



Longboat Key News

November 14, 2025

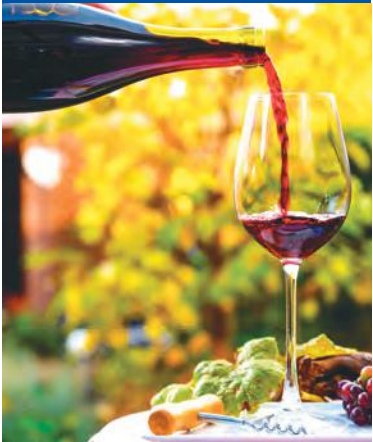
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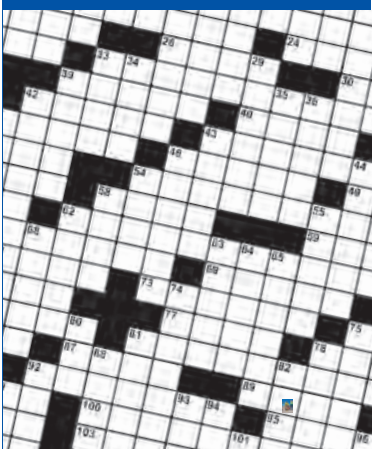
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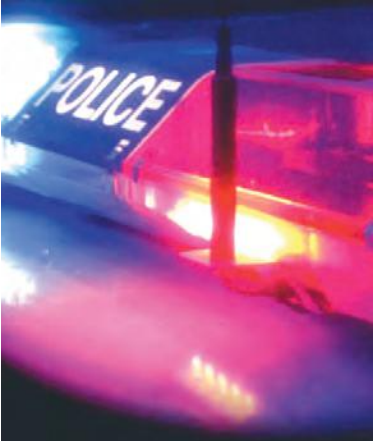
Play loose to hit with power ...page 15



Pour on the joy of first harvest ...page 5



Has the digital age slowed you? ...page 15



Car takes out roadside camera ...page 10

Scale of Shark Fin Trade 'Massive'

There is massive and sustained illegal trade of shark fins occurring from many countries worldwide.

Despite more than a decade of international efforts to curb the trade of threatened shark species, new research led by scientists from Florida International University and Dr. Demian Chapman, project leader and Director of the Shark and Rays Conservation Research Program at Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium, reveals



A thresher shark geo tagged to track fate as threats persist.

that there is massive and sustained illegal trade of shark fins occurring from many countries worldwide. **See Shark Fins, page 13**

Hart's Landing razed due to storm damage

After being destroyed beyond repair during Hurricanes Helene and Milton last year, the City of Sarasota's popular waterfront bait shop, Hart's Landing, was razed on Monday, Nov. 10. It is a significant loss to the community dealt by Mother Nature.

The City intends to restore the docks and rebuild the Hart's Landing structure. Currently, the City's Parks and Recreation team is reviewing viable, sustainable options. With the intent to rebuild on Sarasota Bay, it will be a lengthy

See News Shorts, page 2

Sarasota Orchestra Unveils First Look Inside Future Center

"These schematic designs bring our Music Center vision into sharper focus."



The Sarasota Orchestra has offered the community a glimpse into its future, sharing refined schematic design renderings of its much-anticipated Music Center planned for the 32-acre campus at 5701 Fruitville Road.

The new designs provide a detailed look inside the state-of-the-art concert hall and the dedicated Education Center, illustrating a vision set to revolutionize Sarasota's performance capabilities, musical learning, and overall community life.

"These schematic designs bring our Music Center vision into sharper focus," said Sarasota Orchestra President & CEO Joseph McKenna. "They're the product of careful work by our expert architects, acousticians, and project team to create a welcoming place for the community to experience the joy of live music."

A Landmark Concert Hall for Acoustic Excellence

At the core of the Music Center is a landmark initiative to bring the Gulf Coast its first concert hall purpose-built for acoustic



Schematic design rendering of Sarasota Orchestra's future Music Center as seen from Fruitville Road in the evening. Below is the interior of future Music Center

music. This elite venue will join only three other similar concert halls in Florida, promising unparalleled sonic quality. Developed with Stages Consultants, the hall's shoebox shape and curved balcony are designed to ensure every seat offers clear, balanced sound and an unobstructed view of the musicians.

The design, led by William Rawn Associates in collaboration with HKS, is transforming bold conceptual drawings into construction-ready visual plans.

"This is a special moment when Sarasota can imagine the next 75

years of Sarasota Orchestra and how this iconic musical destination will serve a growing community," said Cliff Gayley, William Rawn Associates principal.

Fellow principal, Doug Johnston, highlighted the holistic guest experience: "From arrival to exit, the Music Center will create a welcoming, comfortable and uniquely memorable experience, whether you're taking a stroll through the parks, dropping your child off at a youth orchestra or sitting in the new hall."

See Music Center, page 2

Sarasota's Oldest Theater Finds New Home in Retrofit at Payne Park

The Sarasota Players, the area's first performing arts organization, has secured its new permanent home, announcing plans for a full-scale renovation of the Payne Park Auditorium.

After years of searching for a location that keeps its roots firmly in Sarasota, the organization has finalized a 30-year lease and unveiled designs that will transform the city-owned 1960s structure into a modern, flexible community theater.

The project calls for a renovation, estimated at \$2.5 million, that will convert the building into a 200-seat performance venue. Designers are focused on maintaining the original mid-century aesthetic of the auditorium while introducing key modern enhancements, including a new lobby and expanded restrooms, to improve the patron experience.

"Our goal is to create a flexible, comfortable space that will accommodate plays, musicals, and community events," said William Skaggs, CEO of The Sarasota Players. "We are excited to unveil our architectural plans and renderings, which showcase a new lobby, expanded restrooms, and so much more."

The adaptive reuse project is being led by Fleischman Garcia Maslowski Architecture. With the design complete, The Sarasota Players are pushing forward with the construction timeline. Work is anticipated to begin by fall of 2025, with the goal of having the new venue open and operational in late 2026. The Players are running a fundraising campaign to secure the final community support needed.

News Shorts, from page 1

process. Environmental protection and resiliency will be key components, requiring design plans and the permit approval process to be coordinated with multiple government agencies, including the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Federal Emergency Management Agency and possibly others.

Hart's Landing has been a fixture in our coastal community for a century. Residents have fond memories fishing and boating there and more recently, enjoying it as a live music venue. That rich history will not be erased. It will take time, but the City intends to rebuild a better, more sustainable bait shop.

Holiday Beach Run Returns to Siesta Beach Dec. 13

Get a running start on the holiday season by participating in the 49th annual Sandy Claws Beach Run, starting at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13, at Siesta Beach Park, 948 Beach Road, Sarasota. The 5K run and one-mile fun run have become fixtures in the Sarasota County community. Presented by Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources, the event draws hundreds of runners, walkers and joggers each year. Proceeds benefit the "Summer in the Parks" Adopt-A-Camper scholarship program. For more information, email parksoline@scgov.net or visit SarasotaCountyParks.com.

Sarasota Memorial Reveals Plans for \$507M Hospital

Sarasota Memorial Hospital officials recently unveiled plans for a \$507 million hospital campus on a 32-acre site owned by the health system in the 4800 block of North Sumter Boulevard. It will be the city's first acute-care hospital, and the third hospital SMH has built in its 100-year history.

