

FLORIDA WEEKLY[®]

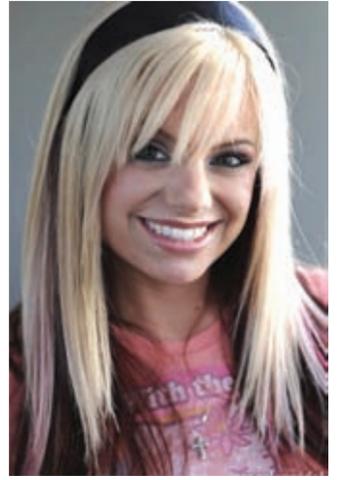
KEY WEST EDITION

WEEK OF AUGUST 23-29, 2018

www.FloridaWeekly.com

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| **INSIDE** |



Top Picks

Happy hours with Kristen McNamara and other great things to do on the island this week. **A9** ▶



Music

Going green with Emily Springsteen. **A12** ▶



Bartender of the Week

Get to know Angie Romo. **A6** ▶



Cuisine

Lupita's serves up Mexican tradition. **A17** ▶

HAVE A BLAST HERE WITHOUT BREAKING THE BANK

BY LAURA RICHARDSON
Florida Weekly Correspondent

WHEN IT COMES TO WALLET friendliness, Key West doesn't always rank on the "affordable" end of the spectrum. Between all of the brand spanking new luxury hotels and our love for high-end craft cocktails and

SEE BLAST, A10 ▶

Florida Weekly sweeps press awards: Named best weekly newspaper in state

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

The Florida Press Association has named Florida Weekly the best weekly newspaper in the state after the newspaper racked up 25 journalism awards at the 2018 Florida Media Conference in Orlando.

Florida Weekly also recently earned five awards at the Society of Professional Journalists Sunshine State Awards in Miami, which included all daily newspapers in the state. In addition to the top FPA award for weekly newspapers with circulation above 15,000, Florida Weekly writers, designers and editors won 12 first place, five second place and seven third place awards.

The team of Vandy Major, Scott Sleeper,



COURTESY PHOTO

Florida Weekly's awards from the 2018 Florida Press Association.

Jan Norris, Nanci Theoret, Evan Williams, Roger Williams, Eric Raddatz, Scott Sim-

mons and Betty Wells won the prestigious Claudia Ross Memorial Award for Investigative Reporting for a 20-page special report on Florida's water issues. It is the fourth time that the newspaper has won this award.

Evan Williams won six first place awards along with three second place and one third place awards.

"It's very gratifying to be singled out by your peers for outstanding work," said Florida Weekly cofounder and Executive Editor Jeffrey Cull. "And this team works tirelessly week after week to create the type of newspaper that connects with our

SEE AWARDS, A14 ▶

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KEY WEST EDITION

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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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CRAZY LADY HONEY BLONDE

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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MAP IT OUT



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 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 40-50 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 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
 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
 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
 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
 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
 "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

Angie Romo: She's found her niche

BY JENNIFER WHITE
Florida Weekly Correspondent

The Salty Oyster Dockside Bar and Grill is located at the Perry Hotel next to the picturesque marina on Shrimp Road on Stock Island. If you sit at the bar with bartender Angie Romo she may be inclined to tell you about her travels around the United States, Canada, Central America and the Caribbean if you ask her nicely. She has trekked up the highest mountain in North Africa and hiked through the fjords of Norway. Angie might seem shy at first, but you will soon find that she reveals herself to be very charismatic, extremely friendly and full of interesting stories that will keep you wanting to know more about this otherwise reserved personality of hers.

So, let me start off by giving you a hint or two about Angie Romo. She and her husband Brian successfully sailed a catamaran for approximately nine adventurous months around Central America and the Caribbean even though neither one of them knew much about navigating the ocean when they started. They island hopped the Bahamas, went down rivers in Guatemala, and escaped the rough seas when storms were threatening their path by hanging out in Belize for a little while. As for the United States and Canada, the couple just recently completed a ten-month road trip that took them the East Coast to the West Coast to the North and back

down to South where they have finally returned to their home in the Florida Keys. Luckily when the two arrived from almost a yearlong rendezvous they found their house to be unscathed by the recent hurricane and were able to resume normal island life without even missing a beat. However, Angie now has a whole bunch of new memories to talk about and perhaps even make you a little envious.

"Having wildlife as close to us as we were and having bears and moose at arm's length was amazing. There were bears everywhere! It was like we were driving through one giant animal park. We made it all the way to Yellowstone before Irma hit and that's when we decided it was time to come home and make sure everything was OK," Angie tells me.

When she first came to the island the Minnesota native found work at the late Crabby Bills, followed by Conch Republic Seafood Company and then at Sunset Pier of Ocean Key Resort where she stayed for 13 years before joining the team at Salty Oyster. The open air boutique hotel bar welcomes both overnight guests and daily visitors who simply want to catch a breeze, enjoy an ice-cold craft beer or have a casual bite to eat in an idyllic setting that offers a glimpse into what the Keys may have been like years ago when bohemians like Humphrey Bogart and Ernest Hemingway first discovered it.

"I'm kind of spoiled," she admits



working man's island" where she has watched neighbors' kids go from babies to high school students and where she has been the host of many community gatherings including an annual Spam cook-off and a Shark Week "Jaws" viewing party. With a new mix of world class hotels and gourmet food trucks, Stock Island is slowly becoming the cool place to be. For the moment, though, it still retains authenticity.

If there is one thing that Angie wants you to know about her little oasis far away from the bustle of Duval Street it is that "the food is delicious" and even more tempting when the entire menu is half off during happy hour from 4-6 p.m. every day and which also includes all draft beer, wine by the glass and almost all liquor. Try the blackened mahi sandwich with orange slice, red onion and lemon aioli or the citrus lime dusted chicken wings with habanero dipping sauce.

"Even though it's a short menu, everything is made from scratch," she says. "Take the burger, for example: It has bacon and cheese mixed into the actual ground meat for extra flavor. Everything here gets a little bit of a twist."

You can usually find Angie bartending on Sundays, Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays from open to close, which at the moment is from 11 a.m. until 11 p.m. She seems to have found her niche at a place where, like her, "everyone has been incredibly friendly ... and the commute isn't bad either." ■

when describing her outdoor office. "I really do like working in a really pretty place and even though it is a gorgeous property, it hasn't given up its Stock Island casual vibe. In other words, it is still Stock Island, but in a very pretty spot."

