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# THE REGION



**MOTHER AND CALF REUNION**

A manatee rescue team from the Miami Seaquarium uses a 1,000-pound mother manatee as bait to attract her year-old calf, which had a right eye partly wrapped around its flipper, cutting into the flesh. It took the team an hour to finally capture the calf, which is being held steady and treated on the rescue boat, right, while the mother, covered with a white sheet, is carefully watched in the background. It was the fourth time in several weeks that rescue teams had attempted to catch the calf.

PHOTOS BY DAN BAKER FOR THE HERALD

## Legislator pushes two-year trial run for school nurses

**BY LISA FURS**  
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Florida's public schools will not receive state funding for full-time nurses this legislative session, but lawmakers say several counties — including Monroe — could have financial support for temporary school medical staff as early as next year.

Rep. Ken Sorenson, R-Key Largo, is among several legislators proposing the creation of a two-year pilot program that would temporarily put nurses in schools in Broward, Duval, Escambia, Hillsborough, Monroe, and Palm Beach counties.

The proposal comes after the rejection of proposed legislation that would have provided funding for full-time nurses in all Florida public schools.

Sorenson had planned to file a bill that would have guaranteed state money for nurses, but he said there wasn't enough Republican support for such legislation.

Sorenson says the proposed pilot program will be submitted as a budget request and that he is 90 percent certain it will be approved this legislative session, which begins today. Approximately \$5 million would be divided up among the six participating counties, with Monroe receiving between \$250,000 and \$350,000 annually, Sorenson said.

**SOURCE OF DATA**

Although the program would be only a temporary fix to the school nurse situation in the Keys, where there are just two full-time nurses among 12 public schools, Sorenson said the proposal, if approved, could provide valuable data that could later be used to sell school nurse legislation.

State and local educators in participating counties would review the pilot program, analyzing potential improvements in school attendance, grades and faculty performance.

Aside from the health ramifications of schools without full-time nurses, Keys educators say administrators and teachers are being taken away from their regular duties to care for sick and injured students.

"This is an unbelievable compromise that provides everything the [Monroe County] School Board has asked for," said Sorenson, who represents the Keys. "We have the opportunity to evaluate the workings of the program and have legislators taken

Another look at this thing in a few years."

**NUTTY APPROACH**

Although state educators have long fought for legislation to provide full-time nurses in schools, the Monroe County School Board took a creative approach toward attracting attention to the issue this year.

Two months ago, the board mailed Florida's 161 representatives and senators decorative coconuts with the slogan, "We're Going Nuts Without Full-Time Nurses in Our Schools."

Debra Walker, School Board vice chairman, helped orchestrate the coconut campaign and says she designated that the school nurse issue had again been passed over in Tallahassee.

Nonetheless, Walker contends the pilot program would be progress. The school district could hire full-time nurses for all county schools, but only if it takes money out of classrooms, Walker says.

With limited education dollars already committed to funding teaching and learning priorities, most school boards, including Monroe's, cannot afford to fund a school nurse program.

"The pilot program will make a huge difference," said Walker, who estimates that the county spends approximately \$200,000 in staff time each year on student medical care. "I knew this was going to be an uphill battle, so we're thankful we're getting somewhere," she said.

**KEYS BRIEFS**

**BY LISA FURS**  
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**MARATHON**

**MAINE ARTISTS TO REPAINT MURAL ON KNART STOREFRONT**

Primitivist muralist art artists Guy Harvey and Wyland will team up this week to repaint a fading 12-year-old mural on the storefront of Knart in Marathon.

Wyland, who goes by just one name and is best known for his life-size "Whaling Wall" murals throughout the world, will collaborate with Harvey to replace the 30th whaling wall that Wyland painted in 1990.

The painting of the Knart wall, scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, will mark the second time that Wyland and Harvey have worked together. Five months ago, the artists collaborated on Wyland's 30th wall on the visitor center at Homestead Springs State Wildlife Park. The 55-foot-long, seven-foot-tall mural featured manatees, moose, ducks, turkeys and sparrows.

The public is invited to view the two-day painting, an exhibition of Wyland's paintings and sculptures

**KEY WEST**

**MOTORCYCLIST IN HOTEL LOBBY ARRESTED AFTER POLICE CHASE**

A California man caught riding his motorcycle in the lobby of a Doral Shore hotel was arrested early Monday after he led police on a chase through Old Town.

Kurt Heiderlein, 35, of San Diego, was charged with fleeing and eluding a police officer and failure to obey a lawful command.

According to police, Heiderlein and another biker were spotted circling around in the lobby of the Crowne Plaza LaComcha Hotel around 4 a.m. and took off out the side door when an officer ordered them to stop.

Police caught up with Heiderlein after a short chase through Old Town, but the other driver, whose identity is unknown, got away. Key West Police Department spokeswoman Cynthia Edwards said.

The second man was still at large late Monday.

**PLANTATION KEY** — A pair of third-leading home runs against previously unbeaten Coral Shores helped nationally ranked Gulliver Prep defeat the Hurricanes.

In the third inning of the game Thursday, Gulliver's Public Figures took an 0-2 pitch over the right field fence to give the Raiders a 1-0 lead.

One out later and with a runner aboard, the Raiders extended their lead to 3-0 after their second home run of the inning.

The Coral Shores Canes cut the Gulliver Raiders' lead to 3-1 in the top of the fourth, when leadoff hitter Daniel Biondollet opened with a single, stole second, advanced to third on a Bryce Lingenfelter groundout, then scored on an RBI single by Mike Mat-

**KEYS SPORTS**

Matt Pancho opened with a walk and stole second. Malacher then doubled home Pancho to give the Canes a 1-0 lead.

Mike Arnold singled to right field, scoring Malacher. After Mark Gowin (3-4, two runs, two RBIs) doubled to left, Springs singled home Arnold and Gowin.

Arnold led the Canes with a four-for-four plate appearance, including two doubles, two runs and three RBIs.

After Howard Sanders (3-4, two runs, two RBIs) doubled and later scored on a triple by Pancho in the second, the Canes put the contest away by recording six runs in the third and fourth innings.

On the mound, Sanders tossed a no-hitter and came an infield error away in the top of the fifth, from throwing a perfect game. The pitcher struck out 13 Mustangs and did not allow a ball out of the infield. His record improved to 2-0.

The win raised the Canes' record to 5-1, while the Mustangs fell to 0-3.

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## Coral Shores loses one, wins one