When completed in 2028, Sarasota Memorial Hospital-North Port will be nine stories tall, with an adjacent 3-story medical office building. The hospital will initially open with 100 beds but will include three floors of finished shell space, which will allow SMH to quickly double capacity to 208 beds. The campus design is flexible with capacity to increase to more than 400 beds in the future.

The first floor of the hospital will include emergency, radiology/imaging, administrative and support services, as well as a cafeteria and coffee bar; the second floor will house surgical and procedural areas; and floors four through six will be dedicated patient care units with private rooms for admitted patients.

Music Center, from page 1

Investing in the Next Generation with the Education Center

The interior view of the Education Center showcases a dynamic design that will significantly enhance spaces for teaching, rehearsal, and student performance. This facility will be the welcoming gateway on the east side of the campus for students and families, supporting the Sarasota Music Festival and the Orchestra's youth ensembles.

It will feature more than a dozen teaching studios for lessons and music libraries to archive the collections of the Sarasota Youth Orchestra, the Sarasota Orchestra, and the Sarasota Music Festival.

Sarasota Orchestra Board Member Michael Esposito, who serves on the Building Committee, expressed the profound impact of the new facility: "The Music Center is a quantum leap forward for Sarasota Orchestra. It's a modern home that honors Sarasota's architectural tradition and builds on our rich arts culture with a much-needed concert hall. What's really terrific is the opportunity it creates to welcome more students into Sarasota Orchestra's education programs, with a better experience made possible by new facilities and a concert hall with excellent acoustics."

A Public Campus Rooted in Sarasota's Ecology

The new exterior renderings, developed in collaboration with OJB Landscape Architecture, highlight a deliberate indoor-outdoor connection. The campus design incorporates natural light, open courtyards, and sets aside approximately 12 acres for wetlands, water features, and natural elements. These features will orient visitors, soften exterior sound, and integrate native plantings, ensuring a visit feels connected to Sarasota's ecology.

Completion of the schematic design is a major milestone, fueled by significant philanthropy, including a \$60 million anonymous gift and a \$10 million investment from Jack and Priscilla Schlegel. Now halfway through the design phase, the project moves into design development, with a goal of breaking ground in 2027.



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EditorLetters



Longboat Key News and Sarasota City News encourages Letters to the Editor on timely issues. Please email to: letters@lbknews.com or mail to PO Box 8001, Longboat Key, FL 34228. We also print letters sent to Town Hall that address Longboat Key issues. We reserve the right to edit.

Town of Longboat Key Town Commission Meeting: SR 789 Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission

As you will note below, the FDOT contractor is scheduled to have the "Gulf of Mexico Drive" signs reinstalled tomorrow November 4, 2025. FDOT plans to send the Town confirmation once the work is complete. Additionally, FDOT is taking active steps to upgrade and install new vehicle detection technology at our two traffic signalized intersections (Longboat Club Road and Bay Isles Parkway). The original detection systems were damaged during last year's storms; this proposed radar technology is anticipated to function better than the previous system. That update is below as well.

Isaac Brownman
Assistant Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Town of Longboat Key Town Commission Meeting: SR 789 Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission

Our contractor confirmed they can have the signs re-installed tomorrow. We will provide photos once complete.

Isaac Brownman
Assistant Town manager
Town of Longboat Key

Town of Longboat Key Town Commission Meeting: SR 789 Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Assistant Town Manager Isaac Brownman

"An update on your signal detection request from our previous phone call:

We are waiting on quotes from Wavetronix and Transcore (our contractor). We will be upgrading the detection to a more appropriate radar-based detection due to the proximity to the beach which will provide longevity and ease of maintenance. Right now, the equipment vendor has approximately a 6-week lead time. We are hopeful that we can have the detection installed and functioning before the start of the peak-peak season in January."

Steven Davis
District Traffic Operations Engineer
Florida Department of Transportation

St. Regis signage

To: Dan and Mary Phelps

Thank you for your input on the St. Regis sign. We have heard from many residents who have expressed your same sentiments.

Debra Williams
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

St Regis signage

To: Longboat Key Commission

We are 20-year residents of Longboat Key. We strongly object to the illegal sign erected at the St Regis. Further we object to a code amendment to allow the St Regis to keep the illegally erected sign. Please hold the St Regis accountable to the rules and regulations in place on Longboat Key.

Dan and Mary Phelps
Longboat Key

Funding Secured Through SRF

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Woaaa...that is just fantastic. Our staff is the most qualified, the best informed and most talented individuals in their fields. Their determination and aggressiveness in pursuing excellence is impressive.

Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Funding Secured Through SRF

To: Longboat Key Commission

Yesterday was a big day for our Utility System. The feds had apparently authorized more than a billion dollars for states impacted by 2024 storms and wildfires. As you see below, our amazing team jumped on the application for these funds, and we found out yesterday evening that we were awarded a \$9.58 million grant and another \$9.58 million as a no interest loan. These funds will be applied to the subaqueous project costs.

Staff will be bringing to Commission in January a project update that will share more about these funds and how they will help move the project forward. Congratulations to our Utilities Manager Jessie Camburn and the entire Utilities team for this excellent work and successful outcome.

Howard Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Funding Secured Through SRF

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

This is fabulous news. Thanks to all involved.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

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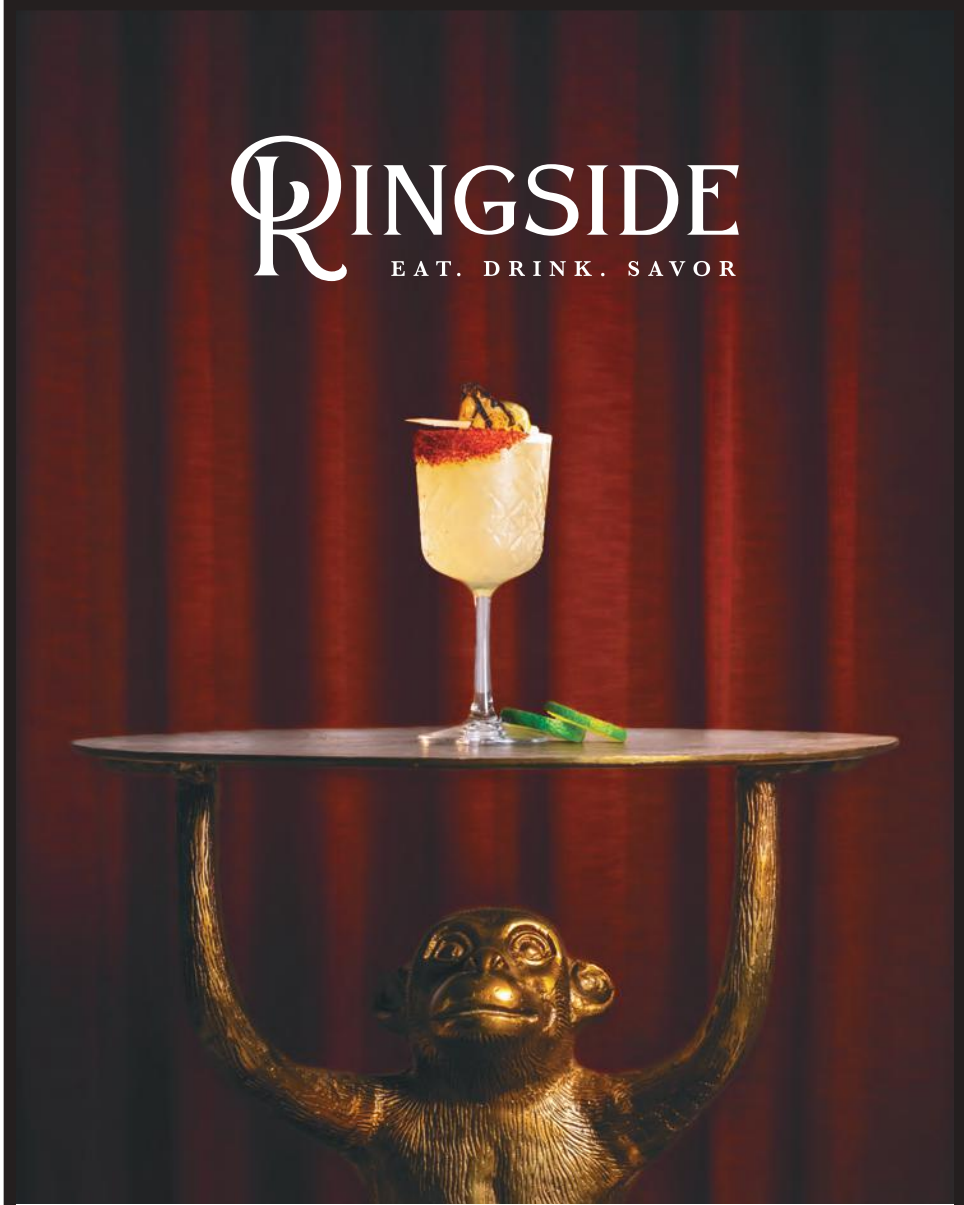
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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 3

