Petronia St. 305-849-0104; www.fireflykeywest.com.

Being that Key West is home to the southernmost point of the continental United States, it's fitting that the island is home to a very southern-inspired restaurant. Firefly's plantation-style look and Southern-inspired cuisine give it the most down-home feel of a culinary experience on the island. The shrimp and grits, fried chicken dish and bacon-wrapped meatloaf are a few fan favorites.

Key West Island Bookstore, 513 Fleming St. www.Keywestisland-

books.com; 305-294-2904. This decades-old boutique bookstore offers a surprisingly varied wealth of current and used titles, from best sellers to rare titles. Often open late it's an inviting place to browse among the crowded stacks.

La Rubia Fine Hats-510 Fleming St. 305-296-6059; www.larubiakeywest.com. The Florida Keys' only importer of authentic Panama hats. The owners developed this boutique to carry on the centuries-old tradition of hand weaving hats, which come from Ecuador and not Panama, by the way. There are styles for both men and women in a wide array of colors and weaves. They also offer a nice selection of wearable, fair trade crafts such as jewelry, ikat wraps and shigra bags.

Little Pearl, 632 Olivia St. 305-204-4762; www.littlepearlkeywest.com. Nestled in the heart of Old Town Key West and away from the bustling downtown streets, sits an excellent spot for fresh local catch and innovative cuisine with a tropical twist. It's new, it's hot and reservations are required.

Nancy Forrester's Secret Garden, 518 Elizabeth St. 305-294-0015; www.nancyforrester.com/index.html.

Ms. Forrester has a secret, and it's not her garden, per se: it's what she keeps there. The longtime environmentalist has been caring for orphaned parrots for more than 30 years, and she invites the public to meet with her uncaged friends to take pictures, hold them and listen as she educates the community about her feathered friends. ■

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happy hour 5 - 7 pm
2 - 4 - 1

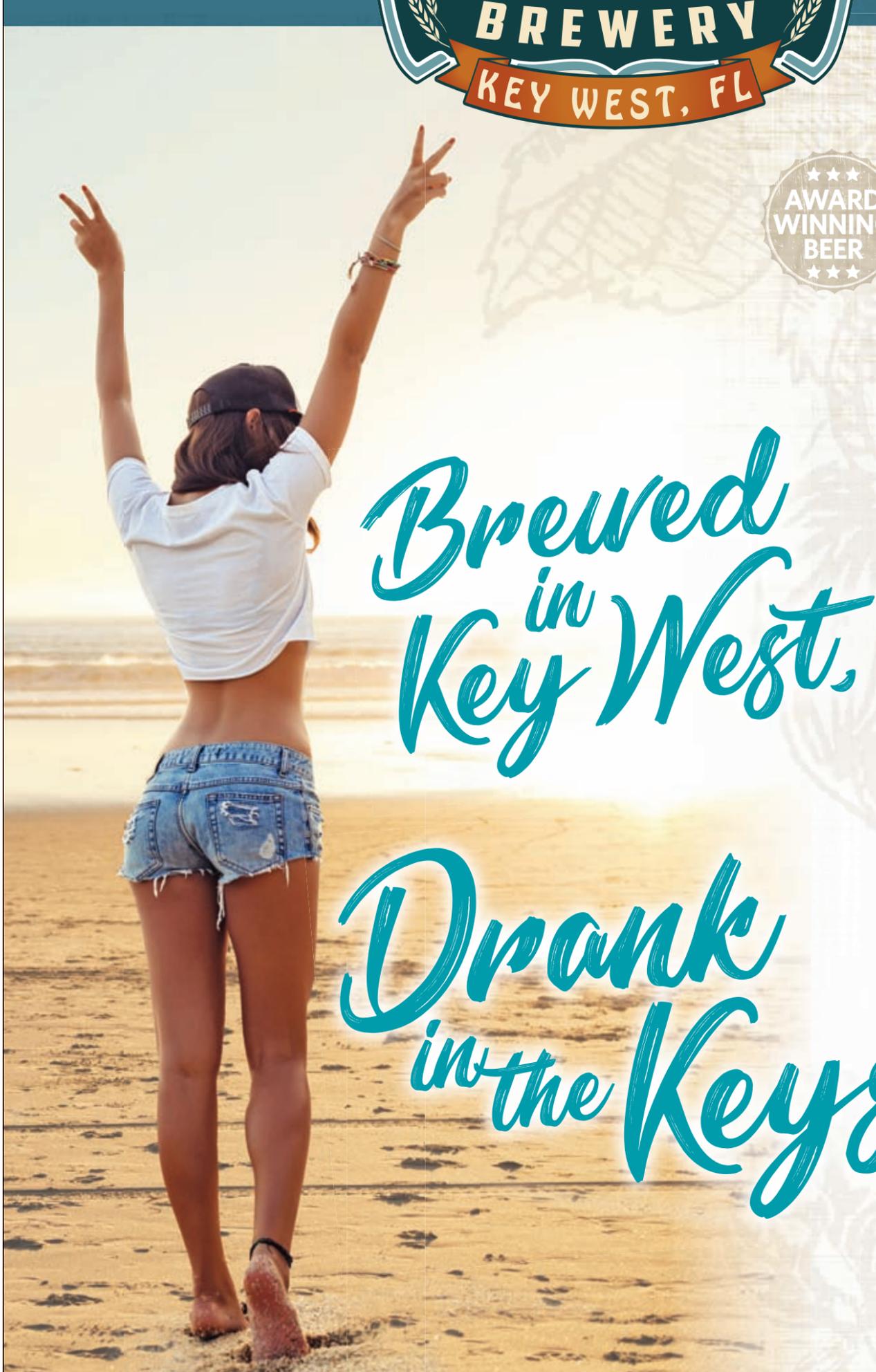
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This blonde ale brewed with local honey is good as it gets. A nice clean ale with a subtle honey-like sweetness that lingers just long enough. Very drinkable and smooth.



**ISLAND LIFE
AMERICAN LAGER**

Standard American Lagers are the "regular" strength versions of the light American lagers. The style guidelines for this beer are almost identical as those for the light versions.



**LAZY WAY IPA
AMERICAN IPA**

A medium-bodied, lightly toasted IPA with a malt character and a balanced bitterness. The piney hop notes carry through to the flavor. Finishes crisp and fairly dry.

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Getting around Key West

1. Southernmost Point

The corner of South Street and Whitehead Street
www.southernmostpointwebcam.com

The city of Key West erected this now famous concrete buoy in 1983 to denote the southernmost point in the continental United States.

2. Conch Tour Train

303 Front St., Key West
305-294-5161 or 888-916-8687
www.conchtourtrain.com

The Conch Train has been winding its way through the streets of Key West since 1958.

3. Sloppy Joe's

201 Duval St.
305-294-5717
www.sloppyjoes.com

The historic bar has been a Key West tradition since it opened in 1933. Its most famous patrons were Ernest Hemmingway and the rum runner Habana Joe.

4. Mallory Square Sunset Celebration

1 Whitehead St., Key West
786-565-7448
www.sunsetcelebration.org

This nightly festival begins at the water's edge

about an hour or two before sunset and includes street performers, local artisans, food carts, palmists and psychics.

