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MARATHON

# City takes new look at housing

By RYAN MCCARTHY  
 rmccarthy@keynoter.com

The rebounding economy and numerous ongoing development projects have put the need for affordable housing back on the city of Marathon's front burner.

Mayor Dick Ramsay has been working with Planning Director George Garrett on

possible revisions to the city's land development regulations to update what Garrett called in his July 8 monthly report "an aging housing stock."

Garrett included several suggestions in that report, chief among them to "place a broader responsibility on all segments of resort and other commercial development for providing workforce housing."

## Soon-to-be-done projects mean many more workers are needed

"The requirement [to provide some employee housing] is only for hotels. I'm pushing for us to include commercial, especially commercial like a Home Depot, where they have multiple employees, not necessarily one or two," Ramsay said.

Garrett is out of town and was unavailable for comment, but following are his additional recommendations to the council:

- Revising the LDRs "to more clearly define the numerical requirement for providing a certain number of workforce

housing units for a given level of development."

- Revising the LDRs to modify the current fees associated with the transfer of market-rate development rights from one location to another.

- Establishing LDR provisions whereby "multiple developers" share workforce housing responsibilities on single and common project sites.

Ramsay said he no longer agrees with the city's current policy allowing developers to pay the city \$20,000 per unit of required affordable housing in order to get out of building it.

"I made a statement that you can't buy a decent tent for \$20,000, and I stick by that," he said.

• See Housing, 2A

## KICKS FOR KIDS



Photo courtesy NATALIE SMITH

Sock It To Me Kickball Tournament organizer Daashia Cochran (orange shirt) joins a group of local youths Saturday at the inaugural event at the Marathon Community Park. Teams of kids and adults played several games of kickball, with socks on their hands, to raise money for local youth sports activities.

## LUNAR ACTIVITY

# Moon sends tides out of whack

Thick pull drains flats, floods roads

By KEVIN WADLOW  
 Senior Staff Writer  
 kwadlow@keynoter.com

The so-called super moon over the Florida Keys Saturday night looked great but caused extreme tides, both high and low.

"The high tides are higher and the low tides are lower when the moon is at its closest point to the earth," said meteorologist Alan Futterman from the Key



Keynoter photo by KEVIN WADLOW

The oceanside flat near Tavernier Key, an offshore island near mile marker 92, turned into a nearly dry expanse Sunday that lured strollers. A super moon caused extreme tides.

West office of the National Weather Service.

The moon always affects ocean tides but more so at full moon.

A perigee moon — when a full moon occurs at the closest point to Earth in its elliptical orbit — increases the apparent size of the moon, and also has a greater effect on tides.

Tides Saturday night and early Sunday swamped some low-lying roads in the Keys. Twelve hours later, the reverse effect drained water off low-lying flats.

Boats trying to take tradi-

• See Tides, 2A

## OUR ENVIRONMENT

# Turtles get more protection

Feds designate a wide swath in South Florida

By KEVIN WADLOW  
 Senior Staff Writer  
 kwadlow@keynoter.com

Virtually all Atlantic Ocean waters off the Florida Keys become a designated critical habitat for loggerhead sea turtles beginning Aug. 11.

"This is great news for our loggerheads," said Bette Zirkelbach, manager of the Turtle Hospital in Marathon. "They need this protected area."

The decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, made in response to a lawsuit filed by marine conservation groups, designates more than 300,000 square miles of ocean in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico as essential breeding and feeding habitat for the protected turtles.

Rules unveiled July 9 also designate 685 miles of upland shorelines in six states as rec-

ognized nesting areas.

In the Keys, the designated nesting sites include 2.6 miles of Atlantic shoreline on Long Key and 2.3 miles on Bahia Honda Key, along with several areas in the Dry Tortugas and Marquesas, plus mainland Monroe County. However, other beaches have nests, for example, Sombrero Beach in Marathon.

The designation "will maximize conservation efforts by protecting turtles on land and sea, offering hope for recovery," said attorney Jaclyn Lopez of the Center for Biological Diversity.

That center, along with Oceana and other conservation groups, filed suit under the Endangered Species Act contending that federal agencies had not moved to safeguard habitat needed by loggerhead turtles.

In general terms, the designation affects activities by federal agencies. No federal money can be spent on projects that would reduce the

• See Turtles, 3A

## KEY WEST

# Huge marina sought in Key West

Developer ask for delay in consideration

By JESSICA MACHETTA  
 Keynoter Contributor

"Imagine 79 boats, docks, a hundred or more people/fishermen, restrooms, two office buildings, related mechanical equipment, ramps, and another out building all located within 4.5 acres on the water," begins a letter from Key West resident John Zuiderveen to the Key West Planning Board in response to a development proposal.

"Then add room for 12 parking spots. Imagine a hundred or so hungry pelicans. You all know why they are there. You build it and they will come."

Zuiderveen is one of many residents who have said developing the waterfront at 2407 N. Roosevelt Blvd. in Key West would be disas-

trous to the quality of life for residents who live nearby, as well as for the environment.

The plan, put forth by Robert Walker, was slated to be heard by the Key West Planning Board Thursday. But Tuesday, Walker asked for a delay so he could finalize plans, including for parking.

Tom Ratchliffe, who lives on Gulfview Drive, writes that he is hopeful the Planning Board will take the concerns into account so that "Dr. Walker will be able to get his marina but, at the same time, the peaceful nature of our living environment will not be significantly disturbed."

However, planner Owen Trepanier, with Trepanier & Associates in Key West, says he believes those concerns have been addressed.

"We've been lucky for the most part in this project," Trepanier said. "The majority of the neighbors have been really straightforward and

• See Marina, 3A

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**Costly move**

The estimated cost to bring to and display in Marathon a historic lighthouse lens is now up to \$170,000.  
 Story, 2A

**Costly brew**

A Stock Island man who killed a man in an argument over beer money has been sent to prison for 2.5 years.  
 Story, 2A



COUNTY COMMISSION

# 100 hotel rooms up for approval

## Stock Island Marina Village seeking them

By **KEVIN WADLOW**  
Senior Staff Writer  
kwadlow@keynoter.com

A development agreement for 100 new hotel rooms and other visitor facilities at Stock Island Marina Village goes to the Monroe County Commission at its meeting today in Key West.

The proposed agreement for the 12-acre upland site on Shrimp Road transfers development rights from Big Pine Key and other Lower Keys islands for the hotel. Permanent residences will be limited to staff housing and "commercial apartments."

Planned resort facilities include a 150-seat restaurant, bath house and fitness center. Working waterfront uses such as a marina with boat repair and storage, along with a fish house, will occupy about a third of the property.

Public access to a waterfront walkway will be open from 7 a.m. until dusk.

In conjunction with the resort plan, commissioners hold a hearing on an ordinance that says liveaboard marina slips do not require building permit allocations under the county's rate-of-growth ordinance. Slips approved under the ordinance can only be rented for vessels capable of navigation, not permanently docked houseboats.

