

The Gazette is a Free Paper Direct Mailed to Homes, Condos, P.O. Boxes & Businesses on Marco Island, Goodland & Isles of Capri • August-September 2023

### **AMY'S BLINDS** Elevate Your Space with Stunning Window Treatments By Marco Island Gazette Staff Writer

f you're seeking the perfect window treatments for your home, office, or condo, look no further than Amy's Blinds. Led by the passionate owner, Amy Poss, this exceptional service will make your blind selection process a breeze.

At Amy's Blinds, you'll receive unparalleled personal attention. Amy herself will visit your location, equipped with a wide variety of Hunter Douglas product samples. With her expertise, she'll assist you in choosing the most functional and aesthetically pleasing options for your space.

As the summer heat intensifies and air conditioners hum constantly, now is the ideal moment to explore the energy-sav-

ing wonders of Hunter Douglas' finest products. Consider the exquisite Duette Honeycomb Shades, Sonnette Cellular Roller Shades, and Vignette Modern Roman Blinds, which add elegance to your space and boast remarkable energy efficiency, ultimately leading to significant savings on your utility bills.

Amy's dedication to the industry stems from her years of experience with a related company specializing in Hunter Douglas products. This background inspired her to establish her own business, driven by a passion for delivering top-notch service to her clients.

Amy's Blinds offers a "virtual" advisory and selection process through their user-friendly website, amysblinds.com, to make the process even smoother. Now, you can explore and choose your ideal window treatments from the comfort of your own home.

Amy's Blinds boasts a wide range of options to suit every preference. They have everything from simple roller versions to motorized honeycomb, roller, and screen shades that can be controlled via handheld remotes or mobile apps. The materials





Amy's Blinds offers limitless combinations for homes, condos and offices. Sonnette® Cellular Roller Shades. Heritance HardwoodShutters.

include woven wood, wood and metal, assorted fabrics, and durable plastic/aluminum - the possibilities are virtually limitless!

Amy emphasizes the importance of selecting window treatment styles early in the planning stages of renovations or new construction, especially with the booming development in Southwest Florida. Even though window treatments may be considered the final touches, Amy believes it's never too early to envision how they'll enhance your homes, condos, and offices.

Another key priority at Amy's Blinds is keeping clients informed about their orders, which are custom-built by Hunter Douglas. You'll be updated on expected delivery and installation times through communication channels such as phone calls, texts,



**Owner**, Amy Poss holds a Pirrouette shade with Power View motorization.

or emails - a gesture their satisfied customers appreciate. Prices at Amy's Blinds vary

depending on the material and style choices, catering to a wide range of budgets. You'll find simple and purely functional blinds available at budget-friendly levels.

In conclusion, if you want to elevate the ambiance of your space with exquisite window treatments, Amy's Blinds is your go-to destination. With Amy's expert guidance and an impressive array of Hunter Douglas products, achieving the perfect blend of functionality and beauty has never been easier. Visit Amy's Blinds today and embark on your journey to a more stylish and energy-efficient living or working environment.

> - Advertorial -YOUR HunterDouglas 🛟 **SPECIALIST**



Call/text Amy at Amy's Blinds on Marco personal service and satisfaction at (239) 970-8588, or e-mail her at Amy@ amysblinds.com. The virtual options, as well as other info is at her website.com.

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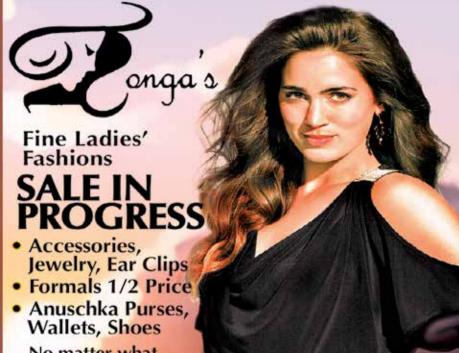
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August-September 2023