The Perry Hotel is a fairly new addition to Key West's rapidly expanding sister island and is home to both Matt's Stock Island Kitchen and Bar, a chef driven seafood restaurant, and the more laid-back Salty Oyster on the opposite end of the pool. Angie herself is a resident of Stock Island and is proud of "the

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KEY WEST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENTS

Summer Smackdown Artistic Challenge
 Aug. 23 and 24, 8 p.m.
 The Key West Theater
 512 Eaton St.
www.thekeywesttheater.com

Happy Hours with Kristen McNamara
 Wednesdays and Saturdays, 6:30 p.m.
 Sidebar at Aqua
 504 Angela St.
www.sidebarkeywest.com

Animal Farm Open House
 Aug. 26, 1 p.m.
 Monroe County Sheriff's Animal Farm
 5501 College Road

Summerish Fun Movie Series: Up in Smoke
 Aug. 29, 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

Ride your bike and get 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
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LGBT

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Karaoke, Monday-Thursday, 11 p.m.
www.Aquakeywest.com

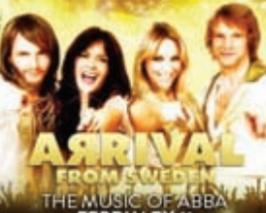
Bobby's Monkey Bar
 900 Simonton St.
Karaoke, Nightly, 9:30 p.m.
 Bobby's Monkey Bar on Facebook



RAMS HEAD



PRESENTS AT THE KEY WEST THEATER

 09.30 LOUIE ANDERSON	 10.14 WHO'S BAD THE ULTIMATE MICHAEL JACKSON EXPERIENCE	 11.07 OTTMAR LIEBERT	 11.15 THUNDER FROM DOWN UNDER
 11.16 LIVINGSTON TAYLOR	 11.28 KINGSTON TRIO LEGACY TOUR	 12.07 PAULA POUNDSTONE	 12.16 JOHN WATERS
 01.10 THE WAILERS	 01.11 GARY PUCKETT	 01.20 RUMOURS A FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE	 01.22 HOT TUNA
 01.24 CRAIG ROBINSON & THE NASTY DELICIOUS	 02.02 BEGINNINGS A TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC OF CHICAGO	 02.11 ARRIVAL FROM SWEDEN THE MUSIC OF ABBA	 02.18 JUSTIN HAYWARD

FOR THE FULL LINE-UP VISIT: WWW.THEKEYWESTTHEATER.COM

KEY WEST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Bourbon St. Pub
724 Duval St.
Just Jeff (Moss), Thursdays-Sundays, 8-10 p.m.
Ronnie, Mondays-Wednesdays, 3-8 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

Sidebar at Aqua
504 Angela St.
Kristen McNamara, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
www.sidebarkeywest.com

La Te Da
1125 Duval St.
Christopher Peterson, Aug. 25 and 28, 9 p.m.
Randy Roberts, Aug. 23, 9 p.m.
3Sum, Aug. 23-26, 8:30 p.m.
Ronnie Lively, Aug. 27, 8:30
The Fabulous Spectrelles, Aug. 28-29, 8:30 p.m.
Tea Dance, Sundays, 4-6:30 p.m.
www.Lateda.com



■ **Summer Smackdown Artistic Challenge**
Artists have seven days to create original art based on the theme of "island time." Aug. 23 and 24, 8 p.m.
The Key West Theater
512 Eaton St.
— www.thekeywesttheater.com

THE ISLAND-WIDE ARTISTIC CHALLENGE IS BACK!



8-23-24



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 ■



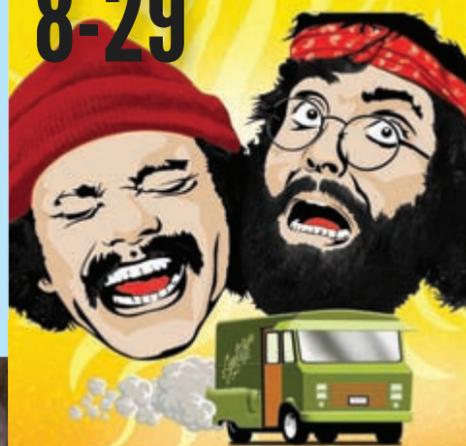
■ **Happy Hours with Kristen McNamara**
Wednesdays and Saturdays, 6:30 p.m., Sidebar at Aqua
504 Angela St.
— www.sidebarkeywest.com



8-26

■ **Animal Farm Open House** Aug. 26, 1 p.m., Monroe County Sheriff's Animal Farm, 5501 College Road.
Don't forget: It's free, but donations are always appreciated!

8-29



■ **Summerish Fun Movie Series: "Up in Smoke"**
Enjoy the 1978 American stoner comedy all over again. Aug. 29, 7 p.m., The Key West Theater, 512 Eaton St.
— www.thekeywesttheater.com

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BLAST

From page 1

excellent meals, it can be all too easy to blow your vacation budget before your island getaway even gets off the ground. And sure, you can totally come to Key West and stay at a five-star resort for \$500 a night but what's the point in dishing out all that dough if the only thing you'll be doing in your room is rinsing off your sandy beach bod and sleeping the sleep of the blissfully inebriated? If you do a little digging, there are myriad budget-friendly options here, so don't write off Key West as an unaffordable vacation destination just yet. And now that we're deep into summer, thinner crowds mean some of the island's best restaurants and bars are offering enticing price cuts on drinks and dishes so tempting you wouldn't even mind paying full price.

In the spirit of pinching pennies, we've compiled a series of options for visitors looking to experience some of the best our island has to offer without breaking the bank. So, put the hammer down, step away from little Dougie's piggy bank, and read on for our recommendations for how to get the most out of your time here for as little green as possible.

Start your day off like a local with breakfast at Sandy's Cafe, a Laundromat-slash-24/7 Cuban/Mexican food stall. (We know that combo sounds weird, but trust us. And no, you're not seeing double. There are technically two Sandy's, both on White Street. It's a long story replete with the provincial intrigue of local politics, but feel free to do some taste testing for yourself.)

Sandy's is a great place to get your morning jolt of caffeine on the cheap: order one of the deliciously addictive Bucci (essentially a shot of espresso done the Cuban way, served piping hot and tooth-achingly sweet). Pair it with a toasty-warm pan Cubano slathered with cream cheese and guava spread, and maybe a ham croquette with stuffed potatoes. The grand total? A whopping \$4.87 before taxes.

Don't worry about the sugar high — you'll burn it off by renting a bike up the street at Island Bicycles, which lends out beach cruisers via a shopfront Bob Marley would certainly have frequented if he were in need of wheels. Don your helmet (the helmet, locks and lights are included in the daily \$10 rate) and continue southeast down White Street toward the ocean, where you'll intersect with the Key West AIDS memorial at the entrance to the White Street Pier, a 1,000-foot cement walkway straight out into the ocean with spectacular views. Enjoy the scene, chat up a local fisherman and then double back onto White Street and head northwest to reach West Martello Tower.