The marina issues are scheduled for 3 p.m. at the

Harvey Government Center, 1200 Truman Ave.

In other issues on the commission's agenda:

- Brian Stewart, who describes himself as "the mayor of Boca Chica Beach," will speak under public comment at 10 a.m. to object to the planned "cutting of about 175 feet of shade trees on the oceanside of the parking lot for Boca Chica Beach."

Staff at Naval Air Station Key West requested the county to cut the trees that lie within a "clear zone."

# Planners say concerns solved

From Marina, 1A

honest about their concerns.

They are concerns that are physical attributes they wanted to be addressed. Most neighbors have had real concrete concerns when we sat down and talked to them about it, and we've been able to do it pretty successfully."

Walker initially proposed the development two years ago, said Key West City Planner Donald Craig.

"We told them at the time they had to go do the channel analyses and have approvals in place from [the U.S.] Army Corps [of Engineers] and then Dr. Walker had to

deal with a code-related fine from development; he got that resolved."

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection would also need to approve the project; it would include trimming some mangroves, but not removing them.

If ultimately approved by the Planning Board, the plan would go to the City Commission for approval as a conditional-use measure. It would also go to the state Department of Economic Opportunity because it's considered a major development.

For more on this story, go to [www.KeysInfoNet.com](http://www.KeysInfoNet.com).

# Loggerhead turtles get much more protection

From Turtles, 1A

habitat. Military operations, such as at Naval Air Station Key West, are excluded.

Mike Roberts, Monroe County senior administrator of environmental resources, was reviewing the decision this week.

"Given the county's existing ordinances on [turtle] nesting beaches, I can't imagine this will have any particularly significant effect" on most waterfront areas, Roberts said.

Most of the sandy beaches needed for nesting by sea turtles already are protected, he said.

In other Keys areas designated as critical habitat for protected species like the Lower Keys marsh rabbit and Key deer, he said, "The vast majority of properties are on federal lands. So the impacts to private lands have been fairly minimal."

The large areas of ocean listed as essential to the loggerhead species survival create "the largest designation of critical habitat ever," according to the Center for Biological Diversity.



Keynoter photo by LARRY KAHN

A new federal designation of critical habitat for loggerhead sea turtles covers a lot of ocean near the Florida Keys, and some beach nesting spots. This nesting site at Marathon's Sombrero Beach already is protected.

The "Southern Florida Constricted Migratory Corridor" runs from the northern boundary of Palm Beach County south to off Key West, covering waters out to the 200-meter depth contour.

"Migrating thousands of

miles in the course of their lifetimes, loggerheads face persistent threats from fishing gear, pollution and climate change," Oceana marine scientist Amanda Keledjian said. "This critical habitat designation is essential for the future

survival and recovery of sea turtles in the U.S."

The designation could affect any offshore drilling in the area. Fishing activities were cited as a possible impact on turtles no specifics were outlined.

MARATHON

# City starts budget work for 2014-15

## Staff raises more than likely

By **RYAN MCCARTHY**  
rmccarthy@keynoter.com

The Marathon City Council is scheduled to open its 2014-15 budget season on Thursday evening with a special meeting to review proposed general fund figures.

Staff is scheduled to present an overview of the proposed \$12.44 million budget to the council, after which the board will adopt a preliminary property tax rate for the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1. Governments often approve an initial rate higher than they finalize in September.

As written, the proposed tax rate is 2.3297, or \$2.3297 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. That's 5.43 percent more than the 2.2097 rollback rate, which is the rate necessary to generate the same tax revenue as in the current year.

The 2.3297 rate is estimat-

ed to generate \$4,159,407 in revenue, an increase of \$220,136 from the adopted current year's \$3,939,271.

The day-to-day operating budget would be about \$9.26 million and be financed through licenses and permits, government revenue sharing, charges for services, fines, forfeitures and other revenues. The city is budgeted to have \$3.18 million in cash reserves, up \$534,502 from the current year's \$2.64 million.

"We're setting the high side and I can get a feeling for what council wants to do. We'll continually have more conversations. Last year, the percentage over rollback was 5.32 and this year, right now we're at 5.43, so we're pretty close," City Manager Mike Puto said.

Included in the proposed budget are across-the-board raises for city employees at a minimum of 3 percent. Employees earning less than \$39,000 received 3 percent raises in the current year.

But those were the first

permanent raises of any kind in five budgets. Then-city Manager Roger Hernstadt preferred to dole out discretionary bonuses.

Mayor Dick Ramsay and Vice Mayor Chris Bull were on the losing side of a final vote in September to offer raises to every employee. Ramsay has said on several occasions he wants them included in the 2014-15 budget and instructed Puto to do so.

"I asked staff to take a look and see what we're looking at with raises for people and look at what we can do to afford the raises. We've got a great staff and we want to do our best to keep them here," Puto said.

According to city Finance Director Jennifer Johnson, the combined value of suggested raises for general-fund employees — those whose salaries are paid with taxpayer dollars — would be \$99,907. She noted that Marathon Fire Rescue "is still in negotiations with the union, so their figures may change as negotiations

progress."

City of Marathon Marina employees, Utilities Department employees and Public Works Department workers would also receive raises, but all or a portion of their salaries are paid for via special revenue funds not included in the city's operating budget.

In addition, annual employee insurance benefit costs are budgeted to increase by as much as 15 percent, or \$59,383, from \$427,387 to about \$486,770 for fiscal year 2014-15.

Thursday's budget meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at the fire station at Florida Keys Marathon Airport.

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POLITICS

# GOP: Postpone drawing new districts

## Keys likely won't see big effect with new maps

By **JIM TURNER**  
News Service of Florida

Republican legislative leaders said Tuesday they do not plan to appeal a judge's ruling that struck down Florida's congressional map but want lawmakers to be able to redraw the disputed districts after this fall's elections.

House Speaker Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel) and Senate President Don Gaetz (Niceville) contend it's too late in the current election cycle to redraw the districts, as ballots have already been sent to overseas voters in advance of the Aug. 26 primaries.

"The election process is in full swing," the state argued in a motion filed Tuesday that seeks a quick decision from Leon County Circuit Judge

Terry Lewis. "Candidates have collected petitions and qualified for the ballot. Campaigns have been conducted. Ballots have been printed."

Lewis ruled last week that lawmakers failed during the 2012 redistricting process to follow the anti-gerrymandering Fair Districts constitutional amendments, approved by voters in 2010.

The Keys became part of the new U.S. House District 26, now represented by Rep. Joe Garcia. Before redistricting, the Keys were in District 18 and represented by Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. The new redistricting will likely not have a large effect on the Keys.

Groups challenging the congressional map, including the League of Women Voters of Florida and Common Cause, declined to comment Tuesday, awaiting a decision from their legal team about how to respond to the legislative leaders' request.

In a joint statement, Gaetz and Weatherford noted that

more than 63,000 military and overseas voters have been sent ballots, with the first batches of in-state absentee ballots going out next week.

"Any attempt to change the districts at this late stage of the 2014 elections process would cause chaos and confusion and would threaten the rights of our deployed military voters," Gaetz and Weatherford said in the statement.

