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See pg. 9

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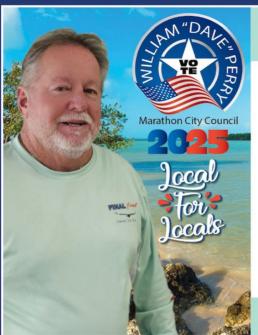
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2025

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TOURISM MANAGEMENT & ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

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ANNUAL WOMEN IN BUSINESS Pgs. 24 - 47 Quotes & Notes! All Here In The Keys!! *



18 & 39 TWIRD EVE Things Not Fit For Print! DIRECTORY Pgs 20-33

FISHING **Back Cover** KEYS MAP **NEXT MONTH**



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Now till - Dec 31 The Florida Keys History of Diving Museum Presents – Celebrating 20 Years! The History of Diving Museum's new limited-time featured exhibit is open to the public! Starting May 21st, dive into the Museum's 20th Anniversary Special Exhibit to learn about what it took to create the world's largest collection of diving equipment on public display, how the Museum has evolved and grown over the past two decades, and what visitors have to look forward to in the future. Info: (305) 664-9737; www.divingmuseum.org

Oct. 1-31 Key Largo Taste the Keys is a new month-long culinary celebration showcasing the talent and flavor of Key Largo's dining scene with daily specially priced prix fixe menus at Upper Keys restaurants plus two Trolley Foodie Tours during the month, offering ticketed guests a guided progressive dining experience.

Oct 2, 2025 Truman Waterfront Farmers Market Shop with a view every Thursday from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Truman Waterfront Farmers Market located on the harbor by the USCG Ingham Museum. Find great food options including ready-to-eat items, fresh Florida produce and other grocery items, along with gifts, home decor, art and more. Located at the corner of Southard Street and Weech Way.

Oct 2, 2025 Studios of Key West: First Thursday Open House Wander through the galleries showcasing the newest exhibitions, sip drinks under the stars at the Hugh's Rooftop terrace, and explore the creativity in the third-floor artist studios. Take in the vibrant energy, connect with fellow art lovers, and discover hidden gems at Books & Books. Mingle, marvel, or make memories! Oct 3, 2025 - Oct 4, 2025 Islamorada Fall **Backcountry Fly Championship** Tournament anglers compete to catch the most inches of snook and redfish on fly in a challenge where 1 inch equals one point. Awards are to be given to the grand champion, the anglers who catch the largest snook and redfish, and the "King of the Backcountry" series grand champion among others. Visit BFCtournament.com.

Oct 3, 2025 - Oct 5, 2025 Marathon Art Xperience Featuring William DeBilzan Enjoy an exclusive art exhibition and fashion show night with hors d'oeuvres and drinks, plus an expressive painting class inspired by William DeBilzan's work. This special experience also includes a four-course dinner with wine pairings by a guest chef, daily breakfast for two, 20% off treatments at Ocean Spa, and a spacious room with a welcome amenity.

Oct. 4-5 Marathon SWIM With The MERMAIDS Florida Keys Aquarium Come join us and see the Underwater Mermaids 10am See Our Website

Oct 10, 2025 - Oct 12, 2025 STACK'D WEEKEND: Key West Music Festival A three-day, 8 event, island escape where hip hop, country, reggae, and more come together in Key West. View the lineup here: stackdweekend.com/artists

Oct 10, 2025 - Oct 12, 2025 Lower Keys Rotary Annual Haunted House Big Pine Community Park. This year's theme... Hollywood Horrors! Volunteer, sponsor a room, or come on out for another great event hosted by Lower Keys Rotary!

Oct 11, 2025 US Navy Anniversary Tours Join the History of Diving Museum at 11 AM and 2 PM for a special guided tour of the exhibits! The tour is included in admission price. October's tours will coincide with the 250th anniversary of the US Navy.

