



Longboat Key News

August 9, 2024

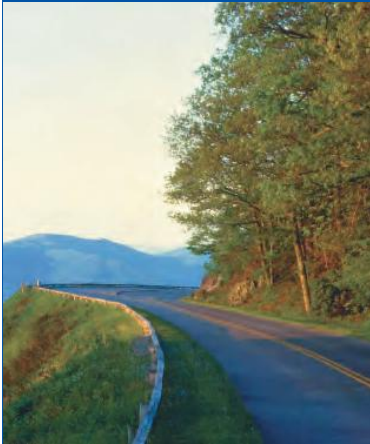
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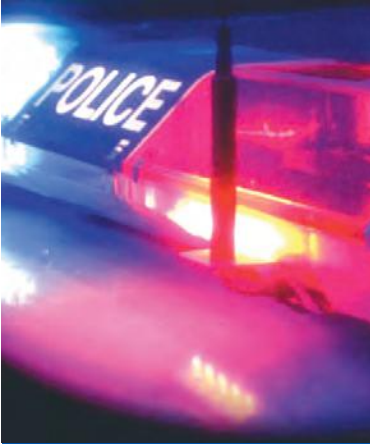
Bird Key earns \$1.675 million ...page 9



North Carolina uncorked ...page 11



The beauty of Fruitville Road ...page 6



Runaway boat threatens bridge ...page 10

Boat blaze destroys 65-foot yacht as investigation focuses on batteries

Longboat Key Fire Chief Paul Dezzi says that Lithium batteries likely exacerbated a boat fire last week that destroyed a 65-foot yacht at the Longboat Key Club Moorings.

“Nobody was on board and the owner was out of the country when some passer-bys noticed smoke coming from the cabin door and called 911,” said Dezzi.

Longboat firefighters were quickly on the scene but Dezzi said the fire was not responding to either water or foam, and it took sinking the boat to submerge the batteries, to help squelch the fire.

The boat, ironically named Steady AF, sat partially submerged until the owner and his insurance company coordinated its move to Fort Myers for a complete evaluation.

Dezzi said the boat is only two years old but is a total loss. The U.S. Coast Guard responded to the scene and set up barriers to keep any fuel or chemicals from leaking into the surrounding waterway.



Sarasota flooded with concerns after Debby drops 12 inches

At first Longboat and Sarasota were nervous with Tropical Storm Debby approaching. But soon, a small amount of relief washed over our region when it appeared that it was going to make landfall to the north, leaving us mostly spared. Those hopes faded when more than 12 inches of rain from the Tropical Depression drenched not only coastal neighborhoods but surprisingly inland subdivisions as well.

According to the National Weather Service more than 12 inches of rain fell from Tropical Depression Debby during its passage by Sarasota last weekend into Monday afternoon.

Before becoming a hurricane and making landfall, Tropical Storm Debby whirled past Longboat Key’s coast, bringing with it heavy winds, heavy rainfall and storm surge.

The storm became a Category 1 hurricane and made landfall in Steinhatchee of Florida’s Big Bend region early Monday morning. Throughout the day on Monday, rain continued to fall in our region.

Many of Longboat’s low-lying areas in the north end Village and mid-Key were among the most impacted by rainfall and storm surge.

Around 3 p.m., a notice from the town indicated that Gulf of Mexico Drive was passable again and that some side streets along the island were flooded, but still passable.

Surrounding areas in Sarasota and Manatee counties also saw similar impacts with flooded roads and debris from high winds.

Several major roads were closed by flooding overnight and into early Monday morning.

Floodwaters submerged a large portion of the Bobby Jones Golf Course. By 9 a.m. Monday, water covering entire fairways spilled over a concrete wall and sidewalk, covering two of the three lanes of westbound Fruitville Road, forcing traffic into a single lane.

Firefighters, paramedics and law enforcement were inundated with rescue calls, some that required boats to reach stranded people. From midnight Sunday to noon Monday, the county’s Emergency Operations Center had logged 402 incidents involving water rescues, vehicles in water, or evacuations from flooded houses throughout Sarasota County,

See Debby, page 2

Debby, from page 1

including Longboat Key, Venice and Englewood.