Lewis' ruling specifically took aim at the districts represented by U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown, a Jacksonville Democrat, and U.S. Rep. Daniel Webster, a Winter Garden Republican.

Brown's District 5, which winds its way from Jacksonville to Orlando, has been criticized for years as one of the worst examples of gerrymandering in the nation.

But any changes to the two districts could have a domino effect on surrounding seats and ripple through the rest of the map.

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## EDITORIAL

Enough with  
scare tactics

Same-sex marriage isn't about  
abhorrent behavior, it's about  
basic civil rights for everyone

As we await a ruling on what could be a potentially landmark case in the Keys regarding same-sex marriage — potentially a catalyst for changing state law — we must take inventory of the rhetoric and propaganda being spread by some same-sex marriage opponents.

At a July 7 hearing on Plantation Key, Key Westers Aaron Huntsman and William Lee Jones had their lawsuit against Monroe County Clerk Amy Heavilin heard by Circuit Court Judge Luis Garcia. Huntsman and Jones had sued Heavilin on April 1 when her office denied them a marriage license, citing Florida's constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

Heavilin is not defending the suit, but state Attorney General Pam Bondi is.

We heard from Mat Staver, founder of the conservative Liberty Counsel, at that hearing. He made an unfathomable leap in his address to Garcia, suggesting that gay marriage would lead to polygamy and lack of sexual boundaries.

Exactly how do you make the jump from same-sex marriage to polygamy? The same way we've seen it linked to everything from AIDS to bestiality, from child pornography to sado-masochism and who knows what else. There is no logical leap.

## What's next?

Same-sex marriage  
can lead to cancer,  
agoraphobia and  
tone-deafness?

Do these extremists have no boundaries or shame? What's next? Same-sex marriage can lead to cancer, agoraphobia and tone-deafness?

By now, we're likely numb to the outrageous ways anti-gay groups operate or the lengths they will go to espouse their beliefs. But we shouldn't be. There is no basis for these outrageous accusations, yet they are out there more than ever because fear has a way of making you say or think crazy thoughts.

The Liberty Counsel is a self-proclaimed nonprofit public-interest law firm and ministry that provides free legal help in defense of "Christian religious liberty, the sanctity of human life, and the traditional family."

Staver has written nine books, including "Same-Sex Marriage: Putting Every Household at Risk." Because, apparently, what consenting adults do among themselves directly affects everyone else's life.

Maybe Staver's inspired by Massachusetts gubernatorial candidate Scott Lively, noted for his opposition to LGBT rights and a proponent for criminalizing homosexuality pretty much like Russia did. These men and their affiliated groups are really just hired guns, self-proclaimed moral lobbyists with few facts to buttress their arguments.

We believe the case of Huntsman and Jones — or one of the other cases in Florida challenging same-sex marriage — will ultimately be decided for the plaintiffs. It is, after all, just common civil rights being litigated.

Perhaps that's when the moralists will admit they're on the wrong side of history.

## KEYNOTER

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## We are the 305

The telephone numbers are running out, this newspaper reported as we got the bad news that the days of new numbers for the 305 area code are numbered.

That doomsday clock restarted on Thursday when the Florida Public Service Commission told us we would get no more phones with 305 area codes in Monroe County. All the new ones will be in the 786 area code from Miami-Dade.

76,351 people. Two telephone area codes. This may not be the stupidest thing I've ever heard of but it has to make the bureaucratic fumbles Top 1,000 list.

Created in 1947, the 305 was one of the first area codes in the country; back then, it covered all of Florida. After splits and resplits drove it farther and farther south, it now serves all the phones in Florida's southernmost county and some of the phones in Miami-Dade.

Regions take pride in their identity from the simplest things. New York is still the Big Apple. Everyone knows Beverly Hills' zip code is 90210. And the Keys are the 305. Oh sure, we're willing to share that with some of Miami-Dade, but it belongs to us.

Telephone service morphs, but it used to go from harder to use to easier.

Each area code has 7,920,000 different usable phone numbers. Although there are nearly 10 million possible seven-digit phone numbers in an area code, some numbers such as 211, 311, 411 and on up to 911, plus



The advent of mobile phones and other devices is leading to the Keys sharing the 786 phone number with Miami-Dade County.

all numbers starting with 0 or 1, simply aren't available.

The entire state of Vermont is known as the 802.

There are 608,827 people and a gazillion telephones in all of Vermont and they somehow manage with the 802. In fact, Vermont has enough extra that a podcaster in Seattle has an 802 number for her call-in show.

There are 76,351 people in Monroe County, 99 percent of whom live in the Keys, and the PSC thinks we're run-

ning out? [Editor's note: There are far more 305s in Miami-Dade than there are in the Keys.]

Hey, Public Service Commission — we don't need no stinkin' new area code. All we need are a few more exchanges. That's simple to do. Move a few mainland exchanges from 305 to 786 and make those exchanges available in Monroe County.

Dick Harper  
Key Colony Beach



Keynoter photo by KEVIN WADLOW

This crosswalk in Key Largo caused a four-auto crash last month, the Florida Highway Patrol says.

## Crosswalk had input

The Key Largo Livable CommuniKeys Master Plan was prepared by residents of Key Largo and Monroe County. The plan's foundation was established through public input at workshops where community participants identified their perceptions and desires for Key Largo.

As a result of the public input, one of the design concepts proposed to guide subsequent activities and communicate the study's key recommendations was to improve conditions on the U.S. 1 corridor conditions. In the Florida Keys, U.S. 1 functions as both the major highway and a main street for the local communities.

Improvements, it was determined, were needed to increase bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

After some fatalities occurred involving pedestrians and bicyclists trying to cross U.S. 1, the Island of Key Largo Federation of Homeowner Associations wrote a letter to the state Department of Transportation asking for implementation of the community-authored Liveable CommuniKeys plan and create safe pedestrian crossings in the areas where these accidents were taking place.

DOT conducted a pedestrian mobility and safety study that showed that the gaps between traffic, required to safely cross U.S. 1, were at times

nonexistent or not long enough to cross safely. At times there were increments as long as 15 minutes when there were no gaps at all. As many as 40 pedestrians were observed trying to cross U.S. 1 in a one-hour period.

The federation maintains that there is a need for safe conditions for all users of U.S. 1. How that is accomplished, we leave that up to the experts.

Kay Thacker vice president  
Island of Key Largo  
Federation of  
Homeowner Associations

Editor's note: The federation specifically asked for crosswalks around mile markers 101.4 and around 99 and 100.

## Clear the views

I live in Marathon. I would like to thank who ever finally decided to get rid of the big cactus and other street-and sidewalk-blocking shrubs from the entry of my street.

So many times I have had to pull so far out just to see traffic and bicyclists coming that I have nearly had incidents with bicyclists. I so appreciate being able to see clearly now.

More areas need to be cleared so there are no accidents due to views being blocked. Again, a big thank you to those involved.

