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KEY WEST

Grace Kirwan

The Florida Keys' Only Daily Newspaper, Est. 1876

Monroe County volleyball season preview — Page 1B



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WEATHER



Ola Turek, fourth grade, The Basilica School

See forecast on Page 2A

NATION

Zika vaccine trial begins in Puerto Rico

A Pennsylvania drug company announced Monday that it has launched a clinical trial of an experimental Zika vaccine in Puerto Rico, the part of the U.S. hardest hit by the mosquito-borne virus. Inovio Pharmaceuticals Inc. will be testing its DNA-based vaccine candidate on 160 adult volunteers in Puerto Rico. Inovio Pharmaceuticals Inc. will be testing its DNA-based vaccine candidate on 160 adult volunteers in Puerto Rico. **Page 3A**

NATION

Two slain nuns remembered

Hundreds of people filled a cathedral in Mississippi's capital city on Monday to remember two nuns who spent decades helping the needy and were found stabbed to death last week in their home in one of the poorest counties of the state. **Page 7A**

WORLD

Brazilian President Rousseff blasts VP

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff proclaimed her innocence on Monday, branding her vice president a "usurper" and warning senators that history would judge them harshly if they ousted a democratically elected leader on false charges. **Page 7A**

ON THE RADIO



Supervisor of Elections Joyce Griffin talks about Election Day.

Also on today's show:
• Neda Jackson — KWHS
• Michael Doyle — Mosquito Control
• Capt. Bobby Baker — NAS KW
• Beth Deveny — Sanctuary
• Anitere Flores — state senator
• Harry Crissy — Extension Service

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



Fly or ferry, but please don't drive

Study encourages car-less tourism

BY SCOTT UNGER
Key West Citizen

Reliable and efficient public transportation along with increased arrivals by plane or ferry are the best strategies to cut down tourist cars in Key West, according to a new report.

In conjunction with the Key West Planning Department, University of South Florida graduate student Mary Bishop surveyed 398 tourists for her report: "Toward Car Free Key West."

Although 49 percent of visitors reported walking primarily while visiting and 32 percent said they

didn't use a car at all, the majority of tourists drive to Key West, the report states.

By personal or rental car, 66 percent of travelers drove down U.S. 1. Arrivals by ferry or airplane each accounted for 13 percent. When asked what mode car drivers would consider for their next trip, approximately 35 percent said they would consider flying and 27 percent of

personal car drivers said they would consider the ferry.

The majority of personal cars come from South Florida (55 percent) although they only represent 33 percent of total visitors. Midwestern travelers accounted for 35 percent of rental cars.

Once they arrive, tourists tend

See **STUDY**, Page 8A

FAMILIAR FACES:

An ongoing series that looks at the people who make up our island community

Jon Rizzo weathers his fears

BY TIMOTHY O'HARA
Key West Citizen

Jon Rizzo became a meteorologist in part to understand his own fears about weather.

As a boy growing in Maryland, the booming sound of loud thunder would send him to his bedroom running for cover. Rizzo has since ridden out some of the most dangerous tropical storms and hurricanes to skirt the Florida Keys in the past 12 years.

Rizzo serves as warning coordinating meteorologist for the National Weather Service's Key West office on White Street. He was on the front lines of the more than a half-dozen hurricanes, many from the most dangerous point on the island — the old flood-prone weather station office off coastal South Roosevelt Boulevard at the airport.

The office moved to White Street shortly before Hurricane Wilma flooded the island in 2005, leaving South Roosevelt Boulevard under several feet of seawater during the peak of the storm.

Rizzo refers to his current position as a "childhood dream come true." He knew since middle school he wanted to be a meteorologist, passing over percussionist and civil engineer, his two other passions, he said.

"I was frightened by storms and I wanted to know what frightened me," he said. "I remember hearing stories about being that 3-year-old who stood in front of the screen door



Photos by ROB O'NEAL/The Citizen

Jon Rizzo is the warning coordinating meteorologist at the Key West office of the National Weather Service, which opened on White Street in 2005.



John Van Pelt, right, a field correspondent with the WeatherNation channel, speaks with Jon Rizzo on Monday about filming the National Weather Service office on White Street for an upcoming feature. Van Pelt noted the aesthetics of the building saying that most weather stations are 'boring square boxes.' The Key West office features built-in 'hurricane red' storm shutters and a huge mural by artist Rick Worth in the lobby.

during a storm and running to his bedroom at the sound of thunder."

