



Longboat Key News

May 17, 2024

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InsideLook



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on the road
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Longboat residents fight push by Jewfish Key to un-incorporate fearing tourism and development

“De-annexation would result in short term rentals of the large houses on Jewfish Key. The lack of rental occupancy limits will encourage rentals to large groups, including weddings, reunions, spring break parties and other big gatherings resulting in loud, late night parties that Longboat would be powerless to stop.”

STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

Homeowners on a tiny island off Longboat key want to increase tourism and development rights by de-annexing from the restrictive Town and becoming unincorporated.

But this move will be stopped in its tracks if residents in the Village on Longboat — the oldest residential section of the island — convince area leaders that the idea will bring noise and over-commercialization to their lives. Their ire is fueled by the fact that access to Jewfish Key is by boat only and most residents and visitors park at Longboat near the boat ramp in the Village.

Residents in the Longbeach



Village on Longboat as well as Longboat Key's Land's End community have joined together with a petition drive gaining momentum and heading to Town Hall in opposition.

The Lands End Homeowners Association represents 12 homeowners directly opposite from Jewfish Key, a couple hundred yards away across the channel. The board of directors is unanimously

opposed to the effort by Jewfish Key property owners to de-annex from Longboat Key.

The board President Don Sensabaugh, Jr. wrote, “De-annexation would result in short term rentals of the large houses on Jewfish Key. The lack of rental occupancy limits will encourage rentals to large groups, including weddings, reunions, spring break parties and other big gatherings

See Jewfish Key, page 2

Pickleball Craze Continues Islandwide and Nationwide

Young, old, single, married, Pickleball is for everyone and does not discriminate. Over thirty-six million people are playing Pickleball.

TRYLA LARSON
Guest Columnist
tryla@lbknews.com

Are you a Pickler? Maybe you call yourself a Picklehead? Whatever catchy title you go by you are not alone. Pickle ball is in. Pickleball is hot. Pickleball is the sport to play. Young, old, single, married, Pickleball is for everyone and does not discriminate. Over thirty-six million people are playing Pickleball. It is sweeping the nation. In Missouri they play Pickleball in a shopping mall that has been closed. California is said to be the state with the most Pickleball courts according to visitCalifornia.com. They have more than three thousand six hundred courts.

Longboat Key is not to be left out of the fun. Here on the island, we have our own share of Pickleball courts. We have eight brand spanking new Pickleball courts at the Longboat Key Club. Our own Bayfront Park has seven Pickleball courts. Three of them are permanent Pickleball courts and four of them are Pickleball lined on tennis courts. Even several



Larson

of the condominium communities have taken up the cause. Just to name a few... Beachplace has two Pickleball courts. Harbour Villa Club has two pickleball courts. There are at least four of them on the North end of the island near Whitney Plaza. There are even two or three of them at Tangerine Bay on the far South end of the island. A lot of the condominium complex have repurposed their tennis courts and lined over them for Pickleball. Roll with the flow I say.

Don't know how to play Pickleball? No problem, there are several places like the Paradise Center to take lessons. Just go to the store, buy a paddle and some balls and get started. There are a lot of different types and qualities of Pickleball equipment you can purchase. From the extremely inexpensive paddles

See Pickleball, page 15

Longboat Police Captain Bourque named Officer of the Year 2023



Each year, the Manatee County Hundred Club recognizes the best law enforcement officers in the region. At the Club's annual recognition dinner on May 16, 2024, they recognized the 2023 Officer of the Year nominations: Bradenton Police Department – Detective Michael Carpenter; Bradenton Beach Police Department – Officer Kyle Orms; Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission – Officer Thomas Wesche; Florida Highway Patrol – Trooper William Harris; Holmes Beach Police Department – Officer Andrew Adkins; Homeland Security Investigation – Special Agents Andrew Baker & Loukas Mihalos; Longboat Key Police Department – Captain Robert Bourque; Manatee County Sheriff's Office – Detective Michael Smith; and Palmetto Police Department – Corporal Benjamin Schlachach.

While all of the honorees served

See News Shorts, page 15

Jewfish Key, from page 1

resulting in loud, late night parties that Longboat Key would be powerless to stop. In the past, we have been subject to many such parties held by Jewfish Key property owners or their renters.”

A further concern is possible rezoning by the county to allow commercial uses on Jewfish Key, which might include tiki-bars, restaurants, water sport facility or amenities to support hotels in Bradenton Beach.

If de-annexation puts the Jewfish Key Sandbar beyond Longboat Key limits, the Town could lose its ability to police boat parties on the Jewfish Key Sandbar, which is an ongoing problem. Other risks include environmental damage, loss of protected open space and deforestation of Jewfish Key say opponents.

County commissioners and officials from the Town of Longboat Key discussed the request from the Jewfish Key Preservation Association to de-annex Jewfish Key from the town and become part of unincorporated Manatee County at a joint April 30 meeting. The issue is slated to be discussed at an upcoming June Longboat Commission meeting.

If the de-annexation is successful, Jewfish Key will become part of unincorporated Manatee County.

“We urge the Town Commissioners to reject de-annexation of Jewfish Key, wrote Sensabaugh, Jr. on behalf of the Lands End Homeowners Association.

Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton said to the commission at the April 30 meeting. “There is a possibility you may have an unusual enclave for county services within the Town of Longboat Key.”

“On Jan. 16, 2024, the Town of Longboat Key received a voluntary petition from the Jewfish Key Preservation Association Inc. for the contraction of the island (Jewfish Key) from the municipal boundaries of the town,” Tipton read from a prepared statement. “The homeowners association submitted the request to examine the town’s levels of municipal service and because the town has land use controls that are more restrictive than Manatee County’s. Specifically, the town has a longstanding grandfathered-in land use regulation that restricts the duration of short-term rentals of residential properties for less than 30 days.

“While there is no role for Manatee County in the statutory contraction process, this information is being shared to create awareness of the pending request and the upcoming Town Commission discussion relating to the future of Jewfish Key within the town’s boundaries or

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as part of unincorporated Manatee County,” Tipton read further.

One Manatee County Commissioner said he thought it disingenuous to use the name – the Jewfish Key Preservation Association — when the goal is to relax standards and loosed Tourism rental regulations.

Jewfish Key is the only part of the Town of Longboat Key that is without water and sewer service.

