

in the news: local business

Mobile Café delivers your morning fix

By DICK CONKLIN
Keys Sunday Contributor

Coffee lovers take heed. Now you can miss breakfast and still get your daily cup of latte with a fresh pastry at or near your workplace. That's because Cristiano's Mobile Café is on the road, serving Marathon businesses and employees up and down the Overseas Highway.

Cristiano's Cafe and Catering, 2264 Overseas Highway in Old Town Marathon, has provided a popular catering and takeout service for over a year.

But owner Tanya Hammond felt there was more she could do to reach out to customers who lived outside of the Old Town area, so she recently started a mobile latte and fresh baked pastry service.

Every weekday morning, Cristiano's truck stops at office buildings and businesses at "somewhat scheduled" times to offer lattes, regular brewed Seattle's Best coffee, fresh fruit and pastries, including her



Baked goodies are also delivered to your office doorstep.

famous half-pound muffins.

Coffee is available in decaf and regular, and the Lattes can be ordered in a variety of flavors such as French vanilla, almond, coconut and caramel. Hammond says she is thinking about adding iced coffee and iced lattes during the summer.

In addition to individual sales, the Mobile Café also serves businesses that want to offer a basket of fresh pastries to their customers each morning. Prices start at \$1 for regular coffee and \$2 for pastries. Special orders can be placed the previous day for boxed breakfasts or early morning lunches.

Scheduled stops are based on customer requests. On one recent morning the Mobile Café, driven by Kalange Vassell, stopped at the Laundromat, the Thomas Wright Law Office, Island Girl hair salon, Marine Bank, and the Fish & Wildlife offices. Each stop lasts for around 15 to 20 minutes, depending on demand.

Hammond says that a lot of people don't leave early enough for work and don't have the time to stop for breakfast.

Vassell agrees, saying, "they rush off to work and skip breakfast, so we take it to them. Many customers have heard about us by word of mouth. Now we are part of their day."

Cristiano's storefront is open from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m. but offers catering services (including private dinner parties) at all hours. The Mobile Café operates mornings, from around 8 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday. Cristiano's phone number is 289-3333; fax is 289-3301; e-mail is cristianoscafe@comcast.net.



Photos by DICK CONKLIN

Open for business. Kalange Vassell serves hungry (and caffeine-craving) customers from Cristiano's Mobile Café.

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