Martha Leasure  
Marathon

## Thanks, LeBron

To LeBron James: Thank you for choosing Miami fours ago. You made our city very proud. LeBron. All the best to you and your family in Cleveland.

Rodney Barreto  
Key Largo  
Coral Gables

Letters to  
the Editor

Letters of local interest are welcome, but subject to editing and condensing. There is a 400-word limit. Letters thanking an individual are welcome. Space does not permit publication of thank-you letters consisting of lists. Letters must be signed. Anonymous letters will not be published. Include a daytime phone number (which will not be published) where you may be reached if there are questions about your correspondence. Mail: Editor, Keynoter, P.O. Box 500158, Marathon, FL 33050 E-mail: keynoter@keynoter.com Fax: 743-6397

## IN THE COURTS

## Big cases face the State Supreme Court

Here are four  
to watch for  
the decisions

By JIM SAUNDERS  
News Service of Florida

The Florida Supreme Court began an annual summer break last week, taking a breather from its routine of issuing opinions each Thursday in complex legal disputes and the steady flow of death-penalty appeals.

But justices will face major issues when they return from the break — cases that could affect everything from utility rates to sentences for juveniles who commit murder.

The court is scheduled to resume releasing its weekly opinions Aug. 28, though it can handle issues before then as needed. While dozens of cases are pending

before the court, here are four to watch:

## Online travel

In courtrooms and the Legislature, online travel companies and counties have sparred for years about hotel bed taxes.

The dispute centers on whether companies such as Expedia and Orbitz should pay tourist-development taxes on the full amounts they collect from customers, or only on the portions that go to room rentals. The companies contend the portions that do not pay for room rentals are service charges, which are not subject to the hotel bed tax.

Monroe County led the way in fighting for the travel firms' money, suing Expedia, Orbitz, Priceline and Travelocity in January 2009, alleging they skirted paying Tourist Development Council bed taxes (taxes

charged on per-night lodging) when they bought rooms at wholesale rates, resold them for higher prices, then pocketed the difference in bed-tax dollars.

Other counties joined the lawsuit and a judge declared the case a class action. The following summer, Monroe settled with the four companies for a combined \$2 million; other counties split another \$4.5 million. The settlements, however, did not include any admission by the travel companies that they actually owed the bed taxes.

The Supreme Court heard arguments in the new case, Alachua County, et al, vs. Expedia Inc., on April 30.

## Juvenile time

Florida courts have struggled to determine how they should carry out two landmark U.S. Supreme Court rulings that put new restrictions on life sentences for

juveniles who commit murders or other serious felonies.

That has led to the issues landing at the Florida Supreme Court, which during the past year has heard arguments in at least two cases that remain unresolved.

One of the cases, from Bay County, focuses on Rebecca Falcon, who was sentenced to life in prison for a murder she committed in 1997, when she was 15.

The cases are Rebecca Lee Falcon vs. State of Florida and Shimeeka Daquiel Gridine vs. State of Florida.

## Workers comp

Business groups, insurers, unions and representatives of injured workers closely follow legal and political fights about Florida's workers compensation system.

And the Supreme Court drew a full house last month when it heard arguments in a case stemming from injuries

suffered in 2009 by St. Petersburg firefighter Bradley Westphal. The case focuses on what are known in the complicated workers-compensation system as temporary total disability benefits.

Westphal received those benefits for two years, which is a limit under state law. But when Westphal sought to receive permanent total disability benefits, a judge ruled the request was premature. That created a gap until Westphal could get permanent benefits several months later and prompted the legal fight, with Westphal's attorneys arguing that the two-year limit on temporary benefits is unconstitutional.

The case is Bradley Westphal vs. City of St. Petersburg, etc., et al.

## Legal aid

Supreme Court justices are confronted with a dispute in their own industry about

how to help fund legal services for the poor.

A coalition of attorneys, including former Supreme Court Justice Raoul Cantero, filed a petition with the court last month seeking an increase in fees on lawyers to pay for legal-aid programs. But The Florida Bar has come out strongly against the proposal, which could cost attorneys an extra \$100 a year.

The petition requests the Florida Supreme Court to raise the \$265 cap on The Florida Bar's annual membership fees, with the added charge going to The Florida Bar Foundation, which funds legal aid. The Bar, however, argues that the legal system needs a longer-term solution. Legal Services of Greater Miami is the nonprofit that provides legal aid to Monroe County's needy.

Keynoter staff contributed to this report.

# Business

## TOURISM



Cruise passengers return to their ship at Mallory Square after spending time shopping in Key West.

# State losing cruise advantage?

Lines moving ships around to new ports

By HANNAH SAMPSON  
hsampson@MiamiHerald.com.

A cruiser for more than 15 years, Richard Biter noticed something interesting on a recent trip: His ship bypassed Ocho Rios, the Jamaican port where many previous cruises had stopped, and headed instead to Falmouth, which had been developed by Royal Caribbean International and the island nation.

Biter, assistant secretary for intermodal systems development at the Florida Department of Transportation, started thinking about how Ocho Rios had lost that business — and then started thinking about his home state.

“I don’t want to see that happen to Florida,” he said. “I’m as competitive as the next person, and I realize that the cruise industry is a competitive industry.”

The result of that train of thought was a report commissioned by the department and released in December that cautioned that Florida ports — which have long dominated the global cruise industry — are at risk of losing business as operators look to destinations around the world such as Asia, Europe and Brazil to grow their passenger base.

The shift has been years in the making as cruise lines have worked to spread a vacation model born in South Florida to new global markets.

“We all aspired to the global emergence of cruising as a mainstream form of holiday,” said Adam Goldstein, president and chief operating officer of Royal Caribbean Cruises. “Many of us have worked at that for decades, and it’s happening and it’s exciting.”

He added: “It certainly bears remembering that Miami still is the cruise capital of the world.”

Florida reported almost 14 million revenue passengers in fiscal 2012, with expectations that the number will grow to 21.6 million by fiscal 2026. Passengers are counted when they get on and off a ship according to the industry standard, so 14 million revenue passengers would equal 7 million individuals. The cruise industry contributed \$2.43 billion to Florida’s gross state product in fiscal 2011, according to the report.

While the 29-page report titled “Florida’s Cruise Industry: A Statewide Perspective” suggests that growth in international destinations could eventually be good for Florida, it also warns that the state’s status as a top cruise draw is not guaranteed.

In the months since the report was issued, the buzz around global deployment in the industry has become almost deafening, even as news from the competitive Caribbean has been glum.

### Key West numbers

Key West is a popular port of call for ships that left the mainland and are heading to the Caribbean, and does some heavy traffic.

According to a city document, in fiscal year 2012-13, 327 ships came calling with a combined 813,713 passengers. They docked mostly at the Outer Mole and Pier B, although Mallory Square is also a docking spot.

Passenger disembarkation fees per person are \$2.50 at Mallory Square and \$10.63 at the other two piers. Visitors getting off ships at the Outer Mole paid \$1.84 million, passengers at Pier B paid \$1.53 million and passengers at Mallory Square paid \$296,000. The U.S. Navy gets 40 percent of the fees at the Outer Mole.