Florida Statutes require the town to undertake and evaluate a feasibility study within six months of receipt of the petition. The anticipated presentation of the completed feasibility study to the Town Commission is at a public meeting on Monday, June 3 at 1 p.m



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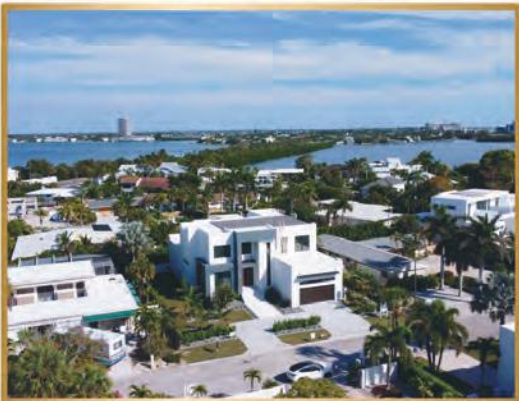
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\$9,750,000 – Under Construction
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1325 WESTWAY DR

\$13,995,000 – Under Contract
5 Beds 8 Baths 6,590 Sq. Ft.
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\$16,995,000 – Under Contract
5 Beds 7 Baths 8,964 Sq. Ft.
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941-388-2021

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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.

Flooding

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman
I have recently purchased my house located at Russell Street on Longboat Key. Since my arrival there has been water accumulation in front of my house and that of my neighbor, every time it rains and it takes days to dry up leaving a mess behind in front of both houses. I understand this has only been happening since the last repavement of the road. Would you please have a look at this situation while repaving is underway in June in the village and correct the pitch on the road? It has been a bumpy start for me having gone through two floods in my house in my first year – so I am hoping at least this problem can be taken care of in our lovely neighborhood. We need all the help we can get!
Nancy M. Toon
Longboat Key

Broadway roundabout

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Maureen forwarded your email to us regarding the GMD/Broadway roundabout. Personally, we are supportive of the roundabout - here are our reasons:
1. Safety when crossing GMD on foot. There are now 4 lanes of traffic plus 2 bike lanes to cross. Due to the road curvature the site lines are limited and before pedestrians know it, traffic is bearing down on them/us going 50 mph (in the 35 mph zone). Difficult when carrying beach chairs, or holding a grandchild's hand, or being unable to run the last two lanes. Yes, all cars so far have slowed down for us and we haven't been hit yet. A roundabout would provide a safe median at the halfway point.
2. Easier to turn left from Broadway. Often when driving west on Broadway to turn left (south) onto GMD, we have to wait a very long time since there is constant traffic both ways. With a roundabout we would initially deal only with the northbound GMD traffic to our left, enter the roundabout, then deal with GMD southbound traffic.
3. Roundabouts are a proven mechanism for slowing and managing traffic at intersections.
4. Aesthetics. Would enhance the look of the entrance to Longboat Key.
The main opposition to the roundabout seems to be from the Conrad beach neighborhood (which backs up to GMD) who appear to be concerned about loss of privacy. Hopefully the revised roundabout plan, without the road banking, can reestablish the desired vegetation barrier. Maybe the Conrad Beach people do not cross GMD much and therefore don't encounter

the danger. Thanks for your support.
Carla & Pete Rowan
Longboat Key

Records Request PD-48-2024

To: Longboat Key Commission
I asked Ivan Zunz for info on auto and pedestrian accidents for the 6900 to 7000 block of GMD. Here's his findings below. No pedestrians accidents and very few auto, less than one each year.
That intersection certainly appears to be safe.
Steve Bergman
Longboat Key

Records Request PD-48-2024

To: Steve Bergman
This project has been frustrating as we deal with the redesign FDOT required. The hundreds of people in the Village who must cross this intersection have asked for a safer crossing for some time. I know you are concerned about your privacy in your backyard and I am hopeful a design that addresses your issue is part of the project.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Records Request PD-48-2024

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Good morning, once we have our contractor out in the Village in June, we will have him take a look at that particular section of Russell and provide a recommendation and associated cost.
Isaac Brownman
Director Public Works
Town of Longboat Key

Village streets repaving

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman

See Letters, page 6

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\$4,795,000

6609 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

Coastal-inspired elevated pool home. This North Longboat Key 4 bedroom, 4 bath, 4,132 sf home with private beach access features views of the Gulf of Mexico and sunsets from wide covered decks and the third-level widow's walk. The main level is ideal for family gatherings and entertaining with ample seating in the kitchen, living room, dining area and wet bar. All bedrooms have ensuite baths. The Gulf of Mexico facing glass sliders open to an expansive balcony with a gas grill overlooking the pool, spa and lush array of mature tropical trees and landscaping.





\$2,195,000

5930 EMERALD HARBOR DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

Exquisitely remodeled 3BR/3.5BA pool home situated on a .27 acre waterfront lot. The property sits on one of the key's widest canals and boasts a new 72-foot seawall and dock with boat lift. Enjoy community beach access only two blocks away.





\$2,195,000

775 LONGBOAT CLUB RD., #308 | LONGBOAT KEY

Three bedroom, three bath Gulf front, coastal oasis that is rarely offered. Savor expansive beach views and breathtaking sunsets from the glass sliders, windows and spacious terrace. This second-floor end unit unfolds across 2,122 sq ft of well-planned space. Enjoy a life of ease at Beaches on Longboat Key!





\$2,155,000

2185 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #212 | LONGBOAT KEY

Villa Di Lancia, one of Longboat Key's premier communities. This corner residence boasts 3 bathrooms, and epitomizes tropical Gulf-front living. The covered terrace, connected to the living room provides a spacious year-round haven to immerse yourself in the stunning surroundings. A spiral staircase offers easy access to resort amenities and the beach just outside. Includes 2 parking spaces.

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525 NORTON STREET | LONGBOAT KEY

Magnificent Key West-inspired waterfront home with expansive canal views. This exquisite 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath residence boasts luxurious features, including roofed decks on all levels. The screened patio area features a heated pool and waterfall spa. Enjoy adventurous excursions from your boat dock offering easy and open access to the Gulf and the Bay.





\$2,100,000

370 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #432 | LONGBOAT KEY

Delight in scenic views of Sarasota Bay in this custom-designed 4-bedroom, 4.5-bathroom PENTHOUSE. The spacious condominium features soaring ceilings, great room with gas fireplace, and private gated courtyard. All bedrooms are ensuite. Sliding glass doors in the primary suite and great room open to a terrace. An additional west-facing terrace boasts stunning sunset views.





\$1,085,000

2110 HARBOURSIDE DR., #547 | LONGBOAT KEY

Delight in captivating bay vistas in this well-maintained 2,039 sq. ft. condominium in The Atrium, situated in Fairway Bay in the gated community of Bay Isles. This 3-bedroom, 2-bath residence features many updates, and floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors to the southeast-facing terrace, showcasing gorgeous views of Sarasota Bay and the city skyline.





