

Wednesday August 10, 2016 • Vol. 140 • No. 223 • 18 pages

WEATHER

Outlook Clear, hot, gusty. Another gusty day. See forecast on Page 2B.

SPRINKLING ALERT

The Florida Keys Mosquito Control District has scheduled an aerial spraying mission for today, Aug. 10, from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m., for Upper Matecumbe, Windley, Plantation and lower Key Largo.

The spraying mission will be completed, weather permitting, today.

This is desirable to assist as a part of the district's integrated pest management program to control ongoing adult mosquitoes. It is a non-persistent insecticide that breaks down rapidly when applied to the surface of application employed by the district.

For information, call Mosquito Control at 305-252-7191.

FLORIDA

Clinton urges action on Zika

Urging Congress to cut short the summer recess, Hillary Clinton called for emergency public health action Tuesday as she visited a Miami neighborhood dealing with the first U.S. outbreak of the Zika virus.

At a local health clinic, the Democratic presidential nominee said Republican congressional leaders should move legislation back to Washington and immediately pass funding for the Zika response.

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ON THE RADIO

US 104 101

Source: Tannehill is moving for County Judge — Group 2.

Also on today's show:

- Jack White — Key West High School
- Chuck Walcott — Back the Blue
- Rick Ramirez — Monroe County Sheriff
- Russen Gaudin — Monroe County Administrator
- Joe Schell — Key West city manager
- Susan Miller — Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce
- Liz Young — Arts Council

8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

keywestnews.com

First Monroe Zika case confirmed

Resident's Marathon neighborhood undergoing spraying

BY ADAM LINHART
 Key West Citizen

The first travel-related Zika case was confirmed Tuesday by the Florida Department of Health, and the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District has been aggressively spraying the Marathon neighborhood where the woman lives, officials said.

Last week, Rita Tadie, director of the local chapter of the Health Department, said 25 people in

the Keys had been tested for Zika. Twenty-four came back negative and the department was waiting on the results of the last case. This confirmation is that last case, Tadie said.

"Travel-related case" means that the woman was infected while out of the country and did not get the virus from mosquitoes in the Keys, said Tadie and Florida Keys

Mosquito Control District Executive Director Michael Doyle.

There have been instances of traveling that mosquitoes in the Keys have the Zika virus, both officials said.

The woman's name and the nation where she traveled were not immediately released out of respect for her privacy, Tadie said.

"We went to the area (where she resided) and sprayed with both le-

tricide and ultraviolet intensity for three blocks in all directions from the person's home in order to make sure as possibly infected mosquitoes could transmit the virus to someone else," Doyle said.

Workers will continue to spray in the coming days as well as put out traps to test (doyle suggests mosquito-

See ZIKA, Page 6A

MOVING FORWARD



ABOVE: Ashley McFarland and Chuck Pace wait for a light at the intersection of Reynolds and South streets as they commute on their bicycles Tuesday with their dog, Rex, in back of the bicycle. McFarland and Pace feel safe commuting on their bikes and feel most motorists are considerate. **BELOW:** Bicyclists and a pedicab make their way to and from the Seasidefront Park.

City, FDOT join to further transportation plans

BY SCOTT LINDSEY
 Key West Citizen

Alternative transportation plans for Key West are falling up with help from South Florida Commuter Services.

SPCS is a program of the Florida Department of Transportation that provides outreach to commuters and assistance to employers and is completely funded by FDOT.

Key West Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator Chris Hamilton recently outlined the help of SPCS to assist with the city's plans of providing a network of alternative transportation options like walking, biking and public transit.

Working with SPCS will save the city approximately a quarter million dollars in the first year, according to



Hamilton.

"They confirmed they would be spending somewhere between \$200,000 and \$300,000, just on Key West over the next year," he said.

SPCS services Talle and Monroe Counties and has a \$4 million annual

budget, a staff of 10 and access to a marketing team that will assist the city with development of maps, as well as advertising, marketing and business outreach services.

See BIKES, Page 6A

Key West hospital not for sale

BY MANDY MILLS
 Key West Citizen

The company that runs the Key West hospital had big money this year but is not looking to sell Lower Keys Medical Center to help manage its debt.

Lower Keys Medical Center is not currently among the dozens of more hospitals and other facilities being unhooked by Community Health Systems, the Tennessee-based health conglomerate that operates the Key West hospital and 150 other hospitals, company officials said Tuesday.

"Regarding potential transactions, Community Health Systems reported during its second quarter earnings call on Aug. 2 that we have transactions underway to divest

See HOSPITAL, Page 6A

FHP IDs fatalities in two crashes

BY ADAM LINHART
 Key West Citizen

On Tuesday, the Florida Highway Patrol identified two people who were killed in separate crashes on U.S. 1 over the last week.

