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Marco Island

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KJ Chinese Bistro & Sushi

A Fusion of Tradition and Innovation

See Our Ad
On Page 16

Prepare to embark on a culinary journey that seamlessly blends the rich flavors of Chinese cuisine with the artistry of hand-made sushi. Thai Sushi by KJ, a popular establishment on Marco Island, has recently acquired Su's Garden located at 537 Bald Eagle Dr, a renowned fixture in the local dining scene for the past 40 years. Under the new ownership of Kathy and Joe, long-time residents of Naples, Florida, with three children aged 7 through 11, KJ Chinese Bistro & Sushi promises to be a culinary delight like no other.

An Unexpected Union: The story of how Kathy and Joe came to acquire Sun's Garden is as serendipitous as it is heartwarming. Su, the owner of the cherished restaurant, expressed her desire to retire to Jim, her Koi Pond servicer. Coincidentally, Jim happened to be Joe's uncle, and he immediately saw an opportunity to connect Su with his nephew. Su, who had built a strong reputation over the years, was insistent that her legacy be upheld. Intrigued by the prospect, she visited both KJ Sushi locations in Marco Island and Naples to personally

experience Kathy and Joe's commitment to excellence.

A New Era Begins: Impressed by the quality and authenticity of KJ Sushi's offerings, Su agreed to the sale, paving the way for an exciting transformation. Kathy and Joe, understanding the importance of honoring Su's vision, decided to retain the legacy of Su's Garden while adding their own unique touch. To reflect the fusion of Chinese and Japanese cuisines, the restaurant will now be known as KJ Chinese Bistro & Sushi.

Preserving Traditions, Embracing Innovation: KJ Chinese Bistro & Sushi will continue to be the go-to destination for exceptional Chinese cuisine on Marco Island. Guests can savor Su's classic dishes that have delighted generations while experiencing an infusion of fresh flavors with the addition of hand-made sushi. This exciting collaboration promises to tantalize taste buds and introduce patrons to a whole new world of culinary delight.

A Taste of Thailand in Naples: As an added bonus, Kathy and Joe's restaurant empire



KJ CHINESE ... continued on page 10
By Marco Island Gazette Staff Writer

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"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."
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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 life-long medical treatment is overwhelming.

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 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.

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. The more exposure, the faster our goal of \$75,000, can be attained.

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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SEAWALL SMARTS

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 carry free estimates as well.

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.

"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 cost for our dock was very reasonable and it's rare to say but we feel we got our money's worth and a beautiful dock."
— Thomas R.
Marco Island



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.

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

"These 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.
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The Naples 4th of July Parade will feature floats, fire engines, school groups, bands, dance troupes, boy and girl scouts, civic groups and organizations. Wear red, white and blue and other festive attire and be prepared to catch candy, beads and other goodies from parade participants!

This is always a VERY popular event and parking/space for seating along the street, goes very quickly. Everything is first come, first served. No saving and no reservations.

The parade travels north on 3rd Street South and then east on 5th Avenue, then concludes traveling south on 8th Street South. Free parking will be at the 2 parking garages or along the streets surrounding 5th Ave South. Private lots will be charging a fee to park. Please do NOT block driveways, park in bike lanes, park on sidewalks or on other private properties. You will be ticketed or towed in violation.

For more information, please contact the City of Naples by calling 239-213-7120 <https://www.naplesgov.com/parksrec/page/4th-july-parade-0>



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(Additional Parking at Tiger Tail Beach)

KJ CHINESE ... continued from page 1

expands beyond Marco Island. KJ's Sushi & Asian Bistro, located on 409 5th Avenue South in Naples, offers a unique blend of Asian flavors, including Thai cuisine. Joe's aunt Emon, a pioneer in Naples' culinary scene, opened the first Thai restaurant in the city years ago. The influence of her legacy can be seen in the diverse menu offerings at KJ's Sushi & Asian Bistro, further enriching the dining experience for patrons.

Looking Towards the Future: Kathy and Joe have exciting plans in store for KJ Chinese Bistro & Sushi. They anticipate the addition of a new sushi bar in early fall, where skilled chefs will craft exquisite sushi rolls with the freshest ingredients. This expansion aims to elevate the dining experience and offer customers an even broader range of options to satisfy their cravings.

