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Local Deals Inside

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Prizes. Rules on Page 24

VOL. 10 • ISSUE 10

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY. SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS.

OCTOBER 2026

Advertorial by Marco Island Gazette Staff Writer

BRINGING THE SHOWROOM TO YOUR HOME

For Amy Poss, the right window treatment starts with understanding the room

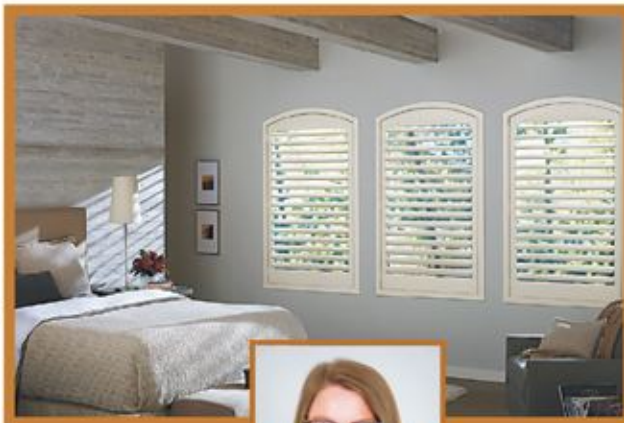
When Amy Poss launched Amy's Blinds on Marco Island in 2020, she built the business around a simple idea: instead of asking customers to visit a showroom, she would bring the showroom to them.

Today, Amy visits customers with fabric books, colors, materials and working samples so homeowners can see how different options look alongside their furniture, flooring, paint and natural light.

It is a personal approach that has helped Amy's Blinds grow throughout Marco Island, Naples and surrounding communities.

Window treatments were not Amy's original career plan. Growing up near Minneapolis-Saint Paul, she worked in her family's RV park and campground business and once planned to become a veterinarian.

After moving to Marco Island, Amy accepted a part-time position with a local window-treatment company. What began with answering phones soon developed into learning products, helping customers and participating in sales consultations.



Amy's Blinds opened in summer 2020, when people were spending more time at home and noticing

problems they may have previously overlooked—afternoon heat, television glare, lack of privacy and rooms that needed better light control.

Those same everyday problems remain at the center of Amy's approach today.

Customers often don't know exactly which blind or shade they need. They simply know what isn't working.

Too much sun. Not enough privacy. A bedroom that needs to be darker. A difficult sliding door. Or simply, "I don't know what to put on this window."

Amy listens first. She considers how the room is used, what the homeowner wants to accomplish and which options make the most sense before narrowing the choices.

"My job is to help simplify their choices," she says.

Amy is an independent Hunter Douglas dealer and also offers the Alta product line, including custom shades, blinds, plantation shutters and motorized options.

Motorization has become especially appealing for
.... **BRINGING THE SHOWROOM** *cont. on page 24*

SEE
AMY'S
AD ON
PAGE
15

AMY'S BLINDS ON MARCO ISLAND • Hunter Douglas • Alta • Shades • Blinds • Plantation Shutters • Motorization • Serving Marco Island, Naples and Surrounding Communities