Funding Secured Through SRF

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

The Town of Longboat Key is proud to announce that it has been awarded \$19.2 million for wastewater infrastructure improvements. Specifically, this funding will support the construction of the new Subaqueous Wastewater Force Main. These funds were received based on federal funding as part of the American Relief Act, 2025, Supplemental Appropriation for Hurricanes Helene and Milton and the Hawai'i Wildfires (SAHM). As you know, the Town was directly and significantly impacted by both Hurricanes Helene and Milton. The impacts to the Town's wastewater system enabled the town to apply for these SAHM funds in June 2025. On November 12, 2025, the FDEP State Revolving Funds (SRF) announced the results of the funding for numerous impacted utilities, with the Town of Longboat Key being one of the selected recipients.

Specifically, the Town's request included funding for the construction of the new Subaqueous Force Main, which is a critical pipeline that transmits all of the Town's wastewater to the Manatee County Wastewater Plant on the mainland. This appropriation, administered by the Florida DEP State Revolving Funds (SRF) program, provides low-interest loans to local governments and other entities for water quality and water supply projects.

The results of the appropriation are as follows:

- Loan: \$9,583,252 loan at 0% interest
- Grant: \$9,583,252 "principal forgiveness," not to be repaid
- Total: \$19,166,503

Next Steps – Although the town has already applied for and received approval for these funds, it must now initiate a formal application process with FDEP SRF to submit the required loan documents and supporting information. This process will begin immediately and is expected to be complete by March of 2026.

The Town has been in the planning and design process for the new critical Subaqueous Force Main for some time already. The receipt of these funds will enable the Town to proceed with

the construction of the new force main while further solidifying the Town's financing for these facilities.

Jessie Camburn
Utilities Manager Public Works Department
Town of Longboat Key

Sarasota Bay Estuary Program update

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

This will be my last Director's Note, as the eminently qualified Ryan Gandy, supported by our fantastic staff, will be in charge as of next week. But I wanted to spend just a bit of time to summarize what we've done the past few years, and why we did it.

The signs that Sarasota Bay was in trouble predate me taking the position five years ago. Back in 2013, Sarasota County started to see troubling signs in terms of the abundance and types of macroalgae in the lower bay. Between 2014 and 2018, the lower bay lost 30% of its seagrass coverage, wiping out most of the gains that arose between 1999 and 2016 in that part of the bay. In the upper bay, we suffered one of the most intense and longest-lasting red tide events in decades. Researchers at New College documented a huge impact on the bay's fish populations during that red tide, which was also the likely main cause of a seagrass loss of about 2,000 acres between 2018 and 2020. Then, in 2021, FDEP determined that the waters from Ringling Causeway down to Venice Inlet were "out of compliance" with the Numeric Nutrient Concentration (NNC) criteria that were established back in 2013.

In short, our bay was in trouble, with macroalgae blooms, elevated levels of floating microscopic algae, intense red tides, seagrass loss and widespread impacts to our fish populations.

Fast forward to 2025, and where are we? Well, we're not pristine, but we're in much better shape:

Thanks to over \$300 million worth of investments in wastewater upgrades and large stormwater retrofits, the Pollutant Load Reduction Goal (PLRG) that we set in 2021 appears to have been met already. Due to the implementation of projects that have met our PLRG, we have been seeing positive system responses the last few years:

The amount of floating microscopic algae has decreased by about 50% over the past few years

The amount of macroalgae has declined even more, in the lower bay in particular, over the past few years.

Bay-wide, we've gained nearly 2,000 acres of seagrass since 2022, the second largest increase (19%) in the past 30 years.

Using values used by FDEP and FFWCC, that seagrass increase is likely sufficient to support over 70 million fish.

See Letters, page 6

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WineTimes

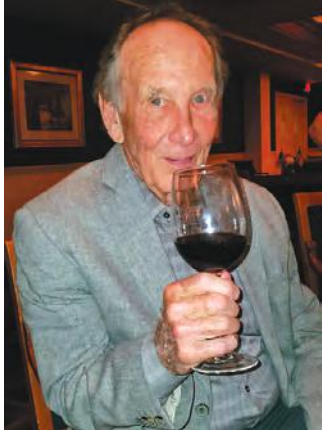


Another Coming Out Party for Beaujolais Nouveau

In the Beaujolais, a mad rush from the grape harvest to the wine bottle leads up to the first wines of the 2025 vintage: the advent of the Beaujolais Nouveau.

S.W. and Rich Hermansen
Guest Writers
wine@lbknews.com

It's harvest time and a great occasion for a celebration in the Beaujolais region of France. Apples have ripened. Wheat and rye fresh from the fields are being ground into flour for bread. Carrots, potatoes, squash, and pumpkins have reached their peak stages for harvest. Game birds, turkeys, and hogs have grown fat in fields strewn with grains that have eluded threshers. Shipments of oysters, other shellfish, and fin fish have resumed as the heat of the Summer has subsided. Wine grapes have accumulated sugars during the final dry and hot days of the Summer and Autumn. In the Beaujolais, a mad rush from the grape harvest to the wine bottle leads up to the first wines of the 2025 vintage: the advent of the Beaujolais Nouveau.



In Paris, bars and restaurants announce Le beaujolais nouveau est arrive! on the third Thursday of November (in 2025, November 20th). Francophiles across the globe share the arrival of the taste of an unpretentious wine that has fresh strawberry and raspberry aromas in the nose and the tastes of fresh berries and melon in the mouth. The Beaujolais Nouveau should taste like wine you would have poured from a vat into your jug after driving to a local winery in the countryside of France.

Sadly, the glory days of the arrival of the Beaujolais Nouveau have almost disappeared in the rear-view mirror. During the 1980's and 1990's, wine shops and restaurants advertised the event. Today wine importers and distributors require orders before a cut-off date that has by now passed.

