

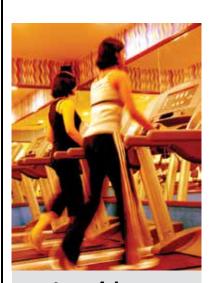
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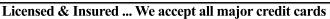
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appy New Year! We hope you had a great time ringing in 2016. We look forward to bringing you another year of great offers and information from our wonderful businesses here in paradise. Tucked inside of this month's Our Keys we are proud to bring you the second issue of the Well magazine. Here's to a healthy and prosperous new year!

Michelle and Michael Finger

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In This Issue:

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reene Street Cigar Co. has been selling cigars at 614 Greene Street since 2011, in October they expanded into a second location at 540 Greene. Patrick, the owner, gets his love of cigars from his father, "We had some really great experiences together while enjoying fine cigars." Patrick is not only passionate but highly knowledgeable about cigars. "While I attended business school at Santa Fe College in Gainesville, Florida, my father and I opened our first cigar store there; it was a great learning experience," he says smiling. "Everything we learned went into this place." He dreamed of owning a business and settling back home in Key West. "I grew up here after moving from Miami when I was five, I love it." He noticed there weren't many places to have a drink and enjoy a cigar; this was the impetus in opening the new, larger location.

Greene Street Cigar offers 510 different cigars from a large walk-in humidor. It's a very comfortable, welcoming space with overstuffed leather sofas and big screen TV's. The long bar is the centerpiece serving fine wine and craft beers on tap. "There's been a cigar boom in Key West for the last three years and we are feeling it," says Patrick. Locals and tourist flock here and it's not just for the selection, the staff is highly trained. "That's what sets us apart; we know cigars and how to pair them with coffee, port, wine and beer...or just to smoke." "Come on in or give us a call at 305-741-7248, your pleasure is our pleasure."

Greene Street Cigar & Cafe is open daily from 11am to midnight. by Susan Kochan

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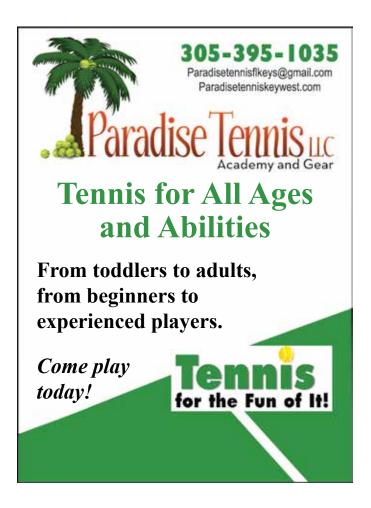
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Featured Business





fixture of the Lower Keys for years, Bobalu's is under new ownership and better than ever.

Located precisely at mile marker 10 in Big

Located precisely at mile marker 10 in Big Coppitt, new owners Tina and Steve DiGiovanni are excited to share their award-winning cuisine from the Tampa-area.

Since taking over the restaurant in July of 2014, the duo has renovated the interior of the premises with new décor, seating, and air conditioning, a vital addition in South Florida.

In addition, they've installed a dog-friendly back patio where they encourage guests to come and enjoy some of the best local fare money can buy.

Executive chef Steve has been in the kitchen his whole life, mastering different techniques and finding inspiration in local ingredients.

Tina, who runs the front of the house and ensures quality control, says the locals are what make her job special.

"It's great to be in a place where people are knowledgeable about their food and appreciate the difference in quality," she states.

Quality and freshness, in particular, are what sets these owners apart from previous purveyors.

"Everything is as fresh as possible," Steve describes. "Soups, sauces, dressings, and desserts are made from scratch every day."

For example, their prime rib, which won the Golden Fork award, is roasted to perfection daily and comes in a 12 and 16 ounce portion, respectively.

Also, their Early Bird Special might be the best deal in the area: an entrée and two sides for just \$10.99.

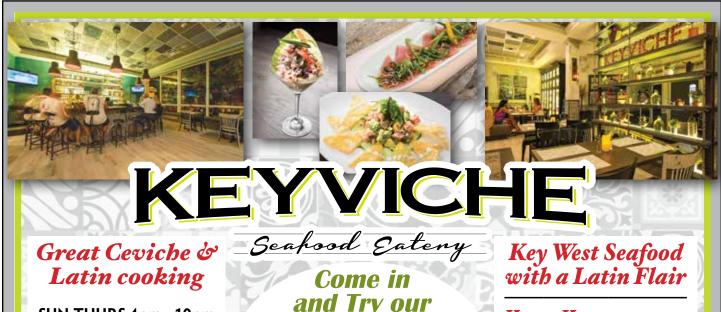
Don't have time to dine? With Bobalu's new takeout option the whole menu is at your disposal.

"We put special effort into everything we do," Steve says.