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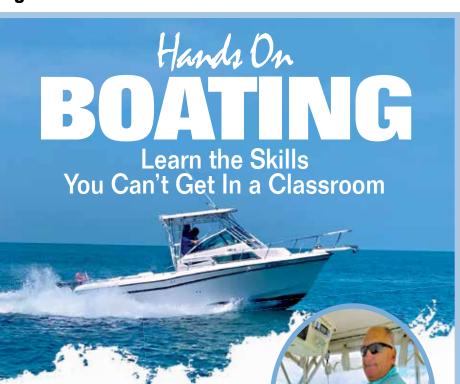


The patient and any other person responsible for payment has the right to refuse to pay, cancel payment, or be reimbursed for payment from any other service, examination or treatment which is performed as a result of and within 72 hours of responding to the advertisement for the discounted fee or reduced fee service, examination or treatment. DN20229.

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### Please Help Captain Pat Fish Again...



You may not know Pat personally but to know him is to love him. His passion is being on the water, fishing and giving his clients a fishing trip to remember. As Blue Runner continues to operate under the expertise of a couple of supportive Captains, we hope that, with the knowledge of our amazing doctors, support from our community and rigorous treatment, Captain Pat will be back on the water doing what he loves as soon as he is able.

Captain Patrick "Pat" Lewis, the sole owner of Blue Runner Charters, in Marco Island was diagnosed with a very rare, and potentially life-threatening, auto immune disease – Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis. Due to this illness, he is currently dealing with nasal deterioration, poor respiration, and heightened anxiety. He has not been able to work since February.

We are unsure exactly what the course of treatment will look like, but it has been confirmed that it will be a long road of medications, intravenous infusions, surgery and constant bloodwork. We are currently traveling to Miami to see his doctors and will continue to travel for his treatment. Facing the financial responsibility of paying for lifelong medical treatment is overwhelming.

I write this to appeal to our generous community. If you can find the time, please say a prayer, book a charter or, if you feel so inclined, please donate. We have set up a Go Fund Me Fundraiser: *Help Captain Patrick Charter Fish Again*. You can go to: Truist Bank at 950 N Collier Blvd, Marco Island, Fl. Account: Go Fund Me Captain Pat to make a donation. If you can help spread the word in your social groups and on social media, that would be of great assistance and appreciation.

We don't know what lies ahead but the unknown financial burden that this rare illness weighs on him is unfathomable.

We thank you in advance, Liz Brown, Naples, Florida.



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## **NOAA Predicts a Near-Normal** 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season Info Courtesy of NOAA

OAA forecasters with the Climate Prediction Center, a division of the National Weather Service, predict near-normal hurricane activity in the Atlantic this year. NOAA's outlook for the 2023 Atlantic hurricane season, which goes from June 1 to November 30, predicts a 40% chance of a near-normal season, a 30% chance of an above-normal season and a 30% chance of a below-normal season.

NOAA is forecasting a range of 12 to 17 total named storms (winds of 39 mph or high-

er). Of those, 5 to 9 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 1 to 4 major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher). NOAA has a 70% confidence in these ranges.

"Thanks to the Commerce Department and NOAA's critical investments this year in scientific and technological advancements in hurricane modeling, NOAA will be able to deliver even more accurate forecasts, helping ensure communities have the information they need to prepare for and respond to the destructive economic and ecological impacts of Atlantic hurricanes," said Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo.

The upcoming Atlantic hurricane season is expected to be less active than recent years, due to competing factors - some that suppress storm development and some that fuel it - driving this year's overall forecast for a near-normal season.

After three hurricane seasons with La Nina present, NOAA scientists predict a high potential for El Nino to develop this summer, which can suppress Atlantic hurricane activity. El Nino's potential influence on storm development could be offset by favorable conditions local to the tropical Atlantic Basin. Those conditions include the potential for an above-normal west African monsoon, which produces African easterly waves and seeds some of the stronger and longer-lived Atlantic storms, and warmer-than-normal sea surface temperatures in the tropical Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea which creates more energy to fuel storm development. These factors are part of the longer term variability in Atlantic atmospheric and oceanic conditions that are conducive to hurricane development - known as the high-activity era for Atlantic hurricanes - which have been producing more active Atlantic hurricane seasons since 1995.