5. Truman Little White House

111 Front St.
www.trumanlittlewhitehouse.com

The Little White House adds a presidential luster to the Conch Republic. Originally built for Naval officers in 1890 and used as a command headquarters in three wars, the Little White House later served as lodging for President Harry S. Truman's winter retreats from 1946 to 1952.

6. The Ernest Hemingway Home & Museum

907 Whitehead St., Key West
305-294-1136
www.hemingwayhome.com

Take the tour and say hello to one of the 40 to 50 six-toed cats, all descendants of Hemingway's cat, Snowball.

7. The Key West Butterfly & Nature Conservatory

1316 Duval St., Key West
305-296-2988 or 800-839-4647
www.keywestbutterfly.com

More than 50 different butterfly species from around the world and 20 different exotic bird species

coexist in this climate-controlled, glass-enclosed habitat that includes waterfalls, flowering plants and trees.

8. Mel Fisher Maritime Museum

200 Greene St., Key West
305-294-2633
www.melfisher.org

Exhibits include treasures from the Spanish galleons of 1622 discovered by Mel Fisher and his crew.

9. Mile Marker 0 Sign

490 Whitehead St., corner of Fleming Street

U.S. 1 begins here in Key West, continues 2,369 miles north up the East Coast, and ends in Fort Kent, Maine. Stop here to commemorate your visit to Key West with a photo next to the iconic Mile Marker 0 sign.

10. Key West Express Ferry Terminal

100 Grinnell Street
239-463-5733
www.Keywestexpress.net

Traveling via the Express is truly the best way to get between Key West, Fort Myers Beach or Marco Island. You'll enjoy air-conditioned interiors, exterior sun decks, couches, tables and even reclining airline-style seating. There's a full-service galley, full-service bar and flat-screen TVs with satellite television.

11. Audubon House and Garden

205 Whitehead Street
305-294-2116
www.Audubonhouse.com

Original lithographs by John James Audubon are on display the former home of shipwreck salvager Captain John Geiger.

12. Key West City Cemetery

Bordered by Angela, Frances, Olivia Streets and Windsor Lane
305-292-6718
www.Friendsofthekeywestcemetary.com

Stop by the sexton's office near the entrance at Passover Lane and Windsor Lane for a map containing a free walking tour.

13. Fort Zachary Taylor State Park and Beach

Located at the ocean end of Southard Street and bordering the Naval Reservation.
305-295-0037
www.Fortzacharytaylor.com

"Fort Zach" is known to locals and tourists alike as one of Key West's best beaches. In addition to the expansive beach, there are nature trails, bike paths, and Historic Fort Zachary Taylor all within a 54-acre park with picnic tables and grills. Experience the beautiful view of the Atlantic Ocean and the Key West Shipping Channel. ■

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Custom House Museum | 281 Front Street
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THEATER

The final shows for Summer Stage 2018: 'Under the Hunter's Moon' and 'Fresh Ink Shorts'

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Just three performances remain for the smash hit "Under the Hunter's Moon," the new play by Key West playwright Bob Bowersox on stage at the Red Barn Theatre as part of this year's Summer Stage 2018 "Festival of Stage Arts."

After a solid three-week run, the show's final performances are July 19-21. Tickets are savailable at www.redbarn-theatre.com/tickets or by calling 305-296-9911

Described in reviews as "... a luxurious experience ... laced with delicious spirit ... gripping," the play centers on Robert Grey, the biggest Hollywood star of his generation, who finds himself questioning his entire life's path when he unexpectedly runs into his long-lost first love (who he hasn't seen in 35 years) in a rural Maine general store while shooting his new film.

Bowersox's play explores the question of why many of us end up far from where we were aimed in our youth, and what do we do when the reality of that journey hits home without warning.

Starring are David Black, Bowersox,

Melody G. Moore, Paula Cabot, Mathias Maloff, Tammy Shanley and Arthur Crocker. The play is directed by Stephenwolf and Goodman Theater alum Patrick New.

The final production of Summer

Stage 2018, "Fresh Ink Shorts," is set to open next weekend, making its debut in the Back Room Theater at the Key West Theater, 512 Eaton St. The show will run only two nights, at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 27-28.

not only local theater, but local theater writers as well."

Tickets are available at www.redbarn-theatre.com/tickets or by calling 305-296-9911. ■



Cast members of "Under the Hunter's Moon."

COURTESY PHOTO

The evening will feature short plays that are all brand new and all penned by local playwrights. They run from one minute to 25 minutes, and will be performed in a blocked, staged, script-in-hand format by an ensemble cast of top Key West actors. The plays cover comedy, drama, fantasy, and everything in-between.

The "Fresh Ink" featured playwrights this year include Bowersox, Moore and Neal Ruchman.

The "Fresh Ink" ensemble of featured actors includes Vanessa McCaffrey, Mathias Maloff, Tammy Shanley, Ross Pipkin, John Reynolds, Tony Konrath and Rebecca Gleason.

"It's a fast-paced, completely engaging 70 minutes of very good writing and acting," Bowersox said. "It's a great way to support

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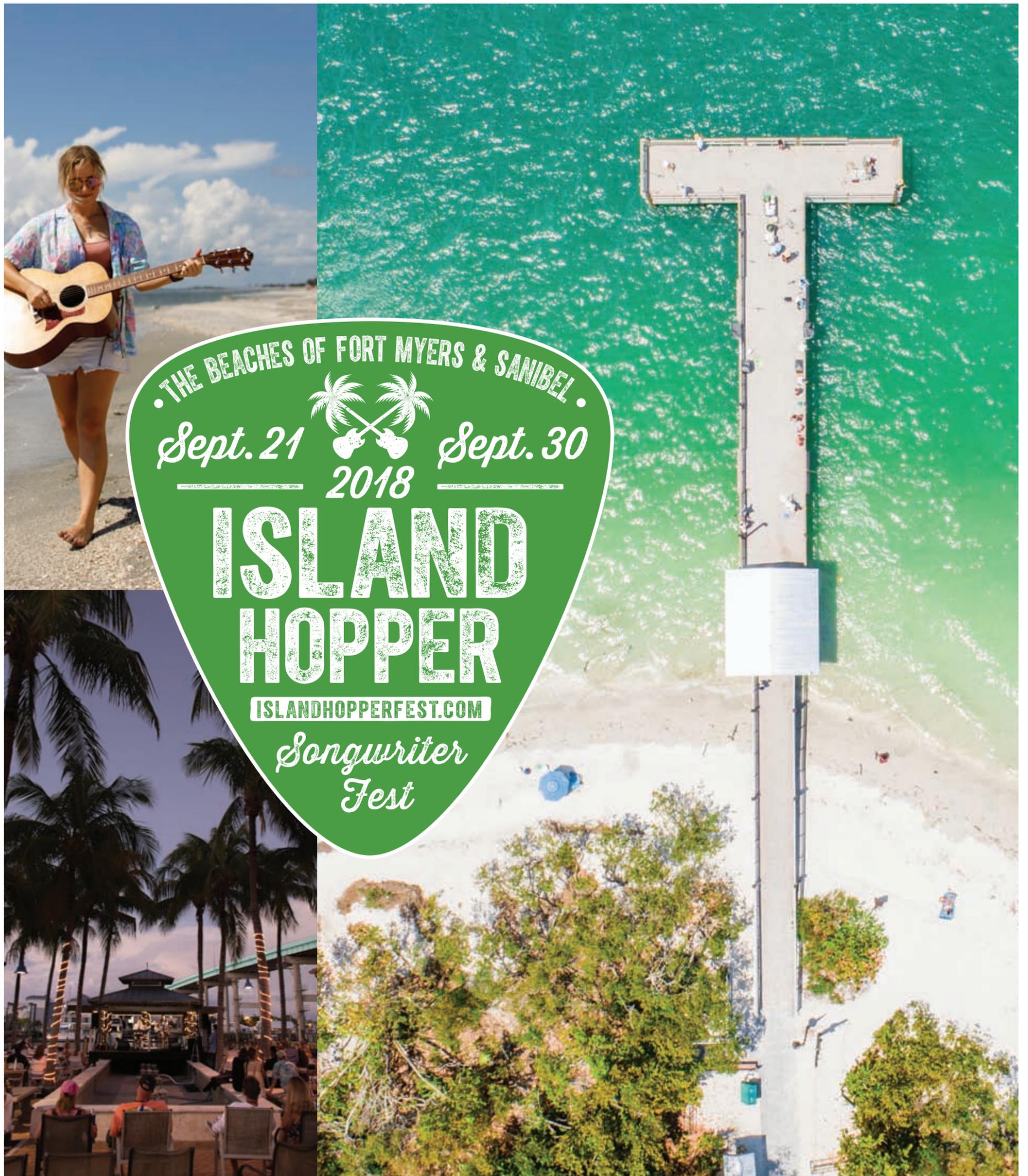
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KEY WEST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENTS

