

**WEATHER**



**Kasey Kasper**, third grade, The Basilica School

See forecast on Page 2A

**TROPICAL WEATHER**

**County braces for tropical weather**

A tropical disturbance about 700 miles east-southeast of Key West could intensify and bring heavy rainfall and possible tropical force wind gusts to Monroe County on Sunday and Monday, according to the National Weather Service in Key West.

On Thursday, the disturbance was unorganized and moving west-northwest at 10 to 15 mph. There is a 50 percent chance it will develop into a tropical storm within the next two days, according to NWS, and an 80 percent chance of becoming a tropical storm in the next five days.

Heavy rainfall — 4-6 inches — is expected in Monroe County from 8 a.m. Sunday to 8 a.m. Tuesday, 4 to 6 inches of rain is expected, and localized flooding is possible, according to the county.

The Coast Guard set port condition whiskey Thursday, meaning it expects gale force winds within 72 hours. All Florida Keys ports facilities are open to all commercial traffic and all transfer operations can continue while whiskey remains in effect. Sustained winds between 39 and 54 mph are possible within 72 hours.

Meanwhile, Hurricane Gaston was downgraded late Thursday as it weakened to a tropical storm in the Atlantic.

**ON THE RADIO**



**Monroe County Emergency Management director Marty Senterfit talks about the approaching storm.**

- Also on today's show:**
- Ron Cooke — sports
  - Andy Newman — TDC
  - Heather Carruthers — county mayor
  - Kay Harris — KW Citizen
  - Andy Griffiths — school board
  - Doug Shook — Conch Revival Picnic
  - Steve Estes — News Barometer

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



## 2nd Zika case in Keys confirmed

**BY TIMOTHY O'HARA**  
Key West Citizen

The state Department of Health has reported a second travel-related case of Zika in the Marathon area in the Florida Keys.

The Department of Health wouldn't release exact information on the location or the identity of

the person, but only said the person was in Marathon. Local health department Director Bob Eadie said the person is from South America and acquired the mosquito-transmitted disease outside of the Keys. The person traveled to Marathon from Miami-Dade County and was infected and tested while visiting the Keys, Eadie said.

The person has since left the Keys, Eadie said.

The case seems to date back to the week of Aug. 5 when Florida Keys Mosquito Control District began ramping up its mosquito control efforts in a three-block area around the infected area in Marathon during a two-day period. At that time, it was considered a

"suspect case," Mosquito Control Executive Director Michael Doyle said.

Inspectors treated homes, dumped out free-standing water, sprayed pesticides in the area and set mosquitoes traps, Doyle said. Inspectors again intensified

See ZIKA, Page 10A

## HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY



Photos by ROB O'NEAL/The Citizen

**TOP: Construction of Fort Jefferson in the Dry Tortugas began in 1825 and despite 30 years of effort, the structure, the largest of its kind in the western hemisphere, was never finished. Covering 11 of Garden Key's 16 acres, the fort consists of more than 16 million hand-made bricks and was named a National Monument in 1935, then, in 1992, a National Park. The park itself covers some 100 square miles, 98% of which is underwater. Famous visitors to the island include Dr. Samuel Mudd and Queen Elizabeth II. Located about 70 miles west of Key West, the park is accessible by seaplane or high-speed ferry.**

**LEFT: National Park Ranger Kelly Clark, left, shares centennial celebration information with Nicole Uibel and Todd Hitchins on Thursday at the Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center at the Truman Waterfront.**



**The blue skies over Everglades National Park are reflected in the eye of an alligator near the Big Cypress swamp. The crafty reptile was positioned directly below a nest of Wood Stork fledglings.**



## Judge OKs affordable housing proposal

**BY TIMOTHY O'HARA**  
Key West Citizen

A state administrative law judge has issued a favorable ruling to the developers of a proposed 213-unit affordable housing complex on Big Coppitt and Rockland keys, but don't expect any construction any time soon.

In February, the Monroe County Commission approved changing the zoning map for 14 acres of land bordering Rockland and Big Coppitt keys that would allow for the placement of up to 213 affordable housing rental units there.

For more than three years, the Toppino family, under the name Rockland Operations, has been working on a plan to build an affordable housing complex on the 14 acres of bayfront property near their concrete operation on Rockland Key.

The county sent the proposed zoning change to the state Department of Economic Opportunity for ratification, but Big Coppitt Key residents Greg Daniels and Michael Bellows appealed the proposal to the state Department of Administrative Hearings, and Naval Air Station Key West later joined the appeal opposing the proposal.