### Foreign ports

China, with its growing middle class, is expected to become the second-largest cruise market in the world after the United States by 2017. Australia now leads the world in terms of market penetration and passenger growth for cruising, according to a June report from the Cruise Lines International Association.

About 3.6 percent of Australians took a cruise last year, compared to previous leader North America, where 3.3 percent of the population cruised. And the numbers of passengers grew 20 percent year over year, with more than 833,000 Australians cruising globally last year.

Last year, 11.7 million North Americans went on cruises to destinations around the world, including the Caribbean.

Miami-based Royal Caribbean announced in April that it would send its newest ship, *Quantum of the Seas*, to home port in Shanghai following a short introductory season in New Jersey. Sister ship *Anthem of the Seas*, which had been scheduled to sail from Fort Lauderdale starting next fall, will instead replace *Quantum* in New Jersey.

Steven Cernak, chief executive and director of Port Everglades, said that while Royal Caribbean will meet its contractual obligations to the port by deploying another ship,

he only learned that *Anthem of the Seas* was not coming to Fort Lauderdale when he read it in the newspaper.

“Of course I was surprised,” Cernak said. “Having said that, it was a business decision on their part, which I have to respect. They have a right to deploy their ships where they see the opportunity, and from that perspective I understand.”

Until recent years, nearly all major ships launched in South Florida or at least spent part of their inaugural year in Miami or Fort Lauderdale. But Carnival did not send one of its Dream-class ships here until *Carnival Breeze*, the third in the group, arrived in Miami in late 2012. Norwegian Cruise Line introduced its Breakaway class last year in New York City.

North American cruise lines have increased their presence in Europe over the last several years, especially in the summer months. After a difficult stretch due to economic recession in Southern Europe and negative publicity surrounding the 2012 wreck of the *Costa Concordia* in Italy, cruise operators say they are encouraged by the strength of the Mediterranean and North European markets this year.

“In percentage terms, clearly South Florida is not going to have the same share of all cruise home port departures that it used to have,

because the rest of the world has gotten involved,” Goldstein said. “A number of markets around the world like Australia, Germany, Italy and China are becoming give-or-take million-customer markets per year. That’s attracting ships that may have in the past been in South Florida.”

While Carnival Cruise Lines has 15 home ports in North America that can be reached by car, senior vice president for itinerary development and port operations Terry Thornton said PortMiami and Port Everglades make up the line’s “most important cruising region.” More than 1.2 million of the cruise line’s roughly 4.5 million guests are expected to travel through those ports this year, he said.

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### Don't be rash

A new study shows that your iPad can give you rash. Why? Find out on 2B

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2014

CLASSIFIEDS INSIDE 4B

## FISHING THE FLORIDA KEYS



This is a nice dolphin catch for this group that fished with Capt. Ariel Medero of Big Game Sportfishing in Marathon.

# Shallow depths working well

## And the humps still producing good-size tuna

With the hot summer sun beating down upon us, the best fishing is early morning, late evening and after dark.

Night fishing on the reef has really come into its own. The 35- to 70-foot depths are producing plenty of mangroves in the two- to five-pound class, plus yellowtails. Even the biggest flag 'tails are almost easy to catch, as their wariness decreases in the dark.

Your baits of choice for the mangroves are live pilchards that show up in your slick at dusk, although fresh dead ones will also work. You can also use small live pinfish and chunks of ballyhoo. The same yellow-tail baits used during the day will work at night, including pieces of ballyhoo, silversides and shrimp.

The mutton bite on the deeper wrecks remains good, and there are plenty of amberjack and jack crevalle to give you a good tug-of-war.

Nice-size grouper have been taken on the deeper wrecks of late. Larger live baits, such as grunt, blue runners and large pinfish,



Chris Johnson

are the ticket.

Offshore, the dolphin bite continues to be pretty good, with plenty of schoolie and sub-legal fish. Those venturing a little farther find bigger fish — gaffers and the occasional slammer.

Good-size blackfin tuna are still prowling the underwater mountains known as the humps. Loads of fish in the 15- to 25-pound category are taking live baits fished deep, 200-plus feet. Cigar minnows, threadfin herring and live pilchards get the job done.

### The week's best

Capt. Ariel Medero reports the dolphin and tuna bite is still red hot. Inshore, the reef is loading up with mangrove snapper, and the wrecks are active with amberjacks, jack crevalle and mutton snapper. There are still some mangroves in the gulf, but they're headed to the reef. And the tarpon are still biting at the Seven Mile Bridge.

SeaSquared's Capt. Wayne Burri has been busy snapper fishing on the reef and shark

fishing in the bay this week. Shallow-water, catch-and-release shark fishing is producing double-digit landings of large lemon sharks right now. Capt. Jeff Knapp is offering a combo tarpon/snapper trip that keeps everyone happy with tarpon landings at the Seven Mile Bridge combined with catches of mangrove snapper and black grouper for something to feed the hungry anglers.

Capt. Moe Mottice, of Moe's Custom Charters in Key West, reports the dolphin are plentiful offshore and responded to skirted ballyhoos. Mixed in are small blackfin tuna and the occasional bonita. His anglers jumped and landed tarpon in Key West Harbor, with yellowtails, mangroves and sharks there, as well.

*Capt. Chris Johnson is a member of the Yamaha National Fishing Team and specializes in offshore, gulf/bay, reef/wreck, sailfish, shark and tarpon fishing with SeaSquared Charters out of Porky's Bayside Marina in Marathon. You can reach him at 743-5305, <http://SeaSquaredCharters.com> and <http://Facebook.com/MarathonFishing>.*

## SWIMMING

# Take a light swim

Swimmers can test their endurance while focusing attention on preserving six aging offshore Keys lighthouses Sept. 20 during the second annual 8-mile Swim for Alligator Light off Islamorada.

The challenge was started by Keys artist Larry Herth, familiar to Keys locals as Lighthouse Larry for his detailed, scale-model metal reproductions of Keys lighthouses. When he was 52, he

completed the round-trip open-water swim to the lighthouse in five hours and 11 minutes, and afterward forged the idea of a competitive group swim.

"We need to bring the attention to a national treasure," Herth said.

The large beacons were fabricated in the 1800s, including three built before the Civil War, to warn ships away from the Florida Keys reef tract. GPS navigation

has replaced the need for lighthouses in the Keys.

Swimmers can enter the event solo or as two- or four-person teams.

Entry fees are \$95 per individual swimmer, \$75 per person for members of a two-person team and \$50 per person for members of a four-person team. Swimmers can register at [www.swimalligatorlight.com](http://www.swimalligatorlight.com).

## TRAVEL

# Heading out? What not to pack

Lighten load since you can buy elsewhere

By STEPHANIE ROSENBLOOM

If you want to travel light — summertime is when most Keys residents do their traveling — it's not merely what you pack that matters, it's what you don't pack.