Key West Summer Stage "Under the Hunter's Moon"

July 19, 20 and 21, 8 p.m.
Red Barn Theatre
319 Duval St.
www.redbarntheatre.com

Mango Fest

July 21, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Bayview Park
1320 Truman Ave.

The Running of the Chihuahuas

July 21, 1:30 to 6 p.m.
Rick's KeyWest
202 Duval St.

Summerish Fun Movie "Footloose"

July 25, 7 p.m.
The Key West Theater
512 Eaton St.
www.thekeywesttheater.com



COURTESY PHOTO
The Key West Art & Historical Society's Permanent Collection includes more than 25,000 objects spanning from postcards, photographs, paintings, artifacts, textiles, ordnance and archives highlighting the people, places and events which have shaped the Florida Keys. Items are available through the generous support of donors. See it at Key West Art & Historical Society Custom House, 281 Front St., www.Kwahs.org.

COMEDY

Comedy Open Mic Night

Mondays, 9 p.m.
Mary Ellen's Bar and Restaurant
420 Appelrouth Lane

Comedy Key West

Thursdays and Fridays, 7:30 to 10 p.m.
The Blue Room
1128 Simonton St.
Tickets available at
www.comedykeywest.com

MUSIC

Green Parrot Bar

601 Whitehead St.
Live Music Nightly
Check the schedule at
www.greenparrot.com

Irish Kevin's

211 Duval St.
Live Music Nightly
Check the schedule at

www.irishkevins.com

Mary Ellen's

420 Appelrouth Lane
Open Mic with Comedy Key West,
Mondays, 9 p.m.
Drunken Spelling Bee, First Monday
of each month, 9 p.m.
Trivia, Tuesday Nights, 6:30 p.m.
SIN Night (Service Industry Night),
Wednesdays 8 p.m. to 4 a.m.

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www.mellowkw.com

Smoking Tuna

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Live Music Nightly
Check the schedule at
www.smokingtunasaloon.com

Sloppy Joes

201 Duval St.
Live Music Nightly
Check the schedule at
www.sloppyjoes.com

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographs from the permanent collection

Ongoing
Key West Art and Historical Society
Custom House
281 Front St.
www.Kwahs.org

Homegrown

Photographs by Michael Marrero
Ongoing
Gallery on Greene
606 Greene St.
www.galleryongreene.com

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KEY WEST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

www.tropiccinema.com
Check the website for ongoing films

LGBT

Aqua Nightclub

711 Duval St.
Aqua Idol for the Florida Keys SPCA
Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
Drag Shows
Nightly, 7 and 9 p.m.
Karaoke
Monday through Thursday, 11 p.m.
www.AquaKeyWest.com

Bobby's Monkey Bar

900 Simonton St.
Karaoke
Nightly, 9:30 p.m.
Bobby's Monkey Bar on Facebook

Bourbon St. Pub

724 Duval St.
Just Jeff (Moss), Thursdays through Sundays, 8 to 10 p.m.
Ronnie, Mondays through Wednesdays, 3 to 8 p.m.
The Men of Bourbon, Nightly
www.BourbonSt.pub.com

801 Bourbon Bar

801 Duval St.
Drag Shows, Nightly, 9 and 11 p.m.
Happy Hour Drag, 5 p.m. Saturdays
Drag Karaoke, 4 p.m. Sundays
Messy Mondays with Mulysa, 1 a.m. Mondays
Fierce and Fabulous/Dragalicious, 1 a.m. Wednesdays
www.801bourbon.com

Island House

1129 Fleming St.
www.IslandHouseKeyWest.com

La Te Da

1125 Duval St.
Christopher Peterson, July 21, 9 p.m.
Randy Roberts, July 19 and 24, 9 p.m.
3Sum, July 19, 20, 21 and 22, 8:30 p.m.
Ronnie Lively, July 23, 8:30
The Fabulous Spectrelles, July 24 and 25, 8:30 p.m.
Tea Dance, Sundays 4 to 6:30 p.m.
www.Lateda.com
Around Key West

Local Farm Stand

Wednesdays, 5 to 7 p.m.
Mellow Café and Gastropub
1605 North Roosevelt Blvd.

Ghost Tours and Ghost Hunts

Nightly
301 Whitehead St. and 1102 Duval St.
305-395-1435
www.hauntedkeywest.com ■



■ Competing local chefs and residents alike showcase the colorful abilities of what the mango has to offer at **Mango Fest**. July 21, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bayview Park, 1320 Truman Ave.

#KW
TOP PICKS

7.21



7.21

■ Come out for a little competition at **The Running of the Chihuahuas**, July 21, 1:30 to 6 p.m., Rick's KeyWest, 202 Duval St.



7.19-21

■ **Key West Summer Stage "Under the Hunter's Moon,"** July 19, 20 and 21, 8 p.m., Red Barn Theatre, 319 Duval St.
— www.redbarntheatre.com



7.25

■ Like Bacon? Don't miss "Footloose" at the **Summerish Fun Movie Series** July 25, 7 p.m., The Key West Theater, 512 Eaton St.

