

# FLORIDA WEEKLY<sup>®</sup>

## KEY WEST EDITION

WEEK OF AUGUST 9-15, 2018

www.FloridaWeekly.com

Vol. 3, No. 19 • FREE

**INSIDE:** Parties, places to enjoy delicious preparations of our sweetest meat. **A10** ▶



# Bugging OUT

Lobster fever ignites at Lobsterfest

BY LAURA RICHARDSON

Florida Weekly Correspondent

**A**N INTRODUCTORY NOTE: IF YOU'RE OF THE OPINION THAT "real lobster" has two big ol' pinchy claws and is properly pronounced "lobstah," then this article may not be for you. If, however, your crustacean preferences are a little more liberal, allow us to enlighten you on the clawless wonder that is the Florida spiny lobster — a delicacy so prized that Key West has devoted an entire festival to it. Key West Lobsterfest kicks off this Thursday, Aug. 9, and celebrates the Florida spiny lobster, an alien-

SEE BUG, A10 ▶

COURTESY PHOTO

Vendors will offer many varieties of lobster dishes on Duval Street on Saturday, Aug. 11.



## The tale of East & West Martello

BY LAURA RICHARDSON

Florida Weekly Correspondent

Key West may celebrate itself as the southernmost point in the United States, but during the Civil War, Key West found itself defending its coastal borders against those dastardly enemy ships representing ... the South.

Yes, despite its location at the very bottommost edge of the nation, Fort Zachary

Taylor — the city's massive coastal Navy fortress — had already been secured by Union forces as a vital stronghold, its position at the edge of the Gulf of Mexico and the Florida Straits perfectly positioned to stop Confederate ships from coming ashore to aid their Floridian comrades-in-arms.

The construction of the massive (and massively unfinished) fort was first com-

SEE MARTELLO, A12 ▶



COURTESY PHOTO

Fort East Martello's entrance.

### INSIDE



#### Bartender of the Week

Key West's sweetheart bartender Erin Wagoner. **A6** ▶



#### Music

Chaka Chandler gets the party started and keeps it going. **A18** ▶



#### Top Picks

Great things to do on the island this week. **A9** ▶



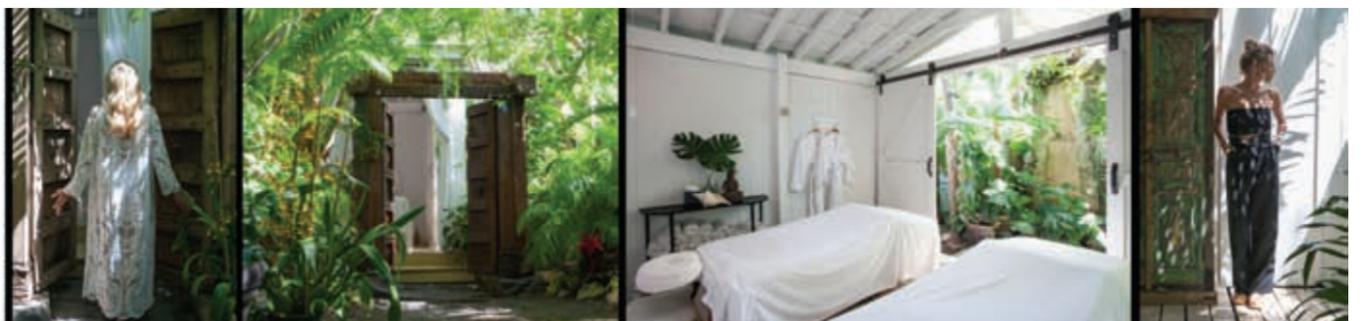
#### Dining

Theo and Dian of Coffee Plantation. **A21** ▶

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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 you might not see at first glance.

**Better than Sex, 926 Simonton St. 305-296-8102; www.betterthanssexkeywest.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.** 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 5-7 p.m., and delivery is available.

**Cuban Coffee Queen, 284 Marga-**



COURTESY PHOTO

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

**ret St. 305-292-4747; www.cuban-coffeequeen.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 any culinary experience on the island. The shrimp and grits, fried chicken 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 bestsellers to rare titles. Often open late, it's an inviting place to browse the crowded stacks.

**La Rubia Fine Hats, 510 Fleming St. 305-296-6059; www.larubiakeywest.com.** This is the Florida Keys' only importer of authentic Panama hats. The owners developed the 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 men and women in a wide array of colors and weaves. There's also 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 this excellent spot for fresh local catch and innovative cuisine with a tropical twist. It's new and it's hot. Reservations are required.

**Nancy Forrester's Secret Garden, 518 Elizabeth St. 305-294-0015; www.nancyforrester.com.** 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. She invites the public to meet them, take pictures, hold them and listen as she educates the community about her fine feathered friends. ■

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## 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.

# Drink in the Keys!



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## MAP IT OUT



## Getting around Key West

**1. Southernmost Point**

The corner of South Street and Whitehead Street  
[www.southernmostpointwebcam.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.sloppyjoes.com)  
 The historic bar has been a Key West tradition since it opened in 1933. Its most famous patrons were Ernest Hemingway and the rum runner Habana Joe.

**4. Mallory Square Sunset Celebration**

1 Whitehead St., Key West  
 786-565-7448  
[www.sunsetcelebration.org](http://www.sunsetcelebration.org)  
 This nightly festival begins at the water's edge 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](http://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](http://www.hemingwayhome.com)  
 Take the tour and say hello to one of the 40-50 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](http://www.keywestbutterfly.com)  
 More than 50 butterfly species from around the world and 20 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](http://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 and continues 2,369 miles north up the East Coast before ending in Fort Kent, Me. 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 St.  
 239-463-5733  
[www.Keywestexpress.net](http://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 St.  
 305-294-2116  
[www.Audubonhouse.com](http://www.Audubonhouse.com)  
 Original lithographs by John James Audubon are on display in this former home of shipwreck salvager Capt. John Geiger.

**12. Key West City Cemetery**

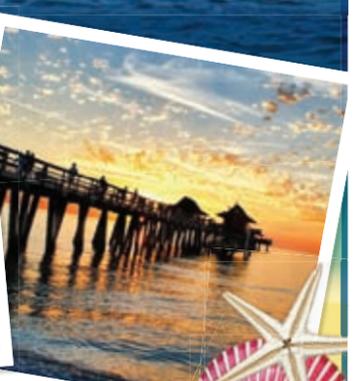
Bordered by Angela, Frances and Olivia streets and Windsor Lane  
 305-292-6718  
[www.Friendsofthekeywestcemetery.com](http://www.Friendsofthekeywestcemetery.com)  
 Stop by the sexton's office near the entrance at Passover Lane and Windsor Lane for a map containing a free walking tour.

**13. Fort Zachary Taylor State Park and Beach**

At the ocean end of Southard Street and bordering the Naval Reservation.  
 305-295-0037  
[www.Fortzacharytaylor.com](http://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, the 54-acre park has nature trails, bike paths, picnic tables and grills and Historic Fort Zachary Taylor. Enjoy the beautiful view of the Atlantic Ocean and the Key West Shipping Channel. ■

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# BARTENDER OF THE WEEK

## Key West's sweetheart bartender Erin Wagoner

BY BUCKY MONTGOMERY  
Florida Weekly Correspondent

Twenty-some years ago, Erin Odom was watching the house band at a small dive bar in Key West called Boston Billy's where she worked as a waitress, when she met the young aspiring guitarist playing that night, Carl Wagoner. Today, that bar is called the Smokin' Tuna Saloon, and they both work there to this day, she as the assistant manager and Carl onstage most nights with the various incarnations of bands he helps front. This October, they will have been married 13 years, and will have been together for 23.

Unlike Carl, Erin was not born here on the island, but in Corpus Christi, Texas. At around 10 years old, she moved to Key West, where she has remained ever since. Well, except for once, at age 17, when she ran away from home to Fort Lauderdale, working at a little joint called Bernie's BBQ, but it was short lived. "I ran out of sugar for my coffee and went next door to see if I could put some on my tab. That was it. I called my mom and told her to please come get me."

A graduate of Key West High School, she has been a fixture in the hospitality industry here for most of her life. Her first gig waiting tables was at the Hukilau Lounge at the top of the island, where starting at age 15 she waited tables throughout high school. From there, she worked at Cap'n Bob's, the



Galleon (where she began bartending), Casa Marina for seven years (where we worked together incidentally), La Trattoria on Duval Street for 15 years, and

at the Smokin' Tuna for six years now, coming full circle.

