Paradise

Cover: Visitors enjoy a pleasant day at the beach at Fort Zachary Taylor State Park recently.

3 runners to get moooo-ving in Keys’ ‘Zero K’ Cow Key Channel Bridge Run

4 This week in the Key West music scene

7 No-fooling family fun planned for Island Fest this weekend

9 Conch Republic to celebrate 35th ‘birthday’ April 21-30

14 Playwright St. Germain mixes fact, fiction in ‘Camping with Henry and Tom’

20 Our Man in Havana

This just in:

Area performer Nancy 3 offers concert

Cabaret diva, accordionist and humorist Nancy 3 Hoffman will perform “Around the World with Nancy 3,” featuring her international song repertoire, Thursday, March 30, at 7:30 p.m. at One Island Family.

Joining her will be pianist Larry Smith and percussionist Peppy Pabon.

For information and tickets, call 207-939-0301 or email 3nancy3@gmail.com.

One Island Family is located at 801 Georgia St., Key West.

Church offers Lenten recitals

Peace Covenant Presbyterian Church will host the final Lenten recital of the month, Thursday, March 30, at 1 p.m.

Organist John Penkoske and pianist Joseph Love will present a collection of organ-piano duets, largely from the Romantic Period.

The recitals are free, although donations benefitting the church’s music program will be accepted.

The church is located at 2610 Flagler Ave., Key West.

Auditions for ‘Undying Love, a Musical’

Auditions for eight roles in the upcoming production of “Undying Love, a Musical” will be held Sunday, April 2, from 1 to 3 p.m. and Monday, April 3, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., in the Heinen Design Lab at The Studios of Key West.

The production is in need of four females, age 20-60, and four males, age 40-50, and all roles require singing.

The production, written by area author Ben Harrison, will be performed at The Studios of Key West in 2018.

For information and audition appointments, call 305-294-0609 or ashleyjohnson0705@gmail.com.

Marathon playhouse presents ‘Cabaret’

The hit musical “Cabaret” is playing at the Marathon Community Theatre playhouse through April 8.

Shows run Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and begin at 8 p.m.

For information and ticket availability, call 305-743-0994 or visit http://www.marathontheater.org.

The theater is located at 5101 Overseas Highway, Marathon.

Fringe Theater holds gala event

Join Fringe Theater for an evening under the stars on Sunday, April 2, at the Casablanca: White Night on White gala and fundraising event. The party, with its Casablanca theme, includes a seated dinner with an open bar and live music by pianist Dave Bootle.

Guests can bid on an original David Lee painting, donated by the Gildea Contemporary Gallery, as well as a vacation stay at a private home in the Carolinas and other items.

The event will take place in the garden of the Al Maidah Mediterranean Restaurant starting at 6 p.m.

Tickets are $100 and are available at http://www.fringetheater.org or by calling 305-731-0581.

The restaurant is located at 1091 White St., Key West.
Runners to get moooom-ving in Keys’

‘Zero K’ Cow Key Channel Bridge Run Sunday

The Cow Key Channel Bridge, stretching about 300 feet between Key West and neighboring Stock Island, is among the shortest of the Florida Keys Overseas Highway’s 42 bridges. It’s also the site of a wacky “Zero k race” set for Sunday, April 2, for people who want to compete in an “athletic” challenge without breaking a sweat.

Hundreds of entrants typically take part in annual race, including many wearing cow or bull costumes inspired by the name of the bridge. Some bring their dogs or other domestic animals, though actual bovines are not allowed.

Participants are encouraged to move at their own pace and clock their own times as they travel the “grueling” distance. Separate heats are staged for competitors with pets, relay teams and people vying to post the slowest possible time.

In the 2016 race, Key West’s Blake Steinke blazed across the 300-foot course ahead of all rivals, earning a coveted “Golden Calf” award. Other entrants wore bovine accessories and bright-colored tutus, and one “herd” carried signs reading, “Give Cheese a Chance.” Even canines sported black-and-white cow costumes.

“A lot of people say we’re ‘milking it’ with the Cow Key Channel Bridge Run, but it’s ‘udderly’ awesome,” quipped race co-producer David Sloan.

Entrants in the 2017 race are to gather beginning at 10 a.m. in the “costumed cow corral” at the entrance to Key West for “grazing,” final registration, race packet pickup and costume judging.

The opening ceremony is scheduled for 11:45 a.m., following at noon by the ringing of cowbells to start the stampede across the bridge.

Participants race on the Overseas Heritage Trail beside the bridge so vehicular traffic is not disrupted. A water station at the halfway point encourages “athletes” to stay hydrated.

A post-race party is planned at the Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Garden, 5210 College Road. Attractions include live music, food trucks, libations and awards presentations in multiple categories.

Entry is $10 per person and includes a souvenir race bib. A portion of proceeds is donated to the Monroe County Sheriff’s Animal Farm.

The Cow Key Channel event is scheduled the day after the Middle Keys’ annual Seven-Mile Bridge Run, which typically draws a sold-out field of 1,500 people to race across one of the world’s longest segmental bridges.

For information, visit http://www.cowkey-bridgerun.com.

‘Connections Project’ mural on display in Big Pine Key

A large-scale mosaic mural featuring art by almost 400 Florida Keys residents is touring the island chain to celebrate the connection between the community and local cultural initiatives.

The gigantic Connections Project mural, spearheaded by the Florida Keys Council of the Arts, is on display at the Artists in Paradise Gallery, located in the Winn Dixie Shopping Plaza in Big Pine Key, through Wednesday, April 5.

The project, which features a vibrant 24-foot mosaic mural created by area artists and art lovers, will next be on display April 6-17 at Royal Furniture in Key West, and April 18 through May 12 at the Gato Building in Key West.

Patrons can also collect art by making a $35 donation for one canvas or a $100 donation for three at any reception or online at http://www.keysarts.com. Once the road show has ended, donors receive a randomly selected piece of the mosaic in the mail.

Most works includes an artist statement providing insight into the origin of the work and the artist’s thoughts and inspiration.

Proceeds from the Connections Project benefit Keys artists and arts organizations through arts council grants.