Oct 11, 2025 Key West Rams Head Presents: Peter Antoniou: Psychic Comedian Combining razor-sharp British wit with a stunning ability to know exactly what you are thinking, Peter's shows are interactive and unforgettable. Join him as he reads minds and tickles funny bones, telling jokes and fortunes live onstage.

Oct 12, 2025 Key West Southernmost Half Marathon & 10K What better place for a race vacation than the tropical splendor of Key West! Whether it is just a weekend getaway or a full-blown vacation, you can go wrong in Key West and Run Conch Republic, the home of the Southernmost Half Marathon & 10K run.

Oct 12, 2025 Key West Sheriff's Animal Farm Open House Visit the family-friendly

Monroe County Sheriff's Animal Farm, open the second and fourth Sundays of each month from 1 to 3 p.m. Animals include a capybara, possum, sloths, goats, birds and many more. Visits are free of charge, but donations of cash or fresh produce are always welcomed. Stock Island Detention Center, 5501 College Rd.

Oct. 13th COLUMBUS DAY!!

Oct. 16-19 Islamorada REEF Fest Celebrate marine conservation during the annual REEF Fest with free ocean seminars, social events and activities at the Ocean Exploration Center, and optional dive and snorkel excursions.

OCTOBER 19th-25th PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS WOMEN'S WEEK! HONOR Our Ladies Throughout the Keys!

See All of Our Pages 24 - 47

Oct 17, 2025 - Oct 18, 2025 Islamorada Casting for Cats Backcountry Tournament This formerly all-female tournament now has a co-ed division and a women's division. Points are also awarded for ladyfish, sharks, jacks and spotted sea trout. The event is a major fundraiser to help control the feral cat population in the Upper Keys. Call Sharon Mahoney Ellenwood at 305-664-2012.

Oct 17, 2025 - Oct 19, 2025 Islamorada "Ladies, Let's Go Fishing!" Florida Keys Saltwater Seminar and Fishing Fever Inshore/Offshore Tournament Ladies, learn or polish angling skills during the awardwinning weekend seminar with two days of optional charter fishing and the Fishing Fever Fun Tournament. Visit ladiesletsgofishing.com or email fish@ladiesletsgofishing.com. Oct. 17-26 Fantasy Fest Key West's annual 10-day party in paradise, this year with the theme of Bedtime Stories & Magical Monsters

Oct. 20 ZOMBIE RIDE Islamorada Join at the MOOSE LODGE - dress up prizes and entertainment!! See us on FB

Oct. 24th Capt. Morgan's Masquerade PARADE

Oct. 25 Key Largo MARINELABS HAUNTED LAGOON Games, Science, Treats for the Whole Family! 6-8:30pm Free Admission See Our Ad Pg 19

OCTOBER 31st HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

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MM 88 - St. James Children's Center (C16MO0033)

87500 Overseas Hwy, Islamorada, FI 33036 Contact: Amanda Lachowicz • 305-852-2161 childrenscenter@stjamesthefisherman.org Vacancies: Teacher Aide and Teacher



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Jan. 31 Symphony of Nations

Feb. 28 Musical Menagerie

ICE Amphitheater at Founders Park, MM 87, Bayside, Islamorada

Mar. 28 Twilight Tunes KEY LARGO
Peace Park at Murray E. Nelson Center, MM 102, Bayside, Key Largo

Apr. 25 Under the "C" ICE Amphitheater at Founders Park, MM 87, Bayside, Islamorada