The acquisition of Su's Garden by KJ Sushi marks the birth of KJ Chinese Bistro & Sushi—a harmonious blend of Chinese and Japanese culinary traditions. Kathy and Joe's commitment to upholding Su's legacy while infusing their own innovative flavors promises an extraordinary dining experience for the Marco Island and Naples communities.



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Prepare for Hurricane Season!

Tallahassee, Fla. – Hurricane season has begun, and the Florida Department of Health (Department) is joining the Florida Division of Emergency Management in encouraging all residents and visitors to prepare for severe weather emergencies. Determine any risks to your home, property, or business, and update your emergency plans and supplies before Florida is threatened by a storm. It is important to stay prepared before and after a storm.

Make a Plan

It is essential that individuals have a plan before a disaster occurs. Following an emergency or disaster, you may lose access to basic services, such as power and water, and be subject to limited or no access to essentials like food and water. Visit the Florida Department of Emergency Management "Plan and Prepare" webpage for guidance on making an emergency plan for your family or business.

Make a Kit

As we stay on the lookout for upcoming storms, think about what to keep on hand in order to be prepared. The Florida Division of Emergency Management recommends that you maintain a well-stocked emergency preparedness kit to last you and your family for a minimum of seven days. Each individual or family disaster supply kit differs based on personal needs.

- Water: Enough for drinking, cooking and sanitation purposes—pack a minimum of 1 gallon daily per person for 7 days.
- Food: Non-perishable packaged or canned food and juices, snacks and foods for those with dietary restrictions.
- Cooking Supplies: Manual can opener, cooking tools and fuel, paper plates, and plastic utensils.
- Flashlight and Extra Batteries
- Pillows, Blankets and/or Sleeping Bags

- Clothing: Complete change of clothes suitable for the current climate, sturdy shoes to protect feet from debris or other sharp objects post-storm.
- First Aid Kit, Prescription Medication, and Other Medicines: Include a first aid kit and plan to bring medications that you need. After a storm, you may have limited supplies of your prescription medications and your local pharmacy may close.
- Radio: Battery operated and NOAA weather radio.
- Toiletries
- Cleaning Supplies: Garbage bags, moisture wipes and other items.
- Cash: Banks & ATMs may not be open or available for extended periods.
- Important Documents: Store all critical documents in a waterproof container and save electronically.
- Contact List: Keep an updated list of all important contacts, including doctors, friends, relatives, out-of-state friends, or relatives.
- Special Items: Assess all family member needs.
- Pet Care Items: Proper identification, immunization records, ample supply of food and water, carrier or cage, medications, muzzle and leash, and a photo of you and your pet together to validate ownership.

Know Where to Find Shelter

You must have: Photo ID, Insurance card, List of emergency contacts, Your primary care provider's contact information.

The time may arise when you may need to evacuate your home to go to a safer place. A hurricane evacuation shelter is a refuge of last resort; a place to go if you are not able to evacuate to a hotel or the home of a relative, friend, or co-worker. Hurricane shelters are also available for people who have no other place to go. The Florida Division of Emergency Management maintains a list of open shelters on their website.

If you know or care for an individual with a disability or special need, such as a medical condition that requires assistance but not hospitalization, you should pre-register with the Florida Special Needs Shelter Registry. Registering through the Florida Special Needs Registry allows local emergency management officials to provide important information and quickly assist you during an emergency. For more information, call your county's emergency management office or visit the Florida Special Needs Registry at <https://snr.flhealthresponse.com/>.



