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\$3.00

Friday

February 6, 2026 • Vol. 150 No. 27 • 14 pages

## CAYO CONCH



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### Minute Maid's frozen OJ, canned juices being put on ice

Minute Maid helped make orange juice a year-round morning staple in 1946, when it started shipping cans of frozen juice around the U.S.

But 80 years later, the brand's parent company is halting sales of frozen juice concentrates in the U.S. and Canada, saying it wants to focus on the fresh juices that customers now prefer.

The Coca-Cola Company says Minute Maid's frozen juices, including its lemonade and limeade, will be discontinued by April.

For generations, Americans who wanted orange juice without the work of squeezing fresh fruit cracked open a can and slid a cylinder of frozen juice into a pitcher. The concentrated juice was mixed with water to make it ready for drinking.

In 1946, Vacuum Foods Corp. became the first U.S. company to ship frozen orange juice across the country, according to Coca-Cola. It named the product Minute Maid; Vacuum Foods eventually changed its name to Minute Maid as well. Rival Tropicana, which still sells frozen canned juice, was founded in 1947.

Coca-Cola acquired Minute Maid in 1960, and 13 years later, Minute Maid introduced ready-to-drink orange juice.

## ON THE RADIO



Ed Scales, host of The Ed Scales Show is Joe's Guest co-host.

- Also,
  - J.W. Cooke, Managing Editor, The Keys Citizen
  - Alicia Betancourt, Monroe County Extension Service
  - Cory Schwisow, Director, Emergency Management
  - Ashley Rodriguez, The Keys Citizen
  - McKenna Carlson, Singer/Songwriter Evening Edition,
  - Paul Menta, Key West Businessman
  - Ted Lund, Journalist

News: 7:30, 8:30 a.m., noon, 5 & 6 p.m.

Evening Edition 5-5:30 p.m.

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# Commission to vote on paying Key West city manager \$295,000

**KATRINA NICHOLS**  
Keys Citizen

The Key West City Commission is set to vote next week on a proposed contract amendment that would significantly increase the compensation and job protections of City Manager Brian L. Barroso.

The vote is on the consent agenda for the Wednesday, Feb. 11 Commission Meeting at City Hall.

The online agenda is available on the city website at <https://www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov> under Agendas & Minutes. Consent agenda items are typically approved without discussion unless a commissioner requests that they be pulled for separate consideration.

According to the meeting agenda, the proposal would raise Barroso's base salary to \$295,000. When vehicle, insurance and



Barroso

expense allowances are included, the total annual cost to the city is estimated at nearly \$350,000. The increase represents about \$80,000 more than his base salary when he was hired just over a year ago. Barroso began as city manager on Jan. 8, 2025, with a base salary of \$215,000. In accordance with

his employment agreement, his pay rose to \$230,000 in July 2025 after six months of employment. During last year's budget workshops, commissioners approved a line item setting aside \$45,000 in anticipation of a possible raise in 2026.

The proposal also expands severance benefits. The original contract provided for 15 weeks

More **MANAGER** | A7

# FREEZE FRAME



AP PHOTO/RAMON ESPINOSA

A man walks along the Malecon as waves crash over the seawall in Havana, Cuba, Sunday, Feb. 1.

## Arctic blast brings first-recorded freezing cold to Cuba. Island nation faces blackouts, shortages amid U.S. pressure

### STAFF REPORT

Another cold front swept into Florida and the Keys Thursday with chillier temperatures, increased winds and choppy seas.

That comes after an Arctic blast brought frigid windchills to the Upper Keys, Miami and the rest of the Sunshine State.

The same Siberian cold front also brought freezing temperatures to Cuba for the first time in recorded history.

Northern areas of Cuba reported cold temperatures of 32 degrees on Tuesday — an all-time low and a first for the island nation.

"The early morning of this February 3 has been remarkably cold in interior towns with 32 weather stations that registered values below and equal to 10 degrees Celsius," said Armando Rodríguez Batista, Cuba's deputy minister of science, technology, and environment

(CITMA), citing data from the island government's weather service.

"The weather station of Indio Hatuey, in the municipality of Perico in the province of Matanzas registered a value of 0 degrees Celsius, arriving for the first time at the freezing point in the Cuban territory and representing a new national record," Rodríguez Batista said in a social media post.

Key West is approximately 90 miles from Cuba.

Cuba also saw heavy surf and some coastal flooding from the Arctic front that brought very cold weather to Florida and some record low temperatures in the mainland.

All that comes as Cuba faces power blackouts, water infrastructure disruptions and fuel and food shortages as the Trump administration

More **COLD** | A7



AP PHOTO/REBECCA BLACKWELL

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis speaks Feb. 5, 2025, in Miami.

## DeSantis taps four for CFK board

### STAFF REPORT

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has appointed four new members to the College of the Florida Keys' Board of Trustees.

Bob Broton, who is retired and previously served as director of engineering for defense contractor Northrop Grumman, will succeed Richard Weinstein on the CFK District's board.

DeSantis also named businessman Peter Batty to the CFK District board on Jan. 30. He will takeover the seat held by Sheldon Suga.

Batty is president and owner of United Atlantic Insurance Group, Southernmost Processing Services Inc. and ICAMCO Inc. and is also cofounder and chairman of Gulf Atlantic Bank.

Batty is chair of the city of Key West's Planning Committee and is a board member at the Florida Keys Community Foundation.

Michael Downer will succeed Michael Puto on the local college's Board of Trustees.

Downer is proprietor at Key West Fine Wines and previously served as a senior attorney and executive at the Capital Group. Downer also previously served as chairman of the Southwestern

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## Police: Man takes feud to dangerous level on US 1

### STAFF REPORT

A Florida man allegedly took a work rivalry to a different and more dangerous level in the Keys on Monday.

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office said a 50-year-old man allegedly tried "to run (an) e-bike rider off the road" with his pickup truck on Feb. 2.

The alleged incident stems from a work-related feud, according to police.

50-year-old Jorge Antonio Garcia, "was driving a GMC pickup truck at approximately 10:43 a.m. when he swerved toward the 38-year-old male victim who was southbound near U.S. 1



Garcia

on Summerland Key," according to the Sheriff's Office.

MCSO said security footage from a nearby gas station backed up the victim's allegations.

"The victim stated Garcia continued to follow him on U.S. 1, making several U-turns. Garcia and the victim

previously worked together and have an ongoing feud, according to the victim," MCSO said.

Garcia "was charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon," the Sheriff's Office said in a statement.

Jail records list the Florida man as being from Big Pine Key, while an announcement from MCSO says he is from the Orlando area.