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Miami Herald

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WESTON

Troubled man uses crossbow to kill his wife, son

After Pedro Jose Maldonado killed his wife and teenage son, he drove to Tallahassee, where he tried but failed to kill a second son. Later, he was found dead in a Lake City hotel room, apparently after visiting his threat.

BY MIRA HOLT

A Weston father who thought his world was crashing down around him apparently wanted to take his life and everyone else he loved with him.

Pedro Jose Maldonado, 51, started with his wife and his teenage son. He used a crossbow to kill them.

They, along with his 11-year-old son, he got into his SUV and drove 400 miles to Tallahassee, where his 23-year-old son, Juan, was a student at Florida State University. It took an hour to get to the state capital.

On Wednesday, the father Maldonado was dead, after driving 300 miles and to Lake City trying to kill his son, and driving his SUV to a parking lot. Before then, however, Sheriff's Office investigators said, Maldonado called a friend to say he had

TURN TO COLUMN 1A

FEDERAL INVESTIGATION No charges filed, but inquiry into senator continues

A federal grand jury in Miami has returned no charges after looking into U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez's dealings with a West Palm Beach doctor and political donor, but its probe of alleged influence-peddling isn't over.

BY JAY WEINER

Federal agents descended on the clinic of a South Florida eye doctor close to U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez last January — a date which is still under review — and a string of federal investigators about the doctor's private plane to the Dominican Republic and numerous allegations of other work and foreign connections.

Nearly a year later, the politically sensitive allegations against the New Jersey Democrat have proved to be dead so far.

After subpoenaing records and witnesses, a federal grand jury in Miami has filed charges against Menendez, a prominent Cuban-American lawmaker, or his friend and donor campaign donor, Dr. Sabino Medina, according to several sources familiar with the probe.

But the grand jury is still reviewing in-

TURN TO COLUMN 2A

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Grim outlook for whales

At least 10 pilot whales die on the beach and dozens more refuse to leave



IN SHALLOW WATERS: Officials in Everglades National Park are trying to get pilot whales out of the shallow waters of a remote area of Everglades National Park on Florida's Gulf Coast near Naples.

BY BIRN BOEWINKLE

They won't leave their dead behind.

That might be one of the reasons why a pod of 40 short-finned pilot whales refused to leave shallow waters near Naples beach in Everglades National Park. On Tuesday, nine whales were beached and six died overnight. On Wednesday, four more were beached.

Officials at the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmos-

pheric Administration have been trying to herd the whales into deeper water, without luck.

"Pilot whales are a particularly sensitive species, which is why they tend to stay near shore," said Blair Moore, the Southeast Region Marine Response Coordinator for NOAA. "There may be members of their group that are ill or have a high fever, and the other whales stick with the pod and remain in the area."

But the success of their



AFTERMATH: Vacationers with their hands in the Gulf after conducting a necropsy on a beached whale Wednesday.

ART BASEL WEEK

A WEALTH OF ART — AND OF WEALTHY SHOPPERS

The 12th edition of Art Basel in Miami Beach opened Wednesday to VIPs, bringing an early throng of big-ticket collectors and delivering healthy sales.

BY ANDRES FIGUEROA, JIM WOODRIDGE AND SOFIAKAR WOODRIDGE

MIAMI BEACH, FL

If anyone harbored doubts about the depth of hunger for big-ticket art in Miami Beach's population, Art Basel has, at about 10,000 attendees, a sure commitment to the city, those were quickly wiped Wednesday morning at the beachside event of the week's art fairs.

The director Matt Spink said Art Basel would stay in Miami Beach despite a brief

flurry with a move to San Francisco, even after concerns over possible disruptions from the proposed redevelopment of the city's congested convention center. Although the scale of the plan is up in the air because of beach political dysfunction, Spink said any construction would be phased so that the fair would not lose any floor space.

Moments later, as the traditional security guard blocked open the door to the new convention center floor, four



YOUNG AT ART: Helan Iskander, 7, of Miami Beach studies works on display.

- Find out what is going on with our mobile-friendly Art Basel Week events guide.
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