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GAZETTE

Marco Island

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Allen Hubbard is the multi-tasking manager of Stanley Steemer

Professional Cleaning the **STANLEY STEEMER** way

Moving steadily with the times, Stanley Steemer has established itself as a multi-functional cleaning company specializing in way more than traditional carpet cleaning.

Daily, from its headquarters in Naples, the long-serving local franchise dispatches teams of expert techs to clean tile/grout, carpets and area rugs, draperies, furniture, wood and luxury vinyl composite tile for new and repeat customers.

And, services aren't limited to residential. Boats, planes, mobile homes and RVs can also benefit greatly from Stanley Steemer's legendary attention to detail.

"In addition to that," says franchise owner John Smith Sr., "we also do commercial cleaning."

John bought the franchise (along with others down the road that he later sold) 45 years ago, and has built on its reputation ever since.

Manager Allen Hubbard adds that while Covid remains a potential threat, the company can also provide disinfecting services.

He said his ethnically diverse team of around two dozen techs are carefully vetted, screened and trained before being hired, and that when they're out in the field they use radio communication instead of cell phones.

Both John and Allen agree that the most satisfying part of the business is positive customer feedback.

"We usually call as soon as jobs are finished," Allen says. "Customers are pleased when they realize they didn't have to rip up carpet or tile, or throw away furniture. They're happy to save money."

John adds that Stanley Steemer is happy to do the smallest job in a mobile home, for example, to the biggest job in a mansion.

One of Stanley Steemer's trump cards is that the umbrella company exclusively manufactures their equipment, and that the cleaning agents used are exceptionally mild.

Both John and Allen emphasize that the difference between DIY cleaning (with hired carpet scrubbers) and Stanley Steemer cleaning is that the 600-psi outward pressure and powerful vacuuming leaves no residue.

Allen is particularly proud of his team of techs because they are the visible face of the company.

"They're basically driving a billboard," Allen says.

"We (as managers) are no better than the two guys who show up to your door," adds John.

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See Our Ad On Page 11

Assistant manager of the operation Francisco Ortiz, a former marine who saw active overseas duty, stands with an instantly recognizable fleet van.

ADVERTORIAL - BY Marco Island Gazette Staff Writer

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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.

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-and-son 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.

"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

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March-April Events!

Music in the Garden - March 16, April 27, May 18, 2-4pm; June 15, 12-2pm

Area musicians grace the outdoor performance stage overlooking the Water Garden on select Saturdays, monthly through June. Sit back and relax in your favorite tropical setting and enjoy the musical stylings of our local talent. Naples Botanical Garden, 4820 Bayshore Dr. Naples, 239-643-7275.

St. Patrick's Day Parade Naples - March 16

A little over 40 years ago a group of fun-loving Neapolitans got together and decided to have a parade to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Through the hard work of many volunteers and the generous support of patrons, the Parade has prospered. The Parade is now the largest privately-funded Parade in the state and draws over 40,000 people to downtown Naples each year. The Foundation has donated over \$200,000 to local high school bands and scholarships in the last five years. The Parade begins at the corner of 3rd Street South and 10th Avenue, then turns east onto Fifth Avenue South and then south on 8th Street South, finishing in front of Naples City Hall. Arrive early if you want a good view of the floats, fire engines, marching high school bands, dancers, and more. The city suggests parking in the two downtown parking garages. Plan to arrive early. Road closures: 5th Avenue South will be closed 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 3rd Avenue will be closed 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. City of Naples Downtown, 701 Fifth Ave S, Free.