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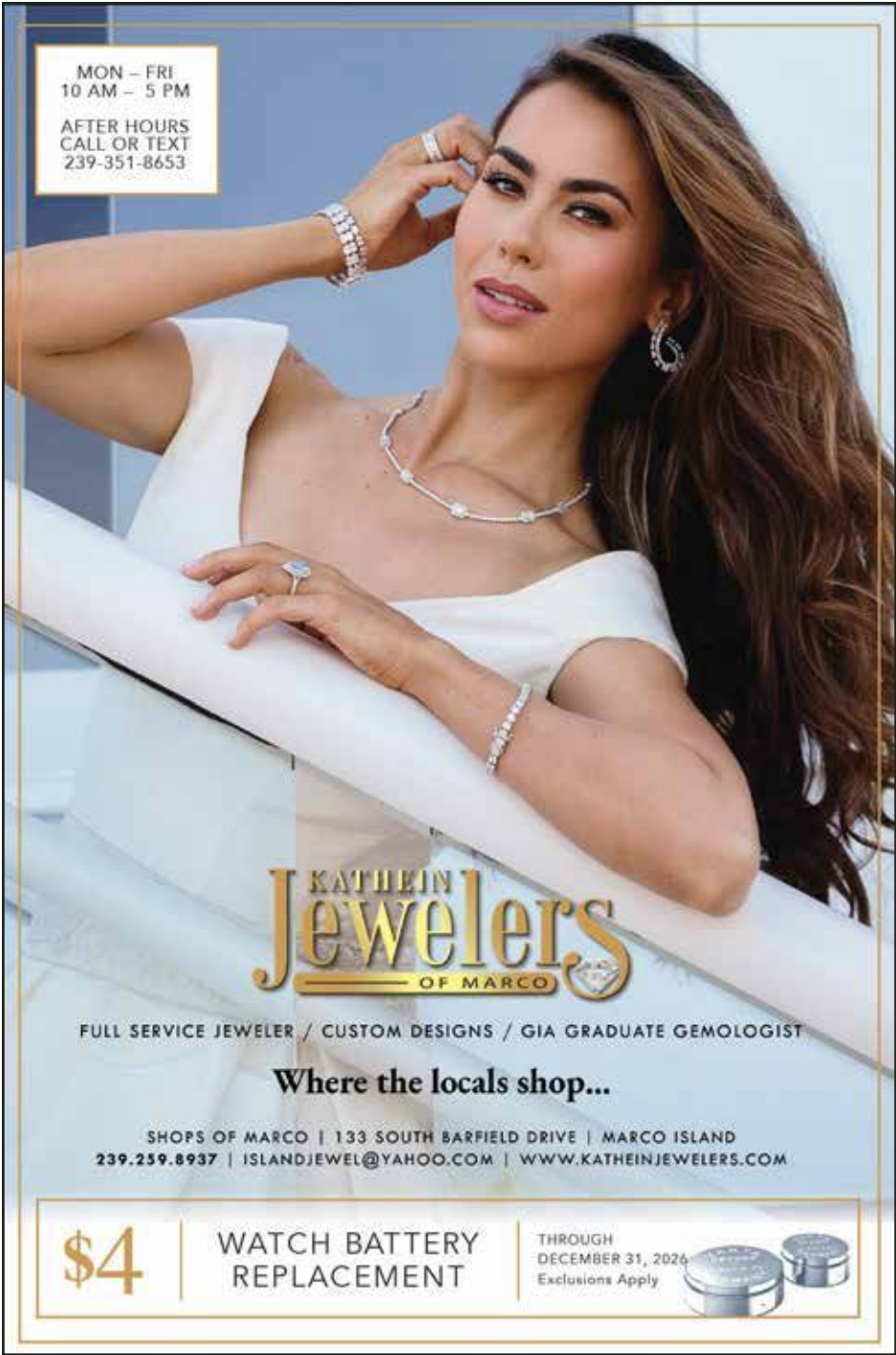
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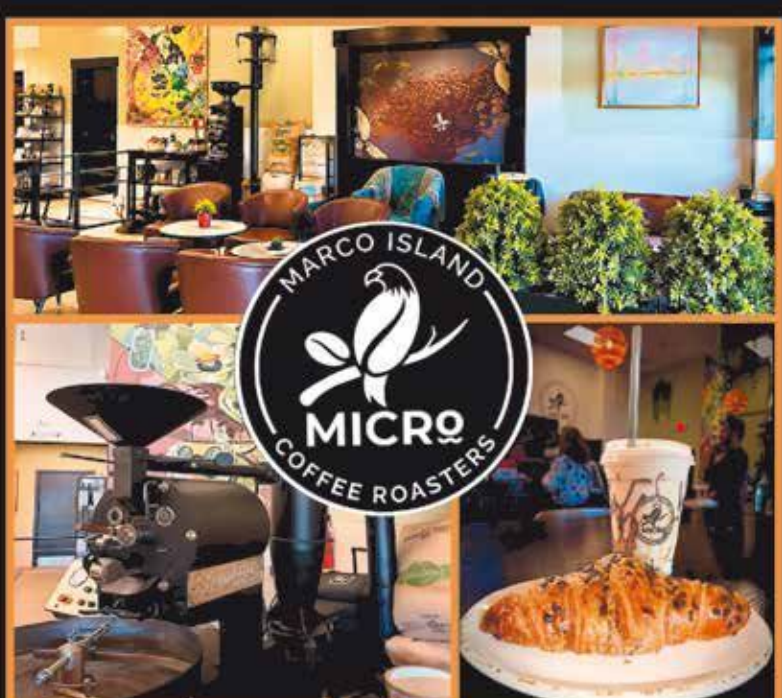
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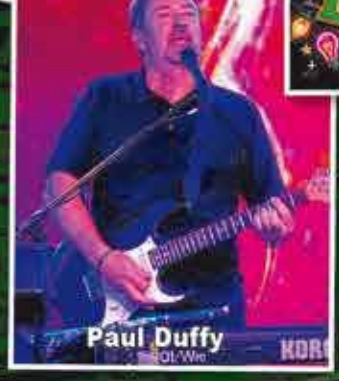
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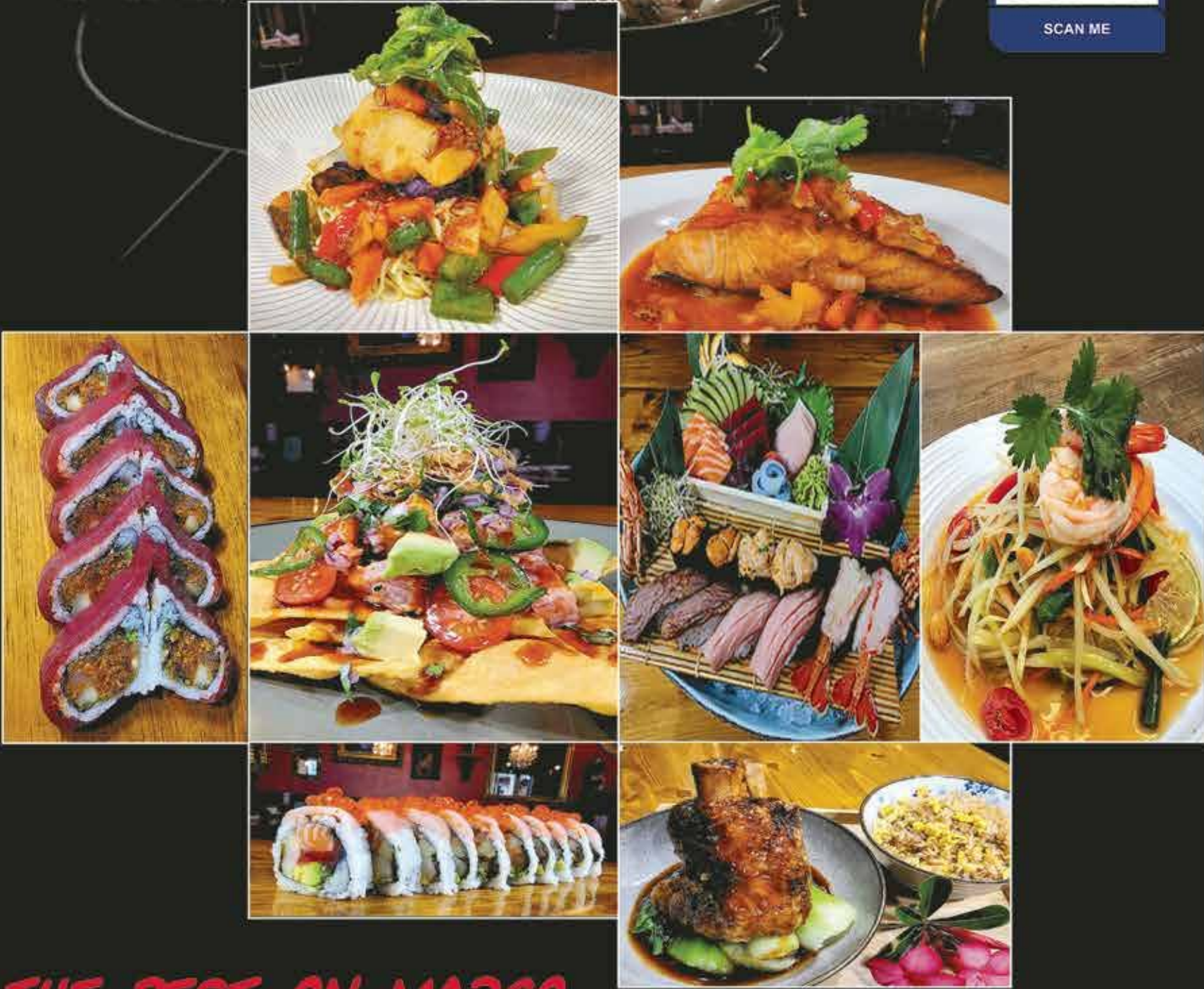
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HOROSCOPES