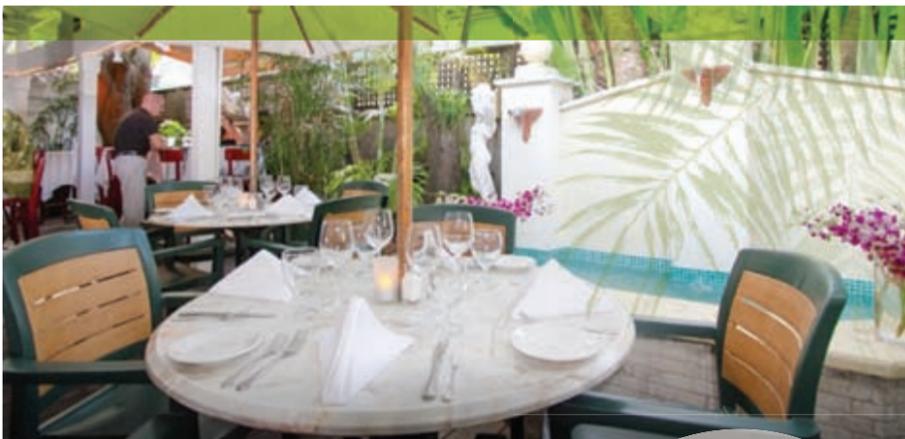
The Smokin' Tuna Saloon touts itself as Key West's Premier Music Venue.

Besides great local seafood, you can watch world-class musicians from 5:30 p.m. till closing daily on the courtyard stage. This month they are featuring performers such as her husband Caffeine Carl, Andy Wescott, Marjory Lee, Chris Toler and Marshall Morlock, among many others. And if you're unable to be there in person, you can watch the band playing, any night, on the Tuna Cam at [smokintunasaloon.com/tunacam.html](http://smokintunasaloon.com/tunacam.html).

Finding the Tuna can be a little tricky. It's located a short jaunt down the alley across the street from Irish Kevin's, at 4-6 Charles Street. There's generally a guy out front directing pedestrian traffic back toward the venue. Once inside, you will be amazed how big it is, complete with a large band stage, two full bars, a mercantile shop full of great gifts and T-shirts, and an inside air-conditioned section for those who would like to take a moment to cool off or get out of the weather for a bit. They have recently opened a back bar for locals where they feature a community rotation of guest bartenders.

"I love the family-knit closeness of the people here," Erin said, explaining what she enjoys about living and working in Key West. "I meet people from all over the world. I love making that money, and a lot of friends."

You can meet Erin at the Smokin' Tuna working alongside "team" manager Carolyn Gaurini and her husband Carl whom "she loves more and more everyday" Mondays through Saturdays. ■



### Summer of \$18

#### Steak Frites

8 oz Ribeye, Hand Cut Fries, House Made Steak Sauce

#### Shrimp & Grits

New Orleans BBQ, Key West Pinks, Cheesy Grits

#### Parmesan Encrusted Salmon

Dijon Cream

#### Mediterranean Chicken

Tomato, Kalamata, Pepperoncini & Goat Cheese Salad, Kale & Quinoa

#### Steak Nicoise Salad

Chilled New Potatoes, Green Beans, Hard Egg, Kalamata Olives, Tomatoes

#### Seafood Penne

Shrimp, Scallops, Local Fish, Roasted Tomato Cream Sauce



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## COMEDY KEY WEST

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This Week...

THURSDAY

August 9th

FRIDAY

August 10th



### KYLE GROOMS

Kyle Grooms has proven to be one of the industry's must-see comics on the scene. He's had his own Half-Hour special on Comedy Central, Made an appearance as "Lyle" in the film "I Feel Pretty!" starring Amy Schumer, and has made multiple appearances on VH1, NBC, BET and famed "Chappelle's Show." With his many accomplishments as a comedian, actor, and writer, He has a uniqueness all of his own.

TICKETS \$15

Kyle Grooms, Dustin Diamond and Myke Herlihy will perform with local Key West comedians at the Downward Dog Comedy Showcase at...

Blue ROOM



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## DUSTIN DIAMOND & MYKE HERLIHY

August 16th & August 17th



**Dustin Diamond** is a pop culture icon and is best known for his role as Screech on Saved by the Bell. His act is suitable for the now grown-up fans of Saved by the Bell. It is adult-oriented, hilarious, and definitely not the same squeaky-clean, Saturday morning comedy that he spent 10 years doing as Screech.

**Myke Herlihy** is one of the most lovable jerks you'll ever meet! After spending thirteen years behind bars, serving drinks not time, Myke now takes his bartender's wit to the stage. Whether he's discussing his failed relationships, ranting about the trials and tribulations of being an unplanned father, or reminiscing over the insanity that was his childhood, Myke always manages to find the light at the end of the tunnel.

Come See

FOR MORE INFO VISIT [WWW.COMEDYKEYWEST.COM](http://WWW.COMEDYKEYWEST.COM)

# Its namesake never saw it, but Audubon House still worth a look

BY MAXINE LOPEZ-KEOUGH  
Florida Weekly Correspondent

It's midway through the tour of Key West's stunningly pretty Audubon House and Tropical Gardens that the truth comes out: John James Audubon — famed naturalist painter, whose lifelike paintings of bird portraits line the walls of the museum — never actually lived in the Audubon House. But don't let this spoiler keep you from visiting; indeed, a visit to the Audubon House offers so much beauty, charm and historical interest, you'll be left feeling only that it was Audubon's loss that he was never able to inhabit such a magical place.

Amassing a fortune from treasure gathered from the ruins of shipwrecks might seem like a job description for a storybook pirate, but in 19th-century Key West, it was a lucrative and respectable way to make a living. The busy passage between the Eastern Seaboard and the Gulf Coast was a dangerous place for ships to sail, and each year saw many boats wrecked on offshore reefs during the frequent storms that pummeled the area.

"Finders keepers" might not mean much today, but for those in the wrecking industry of Key West, it was law. When a ship ran aground, the first man to reach the boat became the "wreck master," who — after saving the crew and passengers, if possible — directed the salvaging of the ship and its cargo. Back on land, the recovered haul was auctioned off, with the wreck master taking the largest cut of the profits. It was a dangerous, highly competitive and regulated industry, the spoils of which helped solidify Key West as the richest city in the country by the mid-1800s.

For Capt. John Huling Geiger, a maritime pilot whose shipwrecking success had made him one of the richest men in the Florida Keys, such wealth demanded a home of appropriate grandeur. In 1846, after the rest of the island was mostly flattened in a hurricane, Capt. Geiger chose a prominent lot on which to build his family's new home — a lavish American Classic Revival mansion of tropical wood at the intersection of Green and Whitehead streets, with an unobstructed view of the ocean (and any new potential shipwrecks). It was a grand, busy estate encompassing 6 acres, home to Capt. Geiger, his wife, his children, and a number of slaves who, in addition to domestic chores, were made to assist in the wrecking business that fueled Geiger's wealth.

For over a century, Capt. Geiger's home remained in the family's possession, until Capt. Geiger's great-grandson, Capt. William Bradford Smith, took up residence. Smith, a Key West Harbor pilot, lived in hermit-like seclusion without indoor plumbing, electricity or cooking facilities, and by the time of his death in 1956, the house had fallen into ruin.

Slated for demolition, it was saved in 1958 by Mitchell and Frances Wolfson, who were compelled to purchase the property after hearing it was destined to become a gas station. The Wolfsons had heard the same folklore that speculated James Audubon might have conceived many of his bird portraits during a visit to the gardens of Dr. Benjamin Strobel, whose home was located on the property



COURTESY PHOTO

Audubon work. The three-story home is filled with precious antiques and, of course, with Audubon's work, as well as information about the artist's life and career. An acre of lush tropical gardens surrounds the home, featuring hundreds of orchids, a koi pond and a replica of the property's original 1850s outdoor kitchen building.

Visitors are encouraged to wind their way through the quiet brick pathways, taking note of the rare tropical plants (carefully labeled for those without extensive botanical knowledge) and view the medicinal and herb garden, a staple of 19th-century upscale homes. Though the museum and its grounds are located in the bustling downtown district, once inside the protective foliage of the grounds, the sights and sounds of the outside world are muffled. Visitors are transported back in time to an island without tour buses or T-shirt shops, where fame and fortune awaited any man brave enough to watch the sea for a wrecked ship, and beat his fellow wreckers to the prize. ■

where the Geiger family mansion would later be constructed.

The Wolfsons began a two-year process of painstaking renovation, the first historical renovation of its kind in Key West, at the end of which marked the rechristening of the Geiger home as the Audubon House Museum. They filled the house with antiques, including many items from the Geiger family, as well as numerous original hand-colored lithographs by Audubon.

Today, Key West is known for having one of the most colorful and well-protected historical districts in the United States, with the highest density of historic frame buildings in the nation. Yet few who visit know that it was the Wolfsons' renovation of the Audubon House that began this now-priceless movement to protect and preserve the island's oldest architecture.

