

Coconut Telegraph

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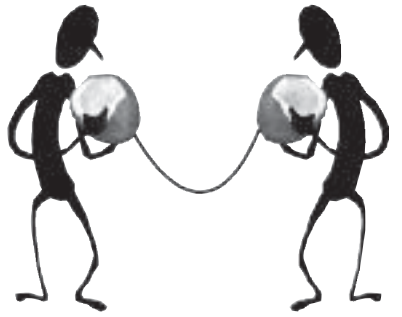
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Editorial: Security/Mental Health Exam

In the wake of the Newtown, CT tragedy I see where many people are calling for stricter gun laws. I do not think that is the answer. It will not stop a mentally ill person from finding a way to kill innocent people and children.

So how do we protect our schools? I think the answer is a simple one. A few years ago a friend of mine applied for a job at Turkey Point Nuclear Plant run by Florida Power and Light. She had to go through a stringent background check including a MENTAL HEALTH EXAM. She got the job. Now she carries a card that lets her enter the building once she passes SECURITY.

Each and every school in this country simply needs better security.

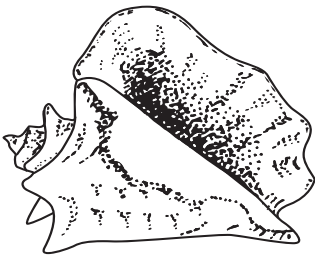
I got lost in Homestead one day and wound up on the road going to Turkey Point. I stopped and asks some men working on the road directions. They told me to turn around and head in the opposite direction because if I kept going towards Turkey Point I would meet some armed guards who would search my car. Now that is what I call SECURITY.

In November a nanny working for a wealthy family in New York City murdered 2

young children she was hired to care for. She had been a trusted employee of the family for a couple of years.

My question is: did that family insist on the nanny getting a mental health exam prior to entrusting their children to her? Probably not. They probably didn't even think about it.

Many people are putting blame on the media. The Coconut Telegraph is a newspaper and is indeed media but we differ from the norm. I have been subject to rants from people that don't agree with my words. Some of them are simply looking for attention. Negative attention



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Entertainer of the Month:
Jess Atkins

Jess Atkins moved
to the Florida Keys
four years ago
from his home
in Bozeman,
Montana. Jess is a
self-taught
musician who has
been per-
forming
music since
he was 12
years old. At
36 years old
his lyrics and
compositions have
been said to hide his
young age, sounding more
like someone who's been at
it for 45 years. His pro-
ficient finger and flat picking
style immediately brings to
mind such players as Leo
Kottke, John Fahey, Keller



Williams and Dave Mat-
thews.
Pulling a subject
out of thin air, his
songs reflect
melodies and
interpreta-
tions of sub-
jects we all
think about
but can't
articulate.
Along with his
self-penned
compositions, he
easily blends in
timeless classics
that paved the way
for acoustic singer/
songwriters. His adept
versions of songs like
Danny O'Keffe's "Good time
Charlie's Got the Blues,"
Santo and Johnny's "Sleep-
walk" and other blues and
country classics, make you
feel like he wrote them
himself.

A stunning instrumen-
tal and true showman
with a great voice, Jess
Atkins plays weekly in the
Keys at The Island Grill,
Marker 88, Sundowners
and the Lorelei. Catch the
Jess Atkins Band every
Friday night at Morada Bay
Cafe. Jess Atkins is a
"must see" for any music
enthusiast.



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fisherman and boaters by provid-
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realize the significance that
marinas and fishermen play in
the Florida Keys, and it is our

pleasure to provide them with
the tide predictions to ensure a
safe and fun boating experi-
ence," said Don Lanman, First
State Bank of the Florida Keys
Senior Vice President and Mar-
keting Director.
2013 January through June
Tide Charts will be available online
beginning December 31, 2012 at
www.KeysBank.com and in
printed form at First State Bank of
the Florida Keys branches through-
out the Keys.