Autumn reminds us that letting go can make room for something beautiful to begin.
For entertainment purposes only. The stars made us say it.

October arrives with a shift in energy. Relationships, home life, finances and future plans come into sharper focus, while the changing season encourages us to clear away what no longer fits. Trust your instincts, stay flexible and remember that sometimes the best opportunities arrive when plans take an unexpected turn.

ARIES — March 21–April 19 October puts relationships and partnerships in the spotlight. You may find yourself reconsidering how much you give compared with what you receive. Honest conversation clears the air and can strengthen an important bond. Professionally, patience works better than pushing for immediate results. Financially, avoid unnecessary impulse purchases later in the month. Lucky Days: 6, 14, 27. Lucky Color: Red.

TAURUS — April 20–May 20 This is an excellent month to get organized and restore some balance to your daily routine. A project you have been putting off becomes easier once you simply begin. Someone close may need your practical advice, but remember you don't have to solve everything for everyone. Romance becomes warmer toward month's end. Lucky Days: 4, 18, 29. Lucky Color: Emerald Green.

GEMINI — May 21–June 20 Your social side comes alive in October. Invitations, conversations and unexpected encounters could lead to something worthwhile. Creativity is especially strong, so follow through on an idea you've been considering. Be careful not to spread yourself too thin, particularly around midmonth. A financial opportunity deserves a closer look before you commit. Lucky Days: 8, 16, 25. Lucky Color: Yellow.

CANCER — June 21–July 22 Home and family take priority this month. You may be rearranging, repairing or simply trying to make your surroundings more comfortable. A family discussion could finally resolve

something that has lingered too long. Career matters improve when you trust your experience instead of second-guessing yourself. Make time for rest as October winds down. Lucky Days: 3, 12, 24. Lucky Color: Silver.

LEO — July 23–August 22 October keeps you moving. Calls, meetings, short trips and new ideas fill your calendar, making this a productive but busy month. Your natural confidence helps you make a strong impression, especially in professional matters. Just make sure you're listening as much as you're talking. An old friendship or connection could unexpectedly resurface. Lucky Days: 7, 19, 30. Lucky Color: Gold.

VIRGO — August 23–September 22 Money and personal priorities come into focus. October is a good month to review expenses, make practical plans and decide what is genuinely worth your time and resources. You could receive recognition for something you've quietly been doing well. In relationships, don't overanalyze every word—sometimes the simplest explanation is the right one. Lucky Days: 5, 17, 26. Lucky Color: Navy Blue.

LIBRA — September 23–October 22 Happy birthday, Libra! October gives you an opportunity for a personal reset. Decide what you want the next chapter to look like rather than simply continuing with old routines. Your charm is especially strong, making this a favorable month for relationships, negotiations and new introductions. Put yourself first occasionally without feeling guilty about it. Lucky Days: 2, 15, 23. Lucky Color: Rose Pink.