The reasons for the decline in interest in Beaujolais Nouveau Day in the USA include to some extent the "American First" campaigns and tariffs, although few of those inclined in 2024 to celebrate French wines would not likely lose that interest in 2025. More likely the decline took hold among importers and distributors. The emerging wine regions of the Southern Hemisphere release their next vintages about the same time as the Beaujolais Nouveau release in France. Beaujolais no longer has the first new vintage of a year. Many Southern Hemisphere wines can claim to be harbingers of the next vintage. The wine harvest festivals in the Southern Hemisphere occur in the late winter or early spring of a new year.

We also see climate changes in Beaujolais wines that make the Nouveau release not exactly fresh or fruit forward. Climate change is elevating the quality of the grapes from south of Burgundy at the expense of the fresh, light, and fruity Beaujolais style.

The Gamay Noir grape grown in Beaujolais has much the same characteristics as the more celebrated red Pinot Noir



grape in Burgundy. The method of producing the Beaujolais Nouveau differs in several ways. The vineyards load bunches of Gamay Noir grapes into vats but do not, as done in Burgundy, press them; instead, they let the grape clusters begin fermenting within the grape skins (called semi-carbonic maceration if the vat is not sealed and carbon dioxide added). The grape juice gravitates to the bottom of the vat and the winemakers pour it atop the grape clusters. In the final stage, the winemakers press the remnants of the grape clusters and add the juice back into to the wine.

The full process takes no more than fifteen days. After bottling, cases of Beaujolais Nouveau speed on their way to Paris and beyond. In the USA, the arrival of Nouveau may occur after the release date of November 20th, 2025, but in time for one of its best shows on Thanksgiving tables. Beaujolais works especially well with Turkey and all the trimmings.

For lovers of French wine and food, the arrival of the 2025 Beaujolais Nouveau Saturday, November 22nd, 2025, at the Embassy of France in Washington DC treats wine and food events as memorable. Chefs Daniel Labonne, Executive Chef at the Embassy of France and Hughes Cossard, President/

Owner of FoodExpression are preparing the cuisine, and Beaujolais Nouveau will flow freely along with other French wines. Wish that we could be there.

S. W. Hermansen has used his expertise in econometrics, data science and epidemiology to help develop research databases for the Pentagon, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Agriculture, and Health Resources and Services. He has visited premier vineyards and taste wines from major appellations in California, Oregon, New York State, and internationally from Tuscany and the Piedmont in Italy, the Ribera del Duero in Spain, the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale in Australia, and the Otago Valley in New Zealand. Currently he splits time between residences in Chevy Chase, Maryland and St. Armand's Circle in Florida.

Rich Hermansen selected has first wine list for a restaurant shortly after graduating from college with a degree in Mathematics. He has extensive service and management experience in the food and wine industry. Family and friends rate him as their favorite chef, bartender, and wine steward. He lives in Severna Park, Maryland.

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 4

This graphical abstract, developed by Megan, illustrates how we used the combination of our Ecosystem Health Report Card and our watershed-wide pollutant loading model to develop our PLRG. We then hosted, in 2021, a Water Quality Restoration Workshop where we asked our local government partners to bring us all the projects that they could commit to implementing, which turned out to be sufficient to meet our PLRG target. And then, over the past three years, we've worked with our partners to collect, analyze and interpret the data that shows that our efforts have actually worked.

This does not mean that we've solved all our bay's problems, but it does mean that we are a healthier system than we were a few years ago. And, as we've said multiple times, a healthier bay is a more resilient bay. And we'll need to be more resilient, because the indicators of climate change are already here.

As we've discussed in the past, our air is warmer than it was a few decades ago, as is our water temperature. Warmer air holds more moisture, and as discussed previously, we have seen a big increase in the frequency of what used to be rare rainfall amounts. Using data from Bradenton, we had only a single day with more than 5" of rain in the 20 years between 1965 and 1984. Over the last 10 years alone, we've had eight such days. Increased water temperatures are adding more fuel to spin up more powerful hurricanes and also leading to increased rates of sea level rise. Sea level has been increasing for about 20,000 years, but our rates over the past 20 years (3"/decade) are not only in line with the State of Florida's expectations over the next few decades, they are about three times higher than the rates we've documented over the past 80 or so years. Our current rates of sea level rise also appear to be higher than the average rates that we've had over the past 5,000 years.

We are seeing climate change happening in front of our eyes, which has led in part to the almost complete collapse of the live coral coverage on the Florida Keys Reef Tract, as well as an increased likelihood that storms that would have been Category 1 to 3 are now more likely to be Category 4 and 5 events.

As I say to friends and family (and folks who are neither) you can ignore climate change, but it won't ignore you.

Which leads to the last element of this Director's Note - what are the likely biggest problems we'll see with our changing climate? Will we have another year like 2024? Sure we will, but nobody knows if that will happen in 2026 or maybe not for another 50 years. But we're playing Russian roulette with storms, and our lack of adequate action to address climate change is adding more rounds to the chamber.

With or without a major storm, our region will be challenged with the combination of increased sea level and the increased probability of more intense rain events. Another graphic, created by Megan (who puts my communication efforts to shame) highlights the challenges of dealing with more intense rain co-occurring with higher sea level. Basically, our low-lying areas will find it harder to drain their streets when it rains on a high tide.

Will the SBEP and its stakeholders have the foresight and wisdom to respond to climate

change the same way we've responded to the issues of water quality and nutrient enrichment? I don't know, but I hope so. But I would suggest keeping this in mind as well – the vast majority of the costs of the projects that have been implemented to address our water quality problems were paid for by local residents. Neither the State nor the Federal governments have funded most of the wastewater upgrades and stormwater retrofits. They've not played no role, but they've not played the major role either.

Don't expect much support from either Tallahassee or Washington, D.C. to respond to the stressors of climate change. They might not even want you to say those two words. So maybe you're on your own for a bit on this topic. But if I know this region, I know that you're up to the challenge – more so than any other part of Florida.

And that's the final thing I'd like to point out. This bay isn't better because of me, or the SBEP. Or because of EPA or FDEP. It's cleaner and healthier because of YOU, the local and regional governments, supported by informed and engaged local stakeholders that have funded the projects that got our pollutant loads under control, and that led to our recent improved condition.

Sarasota Bay is the healthiest urban estuary in Florida. And that is something that I, and you, should be proud of. It's also one of the reasons why I want to go back in the private sector, to see if we can get a few more Sarasota Bay-like success stories initiated, before I shuffle off this mortal coil. It's been a privilege and an honor.