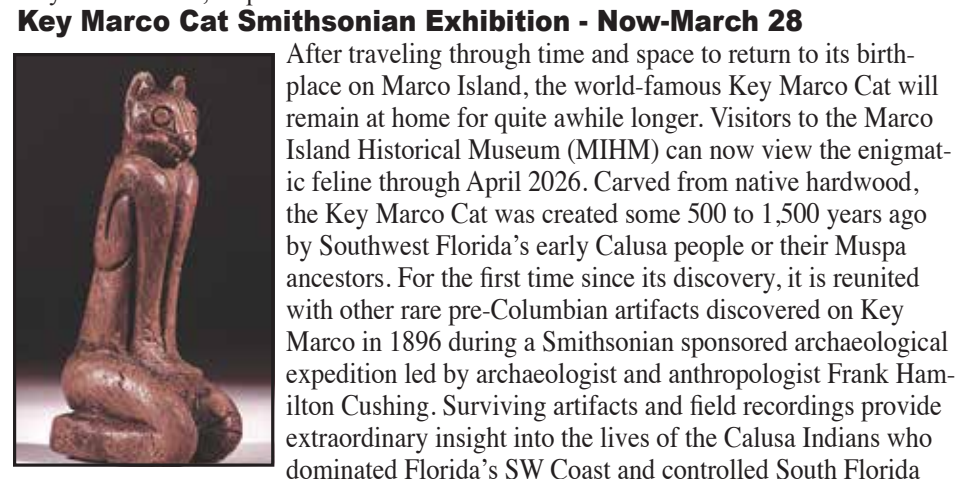


Farmers Market, Marco Island - March 13, 20, 27, 7:30am-1pm
We are a family owned business located on Marco Island. Our goal is to bring joy to all visitors & locals in Southwest Florida through our yummy cold brew, plant based energy drinks & donuts! Make today a Bean day! The Bean Cafe, Wine & Gifts, Veteran's Memorial Park, 901 Park Ave, Marco Island. hello@thebeancafes.com, 239-748-1191.

Knights of Columbus Bingo - Thurs nights thru March 21, 7-9pm
Free dinner, over \$1200 in cash prizes, numerous door prizes and Coach bag giveaway. Doors open 5:30pm, games 7-9pm. San Marco Parish Hall, 851 San Marco Road. Proceeds go to charity.

Paradise Coast Sports Complex - Free every Saturday night
The best of what Paradise Coast Sports Complex has to offer, The Cove Beer and Wine Bar presents live reggae music, superb drink specials and a cool Caribbean vibe. 3920 City Gate Blvd N, Naples. 239-252-4386.

Key Marco Cat Smithsonian Exhibition - Now-March 28
After traveling through time and space to return to its birthplace on Marco Island, the world-famous Key Marco Cat will remain at home for quite awhile longer. Visitors to the Marco Island Historical Museum (MIHM) can now view the enigmatic feline through April 2026. Carved from native hardwood, the Key Marco Cat was created some 500 to 1,500 years ago by Southwest Florida's early Calusa people or their Muspa ancestors. For the first time since its discovery, it is reunited with other rare pre-Columbian artifacts discovered on Key Marco in 1896 during a Smithsonian sponsored archaeological expedition led by archaeologist and anthropologist Frank Hamilton Cushing. Surviving artifacts and field recordings provide extraordinary insight into the lives of the Calusa Indians who dominated Florida's SW Coast and controlled South Florida



when the Spanish arrived in the 16th Century. Since their discovery, the returning Key Marco artifacts have been preserved by the Smithsonian and University of Pennsylvania (UPENN). Marco Island Historical Museum, 180 S. Heathwood Dr, Marco Island, 239-389-6447. Admission is Free.

Le Bonne Vie Pop-Up Exhibition - Now-March 31
An exhibition of Nick Mele's iconic photographs in collaboration with vendors who create what you find in the world that Nick Mele photographs. Ala von Auersperg, A Mano, Well Made Home and others bring fashion, interiors, accessories and jewelry, popping in for trunk shows and special events throughout March. 10% of all sales donated to Women Lifting Women - a fundraising initiative of The Women's Foundation of Collier County, to help senior women who find themselves homeless and Neapolitan Enterprises, on behalf of Third Street South will provide a match. Third Street South, 1209 3rd St S, Suite 5, Next to Janes Cafe, Naples.

Forest Bathing at Rookery Bay Research Reserve - Now-April 6
\$50. Enjoy a slow, quiet, guided sensory and meditative experience in nature at Rookery Bay Research Reserve. A Certified Forest Bathing Guide will conduct a guided-meditation session and offer a series of invitations to use your curiosity and senses to connect with nature and yourself. Look, listen, smell and feel what the forest is offering you. Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center, 300 Tower Road, Naples, 239-530-5940.

Art In The Park - Now-April 6
Naples Art Institute connects artists with art shoppers in an exciting season of Art In The Park. Since 1957, Art In The Park has showcased the talents of artists



and is the first outdoor art fair held in Naples. Art In The Park carries on the tradition of providing our community access to the creative fine art & craftwork of local artists. Held at the amazing Coastland Center in Naples until further notice, this series of juried art fairs are considered premier caliber outdoor shows due to their high quality of art, engaging artists, and festive atmosphere. The fairs feature works from approximately 40 professional artists from all over the state in mediums including ceramics, glass, printmaking, jewelry, metal, mixed media, painting, sculpture, and more. Guests enjoy our amazing Southwest Florida weather, have access to plentiful parking, and visit any of Coastland's celebrated restaurants and stores. Cambier Park, 755 8th Ave S, Naples.