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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		BINGO 8-9 pm				ELLIOTT WEST BAND 8-11 PM
	60¢ Wings from 11:00 am	\$10.00 Burgers on Tuesdays	KARAOKE WITH PAM ROSE 8PM-12 AM	ELLIOTT WEST BAND 8PM-12 AM	KELLEE KAYSEE 8-11 PM	THE REWIND BAND 8-11 PM
	60¢ Wings from 11:00 am	\$10.00 Burgers on Tuesdays	KARAOKE WITH PAM ROSE 8PM-12 AM	ELLIOTT WEST BAND 8PM-12 AM	KELLEE KAYSEE 8-11 PM	LITTLE EDGE AND THE FAT FINGERS BLUES BAND 8-11 PM
	60¢ Wings from 11:00 am	\$10.00 Burgers on Tuesdays	KARAOKE WITH PAM ROSE 8PM-12 AM	ELLIOTT WEST BAND 8PM-12 AM	KELLEE KAYSEE 8-11 PM	THE REWIND BAND 8-11 PM
	60¢ Wings from 11:00 am	\$10.00 Burgers on Tuesdays	KARAOKE WITH PAM ROSE 8PM-12 AM	ELLIOTT WEST BAND 8PM-12 AM	KELLEE KAYSEE 8-11 PM	KAILA LOVES ANTHEM BAND 8-11 PM
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28	29

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Independence Day Celebration



Paradise Coast Sports Complex (PCSC) proudly announces that we will be hosting the 2023 4th of July Fireworks in cooperation with Collier County, The Collier County Parks & Recreation Department and The Naples, Marco Island & Everglades Convention & Visitor's Bureau.

Rain or Shine. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets. No grills or outside food or beverages allowed in the complex. Food and beverages will be available for sale at multiple stations around the complex. No pets allowed for this event and please no sparklers or personal fireworks.

Gates open at 6 pm. Family-friendly movie starts at 6:30 pm inside the stadium, on the 40 foot jumbotron - "The Sandlot". Band starts at 7 pm at The Cove - "Nost-lah". Fireworks start at 9 pm.

FREE of charge! Seating will be at the complex stadium (3,500 seats plus grass areas and bleacher seating). Additional seating on The Great Lawn & at The Cove. Car pooling is strongly suggested as a large crowd is expected and there is a limited number of parking spots at the complex. Plan to come early to enjoy the pre-fireworks festivities.

What about Marco's fireworks? Although Naples canceled its fireworks, Marco Island, which saw less damage from Ian, will have its usual event, off the shoreline of Residents' Beach (130 S. Collier Blvd.) Fireworks there will also start at 9 p.m.

The county will provide additional parking at Tiger Tail Beach, without cost. In his latest newsletter, Collier County Commission Chairman Rick LoCastro reminded county residents that only members can park in the Residents' Beach private lot. But the show can be seen from every location up and down the beaches of Marco.

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Marco Island Beaches

Editorial Corrections: the following information was published in the May issue of Marco Island Gazette. The cost of parking was \$8 per vehicle but is corrected, below, to \$10 per vehicle.

South Marco Beach Access

Parking and restroom facilities are located on Swallow Avenue. They are a short walk across South Collier Blvd. to the beach. Parking is \$10 per vehicle.

Tigertail Beach Park

There are no amenities at Tiger Tail Beach except Bathroom since the hurricane. Parking is \$10 for those without a beach parking permit. For more information, visit www.paradisecoast.com.




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Smoke from Canadian Wildfires

Image By japannews.yomiuri.co.jp



The gathering smoke over the Midwest comes from fires that have been burning in the Canadian province of Quebec for weeks.

As hundreds of fires continue to rage in Canada, air quality drops to unhealthy levels across U.S. states. Satellites have seen smoke from the wildfires gathering over the midwestern United States just days after space-based imagery spotted smoke creeping across the Atlantic into Europe.

Because the smoke is higher in the atmosphere over the European countries affected, people in those countries are unlikely to experience the same hazardous conditions arising in Canada and the U.S.

The only break much of America can hope for anytime soon from eye-watering dangerous smoke is brief bouts of shirt-soaking sweltering heat and humidity from a southern heat wave that has already proven deadly, forecasters say. And then the smoke will likely come back to the Midwest and East.

That's because neither the 235 out-of-control Canadian wildfires nor the stuck weather pattern that's responsible for this mess of meteorological maladies are showing signs of relenting for the next week or longer, according to meteorologists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Weather Prediction Center.

First, the stuck weather pattern made abnormally hot and dry conditions for Canada to burn at off-the-chart record levels. Then it created a setup where the only relief comes when low pressure systems roll through, which

means areas on one side get smoky air from the north and the other gets sweltering air from the south.