Dave Tomasko
Executive Director
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

New public email

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
Good morning, Mayor. Yes, unless there is some urgency/time sensitivity, there is always a day's lag (even without a holiday) in the processing.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Public Email

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
I see a lot more 11/11 emails today on the Commission email site. May be a holiday delay or just a lag in this processing. Thanks.
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 7

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 6

Public Email

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
 That is all I see approved that is displayed on the website. Each e-mail is reviewed before it is allowed to be published by the Clerk's office. With today being a holiday, any emails received today will be published by Trish's team tomorrow morning.
 I do see several e-mails over the last few days but it does look like all spam/junk/advertisement e-mails are not being approved to publish to the website. This is most likely to keep the e-mails published only relevant to Town business. I'm in the office tomorrow if you'd like to stop by if that helps.
 Jason Keen
 Chief Information Officer
 Town of Longboat Key

Public Email

To: Longboat Key Chief Information Officer Jason Keen
 I only received two emails today and "commission email" on the website isn't functioning.
 Ken Schneier
 Mayor
 Town of Longboat Key

St. Regis arch

To: Longboat Key Commission
 We the people who enjoy the Beach of Longboat Key, use the Pier for fishing, watching stingrays kettling and many other fish, it is always amazing! Because you can walk out to the end of the pier, many different species can be seen.
 No one owns the water; therefore no one owns the pier!
 The arch erected...with their name on it, no less; shouts ownership by the St. Regis.
 This is beyond arrogance!
 If the Town of Longboat Key creates an Amendment for one property, it would not be good Land use planning but instead...opens a Pandora's Box. This Pier has been used by the Public for decades and it should continue as such.
 Judi Earnshaw
 Longboat Key

Land Use Legislation SB 208

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

FYI as it was mentioned last Friday at the Joint Meeting, SB 208 (Sen. McClain) has been placed on the agenda for Senate Community Affairs Committee, the first of its three committee referrals, for next Wednesday. There is no companion measure currently.

- The bill:
 - Revises land use rules to streamline approvals for infill residential developments and limit local design and fee restrictions.
 - Clarifies "compatibility" by focusing on land uses within the same category and removing the requirement for uniformity or identical development.
 - Defines "infill residential development" as parcels up to 100 acres meeting specified proximity and size requirements.
 - Prohibits local regulations from denying or delaying residential projects based on compatibility concerns if the project adjoins existing residential development in the same land use category.
 - Limits the applicability of building design regulations for single-family or two-family dwellings and clarifies what qualifies as an architectural review board.
 - Requires administrative approval of infill residential development applications without public hearings if they meet current standards and maintain consistent density with surrounding properties.
 - Treats qualifying infill residential projects as conforming uses regardless of the local government's comprehensive plan or zoning.
 - Prohibits local governments from charging certain fees or exactions as a condition of approval for residential developments and restricts fees to actual service costs while requiring public disclosure of fee schedules.
- Rob Lewis
 Director of Governmental Relations
 Governmental Relations

Code compliance

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
 Very disappointing. Code Enforcement went to the site and spoke with the site supervisor just yesterday. He provided assurances that he would monitor his workers and subcontractors to prevent this issue from arising again. We will follow up. Thanks for passing this info along.
 Allen Parsons
 Planning and Zoning Director
 Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 11



**JEFF
RHINELANDER**
941-685-3590
Jeff@jeffrhinelander.com



**COURTNEY
TARANTINO**
941-893-7203
courtney.tarantino@floridamoves.com



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757HideawayBay.com



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LAmbianceL807.com

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LAmbianceB202.com



Longboat Key Towers

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\$1,350,000
LBKTowers402N.com



Promenade

1211 Gulf of Mexico Dr
#704 - \$999,000
Promenade704.com

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#105 - \$899,000
Promenade105.com



Tangerine Bay Club

350 Gulf of Mexico Drive
#126 - \$2,100,000
Tangerine126.com

350 Gulf of Mexico Drive
#211 - \$938,500
Tangerine211.com



Country Club Shores

521 Wedge Lane
\$1,880,000
521WedgeLn.com

OnPatrol



The following are actual police reports as written by Longboat Key Police Officers. They are edited for length, punctuation and to protect privacy.

Nov. 7
Citizen assist

9:56 a.m.

Officer Troyer was dispatched to Exeter Drive regarding a woman who was requesting information about two citations she received from the Town via mail. The woman received two invoices regarding parking citations in the mail, but she was unaware of being cited for any parking violations recently. Sgt. Montfort and Officer Troyer arrived, verified the citations were real and provided her with options on how to answer the citations. Case clear.



Key Fire Department front desk. Upon Officer Maple and Officer Nazareno's arrival, they Fire Department employee, who was also the complainant, stated she had borrowed two golf carts for a Veteran's Day Ceremony on the 8th of November and was only able to locate one at the end of the event. The two person cart was not located. Longboat Key Fire Department personnel notified the resort director at approximately 6:30 a.m. on Nov. 10 in regard to the missing cart after exhausting her search over the weekend. Officer Maple spoke to the Club director, Terry O'Hara was eventually able to confirm the return of the cart from their GPS tracking company. The club director was eventually able to confirm the return of the cart from their GPS tracking company. The club director was eventually able to confirm the return of the cart from their cart he is satisfied

it was returned and is on their property. Case clear.

Nov. 8
Citizen assist

2:58 p.m.

Officer Ericsson was dispatched to the 2100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive regarding a large wooden piece of a dock beached just behind the 2100 block. Officer Ericsson observed the dock which is approximately 15 feet by 8 feet and has a cleat at one end. The residents attempted to pull it onto the beach, but were unsuccessful due to the weight. It has likely been in for a while and waterlogged. They were concerned that if it stayed in the Gulf, it may cause boat/jet ski damage or possibly injury since it is very difficult to see while in the water. Officer Ericsson contacted the on-call Public Works Representative who advised to send the information and photos to the Public Works email. An email was sent and Officer Ericsson advised the caller. At this time, the object was not a danger to anyone. Case clear.

Property

7:30 p.m.

Officer Martinson was dispatched to the security guard house on Longboat Club Road on a call of a property damage report. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson was met by the male caller inside the gate house. The caller was met by Officer Martinson inside the gate house. The caller stated that at approximately 7:32 p.m. a silver Lexus 430SE struck and knocked over a camera pole near the north entrance located in the vehicle hitting the pole and then it entered through the gate. The man driving stated the vehicle is owned by a man who lives in a condominium on Longboat Club Road. The man said he didn't know how much the damaged pole would cost to repair. The man said he just needed a report and the HOA would charge the man for repairs. The man was given a victim's rights packet with the case number and completed a Marsy's Law Form. Officer Martinson then drove to Longboat Club Road and met with the car's owner. The owner said he did hit the curb while attempting to enter through the north gate but he didn't realize he knocked over a pole. The owner said he accidentally turned into the entrance too sharply and hit the curb because it was difficult to see due to all the bright lights, construction crew working and Gulf of Mexico Drive being shut down to one lane. The owner stated he will take responsibility for knocking down the camera pole and will pay for the damages. The man was given a business card with a case number. Case clear.

Trespassing

2:58 p.m.

Sgt. Montfort was dispatched on a report of subjects trespassing on the property at 6600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. It was further reported the property owners asked the subjects to leave the seawall and they refused to do so. Sgt. Montfort arrived on scene where he greeted the two homeowners who just moved into the residence yesterday and numerous people were ignoring the no trespassing signs. Moreover, several juveniles were also observed fishing from the seawall and left the area immediately when asked. The homeowner stated he would complete and sign a trespass warning if necessary. Sgt. Montfort was able to provide direction in an attempt to prohibit further trespassing incidents in such ways as more signage and to fix the fence. The property still has signs of severe damage from hurricanes Helene and Milton in 2024. The homeowner understands the property has been vacant for over a year and the subjects may not be aware the property is private. Case clear.

Nov. 9
Property

9:15 a.m.

Officer Troyer was dispatched to Bay Isles Parkway in reference to a property damage report. The caller contacted the dispatch center and reported a golf ball struck her vehicle as she was driving on the roadway. Upon arrival, the caller reported at approximately 9:15 a.m. she was driving on Bay Isles Parkway when a golf ball struck her vehicle. She continued her business, but wished to report the damage. The caller showed Officer Troyer the windshield, but did not observe any cracks, just scuff marks. Officer Troyer also observed scuff marks on the hood which appeared to be consistent to a golf ball. Officer Troyer provided the caller with a case number and advised her to contact her insurance company for repairs. Case clear.