"With a changing climate, the data and expertise NOAA provides to emergency managers and partners to support decision-making before, during and after a hurricane has never been more crucial," said NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad, Ph.D. "To that end, this year we are operationalizing a new hurricane forecast model and extending the tropical cyclone outlook graphic from five to seven days, which will provide emergency managers and communities with more time to prepare for storms."

> This summer, NOAA will mplement a series of upgrades and improvements. NOAA will expand the capacity of its operaional supercomputing system by 20%. This increase in computing apability will enable NOAA improve and run more complex forecast models, including ignificant model upgrades this hurricane season:

"As we saw with Hurricane Ian, it only takes one hurricane to cause widespread devastation and upend lives. So regardless of the number of storms predicted this season, it is critical that

NOAA GOES satellite captures Hurricane Ian as it made landfall on the barrier island of Cayo Costa everyone understand their risk in southwest Florida on September 28, 2022. PHOTO COURTESY OF NOAA and heed the warnings of state and

local officials. Whether you live on the coast or further inland, hurricanes can cause serious impacts to everybody in their path," said FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell.

NOAA's outlook is for overall seasonal activity and is not a landfall forecast. In addition to the Atlantic seasonal outlook, NOAA also issues seasonal hurricane outlooks for the eastern Pacific and central Pacific hurricane basins. NOAA's Climate Prediction Center will update the 2023 Atlantic seasonal outlook in early August, just prior to the historical peak of the season.

Visit ready.gov for readiness resources, and get real time emergency alerts by downloading the FEMA App. Actions taken today can save your life when disaster strikes. The time to prepare is now. More information is also available at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov.



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carry free estimates as well.

## "My wife and I are new

to Marco Island and we could not have had a better experience with our dock being built and we're so happy with our decision to go with Imperial Marine Construction. The it's rare to say but we feel we got our beautiful dock." - Thomas R. Marco Island





# Call Today! (239) 272-6952

# SEAW MARTS

Multi-faceted Imperial Marine Construction Leads The Way

By Marco Island Gazette Staff Writer

Waterfront property owners who need seawall repairs or replacement needn't look further than Marco Island's own Imperial Marine Construction with over 100 years staff combined experience in the field.

The same goes for docks, decks, boatlifts, rip-rap, tie backs, pile wraps, repairs and maintenance - all of which

cost for our dock was very reasonable and money's worth and a

The company, just approaching its 12th anniversary of quality work on the island, concentrates almost exclusively on durable, virtually indestructible vinyl as its material of choice for seawall jobs. Why vinyl?

> "Because vinyl is final," says Bernice Clark, who handles all the permitting for the company as well as managing the office for the hands-on father-andson team of Rafael and Carlos Montanez.

> Bernice points out that concrete vs. vinyl costs are about the same on a vacant lot, but that concrete construction costs way more when there are houses present.







This is because construction must be done from the waterside, and because of staging issues caused by fewer and fewer vacant lots being available for this purpose on the island.

A vinyl seawall has a warranty of between 35 and 50 years (concrete typically has no warranty other than a year on workmanship); vinyl will not warp or fade over time; it handles hurricanes and storm surge well, especially when placed in front of the existing concrete (as is usual and typical), and installation time is about the same.

In an era of increasing environmental concern, says Bernice, vinyl is perfect because it doesn't decompose.

hese guys are a high integrity family owned business who I have used directly or indirectly for more than 12 years. They have rebuilt docks, installed and maintained lifts and re-capped my sea wall at various homes for me on Marco Island, Finding reliable trades down here in SW FL is difficult. I consider Imperial Marine to be one of those. They will continue to get the first call for my future work." Mike S.

Marco Island

Vinyl is maintenance free, unlike concrete's seams that degrade), barnacles have a harder time clinging to the surface, and aesthetically vinyl is simply more pleasing.

When you call the company, point man is Bryan Russell - who has decades of experience in marine construction.

Bryan will explain the technicalities, such as how the tough vinyl sheets interlock and are sunk deeper than the concrete counterparts.

He's also an expert on all the other facets of Imperial Marine's services, and notes too that extended "land decks" are becoming increasingly popular with waterfront dwellers on Marco.

