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# GAZETTE™ **FREE TAKE ONE**

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

## Marco Island Furniture, Mattress, and Design Store

LOW PRICE GUARANTEE • ONE-STOP ISLAND SHOP

— ADVERTORIAL —  
By Marco Island Gazette Staff Writer



### Best Selection of Coastal Furnishings

With its spacious showroom, friendly welcoming faces and its unbeatable low price guarantee, Marco Island Furniture, Mattress, and Design Store is a true one-stop local shop.

"We can now go from the floor to the ceiling with bedding, furniture, custom cabinetry, lighting, window treatments and accessories such as art, rugs and some carpeting," says Greg Sumer, who owns the store in Marco's Pelican Plaza with his son, Richard.

### Window Treatments • Four Major Brands



A recent addition to the product line-up is a wide selection of window treatments. Four major Brands.

About a year ago, the company more than doubled its showroom space and increased its lines to 150 famous brand names. They include Tommy Bahama, Lexington and Bassett (furniture) as well as mattresses by Serta, Beautyrest Black (the top-of-the-line bedding option with cooling foam and triple braided springs), Spink & Co. and Dunlopillo.

### Furniture Accessories • 150 Major Brands



Greg, left, and Richard Sumer, right, stand in part of their spacious showroom. Submitted Photos

Customer favorites include motion furniture, recliners, Murphy beds, sleep sofas and sleep sectionals, while the window treatment department works with four different companies who supply shutters, roller shades and any other window treatments customers are looking for.

"We're now actually a Furniture, Mattress, and Design Center," says Richard, while Greg emphasizes that the low price guarantee is the real deal.

### Buy with Confidence



Our family is proud to have maintained the highest possible rating with the Better Business Bureau for many years running with zero complaints.

"This means if people find lower prices on brands we sell - including on the Internet - we'll give them 110 percent of the difference," he says.

That means, of course, that customers don't have to drive off the island to any of the big box stores because they'll pay less at Marco Island Furniture, Mattress, and Design Store.

Nearby warehouses enable Marco Furniture, Mattress, and Design Store to provide next-day deliveries in most cases due to advanced inventory programming.

On top of all this, Richard adds, the store is basically geared to coastal and island design. "We listened to our customers and tailored our offerings to what they are looking for," he says.

### Coastal Rug Collection • 300 Choices



See Our Ads On Pages 17 & 19

Another addition to the product line is a Complete Rug Department

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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 life-long 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](https://www.gofundme.com/help-captain-patrick-charter-fish-again). 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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# Operation Christmas Child National Collection Week: November 13-20, 2023

The Samaritan's Purse project, Operation Christmas Child, collects shoebox gifts filled with fun toys, school supplies, personal care items and delivers them to children in need around the world to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way. For many of these children, the gift-filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received.

Collier County currently has 6 Drop Off Locations available where people can drop off their shoeboxes during National Collection Week, November 13-20, 2023. Donors can also scan this QR code to find the Drop Off Location nearest them. Donors will be able to enter their zip code and Drop Off Locations near them will pop up. <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/drop-off-locations/>

### Drop Off Locations:

- Christ the King Presbyterian Church**  
5510 Santa Barbara Blvd, Naples
- Eagle's Nest Worship Center**  
6920 Immokalee Road, Naples
- Grace Bible Church,**  
1055 Pine Ridge Road, Naples
- Manantial De Vida Church,**  
5990 Golden Gate Parkway, Naples
- Marco Presbyterian Church,**  
875 W. Elkcam Circle, Marco Island
- Naples Alliance Church,**  
2504 Estey Avenue, Naples



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**How to Pack a Shoebox Gift:** Fill a regular shoebox or plastic container with a selection of fun toys, hygiene items and school supplies. If possible, include one or two extra special items you know a child will love such as a doll, cuddly toy, or deflated football with a pump.

**For More Details on How to Pack a Shoebox:**

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/>

**How to Get Involved:** The local area team in Collier County has several opportunities to serve year-round. Find a role suited to your unique gifts and receive exclusive training,



Donkey transport

online courses, and other resources to help you succeed. What skills has God given you? Recruiting and leading? Cultivating relationships and equipping people? Organizing details and event planning? Facilitating prayer times? If you would like more information, complete the online form at: <https://myoc.samaritanspurse.org/volunteer/vif> or contact the Collier County Area Coordinator Kim Palmer at [kimberli\\_kae@hotmail.com](mailto:kimberli_kae@hotmail.com).



