

Coconut Telegraph

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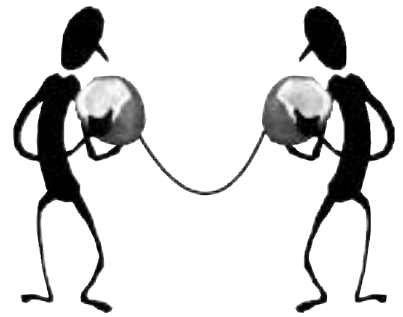
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Articles

Entertainers of the Month, Just Not Right.....	3
What's in Your Gullet	4
Plant Clinics in Key West & Key Largo.....	5
Memorial for Carol M. Griffith	6
Local Artist Wins Fellowship	7
First State Bank Earns Green for GLEE	8
Fish Hours Celebrates 15 years with FSB	9
Useless Facts You Should Know	9
Restaurnt of the Month, Coconuts.....	10
Community Theatre Presents Dance Showcase.....	10
Bartender of the Month, Travis Platt.....	11
Getting from Here to There- the map page.....	12
Keys To Peace & Wellness Center	15
Conch Characters	16
Bailey Joins Rotary.....	18
Allowing Others to Be, Controlling Behavior.....	18
Annoucement	19
Business in the Keys	21
Dear Anny Bannany.....	22
Coco 'Nut' Funnies.....	23

Editorial: Monroe County Sheriff’s Deputies An Endangered Species

It all started with a phone call to the police. "I haven't been able to reach my mother in a few days and I am worried" said my brother. A short while later a policeman called him back and very gently explained that he and his partner had broken in the house and found that my mother had passed away in her sleep. The police working that day in a small town in upstate New York were seasoned professionals with years of experience under their belts. We were grateful for their kindness and sensitivity.

Here in Monroe County our experienced Deputy Sheriff's are becoming extinct, or at least an endangered species. The ones that have been here a long time are being forced to leave in order to survive. The Hideout Restaurant held a rally last week to raise awareness of their plight.

Kathy Giles, co-owner of the Hideout has been serving these guys for years and knows them well. "They haven't had a raise in 3 years! They can double their salaries just by moving to another county. When they leave we get a new rookie to replace them. We just have to find a way to help them," says Giles.

So the owners and staff of the Hideout threw a party for them and the Coconut Telegraph took the cover shot. Someone donated t-shirts

and another person chipped in on the food. "These guys are our friends and neighbors and they don't want to leave," adds Giles.

On the t-shirt it says "The person you call to help in your time of need; who puts their life on the line just by putting on the uniform...\$34,000. No raises in over 3 years. Worst insurance in the county. Over 40% below other So. Fla. Law Enforcement Agencies."

The Coconut Telegraph did the math and after taxes they probably take home about \$15 an hour and they work 12-hour shifts. The person that serves their food in a restaurant might make the same amount or more. When one of our seasoned professionals leaves we could get one fresh out of high school. We applaud the newcomers for their desire for a career in Law Enforcement but we need to take care of our own first.

While I was pounding the pavement passing out invitations to the rally I discovered that there are only 2 types of people, there are honest people and there are dishonest people. And the honest people do not fear the police because they have no reason to. They want to see the Keys stay a safe place. You never know when you're going to have to make that call or who will respond.

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Entertainers of the Month
“Just Not Right”



By Rich Peine

“Just Not Right” consists of guitar players Mike Mitzner and Dwayne McGregor.

I like the name “Just Not Right”. It conjures up thoughts of something amiss. It describes many of my friends and acquaintances. On the other hand it could used to describe the opposite: they're REALLY good!. Well citizens, these two musicians are the latter.

It's Friday at the Pilot House and there must be 90 to 100 people in the newly remodeled outside area. There's dancing in front of the bandstand and the tables are

full of folks who are tapping their feet to the beat. You just have to love the energy. It's always a treat when musicians are tight and Dwayne and Mike are no exception. Looks like Key Largo has another winner.

Mike was born in Chicago and moved to Miami when he was 8 years old. Ten years ago he made the jump to Key Largo. He was the male part of the duo Drein and Mike until her untimely death last year. In addition to their many performances around Key Largo, they recorded a CD, “Live Loud

Continued on pag 14...

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Music Schedule

Sun	6-10	Ted Hyde Band
Mon	7-10	Alan Truesdale
Tues	7-10	Dwayne McGregor
Wed	7-10	Ted Hyde
Thurs	7-10	Paul Moen
Fri	7:30 - 11	Troy & Dave
Sat	7:30 - 11	Just Not Right Band