After graduating from Florida State University and briefly working in the

private sector, Rizzo started with the National Weather Service in Key West in 1999, working an entry level position. He briefly moved to Spokane, Washington for

two years before returning to the Key West station in 2001.

He and his wife, Alicia,

See **RIZZO**, Page 8A

Primary elections set for today

BY TIMOTHY O'HARA
Key West Citizen

Residents will go to the polls today and will definitively decide the Upper Keys Monroe County Commissioner, Middle to Lower Keys school board member, Upper Keys County judge and one of two Key West utility board seats.

The voters will also decide what state and federal house representative candidates will face the Republican incumbents in the November general election. Voters will decide today if County Clerk of Court Amy Heavilin or Republican challenger Kevin Madok will face former clerk of court employee and former state House Rep. Ron Saunders Nov. 8.

Also, voters will decide which mosquito control candidates in two separate races will make it to the general election, as those are partisan seats as well.

In Key West, voters may decide if Vidal, Tim Root or Carol Schreck takes the Group 3 Utility Board seat if one of the three receives more than 50 percent of the vote.

Even if one of the three Key West mayoral candidates receives more than 50 percent of the vote today, he would still have to face write-in candidate Sloan Bashinsky in November.

Fears of extreme weather impacting voter turnout have subsided, as the Florida Keys are not in the path of a tropical depression

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Trial begins in fatal hit-and-run crash case

BY ADAM LINHARDT
Key West Citizen

The trial of an 89-year-old man accused of killing a retired NFL player in a 2014 hit-and-run crash began Monday.

Former Chicago Bears offensive lineman Christopher Edward Dyko, 48, of Bremerton, Wash., was killed in

December 2014 when he was struck while riding a bicycle on U.S. 1 on Sugarloaf Key, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

Domingo Javier Veloso of Sugarloaf Key is accused of first-degree felony leaving the scene of a crash involving death, which carries a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison. He faces a minimum mandatory sen-

tence of four years in state prison if convicted.

Jury selection began Monday with Judge Wayne Miller presiding.

Assistant State Attorney Christine Poist is prosecuting, while Veloso is being



Veloso

represented by defense attorneys Don Barrett and Bruce Alter.

State Attorney Catherine Vogel declined to say whether a plea agreement was offered to Veloso prior to trial.

Dyko was a former standout offensive lineman for the Washington State Cougars and was drafted by the Chicago Bears in

1989, where he played eight games over the course of that season, according to nfl.com.

He went on to play three years in the Canadian Football League from 1993 to 1995 with the Birmingham Barracudas and the Sacramento Gold Miners.

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FROM PAGE 1



ROB O'NEAL/The Citizen

Only 13% of visitors arrive by plane and another 13% by ferry leading to crowded roads in the Lower Keys.

Study

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to find that cars are unnecessary.

Nearly 50 percent of visitors reported walking as their primary means of travel while in Key West and 32 percent said they didn't use a car at all. Those "zero car users" arrived primarily by plane or ferry, but personal car users accounted for more than 15 percent of respondents.

"While 66 percent of visitors in this study arrived with a vehicle, only 27 percent reported using that vehicle as their primary form of transportation during their visit," the report states. "There is substantial evidence from this survey data to indicate that a vehicle is not necessarily needed once visitors arrive on the island."

Transportation choices also rely heavily on where the visitor stayed. Among guests staying in Old Town, 75 percent walked or biked primarily, but that number drops to 43 percent for those staying outside the historic district.

Avoiding drinking and driving, parking fees and long hunts for spots were listed as extremely beneficial reasons to not have a car by more than 65 percent polled.

Free and convenient public transportation and shuttles from hotels were the highest rated incentives for not driving. However, those that want to drive probably won't be persuaded against it by raising parking costs or implementing bridge tolls.

"While the disincentives listed may be somewhat effective, a strong case cannot be made for any of them based on this data," Bishop said.

The choice to drive appears to fade after the first visit and lessens the more trips are made, the study found.

Personal car use remains the same no matter the trip, but rental car use drops significantly after the first trip. Conversely, air travel increased from six percent of first time arrivals to 34 percent for those who have visited more than five times.

Asked to consider travel options for the next trip, roughly half said they would consider driving while 82

percent would consider flying and 67 percent would consider the ferry.