Nov. 11
Citizen assist

5:03 p.m.

Officer Maple and Officer Tillman were dispatched to Sands Point Road in Sarasota County for a Signal 30 theft call that was later updated to a Signal 67 Officer Public assistance call. The call was in reference to a past guest who had not settled their hotel bill from their stay in September 2025. Upon Officer Maple's arrival, he met with the hotel manager who was the complainant and called in from phone number. The complainant stated that the subject of the call had a wedding at their resort at the end of September and did not pay for her stay but settled all other payments in regards to the wedding. Lack of payment was described as an oversight by the hotel staff and should have required credit card payment prior to holding reservations. The complainant showed Officer Maple digital communications with the complainant in regard to payment request with no replies. Officer Maple contacted the subject by her contact phone number and she stated that the bill should have been paid and would reach out immediately to resolve the issue. The guest immediately contacted the sales department as the officer stood by. The complainant was satisfied with the results and did not want any further police involvement. Once the complainant was satisfied with the outcome, officers left the hotel. Case clear.

Nov. 10
Incident

8:00 p.m.

Officer Maple and Officer Nazareno were dispatched to the 5500 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a signal 30 theft report that was later updated to a signal 13i. The call involved a borrowed two person golf cart from the resort. The complainant reported the incident to Longboat

Nov. 12
Roadway

6:33 p.m.

Officer Pescuma was dispatched to the area of Bayou Sound and Harbourside Drive in reference to an obstruction in the roadway. The caller who didn't wish to meet stated there was a large dumpster filled with landscaping debris in the left turn lane. Upon arrival, Officer Pescuma observed the dumpster which belongs to a waste services company filled with vegetation debris, and consistent with the recent landscaping work being completed in the community and center median. Officer Pescuma attempted to call the owner of the dumpster, however it was outside of business hours. The dumpster is on private property and is not obstructing traffic to include emergency vehicles. Officer Pescuma informed the security guard at Bay Isles Parkway of the findings. Case clear.

Nov. 13
Fishing

9:45 a.m.

Officer Mathis was dispatched to Bayou Point in reference to a suspicious person fishing in a private waterway. Upon Officer Mathis' arrival, he met with the complainant who advised that the man was extremely rude and fishing in a private area that was only open to residents of the association. Officer Mathis explained to the complainant that the man that he can fish the tidal waters. The boat and the man were gone upon Officer Mathis' arrival. The complainant was informed of the ordinance and that the fishermen have the right and ability to utilize the water for fishing. Case clear.



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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 7

Code compliance

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons
Came home at 5:20 p.m. - they were still working
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Code compliance

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Thanks for letting me know. We will absolutely do that. I am sorry your neighbors were impacted. We provide the allowed noise-making construction hours on every permit so that no one can claim not to be aware.
Allen Parsons
Planning and Zoning Director
Town of Longboat Key

Code compliance

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons
The contractor at Buttonwood Drive across from the boat basin started banging on the roof Saturday morning at 7:15 am. Please advise these people there are people living here and do not appreciate the continuing violations. We have neither time or patience to call SRQ dispatch.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Utilities, Natural Resources, and Public Works Policy Committee Packet

To: Longboat Key Florida League of Cities members
Thank you again for your engagement and thoughtful discussion during the Florida League of Cities' Utilities, Natural Resources & Public Works Policy Committee's meeting in October. As a follow-up to the presentation from Gary Hubbard, Water Department Director for the City of Winter Haven, I'm sharing the draft One Water Proclamation his team prepared in response to the committee's request. This proclamation is intended as a voluntary resource for your municipality, should your commission/council wish to formally endorse the One Water concept.
The draft proclamation emphasizes water as a vital resource for public health, economic prosperity, and environmental protection; recognizes that drinking water, wastewater, and

stormwater are often managed in silos; and highlights that a "One Water" approach treats all water as a single, integrated resource to be managed holistically and sustainably for communities, agriculture, industry, and the environment.

Please feel free to share the attached draft. It can be customized to reflect local circumstances and preferences before being brought forward for consideration by a governing body.

If you have questions about the proclamation or the One Water framework, you can reach Gary at ghubbard@mywinterhaven.com.

Matt Singer
Legislative Advocate
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Dr. Ryan Gandy Selected as New Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Executive Director

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

Please join us in welcoming our new Executive Director, Dr. Ryan Gandy. Dr. Gandy holds a Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Science, a M.S. in Mariculture from Texas A&M University, and a B.S. in Marine Biology from the University of Charleston. Over his 15-year tenure as a Research Scientist and Research Administrator with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), he led and supported the development of scientific programs focused on research, monitoring, stakeholder engagement, citizen science, fisheries management, and the restoration of shellfish resources statewide.

For the last year, he has served as the Science and Restoration Manager for SBEP, where he successfully advanced the program's library of restoration projects and ensured key initiatives are informed by current science. A fifth-generation Floridian and 21-year resident of Sarasota County, Dr. Gandy has witnessed the region's ecological challenges and transformations first-hand.

He is committed to protecting and enhancing the natural resources of Sarasota Bay so that future generations can continue to connect with and benefit from Florida's unique coastal environment. "While we've made significant progress in restoring bay health and increasing marine habitat, our coastal ecosystem still faces challenges. I look forward to working with our partners and the community to strengthen the estuary's resilience for the benefit of all," said Dr. Gandy.

Dave Tomasko
Executive Director
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

\$25 Million Stormwater Project

To: Longboat Key Commission
Here is the latest information since my last email - two things: (1) Joint Meeting of the Town

See Letters, page 12

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 11

of Longboat Key Commission and the Sarasota County Commission After last week's update, we learned that there was about to be the Annual Joint Meeting of the Town of Longboat Key Commission and the Sarasota County Commission. Longboat had already decided to ask the County to fund the St. Armands Resiliency & Flood Mitigation Project (link) because of island access and evacuation concerns, and because St. Armands is important to their residents and visitors. We contacted the Longboat Mayor and Town Manager and got the nod to come and make a brief presentation. So we canceled our Friday afternoon plans and went to this meeting and got to present directly to four of the five County Commissioners who are going to decide whether or not this project gets funded at their upcoming December 16 meeting (in five weeks). I was joined by Carl Shoffstall of the Lido Key Residents Association and Andrew Vac of the St. Armands Circle (Merchants) Association. Thank you to Carl and the LKRA for splitting the costs of the picture collages of flooding damage that we had printed up. Link to video: <https://video.ibm.com/channel/K7AXepv39YZ> Public input (me, Carl, Andrew): fast forward to 2:10 (2 minutes, 10 seconds) (be patient, they eventually turn the camera toward the speakers) Town of Longboat Key pitch: fast forward to 24:20 (24 minutes, 20 seconds) (2) Article about this Upcoming County Funding Decision in the Herald-Tribune Sarasota wants \$82 million in federal funds for St. Armands; bayou stormwater projects Alternate link: click here Note: the article mentions two dates. The County is scheduled to select which dredging projects get funded next week on November 18, and which infrastructure projects get funded in five weeks on December 16. Apparently there are separate pools of money for each. Here's what we still need to do: Many residents and a couple businesses have copied me on their own emails to the County Commissioners, or indicated that they are going to do this. I'm hopeful that more residents and businesses and commercial property owners will send a steady flow of additional emails to them over the next five weeks. Tell your own story of how the last two years of flooding events have impacted you. For commercial property owners, explain how new business tenants may be hesitant to invest in St. Armands Circle until the stormwater infrastructure issues get addressed. If you watch the video segments listed above, you'll hear the idea that this project might only get partial funding. I recommend making the point that this project needs to be fully funded; that half-measures will not solve the stormwater infrastructure problems out here. Here's the link showing the five County Commissioners and how to email them. This one email address goes to them all: commissioners@scgov.net If you've got the ability to have a phone call, Zoom, or in-person meeting with them, even better. Clear your Calendar for Tuesday, December 16 and go to the meeting in Venice: (it's in five weeks) The meeting starts at 9am and every person present at the start of this meeting will get up to three minutes to speak. I expect to be there for several hours, depending on the number of speakers and how long the County Commissioners take to discuss this. Can I count on you to join me