— www.thekeywesttheater.com

Modern & Minimal Fine Art Photography
by: Jorge de la Torriente

419 Duval

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ANDY NEWMAN, FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU PHOTO

Look-alikes also take part in many other Hemingway Days activities, including Saturday's offbeat "Running of the Bulls," Key West's lighthearted salute to the annual event in Pamplona, Spain.

HEMINGWAY

From page 1

smoking cigars and swilling rum like they're preemptively trying to ensure their spots on the naughty list? If you didn't know any better, you'd think you had stumbled right into a mall Santa convention or into an out-of-season Santa-Con but au contraire — these men have been growing their beards and practicing their Papa impressions for Hemingway Days, the weeklong celebration of Key West's most famous literary legacy. The festival, now in its 38th year, runs July 17-22 and glorifies all things Ernest.

Annual Hemingway Days events include lectures, cocktail parties, tours, races, readings and even a marlin fishing tournament (Hemingway was an avid fisherman, as devoted to the sport as he was to getting blotto beyond belief). But it's the Papa Look-alike Contest held at the famous Sloppy Joe's bar that receives the bulk of the annual festival's national press, owed no doubt to the overwhelming sight of a room packed with what appear to be Hemingway's clones, all jostling for a statue shaped like — you guessed it — Mr. Hemingway himself. Picture it: Hemingway, clutching a bronze bust of Hemingway, smiling amidst a sea of drunk cheering Hemingways. It's enough to make someone who happened to stroll in off the street think they'd been slipped a Mickey (or stumbled into a particularly weird literary-themed fetish party — after all, nothing is off limits in Key West).

Each year, over a hundred broad-chested, bearded hopefuls queue up in Hemingway's favorite watering hole, Sloppy Joe's, to compete for the title of "Papa." They preen; they pose; they arm-wrestle. They spend hours choosing



ANDY NEWMAN, FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU PHOTO

The competition takes place at Sloppy Joe's Bar, 201 Duval St., where the legendary author often enjoyed cocktails with cohorts when he lived in Key West during the 1930s.

the right khaki safari-shirt and woolen fisherman's sweater. And, much like a traditional beauty pageant, looks only get the contestants so far — there's a talent portion, too, where each Heming-

way (outfitted in a crisp outfit of white and red, complete with jaunty beret and handkerchief) runs amidst man-made bulls in a simulation of the famous, slightly more life-threatening event in

Pamplona. The competition is fierce; there's even a scholarship portion, in which the Papas celebrate their name-sake's July 21st birthday by announcing the recipients of the Hemingway

Look-Alike Society's scholarships given to local students. It's a fun, famously packed event, but it's just one of many do-not-miss events scheduled for this year's Hemingway Days lineup.

First off, attendees may want to refresh their memories of Hemingway's oeuvre by visiting his old Key West digs, now called the Hemingway Home & Museum. Located at 907 Whitehead St., the museum — and its famously lush, six-toed cat-covered grounds — is perfect for a lazy afternoon spent meandering through rooms filled with antiques, memorabilia and knowledgeable docents leading tours throughout. Keep an eye out for the penny encased in cement beside the pristine swimming pool out back. Legend has it that the author's second wife, Pauline Pfeiffer, put it there after her husband took issue with her having overseen the conversion of his beloved boxing ring into a swimming pool, to the tune of \$20,000. Supposedly, Pfeiffer was motivated by spite, not a love of aquatic aerobics; word had gotten back to her that her husband, away from home working as a war correspondent during the Spanish Civil War, had had an affair and fallen in love with Martha Gellhorn, who would go one to replace Pfeiffer as wife number three. It was the only in-ground swimming pool on the island, and even in 1938, \$20,000 was a boatload of cash. The author reportedly threw a penny on the ground when he discovered how much Pfeiffer had spent, saying she had spent all but his last penny, and that she might as well take that, too.

Hemingway wrote some of his most influential work in the studio adjoining the house, including "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and "The Snows of Kilimanjaro." Be aware: A number of artifacts, including a life-sized bronze statue of the writer by historical sculptor Terry Jones, have been temporarily relocated to the



COURTESY PHOTO

The Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum is a popular Key West attraction.

beautiful Custom House Museum, also home to an exhibit of 59 original pen-and-ink illustrations by renowned artist Guy Harvey, which follows the narrative of Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea."

A vital aspect of authentically celebrating Hemingway is to honor the author's deep love of fishing, done best by competing in the Key West Marlin Tournament, which runs through July 21. If your love of the chase and the smell of the wide open sea isn't enough to inspire you to enter, consider there's also \$50,000 in cash prizes to be handed out. Tournament events include a pig roast, fish fry, cocktail party and various opportunities to brag to fellow competitors that you beat Hemingway's record of 54 marlin caught in 115

days.

On Friday, July 20, the Key West Poetry Guild hosts a reading of Hemingway's lesser-known poetic works at Key West's Old City Hall, at 510 Greene St.

If you're looking for something a little more active, the author's famously sporty lifestyle might best be celebrated by participating in the Hemingway 5K Sunset Run and Lazy Dog Paddleboard Race. The paddleboard race, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, July 21, features a 3-mile ocean course starting and finishing at the Southernmost Beach at 1405 Duval St.

And if you're faster on pavement than waves, skip the paddle boarding and enjoy running the longest-running road race

Hemingway Days events include lectures, cocktail parties, tours, races, readings, a marlin fishing tournament and the Papa Look-alike Contest held at Sloppy Joe's.

lifestyle might best be celebrated by participating in the Hemingway 5K Sunset Run and Lazy Dog Paddleboard Race. The paddleboard race, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, July 21, features a

in Key West, a 5K sunset walk/run that takes participants on a tour of historic Old Town Key West, making sure to pass by the author's home. An after-party back at the beach will feature food, drinks, a silent auction, raffles and an awards ceremony.

Those traveling by car should plan to bypass Duval Street, Key West's main drag, on Saturday, July 21, when the street will close to vehicular traffic for an all-day market featuring arts, crafts, tropical clothing, jewelry and a variety of food stands.

Grab a bite to eat at the market, don your Pamplona best and head over to Sloppy Joe's at 1 p.m. to catch the aforementioned Running of the Bulls event. Just be sure to watch out for the horns on those man-driven "bulls" — and for the careening Papas, for that matter. After a couple rums each, the bulls and the Hemingways are equally unpredictable.

All that stimulation — intellectual, libational and physical — can really exhaust even the most hardcore Hemingway fans. Take a page from the book of the man himself and wind down on Sunday, July 22, with Bloody Marys with Papa at Sloppy Joe's beginning at 10 a.m. Make sure you get there early enough to snag a prime stage-side seat for the Sloppy Joe's Arm Wrestling Contest, which begins at 11 a.m. and is a stunning display of mustached machismo to behold.

After the winner is declared, stroll down the block to the Custom House Museum, where historian Sharon Wells will lead a trolley tour of sites associated with Hemingway's Key West years, including his former home and the waterfront settings he memorialized in "To Have and Have Not."

