State takes file from clinic
Doctors, attorney don't know what prompted New Truman Medical Center raid

BY GWEN FLISCH
Citizen Staff

A Key West medical clinic's location was 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 ran 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 Cordell Flowers, who works at the agency's main offices in Tallahassee. The opaque glass doors at the downtown location, 560 Truman Ave., were locked immediately after six or seven FDLE agents left the clinic about 1:30 p.m. in unmarked cars.

For the rest of today, voice mail will serve as the clinic's receptionist, 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 290 Figger Ave., will open at 9 a.m. today, per usual. "The clinic is open tomorrow morning as usual," said attorney Rudy Mogulli on Thursday, speaking on behalf of the center. "The doctors need to see their patients."

---

Lionfish new top predator of the reef
Restrictions lifted for Saturday derby to thin out numbers

BY TROYD Y'VARA
Citizen Staff

Federal and state fishers 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 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 reproduce every four days, year round. Recognizing the need to ward off 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 the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary's main offices in Tallahassee.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, which runs some of its Keys holdings on the market as part of a statewide sell-off to raise $100 million in conservation lands, the agency announced Thursday. "All 17 parcels in the Keys have now been removed," Susan Gronquist, the director of the DEP's Division of State Lands, announced during a news conference Thursday.