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STEVE WALTER

941.809.0907

Steve@WalterGroupRealEstate.com

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 4

I was pleased to see the email below regarding further paving to be done in the Village. I hope that you will remember me and that you will remember that we live at Russell Street in the Village. The last repaving job of Russell Street a couple of years ago resulted in a long, low area along the south side of Russell Street directly in front of our house and in front of our neighbour's property on Russell Street. Three catch basins that are supposed to drain that part of Russell Street are located at the intersection of Russell Street and Longboat Drive East. One of those catch basins is on the south side of Russell Street, just east of my neighbour's property. Prior to the latest repaving job, the south side of Russell Street always drained well, as it should, into that catch basin. We never had standing water in front of our house after a rainfall. Now, as a result of that repaving project, the stretch of Russell Street in front of our houses no longer drains into that catch basin. Water accumulates there all the time - every time it rains. It is a stretch of Russell Street over 100 feet long - our full frontage and our neighbour's full frontage. Water accumulates there, from the curb right out to the middle of the road, inches deep at the curb, unable to drain away because of the incompetent repaving job which left this area significantly lower than the elevation of that catch basin.

In addition to collecting water, that stretch of Russell Street ends up accumulating slime, sludge and debris which remains after the water eventually evaporates. I have mentioned this to you previously, during our meetings in the Public Works offices when I and other villagers met with you to discuss the potential of mini circles on Broadway. You indicated that you would look into it. That was over a year ago now. I have also written to the Town about this problem. This is not related to the flooding issue, it is simply a storm drainage issue that could be easily fixed.

Surely, it is not too much to expect that a street can be paved so that the stormwater is able to drain properly into existing catch basins? It cannot be that difficult to grade the drainage appropriately, as it was previously.

Could you please have the contractors who will be doing further paving in the village fix this situation? Please! We pay a lot of taxes and would appreciate having what every homeowner takes for granted - a street frontage that is not a wet mucky mess for days after each rainfall event.

Stephen Garrod
Patricia MacDonald
Longboat Key

Village streets repaving

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Issac Brownman
Do we have a date on when we will repave the village streets?
Mike Haycock

Vice Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Village paving

To: Longboat Key Vice Mayor Mike Haycock
Our contractor, Gator Grading and Paving, was working to provide us a segment-by-segment schedule, but the scheduler was out sick last week. They committed to providing us a detailed schedule this week. Verbally, they have indicated a desire to start early to mid-June, which we told them was acceptable. The large majority of this year's paving is in the Village, including a series of intersections and several road segments. Copied Charlie who can provide a more detailed schedule once we receive it.

Isaac Brownman
Director Public Works, Town of Longboat Key

Please help with reoccurring problem at Sloop Lane

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
Our friend Mark at 549 Sloop has the big boat in the middle of the Canal again. The same boat that was supposed to have been there for its last night before being sold by his friend, so I guess we (more so you) have been lied to once again Mr. Mayor!

Since our last conversation I have made progress with state government officials, both in contact with the senator that sponsored SB 250 Jonathan Martin and Fiona McFarland, our state representative who I have worked with on previous projects. There is nothing in this bill that would prohibit the city from passing this ordinance, so I respectfully request from you the following. Last we spoke, you said the ordinance had been drafted and was ready to be put into law. Can you please reply with an attachment of that ordinance/document so that I could have it reviewed by the people mentioned here? Secondly, can you have the city attorney tell us exactly what wording/ part of SB 250 she thinks would prohibit the city from putting this ordinance into law. I will respond with the direct responses from these elected officials once I have this information. I may be able to arrange an in-person meeting if necessary.

Thank you for your immediate attention and help with this, I look forward to your timely response.

Mike Percopo
Longboat Key

Please help with reoccurring problem at Sloop Lane

To: Mike Percopo
Sorry to hear the big boat is back. I think we have determined at least that it's not permitted

See Letters, page 7



Sandy Endres, PA

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SEAPLACE • 1945 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #M2-102 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL

Charming and furnished 2BR/1BA condominium updated with laminate flooring in the living area & bedrooms that has the look of rustic wood. This residence is located in a secured locked mid-rise building and faces East with a garden view. The kitchen has stainless appliances, granite counter tops and glass tiled backsplash. In the bathroom dual sinks with granite. In dressing area a full size combination washer & dryer.

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LONGBOAT HARBOUR • 4440 EXETER DR., #301 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL

This bright and spacious, beautifully updated 2BR/2BA corner condominium with Gulf and Bay Views is something you do not want to miss seeing. Coming furnished (except for personal items) with an open kitchen and floor plan and a large enclosed lanai overlooking the pool and Bay.

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Just Listed!



SEAPLACE • 2055 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #G2-102 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL

Three bedroom, two bath with high end finishes throughout the 1,492 sq. ft. residence, including polished travertine flooring throughout and including the double lanai, granite countertops in the kitchen, stainless steel appliances, lovely appointed bathrooms, custom lighting throughout, crown molding and plantation shutters in all rooms, as well as custom built closets. Primary suite is loaded with closet space, double sinks and separate shower room. Low condo fees for a large floor plan.

OFFERED FOR \$939,000 • CALL ME FOR YOUR PERSONAL TOUR!

Just Listed!

EditorLetters

Letters, from page 6

for non-residents to be occupying a boat adjacent to a residential property, so I will ask staff to pursue that. As for the ordinance, we have been assured repeatedly by highly qualified town counsel that we can not pass this until October, 2026, but I am copying her on this note as well so that she can respond if appropriate.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Please help with reoccurring problem at Sloop Lane

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Thank you for sharing this concern. Commissioner Coffin has also spoken with me regarding this. Code Enforcement is out there this morning. I understand that the town code does not allow for a live aboard situation in Town waters for more than 72 hours in a 30-day period unless authorized by the my office (which I have not done and no one on staff has any memory of the last time a longer stay was authorized).

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Please help with reoccurring problem at Sloop Lane

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Thanks, Tip. And this isn't even the property owner.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Please help with reoccurring problem at Sloop Lane

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Please forward to Howard as well, this flagrant disregard and canal abuse must stop! Please help us and our community, we need our canals to be protected & respected by all.