Live at The Cove - Now-April 6
The best of what Paradise Coast Sports Complex has to offer every Saturday night, The Cove Beer and Wine Bar presents live reggae music, superb drink specials and a cool Caribbean vibe! Paradise Coast Sports Complex, 3920 City Gate Blvd N, Naples, 239-252-4386, Free.

Tamara Kostianovsky: Botanical Revolution at The Baker Museum, Artis Naples - Now-April 7
Artist Tamara Kostianovsky utilizes repurposed clothing and other textiles to create dynamic works of sculpture that reference humankind's connections to nature by echoing the forms of birds, tree stumps, plants and cow carcasses. This exhibition, the artist's first in the southeastern United States, will include new work inspired by the bird and plant life of Southwest Florida. Brooklyn-based Latinx artist Tamara Kostianovsky was born in Jerusalem, Israel, and grew up in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Baker Museum, Artis Naples, 5833 Pelican Bay Blvd, Naples, 239-597-1111. Adults \$10, Members Free, Student, Active Military, Children under 17 Free.

South Collier Market - Now-April 15
After outgrowing its space last year at Rookery Bay, South Collier Market negotiated a larger space and much needed parking at Florida Southwestern State College. This market features food trucks and 70 tents of SWFL produce, bakeries, artisan foods, jewelry, clothing, local artists and photography, specialty items and gifts. Florida Southwestern State College/Collier Campus, 7505 Grand Lely Dr, Naples, 239-289-3786.



Musical Swings at the Naples Botanical Garden - Now-April 20
Set in the Kapnick Caribbean Garden, Musical Swings is a collaborative music-making art installation that invites people of all ages to participate in an unexpected creative performance. Visitors create a musical composition of unique melodies through a responsive, interactive soundtrack. Created by Daily tous les jours. Included with Garden admission. Naples Botanical Garden, 4820 Bayshore Drive, Naples, 239-643-7275.

"Just Beachy: Our Most Enduring Attraction" - Now-April 20
A journey in sand through the hourglass of time. A vacation on a Naples beach was once as rustic a lifestyle choice as now it is a sophisticated one. As the area's culture has changed and the skyline has evolved, one thing remains true: the beaches are still a place where sea and sand come together to provide an enchantment to visitors young and old. The charm of our beaches has provided generations with unforgettable memories. This exhibit brings those memories to life with objects and photos from the collections of Collier County Museums and its institutional partners. Collier Museum at Government Center, 3331 Tamiami Trail East, Naples, 239-252-8517, Free.

Third Street South Farmers Market - Now-April 27

There is no better way to experience the heart of a culture than through its food. As part of the larger city-wide celebration, the Third Street South Winter Farmers Market features a focus on culinary delights of many Hispanic and Latin cuisines, with many of our favorite vendors returning and exciting new vendors joining the lineup. Established in 1994, today reflects participation of nearly 60 vendors, the majority of whom are local agriculturally based businesses. No national chains or franchises, the Farmers Market connects local growers and independent merchants with local consumers, helping to foster a stronger sense of community. Third Street South, 1207 3rd Street South, Naples, 239-434-6533.

Ave Maria Farmers Market - Now-April 27
Open to the Public! The Farmers Market is in the Ave Maria Town Center every Saturday, thru April 27, 9am-2pm. with LIVE Music 11am-2pm. Browse fresh local produce and citrus, fresh seafood, breads, local honey and fruit spreads, soaps, oils, flowers, candles, jewelry, crafts, clothing and more. For event information, contact the Ave Maria New Home & Welcome Center 239-352-3903. Ave Maria, 5072 Annunciaton Circle, Ave Maria, 239-352-3903. Free Admission & Parking Free.

Borrowed from Our Children: 70 Years of the Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary Exhibit - Now-April 27

Seventy years ago, brave voices in our community spoke up to protect ancient trees from the threat of the axe and saw. Thanks to their work, today Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary protects 13,450 acres in Southwest Florida as a haven for plants, animals, and people. The Sanctuary recharges the aquifer, cleans water, and reduces risk of catastrophic wildfire while reducing algal blooms along the coastline. It was said by John James Audubon that, "a true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers, but borrowed from his children." This photography exhibit celebrates the past 70 years of conservation and looks ahead to the next 70. Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch, 1215 Roberts Avenue West, Immokalee, 239-252-6211, Free.