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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.

**"M**y 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

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.



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](http://ImperialMarineConstruction.com) or call Bernice at 239-272-3152. Bryan's e-mail is [bwr.imc@gmail.com](mailto:bwr.imc@gmail.com), and his contact number is (239) 272-6952

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# November Events!

**Annual Holiday Bazaar - November 11, 8:30am-2:30pm**  
It's that time of the year again! will have more vendors than ever before displaying their beautiful items. Our Holiday Bazaar features crafts, art, jewelry, baked goods, raffles and so much more! Mark your calendar to join us on th in the Spirit Center between. St. Peter the Apostle, 5130 Rattlesnake Hammock Rd, Naples.

## Legends Concert Series #1 Tribute Concerts - November 3, 5-10pm

First Friday of each month November (No concert Dec-23), Jan-May 2024. Legends Concert Series brings legends of music who have been inducted into the Rock N Roll and Country Hall of Fame. These are *NOT* the real artists. If you are a First Responder, Law Enforcement Officer, Veteran or serving in the Armed Forces, you get **One Free General Admission Ticket** to one concert of your choice. Email us at [info@thegoldlionagency.com](mailto:info@thegoldlionagency.com) with your credentials so we can send you *your Ticket via email*. Gates open 1 hour before the first band performs. No outside food drinks or coolers allowed. Free Parking. **No Tickets Sold At The Gate!** You must have your ticket printed or have on your handheld device to be scanned for entry. Children 12 and under are free with adult ticket purchase. Paradise Coast Sports Complex, 3893 City Gate Blvd South, Naples. 239-252-4386

**Disco Night at The Oasis - November 3, 7-10pm**  
We're bringing Disco back! Last Disco night was such a blast that we had to do it again. Join The Oasis and FM Band for another round of disco. DJ Jason Paul closes out the night at 10pm. No cover! Call 239-649-0800 to reserve a table, they will go fast! The Oasis Naples, 1046 Pine Ridge Road, Naples.

## Knights of Columbus presents Best of Rod Stewart Tribute Band - November 3, 7-9pm

Live Concert, \$50 each. (Doors open at 6:30) Call John DeRosa at 239-272-0816 for more information on tickets or about joining the Knights of Columbus. Tickets online at [koc.booktix.com](http://koc.booktix.com)

## Marco Island Art in the Park - November 4, 10am - November 5, 6pm

Marco Island Art in the Park is a monthly event November thru March. Show features painters, sculptors, glassblowers, woodworkers, jewelers and so many other unique artisans offering handmade in America creations. Located at the newly renovated Veteran's Park, 901 Park Ave, bring a canned good or nonperishable food item to benefit Our Daily Bread Food Pantry for chance to win some cool art prizes. Visit [www.daniellesblu-ribbonevents.com](http://www.daniellesblu-ribbonevents.com) for more details.

## Naples Brass - A Salute to Veterans - November 8, 7-8:30pm

Naples Brass Featuring Members of the Naples Philharmonic. VIP Tickets - \$25. FREE General Admission. Celebrate Naples' hidden secret with an evening of patriotic music saluting our veterans and this great country. The renowned Naples Brass are members of the Naples Philharmonic as well as the former Euphonium soloist with the US Army Band, "Pershing's Own." North Naples Church, 6000 Goodlette Rd, Naples. 239-593-7600

## Veterans Day Naples - American Skies - November 11, 2-5pm

You will want to join us for the BEST Veterans Day Naples paint and sip in SWFL! American Skies is a Naples Painting party celebrating Veteran's Day and art. All art materials are provided. If you have little to no painting experience, our professional artist will walk you through the process step-by-step. Take home your creation to enjoy forever. The canvas size for this event will be 16x20 and you can pick the type of trees you want to paint. This venue has a full bar as well as a menu with plenty of food and beverage options available. All-ages venue. Alcohol available for purchase, not required to enjoy our events. Lots of free parking in the lot out front. Saturday specials until 4pm: \$12 Bottomless Mimosas and Bloody Mary's. Midnight Tavern, 2800 Davis Boulevard, Naples. 239-732-5400