SCORPIO — October 23–November 21 October begins quietly but becomes increasingly powerful as your birthday season approaches. Pay attention to your intuition; something happening behind the scenes may soon make much more sense. This is a good month for

finishing unfinished business and releasing an old worry. By month's end, your confidence and determination return in full force. Lucky Days: 9, 20, 31. Lucky Color: Burgundy.

SAGITTARIUS — November 22–December 21 Friends, organizations and community connections bring opportunities this month. Someone in your wider circle could provide useful information or introduce you to an interesting new possibility. Keep your schedule flexible because an unexpected invitation may be worth accepting. Financially, think long-term rather than chasing quick results. Lucky Days: 1, 13, 28. Lucky Color: Purple.

CAPRICORN — December 22–January 19 Your steady approach gets noticed, and this may be the right time to ask for support, present an idea or take on greater responsibility. At home, however, someone may simply want your attention rather than another solution. Balance ambition with quality time. Lucky Days: 10, 21, 29. Lucky Color: Charcoal Gray.

AQUARIUS — January 20–February 18 October encourages you to broaden your horizons. Travel, education, technology or a new area of interest could capture your attention. If life has felt repetitive lately, a change of scenery or routine will help. Someone with a very different perspective may teach you something valuable. Keep an open mind around midmonth. Lucky Days: 6, 18, 27. Lucky Color: Electric Blue.

PISCES — February 19–March 20 This is a month for looking beneath the surface. Financial arrangements, shared responsibilities and deeper emotional matters may require attention, but clarity brings relief. Don't be afraid to ask questions before agreeing to anything important. Romance becomes more meaningful when you say what you truly feel instead of hoping someone will guess. Lucky Days: 4, 14, 22. Lucky Color: Sea Green.

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26 Chicken Bacon Ranch
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42 Chipotle Chicken
Grilled onions, peppers, white American cheese & chipotle mayo. Cal R930, GI870.

44 Buffalo Chicken
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55 Big Kahuna Chicken
Grilled onions, peppers, mushrooms, jalapenos and extra white American cheese.
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CHEESE STEAKS