Kathy Callahan
Longboat Key

Please help with reoccurring problem at Sloop Lane

To: Kathy Callahan

Thanks for your note. First, by copy of this response I am asking Howard Tipton to have Code Enforcement investigate the use of the Antos slip by a "guest". This should not be permitted regardless of the size of the boat. Second, you are right that Mr. Antos promised us in an open Commission meeting that his friend's boat would be removed from Sloop promptly, which it was. Its return is clearly unacceptable. Finally, on the larger issue of a "boat-size" ordinance, although we approved it at the Town level, the State Legislature passed a law last year prohibiting the passage of any local ordinance for two years that in any way restricted the use of property within 100 miles of Hurricane Ian's landfall. As our boat ordinance would be such a restriction, it is on hold until the ban expires.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Please help with reoccurring problem at Sloop Lane

To: Kathy Callahan

Thank you for your continued support and as you know I am committed to putting a stop to this once and for all! This is like ground hogs' day. The amount of time that has passed since the city commissioners agreed to pass this ordinance without action is unacceptable. When it is low tide is almost impossible to navigate past this vessel in the middle of the canal. Mr Antos is

See Letters, page 11

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KeyOpinion

Pending presidential debate could move needle either way

Polls show Trump slightly ahead but six months is a lifetime in the political world.

GREGORY RUSOVICH
Guest Writer
rusovich@lbknews.com

It is hard to believe we are just six months away from election day. President Biden and former President Trump are already well known and opinions of both already baked in.

The most salient issues are inflation, the border, abortion, lawfare, and the Israel-Hamas war, all underpinned by a deep cultural divide. Polls show Trump slightly ahead but six months is a lifetime in the political world.

Biden is viewed as too old and slow. There is a sense of weakness and ineffectiveness emanating from the Administration. The president is under water on the issues most important to voters, with the exception of abortion.

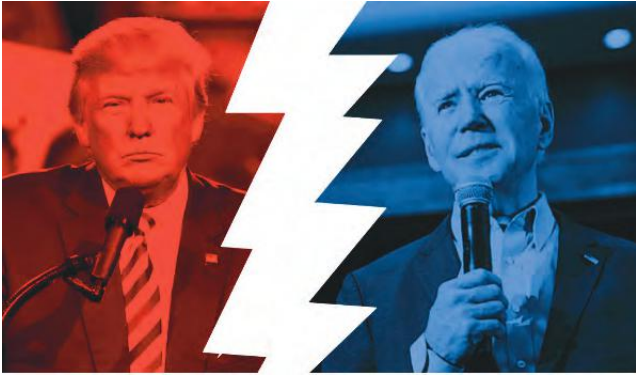
People feel worse off during his presidency, and believe they were better off under Trump. Biden is simply unpopular and struggling to gain traction. Trump's teflon is holding firm, despite his legal woes.

Biden's age and frailty concerns voters. His shuffling walk, wildly exaggerated stories, and frequent confusion are on regular display. An overwhelming 73 percent of registered voters strongly or somewhat believe Biden is "too old to be an effective president" according to a recent New York Times/Siena College Poll. Even though Trump is just 4 years younger than Biden, only 42 percent of registered voters believe Trump is "just too old." Watching the former president vigorously handle four separate court cases while running for the highest office in the land certainly dispels any notion that he is not fully up to the job.

The latest Rasmussen Reports survey finds that just 39% of Likely U.S. Voters say yes when asked, "Are you better off



RUSOVICH



today than you were four years ago?" Fifty-four (54%) answer "no" to that question, which was made famous by Ronald Reagan in his 1980 debate with Jimmy Carter. Reagan won the election in a landslide. Consistent with this finding, when asked to assess both the Trump and Biden presidencies, 55% of those surveyed called Trump's presidency a success, while 61% called Biden's presidency a failure, according to a recent CNN poll.

Biden's Job Approval rating also stands at a dismal 39%. For comparison, at this point in their first terms, Trump had 46% approval, Obama 48% and G.W. Bush 46%.

The key issues in this election cycle also work against Biden, apart from abortion. As usual, the economy is the most important issue to voters. According to a New York Times/Philadelphia Inquirer Siena College poll, only 20% of respondents rate Economic Conditions as "Good," while 49% rate them as "Poor." And Trump leads Biden by a significant margin (58% to 38%) on the question of who voters "Trust to do a better job on the economy." About 7 in 10 Americans disapprove of Biden on Immigration. Biden's waffling on the Israeli-Palestinian issue has apparently satisfied neither side as voters also trust Trump to handle the conflict better by a

margin of 51%-36%. Polls do show the public prefers Biden on the handling of abortion by a wide 20-point margin, but can that single issue overcome the dismal numbers on practically all other factors?

The battleground states are also problematic for Biden. The poll showed Trump leading in 5 of 6 Swing States. He leads by 7 in Arizona; 10 in Georgia; 7 in Michigan; 12 in Nevada; and 3 in Pennsylvania. Biden leads in Wisconsin by 2. In separate polling, Trump is also consistently ahead in North Carolina. Based on current swing state polling, Biden has a more difficult path than Trump to reach the magic prize of 270 electoral votes.

Trump's criminal trial has not altered the race's trajectory. The criminal act which the former president allegedly directed is muddled or unconvincing. Yes, Stormy Daniel's testimony was tawdry and salacious, but Trump is charged with falsifying records, not sexual assault. And though MSNBC and CNN commentators may be licking their chops, prominent journalist Peggy Noonan has sage advice for those thinking that prison time would finish off Donald Trump. "It will not," she writes. "Donald Trump doesn't know it, but he will love prison.... He'll be in his cell with his phone—he'll get one—live-streaming and live Truthing; he'll be posing thumbs up in his uniform surrounded by gangbangers and white collar hoodlums. He'll philosophize about how a lot of people in prison don't deserve to be there, the system's rigged, he'll consider pardons.... He'll be the king of Rikers....He'll put himself as Martin Luther King and he'll be writing Truths From the Birmingham Jail."

Biden and Trump have now agreed on the first presidential debate to be held on June 27. The outcome could either solidify the public's current leaning to re-elect the former president or provide a badly needed boost to the incumbent. For the time being, Trump has the momentum.

