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# THE KEYS

## BRING ON THE STORMS



DAY WORKERS FOR THE HERALD

As this year's hurricane season starts, workers Ron Hippot, left, and Kenj Bonetti put the finishing touches on a storm-proof picnic pavilion on Marathon's Sombrero Beach on Thursday.

## Public schools' scores improve in state report

### Most in Monroe earn B's or better

BY LISA FUSSELL  
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Monroe County public schools showed continued progress overall in the annual School Accountability Report, earning an D's or F's — with the bulk of schools scoring B's or better.

The grades, released Wednesday by the Florida Department of Education, are derived under the state's A-Plan for Education. It includes a performance assessment system for every school in Florida based on reading, writing and math scores on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test in the fourth, fifth, eighth and 10th grades.

Six Keys schools earned A's, seven schools scored B's and three schools were assigned a C.

Overall, the grades are significantly improved from last year. Only four schools earned A's, three schools had B's and nine schools were assigned C's.

Although 83 percent of Monroe schools received an A or B, double the statewide average of 41 percent, several Keys schools experienced dips. Three of the Monroe schools that earned A's last year — Plantation Key Elementary, Plantation Key Middle — dropped to B's. A fourth school, Sugarloaf, dropped to a C.

School officials say maintaining an A is difficult because of the variables involved in grading schools, adding that a slight percentage decrease in the number of students taking the FCAT or those determined by state criteria to be in the lowest reading level can alter a grade.

While education authorities are required to devise improvement plans to address grade slips, they aren't holding schools accountable on the letter grade.

"There are not perfect and are not the only way to gauge student achievement. They are one tool," said Dr. Margaret Smith, deputy superintendent of Monroe County Schools.

### 2001 Report

#### The 2001 School Accountability Report

Elementary	Grade
Gerald Adams	B
Clynn Archer	A
Key Largo	A
Plantation Key	B
Polkville	B
Sigbee	B
Steady Swartz	B
Sugarloaf	C

  

Middle	Grade
Horseshoe Bryant	A
Key Largo	A
Marathon	A
Plantation Key	B
Sugarloaf	B

  

High School	Grade
Corral Shores	C
Key West	C
Marathon	A

"But we are pleased that our schools did show increases (in letter grades). It really means our teachers are making a connection in the classroom."

Local educators attribute improved standings this year to count-wide math and reading initiatives that targeted students with low FCAT scores. Although the methodology was successful at schools such as Marathon High, which rocketed from a C to an A, the county's other public high schools — Coral Shores and Key West High — remained unchanged with C's.

Marathon High School Principal Bill Quinn, who is a vocal opponent of Gov. Jeb Bush's A+ Plan, expressed delight over his school's grade but insists the FCAT should not be the cornerstone of a statewide grading system because it fails to consider the big picture.

The grading system is based on "a brief snapshot of what goes on at a school," Quinn said. "It's a fact that plenty of parents around Florida send their kids to schools based on a grade and want to know the grades before they move into a neighborhood. That should be a decision based on total curriculum, not a small part of it."

## Key West High classmates remember victim of crash

### Hundreds turn out for school service

BY LISA FUSSELL  
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Flanked by a flag flying at half-staff, hundreds of Key West High School students and faculty gathered on campus Thursday for an emotional service remembering the harmonious life of Glenn Caselman, a popular band member and classmate who died instantly Wednesday in a head-on collision with a school bus.

Glenn, 17, who had planned to take part in today's annual class-ring-turning ceremony marking his becoming a senior, was headed from band practice to a private percussion lesson in Big Pine Key when his 1988 Pontiac struck the southbound lane at mile marker 15, striking an oncoming Monroe County school bus.

His mother, Patricia, was in the car behind him. Glenn was crushed by the impact, which sent his car spiraling back across U.S. 1 into the northbound lane and into his mother's 2001 Mazda van.

Patricia Caselman and the school bus driver, Cecilia Shelby, 45, sustained injuries but they were not life threatening, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

Mercedes Benz, 47, who was a passenger in the school bus, suffered minor injuries.