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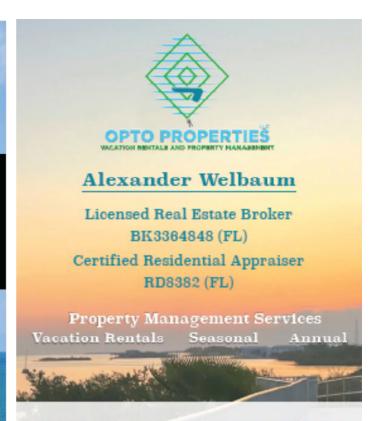
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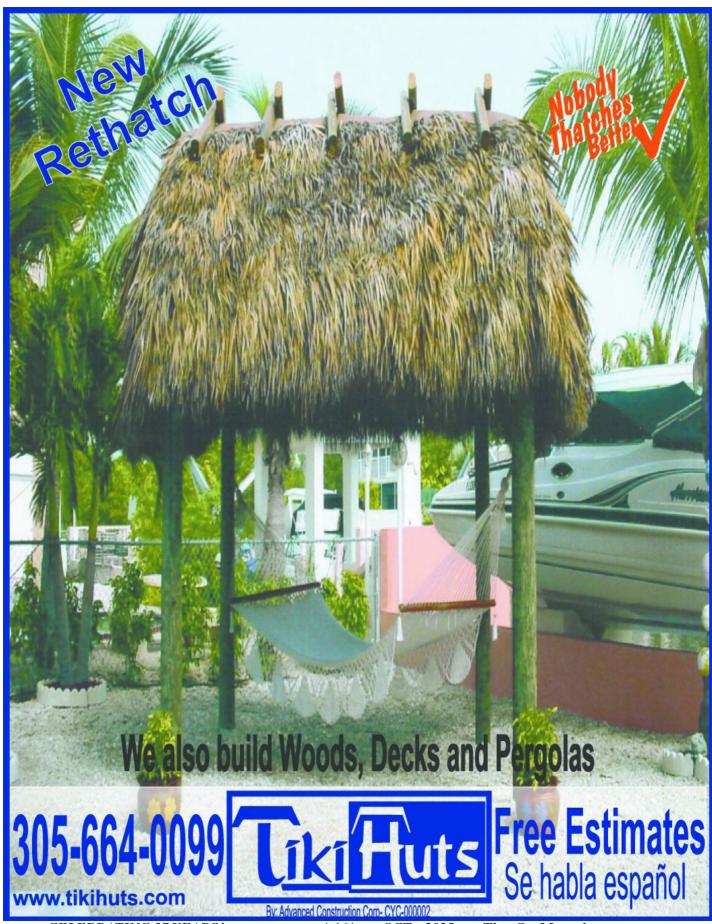


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Jamie Lee Curtis

See Pgs 24-47

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- 4 **CBS**
- 6 **NBC**
- 7 FOX
- 10 ABC
- 11 CW
- C-SPAN 14
- **PBS** 17
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NEWS & WEATHER

- 25 WGN NEWS
- 27 WEATHER
- 28 CNN
- 29 **HDLINE NEWS**
- 30 **MSNBC**
- CNBC 31
- 32 FOX NEWS

SPORTS

- 34 ESPN
- ESPN 2 35

MOVIES

- 42 TNT
- 43 TBS
- 44 FX
- 45 USA
- 50

50-57 FAMILY

- 58-61 LIFESTYLE
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1997

George Carey's The Manatee Statue



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2002

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2020

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Marathon Office Opened

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2020



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2025

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Mariuska Suri AVP/Branch Manager Boulevard & Stock Island



During the month of October, business owners recognize the accomplishments of businesswomen. So I'm taking this opportunity to recognize a very extraordinary woman – *Melissa Robinson*.

Melissa has been the Editor and Program Director for 11 years at TV88 MarathonFlorida.com.

We first met at an event which took place at the Marathon

Community Park. She told me that she was looking to relocate to the Keys and to work for a television channel (I had just signed a one-year contract with Comcast, so the timing was perfect).

I found out rather quick how smart and talented she is, and continues to amaze me with her accomplishments.

Melissa is great at any task given her. She knows what is expected of her and handles every task perfectly without ever giving excuses or complaints.

I am very fortunate to have Melissa by my side. She has allowed me to be creative and enjoy what I do throughout the day.

So here's to you Ms. Robinson!
You are <u>"Woman of the Year"</u> in my book!