## Guy Penrod in Concert - November 12, 7-9pm

Third annual Psalms Hymns & Spiritual Songs Concert featuring GRAMMY® and DOVE Award-winning artist Guy Penrod. Blessed Assurance is his brand-new release. This album reflects his signature personality while spotlighting Guy's unmistakable rich tones and country-influenced style that graced stages and attracted audiences from The Grand Ole Opry and The Sydney Opera House to Carnegie Hall. Classics features some of his most requested hits from his 14-yr tenure as lead singer with the renowned Gaiter Vocal Band where he became internationally known for his powerhouse vocals and broad singing range. The concert features a community choir and impact stories. \$30 per person. Covenant Church of Naples, 6926 Trail Blvd. 239-597-3464

## Humane Society Naples Pet Lovers Dance Party - November 17, 7pm

Celebrate the pets we love at Humane Society Naples' newest event - The Pet Lovers Dance Party at the beautiful Elite Jets Hangar at Naples Airport! We'll dance the night away with food, drinks, live music and more as we also honor the heroes who helped transport over 500 animals to safety after Hurricane Ian. Buy your tickets today: <https://one.bidpal.net/danceparty23/ticketing>.

## Comedian Jimmy Failla Live in Naples - November 17, 7pm to Sat, Nov 18, 10pm

Jimmy Failla is an American stand-up comedian, TV Pundit, Author, and Host of the syndicated FOX Across America with Jimmy Failla, which airs 12-3 EST Monday-Friday on Fox News Radio and streams on Fox Nation, Radio.Com and TuneIn. The show is also available as a podcast on iTunes. Failla was raised in Levittown, New York. A former New York City cab driver, Failla was named Outstanding Male Comedian of the year at the 2014 New York City Nightlife Awards. His one hour standup special, "State Of The Union," is currently streaming on Amazon Prime. He has also made multiple standup appearances on AXS TV's "Gotham Comedy Live." He played himself on "The Jim Gaffigan Show" on TV LAND. In addition he appears regularly on Kennedy on the Fox Business Channel as well as "America's Newsroom," and has made multiple appearances on "The Greg Gutfeld Show," "The Ingraham Angle," "Watters World," and "The Story with Martha MacCallum." Off The Hook Comedy Club, 2500 Vanderbilt Beach Rd, Suite 1100, Naples. 239-389-6901



## Naples Rookery Bay Classic Car Show - November 18, 9am-1pm

Attention car enthusiasts! Join Rookery Bay for this annual event, coordinated by Island Automotive in support of Friends of Rookery Bay. Building on the success of prior car shows featuring more than 100 antique, muscle, and classic cars, this year's event includes vendors, entertainment and family-friendly activities for all ages. Cash-only admission. \$10 adults, \$5 ages 4-12, Children 3 and under free.

FSW - Collier Campus, 7505 Grand Lely Drive Naples. 239-530-5972. Have a classic car you want to show off? Register online: <https://rookerybay.org/events/classic-car-show>.

## Naples Gobble Til You Wobble - November 18, 12-2pm

Come Gobble until you Wobble with Collier County Parks and Recreation at Donna Fiala Eagle Lakes Aquatics. During this event, there will be games, music, and food vendors. \$3 per person. Eagle Lakes Community Park, Vanderbilt Beach, Naples. 11565 Tamiami Trail East, Naples. 239-252-3527 [https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/collierparks/activity/search/detail/23994?onlineSiteId=0&from\\_original\\_cui=true&locale=en-US](https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/collierparks/activity/search/detail/23994?onlineSiteId=0&from_original_cui=true&locale=en-US).



