

THE CITIZEN

KEY WEST

The Florida Keys' Only Daily Newspaper, Est. 1876

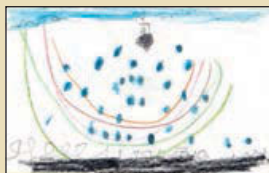
Lady 'Fins girls coach ready to rebuild — Page 1B



Friday

November 27, 2015 ♦ Vol. 139 ♦ No. 331 ♦ 16 pages

WEATHER



Mike Louis, fourth grade,
Gerald Adams Elementary
School

See forecast on Page 2A

NATION

Rubio abortion stance criticized

When Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio staked out a hard-line position on abortion in the first GOP debate, Hillary Rodham Clinton took notice. The Democratic front-runner said Rubio's assertion that he did not support abortion exceptions for victims of rape and incest was "offensive and troubling." At Clinton's Brooklyn campaign headquarters, aides saw echoes of the controversial abortion comments by other GOP candidates that hurt Republicans with women voters during the 2012 election. **Page 3A**

WORLD

Russia to cut ties with Turkey

Russia plans to retaliate against Turkey for the downing of a warplane by imposing sanctions, cutting economic ties and scrapping major investment projects. Since the plane was shot down Tuesday on the Syria-Turkey border, Russia has already restricted tourism, left Turkish trucks stranded at the border and confiscated large quantities of Turkish food imports. **Page 7A**

ON THE RADIO



School Board member **Ed Davidson** and Supt. **Mark Porter** talk about the \$20,000 missing from the HOB day-care program.

Also on today's show:

- **Ron Cooke** — sports
- **Andy Newman** — TDC
- **Dave Rice** — county commission
- **Kay Harris** — KW Citizen
- **Virginia Panico** — KW Chamber
- **Steve Estes** — News Barometer

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

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Officials spar over holiday event

BY GWEN FILOSA

Key West Citizen

A newly elected city commissioner is questioning the handling of the annual Christmas Tree Lighting event that currently involves treating a limited number of children younger than 12 to \$20 gift cards on a first-come basis.

Commissioner Margaret Romero says she supports the event, run by former city commissioner Harry Bethel for 18 years, but isn't comfortable with city staff being tasked with collecting the money donated for the cards or having to announce to children they've run out of the cards.

"I didn't want any of our city vol-

unteers to be put in an awkward spot," Romero said, adding she wants the city to be prepared for any problems that could erupt if the cards run out. "I didn't feel it right the city manager and city office be asked to handle all of that money. There was no check and balance."

This year's tree lighting, set for 6 p.m. Monday at Bayview Park,

at Truman Avenue and Jose Marti Drive, will feature Santa Claus. The first 198 children younger than 12 may take home a \$20 gift card redeemable at Kmart or Sears, paid for by \$3,960 in donations Bethel said he raised.

Romero praised Bethel for his

See **EVENT**, Page 8A

SCULPTING IN SAND



ROB O'NEAL/The Citizen

Sand artist Marianne van den Broek carves crashing waves into a sand sculpture Tuesday at the Casa Marina Resort on Reynolds Street. The second annual International Sand Art Competition continues through Saturday.

Artists aim to create masterpieces on beach

BY MICHAEL QUIRK

Key West Citizen

Six sculptors are fast at work on the beach behind the Casa Marina, ignoring — or maybe not even noticing — the stares of vacationers, media and resort employees wandering nearby, wondering just what the heck they're doing. With only 30 hours spread over three and a half days, the sculptors have to compact their blocks of sand and then carve out their creation in

the second edition of the International Sand Art Competition.

"Right now, they're compacting the sand in the wood forms," competition organizer and sand artist Marianne van den Broek said earlier this week. "We don't have any idea what they're creating but they do and they'll start working their way down."

Van den Broek isn't the only one who doesn't know what's being created as the sculptors are keeping their ultimate intentions close to vest. Between

the six sculptors — featuring artists from Key West, California, Spain, Canada, Missouri and Holland — they will use 100 tons of sand that took five trucks to deliver it from Miami. According to van der Broek, the Miami sand compresses well and makes the natural canvasses easier to work upon.

The organizer was quick to dispel myths that glue or any foreign adhesive is used to hold together the sand

See **SAND**, Page 8A

Leaders continue push for Keys bill

BY TIMOTHY O'HARA

Key West Citizen

Florida Keys leaders have mounted a serious offensive to lobby for the passage of a state bill that could bring as much as \$200 million in the next 10 years to the Keys for water quality and the acquisition of conservation land.

Monroe County and Keys officials have made numerous trips to Tallahassee in the past two months to lobby for the passage of the Florida Keys Stewardship Bill, which if passed would bring \$20 million a year in state funding for 10 years for the purchase of environmentally sensitive land, and to pay for canal restoration, stormwater and wastewater projects and other water quality programs.

The bill also requests annual appropriation of \$5 million for the Keys from the Florida Forever program, which funds land conservation projects.

Monroe County Mayor Heather Carruthers and State Rep. Holly Raschein were in Tallahassee last week and spoke before both the Senate General Government Appropriations Subcommittee and the House Agriculture

See **BILL**, Page 8A

Alleged shooter arraignment pushed back again

BY ADAM LINHARDT

Key West Citizen

A federal judge has again continued a hearing to determine if a man, whom the Coast Guard claims shot at them and rammed their boat in August, is mentally fit to stand trial.

Daniel Michael Szabo, 40, of Key Largo faces charges of knowingly using and carrying a firearm during a crime of violence and interfer-

ence with a boarding involving an attempt to kill. Both carry maximum penalties of life imprisonment.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Lurana S. Snow moved back his arraignment for the fourth time Friday to Dec. 7 at the federal courthouse in Key West on Simonton Street.



Szabo

A detention hearing was also scheduled as Snow is expecting to hear lawyers and experts detail the results of a mental health evaluation.

All three matters were first continued on Oct. 16 for another month to Nov. 20 as mental health experts needed more time to complete the evaluation, according to court records. The hearing then was pushed another 10 days to Monday as mental health experts told the

court they needed at least 15 days to prepare the report.

Court records don't state what the reason was for the latest continuance regarding the matter.

Szabo reportedly was not "designated for evaluation at the Federal Detention Center in Miami until Oct. 1," according to one of Snow's previous orders.

The mental health evaluation,

See **SHOOTER**, Page 8A

CASA MARINA RESORT

INTERNATIONAL
SANDART
COMPETITION

THROUGH NOVEMBER 29TH

TODAY'S THE DAY: 2 PM MEL FISHER'S TREASURE DIG



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