Cliff Rydell
Executive Producer
TV88 www.MarathonFlorida.com







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I am the adopted daughter of Brooks & Gip Bateman, Born in Coral Gables, Florida in 1944. I have 3 adopted sisters.

My Family moved to Pigeon Key in 1949, where my father was appointed by Gov. Warren to be Manager of the Road and Toll Bridge District.

Moved to Marathon in 1953. The Toll was lifted in 1954. I've lived in the Keys for 77 years. My parents stayed because we had fabulous teachers, both at Sue M. Moore and Marathon High School where I graduated in 1962.

Have had 3 major careers; Married in 1965, had 2 sons, managed a family motel for 5 years, built Marathon Beauty Academy in 1973, graduated 10 cosmetologists, opened a Unisex Salon "Hair Port' where I worked for 10 years.

Went back to school, became a Realtor and joined my husband, Jim, at Chaplin Real Estate from 1983 to 2009 when we built Chappy's Restaurant on Knight's Key at the foot of the 7 Mile Bridge.

I Love the people in the Florida Keys. I stood still and the world came to me. I am especially grateful for the hard work, ingenuity, sacrifice and persistence smart pioneer women made for all of us. We definitely have it easier.

When Jim and I married, I made it clear I'd never be happy if I couldn't work. His reply, "You are going to be the happiest woman in this world." My advice, 'Learn to do Everything.'

I've been an active contributor and benefactor to many wonderful organizations and was BPW Woman of the Year in 1977.

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HOW MANY YEARS WERE YOU ON THE JOB? 30+ HOW LONG IN THE KEYS? 14 years

WHAT GROUPS ARE YOU INVOLVED IN? Board Member - The Good Health Clinic, Director - BPW State Education Foundation, Member - Key Largo Sunset Rotary, Islamorada Chamber, Greater Key Largo Chamber, and Ocean Reef Chamber

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE THINGS **ABOUT THE KEYS?** How our community works together for the greater good.

PROS & CONS OF BEING A WOMAN IN BUSINESS IN THE KEYS? PROS-In smaller communities like the Florida Keys, there is often a greater sense of collaboration rather than just competition, a quality that gives Florida Keys businesswomen a competitive edge. CONS-The universal challenge of juggling the demands of being in business with personal and family responsibilities, although I am fortunate to work for First State Bank which strongly values work-life balance.

WHAT DO YOU WISH/ADVICE FOR THE KEYS **WOMEN?** Truly be a part of this beautiful community. Build a strong local network, join local groups, earn referrals, and nourish your support network.



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The vet found that the problem was hair in the dog's ears.
He cleaned both ears, and the dog could
then hear fine. The vet then proceeded to tell Andrea that, if she
wanted to keep this from recurring, she should go to the store and
get some "Nair" hair remover for the dog's ears once a month.

She bought some "Nair"; At the register, the pharmacist told her, "If you're going
to use this under your armsor leg; don't use deodorant lotiom for a few days."

Andrea said, "I'm not using it under my arms.or on my legs"
If you must know, I'm using it on my Schnauzer."

The pharmacist says, "Well, stay off your bicycle for about a week."

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2025/26 BPW Florida Executive Committee

Meet the 2025/26 Business and Professional Women of Florida Executive Committee (Left to right):

- Sue A. Banks, Gold Coast President
- Amy Dinovo, St. Petersburg/Pinellas Vice President
- Deanna Duell, Upper Keys Treasurer
- Patricia Milian, Upper Keys Secretary
- Dee Manigo, North Sarasota Council of Presidents

Having the right UPPER KEYS BPW circle of women around you can change your life.

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A message from Sherri Hodies



I am so honored to be your Monroe County Supervisor of Elections.

The City of Marathon 2025 elections are fast approaching. Let's be **Election Informed** and Election Ready!

Early voting: October 20th - 31st, 2025 Election day: November 4th, 2025

We now have social media accounts: Facebook and Instagram - Go to Monroe County Supervisor of Elections. Sign up for our newsletter here.