## 2023 Naples Fall Comedy Festival - November 18, 8pm

An evening of laughter at Z's Music Kitchen. Comedians from around Florida will perform their best short sets in this Festival Showcase with Special Guest emcee and headliner. Limited seating. Price goes up \$5 day of show. Ages 21+. 2 drink minimum purchase. Full dinner menu available. Weather permitting, event will take place outdoors. To purchase tickets over the phone call 786-564-2291 or email us directly [booking@comiceure.com](mailto:booking@comiceure.com). All purchases are Non-Refundable. Event is subject to change and cancellation. Z's Music Kitchen, 12655 Tamiami Trail E, Naples.

## Mannheim Steamroller Christmas (Theater) - November 18, 1-3am

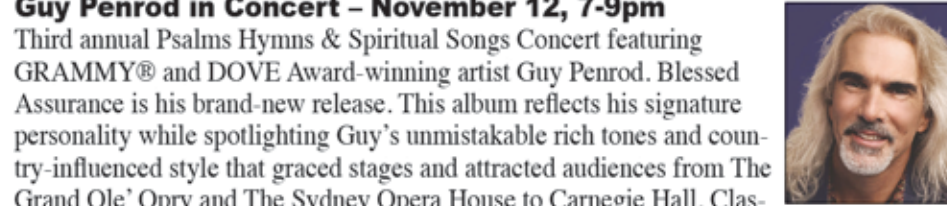
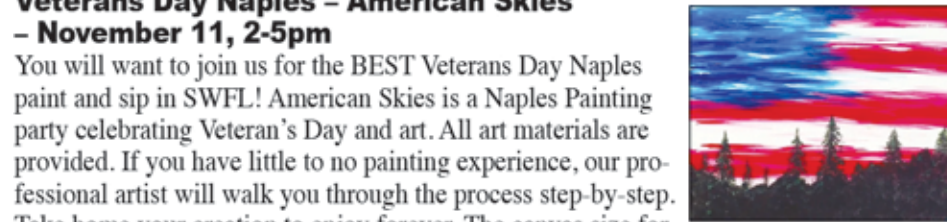
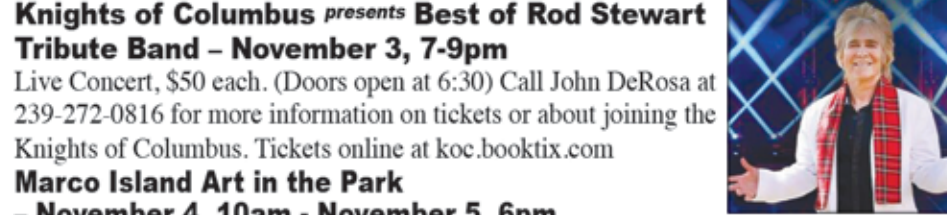
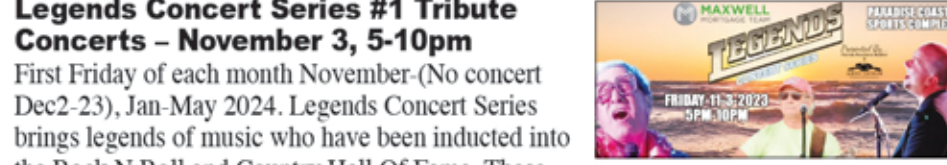
**MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER CHRISTMAS** by Chip Davis has been America's favorite holiday tradition for over 35 years! Grammy Award winner Chip Davis has created a show that features Mannheim Steamroller Christmas classics in the distinctive Mannheim sound. Join us for Mannheim Steamroller Christmas, a mesmerizing Family event that promises to redefine your expectations. Secure your place now for tickets ranging from \$132 to \$311.84. Artis-Naples, 5833 Pelican Bay Blvd, Naples. TicketSales.com

## Naples Fall Mystic Faire - November 25, 11am-7pm

An unforgettable experience at Mystic Faire in Naples! After 20 years, our faire is bigger and better than ever before with more parking and exhibitors. A lineup of new psychics, healers and vendors, as well as wonderful ones from years past. Our exhibitors will showcase unique crystals, jewelry, Goddess clothing, candles, flower essences, Angel art, body products, healing tools, and so much more. Over 25 amazing psychics offer mini readings in mediumship, tarot, palmistry, astrology, and more. Many are local, others come from other states. Our talented group of healers will be offering reiki, massage, energy work, and other interesting and unique healing methods. Free lectures will also take place throughout the day, providing you with valuable insights and knowledge. Please bring non-perishable foods to donate and help support our community. \$5, entry to this event, Children 12 and under free. We support local charities with donations. Études De Ballet & Co, 3285 Pine Ridge Road, Naples. 239-593-8280