Yet you need not be a minimalist with feather-weight shirts and quick-drying underwear to be a carry-on-only flier. The key is knowing what you can buy at or have delivered to your destination.

Below are 10 items to keep out of your bag.

- Toys. That means beach toys, sporting goods and so on. Let's say you've rented a beach house. If the owners don't have gear you can borrow, consider free services like Pick Up Today from Wal-Mart. You can buy what you need on [www.Walmart.com](http://www.Walmart.com) and select a store and a pickup time before leaving home.

Don't want to waste vacation time at a big-box store? Outsource your shop-



ping. Should you be visiting the San Francisco Bay Area, San Jose, Calif., Chicago; Dallas or New York City, you can try eBay Now. Using [www.bay.com/now](http://www.bay.com/now) or the eBay Now app, you can buy items from hundreds of retailers, and in about one to two hours a messenger will deliver your order to your door. The service is \$5 an order, and you must shop one retailer at a time. Another option is to hire someone to shop for you through a site like [www.TaskRabbit.com](http://www.TaskRabbit.com).

At the end of your vacation, you (or someone you

hire on TaskRabbit) can send everything home via UPS or donate it to charity.

- Gym gear. Increasingly, chains — Westin Hotels and Resorts, Fairmont Hotels and Resorts and some Four Seasons hotels — are lending guests gym clothes and running shoes.

- Toiletries. If you enjoy experimenting with new grooming products, your trip is a perfect opportunity. Beauty industry veterans flock to drugstores in cities such as Tokyo, Berlin and Paris for elixirs,

• See Travel, 2B

## SNACK TIME

# In a jam? Think outside PB&J

Fruit spreads a nice change, and there's more

By J.M. HIRSCH  
Associated Press

It was probably 15 years ago that I discovered the magic that is a nearly empty jar of jam.

Until then, I'd always hated those sticky knuckle moments of scraping the slimy dregs of the jar, hoping I had enough to add that sweet balance so needed by the otherwise leaden smear of peanut butter on my bread.

Then an Italian cook who was supposed to be teaching me pasta making got sidetracked. She wanted a salad to go with our orecchiette, and she wanted to make her own vinaigrette. That's when she reached for a nearly empty jar of strawberry jam from the refrigerator, dumped in some olive oil, a splash of balsamic vinegar, some salt and pepper. Then she put the cover back on the jar and shook like mad.

Revolutionary? Hardly. But it was delicious. More importantly, it changed my relationship with jam. It wasn't just a sandwich spread. And it totally made sense. After all, a jar of grape jelly has long been the not-so-secret ingredient for many a



Associated Press photo by MATTHEW MEAD

Mackays dundee orange marmalade (left) and Crofter's superfruit spread are shown here. Jams and jellies are good for adding oomph to everything, including sweet-and-sour chicken (apricot jam), barbecue pork ribs (seedless raspberry), beef marinades (orange marmalade), ham glazes (blackberry or cherry), sweet-and-savory dips for vegetables and crackers (red pepper jelly), even sandwich spreads.

potluck meatball. And since that day, I've used a dollop of one jam or another in nearly every vinaigrette I've made.

And that's just the start. I regularly turn to jams and jellies for adding oomph to everything, including sweet-

and-sour chicken (apricot jam), barbecue pork ribs (seedless raspberry), beef marinades (orange marmalade), ham glazes (blackberry or cherry), sweet-and-

• See Jam, 3B



Kelly Willey

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## CHECKING OUT CAREERS



Registered nurse Paul Hahn (right) helps Mitch Kraus get ready for a tour of the Mariners Hospital operating room in Tavernier. Kraus was one of four Coral Shores High School students who attended a weeklong summer camp sponsored by the hospital and the Area Health Education Center. The camp was designed to pique students' interest in the health-care field. Other students participating in the camp were Carla Gonzalez, Juliana Maria Pena and Noelle Perry.

## Leave it at home if possible

From Travel, 1B

makeup and hair accessories. I travel with almost no products and an empty TSA-approved quart-size plastic bag to take home finds.

- Neck pillow. Save space by using an inflatable version.
- Hair dryer: Plenty of hotels and home rentals offer hair dryers. If yours doesn't, buy one at a local drugstore and, if you're in a foreign country, you won't have to use a converter.
- Underwear. Some swear by quick-drying undergarments like ExOfficio Give-N-Go travel underwear so that they can pack just one or two pairs and wash them again and again.

- Sunscreen and bug spray. Buy it when you arrive.
- Umbrella. Many hotels and home-swap owners will lend you one.
- Towels: If you're renting a house and don't want to shop for towels while on vacation, buy them online and ship them in advance of your trip. Afterward, leave them for the next guests or donate them.
- Gadgets: Bring only what you know you'll use, like smart phones, tablets and chargers. Or better yet, put down your electronic devices and enjoy your vacation.

*This is reprinted from the Miami Herald.*

## LIVING BRIEFS

### Turtlecam shows ongoing nesting

Environmental enthusiasts around the world may be able to observe infant loggerhead sea turtles hatching and emerging from their nest via a live-streaming, high-definition turtle webcam positioned on a Keys beach.

Location of the beach hasn't been made public to protect the nest.

The webcam, viewed at [fla-keys.com/turtlecam](http://fla-keys.com/turtlecam), offers daytime observation of the loggerhead nest in natural light and is illuminated by infrared lighting at night to avoid disturbing turtles.

Focused on a nest with eggs estimated to hatch during the next few days, the webcam is part of ongoing efforts in the Keys to raise awareness of sea turtles and the need to protect them.

Loggerhead, green, leatherback, hawksbill and Kemp's ridley sea turtles nest on beaches in the Keys and other parts of Florida, and inhabit Keys waters. All five species are considered either threatened or endangered.

The webcam is funded by the Florida Keys tourism council and its installation has been approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

## TO YOUR HEALTH

# Electronic devices may cause rash

It's the nickel they contain, study suggests

By **LINDSEY TANNER**  
Associated Press

Unexplained rash? Check your iPad. It turns out the popular tablet computer may contain nickel, one of the most common allergy-inducing metals.

Recent reports in medical journals detail nickel allergies from a variety of personal electronic devices, including laptops and mobile phones. But it was an Apple iPad that caused an itchy body rash in an 11-year-old boy recently treated at a San Diego hospital, according to a report in Monday's journal Pediatrics.

Nickel rashes aren't life-threatening but they can be very uncomfortable, and they may require treatment with steroids and antibiotics if the skin eruptions become infected, said Dr. Sharon Jacob, a dermatologist at Rady Children's Hospital, where the boy was treated.



iPads such as this have been known to cause rashes.

Jacob, who co-wrote the report, said the young patient had to miss school because of the rash.

The boy discussed in the Pediatrics report had a common skin condition that causes scaly patches, but he developed a different rash all over his body that didn't respond to usual treatment. Skin testing showed he had a nickel allergy, and doctors traced it to an iPad his family had bought in 2010.

Doctors tested the device

and detected a chemical found in nickel in the iPad's outside coating.

"He used the iPad daily," Jacob said.

