

in the news: business



Photos by KAREN QUIST

Michelle Beighley straightens a strap on one of the hundreds of sandals at Bare Sole.

It's all about the sole at new Big Pine shop

By KAREN QUIST
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It seems islanders can never have too many pairs of sandals, so residents of the Lower Keys should rejoice at their latest retail option: Bare Sole Sandals on Big Pine.

Bare Sole, which is next to Ace Hardware at mile marker 30.3, bayside, is a light and airy place, filled with colorful and comfy — not to mention stylish — sandals and flip-flops for all ages.

Prices range from \$8 to \$80, with lots of options in between.

“So we can have lots of fun sandals, not just one pair,” says Michelle Beighley, who owns Bare Sole with her husband, Capt. Bob Beighley of Double Haul Charters. The couple lives on Cudjoe Key.

Bare Sole came about because Beighley, who worked in the non-profit sector while in Washington, D.C., before moving to the Keys full-time two years ago, was looking for a good business opportunity here. She zeroed in on the dearth of shopping options between Marathon and Key West.

After studying the market for a while, Beighley decided to focus on sandals.

“The store was designed for locals,” Beighley says. “Our goal is to enhance the shopping selection in the Lower Keys.”

Bare Sole Sandals

A new shop featuring a wide range of sandals and flip-flops, plus a variety of accessories.

- ◆ Address: 30313 Overseas Highway, Big Pine Key.
- ◆ Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday
- ◆ Phone: 872-1882
- ◆ Web site: baresole sandals.com

The sandals and flip-flops in stock include Eliza B, Flojos, Naturezza, Onex, Ocean Rider and Taos, to name just a few. Born, Clarks and North Face are coming in January, when those companies’ summer lines are available.

While Beighley has no plans to dilute her store’s core focus, the sandals, she’s also getting in some Keys-themed things — fun nightlights and bottle openers, for example — that will make nice souvenirs. And there are accessories, as well.

Bare Sole carries casual bags and totes from Eliza B and Jellyfish, as well as a line of bags from Twisted Orchid featuring shell embellishments that will add a little shine to any night out.

South Florida-based



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MoGills’ tote bags, visors, caps and t-shirts are also available, as is jewelry by Marybeth Originals of Summerland Key.

While Beighley is stocking footwear appropriate for just about every person and occasion, she’s particularly pleased with the variety of fashion and surf lines she’s stocking.

“I love sandals,” Beighley says. “Being able to wear them year-round is one of the many fabulous things about living in the Keys.”

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