## Marco Concert to Remember Jimmy Buffett - December 1, 5-8pm

A FREE Concert to Remember Jimmy Buffett 2023, 5pm-8pm Rose Marina Boathouse, 951 Bald Eagle Dr, Marco Island. A collection of local artists playing their favorite Buffett tunes with Food & Beverages available for families. Children must be closely supervised! A little story telling and a lot of laughs! Live music. Rose Marina Boathouse, 951 Bald Eagle Dr, Marco Island.



# December Events!



## Marco Island Art in the Park - Santa's Last Stop - December 9, 11am-Dec 10, 6pm

Join us for Santa's Last Stop - unique art event where you can find that perfect item for your special someone or your home. Veterans Community Park, Marco Island.

## North Naples Church - Naples 200 - December 9, 9am to Sun Dec 10, 12pm

We are putting together a very large orchestra on Sunday, December 10th, to play for our 8:15am, 9:30am, and 11am services at North Naples Church. This will have players from middle school students and local professionals. Anyone who is interested come out and join the fun. The music will all be Christmas music and parts will be written according to ability levels. We rehearse on Saturday, December 9th from 9am-11am. All music will be emailed out at the beginning of December. We will have bagels/donuts/breakfast for



everyone in between services on Sunday December 10th. Sign up on [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) or email Steve DeLadurante at [sdel@nchurch.org](mailto:sdel@nchurch.org). See address below.

## Naples "Vocal" 200 - North Naples Church - December 17, 7:30am-12pm

We are also putting together a large choir of 200 people to sing for our 8:15am and 11am services at North Naples Church. Singers from middle school students up to local professionals, we encourage anyone to come out and join the fun. The music will be from Disney's Candlelight Processional accompanied by an orchestra of players from the Naples Philharmonic. We rehearse on Saturday, December 16th, from 10am-Noon with all music emailed out at the beginning of December. We will have bagels/donuts/breakfast for everyone in between services on Sunday, December 17th. Sign up on [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) or email Steve DeLadurante at [sdel@nchurch.org](mailto:sdel@nchurch.org). North Naples Church, 6000 Goodlette Road, Naples.

## Candlelight Christmas Carols at Cambier Park - December 15, 5:30-8pm

Last year over 800 carolers, illuminated the park with candles and sang popular Christmas carols with local musicians. It's a joyful and fun occasion for couples, families

and anyone interested in enjoying sounds of the season. The event is FREE and open to all who wish to participate, regardless of religious affiliation. Lyric sheets and electric candles provided free of charge. Pre caroling begins at 5:30pm. A food truck will be onsite, and refreshments, beer and wine can be purchased. Caroling begins at 6:30pm for



approximately 90 minutes. FREE event. Donations made to our 401 C(3) are tax exempt. [www.carolsatcambier.com](http://www.carolsatcambier.com). Cambier Park, 755 8th Avenue South, Naples.

## Polar Express Storytime - December 20 & 21, 4:30 & 6:15pm

The Express takes an imaginary multi-media journey to the North Pole. A dramatic reading of this Christmas classic features our story telling Conductor. This legend takes us through a winter wonderland and over mountains to see the North Pole, Santa and his Elves. Big screen animation, lighting, and special effects make the presentation a truly memorable event. Each child who "boards" our imaginary train receives a "Golden Express" ticket and their own enchanted silver bell keepsake! It's fun games, prizes and family entertainment. The Polar Storytime Express returns to Marco Island for a two-night stop at the JW Marriott Beach and Golf Resort. Call 617-312-2893 or online at [www.TheStorytimeExpress.com](http://www.TheStorytimeExpress.com)

## Naples Ballet - The Nutcracker - December 21, 12-2am

Naples Ballet returns to Hayes Hall for a fantastical retelling of The Nutcracker as local dancers from Naples Ballet and professional soloists from around the world perform with the Naples Philharmonic. Young heroine, Clara, and her Nutcracker Prince embark on a magical journey - beginning with a fierce battle between toy soldiers and a ferocious army of mice led by the Rat Queen, a trip through the mystical snow forest, and finally, their arrival in the Kingdom of Sweets. The Nutcracker is a celebration of passion, innovation and community. Explore the world of Ballet and Dance in a dynamic setting at Artis-Naples, 5833 Pelican Bay Blvd, Naples. Tickets start at \$80. <https://artisnaples.org> or Call 239-597-1900.