This historic military fortress, built circa 1863, was declared a National Historic Site in the mid-1970s and is now run by the Key West Garden Club, which uses the picturesque grounds as its headquarters. It's free to enter the lushly landscaped space that boasts ample views of the Atlantic thanks to its position perched above Higgs Beach. Lose yourself in the ruins of the property, take a moment to savor the view in the gazebo perched atop its highest point and luxuriate in the (free) sea air.

Now that you've secured your mode of transportation and had your first taste of Key West's historic architecture, explore the rest of the island's best-kept properties by way of the Pelican Path, a free, self-guided tour of the 51 most historic buildings in Key West. It's the brainchild of the Old Island Restoration Foundation, whose tireless efforts to preserve the architectural heritage of Key West have resulted in the protection of 188 buildings, ranging from tiny cigar makers' cottages to spectacular gingerbread-laden Victorian mansions. The Pelican Path map can be downloaded for free off the internet, or you can pick up a copy at the Key West Chamber



COURTESY PHOTO

From 3-6 p.m. at Santiago's Bodega, tuck into \$5 tapas and sip half-price drinks.



COURTESY PHOTO

The octopus at Little Pearl is a favorite of locals.



COURTESY PHOTO

Fort Zachary Taylor State Park has one of the best beaches in Key West.

of Commerce on Greene St. Take your time biking lazily from spot to spot, but be sure to step inside the Oldest House when you get to it. Not only is it free to enter, the property boasts a fabulously shady garden out back, perfect for resting your tired limbs after a few hours of sightseeing.

Once you've worked up an appetite for lunch, there are a few spots we whole-

heartedly recommend. Head over to El Siboney for authentic Cuban food at unbeatable prices — \$7.95 buys you the best Cuban Mix outside of Havana. Or swing by Sinz Burritos, where the hippest looking staff south of Brooklyn will happily serve you an overstuffed burrito or a trio of drool-worthy yet surprisingly healthful tacos for under \$15. If neither of those



COURTESY PHOTO

Roll the dice to determine the price of your drink at General Horseplay.

sound right, make your way to Kojin Noodle Bar, a blink-and-you'll-miss-it locals favorite on Southard Street off Duval Street, where a half portion (roughly the size of a large mixing bowl) of buttery-soft beef tenderloin Pho will set you back a measly \$9. Vegetarians can sub in tofu or go wild over the Miso Hot Pot, priced at a competitive \$8.50.

Midday hunger satiated, grab your kids (or just your inner child) and head on over to the splash park at the newly unveiled Truman Waterfront Park. After you've soaked yourself to the bone, take a short ride up the road to Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park; bonus points if you're on a bicycle rented from any of the transportation outfits on the island — like Island Safari Rentals, Eaton Bikes, Island Bicycles or We Cycle — which cuts your entry fee down to \$2.50. The park is home to one massive, Civil War-era military fort, and to Key West's most beautiful beach. There are plenty of shady picnic tables, walking trails, and snorkel-friendly coral heads if you've remembered to bring your gear. If not, the Chickee Hut on site will rent you a mask & snorkel for \$15 (the hut's also an excellent place for a cheap snack, with pizzas, hot dogs and ice cream all priced under \$6).

The park is open until sunset, but you'll want to head back to town in time to take advantage of the many tempting happy hours happening island-wide. Of particular note is the Conch Republic Seafood Company's 2-for-1 beer, wine and premium well drinks offer, all served harbor-side with a fantastic view of Key West's historic seaport. Or take advantage of the smaller summer crowds at the hugely popular Little Pearl, whose normally reasonable menu gets downright



COURTESY PHOTO

The USGCC Ingham, where \$10 gets entrance to the museum and your first drink.

cheap thanks to the \$5 happy hour nibbles served from 5-6 p.m. seven days a week. We hear the mussels pair quite nicely with a crisp glass of rosé.

General Horseplay, a new local's favorite on Caroline Street half a block off Duval Street, offers Key West's closest thing to a casino at its happy hour (from 3-6 p.m. you roll the dice to determine the price of your drink. Roll a one or two and pay just \$1 or \$2, while a three gets you half off, and a four, five or six just encourages you to try again (such is the nature of gambling).

After a delicious drink or two (may the die-rolling odds be ever in your favor), you might need a nosh. We suggest ambling down to Santiago's Bodega, where you can score a handful of its delicious



COURTESY PHOTO

Sandy's Cafe food is inexpensive.

tapas for a mere \$5 plus, half-priced drinks from 3-6 p.m. At that price, might as well make that glass of sangria a whole pitcher; we won't judge.

If you're craving something a little more posh, head uptown. While its upscale dining room (with prices to match) makes it one of Key West's most popular special occasion restaurants, if you can find a way to get seated by 6:30 p.m. at the normally pricey Tavern 'n' Town, you'll enjoy your fancy-pants meal for just \$19.95 per entrée — so go ahead, order the steak.

Tucked away at the corner of Fleming and Grinnell streets, a tiny garden with fabulous food beckons: Azur, whose Mediterranean-themed menu laden with fresh fish boasts a whopping 50 percent off all food through Sept. 1 when you dine between 5:30-7 p.m. Enjoy dining to the sound of a trickling waterfall as you order plate after plate of walnut-stuffed eggplant, branzino with rosemary, house-made gnocchi and the restaurant's famed charred octopus with za'atar spice.

Assuming you ate early, there's still time to make it over to the Sunset Celebration at Mallory Square, where street performers and colorful-sky-worshippers jostle for the best view of Key West's most famous, free nightly show. It's worth experiencing once, but if you're sick of the crowds (or feeling bullied into tipping a lithe twenty-five-year-old for his acrobatic skills) enjoy the same view with approximately 99 percent fewer people by watching from the Truman Waterfront. Just head straight through the Truman Annex toward the USCGC Ingham, one of only two preserved Treasury class U.S. Coast Guard Cutters, which now operates as a museum (and which, incidentally, offers its own happy hour on Friday and Saturday evenings, where \$10 buys you entrance to the ship and your first drink). Park your bike, grab a spot on the pier and settle in for a spectacular show, weather permitting.

If hurricane season has rained all over your evening sunset plans, fear not: in a

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MUSIC SCENE

Going Green with Emily Springsteen

BY BUCKY MONTGOMERY
Florida Weekly Correspondent

And before you ask about the last name, no. No relation.

When Emily talks about her music, you get the feeling it's not the driver, but the vehicle. "I fell into playing music. I didn't intentionally choose it as a career," she said. "I use it because I feel a social responsibility. I have a sensitivity to environmental and sustainable living issues."

With a work background in ecological preservation and a degree in interdisciplinary humanities from Michigan State, Emily was inspired by respect for social consciousness and Mother Earth, which originally set her up for a career outreach case management. "I worked in horticulture. My two most influential jobs were three years growing native plants, and I helped start up the saltwater program at BaySail, a nonprofit Appledore tall ship company based in Bay City, Mich."