Implementing efficient public transportation and offering benefits to air or ferry travelers — such as off season discounts or Florida resident specials — are optimal strategies for reducing traffic, Bishop said.

"Proper marketing and promotion could dissuade those accustomed to driving to the island to consider other modes. It is clear from these survey results that Key West visitors see the value of car-free travel," she said. "A downtown circulator or a greater number of hotel shuttles would prevent tourists from having to wait more than 15 minutes."

Those strategies would cut down up to 5 percent of drivers to the island over the next five years, according to the study.

The Planning Department will use the survey in conjunction with its own research, according to Sustainability Coordinator Allison Higgins. The entire report can be found on the city's website, <http://www.cityofkeywest-fl.gov>.

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Trial

Continued from Page 1A

He was also an avid mountain biker and frequent visitor to the Florida Keys, according to social media posts.

Dyko was pronounced dead at the scene after he was reportedly struck by a 1997 Ford Expedition driven

by Veloso, according to the FHP.

Veloso allegedly left the scene of the crash, then returned a few hours later when he was taken into custody, FHP Lt. Kathy McKinney said after the crash.

Dyko was wearing a helmet and was apparently bicycling alone at the time of the crash, reports state.

Neither drugs nor alcohol were believed to be factors in the crash, McKinney said at the time.

Troopers allege Veloso veered into a marked bicycle lane near the U.S. 1 shoulder.

Veloso was released from Monroe County Detention Center on Stock Island after posting \$10,000 bail.

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Elections

Continued from Page 1A

that made its way into the Gulf of Mexico.

"We are not expecting a washout by any means," National Weather Service Meteorologist Jon Rizzo said.

Fears of the tropical depression battering the Keys motivated Monroe County Supervisor of Elections Joyce Griffin to urge voters to vote early, which may have bumped up early voting to a record 19 percent with 10,188 people voting early or absentee.

If the weather holds, Griffin hopes for at least

a 35 percent turnout, she said. There was 30.5 percent turn in the August primary in 2012 and 27.2 percent turnout in the 2014 primary, according to Griffin.

"We could really blow it out and have good turnout," Griffin said.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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Rizzo

Continued from Page 1A

and son, Jack, have become an integral part of the Key West community. Alicia works as a nurse and Jack attends Horace O'Bryant school.

Rizzo will be busy from now to when hurricane season ends in November, with the most active time being September and October in the Keys. Hurricane season reaches its "statistical peak" the week of Sept. 10 in the Keys and the rest of the northern Caribbean, Rizzo said.

"We are entering prime season," Rizzo said.

As the warning coordinating meteorologist, Rizzo's is responsible for forecasting localized weather during threatening hurricanes and storms to determine when emergency crews can safely go out and survey damage or run rescue calls.

"We are like the head



ROB O'NEAL/The Citizen

Meteorologist Jon Rizzo first worked for the Key West office of the National Weather Service in 1999 and said he has been fascinated with weather since he was pre-school age.

bowling pins," Rizzo said of the weather station personnel. "Our mission is to stay with emergency management services and the first responders during the most critical times."

The summer hurricane season may be the most exciting time to be a meteorologist, but it is the everyday forecasts that many

Keys residents rely on, as they make their living on the water and need to know if a squall or front is moving through. The local office regularly issues small craft advisories and other weather notifications.

"The Keys are a more vulnerable place to work and play," Rizzo said.

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Driver charged in Minnesota crash that killed 2 firefighters

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINNEAPOLIS — A Michigan firefighter charged in a crash that killed two fellow firefighters and injured seven others told investigators he hadn't slept more than 45 minutes in more than 24 hours and had used marijuana hours before the crash, Minnesota prosecutors said in charges filed Monday.

Michael Allen Johnson, 28, of Baraga, Michigan, showed "signs of impair-

ment and combative behavior" when officers arrived at the scene just after 3 p.m. Saturday on Interstate 35W in the Minneapolis suburb of Blaine, according to a criminal complaint filed in Anoka County District Court.

Johnson later told investigators he believed he had fallen asleep at the wheel. He said he had been awake since 11 a.m. Friday and had not slept since then except for a 45-minute nap early Saturday. He also admitted to using mari-

juana early Saturday and to using cocaine two days earlier, the complaint said. Blood test results are pending.

Johnson was charged with two felony counts of criminal vehicular homicide.

The crew was from the Beartown Firefighters, which is based in Baraga on Michigan's Upper Peninsula and is managed by the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs.

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