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2224 HARBOUR COURT DR	2,959	\$2,300,000	3	3	1	2	\$2,300,000
554 ROUNTREE DR	1,708	\$1,599,000	3	2	0	70	\$1,325,000
2101 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#2504	1,358	\$1,299,900	2	2	0	342	\$1,200,000
1075 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#101	1,172	\$1,198,000	2	2	0	112	\$1,150,000
530 DE NARVAEZ DR	1,944	\$1,250,000	3	2	0	91	\$1,150,000
4500 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#PH6	1,545	\$699,000	2	2	0	154	\$690,000
4410 EXETER DR Unit#K203	1,152	\$679,000	2	2	0	43	\$650,000
5265 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#307	1,128	\$699,900	2	2	0	284	\$630,000
4420 EXETER DR Unit#102	1,029	\$595,000	2	2	0	98	\$590,000
1965 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#G5-304	933	\$499,900	2	1	0	0	\$499,900
600 SUTTON PL Unit#303B	992	\$515,000	2	2	0	114	\$425,000
621 CEDARS CT	1,244	\$445,000	1	2	0	164	\$410,000
4390 EXETER DR Unit#I 108	1,168	\$475,000	2	2	0	531	\$375,000
571 SAINT JUDES DR Unit#3	611	\$379,900	2	1	0	83	\$349,000
3710 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#C22	574	\$225,000	1	1	0	15	\$225,000
454 N WASHINGTON DR	2,208	\$2,900,000	3	3	0	4	\$2,900,000
517 MADISON DR	1,951	\$2,500,000	4	3	0	100	\$2,376,000
600 OWL WAY	2,317	\$1,999,000	3	3	0	82	\$1,875,000
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OnPatrol



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

May 10

Driver's license

8:08 a.m.

Officer Butler while on patrol received a camera alert regarding an expired tag. The alert came from the south end camera of Gulf of Mexico Drive. An FCIC/NCIC query was performed and confirmed that the tag was expired in December 2023. The response indicated that the registered owner did not have an issued driver's license. The vehicle was located traveling north and a traffic stop was conducted at the 1700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. The driver stated that he does not have a driver's license he did not produce proof of insurance nor did he have a registration card. The tint on the driver's window was unreasonably dark and a test was conducted via LaserLabs Enforcer II. The results indicated 13 percent which light transmittance of at least 28 percent in the visible light range is required. The driver expressed that there was no emergency in which he had to drive and that he was using it for work. The driver did produce an expired insurance certificate from 2022. Based on the facts provided in this case, Officer Butler found the driver in violation of: No Driver's License ever issued, No proof of insurance, expired tag less than six months, failure to carry and exhibit registration, and side windows restrictions on sun-screening material. The driver was ordered not to drive and to appear in Sarasota Court on June 5. Case clear.



mitted. Information exchange was made on the scene and the report was generated for documentation. Case clear.

Missing registration

12:50 p.m.

Officer Connors while on marine patrol south of Jewfish Key, observed a boat operating with no registration number on the port or starboard side of the vessel. Officer Connors conducted a vessel stop and advised the operator of the violation. The boat operator who seemed frustrated and with an attitude, stated that he was in a hurry and wanted to dock his vessel at the restaurant. He also stated to Officer Connors to hurry up

and write him a ticket so he could eat lunch. Officer Connors escorted him to the dock and conducted a safety check. Officer Connors asked the women on board how old the child was and to check the child's left vest. The child was four years-old and the life vest clearly stated not a life saving device and did not show U.S. Coast Guard approval. The woman said she got the life vest on Amazon and that Amazon said it was U.S.C.G. approved. Officer Connors issued the operator two citations. Case clear.

Headlamps

9:39 p.m.

Officer Pescuma was dispatched to the 3400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive reference 5 to six subjects with spotlights headed northbound on the beach. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma and Officer Ramsaier canvassed the area and found a family departing the beach access in which they were utilizing head lamps. Officer Pescuma made contact with the man who said they were just leaving and were searching for speckled crabs. There were no violations observed. Case clear.

May 12

Jet ski

4:43 p.m.

Officer Barrett while on marine patrol, observed a man operating a jet ski in a marked minimum wake zone on a full plane with a passenger holding onto the front hood portion of the jet ski. The man made a u-turn and both he and the passenger fell off of the jet ski. The man then got back on his jet ski and drove in a southeast direction again on a full plane leaving his passenger behind. Officer Connors and Officer Barrett picked up the passenger, placing him in the police boat while Sgt. Montfort stopped the man on his jet ski. The man was cited for reckless operations, violating a minimum wake zone, no boaters ID card, and failure to display registrations numbers. Case clear.

May 13

Citizen assist

9:43 a.m.

Officer Martinson was dispatched to Birdie Lane on a call of citizen assist. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson observed the construction crew digging in front of the drive at the address. Officer Martinson then spoke with the complainant who said that she needs to leave to drive to Orlando but was afraid to ask the workers. Officer Martinson then spoke with the workers who stated they would fill the hole back up with dirt so the man could leave. Case clear.

May 15

Buoy

10:53 a.m.

Officer Ferrigine responded to the 7200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for an old broken boat buoy that floated into a yard. Upon Officer Ferrigine's arrival, he met with the complainant who advised what he should do with the buoy. Officer Ferrigine advised the man to disregard it in the garbage. Case clear.

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 7

basically giving the middle finger to the Mayor and the commissioners, he gave his word to the Mayor. There is no good reason for him to allow his “friends” to moor here as he says, if they sold their slip and it is temporary, they could have easily spent the week in a transient slip at The Moorings! Mr. Antos has zero regard for his community or his neighbors. My fear is that this is not only for this week but even if it is, it is still wrong and he threatens to put an even bigger boat there in his own words, as he states that state law will override the local officials (what ever that means). A lot of talk and nonsense, but if there are not consequences, he will continue with this behavior out of spite.

As we have already shown the majority if not all canal communities do not allow occupation of the center 60 percent of the canal, so this should be a no brainer. We need immediate assistance and action to make this the law of the land.

Even though this starts at a local city level, I am going to also contact some people on the state level that I know and have connections with to and see if they can provide some support! It is possible that since the canal is so shallow and in dire need of dredging that maybe the Florida Inland Navigation District can assist with this nuisance. Ill start with State Rep Fiona McFarland. When is the next City commissioners meeting?

Mike Percopo
Longwood, FL

Time to act

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman
Just read the latest newspaper sent to me up north, has the Article “Time to act on Traffic” which continues the narrative of all articles having any comment on traffic, namely; how horrendous traffic is on Longboat nine months out of the year. (Traffic congestion remained one of the top issues...in the latest citizen satisfaction survey).

Yet, is there anyone who can document how the Broadway roundabout won't make the traffic condition on the north end worse minimally when certain unavoidable and daily conditions collide? Such conditions as: arrivals of the three nearby public beach users in mid-morning (one being the massive coquina PB less than a mile away), and then again the same people leaving in late afternoon or early evening every day as good weather (sunsets) normally allows, then as the bridge opens for boat traffic, very conservatively estimated as up to 5 times a day, or 1,800 times a year varying at any time of the day or night, (the Cortez Bridge isn't included), and then traffic arriving and leaving during the popular dining times for the five immediate nearby restaurants, every morning, noon and night, and perhaps lastly; adding in the heavily promoted new community center for the Whitney Plaza (which also contains other traffic magnets like the saloon, liquor store and others).

