

# THE CITIZEN

KEY WEST

The Florida Keys' Only Daily Newspaper, Est. 1876

Super Bowl matchup set — Page 1B

Crist to push Congress to live up to Everglades pledge — Page 3A

Monday

January 22, 2007 • Vol. 131 • No. 17 • 16 pages

50 Cents

**WEATHER**



**Humberto Des Santos**  
Fourth grade  
Poinciana Elementary School

Sunrise: 7:13 a.m.  
Sunset: 6:04 p.m.  
Today: Clouds and sun with a shower, humid. High 82  
Tonight: Partly cloudy and warm.  
Low 71  
Complete forecast on page 2A

**LOWER KEYS**

**Body found at Ocean Walk**

KEY WEST — A woman checking the grounds of Ocean Walk Apartments on Sunday morning found the body of 22-year-old Domingo Brito, a resident of the apartment complex.

Officers responding to the 9:44 a.m. call found Brito wedged under some type of gate or door leading to the roof of one of the apartment buildings, said Christie Phillips, spokesman for the Key West Police Department.

"It looks accidental, like he was trying to get to the roof," Phillips said. "It looks like he was trying to squeeze through and his airway was cut off."

The medical examiner will perform an autopsy to determine the cause of death, she said.

**INTERNATIONAL**

**Earthquake rattles Indonesia**

MANADO, Indonesia: An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.3 shook buildings for several minutes in northeastern Indonesia Sunday and caused minor damage, the U.S. Geological Survey and witnesses said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or a tsunami after the underwater tremor off the eastern coast of Sulawesi island. **Page 8A**

**Serbs vote to determine future**

BELGRADE, Serbia: Serbs voted Sunday in parliamentary elections that could determine whether the troubled Balkan nation will continue with pro-Western reform or return to its nationalist past. **Page 8A**

**ON THE RADIO**



**Coast Guard Capt. Scott Buschman talks about search and rescue, migrant interdiction and other Coast Guard missions.**

**Also on today's show:**  
 • **Miles Puts**, Marathon city manager  
 • **Clara Hoak**, FOWS  
 • **Daniel DiPivo**, FWC  
 • **Ralph Morrow**, Key West Citizen spots

**Local News:**  
 US 1 Radio (104.1 FM): 7:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., noon, 5 p.m., 9 p.m.  
 98.7 FM Conch Country: 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m., 5 p.m.

FLORIDA KEYS  
**keynews.com**

**INDEX**

Classified Ads.....	5-8B
Comics.....	7A
Crime Report.....	2A
Crossword.....	6A
Keys Calendar.....	2A
Lottery.....	1B
Opinion.....	4A
TV Listings.....	6A



## PLAYING IT SMART



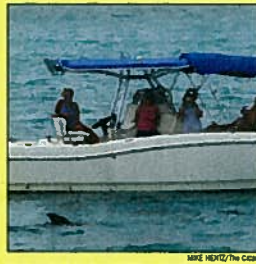
Dolphin watches are offered in the Keys and throughout Florida, but have sparked concern about harassment.

### New NOAA program promotes responsible dolphin tours

BY TIMOTHY O'HARA  
 Citizen Staff

KEY WEST — A federal agency is launching a program that would recognize and promote eco-tour operators who conduct responsible dolphin watching, tips off the Florida Keys.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Dolphin SMART program will kick off with an introductory meeting from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center at the Truman Waterfront. The meeting will offer the opportunity to learn about program requirements, hear about incentives for participation, preview the Dolphin SMART logo,



Boaters photograph a dolphin as it swims near them just outside of Key West Harbor.

See DOLPHIN, page 8A

### Health fair to offer free and low-cost exams

BY MANDY BOLEN  
 Citizen Staff

KEY WEST — Skin cancer, diabetes and high cholesterol are not popular weekend topics, but early detection and treatment can save a lifetime of weekends, and testing can be costly.

Monroe County statistics show that 17,000 Keys residents who have jobs do not have health insurance. Those residents have difficulty paying for antibiotics to treat a strep throat, and shudder at the thought of a hos-

pital stay or emergency room visit. Prevention screenings are a luxury most of those 17,000 people cannot afford.

University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine once again is sponsoring a free Florida Keys Health Fair on Saturday to promote prevention and awareness while offering medical students hands-on experience with patients and testing procedures.

