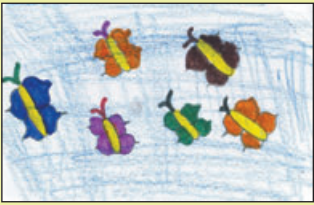


Key West football preview — Page 1B

Friday September 13, 2013 ♦ Vol. 137 ♦ No. 256 ♦ 18 pages 50 Cents

WEATHER



Jennifer Dominguez, third grade
Gerald Adams Elementary School
See forecast on Page 2A

FLORIDA KEYS

Denture adhesive helps fix turtle shell

MARATHON: A dentist used denture repair adhesive to help mend an endangered green sea turtle's fractured shell in the Florida Keys. **Page 10A**

FLORIDA

Commissioner: Water No. 1 issue for future

ORLANDO: Florida's freshwater supply is its top problem as it tries to maintain economic and residential growth, Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam said during a discussion Thursday at a leadership summit. **Page 7A**

NATION




Balloons deployed in trans-Atlantic attempt

CARIBOU, Maine: Hundreds of multicolored balloons used Thursday to launch a balloonist for a trans-Atlantic crossing look like a page taken from the script of the movie "Up." **Page 8A**

ON THE RADIO

Janet Hinkle talks about her role as an observer on Diana Nyad's swim from Cuba to Key West.



- Also on today's show:
- Ron Cooke, KW Citizen sports
 - Carlos Curbelo, candidate for Congress
 - Andy Newman, TDC
 - Heather Carruthers, county commissioner
 - Sandra Frederick, The Key West Citizen
 - Mark Porter, schools superintendent
 - Andy Griffiths, School Board chairman

NEWS: 7:30, 8:30 a.m., noon, 5 & 6 p.m.
Evening Edition 5-5:30 p.m.

FLORIDA KEYS
keysnews.com

State agents take files from clinic

Doctors, attorney don't know what prompted New Truman Medical Center raid

BY GWEN FILOSA
Citizen Staff

A Key West medical clinic's locations were shut down Thursday as state agents served a search warrant, taking patient files but not leaving a clue as to what prompted the investigation.

Agents spent about two hours inside both locations run by the New Truman Medical Center, whose owners said they had no advance warning of the raid and no idea as to what was behind it.

The Florida Department of Law

Enforcement would take no questions Thursday.

"We cannot discuss it," said FDLE spokeswoman Gretl Plessinger, who works at the agency's main offices in Tallahassee.

The opaque glass doors at the downtown location, 540 Truman Ave., were locked immediately after six or seven FDLE agents left the clinic about 1:15 p.m. in unmarked cars.

For the rest of the day, voice mail greeted calls to the clinic, whose prescription practices concerning pain pills were questioned last

year by the state Surgeon General and over the summer by a number of Florida Keys Walgreens pharmacies.

Both of the company's walk-in clinics, on Truman and at 2505 Flagler Ave., will open at 9 a.m. today per usual.

"The clinic is open tomorrow morning as usual," said attorney Julio Margalli on Thursday, speaking on behalf of the center. "The doctors need to see their patients."



MIKE HENTZ/The Citizen

Monica Diaz tries to pick up some blood work results at Truman Medical only to find the doors locked. See CLINIC, Page 10A

Lionfish new top predator of the reef

Restrictions lifted for Saturday derby to thin out numbers

BY TIMOTHY O'HARA
Citizen Staff

Federal and state fisheries on Saturday will open areas currently closed to spearfishing in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary in hopes of putting a larger dent in the local lionfish population.

Invasive lionfish are voracious predators that threaten Florida's marine ecosystems and prey upon more than 70 species of native fish and invertebrates.

Lionfish easily fend off predators with their 18 venomous spines, making them a new top predator on the reef. They also reproduce every four days, year-round.

Recognizing the need to eradicate the fish, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission have loosened restrictions for the Reef Environmental Education Foundation's (REEF) lionfish derby on Saturday.

The agencies have issued single-day permits for Saturday's derby to allow spearfishing in Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, the Key Largo National Marine Sanctuary existing management areas, and state



Photo courtesy of Erich Bartels/Mote Marine Lab

See LIONFISH, Page 3A The sanctuary is taking the gloves off this weekend in the battle to eradicate lionfish.

Sheriff: 2 a.m. boat chase part of well-organized Marathon theft ring

BY ADAM LINHARDT
Citizen Staff

Keys investigators trying to crack what appears to be a well-organized Marathon-based boat theft ring thwarted such a caper early Wednesday with the help of federal agents and some well-aimed shotgun slugs.

"We suspect the boats are being stolen for illegal migrant or drug smuggling," said Monroe County Sheriff Rick Ramsay, referring to at least four boats reported stolen in the past two months. "We've had that many in a short period

of time and each taken with the same M.O. We've been working with Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and trading intel bulletins on what appears to be a ring operating out of Marathon."

The rash of boat thefts is confined to the Marathon area, Ramsay said.

The trend continued with a high-speed water chase at 2 a.m. that ended when two men in a stolen boat en route to Cuba rammed federal agents, he said.

"When you see a boat leaving any island at 2 a.m., that's not good and



Photo courtesy of Monroe County Sheriff's Office

See RING, Page 3A The stolen boat appeared to have been outfitted for a trip to Cuba and back.

County tax rate goes up

95% of workers to get 3% merit raise

BY TIMOTHY O'HARA
Citizen Staff

Taxpayers in unincorporated Monroe County will see a slight increase in their property taxes in the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1.

The County Commission set its property tax rate on Thursday night.

A majority of the commission agreed to give a 3 percent merit raise to county employees, which will cost taxpayers roughly an additional \$600,000. The commission did ask that County Administrator Roman Gastesi bring back specifics about the raises before he doles them out to employees. They wanted to make sure the raises are based on merit, commis-

See BUDGET, Page 10A

Properties off state sales list

BY ROBERT SILK
Citizen Staff

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection won't put any of its Keys holdings on the market as part of a statewide sell-off of up to \$50 million in conservation lands, the agency announced Thursday.

"All 17 parcels in the Keys have now been removed," Susan Grandin, the director of the DEP's Division of State Lands, announced during a

See LIST, Page 3A

Pd. Pol. Adv. paid for by the Key West Committee for Responsible Tourism, PO BOX 1331 Key West, FL 33041



STOP THE DREDGING

VOTE NO

OCTOBER 1st