



Weekly Rap-Up

Editor's Note: The Sheriff's Office Weekly Rap-Up comes out on Friday afternoon, and includes any announcements, important messages, or not so important messages that employees of the Sheriff's Office would like to communicate to the rest of the agency. If you have something you would like to communicate, please send it to me and I will be happy to include it. Send it to bekyherrin@keysso.net, or in the courier to Deputy Becky Herrin, Community Relations Division, Headquarters building on Stock Island.

Detective writes letter of thanks for Vietnam Wall participation

Col. Ramsay,
Thank you again on behalf of all veterans past and present employed by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office for allowing us to support our community, our veterans, and participate in such memorable event (Vietnam Combat Veterans Wall Escort).

The traveling Wall Memorial is currently displaying an ad-

ditional memorial tribute to all of our men and women combat veterans in the current War on Terrorism killed in action (KIA) in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The escort was a complete success from Florida City to Key West and I specifically like to express my gratitude and appreciation for the exceptional and key efforts provided by

Dep. D. Smith, and Sgt. Kevin Mimosa (and his team of motivated professionals) in a job very "Well Done". Thank you again and in Naval tradition "Bravo Zulu"

Respectfully,
*Detective Juan M. LLera
Criminal Investigations Unit,
SWAT Team-Asst. Team Leader*

Take a moment to remember fallen officer

Saturday, December 13th marks the one year anniversary of the death of Deputy Robin Tanner.

Monroe County Sheriff's Deputy Robin Tanner was killed at 7 a.m. December 13, 2007 in a single vehicle automobile accident as she was responding, on duty, to a medical call. She was responding to a report of a woman not breathing in the vicinity of 119th Street in Marathon. The single vehicle accident took place near 90th Street. She was rushed to Fisherman's Hospital where she was declared deceased a short time later.

Deputy Tanner was as-

signed to the Marathon area as a patrol officer. She was 47 years old at the time of her death.

She first came to work for the Sheriff's Office in January of 1987 as a Records Clerk. She attended the Law Enforcement Academy at Florida Keys Community College's Institute of Criminal Justice in 1988 and shortly thereafter became a patrol officer. She worked in the lower Keys until she resigned in June of 1991. She returned to work for the Sheriff's Office in

June of 2004 and worked in the middle Keys as a patrol officer until her death.

For more information about deputies killed in the line of duty in Monroe County, you can visit the Sheriff's Office web site at <http://www.keysso.net/aboutso/history/deaths/officerskilled.htm>.

Happy Birthday next week!

Fowley, John	12/16
Mixon, Linda	12/16
Valdes, Lazaro	12/17
Bazarte, Rene	12/17
Rowe, Tushawna	12/17
Rice, Alvarez	12/17
Arguello Castellon, Victor	12/21
Diaz, Katie	12/21



'DELICATE BALANCE OF NATURE' HIGHLIGHTS KEYS RESOURCES

KEY LARGO, Florida Keys -- For the 18th year, a "Delicate Balance of Nature" lecture series will be held at the Visitor Center inside John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park. The lectures are set for Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m., starting Jan. 7 and running for 12 weeks.

Planned topics range from planting a butterfly garden to native Keys palm trees, the importance of sea grasses, Florida's flamingos and Florida's unique maritime history.

For all lectures the park gates will open at 7 p.m., after

normal operating hours. Visitors are urged to arrive on time to be assured a seat.

There is no charge to enter the park to attend the lectures. For more information and a complete listing of lectures,

contact the John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park Visitor Center at (305) 451-9570.

Toyz for Keyz Kidz Bowlathon

On Sunday, December 14th there will be a Bowlathon to raise money and collect toys for kids this Christmas. The event will be held at the Fish Bowl in Islamorada from 12 noon to 3 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person and an unwrapped new gift. This includes shoes and unlimited bowling. For information, contact Sgt. Dennis Coleman at 797-0884 or Peggy Bryan at 853-3211.

KEYS NEW YEAR'S EVE TO FEATURE SUBTROPICAL REVELRY

New Year's Eve celebrations in the Florida Keys traditionally feature balmy temperatures and a warm welcome for revelers fleeing colder climes.

Key Largo's bang-up community celebration is to feature fireworks over Blackwater Sound at midnight Wednesday, Dec. 31. Hosted by area businesses, the display can be viewed from local bars and restaurants locate around mile markers (MMs) 103-104, including Sundowners Restaurant, Señor Frijoles, Cactus Jack's, Gus' Grille at the Marriott Key Largo Bay Resort and the Caribbean Club lounge.

