

The Florida Keys' Only Daily Newspaper, Est. 1876

Conchs ready for rival — Page 1B

Judge in Anna Nicole Smith case cited for marijuana — Page 3A

Tuesday

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50 Cents

**WEATHER**



**Sunrise:** 7:33 a.m.  
**Sunset:** 7:39 p.m.  
**Today:** Nice with periods of clouds and sun. High 79  
**Tonight:** Mainly clear and breezy. Low 69  
Complete forecast on page 2A

**Cameran Jonh Crockett**  
Third grade  
Sugarloaf School

**NATIONAL**

**Split-liver transplants are rare**

WASHINGTON: The transplant surgeon had good news: A donated liver was on the way for critically ill Maggie Catherwood. Then he asked: Would she let doctors cut off part of her new liver to share with an equally sick baby?

"I can't imagine anyone saying no," the 21-year-old college student said last week as, teary-eyed, she met 8-month-old Allison Brown, carefully cuddling the wide-eyed baby so as not to bump each other's healing incisions. **Page 8A**

**Some homeowners are 'going bare'**

NEW ORLEANS: Disgusted with his insurance company after Hurricane Katrina, the Rev. Simmie Harvey let his homeowner policy lapse and left his house in the hands of a higher power.

Somebody up there must like the 88-year-old Baptist minister: His newly uninsured house escaped serious damage last month when a tornado ripped through the city's Uptown neighborhood and toppled a tree that narrowly missed his home. **Page 8A**

**FLORIDA**

**Elderly woman survives shooting**

ORLANDO — An 88-year-old woman was recovering in a hospital after being shot five times Monday morning while she slept, authorities said.

The Orange County Sheriff's Office was still investigating why Yuki Harris was targeted. "We don't believe this is a random shooting. We don't know at this time," Cpl. Susan Soto said. **Page 3A**

**ON THE RADIO**



Bales



**Also on today's show:**  
● Capt. J.R. Brown, NAS Key West  
● Morgan McPherson, Key West Mayor  
● Kim Coldicott, Extension Services

**Local News:**  
**US 1 Radio (104.1 FM):**  
7:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., noon, 5 p.m., 6 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.

**keysnews.com** FLORIDA KEYS

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## School Board OKs Sugarloaf housing

District's proposal for Sigsbee remains stalled

**BY MANDY BOLEN**  
Citizen Staff

KEY WEST — Twenty-eight houses for teachers and other Monroe

County school employees will be built behind Sugarloaf School if all government permits are approved — but housing is not likely at Sigsbee Elementary School, which is on Navy

property.

Members of the Monroe County School Board on Monday voted unanimously to approve a proposal for 26 homes on Sugarloaf, despite opposition to the neighborhood from parents of Sugarloaf students,

who have expressed concern about student safety and increased traffic.

Summerland Key lawyer Lee Rohe spoke aggressively against the project, at one point asking Superintendent

See **HOUSING**, page 5A

## CHUTING THE BREEZE



ROB O'NEAL/The Citizen

A kiteboarder reels in his parachute while another's takes him airborne on Smathers Beach Monday. Students from across the country will participate in the first Collegiate Kiteboard Competition sponsored by The Key West Kitehouse. Watch the action along South Roosevelt Boulevard from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day this week.

## County awaits ruling on growth ordinance

**BY ANN HENSON**  
Citizen Staff

The testimony is over in a challenge to Monroe County's new growth-management system, but it likely will be months before the road map for steering development in the Florida Keys is implemented — in one form or

another.

The Tier System, so named because it divides undeveloped land into three categories, or tiers, was adopted by the County Commission but remains in limbo pending resolution of an administrative challenge filed by environmental and civic activists. Last Stand and the Florida Keys

Citizens Coalition claim the system does not go far enough to preserve habitat for endangered species.

Testimony before an administrative law judge wrapped up Thursday in Tallahassee. Attorneys now must wait up to

See **TIER**, page 5A

## Mayor wants city manager's leave audited

**BY TIMOTHY O'HARA**  
Citizen Staff

KEY WEST — Mayor Morgan McPherson has asked for an audit of the city manager's sick leave and vacation time, apparently laying the groundwork for Julio Avel's ouster.

McPherson said last week he intended to ask the Key West City Commission to terminate Avel's contract nine months early. That request is expected to surface at tonight's commission meeting.

Termination of Avel's contract could cost the city as much as \$192,000 in earned sick and vacation time, city records show. Avel has accrued 120 sick days and 45 days of annual leave, the records reflect.

A clause in Avel's contract caps his annual leave at 30 days, but it sets no cap on his sick leave. City employees, including Avel, can roll over unused vacation time into sick leave, human resources guidelines state. But those guidelines — and all three contracts with city workers' unions — state that payout for sick days is capped at 90 days. This would mean the \$192,000 figure would drop to \$164,000, according to a memo issued by the city's Finance Department on Monday.

Until January, Avel was allowed to approve his own leave and sick time. Since then, the mayor's approval has been required, McPherson said.

McPherson has asked the city's auditor, who works directly for the City Commission, to audit all of Avel's sick and vacation time to make sure the records are accurate.

The resolution McPherson plans to bring before the City Commission tonight would terminate Avel's contract without cause. Last year, the commission extended Avel's contract for an additional year, keeping Avel in his position until the end of November. The city manager now is on four weeks leave after having knee surgery.

McPherson argues that Avel failed to complete proper paperwork and never asked for the leave, but told the commission at a Feb. 6 meeting that he needed the time off. He followed the request the next day with an e-mail alerting commissioners to the time off.

McPherson also charges that Avel is "not

See **AVAIL**, page 5A

## New college president arrives with a plan in hand

**BY MANDY BOLEN**  
Citizen Staff

KEY WEST — The incoming college president, who begins work June 1, already has outlined some of her priorities for the Florida Keys Community College.

Jill Landesberg-Boyle is in Key West this week meeting with college faculty and staff members. She also is traveling to Tallahassee Thursday with current president

Bill Seeker, who will retire July 30.

Landesberg-Boyle said Monday she wants to have a strategic plan in place for the college that will outline priorities for the next three years.

Increasing enrollment is the key to being able to expand the college's offerings, and Landesberg-Boyle said she wants to "create a niche for this college," given its unique resources, such as the surrounding marine environment.

New recruitment strategies also will be explored, along with fundraising efforts and community and nationwide partnerships "to add depth to our programs," she said.

"We need to focus, in a very concrete way, to get the college in a position where it's financially stable and more self-sufficient," she said, hoping to lessen the college's vul-

See **FKCC**, page A5



ROB O'NEAL/The Citizen

Jill Landesberg-Boyle begins her job as Florida Keys Community College president on June 1.