With over 30 culinary awards in 15 years and a new wine list, Tina and Steve invite you to come sample their culinary creations.

by Henrik Olson





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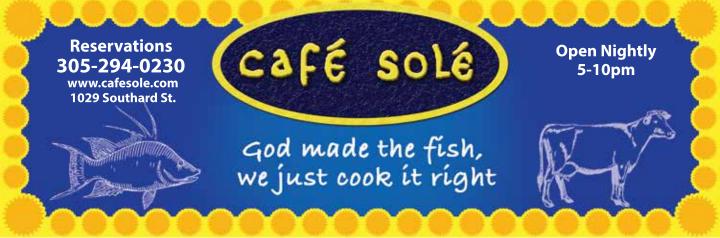
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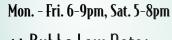
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DINING & DRINKING





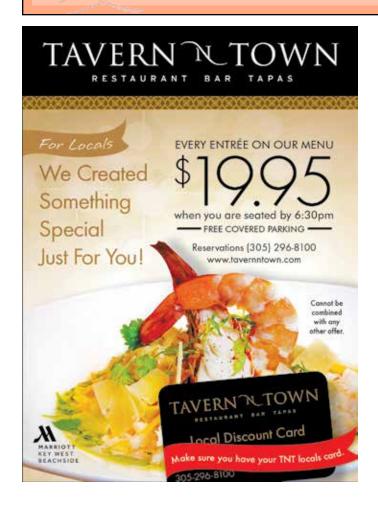


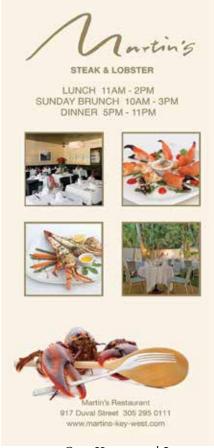
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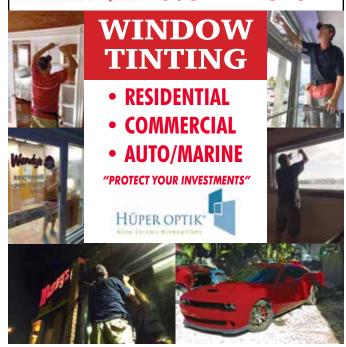
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JANUARY 7 - 10

34th Annual Key West Literary Seminar – The 2016 topic, "Shorts: Stories, Essays & Other Briefs," will examine and celebrate literary short forms. A first-come, first-seated Sunday afternoon session is free and open to the public. The annual high-spirited gathering attracts literary aficionados from around the world for readings, discussions and lectures led by some of contemporary literature's leading writers. Contact: 888-293-9291

JANUARY 8 - 10

Key West Wahoo Shootout – Join a blue water spearfishing tournament, to be headquartered at The Waterfront Brewery. Species include Wahoo, King Mackerel, and Amberjack with up to \$20,000 in prizes. Adult and junior divisions as well as Captain's prize. Contact: John Paul Castro: 305-896-4244 Email: wahooshootout@gmail.com

JANUARY 10

Monthly Artisan Market: Green & Sustainable – The Key West Artisan Market is a vibrant, open air bazaar filled with artists, authors, chef-made cuisine, craftspeople, performers, fresh produce, baked goods, cheeses and flowers, craft beer & wine from residents representing the diversity of creativity, ingenuity and locally made products of the Keys & Key West. Held one Sunday each month,

during season (thru April) outdoors at the Restaurant Store, 1111 Eaton. Free family & pet friendly event. Email: jill@dailyplan-it.net

JANUARY 15 - 16

56th Annual Key West Historic House & Garden Tours – Presented by the Old Island Restoration Foundation, the house and garden tours offer a rare opportunity to see inside some of Key West's magnificent, charming and tropical residences that reflect the varied tastes and originality of their owners. Additional tours are scheduled for Feb. 12-13 and March 11-12. Contact: 305-294-9501 Email: tickets@oirf.org

JANUARY 16 - 17

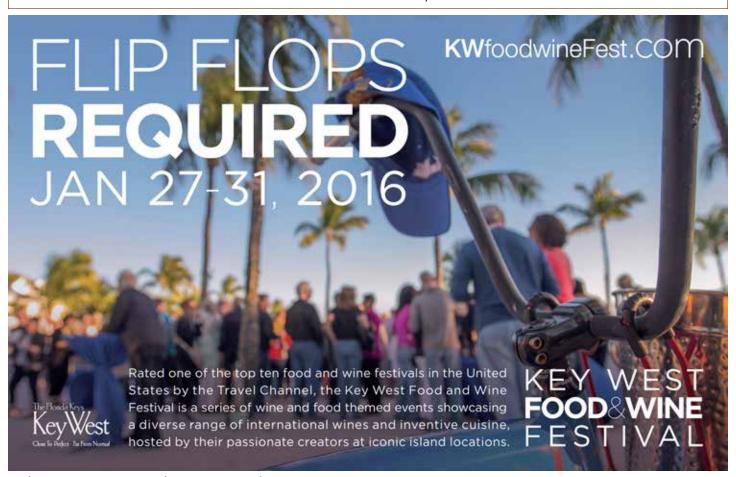
11th Annual Florida Keys Seafood Festival – A family-friendly event with local fresh Keys seafood, drinks, marine-related crafts, youth activities, and live music. \$5 admission per person; hours open from 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. on Saturday; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, at Bayview Park, Truman Avenue and Jose Marti Drive. Contact: Vicki 305-872-9026 Email: vicki@fkcfa.org