For information about the lavish display, call (305) 451-4502.

Visitors and residents who want to start the New Year with a focus on fitness can do so be-

ginning at 8 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 1, when a 5k run, walk or crawl is to depart from Islamorada's Founders Park, MM 87 bayside.

A day of festivities is to follow, with a blessing of the fleet at Whale Harbor Bridge, MM 84 oceanside, a skate competition and jam, and a birthday party for Islamorada, the Village of Islands. For more information, call (305) 853-1685.

On Duval Street in Key West thousands of people are expected to ring in the New Year by watching a gigantic man made conch shell descend from the skies to the roof of Sloppy Joe's Bar, 201 Duval St.

A few blocks away at the Bourbon St. Pub/New Orleans House complex, 724 Duval St., a lavishly costumed female impersonator named Sushi will preside over the festivities

perched in a super-sized red high heel suspended above the crowd.

In Key West's Historic Seaport, New Year's Eve revelry combines with a salute to the island city's colorful seafaring heritage. Just before midnight, a pirate wench is to begin her descent from the top of the mast of a stately tall ship -- completing it as the clock strikes and 2009 officially begins.

Also planned are cannon blasts and live music designed to provide a rollicking start to the new year.

For more information, call (305) 296-2388, ext. 121, regarding Sloppy Joe's conch shell drop; (305) 293-9800 regarding the high heel drop, and (305) 292-3302 regarding the descent of the pirate wench.

Christmas at the Animal Farm is this Sunday!

The Sheriff's Office will be holding its annual Christmas Party on the Animal Farm this Sunday, December 14th. The event is free of charge and kids and adults alike will love visiting with the animals, talking to Santa and celebrating the holiday season.

The Christmas party is scheduled for Sunday from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. The farm will be decorated for the season and Santa will be on hand, available for photos. He'd love to hear whether you've been naughty or nice and what you want him to bring for Christmas.

Visit with all the animals, including Tina the Key Deer, Piglet, Wilbur, Eeyore the donkey, Albert the African spurred tortoise, all the residents of the ferret house, Bucky the Llama, our tropical birds, snakes, goats, sheep, horses and much, much more.

December 14th will be the only open house for the animal farm for the month. To schedule private visits or to find out more about the Children's Animal Farm, contact Farm Supervisor Jeanne Selander at 305-293-7331. Monetary donations to the farm are always welcome.

Seafood Festival January 17th in Key West

Fresh seafood has been an integral part of Keys cuisine since settlers first fished the island chain's waters nearly two centuries ago.

This indigenous seafood, and the fishermen who devote their careers to seeking it, are to be celebrated Saturday, Jan. 17, during the fourth annual Florida Keys Seafood Festival.

Presented by the Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association and the University of Florida/Monroe County Extension Service, the family-friendly festival is to take place from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Key West's Bayview Park, located at Truman Avenue and Eisenhower Drive. Admission is free.

Soft drinks, beer and wine also are to be available for purchase. In addition, plans call for attractions including games for children, entertainment by local musicians and an appearance by the Key West High School band.

Vendor booths are to offer arts and crafts portraying the fishing community and ma-

rine life, as well as other items handcrafted by local artisans. Information booths and educational exhibits also will be found on-site.

Proceeds from the festival are to benefit the Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association and scholarships for college-bound children of com-

mercial fishermen.

For more information, call (305) 872-9026, e-mail vickigale@bellsouth.net, or visit www.fkcfca.org or <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/>.

BIG PINE NAUTICAL FLEA MARKET TO OFFER MARITIME MERCHANDISE

Fans of the Florida Keys' diverse ocean environment can outfit themselves for water activities at the fifth annual Big Pine Nautical Flea Market, set for 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17.

Boats and motors, dive and snorkel items, fishing gear and nautical merchandise of all sorts are to be available for sale. The open-air marketplace is to take place on the shady grounds of the Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce, mile marker 31 oceanside on Big Pine Key.

As well as nautical offerings, the family-friendly event

includes live music throughout the day, with performances by local and regional musicians and bands. Attendees can purchase Keys-style and casual food and beverages from on-site vendors, and multiple raffle giveaways are scheduled to round out the fun.

Proceeds from the Big Pine Nautical Flea Market benefit the Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce. Admission and parking are free.