Continued on Page 12

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March-April Events!

Continued from Page 10



The Power of Photography: Iconic Images from Peter Fetterman - Now-April 28



Featuring a selection of iconic images compiled by pioneering collector and gallerist Peter Fetterman, this exhibition presents a carefully curated selection of over 70 original prints. From the bizarre Boschian fantasies of Melvin Sokolsky to the haunting humanity of Edward Weston's portraits; from rare interior shots by famed nude photographer Ruth Bernhard to Steve McCurry's Afghan Girl, this exhibition gathers some of the most unique and heartening photographs from the 20th century. Each image serves as a time capsule, offering a glimpse into days gone past, yet, each photograph also speaks of tranquility, peace, and hope for the future. Naples Art Institute, 585 Park St, Naples.

The Face of Immokalee at The Baker Museum, Artis Naples - Now-April 28

This is a public art project created through a multi-year collaboration between the residents of Immokalee, Florida, and Naples-based photographer Michelle Tricca. Consisting of large-format black-and-white portrait photographs of Immokalee residents of varying ages and backgrounds, the project celebrates the individuality of the members of this community best known for its agricultural contributions. Tues-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun Noon-4pm. The Baker Museum, Artis Naples, 5833 Pelican Bay Blvd, Naples, 239-597-1900, Adults \$10, Children 17 & under Free, Friends of Artis Naples Free, Full-time student with ID \$5, Military \$5.



"WE ARE STILL HERE: The Story of the Miccosukee Tribe" - Now-May 11
Museum of the Everglades and Collier County Museums have collaborated with the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida to create this exhibit exploring their past, present, and future. Following the "Indian Termination Policy" enacted by Congress in 1953, a schism began to emerge

between some of the Miccosukee elders within the Seminole Tribe and its leadership. By 1962, the Miccosukee Tribe was federally recognized as a unique and separate sovereign nation. WE ARE STILL HERE explores that story, but also brings forth little-known facts about the Tribe and their continuing accomplishments. The exhibit includes images and artifacts of shared history, cultural expressions, powerful personalities, and many other facets of this still unfolding story. The important partnership established between Collier County Museums and the Miccosukee Tribe to facilitate the exhibit is itself a new, and decidedly positive, chapter that we are honored to be part of. Pictured is Betty Osceola as photographed by Lisette Morales. Museum of the Everglades, 105 West Broadway Ave, Everglades City, 239-252-5026, Entry Free.

All Aboard for Thomas & Friends™ - Now-May 14



All aboard! The world's most beloved #1 blue engine rolls into Golisano Children's Museum of Naples (CMON) for exciting fun and adventure. Featuring the favorite engines and destinations from Thomas & Friends™, the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) focused exhibit engages children ages 2 through 7, and families in foundational skills that foster STEM literacy through playful learning experiences. The exhibit incorporates foundational STEM

practices that encourage thinking mathematically, making comparisons, experimenting to solve problems using a variety of methods and tools, thinking creatively, and reflecting on actions and results. Admission to Thomas & Friends: Explore the Rails! is included with admission. For more information about the exhibit, visit cmon.org. For information about the tour, visit: www.thomasandfriends.com/en-us/events. C'MON, 15080 Livingston Rd., Naples, 239-514-0084.

Knights of Columbus Tribute Concert - History of Rock & Roll - April 6, 7-9pm

\$50 each show. Doors open 6pm concerts 7-9pm. Tickets online at Koc.booktix.com or at Parish office. Proceeds to charity. San Marco Parish Hall, 851 San Marco Rd.

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Insurance Insights

By Monica Jacobs

I just hit a curb and caused damage to my car, should I place a claim on my auto insurance?

First, let's be grateful that this was likely a minor incident. Then, I would recommend that you obtain a repair estimate from a reputable body shop. You can then compare the estimated repair cost with your collision deductible amount. Is the repair cost high enough for it to make placing the claim on your record worth it?

We all have a different level of financial loss tolerance. Some people would prefer to have their insurance company pay for this claim even if the policy will pay a small amount and some may be able to comfortably pay for the total cost of the repairs out of pocket.