Good golly, is there any possible explanation that doesn't doom the property tax paying owners/residents/workers/visitors/emergency first responders of NLK to frequent standstill

lines of traffic coming from both directions at what can arguably be called the busiest multi directional intersection on both AMI and Longboat?

Why in the world are the County and City ignoring the obvious ramifications of this totally avoidable consequence of putting not only a roundabout into the mix, but an intentionally small one that has the probability of stifling traffic even under ideal conditions?

Your reply to my suggestion below, and, previously to my suggestion of a simple traffic light at minimal cost, disruption and length of construction, cites the costs/difficulty and inconvenience of revising the RAB to allow for a center turn lane which, I must respond, puts a dollar value on the topic as a price that trumps the enjoyment of life for the people involved.

What a shame that the North end doesn't count for more than exposed pawns in whatever self interest that is driving this traffic generator amidst the efforts on the rest of the key to free the people as much as possible, e.g.: the south end who will be receiving new center turn lanes.

Once again, if you must disrupt the entire North end for construction and the traffic that this “net” will ensnare, then, please, retain the center turn lane as reasonably depicted in the picture below. Who on this planet wouldn't be appreciative of that?

David Baughman
Longboat Key

Possible consideration Broadway left turn lane

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman
Hi Isaac, regarding the Broadway roundabout and the loss of the center turn lane coming from the south.

Here is a picture from a roundabout near me in Michigan that may generate a solution that would not cause the loss of the center turn lane.

If you expand this picture and notice the white directional sign on the left above the vehicles, it shows directions allowing for a left turn and also going straight.

Imagine getting rid of the arrow going straight and just leaving the arrow that would indicate that lane can only turn left at the intersection.

Anyone getting into that lane and coming to the roundabout is going to have a hard time cutting off traffic on the right so that they didn't have to turn left so they could somehow get into the Rota and go straight.

The circular sign on the right would be eliminated. The circular sign currently in the middle would then show both straight or a right turn.

Hopefully I have explained that well enough that you get the idea.

It would require that the roundabout probably would need to be larger than the original design to allow for Maintaining the current space that the turn lane takes up now, but as I understand it, the FDOT, changes would require a larger roundabout anyway.

What do you think about this approach?
David Baughman
Longboat Key

Records Request PD-48-2024

To: Steve Berg
My apologies if I misunderstood what you were looking for: I thought you told me you were only interested in 1) the number of accidents; and 2) the dates of the accidents. When I get a chance later on today, I will go back and pick out this information for you.
Ivan A Zunz
Longboat Key Police Department

See Letters, page 12

Longboat Key News

Sarasota City News

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www.lbknews.com

Steve Reid, Editor & Publisher

sreid@lbknews.com

Associate Publisher

Melissa Reid

Columnists

Susan Goldfarb, Sig Hermansen,

Greg Rusovich, Blake Fleetwood

Sales

Lillian Sands

Steve Reid

ads@lbknews.com

Graphic Production

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 11

Pedestrians at North End

To: Steve Bergman
Thank you for the diligent research you share here. I know this is a contentious issue among North-enders, and I fully understand your point of view. Traffic coming off the Longboat Pass bridge, reports of high speeds, the blind curve heading southward and the unpredictability of pedestrian awareness all heighten the urgency for the safest possible solution to be reached. Your voice is important as this dialogue continues. Thanks for adding relevant data as we hope for a new plan that protects your neighborhood while better managing traffic flow and safety.
Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Caloosahatchee River discharges and the duration of red tide events

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission
Earlier this week, I received notification that a manuscript my co-authors and I produced was accepted for publication in the upcoming issue of the peer-reviewed scientific journal “Florida Scientist”. The title of the paper is “An evaluation of the relationships between the duration of red tide (*Karenia brevis*) blooms and watershed nitrogen loads in Southwest Florida (USA)”. My four co-authors include Lenny Landau and Steve Suau (both highly talented and creative local engineers), Dr. Miles Medina (a brilliant statistician) and Jennifer Hecker, the Director of the Coastal and Heartland Estuary Program.
A few years ago, there was a bit more controversy regarding what role – if any – humans have on red tides. While that may have been an appropriate view a few years ago, anyone who currently thinks that humans don’t play a role in red tide events either isn’t familiar with recent studies or is just being stubborn for some reason. Ten or twenty years ago, it was appropriate to be skeptical of such a link, but not over the past few years.
For example, the SBEP’s Technical Library includes this paper, which showed a relationship between the intensification of red tide events and Caloosahatchee River loads, as well as evidence that a substantial amount of nitrogen loads out of the Caloosahatchee can be traced back to nitrogen loads coming into Lake O from the north - <https://eadn-wc04-1243468.nxedge.io/wp-content/uploads/Medina-et-al-2022-red-tide-paper.pdf>
Also in our technical library is this paper, which showed a link between the red tide event in middle Tampa Bay in 2021 and nitrogen loads associated with the releases from the Piney Point facility back in 2021 - <https://eadn-wc04-1243468.nxedge.io/wp-content/uploads/2022-Initial-estuarine-response-to-inorganic-nutrient-inputs-from-a-legacy-mining-facility-adjacent-to-Tampa-Bay-Florida.pdf>