Nearly every province in Canada has fires burning. A record 30,000 square miles (80,000 square kilometers) have burned, an area nearly as large as South Carolina, according to the Canadian government.

And fire season usually doesn't really get going until July in Canada. Hotter than normal and drier air made for ideal fire weather. Warmer weather from climate change means the atmosphere sucks more moisture out of plants, making them more likely to catch fire, and burn faster and hotter.

Where there's fire, there's smoke. Both high heat and smoky conditions are stressors on the body and can present potential challenges to human health.

While the haze of wildfire smoke provides a visual cue to stay inside, there can be hidden dangers of breathing in harmful pollutants such as ozone even when the sky looks clear. There are air chemistry changes that can happen downwind of wildfire smoke, which may have additional and less well-understood impacts on the body.

The seasonal forecast for the rest of the summer in Canada "is for hot and mostly dry" and that's not good for dousing fires.

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Prevent Mosquito-Borne Illness



There are cases of West Nile and other viruses every year. Mosquito control efforts focus on managing the mosquitoes that carry this virus, and surveillance is conducted which allows the ability to watch the incidence of positive mosquitoes increase as the temperature increases. West Nile typically begins with birds and can be observed as it moves into the biting Culex populations and on to horses and then humans.

Immediately following a storm, flooding may occur. Mosquito eggs laid in the soil during previous floods can hatch and result in very large populations. Most of these mosquitoes are considered nuisance mosquitoes, however it's essential to protect yourself and your family from mosquito breeding and mosquito-borne illness.

The risk of disease transmission through bites of infected mosquitoes to humans often increases during the warm, rainy months. To protect against mosquitoes, the Department urges the public to "Drain and Cover:"

DRAIN

- standing water to stop mosquitoes from multiplying:
- Drain water from garbage cans, buckets, pool covers, coolers, toys, flowerpots or any other containers where sprinkler or rainwater has collected.
- Discard old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that aren't being used.
- Empty and clean birdbaths and pet's water bowls at least once a week.
- Protect boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water.
- Maintain swimming pools in good condition and appropriately chlorinated. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

COVER

- your skin with clothing or repellent to reduce mosquito bites:
- Clothing - If you must be outside when mosquitoes are active, cover up. Wear shoes, socks, long pants and long sleeves.
- Repellent - Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing. Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535 are effective.
- Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months old.

COVER doors and windows with screens to keep mosquitoes out of your

home. Repair broken screening on windows, doors, porches and patios.

Tips on Eliminating Mosquito Breeding Sites:

- Clean out troughs and gutters.
- Remove old tires or drill holes in those used in playgrounds to drain.
- Turn over or remove empty plastic pots.
- Pick up all beverage containers and cups.
- Check tarps on boats or other equipment that may collect water.
- Remove vegetation or obstructions in drainage ditches that prevent the flow of water.

Stay Connected

During severe weather and other emergencies, the State Assistance Information Line (SAIL), a toll-free hotline, is activated to provide accurate and up-to-date information on emergency or disaster situations impacting the State of Florida. The SAIL hotline is: 1-800-342-3557.

You can also get helpful information from the Department's Emergency Information webpage. Additionally, one of the fastest ways to receive accurate health-related information is to monitor @HealthyFla on Twitter and on Facebook.

The Florida Department of Health, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Collier Mosquito Control District

Report Mosquitoes - Copy and paste online: Report Mosquitoes | Collier Mosquito Control District (cmcd.org)

There's a form that may take a up to 30 seconds to load. If it does not, please call the office at 239-436-1000 to submit your mosquito report or to request a visit from a Field Technician.

