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**Editorial - Support Locally-Owned Businesses**

**Top Ten reasons to Think Local - Buy Local - Be Local**

1. Buy Local -- Support yourself: Several studies have shown that when you buy from an independent, locally owned business, significantly more of your money is used to make purchases from other local businesses & service providers -- strengthening the economic base of the community.

2. Support community groups: Non-profit organizations receive an average 250% more support from smaller business owners than they do from large businesses.

3. Keep our community unique: Where we shop, where we eat and have fun -- all of it makes the Keys our home. Our one-of-a-kind businesses are an integral part of the distinctive character of this place. Our tourism businesses also benefit.

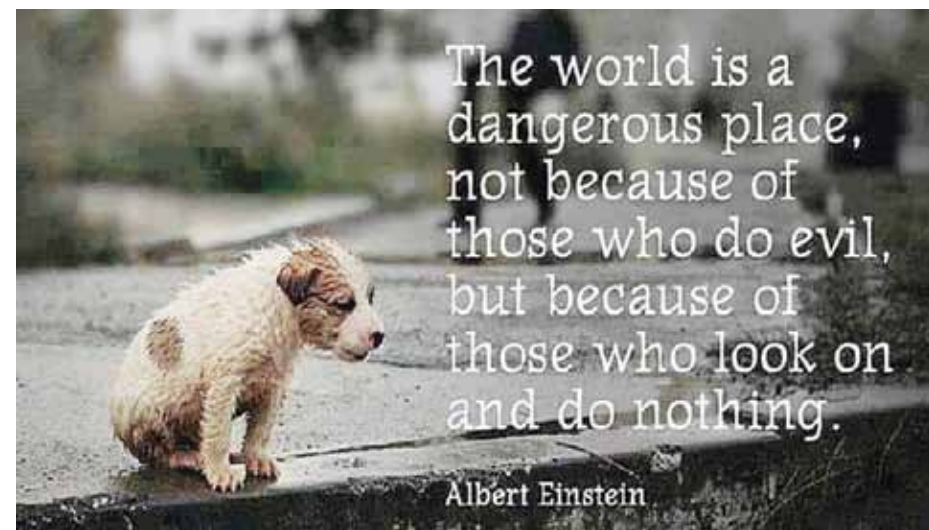
4. Reduce environmental impact: Locally owned businesses can make more local purchases requiring less transportation

and generally set up shop in town as opposed to developing on the fringe. This generally means less sprawl, congestion, habitat loss and pollution.

5. Create more good jobs: Small local businesses are the largest employer nationally and in our community, provide the most jobs to residents. More jobs equals more people buying homes and home values rise.

6. Get better service: Local businesses often hire people with a better understanding of the products they are selling and take more time to get to know customers. When you hire a local lawn and yard service you are keeping a neighbor in business. When you employ a "fly by night" company out of Miami you don't know if they are going to come back and burglarize your home. Don't endanger your friends, relatives and neighbors.

7. Invest in community: Local businesses are owned by people who live in this com-



munity, are less likely to leave, and are more invested in the community's future.

8. Put your taxes to good use: Local businesses require comparatively little infrastructure investment and make more efficient use of public services, compared to nationally-owned stores.

9. Customer Service: Your neighbor the business owner personally handles customer service, not someone speaking a foreign language from elsewhere who can blow you off with the touch of a button.

10. Encourage local prosperity: A growing body of research shows that in an increasingly homogenized world, entrepreneurs and skilled workers are more likely to invest and settle in communities that preserve their one-of-a-kind businesses and distinctive character.

Think local first + Buy local when you can = Being a local!

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tion of the publisher. The Coconut Telegraph assumes in good faith that all editorial and advertising material submitted are the original property of the advertiser. The Coconut Telegraph may not be held responsible for errors, omissions, or for circumstances beyond our control that may affect the distribution schedule.

**Key Players are Back!! Presenting The Great American Trailer Park Musical**

Live theater is back in Key Largo!!! The Key Players Community Theater is performing The Great American Trailer Park Musical at the Murray Nelson Center, 102050 Overseas Hwy.

An all-American musical odyssey exploring the interpersonal relationships of people living in a tight-knit Florida trailer park. When the beautiful stripper moves into town and develops a relationship with her neighbor's husband, the

proverbial s---t hits the fan! Then the crazy ex-boyfriend shows up, and the bedlam ramps up even more! Through agoraphobia, adultery, hysterical pregnancy, strippers, huffing, electric chairs, flan, roadkill, toll collecting, spray cheese, guns and disco. In other words, the typical southern Florida trailer park shenanigans.



The Cast: left to right, Robert Pozo, Jenny Brown, Jamie Evans, Mary-Margarete Dale (assistant producer/music director), Rhona Crutcher, Jonelle Kop (Director/Producer), Leah White, Jerry Nussenblatt, Christina VonEssen, Charlene Sammis.



20 years ago, they met at high school

Left: Stripping at the Litter Box Show Palace

The show was cast in August and has been rehearsing 3 nights a week for the last 6 months to learn the music, the choreography and staging. The cast has persevered through Covid, cast members moving to and commuting from Big Pine Key, having to replace a lead role just recently, and expenses

growing exponentially, the show must go on!  
Who gets the guy? Come to find out and join us prepared to laugh, cheer and stomp your feet to the great music! Rated PG-13 for content.



Who is going to get the guy?



The stripper arrives in town



The pandemonium erupts



Below: Armadillo Acres, Florida's most exclusive trailer park



Admission \$20 at the Ticket Outlets • \$23 at the Door and on Facebook: [www.Facebook.com/TheKeyPlayers](http://www.Facebook.com/TheKeyPlayers)  
Advance tickets available at these locations, or online:  
Key Largo Chocolates & Ice Cream MM 100.5  
Shear Paradise (Cedar Towers Plaza) MM 99.3  
PostNet Store Plaza 88, Islamorada MM 88  
More info/online tickets: [www.Facebook.com/TheKeyPlayers](http://www.Facebook.com/TheKeyPlayers)