

QUICK BITES

At Muffin Tin, you'll find 'comfort food'

BY CHRIS MAYO
Special to The Herald

"Comfort food" is what a lot of people call it. You know, those mouth-watering dishes you waited for all day when you were a kid. How about beef stroganoff over buttery noodles on Thursdays, or meatloaf with homemade mashed potatoes on Wednesdays?

Remember? Or would you prefer shrimp scampi over rice, a bowl of just-right chili, or roasted turkey with mashed potatoes and cranberries?

All these meals and more are made at The Muffin Tin. Mary Mabeesh, the owner since 1991, says the food has love in it.

"Our cook, Mary Antoine, has been here 13 years and everything she makes is excellent," Mabeesh said.

Regular customer Mickey Wheeler said the "breakfast burrito is fabulous and the barbecue pork is the best in the world. I miss it if I have to be somewhere else."

We ordered the chicken stroganoff (\$7.45), and a cup of cream of potato soup (\$2.15). We tasted the salad platter (\$6.95) with homemade chicken salad, potato salad and cole slaw. Even the potato chips are made fresh here. And we tried a cheddar cheese

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BOX

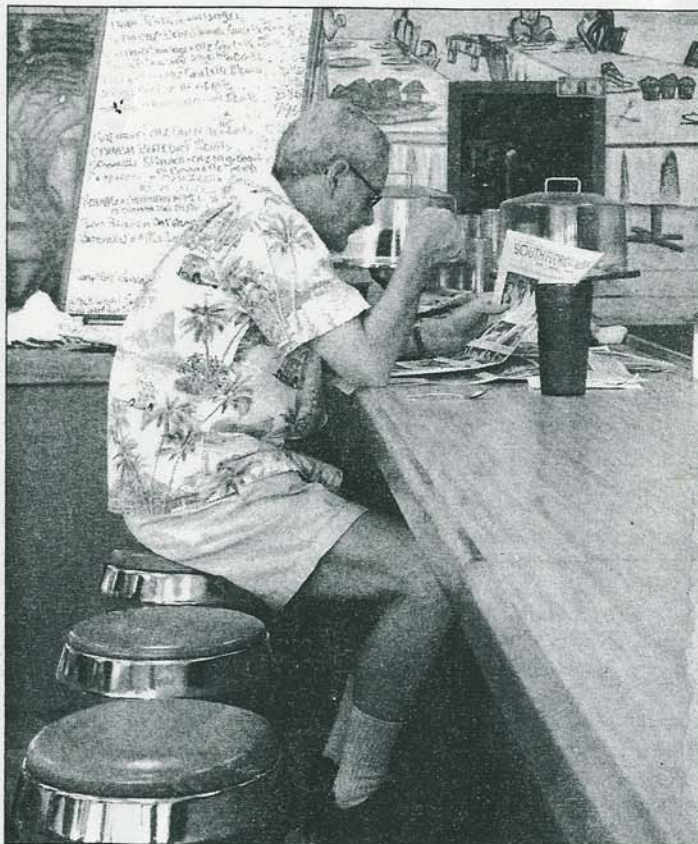
THE MUFFIN TIN

- **Address:** 12655 S. Dixie Hwy.
- **Telephone:** 305-235-9020
- **Hours:** 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. every day
- **Reservations:** For large groups. Catering available
- **Credit cards:** All major
- **Disabled accessible**

omelet served with excellent home fries and an English muffin (\$4.95).

Oh, yes, you can get breakfast for lunch here. The breakfast menu includes cinnamon nut French toast (\$6.45), breakfast burrito (\$6.95), banana, blueberry, strawberry or chocolate chip pancakes (\$4.95 and \$5.95), and country fried steak topped with sausage gravy, two eggs and potatoes or grits (\$7.95).

Or maybe you just want a muffin, since this is The Muffin Tin. The choices are blueberry, banana nut, orange cranberry, corn, pecan, bran, chocolate chip and lemon



KATHRYN WANLESS/FOR THE HERALD

REGULAR: Mike Foster, a regular at The Muffin Tin, relaxes in his favorite spot in the restaurant.

poppy. At holiday time there are pumpkin muffins and pancakes, said manager Jo Hamilton, who has worked here

since 1984.

"I love being able to converse with the customers and being able to make them

happy," she said.

Hamilton and owner Mabeesh make all the pies and cakes, which include rum cake and carrot cake. "Everyone likes Mary's piña colada cheesecake," Hamilton said.

The Muffin Tin is a lot like the gathering spot in the TV show *Cheers*. "The customers make friends with each other. We worry when a regular customer doesn't show up," Mabeesh said.

Before our food came, our very nice server, Rob Miller, brought us samples of a spice cake. He came back a few minutes later to the other side of the table and, kidding with us, said he was Rob's twin. We liked the fun and the friendliness. You'll find more than comfort food at The Muffin Tin.

Quick Bites is a regular feature that spotlights local restaurants. Reporters dine anonymously at Herald expense, but do not review the food. The feature is aimed at telling readers what kinds of restaurants are in their neighborhoods. Got a place we should check out? E-mail Gail Epstein at gepstein@herald.com, or write her at Miami Herald Neighbors, 7300 N. Kendall Dr., Suite 200, Miami, FL 33156; Attention: Quick Bites.