17 Mike's Famous Philly
Grilled onions, peppers & white American cheese. Cal R730, G1450.

43 Chipotle
Grilled onions, peppers, white American cheese & chipotle mayo. Cal RI000, G2000.

56 The Big Kahuna
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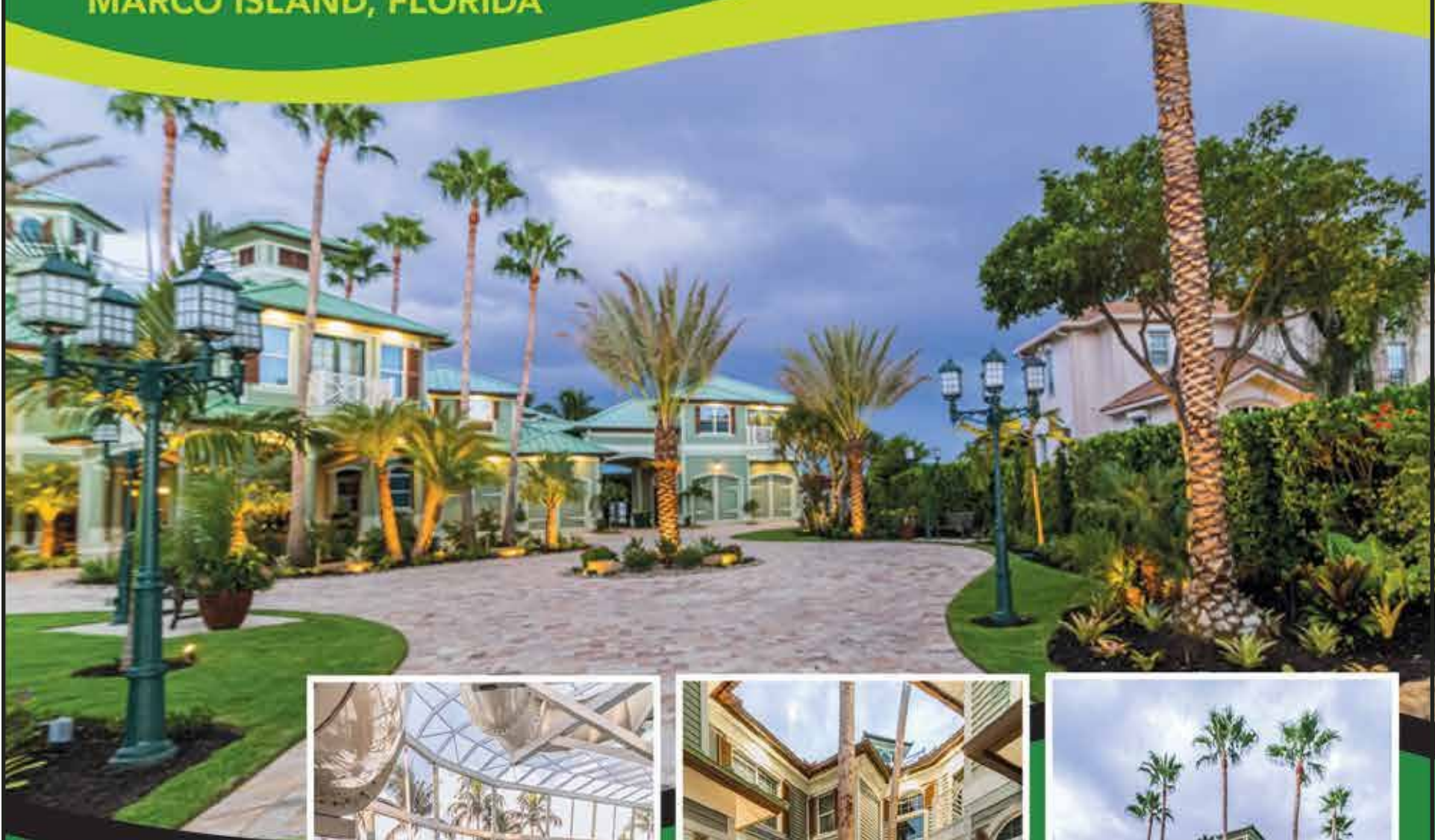


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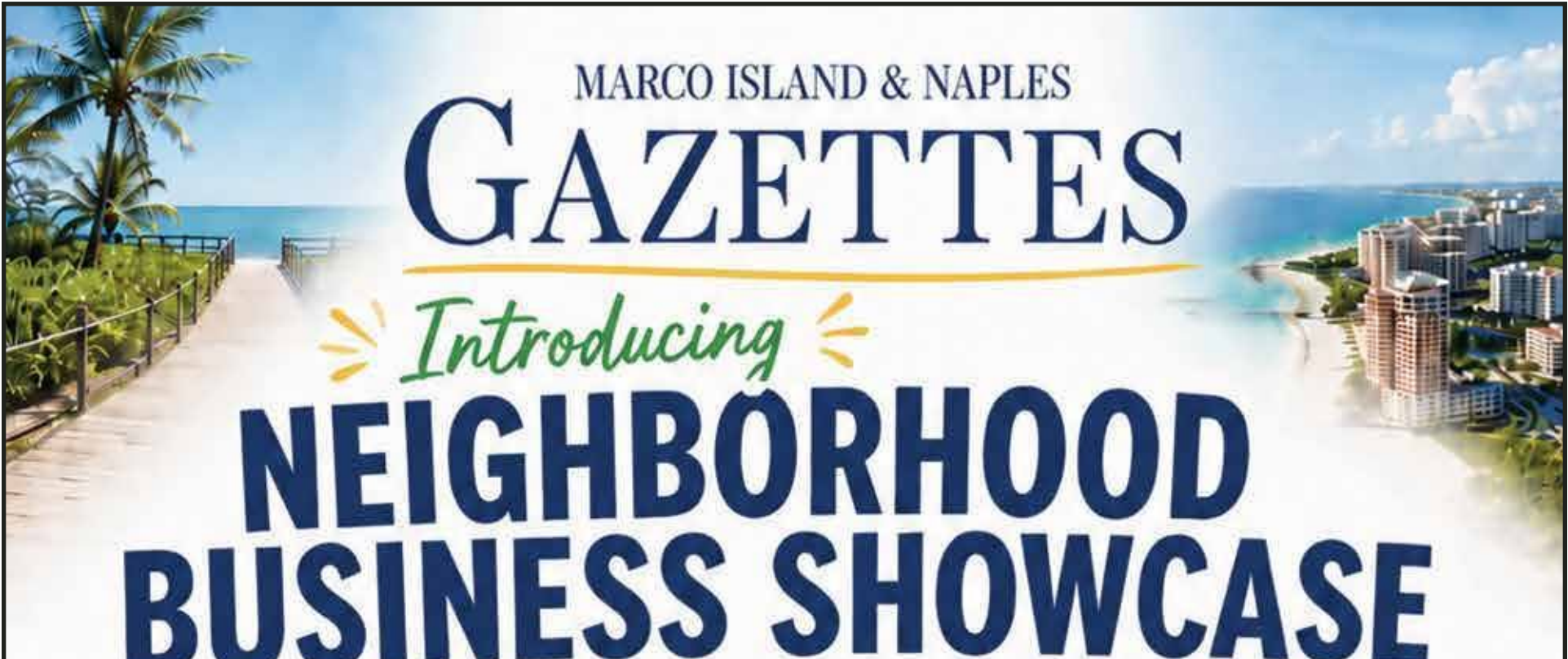
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....BRINGING THE SHOWROOM *cont. from page 1*

