



J. Jones

THE CITIZEN

KEY WEST

The Florida Keys' Only Daily Newspaper, Est. 1876

Lady Conchs crush opponents — Page 1B

Friday

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50 Cents

WEATHER



Cailyn Espey
Fifth grade
Sugarloaf School

Sunrise: 6:46 a.m. **Sunset:** 5:39 p.m.
Today: Sunny and patchy clouds.
High 80
Tonight: Patchy clouds.
Low 73

Complete forecast on page 2A

FLORIDA



Astronauts get extra work done in spacewalk

CAPE CANAVERAL: A pair of spacewalking astronauts, one of them a surgeon, hustled through antenna and cable work outside the International Space Station on Thursday and even whipped off an extra chore.

Atlantis crewmen Michael Foreman and Dr. Robert Satcher Jr. had a spare antenna installed in just two hours after venturing out on the first spacewalk of their mission. **Page 5A**

Retailers want rollback of unemployment tax

TALLAHASSEE: Some Florida businesses want to partly roll back an increase in their unemployment compensation tax after being shocked by its magnitude.

Florida Retail Federation President Rick McAllister said Thursday that his group will ask the state to keep the taxable wage for each employee at its current level of \$7,000 instead of increasing it to \$8,500 next year as required by a new law. **Page 9A**

NATION

Glitch snarls air traffic in latest woes for FAA

ATLANTA: For the second time in a little more than a year, a glitch at one of the two centers that handle flight plans for the nation's air travel system set off delays and cancellations for passengers around the country. **Page 11A**

ON THE RADIO



County Mayor Sylvia Murphy talks about recent county issues.



Murphy

Also on today's show:

- Ron Cooke, local sports
- Karen Sharp, First State Bank
- Maggie Springer, WomanKind/Survivors
- Tom Tuell, The Key West Citizen
- Andy Griffiths, School Board
- Laura Breeden, Wesley House

LOCAL NEWS

US1 Radio 104.1 FM:
7:30 and 8:30 a.m. Noon, 5 and 6 p.m.

98.7 FM Conch Country:
7, 8 and 9 a.m. 3, 4, 5 and 6 p.m.

Outsiders to prosecute murder

Local State Attorney's Office has too many ties to case

BY ADAM LINHARDT
Citizen Staff

Monroe County prosecutors learned Thursday the governor has assigned a Fantasy Fest stabbing death case to an outside State Attorney's Office because of concerns over perceived conflicts of interest.

Miami prosecutors will handle the Key West murder case, according to a letter Gov. Charlie Crist sent to State

Attorney Dennis Ward's office on Wednesday.

Chief Assistant State Attorney Don Barrett and Assistant State Attorney Manny Madruga, who was prosecuting the case, informed the governor last week that three employees in their office have connections either to witnesses or the



Ferro

family of the victim, Marques Butler. Anita Butler, his cousin, has worked for 20 years in the intake division, which processes cases as they come in and assigns them to attorneys. Receptionist Ashley Turso is a cousin to witness Nick Turso, and receptionist Sylvia Reams' daughter is a witness.



Butler

"We are bound by prosecutorial ethics to make the governor's office aware of that," Madruga said. "The whole basis is to remain objective. This office will not be participating in any prosecutorial decisions as of Wednesday."

The trial and all pretrial hearings and motions will be heard in Monroe County circuit Judge David Audlin's

See **OUTSIDERS**, page 3A

GO BABY GO



MIKE HENTZ/The Citizen

Eighteen-month-old Claudia climbs through one of the many playground fixtures at Astro City Park. Claudia and her father try to visit the park a few days a week and plan on taking advantage of the cooler days.

Schools to study up on handling illnesses

BY JOHN L. GUERRA
Citizen Staff

School principals soon will receive direction on the procedures that all employees must follow to prevent possible blood-borne pathogen exposure to students and adults.

In the age of anthrax, bird flu, swine flu, seasonal flu, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), protecting against an outbreak is no joke.

Running a day-to-day community of children in class or at play means the district's principals, teachers, janitors, bus drivers and other staff handle blood, vomit and other bodily fluids when children get sick or injured.

Schools have procedure manuals that outline how to handle such situations, including the use of medical masks, gloves, and specialized bags for storing towels and bandages. But Gerald Adams Elementary School Principal Frannie Herrin on Tuesday told the School Board her school has found itself out of the gloves, bio-waste disposal bags and other equipment required for safe cleanup, leaving her wondering whether protocols had changed.

They have not, but staff training may need some sprucing up, Superintendent Joe Burke said.

"We'll ensure that schools have the proper medical gloves and other supplies," Burke said Wednesday. "Facilities Director Fred Sims will



Burke

check on the supplies and what we need to ensure proper preparedness and we'll draft a technical memo on what they should expect in terms of the procedural manual that they're being taught."

The federal Office of Safety Hazards Administration requires school districts to teach staff medical-waste handling and other containment techniques, Sims told The Citizen Tuesday. "We'll see to what extent the training is being followed and see if more training is needed."

Herrin and other principals didn't complain about the staff's abilities or knowledge — she just wanted to make sure all employees know what's expected of them.

"Every day in schools there are

See **ILLNESSES**, page 5A

County tries FEMA again

Pitches new idea to end inspections of 1st-floor enclosures

BY TIMOTHY O'HARA
Citizen Staff

Monroe County will ask the federal government to consider a new plan for ending the county's controversial inspections for illegal first-floor living spaces, after it rejected a previous suggestion.

The Monroe County Commission hopes the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will let it inspect for downstairs enclosures only when homeowners sell their houses, not when

See **ENCLOSURES**, page 3A

ICE finds closer jail

BY ADAM LINHARDT
Citizen Staff

The federal immigration agency that pulled its female detainees from the Monroe County jail this week said it did so because the Stock Island facility is too far from its Miami offices.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) instead will send the women to the Glades

See **JAIL**, page 5A

KEY WEST

Ros-Lehtinen intervenes in postal staffing

BY MANDY BOLEN
Citizen Staff

The Florida Keys' congresswoman has protested staffing reductions at Key West post offices, which have resulted in long lines and waits of 30 to 60 minutes for service.

U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and her staff have met with U.S. Postal Service (USPS) representatives and asked them to end the mandatory staffing reductions.

Key West post offices have lost 10 postal clerk positions in the past year, said Kathryn dePoo, vice president of the local chapter of the American Postal Workers Union. Required staffing reductions eliminated four positions, while another six recently retired, and Postal Service policies and reductions prohibit their replacement, dePoo said.

"The congresswoman made it clear to USPS officials that their decision to

eliminate six full-time clerk positions has had a very negative effect on customer service at this locale," Ros-Lehtinen's press secretary, Alex Cruz, said in a press release this week. "She also believes that the mandatory staffing shortages ... are causing great havoc amongst Key West residents and is not producing the desired results the postal service is seeking."

See **POSTAL**, page 5A



ROB O'NEAL/The Citizen

U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Miami and the Florida Keys, is getting involved in the post office debate.