She was hired in 2010 to come down to Fort Myers with the company and she worked there for a couple of years. During this time, she got her first taste of the Florida Keys.

"I visited Key West a couple of times. I loved the bougainvillea, the palm trees and the funky nature of the place."

She was instrumental in gathering an anti-Monsanto protest in Key West on May 19 of this year, coinciding with World March Against Monsanto 2018. According to the World March Against Monsanto Key West Facebook page, the

purpose of this annual global demonstration is, "to peacefully protest Monsanto corporation, genetically modified organisms (GMO foods and life forms), Monsanto's right to patent genetically modified DNA and Monsanto's chemical invasion of our food supply and planet."

Emily grew up in a musical family. "We sang in the car and around the house," she said. "Mom was in the community choir, and dad taught me the guitar." She studied music throughout grade school, was self-taught on acoustic guitar and received group and private vocal training as an adult. From Billie Holiday to Bobbie Gentry, Emily embraced folk, rock, jazz, reggae, American roots and more.

"My influences were cross-genre. Anything I could get my hands on ... world, folk, big band, oldies stations, classic rock, Dylan, The Beatles, the Grateful Dead ..."

And yet, when she arrived in Key West, music wasn't a priority. She kept her hands in the dirt and her eye on the sea, working for the first year at Land Creations Landscaping. She also had a job at Sebago and later as a case worker for the Early Learning Coalition.

Then, a year after she first arrived, she began playing music. "I lived at Oceanside and was always playing with friends, like I used to do back home. My first gig was at Hogfish Bar." She has now been performing steadily as a solo vocalist in the Lower Florida Keys since 2013, with a long list of accolades.



Emily has played at many festivals and events such as the Florida Keys Ocean Festival, Wharfstock at Schooner Wharf, Grateful Summer at Boondocks, and the Key West Musicians Festival at Smokin' Tuna, to name a few. Highlights of this past year include participating in an Earth Day Jam with That Hippie Band — "It's music from the Woodstock era," she said — at the Key West Theater and performing at the artisan market for the Ocean Awareness Edition.

Emily has a stockade of music piled in her set list, with a lean toward the hippie and socially conscious singer/songwriters: Grateful Dead, Bob Marley, Gordon Lightfoot, Joni Mitchell, Bob Dylan, the Beatles, Woody Guthrie and Neil Young.

But there's also Led Zeppelin, Sublime, Alison Krauss, Doris Day, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Bachman Turner Overdrive, Blondie and Aretha Franklin thrown in for diversity, and that's just the tip of the iceberg.

When she's not onstage, Emily enjoys kayaking. "I'm concerned about the direction of my art and purpose. To be inspired by, and to protect, the environment and humanitarian issues. To listen and respect each other." It's not surprising that in 2008, while still in college, Emily studied in Mexico to learn Spanish because she was considering a career as a migrant worker advocate.

As far as her plans for the future? "I'm staunchly pro-sustainable energy conversion, and oppose big oil. I'm now motivated to work to prevent fracking in my hometown in Michigan, as well as the crusty old oil pipelines in the Great Lakes. I'll also be continuing the annual march against genetically modified foods" she says.

What does Emily enjoy most about living and working in Key West? "The sunshine. The ocean. The horticultural splendor and interesting people."

You can check out Emily, her music, and her message every Tuesday and Thursday at the Lighthouse Grill/Faro Blanco in Marathon from 6 to 9 p.m. She also holds regular appearances at Blue Waters Courtyard Marriott also in Marathon, Sugarloaf Lodge Tiki Bar and Pinchers here in Key West. You can find her full schedule on her website, www.emilyspringsteen.com. ■

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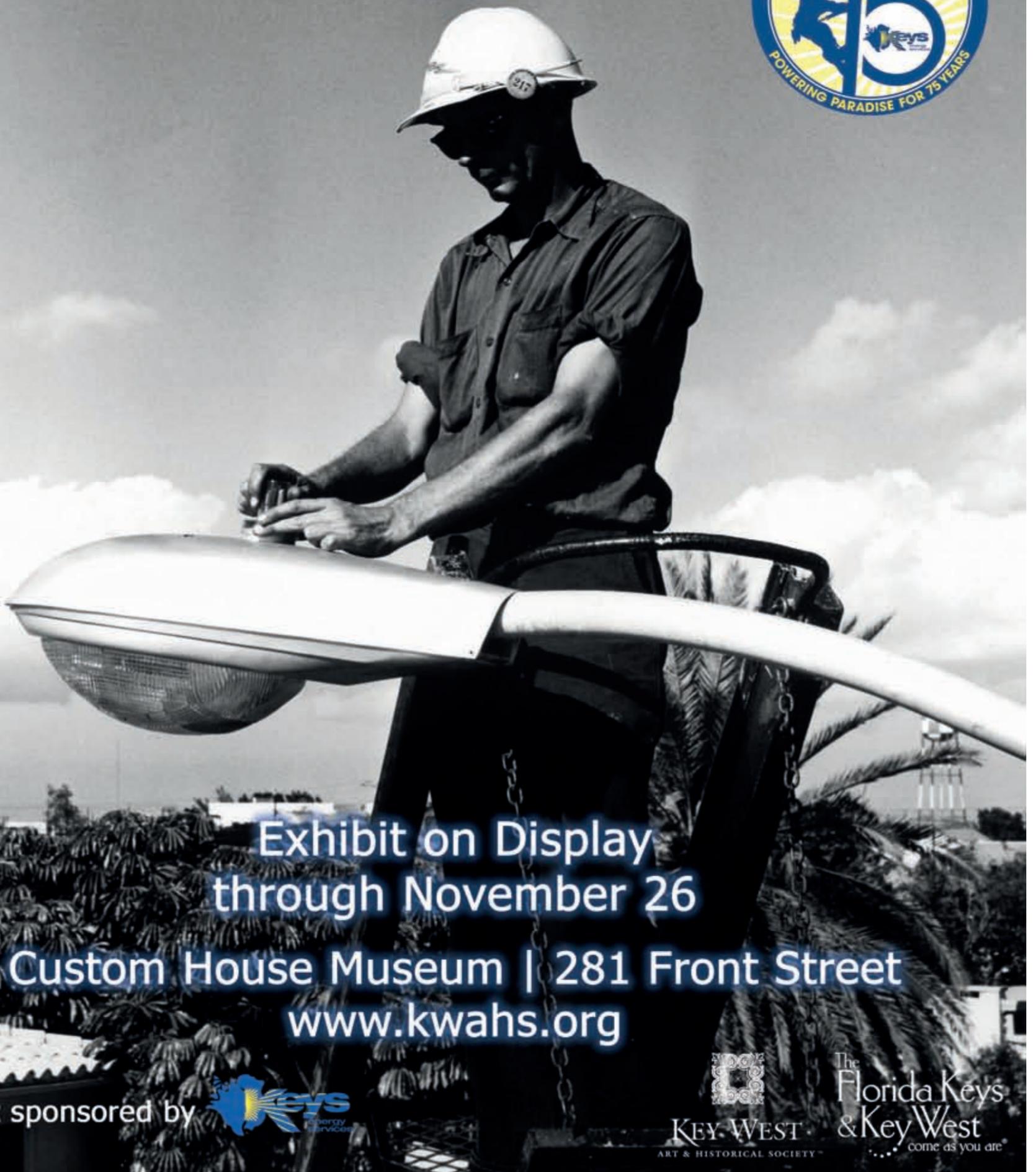