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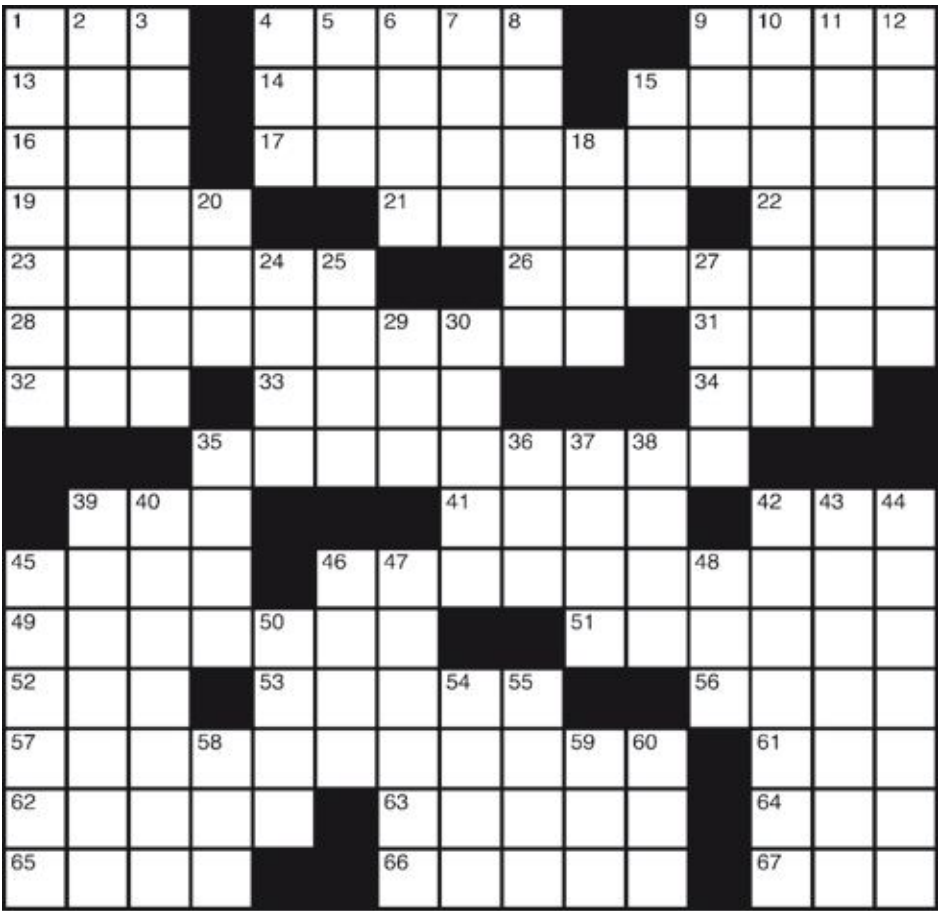
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CROSSWORD CLUES You'll find the answers in the November 26 issue

ACROSS

1 Vehicle not allowed in Venice

4 Museum piece

9 Relax in a tub

13 Mineral deposit

14 ___ acid

15 "More or less"

16 Put money (on)

17 Vocalist who expresses unrequited love

19 Skin bump

21 In first place

22 Letters on tubes of toothpaste

23 Pencil end

26 "And that's final!"

28 Early sci-fi adventure hero

31 Bring on board

32 Mil. rank

33 Anchor a boat

34 "___ your age!"

35 Hockey feats

39 Madrid Mrs.

41 Previously

42 Franchise that includes "Iron Man" and "WandaVision," for short

45 Chimney dust

46 Cocktail makers

49 Petitions to a higher court

51 Workplace for a forensic scientist

52 Uno e due

53 Vision-correcting surgery

56 Barest trace

57 Kill a few hours, and an apt title for this puzzle?

61 "Couples Therapy" network, for short

62 Grammy winner Baker

63 BBC airer, familiarly

64 Spanish for "to be"

65 Award for "Hometown"

66 Sign of fire

67 Museum pieces

DOWN

1 Spider traps

2 Partial floor covering

3 Take back, as a statement

4 Rodent in the Vietnamese zodiac

5 Introspective music genre

6 Turkish currency

7 Move very slowly

8 Joint inheritor

9 Cain, to Adam

10 Common label at Whole Foods

11 Humbly accepted blame

12 Martial art developed in Okinawa

15 Steamed vegetables, e.g.

18 ___ Club: Costco rival

20 Sound of disapproval

24 Humorist Bombeck

25 Daikon or beet

27 Cries of discovery

29 Understood

30 Misspelling, e.g.

35 Dislike intensely

36 Tattoo artist's supply

37 Looped in on an email

38 Enthusiastic

39 Opera diva, usually

40 Successfully entices

42 "Bridesmaids" actress McCarthy

43 Uninvited party guest

44 Spot for a flash drive

45 Made no changes

46 Ho-hum

47 Desirable traits

48 "___ Patrol": animated series with dogs in uniform

50 Ski resort near Snowbird

54 To-do list entry

55 Metric weight

58 Trough locale

59 "I have a dream" monogram

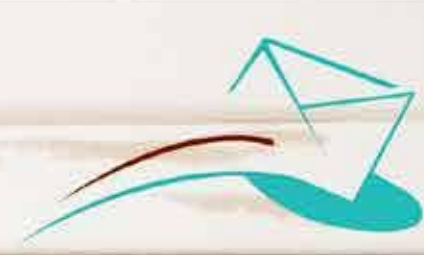
60 Place for winged liner

SLUDOKU

You'll find the Answers in the Next Issue.
Last Issue's Answers are on next left hand page

				7			5	
3	7		9				8	
		1		2		4		
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		6		8		9		
	4				9		7	3
	8			3				

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Answers from Aug-Sep 2026 Issue

SLIDOKU CROSSWORD

P	A	T	S		B	O	O	S	T		R	E	A	P
O	V	E	N		A	T	H	O	S		A	L	L	A
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8	1	9	5	3	4	7	6	2
5	2	6	9	8	7	3	4	1
9	7	2	8	4	1	6	5	3
4	6	1	3	9	5	2	7	8
3	5	8	7	2	6	1	9	4
2	9	5	4	7	3	8	1	6
1	8	4	2	6	9	5	3	7
6	3	7	1	5	8	4	2	9

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MARCO ISLAND & NAPLES OCTOBER 2026 COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

ALL MONTH MARCO Paint the Town Pink - Breast cancer awareness campaign.
Decorate business windows October 1-24; contact the Chamber.