Daniels and Bellows contend the proposal is inconsistent because county land regulations discourage developments within the Coastal High Hazard (flooding) Areas, and the subject property is located entirely within a high hazard area. But a county planner

See PROPOSAL, Page 10A

## Workshop addresses Key West congestion

**BY SCOTT UNGER**  
Key West Citizen

City officials and local business interests put their heads together Thursday in an effort to reduce the number of cars on city

streets. Sustainability Director Allison Higgins organized the workshop, which shared results from a recent study on cutting down congestion from University of South Florida graduate stu-

dent Mary Bishop. The research focused on first-time visitors to the island, which provide the best data in terms of travel options and openness to changes on the next visit, Bishop said.

"First-time visitors are the ones who really need to be reached," she said. "They don't realize how small (Key West) is."

The extensive study

See WORKSHOP, Page 10A

## Gun and drug suspect asks judge to toss key evidence

**BY ADAM LINHARDT**  
Key West Citizen

A Key West ex-convict with a lengthy arrest history facing four decades in federal prison on cocaine and firearm-related charges wants a judge to toss key evidence in the case.

Harry Bacon Jr., 57, was indicted in June on counts

of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of a firearm and ammunition by a convicted felon and possession with intent to distribute cocaine following a traffic stop on April 23. During that stop, a Florida



Bacon

Highway Patrol trooper pulled over Bacon for speeding and allegedly smelled marijuana, records state. That led the trooper to search the car, which the government alleges turned up a .380 pistol and six rounds of ammunition as well as cocaine. According to a motion

to suppress evidence filed by Assistant Federal Public Defender Michael Spivack, Bacon denies there was any odor of marijuana in the car and the search was therefore illegal.

If the search was illegal, then the government should not be allowed to use the gun as evidence in court, according to the defense

attorney. Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Wilson had not filed a response as of Thursday, which U.S. Magistrate Judge Lurana S. Snow set a deadline for on Sept. 6. As such, she had yet to rule on the motion.

Meanwhile, Snow denied

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## Accidental overdoses killed 8 people a day in Ohio last year

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Accidental drug overdoses killed 3,050 people in Ohio last year, an average of eight per day, as deaths blamed on the powerful painkiller fentanyl again rose sharply and pushed the total overdose fatalities to a record high, the state reported Thursday.

Over one-third of those deaths — 1,155 — were fentanyl-related, which more

than doubled from the previous year and increased from just 75 in 2012.

Authorities who had been targeting prescription painkiller abuse say the problem has changed quickly in recent years as users turned to heroin, fentanyl and even stronger drugs.

It's an epidemic that can only be effectively addressed through cooperation and a combination of prevention, early intervention, up-to-date

treatment, and life-saving measures such as the opioid overdose antidote naloxone, said Dr. Mark Hurst, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services' medical director.

"This isn't an issue that, as state departments and agencies, we're going to be able to solve unilaterally," Hurst said. "It requires communities, it requires families, it requires individuals, it requires schools. If we're really going to make

good progress and sustain progress on this, we need all hands on deck."

Republican Gov. John Kasich said he believes the state is making progress, despite the latest record death toll.

"It makes me feel terrible, but what makes me feel good is how many people did not die because of our efforts," he said Thursday at a special judicial summit on opioids in Cincinnati involving authorities from nine states.

## Auto, technology industries clash over talking cars

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Cars that wirelessly talk to each other are finally ready for the road, creating the potential to dramatically reduce traffic deaths, improve the safety of self-driving cars and someday maybe even help solve traffic jams, automakers and government officials say.

But there's a big catch. The cable television and high-tech industries want to take away a large share of the radio airwaves the government dedicated for transportation in 1999, and use it instead for superfast Wi-Fi service. Auto industry officials are fighting to hang on to as much of the spectrum as they can, saying they expect they will ultimately need all of it for the new vehicle-to-vehicle communications, or V2V.

The government and the auto industry have spent more than a decade and more than \$1 billion researching

and testing V2V technology. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is expected to propose as early as next month that new cars and trucks come equipped with it. General Motors isn't waiting for the proposal, saying it will include V2V in Cadillac CTS sedans before the end of the year.

"We're losing 35,000 people every year (to traffic crashes)," said Harry Lightsey, a General Motors lobbyist. "This technology has the power to dramatically reduce that. To me, the ability of somebody to download movies or search the internet or whatever should be secondary to that."

The fight pits two government agencies against each other: The Federal Communications Commission, which regulates spectrum and sympathizes with wireless proponents, and NHTSA, which regulates auto safety and has long made V2V a top priority.

## Evidence

Continued from Page 1A

a motion filed by Bacon himself from jail requesting he be released for treatment of a "basketball-sized hernia." Snow denied the motion, citing legal rules that bar defendant's from

filing motions when they are represented by a lawyer. In other words, when a defendant has a lawyer, he or she can only file motions via their attorney.

Federal prosecutors do not comment on pending cases.

Bacon was previously convicted of felony posses-

sion of a firearm in 1999 and was sentenced to supervised release. He would later serve about four months in state prison in 2007 for grand theft, resisting an officer with violence and driving with a suspended license.