there? It's at the County's Robert L. Anderson Administration Center at 4000 S Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL 34293. Here's a map with the location marked with a red icon at the bottom. A little far, but isn't it worth it?

We must become more resilient to future storms. Let's do everything we can to help the city obtain this \$25 million in federal funds to invest in St. Armands infrastructure. Combined with our recent progress towards undergrounding our power lines & utilities, this project will help make St. Armands a much more attractive and safe place to live, visit, work, travel to and through, and invest in. Thank you for your support and assistance.

Chris Goglia
President
St. Armands Residents Association

St. Regis arch

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle

Trish - this is a transcript of a voicemail Sue Klauber left about Whittall's sign:

Any monumental art should go up on the groin it should be to Murf Klauber for having to go all the way to the state to stop it from being torn down. Town didn't want it there maybe because I think Murf helped rebuild it and the groin definitely needs to have a small plaque just before you get on the ground so people would know that if it weren't for Murf nothing would be there. I just saw Judy Earnshaw's email and I had no idea so I picked up the paper just read the problem and I agree it's certainly noticeable and inappropriate. I thought it was somebody who was having a wedding you know Jewish arch not permanent but I am so nice I think it was maybe as of humor just have anything it should have a recognition of Klauber because if he hadn't fought to the nail to the very end there would be no groin and we'd have no beaches so forget this arch in his go back to the beginnings. Anyway dear, look forward to seeing you tomorrow and you just got my message about tennis on Thursday take care we'll see you at church bye-bye..."

Sue Klauber
Longboat Key

FLC update

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Hi Tip, I wanted to be sure you noticed this passage from Casey Cook's FLC update. I watched the video and was encouraged by the tenor of this week's Senate Finance and Tax Committee meeting:

Property Taxes and the Senate

The Senate has yet to show its hand on the issue of property taxes. However, in order for legislation to come into effect or be placed on the ballot as a proposed state constitutional amendment, both the House and the Senate will need to vote on and pass the same bill or joint resolution.

See Letters, page 13

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 12

This week during the Senate's Committee on Finance and Tax meeting, in response to a question from Vice Chair Don Gaetz about the committee's trajectory on property taxes, Chair Bryan Avila stated that it would be prudent "to take a slow and methodical and productive approach," and that this approach was supported by the Senate President Ben Albritton. See Senate Committee on Finance and Tax 11/5/2025 Meeting at 48:17. Therefore, there is no indication that the Senate is in a rush to hear and vote on the eight House proposals.

Penny Gold
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

St. Regis arch

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Understood I just did not realize it was happening at that hearing. That's why I'm gonna come Monday so I can address as well.

Chuck (Charles) Whittall
Unicorp Companies

St. Regis arch

To: Unicorp President Chuck Whittall
The Commission received a letter from your attorney asking that we address the sign.

BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

St. Regis arch

To: Longboat Key Commission

I was unaware that this week you would be discussing the Groin Sign at The St Regis or I would have been there to personally address you. I apologize for not being there.

I think there was a horrible misunderstanding of how this matter was handled and how we got to where we are today. I've been in business for 30 years and have always played by the rules throughout my career.

I personally will be at the commission on Monday at 1 p.m. to address this matter and hopefully add clarity to how we got here and seek resolution. I hope your listen with open minds as we have been a good community partner and I think a huge benefit for Longboat Key. We have not caused any traffic issues, provided several new dining and drinking venues, we have raised property values, hugely increased the property tax revenue, provided meaningful employment opportunities and gained a great reputation throughout the country. We delivered on our promise and are committed to being a solid part of the community and a team player. I look forward to seeing you.

Chuck (Charles) Whittall
Unicorp Companies

Shark Fins, from page 1

The peer-reviewed study, published in Science Advances, shows that fins from four out of five shark species regulated under the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) remain common in Hong Kong's markets, the global hub for shark fins, even though little to no legal trade has been reported since trade regulations took effect in 2014.

"Many sharks may be headed toward extinction, with international trade of shark products, such as dried fins that are used in the expensive luxury dish shark fin soup, often driving fishing pressure beyond species ability to reproduce and replenish populations," said Dr. Chapman.

In 2013 countries recognized the severity of this problem and at a global meeting of members of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) decided to impose trade regulations on five particularly threatened shark species that were important in trade — three large species of hammerheads (scalloped, smooth and great), the porbeagle and the oceanic whitetip. These regulations required that all trade be reported and certified as not threatening the species' survival.

"Since the 2014 listings of these species on CITES, very little trade has been reported and certified, which makes a great deal of sense because of how poorly they are doing in the wild," said Dr. Chapman. "Given these numbers, we would expect to find very few of their fins in Hong Kong."

"Our findings show that while global trade regulations are a powerful tool, their effectiveness depends on countries actually enforcing them," said Dr. Chapman. "We're seeing clear evidence of widespread noncompliance, illegal trade is still happening on a massive scale."

The study examined trade records and performed extensive DNA analyses on nearly 20,000 shark fin samples collected from Hong Kong markets between 2014 and 2021. Despite very low levels of legal trade, researchers found fins from scalloped, smooth and great hammerheads (*Sphyrna lewini*, *S. zygaena*, *S. mokarran*) and oceanic whitetip sharks (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) were commonly found year after year.

These species were added to CITES Appendix II in 2013, meaning that international trade of these species is only permitted if it is legal, traceable and sustainable. Yet 81% of shark-fin-exporting countries have never reported any trade in these listed species, suggesting illegal exports are ongoing.

"There's a huge gap between what's on paper and what's happening in the real world," said Dr. Diego Cardenosa, lead author from Florida International University's Department of Biological Sciences. "DNA evidence clearly shows these protected species are still entering the global market at alarming rates. There are 70 times more fins from oceanic whitetips and 10 times as many hammerhead fins than would be expected based on legal and certified reporting."

Hammerhead and oceanic whitetip sharks are considered either Critically Endangered or Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List, and their ongoing exploitation threatens to push populations even closer to collapse. Using 'DNA zip-coding,' the team traced the origins of scalloped hammerhead fins sold in Hong Kong to 6 ocean regions, including the Indian, Eastern Pacific and South Atlantic, 3 of which had no legal export records of these species. This genetic tracking reveals that illegal trade spans continents and involves many major fishing nations.

"Genetics allows us to connect the dots between fishing grounds and market stalls," said Dr. Chapman. "It's one of the most powerful tools we have to identify where enforcement is failing."