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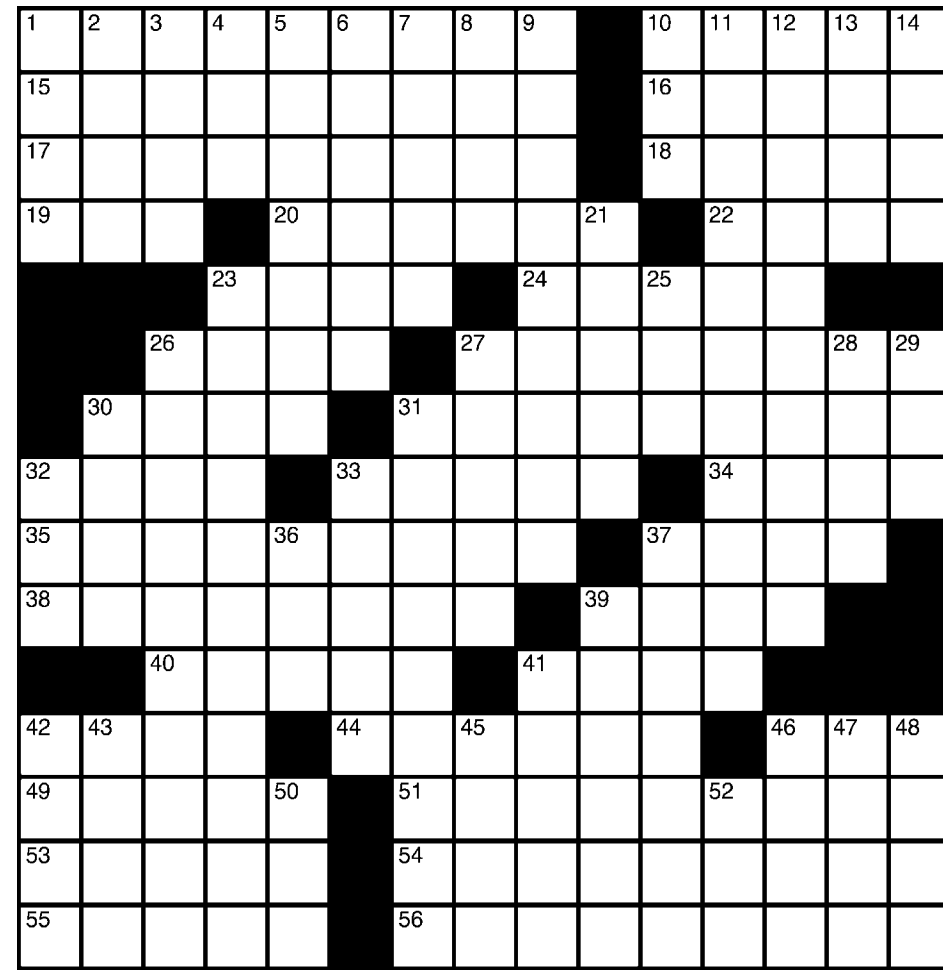
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CROSSWORD CLUES You'll find the answers in the August 2023 issue

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 - 37 Cut off
 - 38 Backs
 - 39 Herb used in some Indigenous smudging rituals
 - 40 Life styles?
 - 41 Personal matter?
 - 42 Parking space
 - 44 Fortified, with "up"
 - 46 Cool amount?
 - 49 Sierra
 - 51 Smell-O-Vision rival
 - 53 Source of intelligence
 - 54 Summary of top headlines
 - 55 Prankster's declaration
 - 56 Mail order?
- Down**
- 1 Start of a library conversation, maybe
 - 2 Gentileschi's "Self-Portrait as a ___ Player"
 - 3 Just after
 - 4 Mil. title
 - 5 Troublemaker
 - 6 Prize
 - 7 LED component
 - 8 Hilfiger rival
 - 9 Pen name of journalist Elizabeth Cochrane Seaman
 - 10 Sort
 - 11 Element of some meditation exercises
 - 12 Admired with quiet reverence, with "of"
 - 13 Goes back out
 - 14 Crossword editor Harper in Hallmark's "Crossword Mysteries" series
 - 21 nous
 - 23 Hashtag that went viral during a pop star's legal battle
 - 25 Ewe said it
 - 26 Elevate
 - 27 Kids on a farm
 - 28 Plant that sparked the Victorian craze "pteridomania"
 - 29 Indoor rower, for short
 - 30 "Smallville" role for Durance
 - 31 "You okay there?"
 - 32 Cone source
 - 33 Pub trayful
 - 36 Classic car
 - 37 Coastal formations?
 - 39 Appear to be
 - 41 Cultivated
 - 42 Refinery waste
 - 43 Cuban bar tender
 - 45 Little dipper?
 - 46 Nutmeg spice
 - 47 Supermodel with a cosmetics line for women of color
 - 48 W. Coast force
 - 50 "When will u b here?"
 - 52 Hoops stat

SUDOKU

You'll find the Answers in the Next Issue. Last Issue's Answers are on the Next Left Hand Page.