THU · OCT 1 NAPLES Mercato Nights Phenomenal Animal - 6:30-8:30 p.m. · Piazza at Mercato.
Free outdoor concert.

SAT · OCT 3 NAPLES Free Saturday at Naples Zoo - 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. · Collier residents:
bring photo ID and proof of residency. Free; last entry 3:30 p.m.

SAT · OCT 3 NAPLES FC Naples vs. New York Cosmos - 7 p.m. · Paradise Coast Sports Complex.
Ticketed home match.

SAT · OCT 3 NAPLES One Night in Memphis - 7:30 p.m. · Hayes Hall, Artis-Naples. Tribute to
Presley, Perkins, Lewis and Cash; ticketed.

WED · OCT 7 NAPLES FC Naples vs. Richmond Kickers - 7 p.m. · Paradise Coast Sports Complex.
Ticketed home match.

OCT 7-25 NAPLES Over the River and Through the Woods - Multiple shows · Kizzie Theater,
The Naples Players. Family comedy; ticketed.

THU · OCT 8 NAPLES Evening on Fifth - 6:30-9:30 p.m. · Fifth Avenue South. Live music, dining and shopping.

FRI · OCT 9 MARCO Chipping in to Change Lives Golf - 7:30 a.m. registration; 8:30 a.m. start
The Rookery at Marco. Register ahead.

SAT · OCT 10 MARCO Christmas Island Style Golf Tournament - Noon-5 p.m. · Island Country Club.
Register with Christmas Island Style.

OCT 10-12 17-19 & 24-26 NAPLES Boo at the Zoo - Naples Zoo · Costumed characters
and trick-or-treating for ages 12 and under. Zoo admission applies.

MON · OCT 12 NAPLES Stardust Memories Big Band - 7-9 p.m. · Cambier Park Bandshell.
Outdoor big band concert.

WED · OCT 14 MARCO Art Talk American Art Icons - 11 a.m. · Marco Island Center for the Arts.
Rob Eder presents; free with RSVP.

WED · OCT 14 NAPLES All That Jazz Lucy Wijnands - 6 and 8:30 p.m. · Daniels Pavilion,
Artis-Naples. Ticketed.

OCT 15-18 NAPLES Bon Marche Sidewalk Sale - Third Street South · Autumn sidewalk
shopping specials. Store hours vary.

SAT-SUN · OCT 17-18 MARCO Art in the Park - 10 a.m.-5 p.m. · Veterans Park.
Fine art and crafts; Blue Ribbon Events.

SUN · OCT 18 NAPLES Cars and Coffee 239 Halloween Edition - 9-11 a.m. · Mercato Event Lawn.
Cars, live music and Halloween fun. Free.

TUE · OCT 20 NAPLES Haunted Hoedown at Mercato - 5:30-7:30 p.m. · Costumes,
dance party and trick-or-treating. Free family event.

TUE · OCT 20 NAPLES Films Al Fresco Halloweentown - About 7 p.m. · Piazza at Mercato.
Free movie; bring chairs or blankets.

TUE · OCT 20 NAPLES Miami City Ballet - 7:30 p.m. · Hayes Hall, Artis-Naples. With the
Naples Philharmonic; ticketed.

WED · OCT 21 MARCO Chamber After Five - 5:30-7 p.m. · Marco Island Florist Home &
Gifts, 178 S. Barfield Dr. Chamber details.

THU · OCT 22 MARCO Fleetwood Mach Concert - 5-9 p.m. · San Marco Catholic Church Parish Hall.
Contact the parish for concert details.

THU · OCT 22 MARCO Everton Azevedo Musical Interludes - 5:30 p.m. · Marco Island Center
for the Arts. \$25 members; \$35 nonmembers.

THU-SUN · OCT 22-25 NAPLES Naples International Film Festival - Screenings and events at
Artis-Naples and Alamo Drafthouse at Mercato. Ticketed.

SAT · OCT 24 MARCO YMCA 5K Fun Run and Walk - 7:45 a.m. check-in; 8:30 a.m. start
South Campus, 101 Sand Hill St. Registration required.

SAT · OCT 24 MARCO Ho Ho Ho Raise Some Dough - 6-9 p.m. · Marco Lutheran Church.
Christmas Island Style fundraiser.

SAT · OCT 24 NAPLES FC Naples vs. Spokane Velocity FC - 7 p.m. · Paradise Coast Sports
Complex. Ticketed home match.

WED · OCT 28 NAPLES Art After Hours The Art of Remembering - 6-9 p.m. · The Baker Museum,
Artis-Naples. Dia de los Muertos celebration; free.

THU · OCT 29 NAPLES Hallowine at Mercato - 6-9 p.m. · Mercato. Wine, bites,
costumes and music. Rotary fundraiser; ticketed.

THU-FRI · OCT 29-30 NAPLES Beethoven and Brahms - 7:30 p.m. both nights · Hayes Hall,
Artis-Naples. Naples Philharmonic; ticketed.

SAT · OCT 31 NAPLES Stage Fright Walk and 5K - 8 a.m. · Sugden Regional Park,
4284 Avalon Dr. Costumes encouraged; register online.