uploads/2022-Initial-estuarine-response-to-inorganic-nutrient-inputs-from-a-legacy-mining-facility-adjacent-to-Tampa-Bay-Florida.pdf
So what was unusual about this recent study? Well, we wanted to see if we could develop a robust, predictable and quantifiable relationship between human activities and the duration of red tide events. Here are a couple of graphs that hit the highlights of what we found.
First off, here’s the study area- the red dots represent over 40,000 data points where folks from FFWCC, Mote and others have sampled for red tide during the years of 2007 to 2022. We chose those more frequent years, because we had a minimum of 1,000 sampling events each year (the lowest was the Covid year of 2020) and averaged well over 2,000 samples per year. Notice also the station locations on the land – places where both streamflow and water chemistry data were both collected. If you collect data on streamflow and nutrient concentrations – you have a direct estimate of nutrient loads.
Next, we defined a red tide “event” as one where levels of the red tide organism, *Karenia brevis*, exceeded two threshold values: 100,000 cells per liter, and 10,000 cells per liter. FFWCC considers values above 100,000 cells to be “high” while values as low as 5,000 cells per liter can cause problems with breathing and fish kills. We considered an event to be a period during which daily maximum *K. brevis* counts in the region of interest exceeded those thresholds for at least a month (with some allowances to take into consideration reduced sampling during weekends, storms, etc.). Using that approach, we determined that there were 12 periods during which a low-threshold red tide event (10,000 cell count) occurred, and 11 periods during which a high-threshold red tide event (100,000 cell count) occurred, as shown here (with values shown on a log-scale) –
The shortest event identified using this approach lasted about a month, while the longest one (2017 to 2019) lasted more than a year.
The next thing was that we did was a retrospective analysis, comparing the nitrogen load from the 30 days just before and after the initiation of each event to the duration of each event. While the events ranged in time between 30 to over 300 days, the nitrogen loads examined were always kept to a 60-day period, thus eliminating the potential for what we call a spurious conclusion.
The hydraulic loads (amount of water) and nitrogen loads match up quite well because the five rivers we looked at didn’t have that big of a difference in nitrogen concentrations. As seen below, the Caloosahatchee River loads about as much water and nitrogen as the other four systems combined (Peace and Myakka Rivers and Horse and Joshua Creeks). You can also see the effects of droughts in 2007, a very wet wet season in 2013, huge deliveries of water (and nitrogen) after Hurricane Irma in 2017, and a similar but smaller effect of 2022’s Hurricane Ian.
Now the final step, the comparison between the duration of those 11 or 12 red tide events and the nitrogen load delivered during the initial 60-day period of each event. The figure

See Letters, page 15

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A Bargain Wine List from the Road

After a gruelling drive in a heavy rainstorm along a stretch of lanes narrowed by construction Jersey barriers and blocked by trucks carrying oversized loads of, no joke, log cabins and off-shore yachts, we are looking for a restaurant with a good bar.

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

On the road again.... This time we are staying in a hotel at a busy exit on an interstate highway. After a gruelling drive in a heavy rainstorm along a stretch of lanes narrowed by construction Jersey barriers and blocked by trucks carrying oversized loads of, no joke, log cabins and offshore yachts, we are looking for a restaurant with a good bar. We ask at the hotel about restaurants nearby. They recommend a place tucked away in a strip mall. We find it moderately busy for a rainy Monday night.

The bar offers a decent selection of specialty cocktails and bar drinks. Our server, an affable young woman whose family lives in the area, recommends a local rye whiskey. We sip our drinks as we study the menu, and we ask whether they have a wine list. When our server brings us a page with wines listed by category, we ask about the Ecaana Pinot Grigio (\$7 glass), delle Venezie region, Italy, and the California Brownstone Pinot Noir (\$8). She offers tastes and returns quickly with glasses containing a couple of ounces of each wine.

The Pinot Grigio has a floral nose and a sweet stone fruit taste for a dry wine. The acidity of the wine, a plus for pairing with shellfish, comes through in the finish. The Pinot Noir features aromas and tastes of sweet berries a medium body in a dry wine (13.5% ABV). Both wines compare favorably with California wines selling at prices close to twice what these cost at retail.

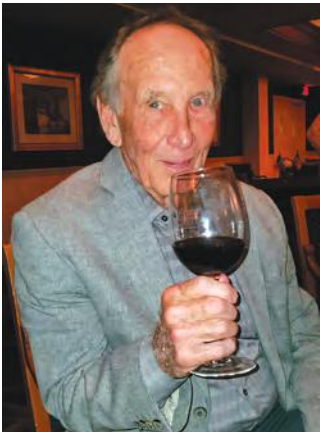
The bar doesn't offer dessert wines as such or fortified wines, but does stock the 2022 Peter Mertes Riesling (\$10) from the Mosel region of Germany and "It's Wine Time" Moscato (\$7, also Peter Mertes, from Spain) for customers who prefer sweet wines. We taste both. The Riesling falls into the German Halbtrocken (off-dry) sweetness category, so it would not qualify as dessert wine. It would be a great match for a spicy Indian, Vietnamese, or Thai dish, or a peppery Mexican, Central, or South American platter. A better choice as a dessert wine would be the Moscato. It has the intense sweet tastes of a sweet Oloroso Sherry from Jerez, Spain, or a Sauternes dessert wine from the tiny commune of the same name in the Bordeaux region of France. The Moscato delivers a simple taste of nectar to help polish off a hearty dinner.

We decide not to ask to taste other wines on the list: for instance, the Haymaker Sauvignon Blanc, the Tricky Rabbit Chardonnay, the Quara Estate Malbec, the Whiplash Red Blend, or the Clos La ChaNce Cabernet Sauvignon. We do ask for an answer to a question that had occurred to us after our first quick look at the list. How is it that we cannot recall seeing any of the names of the wineries on your wine list?

Our server confides in us the answer to our question. When they opened the restaurant, their beer distributor suggested that they begin with a generally unknown brands of popular wine varieties and let customers taste them to see whether they liked them or not. Building an inventory of unknown brands of wine would be less of financial burden to a new venture. Charging customers lower prices on these wines will encourage them to try new brands, and paying less per bottle will help maintain profits despite the lower charge per glass. It will also cost you less to discard bottles that stay open too long after pouring one or two glasses. For that reason the new brands will often taste better.

So we went with the distributor's suggestions. After some tweaking of brands in our inventory, we have found brands that allow us to keep our prices low.

Wines on the list that we did not taste deserve further attention. The Clos La Chance Cabernet Sauvignon falls short of what hard-core Cab fans are buying, but at a third of the price of a premier Cab, it may shine as a savory red wine when served with pork chop or beefsteak. The Invina Tricky Rabbit Chardonnay-Viognier (\$11) from the Maule Valley of Chile offsets the grassy overtones of some Chardonnay with the honey texture of the Viognier grape. The 2018 Whiplash Red from California blends Shiraz/Syrah, Sangiovese, Tempranillo,



Zinfandel, and Malbec. This palette of red wines gives a winemaker a free hand to create a great wine.

We will keep an eye on this restaurant. By breaking away from the popular brands, it may continue to develop an impressive wine list.

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 Orego Valley in New Zealand. Currently he splits time between residences in Chevy Chase, Maryland and St. Armand's Circle in Florida.

Rich Hermansen selected his 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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Letters, from page 12

below represents the relationships between the duration of red tide events (on the vertical axis) and the nitrogen load during the 60-day period for each of the 11 or 12 events –

Here’s a quick summary of what the results mean: 1) there is a statistically significant relationship between the nitrogen load delivered the month before a red tide event added to the first month of the event across all five rivers and the duration of these events, 2) however, the relationship is driven by the Caloosahatchee River, as when you use it alone, the relationship becomes stronger, and without the Caloosahatchee, no relationship was found.