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COURTESY PHOTO

BLAST

From page 11

world where a couple of movie tickets and a small popcorn can cost as much as a bottle of Veuve Clicquot, the independent, volunteer-run Tropic Cinema

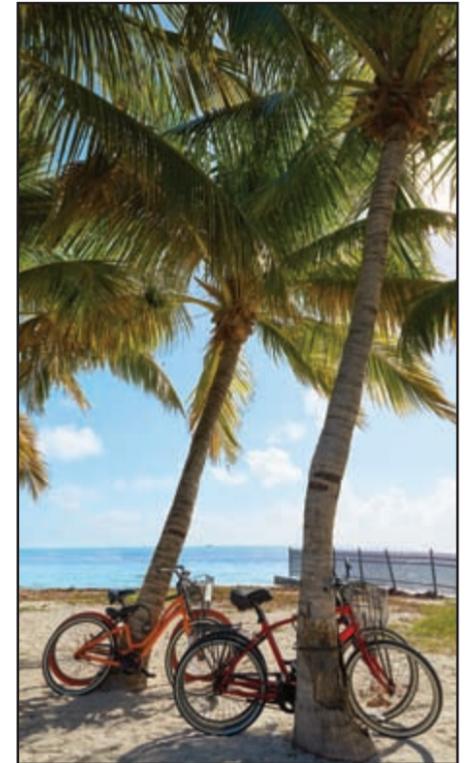
remains refreshingly affordable, with general admission tickets priced at \$12. Consistently rated as one of the best cinemas in Florida, the Tropic offers a mix of independent and major release flicks, plus a concession stand that will knock your socks off (though if you're wearing socks in Key West, you should probably reexamine your lifestyle). Key lime pie, craft beer,

popcorn topped with actual butter, brie and crackers, artisanal candies — heck, they'll even sell you an entire bottle of wine and let you bring it into the theater with you. The screens are smaller than your average megaplex, but that's part of the charm.

Finally, if you're wondering where you're going to lay your head at the end

of such an exhaustingly affordable day, you might want to take advantage of the Eden House's ongoing special of deluxe rooms for as low as \$100 through Oct. 11. At this prime downtown location with tropical oasis-style amenities (think floating in a pool surrounded by palm trees, hammocks and waterfalls), you'll sleep like a rock, dreaming about all the ways to spend the cash you saved.

After all, what's the fun in being frugal if you don't get to reap the rewards occasionally? ■



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AWARDS

From page 1

more than 220,000 weekly readers.”

In addition to the individual awards, the editors and staff won for best special section, “Big Trouble,” and community service for maintaining the only continuous news feed for the residents of Key West in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.

Florida Weekly is locally owned and publishes newspapers in Greater Fort Myers, Greater Naples, Bonita Springs, Charlotte County, Palm Beach Gardens, West Palm Beach, Key West and Babcock Ranch with a combined circulation of more than 90,000. The firm’s ninth newspaper, Venice Florida Weekly, begins publishing next month.

The Florida Press Association’s Weekly Newspaper Contest is open to monthly, semi-monthly, weekly, semiweekly and tri-weekly newspaper members.

A complete list of Florida Weekly award winners:

Florida Press Association: First Place (Circulation over 15,000)

- **Investigative Reporting:** “Big Trouble,” Vandy Major, Scott Sleeper, Jan Norris, Nanci Theoret, Evan Williams, Roger Williams, Eric Raddatz, Scott Simmons and Betty Wells
- **Multimedia Storytelling:** “Shell of a good time,” Nanci Theoret and Vandy Major
- **General News Story:** “Stopping human trafficking,” Evan Williams
- **Outdoor and Recreation:** “Horsing around,” Roger Williams
- **Special issues, section or supplement:** “Big Trouble,” Florida Weekly staff



STAFF PHOTO Florida Weekly won awards for stories on growth, human trafficking and Arlo Guthrie.

- **Community Service:** “Hurricane Irma,” Florida Weekly staff
- **Community History:** “Harlem, Florida,” Evan Williams
- **Feature Story:** Profile: “At home with Arlo,” Scott Simmons
- **Best Reader-generated Photograph:** “Hurricane Irma,” Doug Kollmer
- **Health, Medical and Science**

Reporting: “Dimensions unending: 3D,” Evan Williams

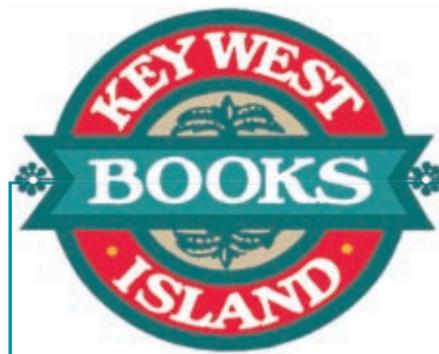
- **Feature Story: Non-profile:** “What happens in an Uber car (.. does not stay in an Uber car),” Jan Norris
- **State and Local Tax Reporting:** “Footing the bill,” Evan Williams

Second place

- **State and Local Tax Reporting:** “Movies move on,” Eric Raddatz
- **Business Reporting:** “Entering Florida’s spirit world,” Evan Williams
- **Local Government Reporting:** “2017 Legislative session,” Evan Williams
- **In-depth Reporting:** “Opioid death,” Evan Williams
- **Serious Column:** Roger Williams

Third place

- **Informational Graphic:** “Big Trouble,” Scott Sleeper
- **Agricultural and Environmental Reporting:** “Misunderstood. Mistreated. Maligned. Muscovy,” Evan Williams
- **Arts, Entertainment and Review Reporting:** Nancy Stetson
- **Health, Medical and Science Reporting:** “Saving the imperiled sawfish,” Nanette Crist
- **In-depth Reporting:** “Shooter,” Bob Massey
- **General Excellence:** Florida Weekly staff
- **Feature Story: Non-profile:** “The state of women,” Robin DeMattia. ■



