

CAYO CONCH



"Love is what I got. Remember that, love is what I got."
— Sublime

Drop off for hazardous waste on Saturday

On Saturday, Aug. 1, the City of Key West and Waste Management will be holding the monthly free drop off for hazardous waste and e-waste. The service, available to Key West residents only, is held at Indigenous Park on White Street from 8 a.m. until noon.

Items accepted will be household chemicals and electronics such as but not limited to gasoline (in a leakproof container), oil, batteries, acids, poisons, cleaners, fertilizers, pool chemicals, TVs, microwaves, gaming systems, phones,

More WASTE | A4

ON THE RADIO



Bill Lay, Key West restaurant owner, joins Joe Moore as guest co-host.
Also
■ Phil Goodman, Chairman of The Board, Florida Keys Mosquito Control
■ Captain Colin Thompson, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station Key West
■ Eddie Kertis, Superintendent, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
■ Kerry Baker, Executive Director, Key West Chamber of Commerce
■ Steve Estes, Editor/Publisher, The News Barometer
■ Shelly Krueger, Monroe County Extension Service Evening Edition
■ Judd Wise, Key West High School
■ Olivia Seal, Gymnast

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

keysnews.com



Community braces for the end of Haitian TPS

ASHLEY RODRIGUEZ
Keys Citizen

Monday marked the final day for the Temporary Protected Status of Haitian nationals in the United States. Thousands of Haitian TPS beneficiaries are set to lose their authorization to live and work in the U.S.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has claimed that Haiti is now safe to return to while the U.S. State Department warn U.S. citizens to not travel to the country due to the risk of gang violence, kidnappings and

political instability.

Roughly 330,000 Haitians on TPS live in the U.S. (2024 American Community Survey) and 158,000 live in Florida. According to data from the survey, of the roughly 200,000 Haitian TPS holders who made up the workforce, 22,000 work as cooks and servers, 13,000 work as nursing assistants, and thousands more work in positions such as drivers, security guards, agricultural workers and more.

Members in the local community have shared their concern for their Haitian

neighbors.

"My heart is breaking over sending people back to a country that isn't safe," said a local resident who volunteers at an immigration support organization.

The resident specifically helps the immigration organization with their hotline, referring people to immigration networks and legal assistance, documenting detentions and providing other resources for immigrants in the community.

The woman said while the last few months, reports of activity from U.S. Immigration Customs

Enforcement and U.S. Customs and Border Protection had slowed down, she expected activity to ramp up and to receive more calls in the coming weeks.

"We want to help them as much as possible," she said. "We want to make sure everyone's got plans."

She and other volunteers are helping TPS holders with next steps such as self-deportation, transferring ownership of their assets, such as vehicles, to somebody else, and how to handle possible separation from family

More TPS | A4

'It's about the brotherhood'

At 39, Chris Dutton of Tampa is youngest contestant to win the annual Hemingway Lookalike Contest

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

Seven tries. One lucky sweater. And proof that sometimes, the best stories belong to those who refuse to quit.

Perseverance paid off Saturday night in Key West, as Chris Dutton made history becoming the first "Young Hemingway" ever to win Sloppy Joe's 45th Annual Hemingway Look-Alike Contest.

The 39-year-old lawyer from Tampa captured the title, joining a brotherhood dedicated to preserving Ernest Hemingway's legacy through friendship, tradition and service.

Dutton's road victory was far from easy. He emerged from a field of 134 registered contestants, in two preliminary rounds before defeating 23 other finalists to claim the title on his seventh attempt.

And while most contestants portray the older, white-bearded version of Hemingway, Dutton embodies the younger writer who lived and worked in Key West during the 1930s. Other "Young Hemingway's" had reached the finals over the years, but none had ever won... until now.

The judges, each a former Look Alike winner known affectionally as a "Papa", look for more than a familiar face. They evaluate resemblance to Hemingway, stage presence, character and the ability to represent a society devoted to preserving the celebrated author's legacy. Twenty-four finalists each had one minute to make their case before the top five earned two additional minutes on stage. In the end, the Papas chose Dutton.

Dutton credited seven years of unwavering family support, a keepsake from a past winner, and one well-kept secret for helping him

More WIN | A4



ANDY NEWMAN/SLOPPY JOE'S BAR

Chris Dutton, surrounded by previous winners of the Hemingway Look-Alike Contest, raises a bust of Ernest Hemingway in triumph after winning the 2026 competition Saturday, July 25, 2026, at Sloppy Joe's Bar in Key West, Fla.



ANDY NEWMAN PHOTO

2026 Hemingway Look-Alike Contest finalists (from left) are Ray Faubion, Chris Dutton, Jay Fleece, Chris Morris and Brian Canady. Dutton was subsequently named the winner. The event highlighted Key West's annual salute to the literary talent and adventurous lifestyle of Ernest Hemingway, who lived and wrote on the island during the 1930s.

State, Corps agree to expedite Everglades restoration

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY — The South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers last week signed a project partnership agreement to advance construction of key Everglades restoration projects in South Florida.

The agreement ensures federal funding will go to the state for key projects that will line up with the completion of the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) Reservoir by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2029.

These projects include the state construction of the final EAA Reservoir

More STATE | A4



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT/CONTRIBUTED

The South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers last week signed a project partnership agreement to advance construction of key Everglades restoration projects in South Florida. The signing took place at the Blue Shanty Flow Way Construction Site with many federal, state and local officials in attendance.

Boat ramp opens in time for Lobster Mini Season

STAFF REPORT

Monroe County has reopened the public boat ramp located on the bayside at the end of Blimp Road on Cudjoe Key (Mile Marker 21.2) in time for Florida's lobster mini-season, which takes place this Wednesday and Thursday.

The boat ramp had been temporarily closed while it served as a staging area for environmental mitigation work at Tarp-pon Belly Keys associated with the Taxiway A Improvement Project at Key West International Airport.

The project is now finished. Boaters are welcome to use the ramp for launching and retrieving vessels.

Lobster Mini Season is July 29-30 along the Florida Keys and coast.