

FROM PAGE 1C
DUVAL

Thursday until the morning of Tuesday, July 7. This aligns with beach closures in Miami-Dade and Broward counties. That means Higgs Beach and Smathers Beach are off-limits, along with Mallory Square and the Truman Waterfront Park. Beaches in Marathon and Islamorada also will be closed. Sunset Celebration, which is held nightly at Mallory Square in Key West, is also postponed during what's typically a lucrative weekend for the performers and artists. "We all just started making money again and now will face five days without work," said Linda McCall, a Sunset Celebration artist who is secretary on the board of directors. McCall has kept her sense of humor intact, though.

"We'll be back to abnormal on Tuesday, July 7," she said, when asked when the decidedly quirky event will return. The COVID-19-related closures are hurting businesses that were already hurting, said Scott Atwell, CEO and executive vice president of the Key West Chamber of Commerce. "People have been cancelling reservations," Atwell said. "I know businesses are laying people off." The state has suspended alcohol consumption at all bars. And although you can still get a drink on Duval Street, restaurants and liquor stores, the famous watering holes like the Bull and Sloppy Joe's on Duval remain closed. The state will have its parks, including Fort Zachary Taylor and Bahia Honda, closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday, said the Monroe County Sheriff's Office. And Key West had already canceled its annual

July 4 fireworks display, all due to the fears of COVID-19 spreading. "We made the painful decision," Johnston said, of scrapping the fireworks. "We have also made the decision we are going to close down our beaches. That again was a very difficult decision." The decision came down to whether the city could keep people safe in the age of COVID-19, the mayor said. "We had a very frank discussion and the answer came back very clearly, no we can't," Johnston said. On Tuesday, the Keys hit a daily record with 23 additional cases reported by the state Department of Health. The Keys now have 259 cases of COVID-19. That's more than double the number the Keys had on June 1, when the checkpoints keeping out tourists were up at the entrances to the island chain. At the same time, the Keys are about to host

Fourth of July weekend, without knowing how many tourists will show up. Key West and the county both have mandatory mask laws. But Key West's is tougher, as the city commission made it a civil citation, code compliance violation and a criminal misdemeanor. "You need to have a mask on while you're walking in until you are seated," Johnston said Tuesday in a Facebook video post. "After you get your check, put that mask back on as you get up to leave the restaurant." Another change made in advance of the long holiday weekend: Key West police officers are now also designated code compliance officers, according to Veliz. "Therefore, a refusal to sign a civil citation is itself an arrestable offense," Veliz wrote in a letter to Police Chief Sean Brandenburg on June 29. Gwen Filosa: KeyWestGwen



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2020 Chairman of the Board
MIAMI Association of Realtors

Florida Realtors® Education Foundation Awards \$185,600 in Scholarships

With Florida entering the second phase of reopening businesses and its economy, high school seniors across the state are hopeful they will be on college campuses this fall. Along with the COVID-19 pandemic, college costs are top-of-mind: There's help from Florida Realtors® Education Foundation Inc., which has awarded scholarships to 132 well-deserving young people living in communities throughout the state.

A not-for-profit corporation established by the state Realtor association, the Florida Realtors Education Foundation Inc. provides real estate-related educational scholarships. The Foundation's Board of Directors awarded \$185,600 in scholarships to help pay for higher education expenses for 132 young people in the 2020-2021 school year. All recipients are Florida residents and will be attending community colleges, four-year universities, graduate programs or law schools, both in state and out-of-state. Some students wish to pursue careers in real estate.

Over the past decade, the Florida Realtors Education Foundation Student Scholarship Program has helped 1,189 young people realize their dreams for the future by continuing their education. Florida Realtors has awarded a total of \$1,739,400 in scholarships, providing much-needed financial support to these students and their families. These scholarships serve as an investment in the future, and Florida Realtors feels privileged to give back to our communities by helping these deserving young people.

Scholarship recipients are enrolled at institutions of higher learning throughout the state, such as the University of Florida, Florida State University, University of Central Florida, University of South Florida, University of North Florida, Florida Southern College, Florida Atlantic University, Stetson University and Florida Gulf Coast University, as well as other colleges throughout the U.S., including Yale University, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Arizona State University, George Washington University and the U.S. Air Force Academy, to name a few.

A variety of criteria was considered for successful applicants including academic achievements, financial need, relationship to the Realtor family and contributions to family, school and community.

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FROM PAGE 1C
PETS

● Give them exercise. A tremendous amount of exercise. Think of it as a coping mechanism. Dogs are less prone to get worked up because they are tired. Re-direct them into an activity they enjoy, maybe throwing a ball. "As much stimulation as you can provide," Langston said. ● Do not coddle them. If you try to comfort them

when they are upset, it is likely they will feed off that energy and assume you are scared as well. It will make them more anxious and have the opposite effect. "If your dog insists on hiding, I am OK with that," Langston said. "If they find a dark corner of the closet and they seem to be able to cope I suggest leaving them alone." ● Consider a sedative. If a dog is likely to have a severe reaction, it's best to call your vet and see if a sedative would be a good fit. If you go that route, make sure the dog gets the

medication before the fireworks begin. Dogs that escalate to that level are in peril because "they can rip through walls. They can destroy things," Langston said. "They don't understand it, so they go into this powerful state of panic." ● Be prepared. The best advice is to anticipate your dog's behavior and be preventative. "Every year there's a lot of reports about dogs who escape from houses, end up getting hit by cars ... disappear," Langston said. "Having a really sound place for your dog that they

can't escape from is extremely important." There is no quick fix here, especially if you are dealing with extreme circumstances and anxiety, Langston said. "Since this is something that only happens once a year your goal is not to fix the behavior but to help the dog cope with the experience as best you can," Langston said. "If you want to fix this we need to start weeks or even months in advance to reduce the association the dog experiences during the fireworks."

FROM PAGE 1C
BUBBLE

while outside the bubble. "You are now swimming in the same pool with not just that person, but all the people those people are interacting with," said Dr. Aaron Milstone at the Johns Hopkins University School

of Medicine. Support bubbles are already catching on in the U.S. with reopenings underway. And earlier this month, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that adults living alone or single parents can form support bubbles with another household. Members of a bubble can meet, indoors or out, without

remaining two meters (6 1/2 feet) apart. It's too soon to know whether the strategy will work on a broad scale. But a recent study indicated that bubbles with more limited contacts worked better to flatten the curve of infection compared with other strategies, such as limiting contact to one's neighborhood. "I don't think we can

promise people complete safety when they have face-to-face contact with others outside their household," said study co-author Per Block of Oxford University. But he said limiting interactions to one other family poses a much smaller risk than resuming previous socializing habits.

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