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# Florida is Known as the Sunshine State

With more than 2,900 hours of yearly sunshine, subtropical climate, and the best beaches in the country, Florida got its nickname in 1970. While this state doesn't receive the most sunshine in the country (Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada are at the top), it does draw millions of tourists each year for its year-round summer weather. One of the most popular destinations in the United States, it is also one of the most sought-after and visited places in the world. About 74 million people visit Orlando each year for its theme parks and other attractions, while over 26 million visit the greater Miami area.

Florida is actually the flattest state in the country. The highest point in Florida is only 345 feet above sea level. An anchored concrete buoy in Key West, Florida, marks the southernmost point in the continental U.S. This spot is approximately 90 miles from Cuba.

The Oldest Inhabited City in the United States is St. Augustine founded in 1565 by Don Pedro Menendez de Aviles of Spain. This beach town is the perfect vacation spot for those who enjoy history and food. Jacksonville, has a total area of 874 square miles, making it the largest city by land in the contiguous US. It is also the most populous city in the state, with over 950,000 people.

Miami International Airport is the busiest in Florida. In 2022, there were over 50.6 million passengers that came through the Miami Airport. If you plan on flying through Miami, plan a day outside of holidays and weekends. Orlando takes second place with 50.1 million passengers.

The Florida panther is a North American cougar native to South Florida where it lives in tropical hardwoods, swamps and pinelands. These panthers are very rare as they are endangered. You are more likely to find them south of Lake Okechobee.

There are over a million alligators in Florida. While Louisiana has even more, Florida isn't far behind with around 1.3 million. They prefer freshwater lakes and can be found in every county in the state. Florida also has crocodiles. While not as numerous as the alligator population, cro-

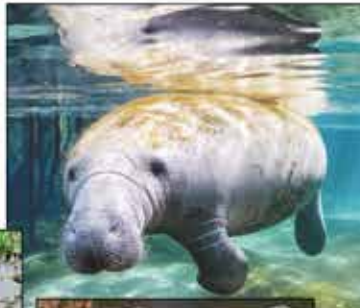
codiles live in the southern region of Florida in coastal and brackish habitats. Southern Florida is the northern end of their range, in ponds, coves and mangrove swamps. The Everglades National Park is the only place in the world where alligators and crocodiles coexist.

Manatees were listed as endangered in 1967 concurrent with the creation of the Endangered Species Conservation Act, an act that pre-dated the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973. In May of 2017, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced the downlisting of the manatee from endangered to threatened. The downlisting comes after diverse conservation efforts and collaborations by Florida and other manatee states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Caribbean nations, public and private organizations and citizens, resulting in notable increases in manatee populations and improvements in its habitat.

Florida Produces 70% of the Country's Oranges with 11 million tons of oranges per year. As soon as you enter Florida, you step into the world of oranges. Florida is all about its citrus production from orange-themed roadside attractions to stands selling fresh oranges and juice.

With 1,350 miles of shoreline, Florida has the longest coastline in the lower 48 states with beaches along the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. Alaska comes in first if you count all 50 states. Florida has the highest lightning density among all US states, featuring 285 lightning displays per square mile. It has the second-highest incidences of lightning strikes, right behind Texas.

The state excels in college graduation rates and affordable tuition. Because of its low fees, Florida enrolls around one million students across its 12 public universities and 28 community and state-based colleges.