Here's to a Healthy October!

Hello October! Dig out those cozy sweaters and bake some yummy pies and cookies.

But there's more to October than football, costumes, and pumpkin spice.

Here are some highlights:
Breast Cancer Awareness
Month/Walk Oct 25th October is dedicated to raising awareness about breast cancer, the most common cancer among American women with about 250,000 new cases diagnosed each year.!

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month About one in four pregnancies end in miscarriage., remember and honor the little ones who left us too soon. It's a time for support, understanding, and healing!

Homemade Cookies Day Kickstart October 1st with a sweet tradition: baking homemade cookies with your kids. Share your favorite recipes.

Mental Illness Awareness Week Oct 1-7 Mental health matters. Dial "988" to reach trained crisis counselors anywhere in the United States mental health, substance use, or suicide. You do matter!

Taco Day Oct 4th Who said tacos are only for Tuesdays? We're celebrating Taco Day on a Wednesday this year.

Hello October! Dig out ensure your home is prehose cozy sweaters and pared for emergencies.

Indigenous Peoples' Days Oct 9th. Find out the Native American tribes that called your area home.

International Day of the Girl Oct 10th On this day, we champion the rights of girls worldwide, emphasizing education, healthcare, and equality.

PROFESSIONAL
BUSINESS WOMEN'S
WEEK!
Oct 12th -18th
See Our Ladies
Pgs 24-47

Make a Difference Day Oct 21st make a positive impact -Find a project that aligns with your family's values and volunteer today!

Halloween Oct 31st Dressing up in fun costumes, fun treats, and caramel apples.. what's not to love?

Fantasy Fest Oct. 17-26 is a 10-day party for adults that started in 1979. It was created by a small group of locals to bring! The 2025 theme in Key West is "Bedtime Stories and Magic of Monsters". create costumes inspired by this! Parades & Parties!

From all of us here at The Time Out Magazine, The Nurse's Corner, have a Healthy, Safe and Fabulous





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A Chat with SUZI YOUNGBERG



<u>Your Current position:</u> Key Largo Chamber of Commerce President

Where were you born? I was born in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. Raised in Ringgold, GA, and spent my early adult life in Chattanooga, Tennessee, dreaming about living on an island. <u>How Many Years In The Keys?</u> I moved to the Keys in November 1997, so 28 years!

<u>How Many Years On The Job?</u> I started working for the Key Largo Chamber in February 2024 as VP of Operations & Revenue, and became President on January 1, 2025, after the former President retired.

<u>WHAT GROUPS ARE YOU INVOLVED IN?</u> I am very active with the Upper Keys BPW (Business & Professional Women.) As a Past President (2020-2022) I help where and when I'm able, currently serving as Chair of the Woman & Business of the Year Committee. I am also involved with the Community Foundation of the Florida Keys. I am a Charter Member of their Upper Keys Advisory Council, and just earlier this month I accepted the position as Chair of the Council. I also sit on their Development Committee and Grant Review Committee.

PROS & CONS OF BEING A WOMAN IN BUSINESS IN THE KEYS? The Keys are such a small town! I see that as a pro and a con. A pro is that I am able to know a lot of people and keep up with what's happening in my community. I love net-working from Ocean Reef to Key West and seeing my friends and acquaintances throughout the county. But, a con of living in a small community is the lack of opportunities. I feel fortunate to have had the experiences and opportunities to grow and be successful in the Keys, and I have a desire to help other women do the same.

WHAT DO YOU WISH/ADVICE FOR THE KEYS WOMEN?
Get out there! Get involved in the community. Volunteer, attend networking events, and get to know the leaders in our community. There are so many great organizations to get involved with, from the Chambers, to Rotary, to the many non-profit organizations. Just do it! *TEAMWORK* The
Suzi Youngberg, President Combined Action of A Group;
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