To this day, the property is cared for through the Mitchell Wolfson Trust, and remains a reputable dealer of original

in the know

**The Audubon House**

- >> **Location:** 205 Whitehead St.
- >> **Hours:** 9:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
- >> **Tickets:** The museum offers discounted museum tickets to locals.
- >> **Contact:** For more information, call 305-294-2116 or visit [www.audubonhouse.com](http://www.audubonhouse.com).



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# KEY WEST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Comedy Key West presents Kyle Grooms

Aug. 9 and 10, 8:30 p.m.  
The BottleCap  
1128 Simonton St.  
www.bottlecapkeywest.com

### Animal Farm Open House

Aug. 12, 1 p.m.  
Monroe County Sheriff's Animal Farm  
5501 College Road

### The Smart Ride Aqua Idol Fundraiser

Aug. 14, 6:30 p.m.  
Aqua Nightclub  
711 Duval St.  
www.aquakeywest.com

### Summerish fun movie series: Idiocracy

Aug. 15, 7 p.m.  
The Key West Theater  
512 Eaton St.  
www.thekeywesttheater.com

## 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.

### Mellow Café and Gastropub

**Bike Nights-Live Music**  
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half off your meal  
Thursdays, 6-10 p.m.  
1605 North Roosevelt Blvd.  
www.mellowkw.com

### Smoking Tuna

4 Charles St.  
**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 by Jorge de la Torriente

Ongoing  
De La Gallery  
419 Duval St.  
www.delagallery.com  
305-395-2210

### Homegrown Photographs by Michael Marrero

Ongoing  
Gallery on Greene  
606 Greene St.  
www.galleryongreene.com

## CINEMA



### Tropic Cinema

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www.tropiccinema.com  
Check the website for ongoing films

## LGBT



### Aqua Nightclub

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**Aqua Idol for the Florida Keys SPCA**  
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**Drag Shows**

# RAMS HEAD PRESENTS



**RICK SPRINGFIELD**  
SEPTEMBER 9 AT SUNSET GREEN EVENT LAWN



**MICHAEL FRANTI**  
OCTOBER 22 AT SUNSET GREEN EVENT LAWN



**LYLE LOVETT & ROBERT EARL KEEN**  
NOVEMBER 3 AT SUNSET GREEN EVENT LAWN



**THE AVETT BROTHERS**  
NOVEMBER 16+17 AT KEY WEST AMPHITHEATER



**JJ GREY & MOFRO**  
DECEMBER 29 AT SUNSET GREEN EVENT LAWN



**AIR SUPPLY**  
JANUARY 25 AT SUNSET GREEN EVENT LAWN

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# KEY WEST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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**,  
 Aug. 9 and 14, 9 p.m.  
**Randy Roberts**, Aug. 11, 9 p.m.  
 Sun, Aug. 9, 10, 11 and 12, 8:30 p.m.  
**Ronnie Lively**, Aug. 13, 8:30  
**The Fabulous Spectrelles**,  
 Aug. 14 and 15, 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



# 8.9-10

Comedy Key West presents **Kyle Grooms**  
 Aug. 9 and 10, 8:30 p.m.  
 The BottleCap, 1128 Simonton St.

— [www.bottlecapkeywest.com](http://www.bottlecapkeywest.com)



# 8.12

**Animal Farm Open House**  
 Aug. 12, 1 p.m.  
 Monroe County Sheriff's Animal Farm  
 5501 College Road



**The Smart Ride Aqua Idol Fundraiser**  
 Aug. 14, 6:30 p.m.  
 Aqua Nightclub, 711 Duval St.

— [www.aquakeywest.com](http://www.aquakeywest.com)



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 LUKE WILSON  
**8.15**

**Summerish fun movie series: "Idiocracy"**  
 Aug. 15, 7 p.m.  
 The Key West Theater, 512 Eaton St.  
 — [www.thekeywesttheater.com](http://www.thekeywesttheater.com)

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Incredibly, these spiny, detritus-eating sea bugs are responsible for millions of dollars in revenue and hundreds of jobs here in Monroe County.

## BUG

From page 1

esque creature that looks nothing like the crimson Maine variety. The festival, now over 20 years running, is the product of a friendly rivalry between a handful of local restaurants to prove which establishment had earned the right to call its lobster chilau the best in town. This intimate contest amongst friends blossomed into what is now Key West's most popular summer festival, with an estimated yearly attendance hovering around 20,000 voracious lobster lovers.

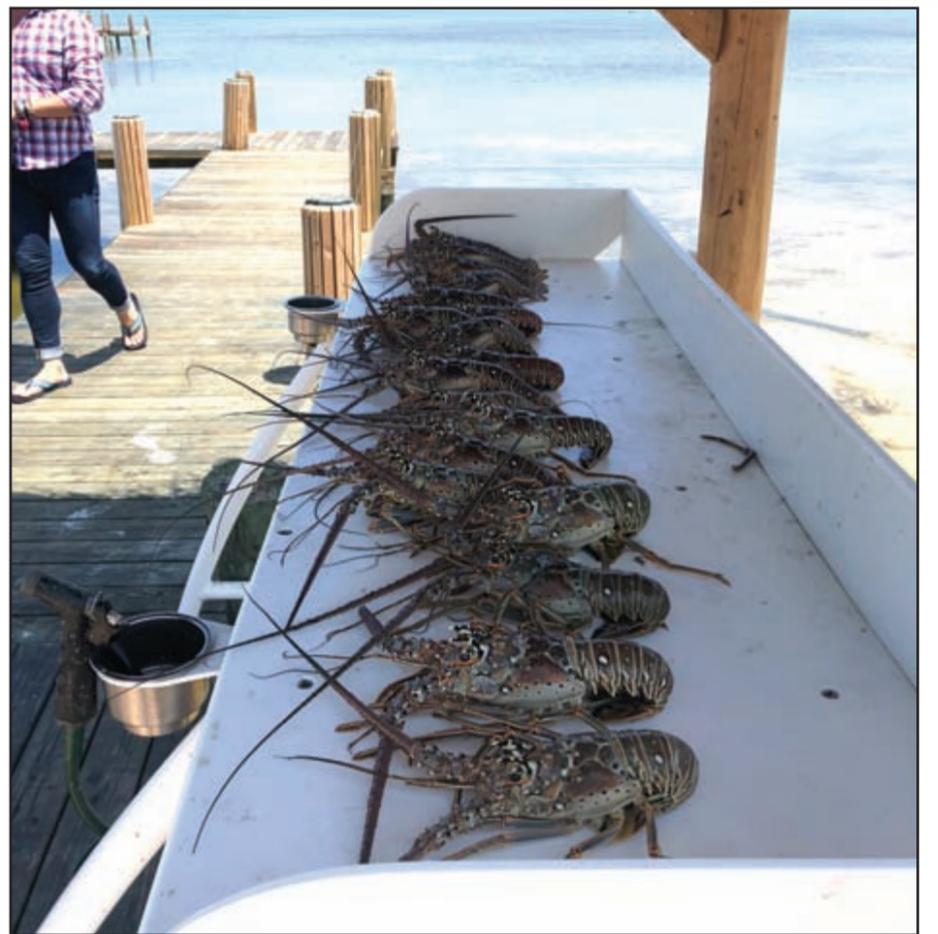
Two decades after its inception in the small courtyard of Durty Harry's bar on Duval Street, Key West Lobsterfest is now much more than a neighborhood contest over lobster stew; it has become a bona fide smash hit for South Florida, with four days of events ranging from boat trips and bar crawls to a street fair that closes down lower Duval Street. Instead of serving as a venue for restaurants to establish chilau supremacy, it has become a celebration of all things lobster-related, and with good reason: the lobster is a huge earner for the Keys, where just the draw of mini-season, the alarmingly popular 48-hour window for lobstering that non-commercial "bug lovers" are given at the end of each July, can draw upwards of 30,000 visitors to the islands.

Unlike its Northern counterpart the American lobster, best known for its giant claws, the Caribbean spiny lobster is clawless, smaller and harder of shell. Devotees of both species will argue themselves blue in the face as to which is better but regardless of the provenance of the bug, there remain about a zillion ways to prepare them for human consumption. Purists avow that anything more than a bit of melted butter and, if one is absolutely determined to add additional flavor, the tiniest hint of lemon or Key lime juice (just a fine misting — more like a sneeze than a squeeze) may be applied just before chowing down. But traveling around town in Key West it's clear our chefs are far less obdurate in their respective beliefs (to the benefit of hungry bellies across the island). Here, our restaurants serve lobster that are braised in beer, liquefied into bisque, swaddled in bacon, grilled alongside a meaty steak, deep fried in hot oil, sautéed with vegetables, pan seared in garlic, breaded in crumbs, rubbed in creole spices, frittered with conch, enveloped by ravioli, pickled with lime juice, submerged inside a skillet of mac 'n cheese or absolutely smothered in a river of velvety hollandaise sauce. There is no

right or wrong way to consume the Caribbean lobster. On its own, cooked simply, it is mild, bouncy and remarkably low in fat and high in vitamin B12. At the hands of our local cooks, it is delicious no matter the preparation or accompaniments.