Please keep in mind that if you do place a claim on your auto insurance policy, it will likely be considered an at-fault accident, and your insurance rates could go up on your next auto policy renewal. By placing the claim, the accident will be on your record for 5 years. If you have accident forgiveness, your rates may not go up. Please check with your agent to see whether you have Accident Forgiveness or not.

Please note that if there was damage caused to property owned by others such as property owned by the county/state/community, this property should be repaired as well. Your insurance policy will likely pay for these costs.

Need a rental car? You may also want to place a claim on your auto insurance policy if you have rental car coverage on your policy and you do not wish to pay out of pocket for the cost of the rental while your vehicle is being repaired. Please take a look at your auto insurance policy or call your agent to find out if you have this coverage or not. This coverage may go by different names depending on your insurance carrier.

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CROSSWORD CLUES


- You'll find the answers in the April-May 2024 issue**
- Across**
- "You Shook Me All Night Long" band
 - Apiphobe's phobia
 - "I ___ confused"
 - Wintry mess
 - Sole
 - Mountain cat
 - *Frying pans anyone can use?
 - "Oh, please!"
 - Revealing session on Reddit, for short
 - Christmas song
 - Shrimp and ___
 - *Group that attends Mass together every week?
 - Treeless plain
 - Districts
 - Like some dental floss
 - Shortcomings
 - "The Last O.G." network
 - Bother
 - *Discussion about what fruit to bake for dessert?
 - In the style of
 - Spoil
 - Man of many words?
 - Wild beasts also called wildebeests
 - Water filter brand
 - Some surprise hits
 - *Fitting motto for Pisa's tower keeper?
 - Big name in applesauce
 - Tirade
 - Bath mother
 - Way off
 - *Devil on one's shoulder?
 - "What ___ say?"
 - Catholic leader
 - Old Dodges
 - URL starter
 - Spy-fi country
 - Decisive defeat, and a two-word hint to the answers to the starred clues
- Down**
- Grad
 - Gloria Estefan's birthplace
 - ISP option
 - "Things'll turn around, you'll see"
 - Showed respect, in a way
 - Sherlock's sister, per a 2020 Netflix film
 - Caribou kin
 - Pt. of GPS
 - *Just Putting It Out There" comedian Nancherla
 - Score keeper?
 - Patti known as the "Godmother of Punk"
 - Clods
 - Place for pampering
 - Ice cream holder
 - Word in many Wi-Fi network names
 - Intel collector
 - Luxury vessel
 - La ___ Tar Pits
 - Did the breaststroke, e.g.
 - "Voilà!"
 - Outrageous, as a price
 - Like the Beyond Burger
 - Curling surface
 - Sad
 - Back talk
 - Noses around
 - Wee bit
 - Negrone need
 - Family vacay, perhaps
 - "Molto ___!"
 - Had done, as a portrait
 - Diet-friendly
 - Comes out, as an album
 - ___ tag
 - Namesake of a speed ratio
 - List that may be accessed by scanning a QR code
 - One of a kind
 - Rx writers
 - PC core
 - Grammy winners ___ Lonely Boys
 - "As I see it" shorthand

SLUDOKU

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

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CONTEST RULES



Our current contest prize is a \$50 credit from Stanley Steemer. You can read their story on page 1 and see their ad on page 11. Please note this credit is valid for six months after the winner's name is published. Awarded credit has no cash value other than being used towards one service call totaling \$150 or more. A valid ID is also required.

CONTEST RULES: Double your chances of winning! You can enter by emailing contest@marcoislandgazette.com with your name, address, and daytime phone number; one single entry per household. You can also enter a second time by correctly completing one of the two puzzles on page 28. 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. 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 Saturday, March 30th, 2024. The contest drawing will be held on Sunday, March 31st, 2024, by the age-old tradition of pulling names out of a hat. See the winner's name in the April edition of the Marco Island Gazette.

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 that you wish to opt-out. If you do not opt-out when entering our contest, you may do so by clicking on the opt-out function in any email 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, Aisling Gray, who won an Ionic Sleep System Copper-Tech Sheet set in her choice of a Full, Queen, Or King Size, valued at \$250.

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Answers from February 2024 Issue

SLIDOKU CROSSWORD

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G R E A T E S T H I T S

P I N T O S H O P S
A B B O T T B A E Y E A
T E R I O F F E W W O R D S
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N O I S E S O L F A

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A D M A N L O L A I C E E
D U P L O L O E B N C I S
O B G Y N A N D Y G O A T

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