"They add more living space," Bryan says. "They tie everything in, and it looks really clean."

Vital to every construction company, of course, are reliable crews. Imperial has long-serving, specialist crews for docks and for seawalls, for example.

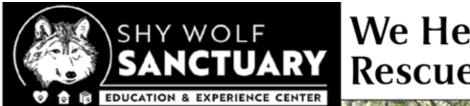
This, Bernice says, fits with the company's motto of "Where Great Price and Quality Work Meet."

For more information, visit their website at ImperialMarineConstruction.com or call Bernice at 239-272-3152. Bryan's e-mail is bwr.imc@gmail.com, and his contact number is (239) 272-6952

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🗖 hy Wolf Sanctuary Education & Experience Center rescues captive-bred exotic and un-releasable wild animals. We then provide a permanent home for those needing sanctuary, while adopting out animals screened as pet-quality. The animals we rescue have been abandoned, neglected, and abused. They have stories to

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HOTO COURTESY OF SHY WOLF SANCTUARY

share of survival, thriving, learning to trust again, and the healing power of unconditional love. We share their stories in a variety of ways through community presentations, on-site visits, and partnering with nonprofit organizations helping people in our Healing Hearts program

We work year round to educate the public about the importance of protecting these animals and peacefully co-existing with wildlife. Our Healing Hearts program takes it one step further by sharing our residents' stories of "rags to riches" with children and others who have experienced neglect, abandonment or abuse and giving the humans interacting with them hope for the future and what it holds.

Shy Wolf Sanctuary provides a permanent home to over 60 exotic residents and sometimes as many as 70 animals. The wolves and other resident animals are housed on a 2.5 acre property in Naples (FL) and are supported by over 80 active volunteers. Captive-bred exotic animals such as wolfdogs are generally considered unadoptable by domestic animal services and have nowhere else to go. Shy Wolf Sanctuary is literally their last hope.

Every year Shy Wolf networks with other rescuers across the country to assist in saving animals with nowhere to go. Those animals evaluated as "pet quality" will be put up for adoption with the new owners going through a rigorous application and screening process including a home check. Animals that are not

adoptable as pets are placed in sanctuary and rescue whenever possible. Unfortunately the need is greater than the availability and we need YOUR help to build a bigger facility and save more animals.

Shy Wolf Sanctuary has closed on the purchase of 17-acre Estates parcel!

With an eye on the future, Shy Wolf Sanctuary has purchased a 17-acre property to expand our current campus and programs to reach more animals and humans alike. The unique, interactive facility will be a healing, experiential and educational destination for all.

Our vision is to create an internationally-recognized sanctuary that is revolutionizing captive animal care and education, while providing a place of hope and healing for all who enter our gates. Through animal encounters and immersive educational programs, we will inspire visitors to take ongoing action to protect wildlife and our sensitive environment while spreading kindness and compassion to our greater community.

#### Join our Pack today!

Seeing this vision become a reality will take the whole community coming together to share the message, help raise the funds, and see the project through.

This is a private facility. Please contact us by email if you have any questions info@shywolfsanctuary.org