Incredibly, these spiny, detritus-eating sea bugs are responsible for millions of dollars in revenue and hundreds of jobs here in Monroe County. During mini-season, hotel occupancy rates skyrocket and charter boats book up months in advance; the sheriff's department even employs lobster-sniffing dogs for the occasion. Hot on the heels of this year's mini-season, the proceeds of which are estimated to total more than \$4 million, the highly contagious Lobster Fever is the headline-making disease of the season (symptoms include dehydration as a result of excessive drooling, stomach ache, overconsumption of butter, grill burns and the occasional underwater fistfight).

Keys residents, mainland Floridians, and foreigners alike can begin the four-day celebration on Aug. 9 by attending the Waterfront Brewery's oceanfront rooftop lobster boil from 5 to 8 p.m., which will feature live music, drink specials and copious amounts of the Waterfront Brewery's beers brewed right on site (we highly recommend the Crazy Lady, the perfect crisp accompaniment to the lobster's natural sweetness). For a mere \$29.95 (or \$15.95 for kids 11 and under), attendees receive a full pound of the lobster boil along with all the sides. If you'd rather spend your evening on the water, Fury will be running its Champagne Sunset Sail, where you can



PASON GADDIS / COURTESY PHOTO

Freshly caught lobster from this year's excursion.

watch Key West's legendary sunset from the deck of its 45-foot power catamaran (but be warned: this event is strictly BYOL — Bring Your Own Lobster).

If you declined Fury's Thursday night sunset sail, you can make it up on Friday afternoon with the "Reef & Ritas" three-hour catamaran sail and snorkel trip, sponsored by Margarita Life. "Reef & Ritas" will offer lobster fans the chance to get out onto the very same ocean that their favorite spiky crustaceans call home — think of it as Key West's version of farm-to-table tourism. (An insider's tip: during Lobsterfest, all of Fury's trips are 10 percent off with the code lobster10 — that includes the official Lobsterfest events and any of its other snorkel/eco tour/parasailing/Ultimate Adventure trips. Book online ASAP at [www.furycat.com](http://www.furycat.com).) Of course, no festival in Key West would be complete without a Duval Crawl, but if the lure of discounted drinks and souve-

nir lanyards isn't tempting enough, know that a portion of the proceeds from Friday night's post-sunset crawl go toward funding local Key West High School's Scholarship Fund. (And no, you cannot write off your dozen Coronas as a tax-deductible charitable contribution. We already asked.) Participating bars include Bagatelle, Tiki House, Hard Rock Café, The Grand Café, The Sand Bar, Rick's, Durty Harry's, Smokin' Tuna Saloon, Margaritaville, Mary Ellen's, Willie T's and Pinchers Crab Shack. For the love of all things holy, we hope you've steeled your livers.

Saturday, Aug. 11, the hungry hordes will have a chance to stroll the 100 to 500 blocks of Duval Street, in a pedestrian-only zone, where vendor stalls featuring arts, crafts, and of course, lobster cooked countless ways will line the street. This year, representatives from many local restaurants will be out on the street hawking their particular take on the best way to



COURTESY PHOTO

The streets will be filled with delicious lobster preparations.



COURTESY PHOTO

The street fair will include music from Corge Chapman, among others.

cook a bug, with selections ranging from appetizer-sized samples to full-size lunch and dinner portions. Pros know the best way to take in the scene is to stroll the full length of the fair first, scoping out which booths have the best-looking bites to eat and prioritizing accordingly. (Take it from us: you spend one Lobsterfest stuffing yourself silly on lobster cakes and rolls, only to find out there was lobster ceviche worth killing for just one block ahead of you, and you'll never forgive yourself. Ever.)

Of course, the original impetus for Lobsterfest, the Chilau, should be sampled throughout. But our first stop this year will undoubtedly be local favorite Bagatelle, whose take on the best way to cook lobster (battered in tempura, fried, and served corndog-style on a stick with a side



COURTESY PHOTO

Lobster fresh off of the grill is always a favorite.

of honey butter) is the stuff of legends.

The street fair officially starts at noon, but make sure you're at least there by 1 p.m. to catch a series of free concerts featuring George Chapman, Cool Breeze and The DurtBags.

If you just can't get enough lobster,

the festival ends with a decadent, official Lobsterfest Brunch hosted at First Flight Island Restaurant & Brewery, where diners will enjoy a tantalizing spread including lobster egg scramble, biscuits and lobster gravy, lobster enchiladas, lobster gazpacho (are we sensing

a theme here?) and bottomless mimosas and bloody Marys — the hangover helping nectar of the gods.

For more information, (or to simply get excited by viewing pictures of Lobsterfest celebrations past), visit [www.keywestlobsterfest.com](http://www.keywestlobsterfest.com). ■

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COURTESY PHOTO

The Fort East Martello Museum.

## MARTELLO

From page 1

missioned in 1836, after careful surveying by the American military showed the Key West harbor to be the ideal place for an armed, harbor-defending fortress. Like all construction projects, the original scale and cost of the proposal was staggering, calling for a total of nine stone

forts spread across the island. After much back-and-forth, angry letter writing, and continued revision of architectural plans (all punctuated, naturally, by series of fists slammed dramatically onto table tops), it was decided that only one large gunned fort would be built. That fort would be joined by two smaller, advanced Martello towers to be erected at the East and West ends of the island to assist in protecting the fort and the island's borders.

The towers were to be identical: square

citadels 36 feet in height, with thick outer walls and space for everything a small army barracks might need inside, including cisterns for fresh water, kitchens, storage and sleeping areas. The architectural plans called for arched ceilings, relying on techniques first invented during the Roman Empire, which would strengthen the roof structure enough to support heavy artillery.

It was 16 years after the start of Fort Zach's construction — three years into the Civil War — before ground was broken at the sites designated for the East and West batteries. As the war raged on, Key West remained the homeport of the Eastern Gulf Blockading Fleet, which guarded an estimated 300 captured vessels anchored in front of Fort Zachary Taylor. The area's non-military citizens, however, were largely thought to be Confederate sympathizers, meaning efforts to complete the towers soldiered (slowly) onward thanks to heated tension between hired free construction workers, lent-out slaves, Army employees and the local public. Progress was less than consistent, also hindered each summer by the widespread epidemic of yellow fever, and it wasn't until 1864 that both towers were finally linked by railroad to the fort they had been designed to protect. A massive hurricane, which struck both sites with military precision just one year later, caused enormous devastation at both sites, throwing the construction operation into complete turmoil. After 1866, when the building of Fort Zachary Taylor was finally deemed complete, the towers remained under construction for almost a decade longer, until they were eventually abandoned. West Martello became a city quarry, while gun runners used the beautiful Romanesque architecture of East Martello as target practice, completely destroying its tower.

In 1885, President Grover Cleveland's Board of Fortifications brought representatives from the Army, Navy and civilian population together under the leadership of Secretary of War William C. Endicott, who — together with the board members — were tasked with a complete assessment and proposed overhaul of the U.S. defense system. They recommended massive modernization of the country's existing coastal and harbor fortifications — even at the very end of the road. After two dormant decades, the Martello towers, abandoned and unarmed, were once again relevant. While Fort Zachary Taylor saw the addition of ten reinforced gun batteries, the Martello tower casements were filled and steps to their gun mounts erected in cement. By the time the Spanish-

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American war began in 1898, the towers were ready to serve a variety of purposes, including providing barracks, storage, signaling and lookout post. For the next 40-odd years, West Martello in particular was used for radio stations and as an anti-aircraft battery. World War II saw the addition of more batteries to Key West, though by the war's end they — and the Martello towers — were once again abandoned.

By 1949, both towers were in states of embarrassing decline. West Martello had been deemed an eyesore, with many calling for the site to be leveled to make way for a new beachside development. County Commissioner Joe Allen, who had previously served a tour of duty tracking enemy submarines in the waters off Key West, was appalled at his city's willingness to allow the two towers to be erased from the Key West's historic cityscape, unacknowledged and hidden under new construction.