On Aug. 1, a 1985 Harley-Davidson driven by Roger Walden, 55, of Key West, was southbound at Mile Marker 15 at 8:25 p.m. with Rosalyn M. Sylvia, 41, also of Key West, seated behind him when they were struck by a Toyota SUV driven by Mary Bailey, 25, of Key West, reports say.

Bailey continued to drive southbound for about half a mile from the initial crash scene, reports say.

Sylvia was deceased at the

See CRASH, Page 6A

School district gauges worker satisfaction

BY MANDY MILLS
 Key West Citizen

Ninety-six percent of first-year school district employees are satisfied with their decision to work for the district, but only 70 percent are also satisfied with the cost of living in the Florida Keys.

Monroe County School Board members on Tuesday heard a detailed report from Russen Gaudin, director of compiling data about how

employees stay when they go, why they leave and how happy they are while working in the district.

"Overall, 96 percent of people were satisfied with their decision to come work here, but that doesn't take into account the financial factors of living here."

Russen Gaudin
 Director, Monroe County School District Survey Research

employees stay when they go, why they leave and how happy they are while working in the district.

"This will be an annual thing," Gaudin told the board members at their

meeting Tuesday morning at Coral Shores High School. "We'll get into the schools to talk to people."

He explained that no reporters were allowed to the meeting during the interview and the employees were told they could remain anonymous on their data sheets. Human resources officials interviewed teachers, administrators and non-instructional staff.

See SCHOOLS, Page 6A

MOVING FORWARD



Photos by MIKE HENTZ/The Citizen

ABOVE: Ashley McFarland and Chuck Paez wait for a light at the intersection of Reynolds and South streets as they commute on their bicycles Tuesday with their dog, Reef, in back of the tricycle. McFarland and Paez feel safe commuting on their bikes and feel most motorists are considerate. **BOTTOM:** Bicyclists and a pedicab make their way to and from the Southernmost Point.

City, FDOT join to further transportation plans

BY SCOTT UNGER

Key West Citizen

Alternative transportation plans for Key West are fueling up with help from South Florida Commuter Services.

SFCS is a program of the Florida Department of Transportation that provides outreach to commuters and assistance to employers and is completely funded by FDOT.

Key West Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator Chris Hamilton recently enlisted the help of SFCS to assist with the city's plans of providing a network of alternative transportation options like walking, biking and public transit.

Working with SFCS will save the city approximately a quarter million dollars in the first year, according to



Hamilton.

"They confirmed they would be spending somewhere between \$200,000 and \$300,000, just on Key West over the next year," he said.

SFCS services Dade and Monroe Counties and has a \$4 million annual

budget, a staff of 18 and access to a marketing team that will assist the city with development of maps, as well as advertising, marketing and business outreach services.

See **BIKES**, Page 8A

Bikes

Continued from Page 1A

“There isn’t really a good map of the bike trail network and we think one of the best ways to get people to bike and walk is for them to realize how short of a time difference there is (between biking and driving),” Hamilton said. “(SFCS is) going to bring in their marketing experts and help us brand a program that promotes all options.”

Brochures will outline bike paths, pedestrian routes and bus routes, as well as information on safe transit through the city’s “Share Our Streets, Be a PAL (predictable, alert, lawful) program,” Hamilton said.

“We want to make sure people are sharing the streets, because that seems to be one of the big contentions,” he said.

The work is part of a long-term plan to give residents, workers and visitors clear

alternatives to driving. Once the brochures are completed, city and SFCS employees will hit the streets to raise community awareness, especially with businesses and hotels.

“By the end of December, the beginning of the season, we want to have all these materials in hand and go out to the public. One of the key parts of the whole plan is to work through businesses and hotels, because they can also influence the visitor parking,” Hamilton said. “We need to have our brochures ... in every hotel in the city.”

Research has shown that informing the public of other options than driving can greatly affect the use of alternative transit and bicycles, Hamilton said.

“Just by promoting programs that people are unaware of, they can get anywhere from a 15 to 50 percent jump or lift in some of these modes (of transportation)...just by making it easy for people to use the

options, it lifts the investment in the options themselves,” he said. “If you put a map and schedule on the bus stop, someone’s going to stop and go, ‘Oh, I didn’t know it went there.’”

Although it is mostly a marketing service, SFCS will help coordinate car and van pooling operations and work with businesses and employees to earn tax credits by biking or pooling to work.

The process of transitioning into an alternative transportation town is slow, but by providing options and working with SFCS, residents will soon see progress.

“In a year, people would know there are options ... they’ll know how to access those options whether they’re living here, working here or visiting,” said Hamilton. “So you’d start to ... see that incremental change where more people are biking, walking and using transit. And that’s just going to help Key West be a better place.”

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