There are two important numbers displayed on the top of each plot — a R=squared value and a p-=value. If the p-value is higher than 0.05, the relationship could have arisen by chance alone. If the p-value is below 0.05 (and some of them are below 0.001) then the relationship is considered to be statistically significant, and the R-squared value can be used to determine the “goodness of fit”. As an example, the figure in the middle on the top row can be interpreted as the following – “Seventy-seven (77) percent of the variability in the duration of red tide events across this region of Southwest Florida is explained by variability in the nitrogen loads delivered to these coastal waters during the 30-days just before and then just after the start of each event. Further, the likelihood that this relationship is due to chance alone is less than one in a thousand.”

There is a 15-year-old report from FDEP that determined that nitrogen loads coming into the lower reaches of the Caloosahatchee River should be reduced by 23% - 1 Introduction (floridadep.gov). We are nowhere near achieving that goal and won’t be able to reach it with the projects currently under construction. Which means we need to do more, including working up into the central part of the state, enhancing our efforts to reestablish wet weather storage in areas above Lake O, in addition to efforts to build reservoirs downstream of the lake.

What this paper concludes is that if we actually do enough to meet that 15-year-old 23% nitrogen load reduction goal for the Caloosahatchee River, we will not only help our coastal environment and economies during “normal” conditions, but we’d also likely reduce the duration of future red tide events by a substantial amount of time as well. How much more motivation do we need?

Dave Tomasko
Executive Director
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING & HEARING
ORDINANCE 2024-07
MAY 21, 2024 – 9:15 AM

Please take notice that a public meeting and hearing of the Town of Longboat Key’s Planning and Zoning Board will be held to consider proposed modifications to Title 15, Land Development Code, Chapter 158, Zoning Code, Article X, Definitions and Section 158.144, Definitions, of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Longboat Key, as more particularly set forth in Ordinance 2024-07:

ORDINANCE 2024-07
AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY, FLORIDA,
AMENDING THE TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY CODE OF ORDINANCES,
TITLE 15, LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; AMENDING CHAPTER 158:
ZONING CODE; AMENDING ARTICLE X, DEFINITIONS; AMENDING
SECTION 158.144, DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF
ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR
CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The public hearing before the Planning and Zoning Board on proposed Ordinance 2024-07 will be held on **May 21, 2024, at 9:15 a.m.**, or as soon thereafter as may be heard, in the Town Commission Chambers at Town Hall, 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, Florida.

All interested persons may appear and be heard with respect to proposed Ordinance 2024-07. Copies of Ordinance 2024-07 and related material associated with the amendment may be viewed at the Planning, Zoning & Building Department, 501 Bay Isles Road, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. weekdays prior to the hearing. Questions may be directed to the Planning, Zoning & Building Department at 316-1966. The proposed amendment will affect property within the corporate boundaries of the Town of Longboat Key as shown on the map appearing at the bottom of this advertisement.

No verbatim record by a certified court reporter is made of these proceedings. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at these proceedings upon which any appeal is to be based (see Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes). In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons needing a special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the Town Clerk’s office at 941-316-1999 seventy-two (72) hours in advance of this proceeding. If you are hearing impaired, please call 941-316-8719.

David Lapvosky, Vice Chair
Planning and Zoning Board
Published: 05/17/2024



Pickleball, from page 1

what pricey paddles. I suggest starting with the inexpensive ones first just to make sure you will like the sport. Also, pay attention to the balls that you purchase. Did you know there are separate kinds of balls that you need depending on if you are playing inside or outside. Unlike tennis where you use the same type of ball no matter if you are playing inside on a hard surface or clay. Several factors go into deciding if a Pickleball is better for indoors or outdoors. They look at the number of holes in the ball and the size of the holes. They factor in the weight and size of the ball. The hardness of the ball is also something that you to consider. Not to even mention the number of parameters a pickleball has to meet just to be considered an approved Pickleball. Honestly, you could use an indoor ball outdoors and an outdoor ball indoors. However, it is not advisable if you want to maximize your performance.

Safety is also something to consider when playing pickleball. Overall, it is a sport that is fairly friendly to your body. However, it is recommended to stretch beforehand. Try not to backpedal on the court and always be aware of your surroundings. I have a friend who played football for 16 years just to get injured playing Pickleball. I am not mentioning any names, but the Pickleball struggle is real. My biggest obstacle is trying not to zig when I should have zagged and making sure not to run into my Pickleball partner. Last but certainly not least, remember to stay hydrated and wear sunscreen when you are playing outdoors. Take it from someone who has already suffered through Melanoma, the sun is no joke. Now get out there and pickle.

News Shorts, from page 1

their departments and communities with distinction, the Manatee County Hundred Club selected Captain Robert Bourque from the Town of Longboat Key’s Police Department as their 2023 Officer of the Year for his extraordinary efforts to bring all of those involved to justice in the robbery/double homicide that occurred at the Zota resort in 2017. This is the first time a member of the Longboat Key Police Department has received this award.

On the achievement, Longboat Key Police Chief George Turner shared, “this award could not have gone to a more deserving individual who has spent his career performing at the highest levels.” Chief Turner added that, “Longboat Key is incredibly fortunate to have someone of Bob’s caliber and experience as part of our leadership team.”

Captain Bourque started his career with Longboat Key in 2009 and has also worked at the Manatee County Sheriff’s Office, City of Tampa Police Department, and the City of Bradenton Police Department.

Hob Nob closes doors after 67 years

The Hob Nob Drive-In restaurant’s doors were shuttered on Wednesday, and signs and seats were removed. After serving burgers, milkshakes, and cold beer to customers for 67 years, the Sarasota institution is closed.

Cary Spicuzza, along with his wife and another partner, has owned and operated the open-air restaurant for the past 33 years.

The Hob Nob has been a landmark at the northwest corner of Washington Boulevard and 17th Street in Sarasota.

But this may not be the end for the local favorite.

Spicuzza does own the surrounding properties, so the restaurant’s manager will continue to manage those properties which include a laundromat, car wash and transmission shop.

On Wednesday at lunchtime, customers hoping to get one last burger were met with closed doors as the restaurant was being stripped of signs and seating.

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4BR+DEN+OFFICE/5.5BA • Full Bay view • 2 Primary suites • 6-Car garage



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3BR/3.5BA • 3,306 SF • Waterfront • Easy access to bay



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