"It's a learning experience for us, and a community service for people in the areas we serve," said Iaclyn

Herlihan, a second-year medical student who will be managing the station Saturday at Key West High School.

Available tests include skin cancer screenings, blood glucose, breast exams, pap smears, prostate screenings, vision and cholesterol tests. Most services are performed at no charge for anyone interested regardless of their ability to pay.

A \$5 fee will be charged for pap

See HEALTH, page 8A

### Heritage House and Museum to open up for more events

BY MANDY BOLEN  
 Citizen Staff

KEY WEST — Time marks the difference between a living room and a museum, and 173 years have passed since the first guests were welcomed into the formal drawing rooms and outdoor patio of 410 Caroline St.

Back then, the loveseat was a piece of sturdy furniture, climbed upon by young children quickly reprimanded, not a delicate antique bearing a sign warning visitors to keep off. The two-piece telephone on a wooden desk was the

**ON THE WEB:**  
 For more information, visit [www.heritagehousemuseum.org](http://www.heritagehousemuseum.org).



The drawing room and other interior areas at the Heritage House on Caroline Street are now available for formal and informal gatherings including weddings, retreats and community forums.

See MUSEUM, page 8A

## Annex offers street for rent

Lawsuit continues over Southard access

BY TIMOTHY O'HARA  
 Citizen Staff

KEY WEST — A proposal for the city to lease Southard Street from the Truman Annex Master Property Owner's Association appears to have fallen on deaf ears.

Tom Tukey, president of the Truman Annex Master Property Owner's Association (TAMPOA), gave City Commissioner Bill Verge a proposal that Tukey said would resolve the debate about who owns and regulates the section of Southard Street that runs through the Truman Annex neighborhood.

Tukey requested that Verge ask for a closed session meeting with his fellow commissioners and City Attorney Shawn Smith to consider the proposal, which in effect concedes ownership of the street to TAMPOA. The plan calls for TAMPOA to maintain two-way public access to the street in exchange for the city paying a \$20,000 annual lease for 30 years, Verge said. He brought the proposal to Smith and the two decided not to hold a special meeting because the proposal was not in the best interest of the city, said Verge.

The proposal was an attempt to settle a lawsuit TAMPOA has filed against the city over Southard Street and end a legal deposition process that has spanned several weeks.

"We want a traffic solution that is fair to us and to the city," Tukey said.

TAMPOA is suing the city to enforce a 2000 agreement the previous City Commission approved that had the city giving up all rights to Southard Street. The current City Commission declined to enforce the agreement or approve traffic plans that would reroute traffic away from Southard Street and into neighboring Bahama Village.

The latest round of legal maneuvers in the case has prompted subpoenas to 30 people who city officials say are unlikely to have insight on the Southard Street ownership question.

Among those subpoenaed are Historic Tours of America founder and developer Ed Swift, Bahama Village Consortium member Bob Kelly, Navy spokesman Jim Brooks, local attorney Hugh Morgan and a Citizen newspaper reporter and photographer.

"None of their testimony has any bearing on who owns the street," Smith said. "They are just trying to confuse the case."

The debate sparked a confrontation in September, when

See ANNEX, page 8A



KEY WEST | MARATHON | ISLAMORADA | KEY LARGO

CURRENT NEWS

Mon, Jan 22, 2007



Subscriber Login

Buy Today's Paper

Subscribe Now

Why Subscribe?

Subscribers ONLY  
FREE Archive Search



WEATHER FORECAST



Seven Day Forecast

- [Upper Keys Weather](#)
- [Middle Keys Weather](#)
- [Lower Keys Weather](#)

Provided by National Weather Service

# New NOAA program promotes responsible dolphin tours

BY TIMOTHY O'HARA

Citizen Staff

KEY WEST — A federal agency is launching a program that would recognize and promote eco-tour operators who conduct responsible dolphin watching trips off the Florida Keys.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Dolphin SMART program will kick off with an introductory meeting from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center at the Truman Waterfront. The meeting will offer the opportunity to learn about program requirements, hear about incentives for participation, preview the Dolphin SMART logo, and sign up for the first Dolphin SMART training. The program is entirely voluntary.

"No permits will be issued," said Cheva Heck, spokeswoman for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, which is part of NOAA. "This is about building public awareness."