SAT · OCT 31 NAPLES Halloween Spooktacular - 3-5 p.m. · Cambier Park and Park Street.
Evening on Fifth live music follows, 5-8 p.m.

ONGOING 2 EVENTS WEEKLY COMMUNITY EVENTS

SATURDAYS NAPLES Third Street South Farmers Market - 7:30-11:30 a.m.
Third Street South area. Fresh produce, flowers and local foods.

THURSDAYS MARCO CJ's on the Bay Live Music - Thursday evenings
740 N. Collier Blvd. Confirm performer and start time.

New Medical School



Coming To East Naples

COLLEGE OF
OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Recently, a large crowd gathered for the ground breaking of the soon-to-be Naples College of Osteopathic Medicine. The \$200+ Million three-story investment on a 5-acre parcel near Rattlesnake Hammock Road & Collier Blvd is the vision of husband-and-wife physicians Drs. Kiran and Pallavi Patel (who have already built 5 other medical schools in Florida). Dr. Wolfgang Gilliar was long ago selected as the Dean and Chief Academic Officer for this 6th school -- and served as host for the event. A large group of School Administrators, Board members, business and County leaders, and local healthcare professionals gathered on the site with shovels to get the project started. This school will assist in addressing a major physician shortage in Southwest Florida and train generations of doctors, who after graduating -- many are expected to remain in our local area and State to practice. Naples Comprehensive Health (NCH) is in partnership



with the school... assisting with a clinical and educational role... as are several other local healthcare agencies. In addition, this medical school will have a significant positive financial impact on our local economy -- estimated to exceed \$2 Billion over the next 25 years. Along with Founder Dr. Patel, Dr. Gilliar (Dean), Jim Mahon (VP NCH), Michael Winn (NCH Board), and several physicians from NCH... I was honored to also be one of several speakers at the event to stress this is a TOTAL TEAM effort to solidify a prominent medical school in Collier County. The college plans to open in Summer/Fall 2028, initially

with 90 students... growing to 180 per class... with an eventual total enrollment of 720+ students. The inaugural class is anticipated to graduate in the spring of 2032. As was stated in the event program: "Today we make the vision visible... Tomorrow, together -- we will make it enduring."

Should you ever have any County or District 1 questions -- I welcome all emails which I personally answer.
Mail to: Rick.LoCastro@Collier.gov



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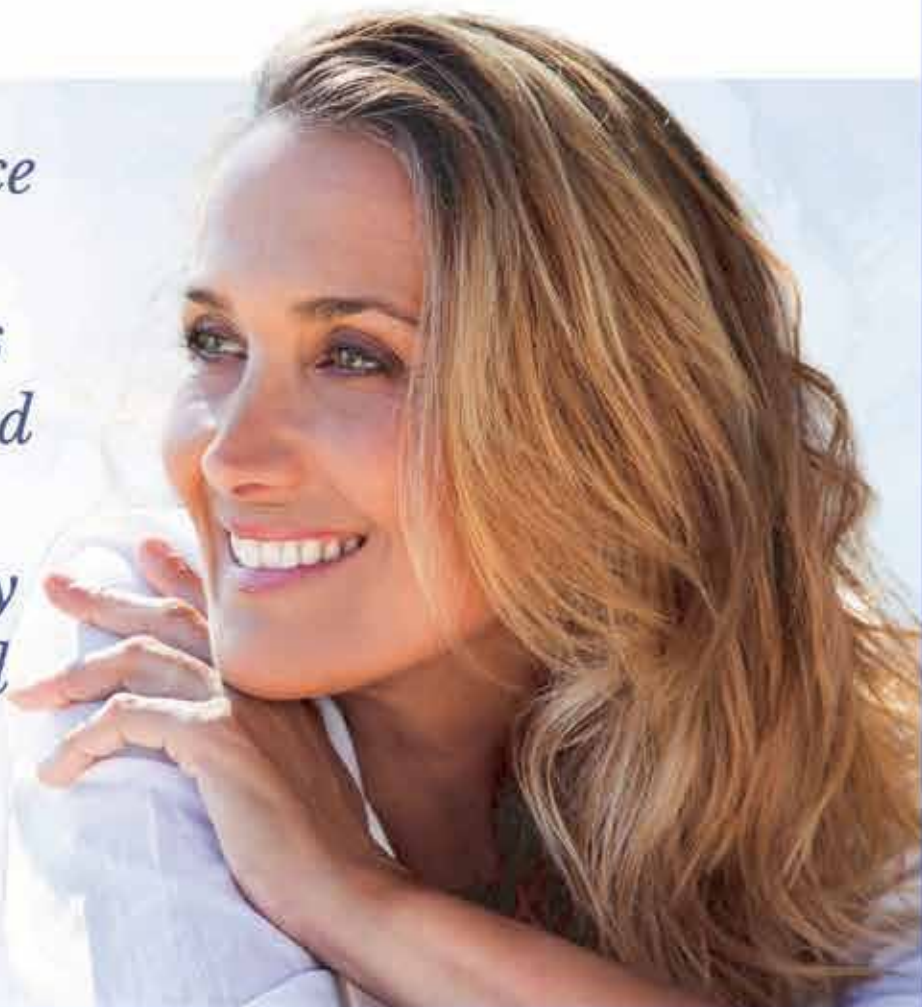
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