Sarasota County Fire Department Chief David Rathbun said in a video message Monday morning that dangerous conditions still exist and cautioned residents against venturing out unnecessarily.

“We encourage everyone to shelter in place,” he said, adding the county has had twice the rain that was expected from the storm.

By 10 a.m. Monday, Sarasota’s Main Street had little standing water, with small tree limbs littering the sidewalks. Normally bustling on a Monday morning, the street was nearly deserted and most businesses were still closed.

During a break in the rain at about 11 a.m. a handful of vehicles were navigating their way through standing water around St. Armands Circle and Lido Key, but most businesses remained closed. Many had makeshift barriers of sandbags and packing tape pressed against storefronts to keep floodwaters out.

Central County Water Reclamation Facility - Due to high flows, the reclaimed water storage pond reached capacity, and the pumping capacity was exceeded. Approximately 30,000 gallons of fully treated reclaimed water was discharged onto the plant grounds and went into the on-site stormwater retention area. The spill was contained on-site and there was no discharge off-site or to surface waters. No sampling is necessary. Notifications are being made according to protocols.

Redwood Master Lift Station - Due to a manhole overflow, approximately 100 gallons of wastewater spilled. No recovery was possible due to site conditions, and no waterways or surface waters were affected. Notifications are being made according to protocols.

3769 Countryside Rd - Due to a 6 force main that had cracked, approximately 700 gallons of wastewater spilled, and all 700 were recovered from the surrounding site. Cleanup and notifications are proceeding per protocol. No surface waters were impacted, and no sampling is necessary.

The art of stringing us along

Most days if you stop by the Longboat Key Public Tennis Center, you will find Jay Morgan in the ‘breezeway’ working on local’s racquets.

“I’ve moved up in the world. I used to operate under the shade tree; now I am in the breezeway,” Morgan said.

Morgan, a 20-year veteran of racquet repair, is a Master Racquet Technician, a 29-year member of the USPTA and a Certified Racquet Technician.

If your racquet needs a little tender loving care, stop by and see Morgan.



Jay Morgan, master racquet technician, can be found at the Longboat Key Tennis Center



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\$6,900,000 - Bayfront 1.06 Acres
5 Beds, 5 Baths, 6,000 Sq. Ft.
Rooftop Terrace and Private Beach
Contact: Tracey Stetler 941-266.9001



109 N WARBLER LANE | BIRD KEY
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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.

Code

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons
Thanks Allen. Do violations include the ongoing lighting problem or is it building construction only?
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Code

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Thanks BJ. The violations referred to with the TCO are building or life/safety code violations that would cause unsafe building conditions. Lighting violations are covered under the Town's Marine Turtle Protection ordinance, which is separate and ongoingly enforceable.
Allen Parsons
Director Planning, Zoning & Building Department
Town of Longboat Key

Code

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons
The turtles would say it is a life/safety issue- but they don't get a vote. Thanks Allen.

BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Code

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Apologies for any lack of clarity in what I conveyed to you earlier. And while turtles may not get a vote on the safety of buildings for occupancy by people, they do get a vote on violations of the Town's turtle ordinance. We take those violations very seriously.
Allen Parsons
Planning and Zoning Director
Town of Longboat Key

Code

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons
I know Allen. Thanks. Had a long talk with Maggie. I understand the need for the temporary c.o.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Code

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons
Please give me the specific part of the code (158) that allows temporary co.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Code

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Thanks BJ. C.O.'s and T.C.O.'s are issued under the authority of the Florida Building Code. The specific language is found in the Florida Building Code Sec. 111.3, copied below:
111.3 Temporary occupancy.
The building official is authorized to issue a temporary certificate of occupancy before the completion of the entire work covered by the permit, provided that such portion or portions shall be occupied safely. The building official shall set a time period during which the temporary certificate of occupancy is valid.
Allen Parsons
Director Planning, Zoning & Building Department
Town of Longboat Key

Code

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons
It states the building official set the time. You gave them six months?
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 5