For information, visit http://www.keysarts.com or call 305-295-4369.

Exhibit by fine art masters Olitski, Poons in Islamorada

A fine art exhibition combining abstract paintings by Lawrence “Larry” Poons and the late Jules Olitski continues through April 1 at The Moorings Photography and Art Gallery, located on the grounds of Islamorada’s Moorings Village and Spa.

The exhibit is titled “Painting in Paradise: Olitski and Poons in Islamorada.”

The exhibit marks the public’s first opportunity to view the acclaimed artists’ work side by side. The exhibit will be open from noon to 5 p.m. daily.

For many visitors and residents, Islamorada’s allure is fishing. For Poons, after getting lost in a rented boat during a Florida Keys fishing trip in the 1970s, it was the island’s “sense of the wild” that inspired him. Poons shared his Keys experiences with Olitski, who later followed him.

Longtime friends as well as preeminent painters, each opened a studio in Islamorada. The duo’s studio and painting time in the Keys overlapped from the late 1980s through the late ’90s.
## Key West Music Scene

### ARTISAN MARKET
- **Bahama Village**
  - Social Club
  - Noon to 3 p.m. Monday
  - Noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday
  - Noon to 3 p.m. Wednesday
  - Noon to 3 p.m. Thursday and Friday

### BAYVIEW PARK
- **Gina Maseratti and Friends**
  - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday

### BLUE MACAW
- **Chris Case**
  - Noon to 3 p.m. Thursday
- **Tony Roberts**
  - 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday
- **Allen “Frankendread” Holland**
  - Noon to 3 p.m. Friday through Sunday
- **Eric Levy**
  - 4 to 7 p.m. Friday

### BOONDOCKS
- **Terry Cassidy and Gary Hempsey**
  - 7 to 11 p.m. Thursday
- **Trop Rock Junkies**
  - 7 to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday
- **Gary Hempsey and That Hippie Band**
  - 6 to 10 p.m. Sunday

### CASA MARINA
- **Peter Diamond**
  - 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday

### CHEECA LODGE
- **Adrienne Z**
  - 4 p.m. Thursday
- **Michael Charles**
  - 8 p.m. Monday through April 16

### CHICAGO’S
- **Muddy Waters Tribute**
  - 5:30 and 10 p.m. Friday
- **Magnolia Band**
  - 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday

### CONCH REPUBLIC SEAFOOD COMPANY
- **Chris Thomas**
  - 6 to 10 p.m. Sunday
- **Megan Constantine**
  - 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday
- **Michael Robinson**
  - 5 to 7 p.m. Friday
- **Jimmy Olson**
  - 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday
- **Happy Dog**
  - 9 p.m. Wednesday
  - These jam/funk/rockers bring their eclectic mix of music to the stage.

### GRUNTS BAR
- **The Shanty Hounds**
  - 8 to 11 p.m. Thursday and Sunday
- **Bubba System Band**
  - 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday
- **Billy the Squid and the Sea Cow Drifters**
  - 8 to 11 p.m. Monday
- **Keith Franx**
  - 8 to 11 p.m. Tuesday
- **Eric Paul Levy**
  - 8 to 11 p.m. Wednesday
- **Chris Thomas**
  - 7 to 9 p.m. Monday

### GREEN PARROT
- **Juliano Brothers Band**
  - 5:30 soundcheck Thursday
- **Bobby Lee Rodgers Trio**
  - 9 p.m. Thursday
  - A stellar songwriter, vocalist and guitarist, Rodgers was for years the mainstay of The Codetalkers, a jazz, rock and roll band whose music has been described as a mix of jazz, rock, blues, bluegrass and funk with improvised jams being the main theme in their live performances.
- **Loco Por Juana**
  - 5:30 and 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday
  - The band’s sound reflects the diverse mixture of cultures and genres that Miami has to offer, and the result is a highly charged mix of rhythms irresistible to dancers.
- **Maggie Koerner**
  - 5:30 p.m. Sunday; 9:30 p.m. Monday
  - **Happy Dog**
  - 9 p.m. Wednesday
  - These jam/funk/rockers bring their eclectic mix of music to the stage.

### HOG’S BREATHE SALOON
- **Goldie’s Band**
  - 6 to 10 p.m. Monday
- **Bubba System Band**
  - 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday
- **Billy the Squid and the Sea Cow Drifters**
  - 8 to 11 p.m. Monday
- **Keith Franx**
  - 8 to 11 p.m. Tuesday
- **Eric Paul Levy**
  - 8 to 11 p.m. Wednesday
- **Chris Thomas**
  - 7 to 9 p.m. Monday

### World Famous T-Shirts • Raw Bar • Restaurant
- **Happy Hour Daily**
  - 5-7 pm
- **Entertainment from 1pm til 2am**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday March 30</th>
<th>Friday March 31</th>
<th>Saturday April 1</th>
<th>Sunday April 2</th>
<th>Monday April 3</th>
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**Remember:**
Hog’s Breath is better than no breath at all!
Key West Music Scene

through Sunday
Jessie Brown Band
10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Thursday through Sunday
Kenny Bradley
1 to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday
Oren Polak
1 to 5 p.m. Sunday
Zack Seeuiller
1 to 5 p.m. Monday
Dan Harvey
5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Monday through April 9
Andy Wescott
10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Monday through April 9

ISLAND DOGS
Nick Norman
8 to 11 p.m. Thursday

KEY WEST
BOTANICAL GARDENS
Cow Key Channel Bridge Run Gina Maseratti Noon Sunday

LAZY GECKO
Nick Norman
4 to 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday; noon to 2 p.m. Saturday and 3 to 5 p.m. Monday

LITTLE PALM ISLAND
Peter Diamond
8 p.m. Thursday
Adrienne Z
8 p.m. Tuesday

LITTLE ROOM
JAZZ CLUB
Bobby Nesbitt
5:30 p.m. Thursday
Hal Howland Trio
8:30 p.m. Thursday
Mike Gillis
6 p.m. Friday