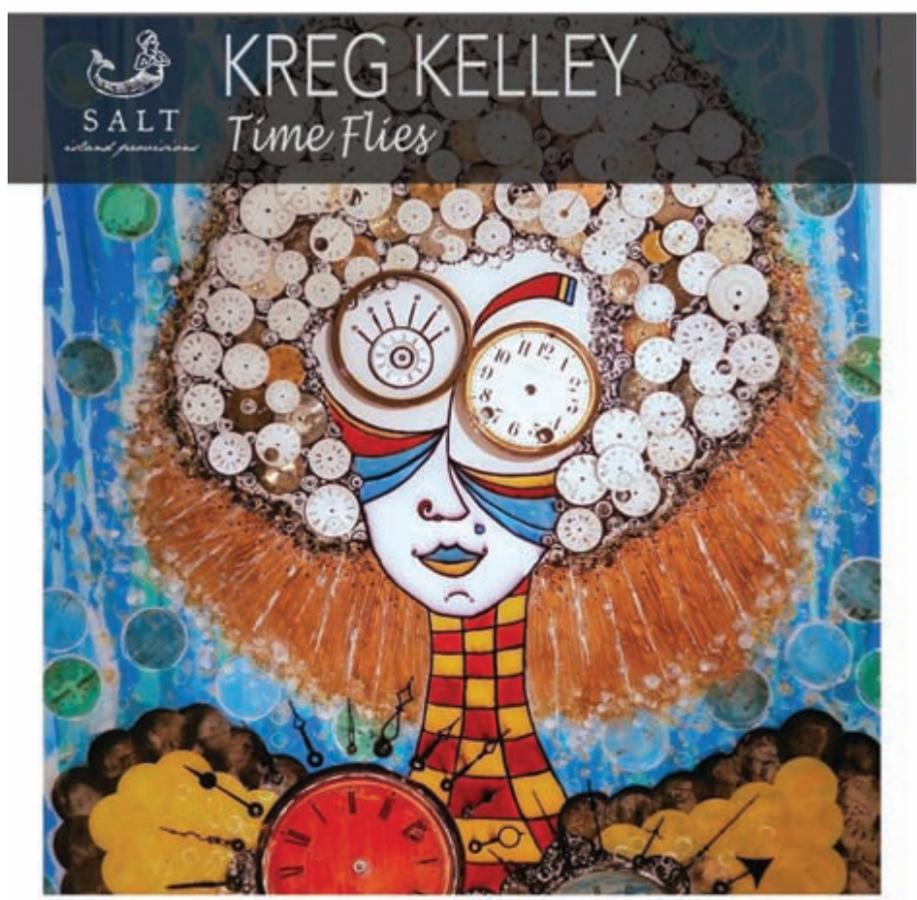
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KREG KELLEY
Time Flies

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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BY JENNIFER WHITE
Florida Weekly Correspondent

The low ceilings at Lupita's remind me of a traditional style cantina, but that's where my amateur comparison ends. When I think of the cantinas I've stepped into somewhere down a side street in the remote highlands of Central America I think of dark, rough around the edges places where people went to disappear. But that's not at all how it is here. At Lupita's, from the moment that you walk in you are immediately hit with a bright burst of color and the jolly polka twang of Mexican songs playing in the background. If you have ever had a chance to stop at the South Carolina highway pit stop South of the Border and felt like you were in a completely different world, that's what Lupita's feels like to me except without any of the kitsch and all of the genuine.

The fact that this place is not more talked about than the average mention is a mystery to me. It's almost as if every time I bring it up with someone they say, "Oh yes, I think I know what you're talking about." But when I walk in, the place is busy, buzzing even, and there's always someone I know. Yet rarely do I see a social media check-in that they are "eating deliciousness."

At first glance the street-side facade appears a little nonchalant, as though they want to tell you it's not what's on the outside that counts. For those who chase all things off the beaten path, it's exactly what you want. The decor is Latin rustic, the vibe is low key, the food is homemade, the owners are mom and pop.

"My dad is from Guatemala and my mother is from Northern Mexico," daughter and manager Julie Olague tells me. "We are a family business all the way through. Everyone in my family works here. My husband, my aunt, my cousin ..."

Lupita's opened in November of 2012 a year or so after Julie's parents moved to Key West from Port Charlotte where the business was first established. Lupita's on the mainland started with just four tables and soon expanded by popular demand to a much bigger space that was an actual restaurant and not just a room.

"My mom says that this is how she cooks in her house. We try to put out the most authentic food we can," Julie says. "We make everything we can from scratch. The sauces are made from scratch, the tamales are made from scratch, the tortillas are made daily, the salsa is made daily, the beans are made daily, the rice is made daily. It's all very, very fresh."

Some would say that America's Mexican heritage restaurants can be judged by the way they make their tacos. Julie's eyes light up when she starts describing the tongue and tripe tacos and how she likes her tripe cooked well done until it is hot and crispy "it tastes like pork hinds." Another dish that she details with pride is the menudo, a traditional stew of honeycomb tripe and salted cow foot flavored with dried chile, onions, bay leaves and garlic and left to simmer for over four hours. For those less adventurous eaters Julie recommends the fajitas and specifically the fajitas de la casa with steak, chicken and shrimp and served with sour cream, guacamole, salsa and homemade tortillas. Which brings me back to the tacos, because you can't have a good taco or fajita without starting with the base of a good tortilla.



I imagine that making tortillas is similar to what making rice is to a sushi chef. It can be that serious. It's a learned rhythm that takes years to develop as much as it is the about the ingredients.

"There's no secret. You just need the touch" Julie shares. "My mom says it's all in the hand."

I nod in agreement. There is no greater food than the food made with love.

"I came here this past Valentine's Day and had the whole fried fish and it was absolutely delicious," I say. "That moment was my best Valentine's Day meal ever."

Julie laughs in agreement. "Yes, a lot of people come here for the mojarra doradita."

The crispy fried snapper is served simply with pico de gallo and a side of rice, beans and those homemade tortillas we just talked about. Another customer favorite, the BIG burritos as they are so called on the menu, are stuffed with cheese, lettuce, tomato, and onions with a side of guacamole and sour cream. Everything might sound matter

of fact, but it is how they spice and prepare the food that makes the difference. For example, the mole sauce is blend of both of her parents' ethnicities and so it is something rather personal to them.

"In southern Guatemala they make it more sweet, and in the northern part of Mexico they try not to make it too sweet," Julie explains. "So ours is a bit of both. It's a good balance."

Lupita's is open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. serving lunch-sized portions until 3 p.m. and full-sized dinner all day. They offer specials like 25 tacos for \$50 and two Coronas for \$6. Tuesdays also means \$1 tacos.