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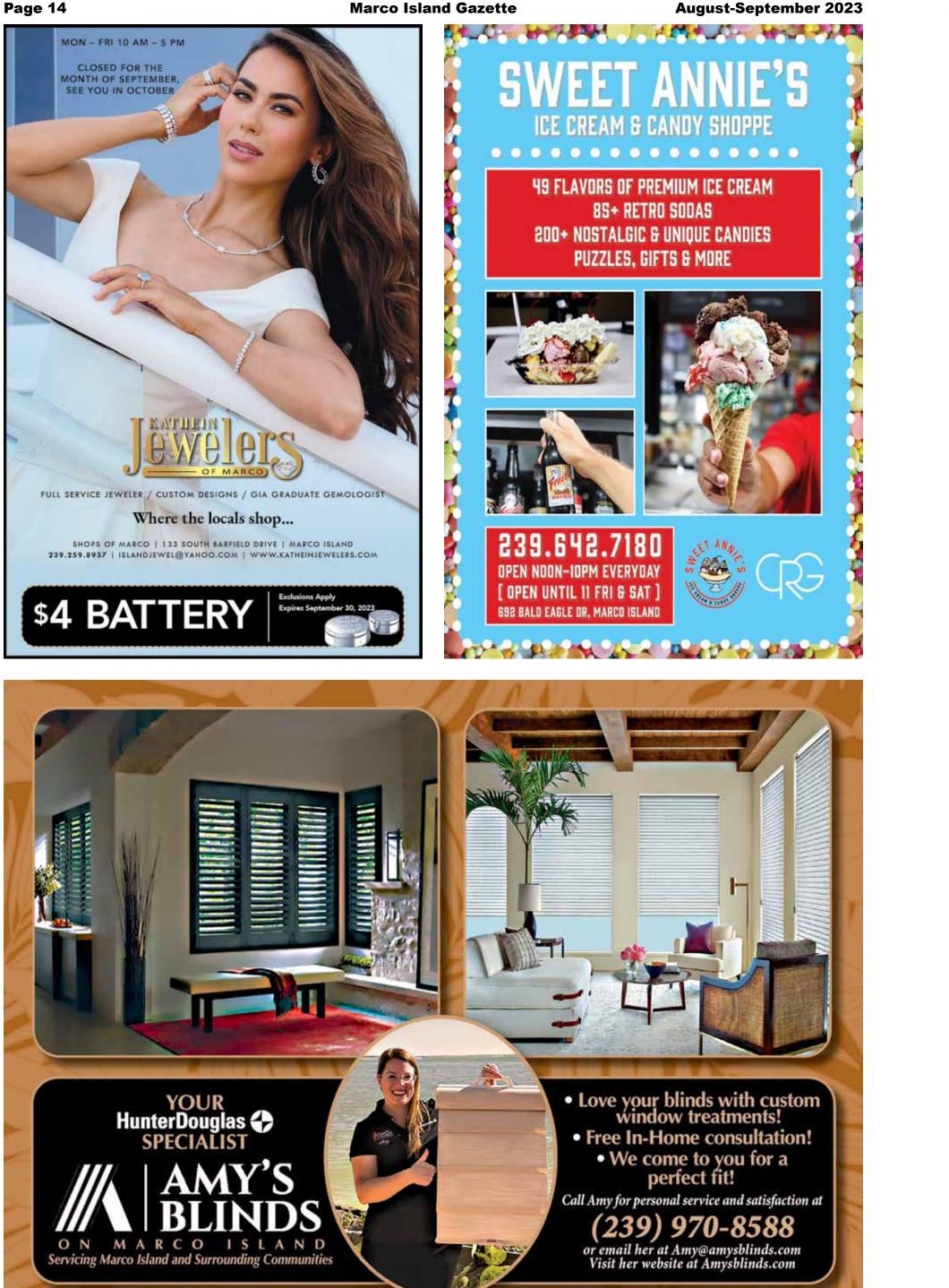
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cases have been found will be of limited

# **Locally Acquired Cases of Malaria** in Florida and Texas

CDC is collaborating with two state health departments on an investigation of seven locally acquired cases of Plasmodium vivax malaria in Sarasota County, FL and one case in Cameron County, TX. There is no evidence to suggest that the cases in the two states are related. All patients were promptly treated at area hospitals and are recovering.

Most malaria cases diagnosed in the United States are imported, usually by persons who travel to countries where malaria is endemic However, locally acquired mosquito-transmitted malaria cases can occur, as Anopheles mosquito vectors exist throughout the United States. In 2003 there were 8 cases of locally acquired P. vivax malaria identified in Palm Beach County, FL.

The Florida Department of Health is working closely with local

partners and county mosquito control in Sarasota County and Manatee County to prevent further transmission of malaria and enhance case detection. They have conducted both aerial and truck spraying in the general area where the individual lives. State and local public health professionals have communicated to area clinicians and

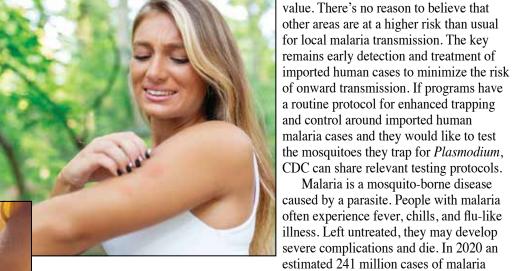
the public to raise awareness and provide guidance.