DENIS HYLAND
Jazz Quartet
8:30 p.m. Friday

TERRI WHITE
5:30 p.m. Saturday

LARRY SMITH AND FRIENDS
8:30 p.m. Saturday

DEB HUDSON TRIO
8:30 p.m. Sunday

GUITAR NIGHT OPEN JAM:
Larry Baeder and Bill Blue
8:30 p.m. Monday

ERICSON HOLT
8:30 p.m. Tuesday

LIBBY YORK
5:30 p.m. Wednesday

TWO OF CUPS
8:30 p.m. Wednesday

MANGOES
Theatre Cabaret
Rock Solomon
6 p.m. Friday

MANGROVE MAMA’S
The Shanty Hounds
5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Monday

MY NEW JOINT
(SQUARE GROUPE 2)
Adrienne Z
7 p.m. Monday

OLD STONE
COFFEE HOUSE
Maj Johnson and Larry Smith
11 a.m. Monday

ONE ISLAND FAMILY
Around the World with Nancy 3
7:30 p.m. Thursday

PIER HOUSE
BEACH BAR
Brian Roberts
Noon to 3 p.m. Thursday

RUM ROW
Larry Baeder
4 to 7 p.m. Thursday
Nick Norman
5 to 8 p.m. Saturday
Rock Solomon
1 to 4 p.m. Sunday

SCHOONER
WHARF BAR
Michael McCloody
Noon to 5 p.m. Thursday, Wednesday; with friends, Friday through Sunday
Sam Ramos and Chris Case
7 to 11 p.m. Thursday

THE STUDIOS
OF KEY WEST
Antilles Music Ensemble
8 p.m. Thursday
Rock Solomon’s Jazz Noir
8 p.m. Saturday
Catie Curtis
7 p.m. Wednesday

That Hippie Band Reunion
7 p.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday
Island Time
7 to 11 p.m. Sunday
Raven Cooper
Noon to 5 p.m. Monday; with Clare Finley 7 to 11 p.m. Wednesday
Black and Skabuddah
7 to 11 p.m. Monday
Gary Hempsey
Noon to 5 p.m. Tuesday
Tom Taylor Duo
7 to 11 p.m. Tuesday

SHANNA KEY
Britney Doval
7 to 11 p.m. Friday

SMOKIN’
TUNA

SALUTE
Ross Brown and Rolando Rojas
5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday
Billy the Squid and the Sea Cows
5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday
Queen Kathleen
5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday
Liliana Balance Trio
5:30 to 8 p.m. Sunday
Mike Gillis
5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday

SALTY ANGLER
Dani Hoy
Noon to 4 p.m. Sunday

24 NORTH
Derek Dunbar
1 to 4 p.m. Saturday

VIRGILIO’S
Latin Night Caribe
10 p.m. Thursday
Adrienne Z Band
10 p.m. Friday and Saturday
Robert Douglas
Jam Night and Blues
9:30 p.m. Sunday
Jeff Clark
Five Minus Two
9:30 p.m. Monday
League of Crafty Musicians:
The Savage Beets
9 p.m. Tuesday
Downtown Ross Brown
9:30 p.m. Wednesday

VIVA
James Whitehead
Noon to 3 p.m. Thursday and Tuesday
Michael Elliot Moon
Noon to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday

Raven Cooper
Noon to 5 p.m. Monday
Ben Sovine
9 p.m. Tuesday
Jeff Clark and Friends
9:30 p.m. Wednesday

WATERFRONT BREWERY
Songwriter’s Series
6 to 9 p.m. through May 8
fun stuff

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS THEATRE
ON THE CAMPUS OF FKCC

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND
THE SPINNERS

Sophisticated up-tempo R&B with precision choreography defines a Spinners show. With over 60 million records sold in their illustrious career, the mighty Spinners have performed for Presidents, received 6 Grammy nominations, and have appeared on TV too many times to count. An unbelievable 18 Solid Gold Top 40 Hits:

- "THEN CAME YOU"
- "WORKING MY WAY BACK TO YOU/FORGIVE ME, GIRL"
- "CUPID" (I’ve Loved You For So Long)
- "THE RUBBERBAND MAN"
- "COULD IT BE I’M FALLING IN LOVE"
- "I’LL BE AROUND"
- "THEY JUST CAN’T STOP IT"
- "ONE OF A KIND" (Love Affair) (The Games People Play)
- "IT’S A SHAME" and MORE...

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CALL: 305.295.7676

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GOOD PEOPLE

New York Times: “Wonderful... poignant, funny and subversive!”

By David Lindsay-Abaire • Directed by Danny Weathers
Audience Advisory: Adult Language

April 13-29
On Mallory Square in Old Town
WaterfrontPlayhouse.org • 305-294-5015
Oklahoma Smith: Not your ordinary play

The play “Oklahoma Smith and the Pantheon of Annihilation” by local playwrights Michael Marrero and Christopher Shultz has now been turned into a full-fledged musical that opens Tuesday, April 4, at the Key West Theater.

In this decidedly adult choose-your-own-adventure musical, the first of its kind, the plot twists and turns in hilarious ways as each major decision is decided by the audience.

The plot: famed explorer Oklahoma Smith and his trusty sidekick Beanpole set out to find the lost “Book of the Dead” and save the world from the evil Mistress Nefarious.

The twist: the audience chooses how scenes play out. Does Oklahoma fight the demon ninja or jump the chasm? You decide. Does he take on the gunfight or go get a lap dance? You decide.

Fast-paced dance numbers, mine cart chases, and even zombies make an appearance in the musical, a parody of the “Indiana Jones” films, and save the world from the evil Mistress Nefarious.

No-fooling family fun planned for Island Fest April 1-2

For visitors and residents in Islamorada, springtime means heading outdoors to enjoy balmy subtropical weather and the 26th annual Florida Keys Island Fest scheduled Saturday and Sunday, April 1-2.

Admission is free to enjoy the live music, food, fun and featured art from over 100 exceptional local and national artists whose work includes paintings, sculptures, jewelry and fine crafts.

The two-day arts and crafts show is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at the bayfront Founders Park at Mile Marker 87.

In addition to admiring the creations on display, attendees can purchase works that vary in price range and style. Ten artists are to be painting on location in plein-air tradition—a new feature of the festival this year.

