



# KEYS CITIZEN

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LADY 'FINS ADVANCE TO SOFTBALL DISTRICT SEMIFINALS — B1

\$3

Wednesday

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**CAYO CONCH**



"Brevity is the soul of wit."  
— Polonius, from Shakespeare's "Hamlet"



The race is Sunday at Truman Waterfront Park.

**Run for Rhonda**

Run for Rhonda race/walk is Sunday, May 3 at 8 a.m.

You can still register at [runforrhonda.com](http://runforrhonda.com).

Every participant and step supports Take Stock in Children and helps change a local student's future.

Events include a 5k, 1-mile run/walk, and a free 1/4 Kids run. Starts 8 a.m. at Truman Waterfront Park.

It's fun for all ages. All proceeds go to the Rhonda Flores Memorial Scholarship.

Cinco de Mayo party afterward with DJ, dancing, awards, costume contest, snacks and margaritas. In honor of the beloved Rhonda Flores.

**ON THE RADIO**



Two-time Grammy Nominated Songwriter James Slater joins Joe as guest co-host, kicking off The Key West Songwriters Festival.

- Also:
- Bill Lay, Key West Restaurateur
  - Rick Ramsay, Monroe County Sheriff
  - Judd Wise, Key West High School
  - Lynny Thompson, Marathon Mayor
  - Christine Hurley, Monroe County Administrator
  - Ed Tierney, School Superintendent
  - Liz Young, Director, The Arts Council
  - Evening Edition
  - Joey Gonzalez, Marathon Baseball Coach
  - Mandy Miles, Keys Weekly

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

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## Judge Jones retiring, Judge Wilson running unopposed

Judge Mark Wilson will assume seat in 16th Judicial Circuit after November election certification

**KATRINA NICHOLS**  
Keys Citizen

Judge Mark Wilson has qualified unopposed to take over the circuit court seat currently held by longtime Monroe County Judge Mark Jones, who is retiring at the end of the year.

According to the Monroe County Supervisor of Elections

Office, the Division of Elections handles qualifying for circuit court judges. The first qualifying period for 2026 has now closed for federal offices, state attorney, public defender and judicial offices, including circuit court judges.

Because no opposition filed, Wilson will appear on the ballot as unopposed and is expected to officially secure the seat following certification after the Nov. 3 general election.

The Supervisor of Elections



Jones



Wilson

Office said it will receive ballot certification from the Division of Elections within seven days of the close of qualifying. After the general election, the office

will receive the certificate of official election results confirming the outcome.

Wilson was appointed to county court in 2017 by then-Gov. Rick Scott. Since then, he has served as an acting circuit judge in both civil and criminal matters.

He currently handles about half of all criminal cases in the lower

Florida Keys, including felony and misdemeanor cases, and is qualified by the Florida Supreme Court to preside over capital cases.

Wilson will succeed Judge Mark Jones, who has served as a circuit court judge for the 16th Judicial Circuit in Monroe County since January 1997.

Jones also served as chief judge of the 16th Judicial Circuit from July 1999 through June 2001 and again from January 2015 through 2025.

His retirement will mark the end of nearly three decades on the bench in Monroe County.

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## SALUTING NEW CONCHS



ROB O'NEAL/KEYS CITIZEN

Newly inducted members of the Conch Republic Military gather for left-hand salutes after a mass swearing-in at the Schooner Wharf Bar's Conch Republic Victory Party Friday night.

## Down the stretch they come at Kentucky Derby

Local bars, clubs gear up for 152nd 'Run for the Roses'

**ASHLEY RODRIGUEZ**  
Keys Citizen

It's almost time to wear your funkiest hats and revel in the oldest continuously running sports event in the United States.

The annual Kentucky Derby is returning to Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky on Saturday, May 2, and returning to viewing screens in Key West, Florida.

Bars and other businesses will host watch parties, giving Key West residents the opportunity to experience the electric horse race from thousands of miles away.

The Gardens Hotel will host a special event on Saturday

from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. They will livestream the race as well as offer raffle prizes, and prizes for the best hat and best-dressed couple.

Kate Miano, owner of The Gardens Hotel, encourages guests to show up in their "Derby best" this weekend.

The Key West Police Department Mounted Unit is bringing the horses to the party. Guests can get their pictures taken with the horses.

The event is \$40 at the door and will include light fare and a mint julep for guests to enjoy. All proceeds of the event will support the Mounted Patrol Unit.

The Mounted Patrol is one of the KWPD units that is supported by donations. Private donations and fundraising events,

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## Border agent accused of armed assault at job site

**STAFF REPORT**

A U.S. Customs and Border Protection agent who is the subject of an online petition calling for his arrest over his alleged treatment of detainees in Key West now stands accused of putting a gun to the head of a construction worker in Marathon.

Yadira Blanco, vice president and office manager of Design Center in Marathon, filed a complaint with the Department of Homeland Security alleging that Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agent Bruno Cabral entered a job site where two employees were working and engaged in "armed assault and civil rights violations." The complaint demands a criminal investigation.

"CBP takes seriously and thoroughly investigates alleged or potential misconduct, on



PHOTO PROVIDED

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agent Bruno Cabral recently and allegedly assaulted a Design Center employee in Marathon.

or off duty," a CBP spokesman emailed after being asked if Blanco's complaint was being investigated. "The overwhelming majority of employees perform their duties with honor and distinction, working tirelessly every day to keep our country safe."

Cabral allegedly entered a

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