ALLEN

Allen fought to preserve the sites as landmarks, eventually arranging a lease agreement between the county and the then-homeless Key West Garden Club, whose industrious nature (and two decades without a base for its meetings) made them the perfect outfit to restore the West tower back to inhabitable conditions. Supported by donations from likeminded patriots, Garden Club members cleared away debris by hand and landscaped the property with lush tropical plantings. In 1976, the site was officially declared a National Historic Site, granting it inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Rechristened the West Martello/Joe Allen Garden center, it remains free to the public, who may wander daily through its painstakingly planted paths, participate in annual plant shows and sales, host private after-hours events (the site is massively popular for weddings) and enjoy breathtaking views of the beach and ocean from the site's uppermost gazebo-covered point.

West Martello's sister-tower, East Martello, fared equally well, when, in 1950, the Key West Art & Historical Society, then museum-less, was granted permission by the Navy to begin restoration work on the tower in the aim of establishing it as a museum. The group gathered its own corps of volunteers together and succeeded in restoring the site to open its first ever museum on its premises less than five months later. In keeping with the society's commitment to preserve the art and architecture of Key West's past, the group spent years completing meticulous, rigorous preservation work in order to return the tower to its original design. From its somewhat humble beginnings as a small museum, the space has grown to one of the most dynamic and varied museums on the island. The tower's impressive citadel



COURTESY PHOTO

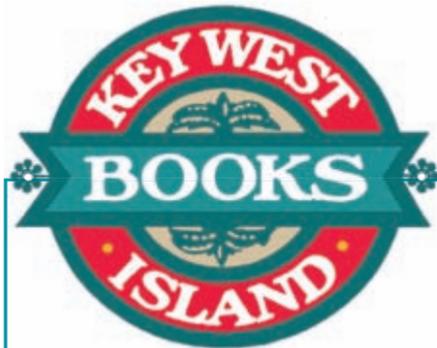
**Fort West Martello.**

and casements offer a close look at how the edifice must have looked in its more glorious days, while modern security and climate control systems ensure the protection of its myriad artifacts and artworks. It is home to an outdoor sculpture garden, indoor exhibits dedicated to the various industries of Key West, preserved Civil War antiques, folk art and a famously terrifying children's doll, as well as routinely updated exhibits on the history of Key West and the tower's past.

As recently as May of 2016, the group was gifted the entire life's work of renowned Keys folk artist Stanley Papio, whose rebellious scrap metal sculptures thumbed their nose at what Papio saw as the increasing gentrification (and loss of carefree spirit) that had become pervasive throughout the Keys. The sculptures, ranging in size and boasting often hilarious, thinly veiled titles, spent a season intermingling with the museum's other prized possessions, including an authentic hollowed out canoe made by the island's indigenous Indians, and the aforementioned haunted doll, Robert, whose wall of desperate fan letters imploring him to forgive various transgressions is perhaps the most famous Key West symbol outside of the Southernmost Buoy. The site is a popular stopover on local ghost tours and often plays host to unique events, like a raucous modern dance party, the Zombie Bike Ride pre-party and the uber popular Conch Revival Picnic, a celebration of Conch cuisine as it has existed over the many years of the fort's construction, decline and rebirth. Considering its varied uses, it is now one of the most diversely informative spaces on the island. "Our visitors can walk through the museum and get 300, 400, 500 years of history in one space," says Art and Historical Society curator Cori Convertito. "That's a lot of information for one small museum."

Though in the end, neither West nor East Martello saw combat, one could argue the towers' most powerful work is being performed today, thanks to a community of focused, resourceful individuals dedicated to preserving the integrity of Key West's history, one brick at a time.

Both towers are open to the public daily. West Martello can be toured without a fee and East Martello runs \$10 with varying discounts available to qualifying individuals. ■

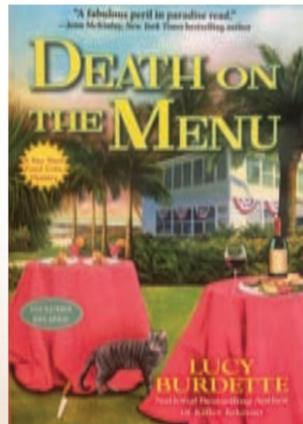


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# KEY WEST HAPPY HOUR GUIDE



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- Dante's**  
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- Geiger Key Marina**   
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- The Grand**  
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- Half Shell Raw Bar**  
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- Hard Rock Café**   
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www.hardrockcafe/keywest
- Hogfish Bar and Grill**   
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www.Keywest.lucysretiredsurfers.com
- Martin's**  
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Half-price drinks and tapas  
www.Martinskeywest.com
- Mary Ellen's Bar**   
420 Appelrouth Lane  
3-6 p.m.  
2-for-1 wells and drafts, \$5 Jameson, \$5 Titos  
www.maryellensbar.com
- Mellow Ventures Café and Gastropub**   
1605 North Roosevelt Blvd.  
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Half-off starters  
2-for-1 draft beer, wine, sangria and mimosas  
www.mellowventureskeywest.com
- Old Town Mexican Café**  
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Half-price appetizers  
Half-price beer, wine and well drinks
- Pepe's**  
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\$5 fresh-squeezed Margaritas

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Sandbarkeywest.com  
www.Sand Bar Sports Grill Key West on Facebook
- Santiago's Bodega**  
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- Sidebar at Aqua**   
504 Angela St.  
4-8 p.m.  
\$5 well drinks, \$3.75 domestic beers  
9 p.m.-close, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, drink specials  
www.sidebarkeywest.com
- Southernmost Beach Café**   
1405 Duval St.  
Sunday-Thursday  
\$5 small bites bar men, \$5 draft beer, house wine, well drinks and house margaritas  
www.Southernmostbeachcafe.com
- Square Grouper Bar and Grill and My New Joint Upstairs.**   
22658 Overseas Highway, Cudjoe Key  
Square Grouper  
11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday  
Lunch Specials and \$7 well drinks  
**My New Joint**  
4:30-6:30 p.m.  
25 percent off bottled and canned beers

- \$1 off draft beer and wine by the glass  
\$6 cocktail specials daily  
Happy hour menu and late-night menu  
Check the websites for details  
www.Squaregroupbarandgrill.com  
www.Mynewjoint420lounge.com
- Sunset Tiki Bar at the Galleon Resort**   
617 Front St.  
10 a.m.-noon (except Sundays)  
2-for-1 Bloody Marys  
4-7 p.m. daily  
2-for-1 margaritas or well drinks  
www.Galleonresort.com
- Tattoos and Scars**   
512 Greene St.  
Stella on draft \$4 all day  
www.Tattoosandscarssaloon.com
- Tiki House**   
430 Greene St.  
4-6 p.m.  
2-for-1 wells, drafts and Zombies  
www.tikihousekw.com
- Turtle Kraals**  
231 Margaret St.  
4:30-6:30 p.m.  
Half off bottled beers, well drinks and house wines  
Special happy hour menu  
www.Turtlekraals.com
- Two Friends Patio Restaurant**  
512 Front St.  
4-6 p.m.  
Early bird dinner specials  
www.Twofriendskw.com
- Vinos on Duval**  
810 Duval  
4-7 p.m.  
\$5 sangria  
Sundays  
\$5 mimosas  
www.Vinosonduval.com
- Viva Saloon**   
903 Duval St.  
4-6 p.m.  
\$3 well drinks, \$1 off all beer and house wine, \$5 appetizers  
www.Vivakeywest.com
- The Waterfront Brewery**   
201 William St.  
4-6:30 p.m. daily  
All Waterfront Brewery beer and wines by the glass half off.  
www.thewaterfrontbrewery.com
- Willie T's Restaurant and Bar**   
525 Duval St.  
4-7 p.m.  
Daily drink specials  
www.Williets.com
- Wine-O at La Concha Hotel**  
430 Duval St.  
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www.Laconchakeywest.com ■



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# CAUGHT IN KEY WEST THIS WEEK



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[www.wildbillkeywest.com](http://www.wildbillkeywest.com)



■ **Mellow Ventures:**  
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305-296-8494  
[www.gulfstreamkeywest.com](http://www.gulfstreamkeywest.com)



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305-395-3474  
[www.keywestfloridafishing.com](http://www.keywestfloridafishing.com)



■ **Capt. Kyle Fortney:**  
Fishing, lobstering, snorkeling. It's our clients' custom charter to design.  
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305-928-0269  
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■ **Fishbusterz Retail Seafood Market:**  
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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](http://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](http://www.galleryongreene.com)  
305-294-1669

### SALT Gallery

830 Fleming St.

**Kreg Kelley**  
Ongoing

[www.saltislandprovisions.com](http://www.saltislandprovisions.com)  
305-517-6088

### Key West Art and Historical Society

Custom House  
281 Front St.

**That's Outrageous - The work of Captain Outrageous**  
Ongoing

[www.kwahs.org](http://www.kwahs.org)



The works of Peter Vey are featured at Gallery on Greene.