The signature Island Fest 2017 poster features a depiction of the Everglades created by Jason Barth, a self-taught multimedia artist who specializes in a variety of environmental, land and seascapes, botanicals and more.

An Island Fest staple that adds to the old-fashioned fun is an All-American Road Vintage Cruisers Car Show featuring antique cars, trucks, motorcycles and rat rods. Artisan-crafted coconut awards are to be presented in categories such as Coolest Cruiser, Raddest Rod, Most Keysy Rider and Big Kahuna. Festival attendees can vote for their favorite in the popular People’s Choice category.

Entertainers in virtually all musical genres keep the groove moving during scheduled performances throughout both days. Saturday’s attractions also include a wacky race for homemade “boats” crafted of non-maritime materials.

Sunday features the ever-popular Taste of Islamorada culinary competition, showcasing local restaurants’ dishes so attendees can savor the flavors.

Kids can have their own fun by painting a life-sized dolphin statue, building sand sculptures or competing in hula hoop contests.

On-site parking is available for a $5 donation. Organizers suggest attendees bring lawn chairs and blankets to maximize enjoyment of a full day’s fun. Events are to take place rain or shine.

Mystery Fest Key West announces Whodunit Mystery Writing competition

Mystery Fest Key West has announced a call for entries for this year’s Whodunit Mystery Writing Competition.

The winner will claim a book-publishing contract with Absolutely Amazing eBooks, free Mystery Fest Key West registration, airfare, hotel accommodations for two nights, meals and a Whodunit Award trophy to be presented at the fourth annual Mystery Fest Key West, set for June 16-18 in Key West.

Candidates can submit the first three pages (maximum 750 words) of a finished, but unpublished, manuscript to whodunitaward@mysteryfestkeywest.com by April 15. There is no fee to enter; finalists will be notified by May 1 and will have until May 10 to submit full manuscripts.

“Why just the first three pages? That criterion is a nod to late author Jeremiah Healy, a terrific mystery writer and great judge of mysteries,” said Shirrel Rhoades, co-founder of the Mystery Fest Key West. “Jerry often said a book either captures a reader in the first three pages … or it doesn’t. The competition judges all agreed with that assessment and decided to use it as a yardstick for the competition.”

The inaugural 2015 award for the competition judges for 2017 are Dr. Toby H. Cunningham and others.

For information, visit http://www.mysteryfestkeywest.com.
Join the Celebration
2017 Partners in Paradise Awards

Outstanding Individual: John Padget
Outstanding Business: The BottleCap
Outstanding Nonprofit: Star of the Sea Outreach Mission

Be part of this inaugural celebration of local giving and community service

Sunday, April 2nd
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sidebar Key West, 504 Angela St.

$60, includes live entertainment, brunch buffet, Mimosas, Bloody Marys and more

Reservations at cffk.org or call 305-292-1502

Distinguished Speaker Series
April 6, 2017 | 6:00pm-7:00pm
Tropic Cinema
416 Eaton Street | Key West

tickets available www.kwahs.org/education
Dance performance to premiere at Civil War-era fort

The world premiere of an innovative professional dance production awaits audiences on the grounds of a lushly landscaped Civil War-era fort Thursday through Saturday, April 13-15.

“Key West Reverie” was conceived, directed and choreographed by New York City’s Wendy Taucher Dance Opera Theater and produced by The Studios of Key West. Described as an impressionistic portrait of the island city, the site-specific performance is to be staged at West Martello Tower, headquarters of the Key West Garden Club overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

“The production encapsulates the Key West experience from history and environment to Duval Street,” said Taucher, an award-winning American director and choreographer. “The event has artistic and popular elements, stars from Broadway and the Metropolitan Opera, and a mix of musical and movement styles.”

“Key West Reverie” is designed as a series of vignettes staged in multiple locations on the grounds of the picturesque oceanfront fort. Audiences stroll through the grounds rather than sit in one place, encountering performances while discovering the site’s weathered brick arches, abundant flowers and plants, towering trees and tranquil peace garden.

Performances are scheduled at 5:30 and 7 p.m. Thursday and Friday, April 13-14, and 7 p.m. Saturday, April 15.

Tickets for the Thursday and Friday shows are $35 per adult and $12 per student. The price of Saturday’s closing performance, which includes admission to a post-show reception with Taucher and the cast, is $55 per adult and $22 for students.

Tickets are available at http://www.tskw.org and 30 minutes before performance times at West Martello Tower.

The West Martello Tower is located at 1100 Atlantic Blvd., Key West.

The 35th anniversary celebration’s opening weekend includes the Great Conch Republic Drag Race scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday, April 22, in the 700 block of Duval Street.

Conch Republic to celebrate 35th ‘birthday’ April 21-30

It began with a roadblock set up by the United States Border Patrol, an irri-tated populace staging a ceremonial secession from the Union and a symbolic “attack” on a hapless government official with a loaf of stale Cuban bread. Today, 35 years later, “citizens” can celebrate the anniversary of the Conch Republic’s birth Friday, April 21, through Sunday, April 30.

The Conch Republic Independence Celebration’s irreverent activities include a “drag” race between female impersonators, a good-natured sea battle featuring historic tall ships, a parade down Key West’s famed Duval Street and a bed race billed as “the most fun you can have in bed with your clothes on.”

The island republic, whose motto is “We seceded where others failed,” was born to combat a 1982 Border Patrol blockade of the Florida Keys that threatened to derail the region’s emerging tourism-based economy. Its stated mission is to bring “more humor, warmth and respect to a world in sore need of all three.”

The 35th anniversary celebration’s opening weekend includes the Great Conch Republic Drag Race scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday, April 22, in the 700 block of Duval Street. Rather than speeding dragsters, the offbeat challenge features sprinting drag queens attired in gala dresses, full makeup and unnervingly high heels mandated by race rules.

Other festival highlights include the World’s Longest Parade, set for 8 p.m. Thursday, April 27, so named because its route down Duval Street proceeds from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico.

Sea dogs and wenches on tall ships and other vessels can combat “evil federal forces” during Friday night’s Great Battle for the Conch Republic. Spectators can view the maritime mayhem from the waterfront Mallory Square.