The full list of festival events for Hemingway Days can be found at www.fla-keys.com. ■



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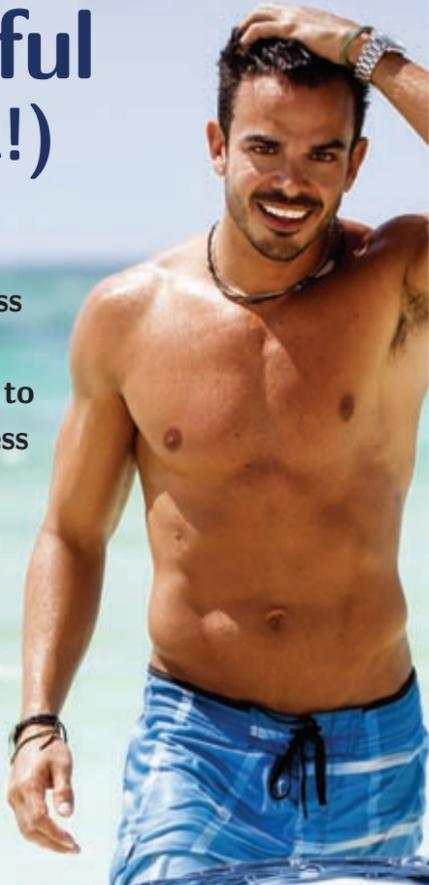

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www.Conchrepublicseafood.com
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 \$4 Jameson
www.Danteskeywest.com
- Geiger Key Marina** 
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www.Geigerkeymarina.com
- Green Parrot Bar** 
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 4-7 p.m. Monday through Thursday
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www.Greenparrot.com
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www.grandcafekeywest.com
- Half Shell Raw Bar**
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www.Halfshellrawbar.com
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www.hardrockcafe/keywest
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www.Hogfishbar.com
- Island Dogs Bar** 
 505 Front St.
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www.Islanddogsbar.com
- Lucy's Retired Surfer Bar and Restaurant**
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www.Keywest.lucysretiredsurfers.com
- Martin's**
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www.Martinskeywest.com
- Mary Ellen's Bar** 
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www.maryellensbar.com
- Mellow Ventures Café and Gastropub** 
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www.Tattoosandscarssaloon.com
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BARTENDER OF THE WEEK

Gretchen Richmond: Daughter of a sailor

BY BUCKY MONTGOMERY

Outside of the military, the term “military brat” is sometimes misunderstood by civilians since the word “brat” itself is often a pejorative term. Research has shown that most current and former military brats like the description and embrace it as a term of endearment and respect, as it connotes a sense of worldliness and pride in the experience of a mobile upbringing.

Gretchen (Voigt) Richmond was born in Misawa-shi, Aomori, Japan, to a Navy dad. Since that time, she has made her home in various locales around the globe, including Hawaii, Scotland, Maryland, Tampa and San Diego, before settling in Key West 15 years ago, where her father eventually retired from the service.

She started off in retail management at a shoe store before getting into the hospitality industry. She worked at Jack Flat's on Duval Street for seven years, but you may now find her tending bar at the picturesque Southernmost Beach Cafe, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, Key West's closest drinking and dining spot to Cuba.

“Key West is the home I never had,” Gretchen says. “I like seeing the same mail lady, getting my breakfast at Goldman's Deli, knowing the guy at the post office... It's my home town.”

Gretchen graduated from the local Florida Keys Community College with an associate of arts degree and is working toward a bachelor's in business management with graduation anticipated in May 2019. When not working, she likes to spend time around the water with her husband Mark (13 years together, three years married), although she prefers pools and the beach rather than boating. “I get sick,” she says with a guilty smile. So much for being the daughter of a sailor!

If you don't mind getting some sand between your toes, the Southernmost Beach Cafe is a favorite hangout for locals and tourists alike. You can take in your favorite sporting events at the nearby poolside Pineapple Bar, feel the ocean breeze while listening to Key West's best entertainers live at the Shores Bar, or grab a tropical drink at the convenient Sand Bar, and just relax on the private oceanfront pier. Guests relax along the sandy beach or float in the shallow shores, watching the sunset, drinks in hand.

The Cafe offers a full-menu for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, with a wide array of soups, salads and fresh appetizers. For dinner fare, if you don't opt for their filet



mignon or chicken dishes, you might try the plantain crusted hogfish, drunken scallops, a double cut pork chop or a Sobe Wagyu burger.

Set right at the end of Duval Street, you won't find a better spot for your event than the Southernmost Beach Cafe, whether it's a business event or a beach wedding ceremony complete with rehearsal dinner, beach vows and an elegant poolside reception for 150-200 guests, right on the beach overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. You can also bring your event off the beach and into the air-conditioning, with black-out blinds, adjustable lights, and a 60-inch Sony LED flat-screen TV for business presentations.

“In a couple months during Labor Day weekend we've got Brewfest again,” Gretchen points out of the festival that has become more and more popular every year, “For all the beer lovers.”

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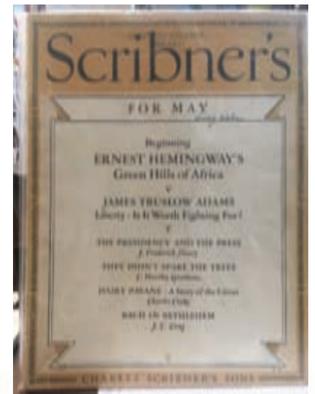
You can catch Gretchen behind the bar Friday through Tuesday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and going to school on her days

off. “My schedule is all over the place. Just like my childhood!” ■



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FISHING

From page 1

to try their luck at fishing our reefs, flats, wrecks and deep water. Mini-season aside, summer in the Keys means there's never a bad spot to set down your anchor (or, if you're partial to skin diving and spearfishing, to jump into the water) and bring up something tasty for dinner. Whether you're set on deep dropping for queen snapper or choose to hit the wrecks for some light tackle grouper hunting, it's the perfect time for amateurs and angling pros alike to try their luck in the famously fertile waters surrounding our island. We reached out to some of the Keys' best charter companies to find out what you should be trying to catch this summer and the best way to do it.

In the dozen years that Capt. Chris Mendola, owner of Far Out Charters, has been taking his clients out fishing, he's developed a niche for himself: Mendola is the person you call when you want to catch a swordfish. The notoriously difficult-to-land billfish is known for its magnificent appearance, its flaky white flesh and for being one of the best fights in the ocean — that is, if you can get a hold of one in the first place. There's a common misconception that the best way to catch one is by going out at night, says Mendola, that can deter some anglers who aren't keen on skipping an evening at Sloppy Joe's in favor of waiting in the dark while being tossed around by the choppy waters of the gulf. But far less important is the time of day one puts a line into the water than the depth a line is dropped — up to 2,000 feet, to be specific. It's a tricky, technical kind of fishing, requiring heavy lead weights, particu-



COURTESY PHOTO

Far Out Charters comes in from a good day of fishing.

types of belly bait, special permits, tiny strobe lights and a precise method of drift catching which utilizes the natural current to avoid tangled lines. You're not going to stumble upon this kind of fishing when you're casting a few lines off the White Street Pier.