"We try to put the best service that we can," Julie promises. "We are here to satisfy our customers and are always happy to see everyone come in." ■

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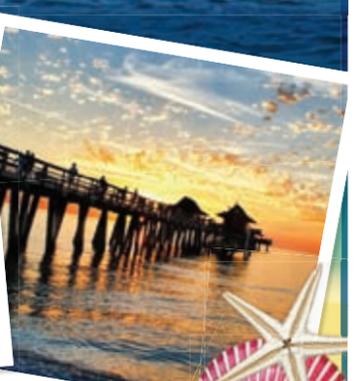
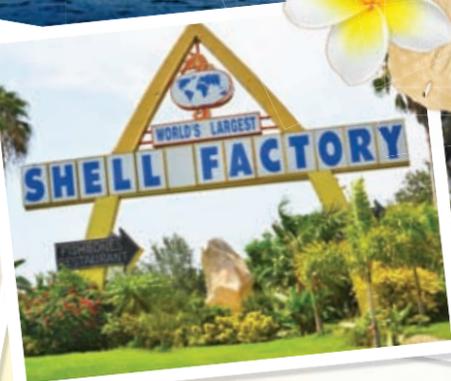
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www.galleryongreene.com
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The works of Peter Vey are featured at Gallery on Greene.

COURTESY PHOTO



MARIO SANCHEZ

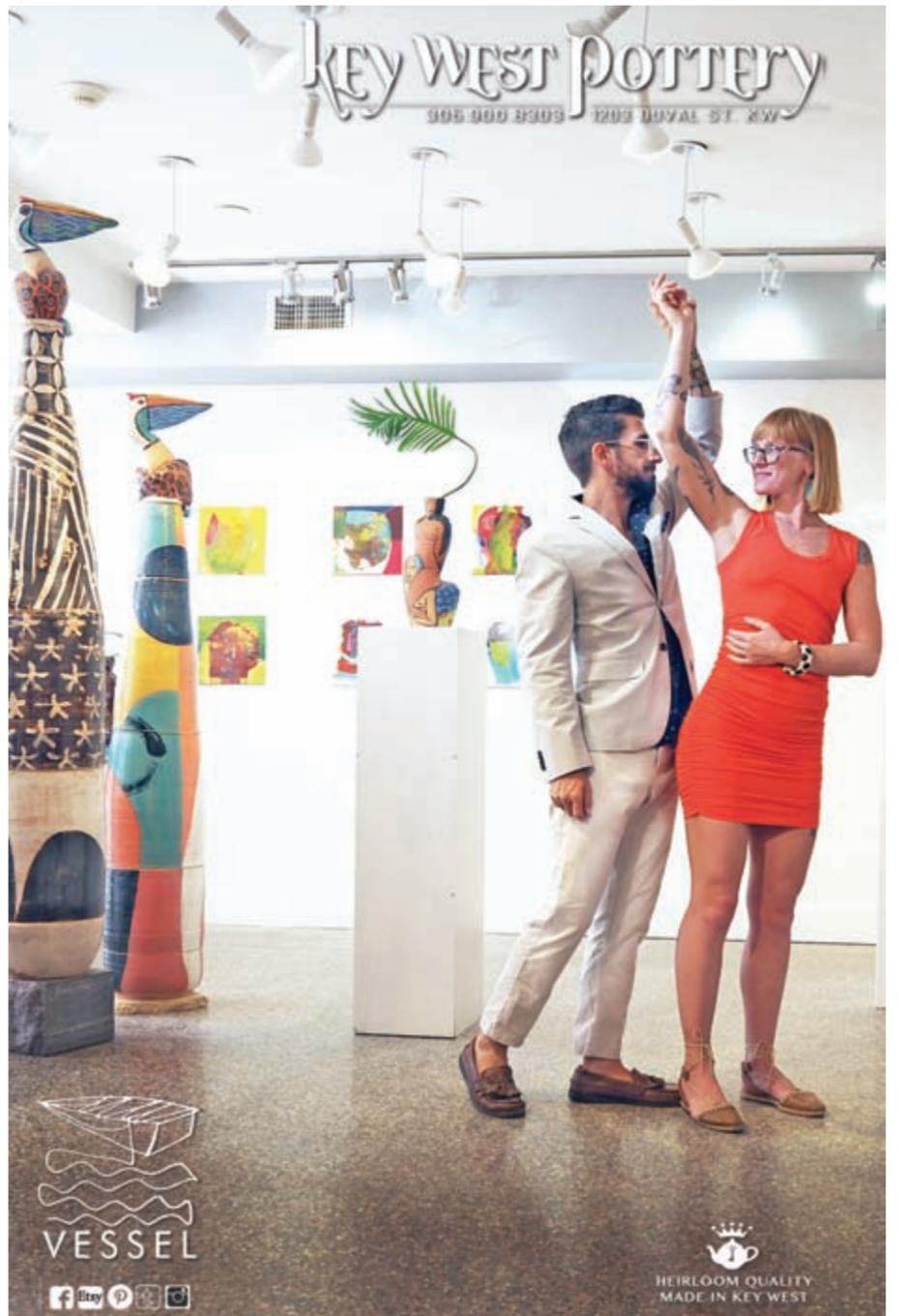
Key West's most widely known and critically acclaimed artist was a serious supporter of Old Island Restoration Foundation, The Oldest House Museum and historic preservation of his island home. Relics of Old Key West is part of his Old Island Days Series, supporting the OIRF House Tours and promoting the history he so dearly loved.



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Michael McCloud & Friends
Aug. 24-26, noon to 5 p.m.

Stalwart Key West troubadour Michael McCloud delivers humorous repartee and original songs that exemplify life at this tropical latitude.

The Bubba System Band
Aug. 24-25, 7 p.m. to midnight
Classic rock



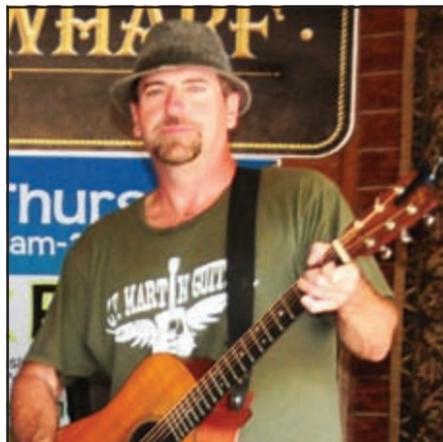
Christopher Dean Duo
Aug. 26, 7-11 p.m.
Delta, Chicago and Texas blues to jazz, folk, country, R&B, and pop



Raven Cooper
Aug. 27 noon to 5 p.m.
Aug. 29, 7-11 p.m.

Talented guitar player and singer with a wide range of vocal styles, playing an eclectic mix of jazz, country, blues, and more. Humorous audience interaction.

Andy and Jesse
Aug. 28, noon to 5 p.m.
Classic acoustic rock with a twist.