Landlubbers are to vie for victory Saturday, April 29, during a charity race featuring “strange bedfellows” and decorated beds on Duval Street.

For event information and schedules, visit http://www.conchrepublic.com.

Symposium to explore Truman’s policies on Cuba, Latin and South America

During Harry S. Truman’s 1945-53 presidency, he spent 175 days at the Key West residence known worldwide as his Little White House.

Friday and Saturday, April 21-22, history and political aficionados can attend the Little White House’s Truman Legacy Symposium, learn about the former president’s accomplishments and explore Florida’s only presidential museum.

The 15th annual symposium examines Truman’s policies and actions relating to Cuba, located just 90 miles from Key West, and Latin America and South America.

The keynote speaker is to be Dr. Juan Carlos Espinosa, associate dean and fellow of the Honors College at Florida International University, who is an expert on Cuban political culture. His presentation is titled “Truman, Cuba and A Troubled Legacy.”

Other scheduled speakers include Dr. Bradley Coleman of the Virginia Military Institute, former Truman Library associate Dr. Raymond Geselbracht, Dr. Thomas Field of Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and Truman grandson and author Clifton Truman Daniel.

Events are to begin at 6 p.m. Friday, April 21, with a reception and Espinosa’s keynote presentation on the grounds of the Little White House, 111 Front St. Guided tours of the property, meticulously restored to its appearance in Truman’s day, are to be offered. Guests are encouraged to wear tropical attire like that favored by the 33rd president while in Key West.

Saturday’s symposium events start at 9 a.m. at Key West’s San Carlos Institute, 516 Duval St., a Cuban heritage center founded in 1871. Scheduled presentations and panels spotlight topics including “Tolerant Truman: The 1952 Bolivian Revolution and The United States” and “The Fighting Alliance: Truman, Latin America & the Korean War.”

Following the symposium is a night of history, paella, cigars, drinks and camaraderie at the Little White House. Guests can vote for their favorite paella dishes prepared by local celebrity chefs.

Among the evening’s planned highlights is a silent auction to help fund the preservation of Truman’s legendary poker porch, with auction items to include a replica of the former president’s poker table.
Paparazzi in Paradise

More than 20 models from several boutiques participated in this year’s Sister Season Fund fashion show fundraiser at the Southernmost House.

Jeanette Holmes was this year’s Southernmost Top Model winner in the Sister Season Fund’s fundraising fashion show.

At its March luncheon, the Key West Chamber of Commerce honored Kerry Baker, membership director and special events coordinator, for her 25 years of service to the organization.

President Dotti Clifford, right, presents a Key West Attractions Association check to Tala Santiago of Cheeks Care to help with her work with the Cancer Foundation of the Florida Keys.

President Dotti Clifford, right, presents a Key West Attractions Association check to Tala Santiago of Cheeks Care to help with her work with the Cancer Foundation of the Florida Keys.

Brandon Wolf, a survivor of the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando on June 12, 2016, gave a moving keynote speech at the Equality Florida annual Key West gala held at the Gumbo Limbo. He lost his two best friends in the mass shooting.

Lynda Frechette, second from left, presents the Winner Award in this year’s Waterfront Playhouse Aqua Idol to Bill Melchoir, left. They are joined by runners up Sarah Dorrance, Destiny Montgomery and Bob Wood. Aqua Idol announcer Laurie Thibaud is at extreme right. The event raised more than $33,000 for the Playhouse this year.

Reef Relief welcomed youngsters to its Coral Camp during spring break.

LORI FRECHETTE/Special to Paradise

Key West City Commissioner Jimmy Weekley, right, presents the Equality Florida Hero for Equality award to J.T. Thompson, creator of the One Human Family campaign. More than 4 million stickers with the motto have been distributed worldwide.
Taste of Key West to offer tempting treats April 24

Attendees can savor Florida Keys flavors at the 22nd annual Taste of Key West, a tempting tasting set for 6 to 9 p.m. Monday, April 24 at Mallory Square, the waterfront home of Key West's world-renowned nightly Sunset Celebration.

The open-air gala traditionally spotlights indulgent edibles such as tropical and Caribbean-influenced cuisine, fresh-off-the-boat local seafood, vegetarian dishes and European specialties — all accompanied by a selection of wines from around the world.

As well as its flavors, the culinary celebration displays the island city's caring spirit. The feast is a benefit for the Florida Keys' AIDS Help organization.

Chefs from more than 50 local restaurants and catering companies typically participate, donating their time and talent to create dishes including gourmet delights, casual tidbits and decadent desserts.

Gates open at 6 p.m. Biking or walking to the event is suggested, but limited parking may be available at Mallory Square.

General admission to Taste of Key West is free. Attendees purchase tickets for $1 each to be exchanged for beverages and “tastes” that typically “cost” three to six tickets each.

Advance admission tickets can be purchased for $25 per person and include $20 in tasting tickets and a commemorative Taste of Key West wine glass. Advance tickets are available at http://www.keys-tix.ticketforce.com/eventperformances.asp?evt=994.

Free attractions for locals this Sunday with Monroe County ID

A number of attractions in Key West are free to locals on Sunday. There is no cost for admission for residents with Monroe County identification. Check with the business for hours and tour times.

The Custom House

Originally home to the island's customs office, postal service and district courts, this four-story architectural marvel was built to keep pace with the increasing population and wealth accumulating from Key West's lucrative trade routes and maritime industries. Today, the building is an award-winning museum and official headquarters of the Key West.

Lighthouse Tower and Keeper's Quarters

Almost immediately after the U.S. Navy established a base in Key West in 1823, the need for a lighthouse became evident. The current lighthouse opened in 1848 with a woman as its Keeper; nearly unheard of during the 19th century. Today, visitors can walk up the 88 steps to the top of the light as well as explore the belongings, photographs, and words of the lighthouse Keepers and their families who lived a now obsolete, yet never forgotten, way of life.

Botanical Garden

Locals are free Sunday at the Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden, 5210 College Road. The garden is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The entrance fee will be waived for residents with Monroe County identification. For information, call 305-296-1504 or go to http://www.keywestbotanicalgarden.org. The garden is handicapped accessible.