COURTESY PHOTOS



*Heads or Tails, Intaglio*

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LECTURE  
Tuesdays at 2:00

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[galleriesongreene@bellsouth.net](mailto:galleriesongreene@bellsouth.net)  
[www.galleryongreene.com](http://www.galleryongreene.com)



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# KEY WEST GALLERY GUIDE

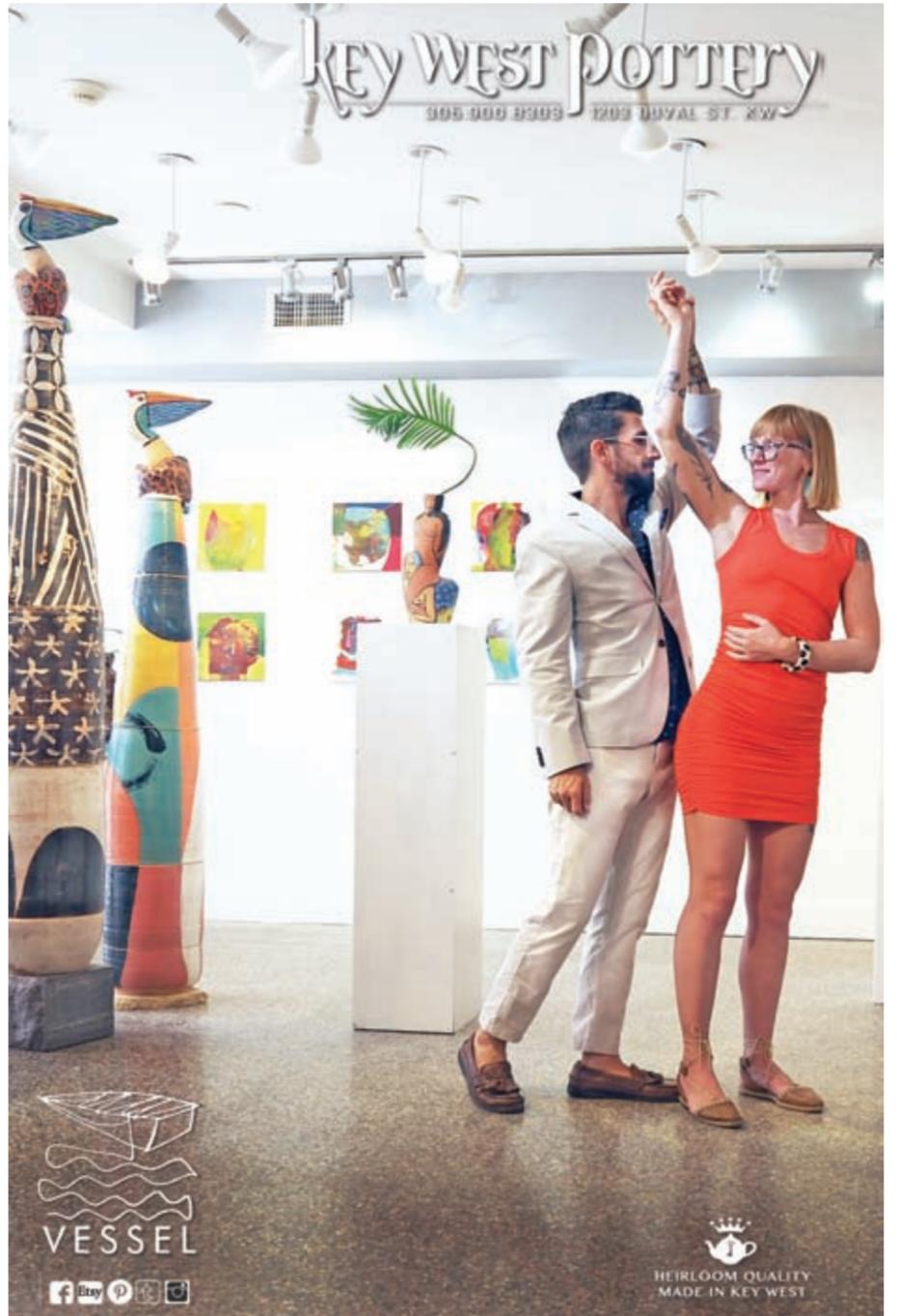
## The Historic Armory Studios

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

**Mixed media work by Sherry Sweet Tewell**  
Ongoing  
www.Sherrysweettewell.com or  
Artbabe00@aol.com  
859-533-1874 ■



Peter Vey's paintings at Gallery on Greene.



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**KREG KELLEY**  
*Time Flies*

**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 lacquering 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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## MUSIC SCENE

## Chaka Chandler gets the party started and keeps it going

BY BUCKY MONTGOMERY  
Florida Weekly Correspondent

Chaka Chandler is just big. Big in stature, big in personality, big in reputation, big in heart. And big in voice, too; you can hear him booming from across the room.

Chaka was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, not far from my own hometown of Louisville, Ky. He attended the University of Evansville for five years with a basketball scholarship, playing for three teams who made it to the NCAA. "I used to travel to Louisville a lot, just to get White Castles," he told me. "We only had Krystal in Evansville."

Chaka remains a sports buff, particularly a diehard fan of his Ohio State Buckeyes. But as far as pro teams go, it's the Browns, the Yankees, the Blackhawks and the Bulls.

"Sometimes a request jumpstarts a mix. Sometimes my initial reaction is like no, but then I think, a request is good. Like a bachelorette party. Once it starts, the party is on for the rest of the night."

Out of college, he worked for a time at a sporting goods store, but soon got into radio sales and TV sales, before doing



color commentating for a station in Mt. Vernon, Ind.

Chaka had friends from school and home living here in Key West, and so he visited often throughout the years, his good friend John Neal, in particular. Once, at a football game in Columbus, he met up with friends Terry Worthing and Corey Hankins, who told him, "You need to come down to Fantasy Fest." He ended up moving here and spent from October to February couch surfing with his two Rottweilers.

He began work by doing security at the Lazy Gecko on Duval Street, and then returned to radio and TV, partnering with Bill Hoebee. "Hoebee did the news and I did sports. We interviewed a lot of local celebrities and political figures." Before long, Chaka was found himself doing less and less security and more and more DJing.

"I started DJing Christopher Schultz and David Sloan's parties at the Southernmost House, upstairs at the Bagatelle, Fat Tuesday's, Rick's and the Lazy Gecko. Before long, it was a fulltime job."

From his college days on, Chaka has been a musician and promoter in his own right. He's currently working on getting his piano and guitar chops up to speed again and looks forward to working with other local musicians soon.

Chaka was awarded a 'Best DJ' Award at the 2016 Bubba Award ceremony, an award possibly designed specifically for him since it was the first time for this category. But no one deserves it more. "I have to listen to new music every day to keep up with the trends. I always tell new DJs that this is a tourist town. People come here from all 50 states and from around the world to have fun."

Many DJs have a tendency to be snobbish and stand-offish. Chaka not so much. He won't shy away from requests, even when they sometimes make him cringe. "Sometimes a request jumpstarts a mix. Sometimes my initial reaction is like no, but then I think, a request is good. Like a bachelorette party. Once it starts, the party is on for the rest of the night."

Chaka has been hosting the Dante's

Pool Party from noon till 6 p.m. for a few years now, and isn't shy when it comes to posting pics and videos of the curvy patrons who are enjoying the beats he's laying down. Dante's Pool Bar is a favorite hangout for locals, particularly during Happy Hour, Monday through Friday from 4:30 till 7:30 p.m., when you can get Buy-One-Get-One domestic beers, well drinks, Fireballs, Jamesons, lemon drops, and several other drinks and shots. Also, three for \$2 raw oysters, clams and peel-and-eat shrimp, \$5 wings, bang shrimp, hot pretzel bites and jalapeno poppers. Often, you can scarcely walk without bumping into a bikini-clad girl, in or outside of the pool.

Dante's offers a full menu for your poolside pleasure, including soups, salads, appetizers, a raw bar and dinner entrees, along with a variety of frozen drinks. For just under \$9 per person, they will also cook your fresh catch for you, prepared one of three ways: fried, grilled or blackened, with a choice of various side items.

Besides hosting the Dante's Sunday Fundays most Sunday afternoons, Chaka is upstairs throwing down the dance party at Rick's on Duval Street from 8:30 till close (usually the last place to shut down on the 200 block), Fat Tuesdays three or four times a month, and poolside at the Marker, where he's celebrating his one-year anniversary spinning this month, on Fridays from 2 till 5 pm, with Happy Hour starting at 3:30.

"We started a year ago with just a few people. Now we've got a good crowd on Fridays."

Chaka's been doing this long enough he's seen not only the music change, but other trends as well. "I used to have to carry all my records and turntables to my gigs," he says. "Now it's just a computer and controller inside a backpack."