Mendola keeps his boat outfitted with top-of-the-line electric assist rigs, giving his customers the option to battle their prey manually towards the end of what can sometimes be a very, very long fight. But the work is, according to any sport fisherman worth his weight in tuna, well worth the fight. The bite of a swordfish is subtle, not drastic; it takes a trained eye to spot it, which is where going out with a qualified guide comes in handy. Since it can take a few hours, it's a great fit for anglers who have been out on the water enough that the shock of pulling something — anything — off the reef has worn

off, and who are looking for something more challenging.

It's the same thirst for adventure Mendola possesses that also drew Capt. Justin Jennings Annarino to start his charter business, Keys Custom Fishing Charters, in 2016. Although he has his hands full with his Stock Island-based automotive business, Keys Custom Automotive, Annarino now spends many of his days focusing on the fun, casual side of living in the Florida Keys, mixing activities like snorkeling, eco tours, sand bar hopping and dolphin sighting into his fishing charters. For Keys Custom Fishing Charters, the summertime is a great time to explore the vastly different underwater worlds that surround Key West. It's the diversity of both species of fish and types of ecosystems that sets Keys fishing apart from the rest of the world, with access to shallow patch reefs, inshore



COURTESY PHOTO

Key Custom Fishing Charters bringing in the catch of the day.

channels, and deep water Atlantic fishing never more than a few miles away from one another.

Though Key West is a notoriously expensive and difficult place to run a business, Annarino's team is small and tight-knit, with a decidedly boutique approach compared to the cattle call-type charters that many tourists find themselves stuck on during their vacation. Keys Custom Fishing Charters doesn't have a booth on Duval manned by tawny teenagers hawking Jet-ski trips; its business is based on word-of-mouth referrals and repeat clients looking for a deeply personalized fishing experience.

Much like Annarino, Capt. Mike Weinhofer takes an exceptionally individualized approach to charters on his shiny vessel, the Compass Rose. A lifelong fisherman with angling in his blood, Weinhofer moved to Key West in 1990 and has become one of the foremost experts in local light tackle fishing. Whether you're an experienced angler or a novice looking to impress your Instagram followers, he can customize a trip out to the myriad reefs and wrecks both offshore and inshore. And although Compass Rose Charters is named after the flagship craft, Weinhofer has five more boats for whatever



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COURTESY PHOTO

Happy customers with their lobster catch.

type of fishing suits your fancy, from the serenity of the flats to high-intensity tarpon and everything in between. Looking for a trip that will make your heart race? On the Compass Rose's Sunset Shark trips, you'll have the opportunity to hook lemons, bulls, blacktips, hammerheads and more. Just make sure you keep your hands to yourself.

If it's a long day of sport fishing you're after, look no further than Wild Bill Sport Fishing. Capt. Art Duplessis has 23 years of experience fishing the waters of both the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico for just about every species of fish out there, including sailfish, marlin, king mackerel, grouper, tarpon, barracuda and wahoo—in fact, one of Duplessis's mottos is, "If it swims in more than four feet of water, we'll find it!" A self-described fishing fanatic, he is relentless in his mission to ensure that his guests are comfortable, have fun and — most importantly — catch fish. Every excursion on the Wild Bill is completely customized to the group's fishing desires, so rest assured that your trip with Duplessis will deliver on all of your aquatic expectations.

For those new to the sport, summertime is the ideal time to engage in reef and wreck fishing, as the rewards — in both excitement and the diversity of catches — can be impressive. Throw in a guided tour of the backcountry wilderness and you've got a recipe for a uniquely memorable day. And while the well-stocked flats around Key West offer practically guaranteed success year-round, it's during the summer when flats fishing reaches its explosive peak, with great opportunities for anglers of all levels to fight bonefish, permit and tarpon.

For more experienced sport anglers, summer in the Keys is the best time to try for those famously fun-to-fight (and delicious) pelagic species such as mahi-mahi and wahoo. And if it's a drawn-out battle you're after (and you've already snagged a swordfish or two), now's the time to get out onto the water and try your luck at hooking a blue marlin, whose tremendous strength offers an awesome fight for anyone lucky enough to snare one.

No matter what types of activities you choose to engage in, summertime in the Keys typically means you're in for days of blisteringly hot sun, punctuated with the occasional afternoon thunderstorms that often knock out the power for a little while. It doesn't take much for the island to flood, but those particularly dedicated drinkers can rest assured that kayaking to the Green Parrot will put you right alongside a group of seasoned locals, for whom the phrase "rain or shine" takes on a very literal meaning. But, temperamental weather aside, there's really no better time to visit the Florida Keys — with fewer crowds and more active ocean life, it's the perfect time to spend a few days cooling your face with an ocean breeze or two. Load up on the SPF, pack twice as much water as you need (no, beer does not count as water no matter what your frat brothers say) and get some lines in the water — dinner tastes infinitely better when it's freshly caught and hard-fought, anyway. ■

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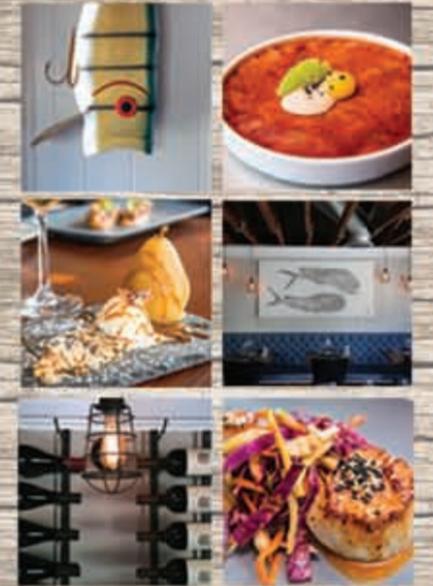
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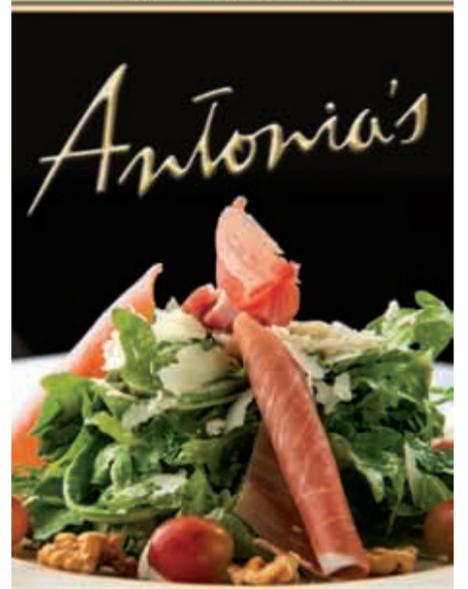
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MUSIC SCENE

D.J. Johnny 2 Shots wants to make you dance

BY JENNIFER WHITE
Florida Weekly Correspondent

If you walk into Bourbon Street Pub at 724 Duval Street on a Monday or Tuesday night long after the sun has gone down, you may find yourself hit with an impulsive urge to dance. Seasoned bartenders are working quickly to sling a frenzy of drinks while shirtless men harmlessly flirt with enamored patrons in the open doorway as the party spills out onto the sidewalk. All the while the entire room is being carefully controlled by John Lamere, known by his stage name as DJ Johnny 2 Shots as he mixes and spins an aggressive blend of disco, funk and house.