Historic Tours

HTA offers all locals with Monroe County identification a free ride on the Conch Tour Train and the Old Town Trolley, as well as other attractions. The historic Aquarium is home to alligators, jellyfish, sharks and many other marine animals. The Key West Museum combines actors, films and the actual artifacts from the 1985 rediscovery of the wrecked vessel Isaac Allerton, which sank in 1856 on the treacherous Florida Keys reef.

KWAHS film series continues with Keaton’s 1926 classic ‘The General’

Buster Keaton’s 1926 masterpiece silent film ‘The General’ is set to screen Thursday, March 30, at 6 p.m. in the Helmerich Research and Learning Center at the Custom House Museum.

Is there a more perfect showcase for a film about a man and his beloved locomotive than the destination city of Henry Flagler's railroad and the Key West museum that houses an exhibit in his name?

On Thursday, March 30, Key West Art & Historical Society's film series continues with Buster Keaton's 1926 masterpiece silent film, “The General,” set to show at 6 p.m. in the Helmerich Research and Learning Center at the Custom House Museum.

The story of Confederate railway engineer Johnny Gray (Keaton) racing to save his two loves — his hijacked locomotive “The General” with his amour Annabelle Lee (Marion Mack) aboard, from Union spies during the Civil War — many fans and critics consider the film to be Keaton's greatest. With a $400,000 budget, one of the largest of its time, Keaton took his production company and 18 freight cars of set and prop equipment to the town of Cottage Grove, Oregon, where they built a reproduction of a Civil War-era town and employed 500 Oregon National Guardsmen to play Union and Confederate Army soldiers.

“Your are taken on an exhilarating rail adventure that transcends the tracks into the heartstrings of Annabelle Lee,” said KWAHS board member and cineaste Michael Shields, who programs the society's film series. “Along with Chaplin and Harold Lloyd, Keaton was a colossus of cinema. And fearless; he performed all of his own physical stunts in this ingenious, ambitious, and perfectly crafted film and purchased a train to destroy in a plunge from a burning bridge — a scene that had to be accomplished in just one take!”

Described by "Slate" writer Gary Giddons as an “uncannily beautiful film,” in 1989 "The General," was one of the first films to be voted onto the National Film Registry, marking its official recognition as a national treasure.

Tickets for the event are $10, or $5 for KWAHS members, and are available online at http://www.kwahs.org/education/filmseries.

For information, call Director of Education Adele Williams at 305-295-6616, Ext. 115.

Truman's Little White House

While president, Harry S Truman spent 175 days in Key West in Quarters A on the Truman Naval Station. Today, as Florida's only presidential museum, the Little White House provides a personal glimpse of one of America's greatest presidents.
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Playwright St. Germain mixes fact, fiction in ‘Camping with Henry and Tom’

Playwright Mark St. Germain likes to play in a mind garden of "What if's ...?", and he invariably applies that question to historical figures whose lives and exploits have piqued his imagination.

He's taken audiences inside the cluttered Harlem home of the Collyer brothers in "Dancing Lessons," given them imagined conversations between C.S. Lewis and Sigmund Freud in "Freud's Last Session" and between literary giants F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway in "Scott and Hem."

Now, at the Red Barn Theatre, St. Germain will give us his take on Henry Ford, Thomas Edison and President Warren G. Harding in "Camping with Henry and Tom," a play not only filled with the playwright's exhaustive research on the men, but a theatrically enjoyable evening filled with folksy charm and old-fashioned humor.

The play stars Barry Tarallo as Ford, Richard Grusin as Edison and Michael McCabe as Harding, and is directed by Murphy Davis. It won Lucille Lortel and Outer Critics Circle Awards in its New York premiere, and runs Tuesdays through Saturdays, through April 15. All curtains are at 8 pm.

“Many of the plays I’ve written involve historical characters, yes,” St. Germain said. “They’re the best company and they better be, since they’ll be company for the months it takes to research and write about. A play like this is my take on the truth and the personalities they involve ... a combination of facts, and fiction when interpreting those facts through dialogue. Fact, fiction — “faction” — the technique of dramatizing history.”

In “Camping with Henry and Tom,” Germaine applies his “faction” alchemy to an actual camping outing taken by Ford and Edison in 1921. He uses poetic license to add in Harding, who never made the historical trip. Documented quotes and biographies paint a realistic and far-from-sugar-coated picture of this trio, whose private personas often differed significantly from the exemplary personalities offered to the public.

Bristling with humor and finely-etched characterizations, the play touches on everything from political maneuvering (Ford thinks he should be president and has nothing but contempt for a Harding he sees as weak) to golf, to judging inventions of the modern age (“We're toymakers, Henry,” says Edison. “That's all we are.”). It's an exploration of friendship, politics and leadership — a comedic and dramatic clash of two great minds and one great heart of the 20th century.

For ticket availability and information, call 305-296-9911 or visit http://www.redbarntheatre.com/tickets.

The Red Barn Theater is located at 319 Duval St., #2, Key West.

Four Nights for Justice series continues with ‘Do Not Resistant

Tropic Cinema continue its annual series, Four Nights for Justice, with the second film, “Do Not Resistant,” on April 5.

The series began March 29 with “National Bird.” Upcoming films are “Newtown” on April 12 and “Almost Sunrise” on April 19.

Executive Director Paul Melroy said, “Social justice is about the fair and just relationship between individuals and society. This time around we are going to look at the ‘society’ part of this relationship in a very particular sense, that as it relates to the role of government. The theme of this year’s series is a sobering one. We seek to explore the intersection of government policy, weapons and the ramifications of their use.”

Melroy said the series looks at the human cost from four different angles.

One or more of the filmmakers will be in attendance for each film. There will be a champagne reception for all attendees at 6 p.m. before each film and a question-and-answer session afterward with the filmmakers.

“Do Not Resist” 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 5

Police departments all over the United States have become highly militarized with significant access to military-grade weapons and equipment. Has this exacerbated socio-economic tensions? Are the measures being used commensurate with the problems that the police are trying to mitigate? Is the public being put unnecessarily at risk?