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

CONTEST RULES

KJ CHINESE BISTRO & SUSHI

Our current contest is awarding a \$50 gift card from KJ Chinese Bistro & Sushi (formerly Su's Garden). You can read their story on page 1 and see their ad on page 16.

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 Friday, July 28th, 2023. The contest drawing is to be held Saturday, July 29th, 2023, by the age-old tradition of pulling names out of a hat. See our upcoming combined August/September 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: Judy Hattendorf, who won a \$50 credit from Stanley Steemers.

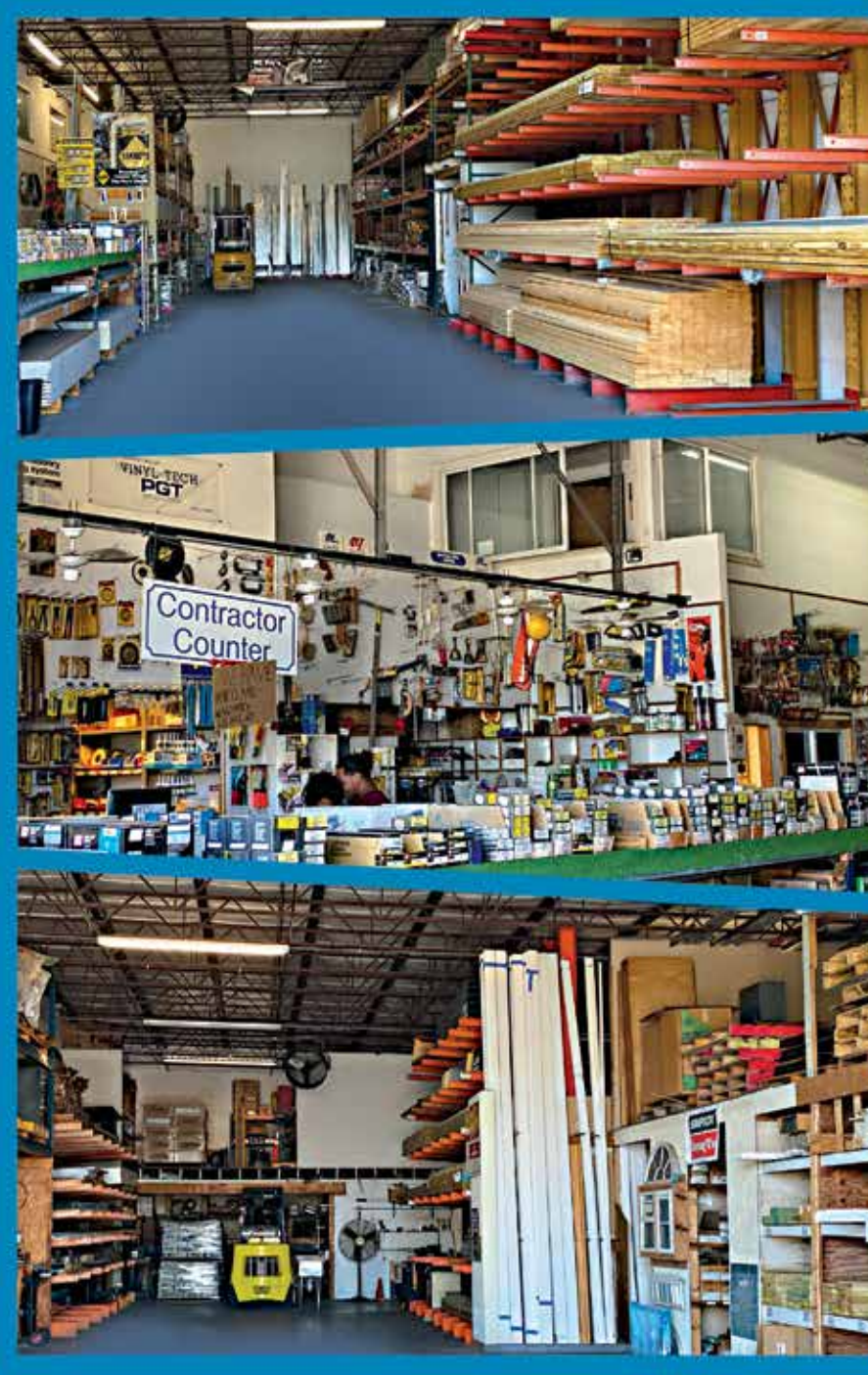
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Florida Homeowner Captures Invasive Cane Toads