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 4

Code

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Thanks BJ. The Hotel TCO was issued on July 19th. The timing of the TCO is:
This TCO is initially granted for a period not to exceed 90 days from the date of issuance, during which time this TCO shall be reviewed by the Town at 30-day intervals until all remaining conditions have been met and a CO has been issued for the building. A limited number of future TCO extensions may be considered due to extenuating circumstances; notwithstanding the foregoing, no extensions shall be granted beyond December 31, 2024. TCOs may be revoked by the Building Official at any time should the space become unsafe or if any code violation(s) affecting the proper occupancy of the area is evident.
Allen Parsons
Planning and Zoning Director
Town of Longboat Key

Code

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons
Thanks Allen. Do violations include the ongoing lighting problem or is it building construction only?
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Code

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
The violations referred to with the TCO are building or life/safety code violations that would cause unsafe building conditions. Lighting violations are covered under the Town's Marine Turtle Protection ordinance, which is separate & ongoingly enforceable.
Allen Parsons
Planning and Zoning Director
Town of Longboat Key

Follow-up to Weather Activity

To: Longboat Key Commission
I neglected to let you know that we have Stephanie and Savannah answering the phones remotely. Glad we did because they're busy with many calls inquiring about the roads, bridges, etc. Thank you!

Paul B. Dezzi
Fire Chief
Town of Longboat Key

Follow-up to Weather Activity

To: Longboat Key Commission
I'd like to provide you a quick update on pour progress working through the weather activity:
This morning, Manatee County decided to close the landfill operation. This is different from late yesterday afternoon where it was going to be open. In saying this, there will be no trash pick-up today. This has been updated on the website.
Currently, we have two teams out assessing damage to Longboat Key. You will see our high-water vehicle going down flooded streets to assist this team as well as assist residents, as needed.
Please refer to the website bold font for the most up-to-date information.
We will continue to have some rain continue to come through Longboat Key. The winds have almost completely diminished but we have a high-tide beginning (1:24 pm) that will most likely cause some street flooding. We will continue to monitor the flood prone areas during and post high-tide.
Paul B. Dezzi
Fire Chief
Town of Longboat Key

Lighting

To: Longboat Key Commission
The new valances are much better, however, still shinning into our homes. The pictures attached are post tropical storm Debby. We are asking you to reach out and mandate that the plaza fix the problem of his parking lot lights are again annoying and non-compliant to our existing ordinances. "Disturbing and Annoying" to adjacent residential properties. The top two pictures are from our dining room and the bottom two are from the home office. Both sets are from the inside of our homes.
We "Thank you" in advance for your timely and anticipated fix to this ongoing disturbance.
Please keep us posted on the timeliness of this being in compliance.
Michael & Amy Drake
Charlie & Betsey Byrd
David & Lori Price
Longboat Key

See Letters, page 7



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KeyNature

Fruitville’s wetlands are swimming with birds

MICHAEL GIVANT
Contributing Columnist
givant@lbknews.com

In the heart of an industrial park a mile from the 300 acres of wetlands called Celery Fields is a secluded, large body of water. On shore an anhinga, partly in shadow, dries its wings. The bird nicknamed the “water turkey” has a long bill and long tail. Its black back and wings are matted with silvery white lines. Its large dark mustard-colored, webbed feet look as if they are made from heavy-duty canvas from an Army-Navy store. It’s a sight.

Standing on a ridge my wife, two close friends and I look at the water and see some great egrets, a great blue heron, a few cormorants and some mallards. Scanning the trees on the opposite shore, which are partly in shadow, we find eight perching anhinga. The males are black while the females have a black body and a buffy head, neck and breast. Complementary opposites. Each has a slivery, white-lined pattern on their back and wings. That, combined with the lines of their long-pointed bills, long straight-edged tails and lean appearance give them a striking appearance.

Our next stop, the Celery Fields, is undergoing massive renovation. They are filled with more water and birds than I’d ever seen here before. Among the aquatic plants are great egrets, some wood storks and an army of coots. On the grass are some lean and tawny female boat-tailed grackles. Fat City. Now in late afternoon, we go to a corner of the huge irrigated area to a veritable avian feast of smaller birds.