Since 9/11, the federal government has given police departments more than $40 billion in equipment with no stipulations on how it should be deployed or any reporting requirements. Additionally, the federal government created a loophole that allowed police departments to keep the majority of the money and property seized during search warrants to supplement their operating revenue. If a police department makes a portion of their operating revenue from ticketing citizens or seizing their assets, then police officers become de facto tax collectors.

Guest filmmakers: Craig Atkinson, director, and Laura Hartrick, producer

“Newtown” 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 12

Gun rights and gun violence are among the most polarizing and divisive issues of our times. What should we expect from a society that has easy access to semi-automatic weapons? Can mass shootings be prevented? Should massacres make us rethink our position on these issues?

On Dec. 14, 2012, Adam Lanza shot and killed 26 people — 20 young students and six adults — inside Sandy Hook Elementary School. It remains one of the most horrific mass killings in American history. Filmed over the course of nearly three years, Newtown tells the story of the aftermath of this tragedy.

Guest filmmaker: Kim Snyder, director

“Almost Sunrise” 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 19

Recently, researchers and therapists on the front lines of veterans’ care have started to identify what may be a critical factor in the overall suicide crisis — a sort of “missing link” — a condition called “moral injury.” As a society are we cognizant of what we have put our veterans through? Are we doing enough to understand the damage inflicted during their service to our country? Are we providing the necessary support and a path back to normalcy?

“Almost Sunrise” follows two Iraq veterans, Tom Voss and Anthony Anderson, both tormented by depression for years after they returned home and pushed to the edge of suicide. The two embark on an extraordinary journey — a 2,700 mile walk across the country from Wisconsin to California, in order to reflect on their haunting experiences of war and ultimately, save themselves.

Guest filmmakers: Craig Atkinson, producer

Guest filmmaker: Marty Syjuco, producer
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Movie Scene

Malick rethinks love in ‘Song to Song’

Reviewed by SHIRREL RHOADES

Terrence Malick is the thinking man's (or woman's) director. He's given us such evocative films as “Days of Heaven,” “The Thin Red Line,” and “The Tree of Life.” Sometimes his films can be a bit puzzling. Most times hauntingly beautiful.

After all, he has a summa cum laude degree in philosophy from Harvard. (And you thought there was no real-life career path for a philosophy major.) He was also a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, but did not complete his thesis on Heidegger due to a philosophical disagreement with his professor. After teaching philosophy at MIT, he dropped out of academia to attend the America Film Institute Conservatory, earning a Masters of Fine Arts in filmmaking. His first feature film was “Badlands.”

In his latest film — “Song to Song” — we have two intersecting love triangles set against the Austin, Texas, music scene. Think of it as “Nashville Lite.”

The mix-'em-and-'match-'em lovers are dreamboat Ryan Gosling (fresh off his “La La Land” success), Rooney Mara (“Carol,” “The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo”), Michael Fassbender (“Steve Jobs,” “The Light Between the Oceans”), and Natalie Portman (“Black Swan,” “Jackie”).

“Song to Song” is set to make its music starting Friday at Tropic Cinema.

There’s more of a narrative story for “Song to Song” than some Malick films. Gosling and Rooney are two aspiring love triangles set against the Austin, Texas, music scene. Think of it as “Nashville Lite.”

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But early on we learn that Maureen had a twin brother who died at 27, leaving her alone in a meaningless world. She's morose over this abandonment, and spends nights in a lonely house outside the city where he used to live, trying to contact his departed spirit.

In her grief, Maureen is almost like a ghost herself, a sad doppelganger of the brother who left her behind. In her role as a personal shopper, she's all but invisible to her client, delivering things, then disappearing as if she were never there.

However, don't be lulled into too much contemplation. This is at heart a horror film, and a terrifying one at that. “Personal Shopper” is set to start haunting audiences at Tropic Cinema on Friday.

I've always maintained that movies are a mirror of society. And so I have to ask why so many films of late deal with grief. “Manchester by the Sea” being a prime example. “Moonlight” has its heartbreaking moments. “The Shack” deals with the grief of death. Even bouncy “La La Land” has a bittersweet ending.

Such films raise the question: Do we as a society need a good cry?

srhoades@aol.com

Photo provided

Kristen Stewart stars as a high-fashion personal shopper in ‘Personal Shopper,’ which is set to start haunting audiences at Tropic Cinema on Friday.
Top 10 film scholars

Reviewed by
SHIRREL RHOADES

April is the “cruellest month” for those waiting for college acceptance letters. My movie pal Susan Server has compiled a list of some of the Hollywood stars who not only were Oscar nominees and winners but attended the prestigious Ivy League or Seven Sisters college of their choice!


9) Maggie and Jake Gyllenhaal (Barnard/Columbia) — Smarty-pants brother and sister. She was nominated for “Crazy Heart” (2009) and he for “Brokeback Mountain” (2005), both in supporting roles.

8) Tommy Lee Jones (Harvard) — Three nominations and one win for Best Supporting Actor “The Fugitive” (1993). His college roommate was future VP, Al Gore.

7) Bruce Dern (U of Pennsylvania) — Nominated for Best Supporting Actor in “Coming Home” (1979) and Best Actor for “Nebraska” (2014). Famous for often playing against type as a creepy villain when he was actually the scion of a wealthy family with a U.S. Cabinet member ancestor.


5) Jack Lemmon (Harvard) — Nominated for eight Oscars, he won Best Supporting for “Mister Roberts” (1955) and then Best Actor in 1993 for “Save the Tiger”.


3) James Stewart (Princeton) — He starred in many of the most popular movies of the 20th century with five Oscar nominations and one win, “Philadelphia Story” (1941) and then an Academy Lifetime Achievement Oscar in 1985.

2) Natalie Portman (Radcliffe/ Harvard) — From child actor to reigning beauty of 21st century films, she was a nominee for Best Supporting Actress in “Closer” (2004) and Best Actress in “Jackie” (2016). She won the Best Actress Oscar for her stunning role in “Black Swan” (2010).