"I try to give the crowd what they want, but also what they haven't heard before," Johnny explains. "Music you're not going to hear anywhere else."

There's a good chance that you may have heard John Lamere's name somewhere other than in the dance clubs given that his father is also a John Lamere and a guitarist in town. It's for this reason that little John Lamere officially adopted the nickname Johnny 2 Shots, a playful persona that was originally given to him back in his hometown of Long Island, N.Y., because he didn't drink as much as his friends.

"Two-beer Lamere just didn't sound as good," Johnny laughs.

You could say that music runs in Johnny's blood. Along with his father,

Johnny's grandfather was also a professional musician. He gave his grandson not only his first keyboard, but a piece of advice that Johnny has carried with him ever since.

"He told me that not only am I going to love it, but that nothing else will ever feel this good," he remembers.

During his last year of college, Johnny came to the realization that he didn't like the direction his life was going and decided moving to Key West was the perfect remedy for clearing one's head and figuring things out. In a move that could easily be turned into an inspirational quote, Johnny found himself by letting go of his immediate commitments and allowing for things to fall into place. He has since made this tiny island his home and happily found his rhythm here.

The digital virtuoso will tell you himself that he has come a long way since his big break at the late Rumor Lounge after serendipitously meeting one of the owners one random night at another bar, or his very first gig on a fire escape in Brooklyn that sent him scrambling to pack up his equipment when the cops showed up. These days Johnny plays in less risky establishments like Sidebar at Aqua Bar and Nightclub at 504 Angela Street, Club A at 218 Duval Street and along with his residency at Bourbon Street Pub, he was also able to continue his residency at 430 Greene Street after Rumor Lounge became Tiki House.

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"I've learned a lot down here," he unabashedly admits. "I was very green when I started. I learned a lot from the more experienced DJs about finding my own style and mixing. I used to be more scattered. Now I've found what I like and the kind of nights I like to create."

In a scene heavily dominated by singer-songwriters, Johnny has managed to create his own modest, yet loyal following of friends and fans who show up to support him on a weekly basis. They all too often stay all the way to the end of his sets at 4 a.m.

"The scene here is small, but people like me and the other DJs are dedicated to it," he says. "It's a special community and I'm going to do what I can to keep it."

And although he takes his niche profession very seriously — even producing his own tracks, one of which was featured at Coachella last year — behind Johnny's emerging talent is someone who just likes to enjoy the simple pleasures of the very thing you'll be doing if you end up walking into Bourbon Street Pub on a Monday or Tuesday night: dancing.

"People are the most true to themselves when they are dancing," he believes. "I dance just as hard on stage as when I'm on the dance floor. It's very therapeutic."

Learn more about DJ Johnny 2 Shots by visiting his Facebook page @johnny2shots or at www.soundcloud.com/johnny2shots. ■

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KEY WEST GALLERY GUIDE

For a comprehensive guide and map to Key West's finest art galleries, visit www.keysarts.com/artist_connections/gallery_guide.pdf.

SPECIAL EVENTS THIS WEEK:

The Gallery on Greene

606 Greene St.

Peter vey
Ongoing

www.galleryongreene.com
305-294-1669

SALT Gallery

830 Fleming St.

Kreg Kelley
Ongoing

www.saltislandprovisions.com
305-517-6088

Key West Art & Historical Society

Custom House
281 Front St.

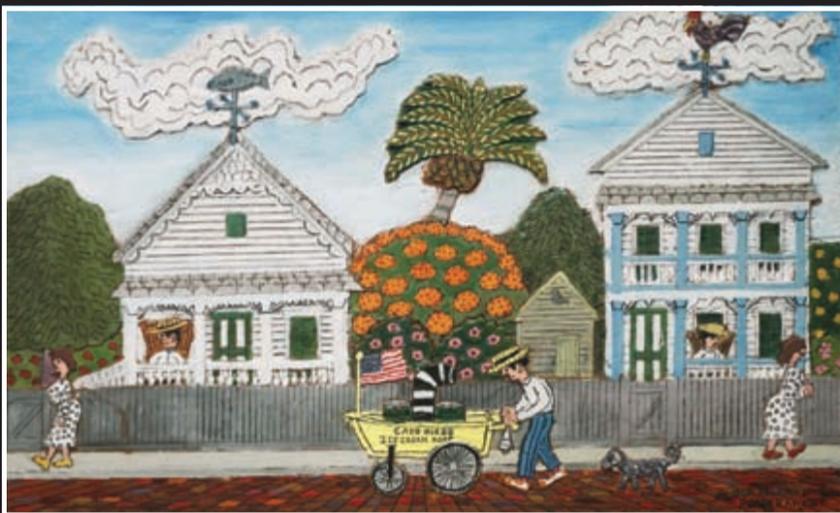
That's Outrageous - The work of Captain Outrageous
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The works of Peter Vey are featured at Gallery on Greene.

COURTESY PHOTO



Mario Sanchez

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KEY WEST GALLERY GUIDE

The Historic Armory Studios

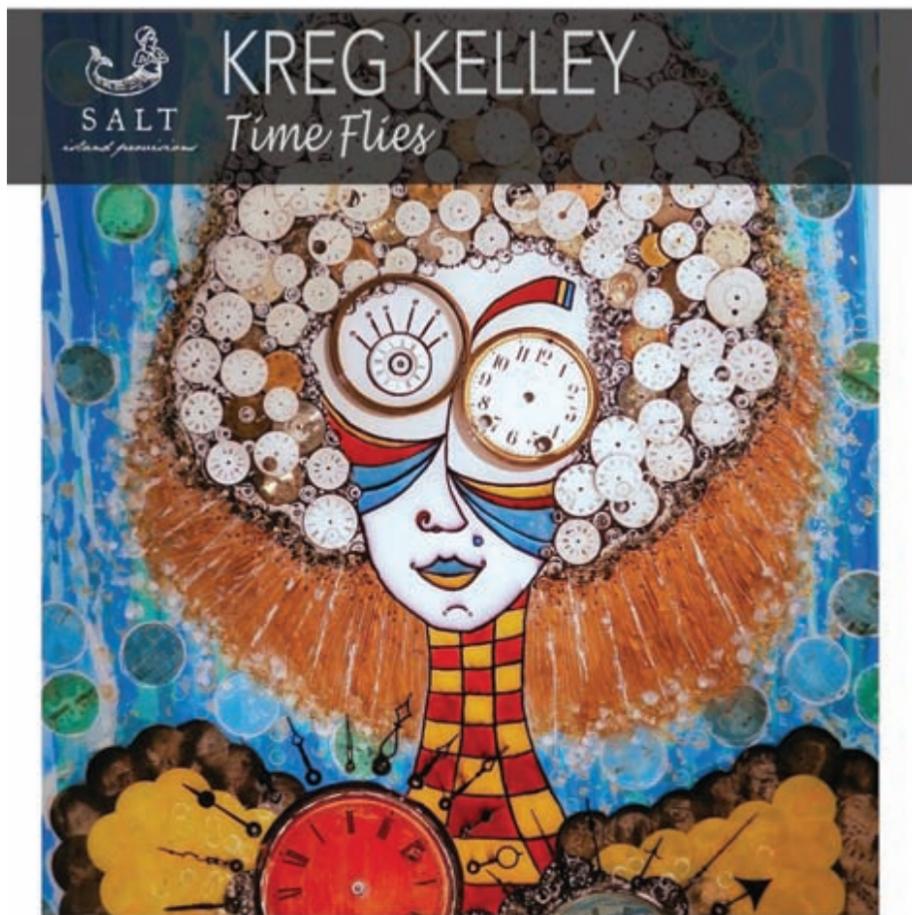
600 White St.
Paintings by Michael J. Phillips
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conthead2@yahoo.com
704-819-2487

**Mixed media work
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COURTESY PHOTOS

Peter Vey's paintings are at Gallery on Greene.