The Texas Department of State Health Services is working with local health departments to conduct ongoing surveillance for additional cases and mosquito surveillance and control.

The risk of locally acquired malaria is extremely low in the United States. Malaria and other diseases can be spread by mosquitoes. To prevent mosquito bites, use insect repellent containing DEET, wear loose-fitted long-sleeved shirts and pants, and use screens on windows and doors.

In addition to routinely considering malaria for febrile patients with a history of travel to areas where malaria is transmitted, the diagnosis of malaria should also be considered in any person with fever of unknown origin regardless of travel history.

Testing mosquitoes for *Plasmodium* outside of the area where locally transmitted



occurred worldwide and 627,000 people died, mostly children in sub-Saharan Africa. About 2,000 cases of malaria are diagnosed in the United States each year. The vast majority of cases in the United States are in travelers and immigrants returning from countries where malaria transmission occurs, many from sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Signs and symptoms of malaria may include: Fever, Chills, General feeling of discomfort, Headache, Nausea and vomiting, Diarrhea, Abdominal pain, Muscle or joint pain, Fatigue, Rapid breathing, Rapid heart rate, Cough.

Some people who have malaria experience cycles of malaria "attacks." An attack usually starts with shivering and chills, followed by a high fever, followed by sweating and a return to normal temperature.

Malaria signs and symptoms typically begin within a few weeks after being bitten by an infected mosquito. However, some types of malaria parasites can lie dormant in your body for up to a year.

View the COCA webinar, Review of Malaria Diagnosis and Treatment in the United States. Read the Health Alert Network Health Advisory: Locally Acquired Malaria Cases Identified in the United States.

See the CDC malaria website for additional health information about malaria including prevention of mosquito bites and drugs for malaria prevention.















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## **Conservation Collier Nature Preserves** Preserves with Public Access Trails





nince 2003, the Conservation Collier Program has been acquiring properties of high natural resource value U throughout Collier County from willing sellers. Properties acquired meet specific criteria including: rare habitat, aquifer recharge, flood control, water quality protection and listed species habitat.

At the program's inception, the Collier County Board of County Commissioners appointed a Land Acquisition Advisory Committee to consider and make recommendations on offered properties. The Committee's recommendations have resulted in Board approval for and acquisition of 4,664 acres in 22 project locations throughout Collier County.

We are currently accepting applications and nominations to buy undeveloped land within Collier County. Any willing seller can fill out an application and anyone can nominate a property. If a property is nominated, Conservation Collier will send a letter to the property owner asking whether they would like to apply to the program. All properties submitting an application will be evaluated. People can apply and nominate on-line with links on our website.

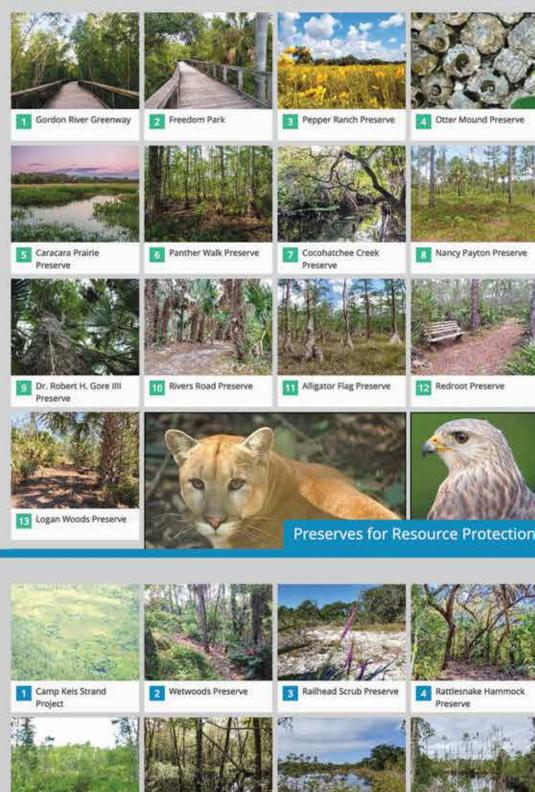
#### Program Mission

To acquire, preserve, restore and maintain vital and significant threatened natural lands, forest, upland and wetland communities located in Collier County for the benefit of present and future generations.