Tom Taylor
Aug. 28, 7-11 p.m.
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August 29, noon to 5 p.m.
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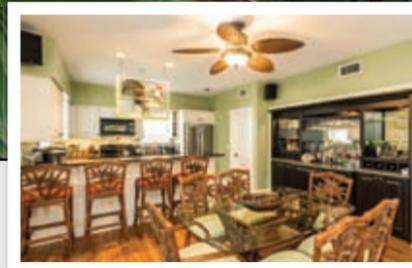
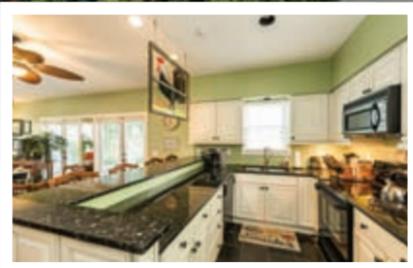
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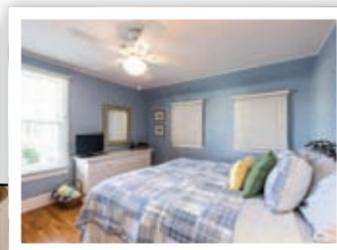
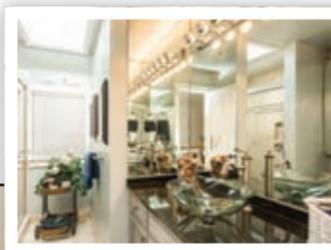


Windward Park beauty

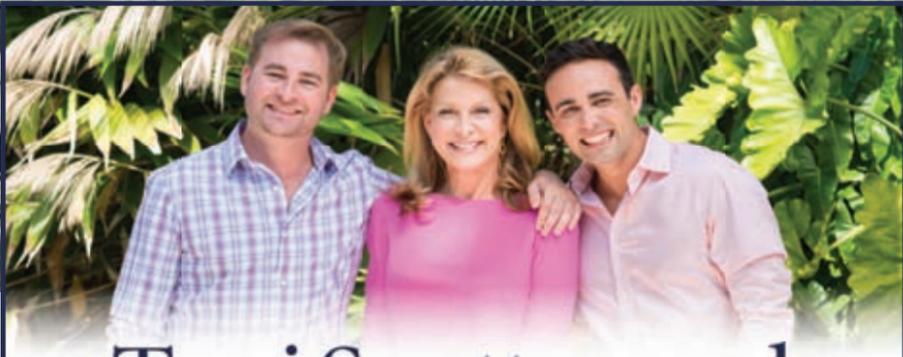
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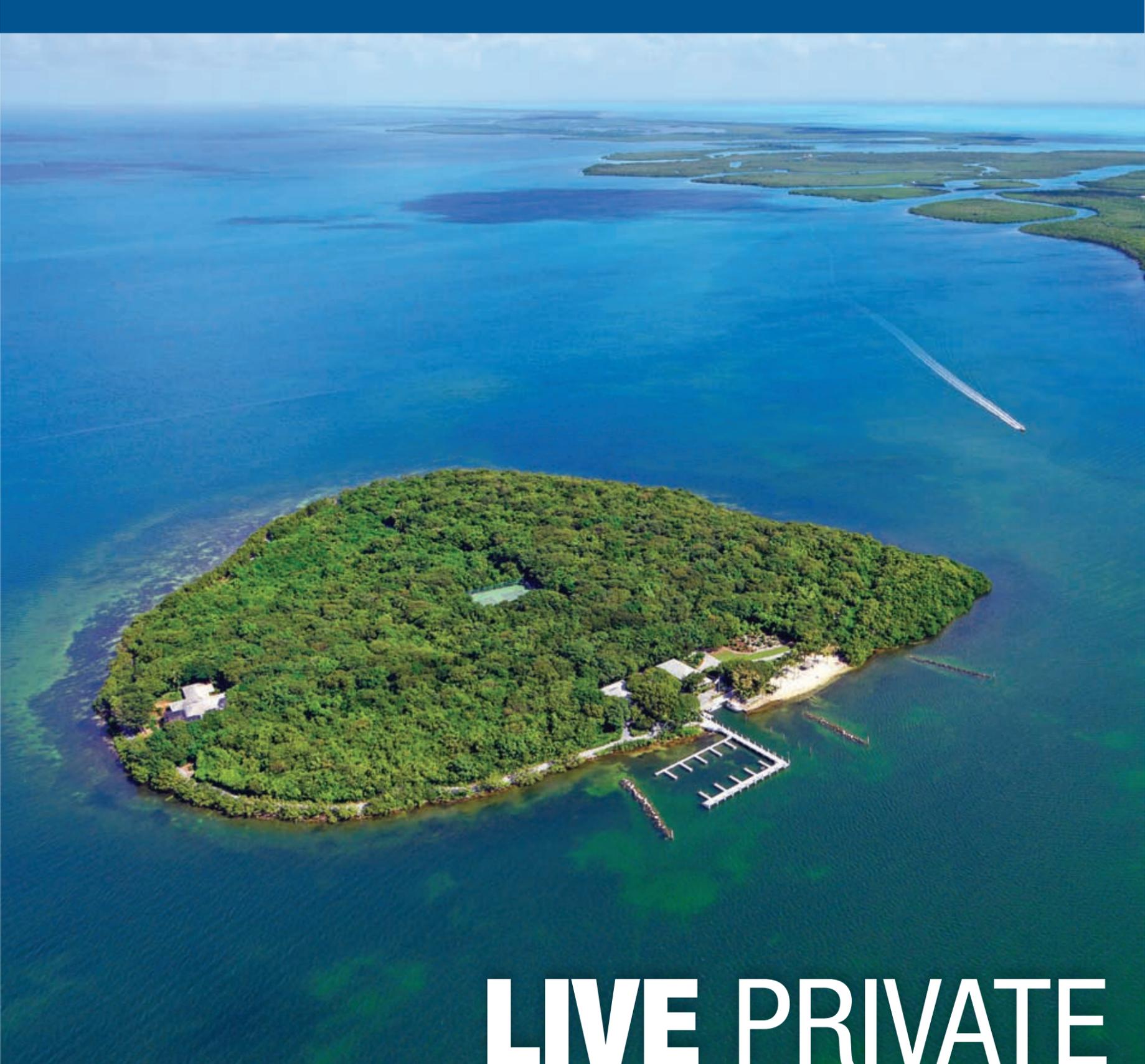
Private 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom cottage in The Meadows updated by a modern renovation with first floor master. Features an open floor plan, handsome wood floors, vaulted ceiling, a striking kitchen w/stainless appliances, gray quartz counters and custom cabinetry. Both en suite baths are beautifully tiled offer luxury fixtures and sleek, hidden storage. Spiral staircase to guest suite with viewing balcony backyard surrounded by lush tropical plants.



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