The best thing about living and working in Key West, besides looking at bikinis all day? "The locals. Everybody, whether born here or moved here. A great friend base. And being able to get off of land. One minute you're working, the next you're on a boat to Snipes." ■

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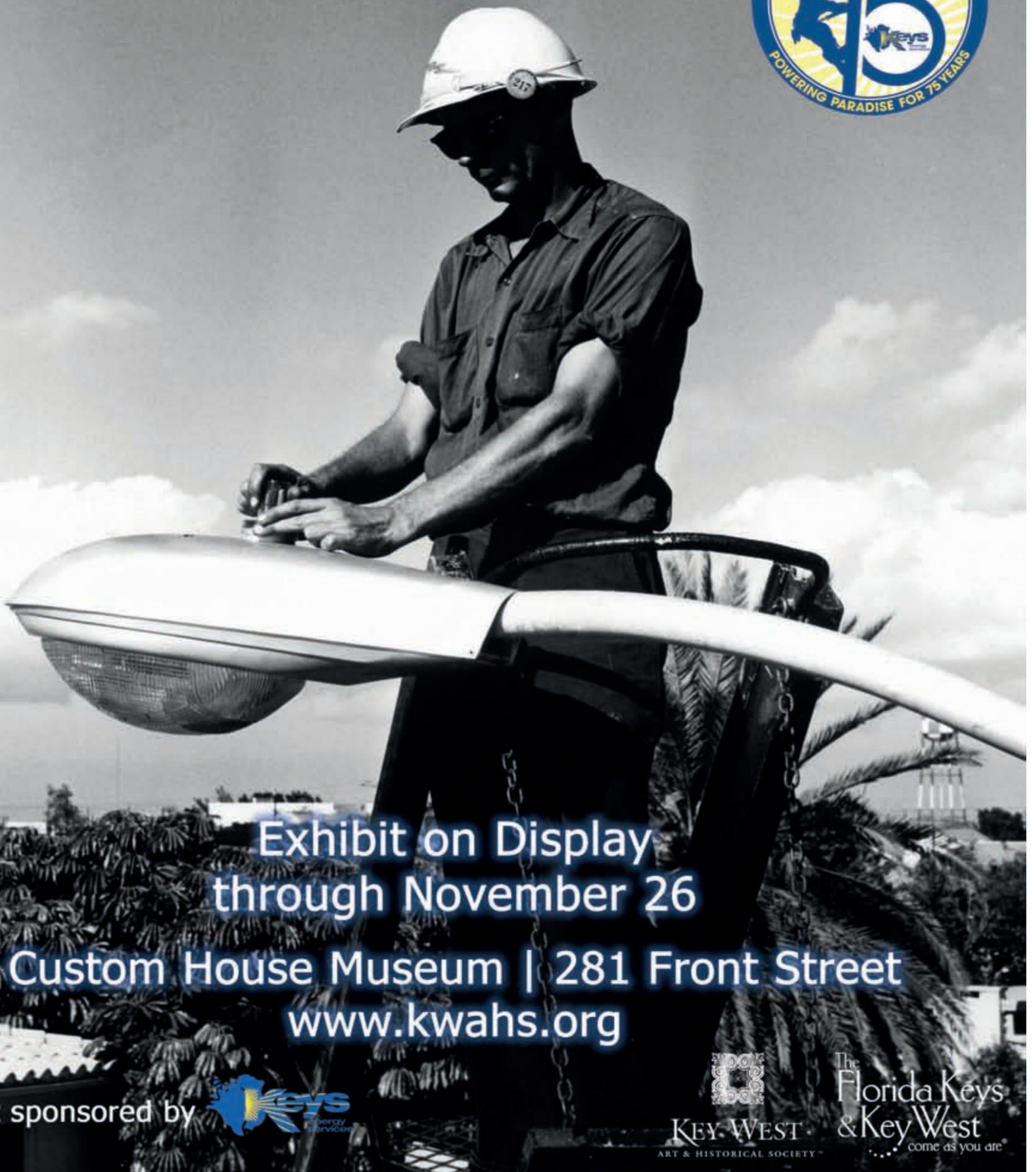


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# NOT-TO-MISS ATTRACTIONS

## Audubon House & Tropical Gardens

205 Whitehead St.  
305-294- 2116 or 877-294-2470  
audubonhouse.com

Original lithographs of John James Audubon's drawings are on display at this former home of shipwreck salvager Capt. John Geiger.

## CityView Trolley Tours of Key West

1045 Whitehead St.  
305-294-0644  
cityviewtrolleys.com

These open-air trolleys offer hop-on-and-off tours that incorporate narration of the history of Key West.

## Conch Tour Train

303 Front St.  
305-294-5161 or 888-916-8687  
conchtourtrain.com

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

## Custom House

281 Front St.  
305-295-6616  
kwaahs.org

The Custom House was originally home to Key West's customs office, postal service and district courts.

## The Ernest Hemingway Home & Museum

907 Whitehead St.  
305-294-1136  
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.

## Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center

35 E. Quay Road  
305-292-0311 or 305-809-4750  
Floridakeys.noaa.gov/eco\_discovery.html  
Sponsored and operated in part by the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and NOAA.

## Fort East Martello Museum

3501 S. Roosevelt Blvd.  
305-296-3913  
kwaahs.com

This Civil War fort was built in the late 1800s and is now home to a sculpture garden and museum featuring a collection of relics from the Civil War.

## Ghost Tours of Key West

430 Green St.  
305-294-9255  
hauntedtours.com

Take a guided walking tour during the day or night through the eerie areas of Old Town Key West.

## Harry S. Truman Little White House

111 Front St.  
305-294-9911  
trumanlittlewhitehouse.com

This historic building famously served as the winter White House for President Harry S. Truman in 1946.

## Key West AIDS Memorial

Foot of White Street and Atlantic Boulevard  
keywestaids.org

Located at the entrance to the White Street pier, the Key West AIDS Memorial commemorates Florida Keys-friendly people who have died from AIDS-related causes.

## Key West Aquarium

1 Whitehead St., at Mallory Square,  
800-544-5927  
keywestaquarium.com

The Key West Aquarium is home to alligators, jellyfish, sharks and many other marine animals, and features a touch tank. Guided tours and feeding presentations are available.

## The Key West Butterfly & Nature Conservatory

1316 Duval St.  
305-296-2988 or 800-839-4647  
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.

## Key West City Cemetery

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

Stop at the sexton's office near the entrance at Passover Lane and Windsor Lane for a map containing a free walking tour from the Historic Florida Keys Foundation.

## Key West Historical Memorial Sculpture Garden

401 Wall St. (at Mallory Square),  
Key West, FL 33040  
305-294-4142  
keywestsculpturegarden.org

This original sculpture garden, at the site of the original shoreline in Mallory Square, features 36 bronze busts of the most influential men and women from Key West's past.

## Key West Lighthouse & Keeper's Quarters Museum

938 Whitehead St.  
305-294-0012  
kwaahs.com

The lighthouse opened in 1848, was decommissioned by the Coast Guard in 1969, and now stands as a museum dedicated to Key West's maritime heritage.

## Key West Shipwreck Museum

1 Whitehead St.  
305-292-8990  
keywestshipwreck.com

At the Shipwreck Museum, you can walk up the 65-foot lookout tower for a 365-degree view of Key West and its harbor.

## Key West Theater

512 Eaton St.  
thekeywesttheater.com

The Key West Theater is a newly renovated performing arts center that presents original plays, musicals, films and concerts.

## Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Garden

5210 College Road, Stock Island, FL 33040  
305-296-1504  
keywestbotanicalgarden.org

This natural conservation habitat is home to many endangered flora and fauna as well as two of the last remaining freshwater ponds in the Keys.

## Key West Wildlife Center

1801 White St.  
305-292-1008

The Key West Wildlife Center is in the 8-acre Sonny McCoy Indigenous Park and includes a nature walk with a freshwater pond and two aviaries.

## Mallory Square Sunset Celebration

1 Whitehead St.  
786-565-7448  
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.

## Mel Fisher Maritime Museum

200 Greene St.  
305-294-2633  
melfisher.org

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



The Key West Cemetery in the Historic District was founded in 1847.

## 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.

## Old Town Trolley Tours of Key West

1 Whitehead St.  
305-296-6688 or 888-910-8687  
historictours.com/keywest

Historic Tours has been running sightseeing trolleys in Key West for more than 25 years.

## Red Barn Theatre

319 Duval St.  
305-296-9911  
redbarntheatre.com

The Red Barn Theatre has been producing plays and musicals in Key West for more than 35 years.

## Ripley's Believe It or Not!

108 Duval St.  
305-293-9939  
ripleys.com/keywest

Ripley's contains more than 550 odd, bizarre and unusual exhibits housed in a historical building.