NAPLES – Lee Smith, a Florida homeowner, has taken it upon himself to embark on a relentless mission to hunt down dozens of cane toads in his neighborhood. His actions are motivated by the potential harm these invasive species pose to both people and pets.

The toad eradication endeavor began when Smith's wife experienced sleepless nights due to the cacophony created by the loud noises emanating from the cane toads. Determined to alleviate the problem, Smith decided to intervene.

"I thought I'm just gonna go out there and see if I can catch 'em," Smith stated.

Within a mere 15 minutes, Smith managed to capture an astonishing 30 to 40 toads in his backyard alone.

"And I thought this is a good way to get rid of cane toads, to just go out and catch 'em. That's how it started, and now it's been like a challenge," Smith shared.

However, Smith's objective doesn't end with the capture. Cane toads are considered an invasive species in Florida, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife officials actually encourage their elimination, but through humane methods.

"I use the refrigerator to first sort of numb 'em, and then they go in the freezer," Smith explained.

When asked about their final destination, Smith clarified, "They go in the dumpster and to waste management."

The need for such drastic measures arises from the fact that cane toads not only invade the ecosystem but also pose a serious threat to pets.

According to Dave Feenan from the Humane Society of Naples, "A full-



Invasive Cane Toad - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

grown toad can kill a full-grown dog within half an hour. They emit a toxin when a dog bites it or licks it, and it's very dangerous."

Smith is grateful that his newfound hobby can contribute positively to the community and protect their furry companions. Equally content is his wife, Denise Smith, who can finally enjoy peaceful nights of sleep without the disruptive noise.

Smith's commitment to this cause is evident from his past accomplishments. Two years ago, he managed to catch approximately 700 cane toads, and last year, his tally surpassed a thousand.



The cane toad (also known as the bufo, giant or marine toad) is a large, nonnative amphibian that has been introduced into Florida. Cane toads are considered an invasive species and are poisonous to most animals that try to bite or consume them. Cane toads are not protected in Florida except by anti-cruelty law and can be removed from private property and humanely killed year-round with landowner permission. Captured cane toads may not be relocated and released.

Cane toads are reddish-brown to grayish-brown with a light-yellow or beige belly and can be uniform in color or have darker markings around the body. They have enlarged glands behind the eyes, which angle downward onto the shoulders. The glands secrete a potent milky-white toxin (bufotoxin) as defense against predators including domestic pets.

Cane toads generally range in size from 6 to 9 inches in length. They can be confused with the native southern toad, however, adult cane toads are much larger than adult southern toads which only grow to a maximum of approximately 3 to 4 inches.

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Please call 239-642-7778 for information regarding membership at MARCO ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION and RESIDENTS' BEACH 1770 San Marco Rd., St 204, Marco Island, FL 34145 www.marcocivic.com

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Answers from June 2023 Issue

SLUDOKU CROSSWORD

A	S	C	O	T	S	H	Q	S	U	S	D	A
C	H	O	R	A	L	O	U	I	N	C	A	R
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A	S	H	E	E	V	E	S	C	R	E	A	M
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2	4	6	3	5	1	8	9	7
7	6	2	8	1	5	4	3	9
8	5	3	9	2	4	1	7	6
4	1	9	7	6	3	2	8	5

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