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**N 302, 995 Anglers Cove, Marco Island**  
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60					61					62		
63					64						65	

**CROSSWORD CLUES** You'll find the answers in the December 2023 issue

- Across**
- 1 Sarah Spain's network
  - 5 Percussion set
  - 10 Cards
  - 14 "Go on, git!"
  - 15 Tickle
  - 16 \_\_\_ were
  - 17 Textile machine
  - 18 Nigerian seaport
  - 19 "Ciao"
  - 20 Medic with an office at Fisherman's Wharf?
  - 23 Expert
  - 24 Extremely chill
  - 25 Leaders inclined to work as a group?
  - 31 Extremely cold
  - 32 Channel marker
  - 33 Picked up the tab
  - 35 BYU or NYU
  - 36 Sun screen
  - 37 Strive (for)
  - 40 African country in the Maloti Mountains
  - 41 Drains
  - 42 Summits
  - 45 Captain Hook's incredulous assessment of his nemesis?
  - 47 Statue base
  - 49 Member of MSNBC
  - 50 Puts comfy shoes through rigorous testing?
  - 56 Tropical spot
  - 57 Safari equine
  - 58 Most CFOs
  - 60 Some game
  - 61 "Middlemarch" novelist
  - 62 Bend at a barre
  - 63 Retired boomers
  - 64 Action
  - 65 Blood bank fluids
- Down**
- 1 Subj. for those wishing to be bilingual
  - 2 Utterly beyond repair
  - 3 Play down
  - 4 Motto for the ruthless
  - 5 Meteorological effect caused by refraction
  - 6 Desktop with an AppleCare option
  - 7 Literary award with a spaceship logo
  - 8 Starting on
  - 9 Lab work
  - 10 Thinned (down)
  - 11 Pulitzer-winning journalist Wilkerson
  - 12 Early ICBM
  - 13 Hung around
  - 21 Play-\_\_\_
  - 22 "Science of Logic" philosopher Georg
  - 25 Small ammo
  - 26 Director Jean-\_\_\_ Godard
  - 27 LAX postings
  - 28 Superhero once played by Stephen Amell on The CW
  - 29 "\_\_\_ Comes to Pemberley": P.D. James novel
  - 30 Obama daughter
  - 34 Friendly honk
  - 36 Rats, gnats, and brats
  - 37 Element in an algebraic equation
  - 38 Wall St. event
  - 39 Key that exits full-screen mode
  - 40 Brand of packaged bagels
  - 41 Is extremely frugal
  - 42 Ladybug prey
  - 43 Shuts
  - 44 "The Gleaners" painter Jean-François
  - 46 River that rises in the Bernese Alps
  - 48 Fuzzy states
  - 51 Move to a warmer state?
  - 52 Drama honor
  - 53 Cut short
  - 54 Ink
  - 55 Place to hibernate
  - 59 "Wide Sargasso \_\_\_": Jean Rhys novel

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

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

**CONTEST RULES**

Marco Island Furniture & Mattress Companys

Our current contest prize is one Ionic Sleep System Copper-Tech sheet set in the winner's choice of a Full, Queen, or King size. (\$250 value) from the Marco Island Furniture, Mattress & Design Store. You can read their story on page 1 and see their ads on pages 17 and 19.

**CONTEST RULES:** Double your chances of winning! You can enter by emailing [contest@marcoislandgazette.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 Sunday, November 26th, 2023. The contest drawing will be held on Monday, November 27th, 2023, by the age-old tradition of pulling names out of a hat. See the winner's name in the upcoming December 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. You agree to receive further communications from the *Marco Island Gazette* and its partners by providing your email. You can opt-out by stating in your contest entry or entries 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, Farida Master, who won a \$50 credit from Classic Transportation.**

*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.*



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### Answers from October 2023 Issue

**SLIDOKU CROSSWORD**

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A	M	E	X	P	E	T	R	A	O	N	E	L
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9	1	7	8	5	6	2	4	3
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6	3	1	5	2	7	4	8	9
2	5	9	4	6	8	7	3	1
4	7	8	3	1	9	5	2	6

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Please call 239-642-7778 for information regarding membership at MARCO ISLAND CIVIC ASSOCIATION and RESIDENTS' BEACH  
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## AMY'S BLINDS Elevate Your Space

with Stunning Window Treatments By Marco Island Gazette Staff Writer

If 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 Pass, 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-saving 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, [amyblinds.com](http://amyblinds.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 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, 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.

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