**CAUSE NOT CLEAR**  
There were no children in the school bus at the time of the 2 p.m. accident, which closed the two-lane highway to traffic for more than five



MIKE TRUHMAN FOR THE HERALD

**TAKEN BY TRAGEDY:** Popular Key West High School band member Glenn Caselman, right, and Mike Truhman, left, were killed Wednesday in a head-on collision with a school bus.

hours. Although police suspect Glenn Caselman was attempting to pass another car in front of him when he crashed, they say it will be at least a month before the investigation is completed.

In the meantime, Glenn's friends and family are trying to make sense of the tragedy that occurred just 10 days before school was to conclude for summer break. Grief counselors were at Key West High on Thursday, offering comforting words to dozens of band members who played beside Glenn, who learned to play the drums as a freshman two years ago.

"As a person, there are two things I'll always remember about Glenn," said Mike Truhman, Key West High's band director. "He always put other before people here. And he was constantly making sure they were happy."

**ANOTHER MEMORIAL**  
Band arrangements were incomplete Thursday, but Glenn again will be memorialized at Key West High's ring ceremony Friday. The school's jazz band, of which Glenn was a member, will play a musical piece recently practiced with him. The band will remember him by leaving his solo unplayed.

## Florida sheriffs oppose agreement to delete pawnshop data

TALLAHASSEE — (AP) — The state is working to develop a database of pawnshop transactions to make it easier for police to track stolen property and other crimes.

However, details of transactions involving guns would be purged after 48 hours, an idea that came from the National Rifle Association and was supported by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. But sheriffs are opposed.

Deleting gun records "could be the most damaging anti-crime action you can imagine," Broward County Sheriff Phil Williams warned.

Many local law enforcement agencies have their own pawnshop databases that are a valuable tool in solving crimes, according to Seminole County Sheriff Don Ballinger, president of the Florida Sheriffs Association.

"To eliminate one item because of a special interest concern me," he said.

The proposal to create a statewide database on pawned items has been months in the making. Ballinger and Keith Chandler, president of the Florida Police Chiefs Association, had both signed off on the idea. Ballinger, however, said he never endorsed deleting gun information.

"It was FDLE's call to defer to the

same, address, phone number and right identification of customers who pawn items. That information is normally shared over to sheriff's and police chiefs within 24 hours.

Some sheriffs said that they feared deleting the gun information from the newly created statewide database would open the door to the gun lobby, who are trying to force local police agencies to purge the material as well.

## Pinellas man survives 200-foot bridge jump

ST. PETERSBURG — (AP) — A Pinellas County man survived a 200-foot jump from the Sunshine Skyway bridge.

The impact from the Wednesday jump apparently ripped off the 36-year-old man's clothing. Rescuers say he managed to swim about 40 yards to some rocks and hauled himself out of the water.

"In his head, the man told rescuers when they found him on the rocks. He was taken to Bayfront Medical Center. He suffered from multiple fractures, substantial internal bleeding and a decompressed left lung.

"It's amazing that he lived," said Jim Cunningham, a paramedic with the St. Petersburg Fire Department. "I was expecting to find another dead body."

Authorities said the man, whose name wasn't made public, is the sixth person known to have survived the 200-foot drop. A Rottweiler dog named Shasta survived the fall in May 1998 when her owner jumped to his death.

A dozen people made the deadly leap in 1998, another dozen in 1999. The bridge is considered the third-deadliest nationally for suicides after San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge and San Diego's Coronado Bridge.

On Tuesday, St. Petersburg Police officer said a St. Petersburg man as he attempted to jump from the Skyway. The officer held the 200-pound man in a bear hug as he dangled over the wall of the bridge and screamed: "Let me go, just let me go." He held on for several minutes, until two other officers arrived and helped pull the man to safety.

McLaughlin did sit or seven counties would soon test the new database. He hopes to have all 67 counties online by July 1, he said.

Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary opposed deleting the gun records, several times a month, "we arrest convicted felons who are pawning guns," he said.

Pawnshops are required to collect the name, address, phone number and right identification of customers who pawn items. That information is normally shared over to sheriff's and police chiefs within 24 hours.

Some sheriffs said that they feared deleting the gun information from the newly created statewide database would open the door to the gun lobby, who are trying to force local police agencies to purge the material as well.

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