JANUARY 17

Key West Half Marathon & 5k Run – Recognized by Runner's World magazine as one of the 10 great half-marathons of the winter season, the race follows a 13.1-mile course that includes Old Town Key West and the scenic waterfront. Contact: Barbara Wright 305-240-0727 Email: bwpromo3@bellsouth.net

JANUARY 17 - 22

Quantum Key West Race Week 2016 – The annual race week challenge features world-class competition and yachting teams from more than 12 countries and 24 American states. More than 100 racing yachts typically compete for class championships in this international regatta. To view the action, fans can book seats on spectator boats ranging from excursion catamarans to historic tall ships or from land at Key West's Atlantic-front restaurants, resorts and beaches.



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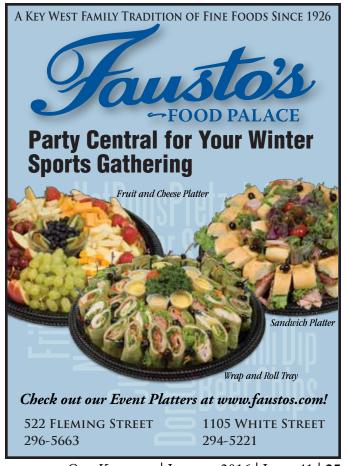
ELIZABETH M. FREEMAN

President

513 Southard St., Key West

305-294-2542





EY EVENTS

JANUARY 22 - 24

Stock Island Marina Village King Mackerel Tournament -Big king mackerel migrate to the waters around Key West each winter, and a fittingly large prize awaits the winner of this challenge. The angler who weighs in the heaviest mackerel, also known as kingfish, is to go home with \$10,000. Contact: Lee Murray 305-296-0364 Email: lee@murraymarine.com

JANUARY 27 - 31

Key West Food & Wine Festival - Top chefs and restaurateurs display culinary creativity and the Keys' indigenous cuisine in a flavorful schedule of events for food lovers. Highlights include the lively "Duval Uncorked UnDone," neighborhood wine strolls, food and wine pairings, intriguing seminars, an outdoor artisan wine market and a grand tasting. Contact: 800-474-4319; 305-304-5218 Email: info@keywestfoodandwinefestival.com

JANUARY 30 - 31

31st Annual Key West Craft Show - Tens of thousands of attendees browse and buy among juried artisans and crafters who gather to display their talents at this popular outdoor festival on lower Whitehead Street in historic Old Town Key West. Contact: 305-294-1243 Email: kwartctr@earthlink.net

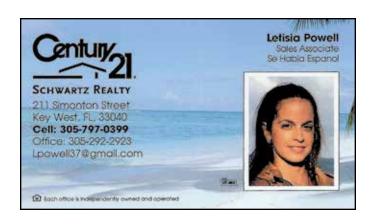
IANUARY 30

Miss Gay Southernmost USofA and Classic - The Miss Gay Southernmost USofA and Miss Gay USofA Classic are preliminary pageants to allow contestants to compete in the annual Miss Gay USofA pageant held in Dallas. A showcase of female impersonation, competition categories include evening gown, talent and interview performances. Contact: 305-747-8563

IANUARY 31

22nd Annual Key West Master Chefs Classic - Local restaurants vie for top honors in appetizer, entrée and dessert categories. Attendees sample the culinary treats while judges pick the winners. The show is held from 4-7 p.m. at the Westin Key West Resort & Marina pier. Event proceeds benefit the nonprofit Monroe Association for ReMARCable Citizens. Contact: 305-294-9526, ext. 25









Featlured Business



CENTER



ey West 24hr Fitness, prominently located at 725 Caroline, will be the newest, most high-tech fitness facility in the Florida Keys.

John Lepowski, owner of the gourmet Key Plaza Creperie, says the idea for the project came to him about a year and half ago. "It's something I kept thinking about and then suddenly the opportunity presented itself," he recalls. "So I went for it."

While the facility is technically a gym, Lepowski stresses that it will be much more than that.

"All the cardio equipment are models with Touch Screen, WiFi, Bluetooth, and Hi Def consoles. It'll be the first state-of-the-art gym in the Keys."

It is important to Lepowski that the gym offers something for everybody, as such they proudly tender 50 live classes per week with accredited trainers brought in from around the country.

Additionally the facility has virtual trainers projected onto a 200" movie screen that teach over 330 classes for late-night visitors.

As with all of Lepowski's ventures, quality and customer service are the foundation.

Everything from the floors to the walls are highend, custom material designed for luxury and the enjoyment of members to workout and then head to his or her steam rooms.

Furthermore, to ensure the safety and privacy of guests, a modern biogenesis fingerprint recognition system will be the basis for entry.

Lepowski encourages prospective members to visit KW24hr.com for enrollment opportunities and a glimpse into the future.

With its doors opening around New Year's, now is the time to start your resolution.

by Henrik Olson



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