#### Volunteer With Conservation Collier

Conservation Collier works with various local universities and the general public to provide opportunities to volunteer: Contact us at Phone: 239-252-2961 or Email: ConservationCollier@CollierCountyFL.gov

Website: www.conservationcollier.com To find information about specific Conservation Collier preserves and how to plan your visit, please select the Preserve Information tab on the left side of the website.



5 Winchester Head Project

6 Red Maple Swamp

5 Shell Island Preserve

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#### **August-September 2023**





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**Marco Island Gazette** 

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# **CONTEST RULES** AMY'S BLINDS

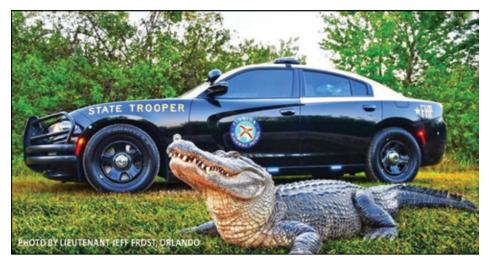
Our current contest awards a \$50 Publix Gift Card to one lucky winner from Amy's Blinds. You can read their story on page 1 and see their ad on page 14 **CONTEST RULES:** Double your chances of winning! You can enter by just emailing us at contest@marcoislandgazette.com with your name, address, and daytime phone number. Please write in the subject line Marco Island Gazette Contest. One single entry per household by just entering. You can also enter a second time by correctly completing either of the two puzzles on page 24. Take a picture with your phone or scanner and email your entry to *contest@* marcoislandgazette.com. Please include your name, address, and daytime telephone number. Please write in the subject line Marco Island Gazette Contest. The maximum number of entries allowed per household is two, one by regular entry and the second by correctly completing either of the two puzzles.

THE DEADLINE TO ENTER is Thursday, September 28th, 2023. The contest drawing is to be held Friday, September 29th, 2023, by the age-old tradition of pulling names out of a hat. See our upcoming October edition of the Marco Island Gazette for the winner's name.

**IMPORTANT:** The winner is responsible for any applicable taxes. The prize awarded is between the prize sponsor and the winner, and in any event, Marco Island Gazette will not be held liable for issues arising from the award of said prize. By providing your email, you agree to receive further communications from the Marco Island Gazette and Its partners. You can opt out by stating in your contest entry or entries you wish to do so. If you do not opt out when entering our contest, you may do so at any time by clicking on the opt-out function in any email received from our partners.

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY to enter and win. Thank you to everyone who entered our last issue's contest.

Congratulations to our Last Issue's Contest Winner: Tracy Dohrmann, who won a \$50 gift card from KJ Chinese Bistro & Sushi (formerly Su's Garden). If you are a business owner and would like to sponsor a prize and showcase a product or service, please call us at 239-963-4656



# Florida Highway Patrol Competes in 2023 America's Best Looking **Cruiser Contest**

The Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) is representing the state in the Annual American Association of State Troopers (AAST) "Best Looking Cruiser" contest. The competition invites law enforcement agencies from across the country to submit photographs of their cruisers, with the winner gracing the cover of the 2024 AAST wall calendar. Proceeds from the calendar sales will support the AAST Foundation's mission of providing educational scholarships to dependents of member troopers.