## San Carlos Institute

516 Duval St.  
305-294-3887  
instituteosancarlos.org

This historic landmark serves as a Cuban museum, library, art gallery and theater.

## The Southernmost Point

Corner of Whitehead and South streets

This colorful anchored concrete buoy was erected in 1983 to commemorate Key West as the southernmost point of the continental United States.

## The Studios of Key West

533 Eaton St.  
305-296-0458  
tskw.org

The studios of Key West is a local nonprofit dedicated to nurturing artists and the artistic process.

## Tennessee Williams Key West Exhibit

513 Truman Ave.  
305-842-1666  
twkw.org

Learn about Tennessee Williams' literary accomplishments and life in Key West.

## Tennessee Williams Theatre

5901 College Road, Stock Island, FL 33040  
305-296-1520 or 305-295-7676 (tickets)  
tennesseewilliamstheatre.com

The Tennessee Williams Theatre presents national tours, concerts and local and national cabarets.

## The Tropic Cinema

416 Eaton St.  
877-761-FILM (3456)  
tropiccinema.com

The Tropic Cinema is a nonprofit movie theater that shows independent films and documentaries in addition to hosting a wide variety of community cultural events.

## U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Ingham Maritime Museum and National Historic Landmark

0 Southard St.  
305-292-5072  
uscgcingham.org

With more than 50 years of service around the world, the USCGC Ingham offers a portrait of Coast Guard history from 1936 to 1988. It is the only Coast Guard cutter afloat today to receive two Presidential Unit Citations for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy.

## Waterfront Playhouse

310 Wall St.  
305-294-5015  
waterfrontplayhouse.org

The nonprofit Waterfront Playhouse produces plays and musicals in its 150-seat theater, located right next to Mallory Square.

## West Martello Tower

1100 Atlantic Blvd.  
305-294-3210  
keywestgardenclub.com

The West Martello Tower is a former Civil War-era fortification that is now home to the Key West Garden Club and the Joe Allen Garden Center. ■



OWEN KILLIAN / FLORIDA WEEKLY  
A street performer participates in the Mallory Square Sunset Celebration.

# KEY WEST CUISINE

## Theo and Diane of Coffee Plantation

**BY JENNIFER WHITE**  
Florida Weekly Correspondent

There are many welcoming mom and pop establishments in Key West and since 2004 the Coffee Plantation on Caroline Street has been a local favorite. Theo and Diane Glorie have transformed a former home into a charming coffee shop and bakery where you will find the owners behind the counter.

“It is either Diane or myself or my sister-in-law Loretta,” Theo says. “Then you know it’s going to be good. Most of the time when you walk in there will be something baking in the oven whether it be muffins or cookies or scones and croissants.”

One of the things that sets mom and pops like Theo’s and Diane’s apart is that they not only believe in making things from scratch, but they are conscious of the environment and their impact. From recyclable plates, you can bite into one of their fresh out of the oven pastries or their homemade quiche. From biodegradable straws you can sip on an iced island-inspired tropical macchiato made with organic espresso, vanilla, coconut and your choice of milk. Sit back into one of the sunken leather couches and start your day by relaxing. Then gleefully pat yourself on the back for supporting these hard-working entrepreneurs while also fighting pollution. It’s the American dream in action.

“Sometimes I want that big breakfast,” Theo admits, “but sometimes I just want to have a cup of coffee and a muffin.”



Theo is also happy to assist you with real estate if you happen to be in the market. In a room that may have previously been the kitchen he has set up a professional office where he sells historical houses in Old Town Key West. Adjacent to the office is a space that I imagine was the dining room and then near the front door the living room. A few tables

and couches are arranged within walls so brightly hued that they remind me of a Rubix cube. There is a counter in the room on the right where you can window shop your breakfast while right behind you the retro vibe of soda coolers rounds out the whole mom and pop vintage feel. As if that isn’t enough of a cozy vibe, colorful artwork by both Theo and Diane

hangs from floor to ceiling and is available for purchase if you are in the market. So, you can purchase a house, art to hang on the walls, and get coffee and fresh pastries all in the same location. How is that for a uniquely Key West story?

“Before Key West we had a flower business in Southern California and after many years were given an opportunity for the next step in our life. We knew we wanted to create something that is totally ours,” Theo remembers. “We wanted to do something different and always enjoyed the customer aspect. This (Coffee Plantation) gave us the chance for social interaction.”

When their original concept of an internet café became a passing phase with the invention of smart phones, they knew they had to do something different to keep things going. So, they enrolled at the Studios of Key West and discovered a talent in self-expression through painting. Theo went back to school and earned real estate a license that allows him to go the extra mile for the people who walk through the door. And here they are 14 years later, through the sweltering summers and the chilly 60-degree winters making fresh coffee and baked goods.

Coffee Plantation is open seven days a week from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday through Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Parking is provided for customers. ■

*Coffee Plantation*  
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[www.coffeeplantationkeywest.com](http://www.coffeeplantationkeywest.com)

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# REAL ESTATE



COURTESY PHOTOS

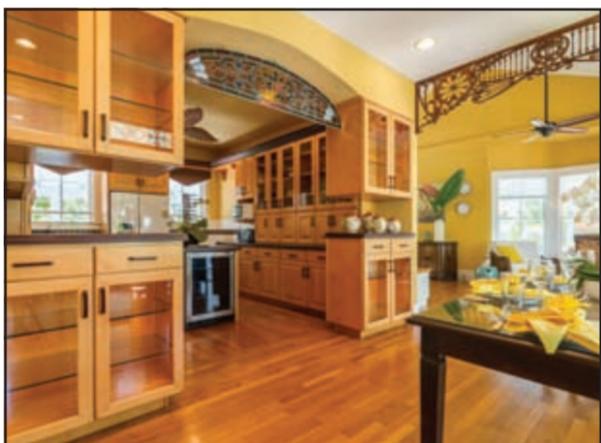
## Old Town cottage

**1022 Catherine Street — \$1,350,000**

This iconic cottage is located on the corner of Catherine and Watson streets. It was built in 1912 with wonderful wrap around porches that overlook meandering gardens with rare specimen trees on a 5,544 square-foot lot. This two-bedroom, two-bathroom cottage feels like “Key West” and is a perfect place to call home. It features a large kitchen with tons of storage and a dining area that opens to the rear porch and pool. The living room has vaulted ceilings and magical light. The new heated pool

can be seen from every angle. The guest quarters are charming and include an ensuite bathroom and sweet window seating. A separate laundry room and gated off-street parking complete this perfect Key West cottage and it located within the X500 Flood Zone. Must see and easy to show on short notice. ■

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**Terri Spottswood**  
*With*  
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THE HOME TEAM ADVANTAGE



1309 GRINNELL STREET | \$1,599,000



626 WILLIAM STREET | \$3,750,000



PRICE REDUCTION | 915 CORNISH LANE | \$1,195,000

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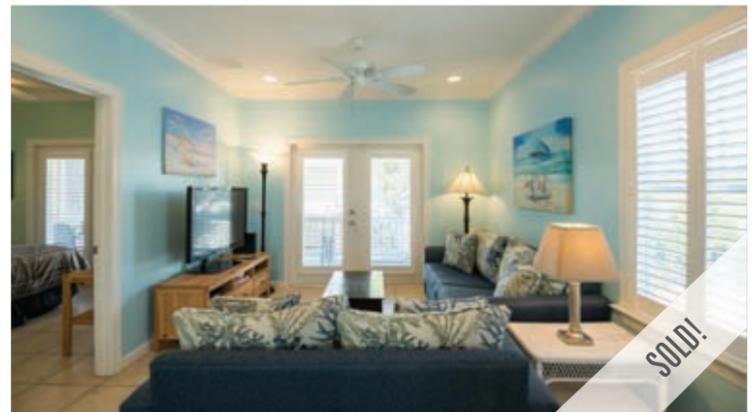
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15 Coral Way  
 \$585,000

Congratulations to our buyers on their first Key West investment purchase. This 3 bed/3 bath transiently licensed townhome in the gated Coral Hammock community will be joining our rental inventory. Covered parking, comfortable tropical furnishings and beautiful balcony views will ensure this home is a success.



1520 White Street  
 \$1,599,000

Beautiful Casa Marina home on the corner of Johnson & White Street with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths that surround the covered, outdoor living space and large pool. This layout provides an open floor plan where the glass lined interior walls connect the entire home through large windows and French doors. You will find terra cotta tile floors throughout the entire home, a living room with vaulted ceilings and a wall of sliding glass doors, an updated kitchen with granite counters and lush landscaping. The home offers a carport for two vehicles, a fully fenced yard and a large wall of storage.

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