KREG KELLEY
Time Flies

After a successful career making and selling art in Washington D.C., Kreg moved to Key West in 2013 and wasted no time getting involved with The Arts Council of The Florida Keys, The Anne McKee Art Fund and The Studios of Key West. His works are a fascinating combination of antique artifacts and modern layering and loquering techniques that give each piece depth and dimension.

"Time Flies" is much more influenced by Key West and island life, with an array of subjects like antique postcards of Key West, flowers, sea and marine life," Kreg says. "Also touching on the theme of 'Time Flies,' many of the pieces feature antique clocks from the 1800s."



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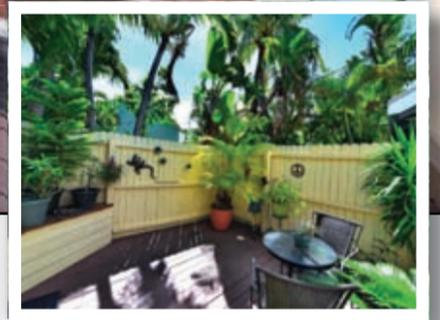
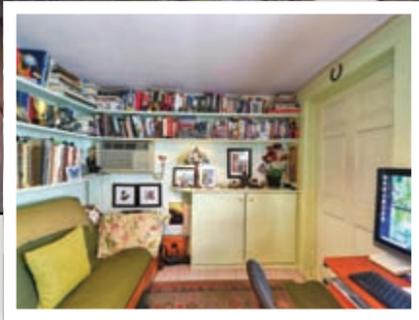


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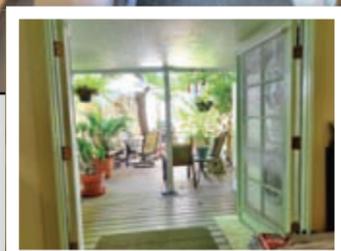
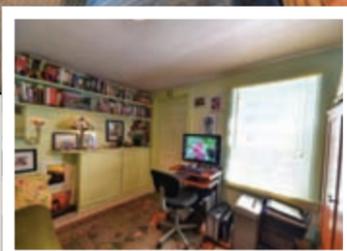


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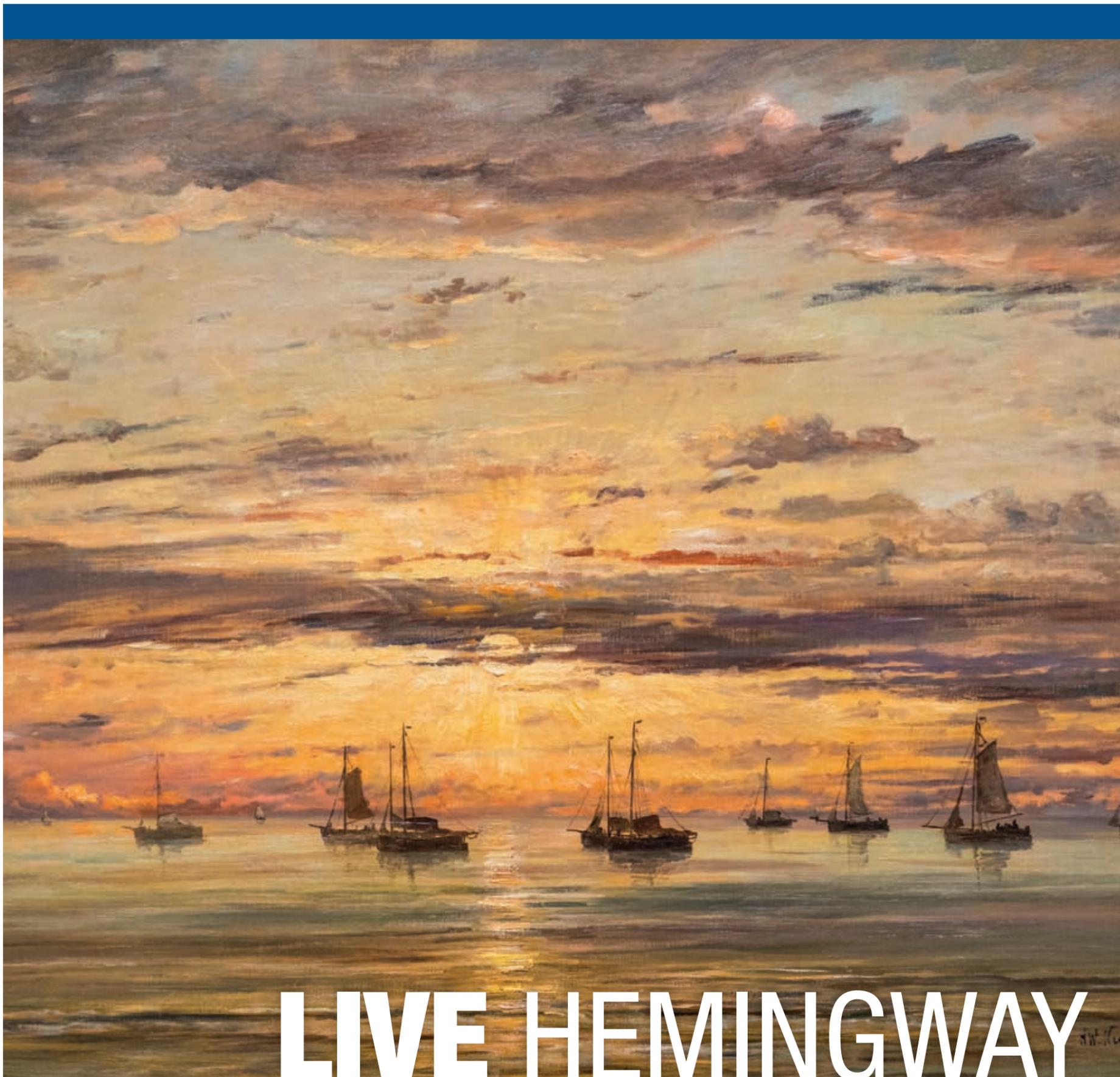
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LIVE HEMINGWAY

by Hendrick Willem Mesdag. A Fleet of Fishing Vessels at Anchor, used with permission

A Fleet of Fishing Vessels at Anchor

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