He got better after putting it in a protective case, she said.

Whether all iPad models and other Apple devices contain nickel is uncertain; Apple spokesman Chris Gaither said the company had no comment.

People with existing nickel allergies are at risk for rashes from nickel-containing

devices. According to an advisory about cell phones on the website of the Nickel Institute, a global association based in Toronto representing nickel producers, the risk arises from contact with nickel-plated outer surfaces "over prolonged periods of time."

"The length of time required to elicit an allergic reaction will vary from five or 10 minutes to never, depending on the sensitivity of the individual," the advisory says.

Nickel rashes also have been traced to other common products including some jewelry, eyeglass frames and zippers.

Jacob said evidence suggests nickel allergies are becoming more common, or increasingly recognized. She cited national data showing that about 25 percent of children who get skin tests for allergies have nickel allergies, versus about 17 percent a decade ago.

She said doctors need to consider electronic devices as potential sources when patients seek treatment for skin rashes.

## Observer crossword puzzle

"IN THE ZOO" Solution in the July 19 Keynoter

### ACROSS

- On behalf of
- Hemingway or Haydn
- Sword handles
- Stick out
- Tennis tournaments
- Acquire flight
- Blue or white waders
- Understand fully
- "Dedicated to the One"
- Whimper
- Crimson Tide coaching idol
- Globetrotters' star
- Blood carriers
- Lucy's landlady
- Strike out
- "I Was a \_\_\_ Werewolf"
- "Waiting for Lefty" playwright
- Followed a hunch
- Grid. scores
- Keep in stitches
- Got up
- Historic Dublin theater
- Anthony Hopkins movie, with "The"
- Rider Haggard novel
- Ibn \_\_\_
- Sell, as stolen goods
- Remove from office
- Product of 61 Down

- Useful comp. key
- "Howdy Doody" host
- One-named rock star
- Stick out
- Tennis tournaments
- Acquire flight
- Blue or white waders
- Understand fully
- "Common Sense" author
- Rind remover, e.g.
- See if \_\_\_!
- High-flying group
- Fire in the Forum?: L.
- Mickey Mouse's friend
- Door greeter?
- Comical brothers
- \_\_\_ spirit
- Seine feeder
- Famous food's Lee
- Whichever
- "Back to the Future" star
- Unsteady: sl.
- Hawaiian singer
- Goofs off
- Lout
- Olive stuffer
- Albert and Messy
- Peanut
- confection
- Middlesex Co., NJ area
- Tent type

- Comes in ahead of
- Yusuf Islam
- "Pal Joey" lyricist
- Proposal joint?
- Toothy grin
- "Of The \_\_\_"
- Theater or concert halls
- Far from joyful
- Rural sights
- "... \_\_\_ creature was stirring..."
- Slalom shape

- "The \_\_\_ Bunch"
- Range in the Rockies
- Former "ET" host John
- Alpha opposite
- Bank machines: abbr.
- High up
- Tickets' remains
- Well offshore
- Popular game fish
- "Get Smart" co-creator
- Pixieish
- Palindromic time
- Comic book hero
- Put up wallpaper
- Nose out
- Enthusiastic outburst
- Shorthand pro
- Tiresome ones
- Boston airport
- Gray and Whitney
- ATM code
- Behaved willfully
- British repast
- Burn soothers
- Surely he jests
- Boob tubes
- Testa or aril
- Toned down
- Cartoon canine
- Machos types
- Like \_\_\_ out of hell!
- Ships' prisons
- Lost color

- Goodbye in Granada
- See 87 Down
- Stiffening piece
- Tips one's cap
- Lacking color
- Sound rebound
- Type of tap dance
- "Water Lilies" painter
- Passes by, as time
- Traditions and beliefs
- Light spear
- Marathoner Grete
- Thick-headed
- Borneo primate, for short
- Scouting units
- Mrs. Trump, once
- Apportioned
- Edison's lab site, with 64 Down
- It's \_\_\_ long time coming
- Pad sitters
- Tacklebox items
- The late Ms. James
- Linden tree
- Manchester man e.g., for short
- Lexington coll.
- Bear, in Barcelona

### DOWN

- "\_\_\_ Jacques"
- Explorer Juan de \_\_\_
- Leased again
- Name on a check
- Gray and Whitney
- ATM code
- Behaved willfully
- British repast
- Burn soothers
- Surely he jests
- Boob tubes
- Testa or aril
- Toned down
- Cartoon canine
- Machos types
- Like \_\_\_ out of hell!
- Ships' prisons
- Lost color

**Crossword solution**  
Solution to the July 12 puzzle.

I	M	P	L	Y	S	C	U	L	P	T	T	I	D	B	I	T	S		
T	A	H	O	E	A	L	T	O	O	N	A	R	O	A	R	S	A	T	
S	L	A	L	O	M	D	A	N	C	I	N	G	E	N	M	A	S	S	E
U	T	I	L	T	I	N	E	A	R	R	S	A	N	E	S	T			
P	A	R	T	A	H	S	L	O	W	E	S	T	I	N	D	I	E	S	
P	R	O	M	P	T	T	E	E	N	N	I	X							
M	R	M	O	T	O	L	I	T	A	S	S	A	I	L	C	P	A		
L	O	O	P	E	D	C	O	L	O	M	N	A	T	E	C	R	O	W	
L	A	B	S	A	D	E	L	A	A	L	A	S	L	O	S	E			
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E	N	D	C	R	A	B	B	E	A	S	K	O	P	P	O	S	E		
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F	L	O	A	T	T	U	E	S	D	A	Y	R	E	D	R	O	S	E	
L	A	P	S	S	W	E	M	O	S	E	Y	S	A	R	T	S			
O	N	E	T	I	M	E	C	L	O	U	T	B	O	T	H	W	A	Y	S
S	C	R	A	P	E	R	T	E	N	S	I	O	N	M	E	T	R	E	
S	E	A	S	O	N	S	S	T	E	R	N	E	O	R	E	O	S		

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Monroe County Supervisor of Elections  
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Published Keynoter 7-16-14



MUSIC FOR THE OCEAN



Photo by BOB CARE

'Musicians' performing at Saturday's Underwater Music Festival at Looe Key in the Lower Keys are (from left) Nancy Barta, Samantha Langsdale and Fernando Barta. Nearly 500 divers and snorkelers listened to WWUS 104.1-FM's (US1 Radio) four-hour broadcast piped beneath the sea via underwater speakers. It was the 30th annual fest put on by the radio station.

RELATIONSHIPS

# Study: Friends share DNA similarities

Similar skills could be among the reasons

By MALCOLM RITTER  
Associated Press

You may be more similar to your friends than you think: A study suggests that the DNA code tends to be more alike between friends than between strangers.

That's beyond the effect of shared ethnicity, researchers say. And it could be important for theories about human evolution, says James Fowler of the University of California, San Diego.

He and Yale researcher Nicholas Christakis present their results in a paper released Monday by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

How much more alike are friends than strangers? Not much. Imagine the small similarity between fourth cousins, people who share a set of

great-great-great grandparents.