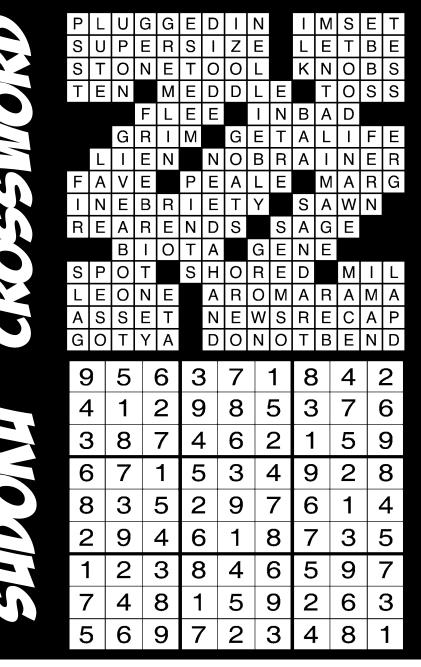
For this year's competition, a 2019 Dodge Charger in FHP's traditional colors of black and tan was photographed by retired FHP Lieutenant Jeff Frost at Gatorland in Orlando. The black and tan scheme has been a signature of the FHP since 1939, not only for their vehicles but also their uniforms. This color combination is deeply ingrained in their identity and is a symbol of their commitment to ensuring the safety of Florida's roadways and communities.

Dave Kerner, Executive Director of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV), stated that the contest is an opportunity for FHP to proudly represent their public safety mission and Florida's reputation as a law-and-order state. He further underscored that the FHP Black and Tan is a widely recognized symbol of their core values: Courtesy, Service, Protection.



#### **Marco Island Gazette**

# **Answers from July 2023 Issue**



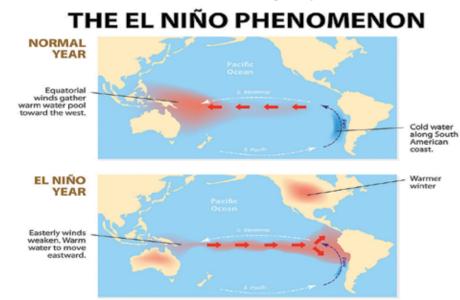


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### El Niño Is Officially Here, Scientists Say Courtesy of South Florida Reporter

After months of anticipation, the ocean-warming event known as El Niño is officially here and could last until 2024, scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced in June.

El Niño events usually occur every two to seven years and are characterized by warmer-than-average sea surface temperatures around the equator in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. But these events can be felt globally.



"Depending on its strength, El Niño can cause a range of impacts, such as increasing the risk of heavy rainfall and droughts in certain locations around the world," Michelle L'Heureux, a physical scientist at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, said in a June 8 statement. "El Niño could lead to new records for temperatures, particularly in areas that already experience above-average temperatures during El Niño.

The last El Niño event occurred between February and August 2019, but its impacts were relatively weak. Average air temperatures tend to be higher in El Niño years than in other years, with far-reaching consequences for global weather patterns. This is compounded by the effects of climate change, which can exacerbate or mitigate certain effects of El Niño, L'Heureux said.

The advent of El Niño this year could help push global temperatures into uncharted territory and contribute to global warming crossing the 1.5-degree-Celsius (1.7 degrees Fahrenheit) threshold within the next five years, which would lead to catastrophic and irreversible climate breakdown.

### Blowing All Viruses Out of Florida?

Rumor has it...



In a stunning turn of events, the legendary weather phenomenon known as El Niño has single-handedly rid the Sunshine State of all its viral troubles. Yes, you heard it right-El Niño has blown away every pesky virus from the sunny shores of Florida, leaving its residents in a state of sheer disbelief and sunscreen-slathered joy.

Meteorologists and virologists alike are scratching their heads, trying to make sense of this extraordinary occurrence. Never before has a weather phenomenon taken on the role of a superhero, rescuing a state from the clutches of microbial menaces. It seems El Niño has donned its cape and embraced the responsibility of being Florida's viral vigilante.

Sources within the weather community suggest that El Niño's warm oceanic currents have transformed into microscopic brooms, sweeping away the likes of flu, common colds, and even that dreadful sore throat you get when you drink too many mojitos. Residents have reported walking down the streets with newfound confidence, chuck-

ling at the very notion of sneezing or coughing. It appears that Floridians are finally free to high-five without fear, exchange hugs without hesitation, and engage in the beloved tradition of blowing out birthday candles without the looming threat of contagion. We hope this is true.







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