The program sets a series of criteria for eco-tour boats to follow that promote responsible viewing of wild dolphins and prevent harassment, Heck said. The acronym SMART signifies the basic principles of viewing etiquette: stay at least 50 yards away; move away slowly if the dolphins shows signs of disturbance; always put the vessel engine in neutral; refrain from swimming with, touching or feeding wild dolphins; and teach others to follow these practices, Heck said. The program could serve as a national model.

Operators who participate will be given an annual Dolphin SMART sticker and flag for their boats. Operators must go through a renewal process each year, said Celeste Weimer, Dolphin SMART program coordinator.

Weimer will start training classes in February and conduct on-board inspections and reviews in March. There are between 25 to 30 dolphin watching boats in Key West.



CITIZEN'S VOICE

"Mayor Di Gennaro, take note: Commissioner Neugent asked a fair question and did not deserve to be..."

[Get the whole story](#)

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1831: The new collector of Customs, William A. Whitehead, arrived on the schooner Evan T. Ellicott,...

[Get the whole story](#)



NEWS

- [Current Stories](#)
- [Mile Markers](#)
- [Crime Reports](#)

OPINION

- [Editorials](#)
- [Commentary](#)
- [Letters to the Editor](#)
- [Citizen's Voice](#)
- [Cartoons](#)

SPORTS

- [Today in Sports](#)
- [Columns](#)

BUSINESS

- [This Week](#)
- [Business Briefs](#)
- [Bottom Line](#)
- [Columns](#)
- [Real Estate Net](#)

KEYS LIFE

- [Lifestyles](#)
- [Homes](#)
- [Kudos](#)
- [Columns](#)
- [Announcement](#)

Guidelines

**THE ARTS**

- Features
- Columns
- Theater Reviews

**PHOTO GALLERY**

View Photos

**COMMUNITY**

- Business
- Commentary
- Entertainment
- Keys Life
- Food
- Sports

**OBITUARIES**

Death Notices

**CLASSIFIEDS**

- View Classifieds
- Submit Classified Ad

**COMMENTARY**


- Local Links
- Around the Keys

**GOVERNMENT**

- Local, State & Federal Links

**ABOUT US**

- Our History
- Our Staff
- Advertising Rates
- Employment
- Opportunities



**GOOD DEEDS**  
Monroe County  
Property Transfers

Daily news for Key West and the Florida Keys



**Subscriptions**  
Click here to sign up for home delivery

The rise in the number of dolphin watching boats since the late 1990s caused concern among some conservationists and charter operators. Allegations of dolphin harassment were made in Panama City in the 1990s, when some eco-tour operators were accused of feeding and chasing dolphins to give tourists a closer look.

NOAA also will help provide booking agents and concierge services for Dolphin SMART operators. NOAA is also creating a Dolphin SMART Web page.

"Dolphin SMART recognizes that tour operators and their customers share our concern for ensuring that wild dolphin populations in the Florida Keys National Marine continue to thrive," sanctuary Superintendent Dave Score said. "We're pleased to join with our partners to launch a program that recognizes businesses for conducting their tours responsibly and helps visitors make an informed choice when booking a dolphin trip."

The Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society and the Dolphin Ecology Project teamed up to establish the program, with partial funding from Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution. For more information on Dolphin SMART, contact Weimer at 305-743.2437, ext. 22.

tohara@keysnews.com

Published on Monday, January 22, 2007

**More News Stories**

- Headline:** Annex offers street for rent  
Published on Monday, January 22, 2007
- Body found at Ocean Walk  
Published on Monday, January 22, 2007
- New NOAA program promotes responsible dolphin tours  
Published on Monday, January 22, 2007
- Health fair to offer free and low-cost exams  
Published on Monday, January 22, 2007
- Heritage House and Museum to open up for more events  
Published on Monday, January 22, 2007
- Pigeon Key was once hub of activity  
Published on Sunday, January 21, 2007

**OUR NEWS PARTNER**



**WEBCAMS IN PARADISE**

It doesn't get any better than this Watch the sunset from Mallory Square, even if you are stuck in Wisconsin. Or enjoy a virtual Margarita at Sloppy Joe's. Check out our Keys Web Cams.

**SEARCH OUR ARCHIVES**

Search our archives for past stories using keywords, publication date, or author.



**KEYS LODGING**

From 5-star resorts to scenic camp ground, you'll find it all in our guide to lodging.



**PHOTO GALLERY**



Check out the Photo Gallery Weekly for New Keys Photos!

Click here to view photos

**VISITING THE KEYS?**

Find everything you need to know to plan a Florida Keys vacation -- and more