Bacon, formerly of Miami-Dade County, has an arrest history in Monroe

County dating to 2009, but his arrest history in Florida dates back much further and includes drugs, dealing in stolen property, battery and grand theft, among other charges.

Snow ordered him to be detained without bail prior to trial last month.

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## Workshop

Continued from Page 1A

looked at a number of factors and decisions including how tourists get to the island, how much they drive while visiting and what options they would be open to on their next visit.

Learning from a data driven study is important because many projects fail when they are based on assumption or anecdotal evidence, according to Planning Director Thaddeus Cohen.

"It's important for us to be working with a research group so we can move forward in that data-based direction," Cohen said.

The study revealed out-of-town guests get most information about the island from websites and social media. However, once they arrive, the majority of information comes from hotels, Bishop said.

Hotels could inform incoming guests of driving

alternatives by email confirmation when booking to inform tourists before they arrive, Mark Songer said.

"That's something where you could change behavior before people get here," Songer said.

After the presentation, the group discussed the study and shared experiences to give city staff feedback on customer requests.

Those in attendance were split on the importance of cutting down traffic to the island versus cutting down drivers once the tourists arrive.

A circulator bus traveling Old Town on a continuous loop with reliable stop times was a popular option among those in attendance.

Community Foundation of the Florida Keys president Dianna Sutton said creating an infrastructure that is helpful to both tourists and residents is key to accomplishing transportation goals.

"I think we have to, as a community, agree on being a

carefree Key West," she said. "I think it is very important to not separate it into two entities."

Alternative options need to be available before local businesses can push them, according to Jodi Weinhofer, President of the Key West Lodging Association.

"Part of the problem is we don't have the infrastructure," Weinhofer said. "The system needs to exist before you can push it. If we had reliable downtown transportation I don't think anybody would move their car."

New and different transportation options like Uber, bike shares and shuttle services deserve a shot in Key West to let the customers decide, Weinhofer said.

"We constantly hear it at the hotels, 'how come you don't have rental bikes?'" she said.

"Sooner or later we have to decide that two (businesses) can survive or one is a dinosaur and it has to go away."

Many of those polled asked questions about Uber, the ride sharing service currently banned in Key West, Bishop said.

Bringing Uber back to Key West would be a "huge solution," to congestion problems, according to Richard Tallmadge, owner of The Restaurant Store.

"For us in this community not to have this technology is a crime," he said.

Many other ideas were batted around including creating pedestrian only streets and enlisting tour vehicles as alternative transportation.

Several in the group said they learned new things from the study and discussion and Weinhofer encouraged city staff to continue to work with businesses to bring ideas to fruition.

"We can get you letters, we can get you support," she said. "I think that would help you get some stuff through (the City Commission) that the rest of us (support)."

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## Proposal

Continued from Page 1A

testified during the hearing that "almost the entire Keys is in the Coastal High Hazard Areas with exception of some areas just along U.S. Highway 1 in the Upper Keys."

The residents and the Navy also contend the development would be in area prone to loud jet noise and county land-use laws discourage development in such area. The only reason the county is considering

the proposal because the housing is affordable and there is a sizable need for worker housing.

"They should not be putting affordable housing in an area where there will be jet noise from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.," the residents attorney Ralph Brooks said. "It's right in the flight path."

However, the hearing officer ruled last week that the proposal is consistent with the county's comprehensive land use plan.

"The evidence supports a conclusion that the plan amendment is consistent with the principles as

a whole," Administrative Law Judge Suzanne Van Wyk wrote. "In summary, petitioners failed to prove beyond fair debate that the plan amendment is not 'in compliance.'"

However, Bellows and Daniels attorney have filed exemptions with the Department of Economic Opportunity to stop the proposal from moving, their attorney said.

The Navy is still "opposed" to the proposal and "still exploring its options" in protesting the proposal, Naval Air Station Key West spokeswoman

Trice Denny said.

The developers have yet to file for a development agreement that will spell out exact plans and number of units. They are waiting until all of the appeals have been exhausted and the state approves the zoning change before filing a development agreement, their attorney Bart Smith said.

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## Zika

Continued from Page 1A

efforts on Aug. 22 when it became a "potential case," Doyle said.

The Department of Health reported its first case of Zika in the Keys in Grassy Key last month.

"It was only a matter of

time before we started seeing it here," Doyle said.

Zika is different from other tropical diseases like dengue fever, which results in flu-like symptoms. Zika has been linked with a birth defect that results in children being born with abnormally small heads.

The cases come as the Mosquito Control District has partnered with the

British-based company Oxitec on testing genetically modified Aedes aegypti mosquitoes on Key Haven.

Some residents have opposed the test release and the Mosquito Control board agreed to ask Key Haven voters if they support the test. Residents will vote Nov. 8 whether they approve of the test or not.

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