The team red-flagged several countries that are very likely involved in the illegal shark fin trade at a high level, including Spain, Taiwan, the United Arab Emirates, China, Philippines, Ghana and Brazil.

"We are reaching a major tipping point where if the fishing and trade of these species is not meaningfully reduced, then these sharks will disappear," said Cardenosa. "This would be a huge loss of top predators in our oceans, which could unleash serious and unpredictable ecosystem changes that negatively affect us."

Yet the research team remains hopeful. The study's authors call for stronger efforts to engage CITES compliance mechanisms, greater enforcement and transparency in the trade and expanded genetic monitoring along supply chains.

"Shedding light on this problem is a major step toward solving it," concluded Chapman. "CITES has internal compliance mechanisms to deal with illegal trade and in early December they will also decide whether to ban global trade in one of these species, the oceanic whitetip. We are at the point where these more stringent actions are needed."

Mote's Sharks & Rays Conservation Research Program continues to collaborate globally to improve understanding of shark biology, ecology and management, working toward a sustainable future for these keystone species and the ecosystems they support.

"Protecting sharks means protecting our oceans," Dr. Chapman added. "Science-driven collaboration like this is exactly what it takes to turn the tide."

The study also reinforces Florida International University's (FIU) leadership in marine conservation and wildlife forensics. As part of its institutional mission, FIU promotes research and action to end destructive fishing and illegal exploitation of marine species. A researcher in FIU's Global Forensic and Justice Center and Institute of Environment, Dr. Cardenosa earned global recognition for his work deploying DNA detection technology at ports and enabling law-enforcement agencies to prosecute wildlife-trafficking cases. With the current study, FIU further reinforces its global commitment to translating rigorous science into actionable conservation outcomes.

The full study, titled International trade regulations take a limited bite out of the shark fin trade, is available in Science Advances at <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.adz2821>



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BreakPoints



Loosen up if you want to hit with more power

What is the best technique to increase power?

JACKIE BOHANNON
Guest Columnist
 tennis@lbknews.com

There are many different ways you can increase power throughout your tennis game. On groundstrokes the very first suggestion is holding the racquet as loose as you can. When you squeeze your grip, you are less likely to get racquet head speed. Therefore, the looser you hold the racquet the more racquet head speed you can generate. If you watch a recreational player and a professional player, one of the biggest differences is the racquet head speed the professionals generate.



BOHANNON

How do we get more racquet head speed? As mentioned above, first hold the racquet looser. I like to say hold the racquet like you are holding a baby bird. Firm enough that it cannot fly away, but loose enough you won't hurt it. Another way to get more power but also stay loose is to use your legs. When the ball bounces you want to bend your knees so you can accelerate up and push off with your legs. This is called loading up.

You are generally going to think you are hitting the ball harder when you hit it flatter. Stepping into the ball causes the ball to be flatter while an open stance naturally creates more topspin. Regardless of your stance to get more power you want to rotate your hips. It is imperative to maximize your lower body usage in order to get more power. You literally want to push off starting with the big toe, bending the knees, turning the hips, and then follow through. You want to follow through until your racquet stops against your back or shoulder. If you slow down your swing, don't follow through, or jab the ball you will also lose power.

Many times recreational players worry about hitting long. If you are going to miss the worst thing you can do is hit the ball into the net. Don't worry about overhitting. It is much easier to learn to control the ball or put spin on it to make it stay in. Therefore, one of the best drills to work on racquet head speed is to have a pro or ball machine feed you and from the baseline try to hit the back fence. This works on racquet head speed. Oftentimes when I do this drill I find not only do my clients not hit the fence but they end up hitting the ball beautifully a few inches from the baseline. You have to trust the racquet and let it go. Another great drill to work on racquet head speed is rallying with a friend from 10-15 feet behind the baseline, or again having a pro feed you, but you stand as close to the back fence as you can. These drills really help improve racquet head speed. Racquet head speed=power!

Most of the aforementioned suggestions also apply to the serve and overhead: be loose, accelerate, turn your hips,

and use your legs, however there are two more tips to get more power on your serve and overhead. On your serve and overhead you want to hold the racquet a little lower than you would on your groundstrokes or volleys. When I go to serve I generally have my pinky and or my pinky and ring finger off the racquet. This keeps me looser and generates 10-20 more miles per hour. If I want to hit a more conservative serve I keep my hand in the same position as I hit my groundstrokes. Holding the racquet lower allows you to snap your wrist more efficiently which will also generate more power. Similarly to the groundstroke drill, I often recommend having clients serve into the fence to work on racquet head speed. For overheads I work on snapping the wrist so the ball will bounce in and then go over the fence. On overheads that can not be smashed over the fence, work on hitting your overhead through the court where it only bounces once. You know you are getting good power on your overhead if it hits the fence after only bouncing once. I hope these tips help you continue to develop and improve your power game.

Serve Jackie your best question!



Long-time tennis pro and America's Top Coach Jackie Bohannon will answer any question on tennis. Please email question you have on strategy, technique, mental game, fitness, equipment, etc., to: tennis@lbknews.com

KeyCrossword



Yes I Wood

Robert Stockton

ACROSS

1. Inventor of a great glass elevator
5. 2nd largest Great Lake
10. Burn balm
14. It was subtitled "A Narrative of the South Seas"
15. It's followed by Febrero
16. One of Asta's owners
17. Specialists in wooden machinery?
20. Raimi/Campbell horror trilogy
21. "Amen to that!"
22. Words of acknowledgment
23. Tribesmen at Red Rock
24. Soft wood used for aircraft parts?
29. Honshu hide-a-bed
32. "I can't ___ thing!"
33. Word with American or Eskimo

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17			18					19				
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29	30	31				32				33		
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41			42			43	44					
			45			46				47	48	49
50	51	52				53						
54					55							
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

34. Place for a short stack, for short
35. Golden Horde member
37. Word with pool or city
38. IM pioneer
39. Food served with frijoles
40. Fabulous storyteller
41. A famously sturdy paddock?
45. Encounter
46. Noble holding
50. It may divide on a slide
53. G&S farce, informally
54. Veneer over a wooden handle?
56. Garfield's punching bag

57. "I'm With Stupid" rocker Mann
58. First name in philosophy
59. It may get trapped in your dryer
60. 1066 and 1492
61. Disco and doo-wop, e.g.

DOWN

1. He doesn't sing Heigh-Ho
2. Something to make or bust
3. Kachina worshipers
4. Sucker
5. As part of this document
6. Like a messy bed
7. Oboe or sax, e.g.
8. Many a Middle Earth warrior

9. Pitcher's goal
10. American Shakers founder
11. She worked for Perry at the Planet
12. Sea World headliner
13. Like a piece of cake
18. Supplement a recipe with
19. Word heard on Lei Day
23. "Eligible" classification
25. Childish insistence
26. Pampering places
27. Narc's jackpot
28. Short shriek
29. Chrysler partner
30. "I've got a bad feeling about this!"
31. Lacquered metalware

35. 18 down's opposite
36. FDIC protectee
37. Brimstone's partner
39. Billy Blanks' calorie burner
40. Capital of Baden's canton
42. Serving at 34 across
43. Hunt's "Mad About You" co-star
44. Homes near buffalo?
47. Many a nurse
48. Where the Magic play
49. Nineveh conquerors
50. One who forgot to touch base?
51. Certain skirt
52. "Alias" director Ken or actress Lena
53. Gila River dweller
55. Conk out

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