The study included 1,932 participants in a long-running health study in Framingham, Mass. Researchers knew who was close friends with whom from the 1970s to the early 2000s because of information gathered for the study.

From this group they identified 1,367 pairs of close friends and about 1.2 million pairs of strangers. Then they examined information about nearly 467,000 locations in the DNA code of each participant. They looked for how similar the friend pairs were, and compared that to how similar the stranger pairs were.

The researchers found that genes affecting sense of smell were especially likely to be similar in friends.

Why would friends have more DNA similarities than strangers? Fowler said it's not clear. One possibility is that similar genes nudge people toward similar environments, which then gives them a chance to meet. Another possibility is that people who

share certain genes also share skills that become more valuable when the people work together, he said. This could have been important over evolutionary time, and so set up a pattern that people still follow, he said.

Fowler also said it's not clear whether the finding pertains to groups outside of the Framingham study group, which is overwhelmingly Irish and Italian.

In any case, findings of DNA similarities between friends could help explain how behaviors like altruism developed over evolutionary time, he said.

Francisco Ayala, who studies evolutionary genetics at the University of California, Irvine, said the study's results surprised him. But "the statistics are there" to back up the conclusions, he said.

Ben Domingue, a researcher at the University of Colorado, Boulder, called the results intriguing. "I am fairly convinced that they are onto something."

# Get yourself in a jam

From Jam, 1B

savory dips for vegetables and crackers (red pepper jelly), even sandwich spreads (anything goes!). It's a cheap and easy way to add tons of flavor. If nothing else, you really must try fig jam in a grilled cheese (use extra-sharp cheddar).

Fruit spreads — as the retail category is collectively known — accounts for some \$959 million in sales a year in the U.S., where some 1 billion pounds are produced, according to the International Jelly and Preserve Association. And the leading variety? Strawberry, followed by grape, then raspberry.

Not that you're limited to those basics. The jam and jelly market has exploded with unusual flavors and combinations in recent years. Some of them — such as Bathtub Gin's cocktail-inspired creations — are particularly suited for spooning into sauces for savory meats or over cheeses.

Knowing I'm not alone in loving this utterly low-brow food trick, I asked the pros for their favorite outside-the-PB&J uses for jams and jellies.

Ted Allen

"Jams and jellies are valuable shortcuts for sauces and vinaigrettes because those preserves — note that word — are always in the pantry, bright and tart and sweet and ready to go," Allen, host of Food Network's "Chopped," said via e-mail. "They can add a depth, complexity and acidity to a lot of foods without requiring washing or peeling (or, for that matter, a trip to the market).

"Pork, duck and turkey notably benefit from the addition of fruit," he said.

Bed Ford

Ford, the chef behind Ford's Filling Station in Culver City, California, and the cookbook, "Taming the Feast," loves jams for their

simplicity. It's part of what makes them so versatile. He particularly likes tomato jam. "I use it for a seafood cocktail sauce, a mignonette for oysters, or as a lamb burger condiment along with goat cheese, roasted spring onions and apple wood smoked bacon," he said via email. "Other jams and preserves are well suited to game birds, like apricot. Add a little water to the preserves and spices like cloves, black pepper and cardamom to make a glaze. It's a great finish to the dish."

April Bloomfield

Bloomfield, the chef behind the James Beard Award-winning New York restaurant The Spotted Pig, favors adding cranberry jelly to pan sauces for meats. It's an easy way to gussy up a simple sauce.

"It makes it glossy and adds a touch of sweetness to something gamey like venison," she said.

Dorie Greenspan

We've all seen that easy party food of a slab of cream cheese topped with pepper jelly. But baking and French cooking expert Greenspan takes the cheese-and-jam pairing upscale. She tops sheep's milk cheese with black cherry jam, and mixes raspberry jam with balsamic

vinegar and dollops that on sliced mozzarella.

But it isn't just about adding sweetness.

"I often use bitter orange marmalade as a glaze for roast chicken," she said. "I like using citrus with chicken. It sharpens and brightens the pan juices, and adding a marmalade glaze really adds sweetness. When the marmalade cooks, its bitter edge becomes more prominent."

Mellisa D'Arabian

D'Arabian of Food Network's "Ten Dollar Dinners" is a fan of the classic party meatball, but she breaks with the grape jelly tradition, preferring raspberry jam, instead. She also likes to spice it up.

"I love to make cocktail meatballs and coat them in a bit of jam jazzed up with some spice [like cayenne or chipotle] and acid [vinegar or lime juice]," she wrote. "That salty-spicy-sweet flavor is a perfect party starter!"

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GARDEN PARTY



Homestead's Fruit & Spice Park has hosted what it calls its Rare Fruit Conference, featuring botanic garden visits, research stations and programs on rare tropical fruit, a dozen times since its conception in 1984. At the conference this year, from July 9 through 13, more than 60 participants headed south to Grimal Grove on Big Pine Key. It's a 1.76-acre fruit-tree grove on Cunningham Lane brought back to life by Marathon resident Patrick Garvey.

LIVING BRIEFS

College offering online schedule

Florida Keys Community College has launched what it calls an online eCourse schedule for the 2014-15 academic year, which starts Aug. 21. The new platform replaces a printed publication.

The eCourse schedule provides academic program descriptions; course schedules for the fall, spring and summer terms; financial aid and payment options; and other information.

Prospective students can view the eCourse schedule at [www.fkcc.edu](http://www.fkcc.edu).

Tropical garden plans plant sale

Native, rare and endangered plants will be offered for sale Saturday at the Key

West Tropical Forest & Botanical Garden, 5210 College Road, Stock Island.

The event runs from 10 a.m. to noon. You can choose from more than 150 species of butterfly- and bird-attract-

ing plants propagated by the garden's volunteers. Garden members receive a 15 percent discount.

To find out more, call 296-1504.

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The Domestic Abuse Shelter, a crisis center for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, has openings for full-time and part time Victim Advocates for the Middle and Lower Keys, emergency shelters and outreach offices in Key Largo and Key West. Candidates interested in these positions need to be willing to work a varied schedule that could include nights, weekends, and holidays to assure participants needs are met for the 24-hour facilities. The outreach offices hours are 9 – 5 pm, with evening hours as needed. Responsibilities for these positions include coordinating and providing a range of services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Shelter coordinator will supervise victim advocates and oversee everyday operations in the shelters. A bachelor's degree in social work or related field is desired with experience working in a human service organization. Survivors of violence or abuse are encouraged to apply. *The Domestic Abuse Shelter is an equal opportunity employer (EOE).* Interested persons should send resume w/letter of interest to: DAS, PO Box 522696, Marathon Shores, FL 33052 or email to dasadm@aol.com.

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- Presents as a positive representative of DAS and serves as a leader to multiple teams within the agency.
- Provides supervision and support to those under their direct supervision in the performance of their duties.
- Develops and maintains relationships throughout the community to address the needs of victims of domestic and sexual violence. Provides community education and professional training as requested.
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**MARINE**

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