1) Meryl Streep (Vassar) — Holds the Academy record of 20 nominations — four Supporting and 16 Best Actress with three wins. She won Best Supporting Actress for “Kramer vs. Kramer” (1979), then Best Actress in “Sophie’s Choice” (1987) and “Iron Lady” (2011). Fellow alumna Jane Fonda received seven nominations with Best Actress wins for “Klute” (1971) and “Coming Home” (1978).

Other New England college brainiacs include Oscar winner James Woods (MIT), Emma Watson (Brown), Ken Howard (Amherst), David Birney (Dartmouth) and Catherine Keener (Wheaton).

SPECIAL EVENTS
THIS WEEK

“The Wedding Invitation”
8 p.m. Thursday, March 30
A last-minute invitation to an 1980s prom-themed wedding puts three best friends in a desperate tailspin to land dates. Their mission, splattered with drunk-en-dry-heaving, walk-of-shame moments, will require them to lay it all on the line for love.

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Brought to you by Rams Head Promotions
For tickets visit thekeywesttheater.com or call 305-985-0433
An opening reception of the showing of rare images from Cuban master photographer Raul Corrales will be held Saturday, April 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Salt Gallery.

TUESDAY 7:30 PM

Wednesday
Catie Curtis in Concert, 7 p.m. The Studios of Key West, 533 Eaton St., 305-296-0458, http://www.tskw.org

DANCE
Sunday
Jazz Age Retro: Swing and Social Dance Night, 6 p.m. Blue Room, 1128 Simonton St., 305-290-2796, http://www.mixedity.com

LITERARY
Saturday
Book Sale, 9:30 a.m. Friends of the Key West Library, Palm Garden, 700 Fleming St., 305-292-1426, http://www.keyslibraries.org

Sunday
Key West Poetry Guild Meeting, 7 p.m. Key West Library, 700 Fleming St., 305-296-4369

FESTIVALS and FUNDRAISERS
Sunday
Casablanca - White Night on White, Fringe Theater, Al Maidaq Mediterranean Restaurant, 1019 White St., 305-731-0581, http://www.fringetheater.org

MIDDE KEYS
ARTIST EXHIBITIONS and RECEPTIONS
Saturday
Exhibition, Rick Cohen, 10 a.m. through April 30, Artists in Paradise, Winn-Dixie Shopping Center, Big Pine Key, Mile Marker 30, 305-872-1828, http://www.artistssinparadise.com

THEATER
Through April 8

CLASSES and WORKSHOPS
Monday
Paint a Key Weird
Pelican on a Buoy, 6 p.m. Artists in Paradise, Winn-Dixie Shopping Center, Big Pine Key, Mile Marker 30, 305-872-1828, http://www.artistssinparadise.com

MUSIC
Monday
The Cremona Trio, 6 p.m. Presbyterian Kirk of the Keys Church, 8877 Overseas Highway, Marathon

LITERARY
Wednesday
Keys Writers Meeting, 1 p.m. Big Pine Library Conference Room, Winn-Dixie Plaza, Big Pine Key, 305-872-3196

UPPER KEYS
ARTIST EXHIBITIONS and RECEPTIONS
Thursday through Friday
Noon - 5 P.M
“Painting in Paradise” exhibit, Jules Olitski and Larry Poons, noon to 5 p.m.; films, 7 p.m. Saturday, and question-and-answer session with Olitski’s daughter, Lauren Olitski Poster, Moorings Photography and Art Gallery, (end of Morada Way next to UPS), Islamorada, 305-393-4013

FESTIVALS and FUNDRAISERS
Saturday and Sunday
Florida Keys 26th annual Island Fest, 10 a.m. Art, food, live music, classic cars and much more. Founders Park, Mile Marker 87, Islamorada, http://www.islamoradachamber.com

MUSEUMS and MORE
Thursday
Soon after I started traveling to Cuba 18 years ago, I made a point to get out of Havana, first to the west of Pinar del Rio, then to the east. The most obvious eastern choice was Cojimar, a true ‘sleepy fishing village’ roughly 15 minutes outside of Havana. I knew one of Cuba’s most famous characters lived there, and sure enough, we found “El Capitan,” Gregorio Fuentes, Ernest Hemingway’s boat captain. Right away, I took an interest in this tiny port town.

Another famous resident of Cojimar was one of Cuba’s, indeed the world’s, most famous photographers, Raul Corrales. I first met Sr. Corrales in 2002, and cherish the experience. Having no idea where to look, we began asking around at the now very touristy “Las Terrazas” bar and restaurant and were quickly directed to the shooter’s home. Not knowing what he looked like, I sheepishly asked the elderly gentleman who came to the door if Mr. Corrales lived here. “Yes, he does,” the man said in a not-too-terribly friendly tone. I was uncomfortable, but pushed on. I asked if it was he, and if we could come in to talk about photography. He looked at us for a moment, then smiled and opened the screen door.

I’ll never forget his casual demeanor, pink slippers, or the fact that our little conversation about photography turned into a 2-3 hour, in-depth conversation about Kodak film, digital cameras and the Revolution. I remember sitting at his feet, literally looking up at this titan of photography. I also couldn’t help but notice the framed images of John F. Kennedy, Richard Nixon and Robert Redford. It was another surreal “Cuba moment,” indeed. I only wish I had recorded it all.

Corrales, who died on April 15, 2006, at age 81, came from humble beginnings as a shoe-shine boy, fruit vendor and paperboy before landing work at a few Cuban lifestyle magazines. He began documenting the Revolution in 1960 and produced some of the most iconic images of life in Cuba along with Alberto Diaz (a.k.a. Korda), and father/son Osvaldo and Roberto Salas. In addition to documenting hard news, Corrales’ other work features life in a port town. Grizzled, hard-working fishermen, sea scenes, and of course, his ultra-rare images of Ernest Hemingway have led to many classic photo books.

On Saturday, April 1, from 6pm-8pm, SALT Gallery, at 830 Fleming Street, will open a month-long exhibition of Raul Corrales’ “Hemingway in Cuba” collection. I, for one, can’t wait to check it out. Anyone even remotely interested in Cuba will enjoy seeing this crystal-clear and geniusly-captured glimpse into Cuban life.

ronneal@keysnews.com