The Anhinga does not have oil glands for waterproofing its feathers like most water birds. When it swims, it gets wet which allows it to move more efficiently under water. When it leaves the water, it must spread its wings and dry in the sun.



Glossy Ibis, once an uncommon bird in the U.S.

There are yellowlegs, sandpipers so named because of the color of their long legs. Watch these elegant birds feeding for a while and it’s hard not to become smitten by them. One repeatedly dips its bill in to the smooth-as-glass water, creating a series of concentric ripples.

Closer to shore is another group of sandpipers, short-billed dowitchers. These 11-inch birds have disproportionately long, lance-like bills. The plump, brown-bodied short-bills have their heads buried to the base of their necks, as they feed fast in the soft mud below the water’s surface. Beyond them is a group of boat-tailed grackles, which are larger than their female counterparts that we saw before on the grass. The blue sky is suddenly alive with flying black specks. Coming closer it’s apparent that they are boat-tailed grackles, more than 100

of them. Landing in the water near their brothers without a splash, they quickly start feeding.

Killdeer are plovers with two prominent black bands around their upper breast. These birds sometimes feign having a broken wing to draw predators away from their nest site. One is walking across the road but is not doing the broken wing act. It suddenly takes off flying in a wide arc, showing the under parts of its wings, which are white as snow. It calls as it gets out of sight over the water. Charming.

As the setting sun becomes an orange ball in the sky we walk along the road. In the molten looking water, among the aquatic vegetation, are two gray, bulky-bodied sandhill cranes with tiny red-capped heads. The scene has the delicacy of a Japanese painting, as we watch the long-legged cranes move with the elegance of Geishas. On an island are two great blue herons, one of which lifts off and languidly flies.

On the island’s other side are a dozen wood storks, birds that are on the endangered species list. All are standing but one and looking serenely in the same direction. Perhaps that serenity comes from not being in diminishing wetlands. Beyond them appear to be some glossy ibises. Last week there were two-dozen glossies here, most of which looked black, perhaps an effect of afternoon light. I want to watch this effect but there’s no time. It’s sundown at the Celery Fields, which means the cranes should be flying in.

One of the two cranes in the water has its bill open and is letting out a series of short guttural sounds. Soon the other follows suit with higher-pitched, longer and louder sounds. Are they calling to the others? Two cranes, one carrying a stick in its bill, appear, wing tips splayed and long necks extended.

To our other side and from a different direction come three more cranes flying in a wide arch. Going into their descent the

cranes go into a tight spiral, their wings slightly cupped, giving them the look of parachutes. They join others in the water and are soon jumping up and down in what may be a courtship display. My wife points to some cranes, saying that they are right in front of us. Where? Following her finger, they are directly in front of us, exactly where she said. I see the brown streaks on their bulky bodies for the first time, up close and not in a field guide.

Across a road is a field with grazing cows. Last week among them were two horned steers and numerous cattle egrets, birds that eat insects stirred up by the cattle. As I cross a sloping road, going toward some tan, dried grasses, two fast flying cranes appear out of nowhere, moving at a slight upward angle. There are some cows, one of which has a mildly comic face as it looks at an egret.

The orange-hued remains of the sun won’t last as twilight is descending. Time to go. The Celery Fields are swimming with birds and I’ll be back soon for a better look at everything. It’s my hope that I’ll see one of those cattle egrets riding on the back of a steer. It could give new meaning to the old phrase “ride ‘em cowboy.”

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 5

Fire

To: Longboat Key Commission

Last night around 8:30 p.m. your fire department responded to the Longboat Key Moorings for a reported boat fire. Upon arrival crews found a 65' yacht that had heavy smoke coming from the lower deck. It was determined the fire appeared to be in the engine compartment.

We requested assistance from Sarasota County, SRQ Airport, Southern Manatee, West Manatee, and the Coast Guard as we wanted to use foam and personnel which they assisted in providing.

After speaking with the owner who was out of the area he informed us the boat is powered by several large lithium batteries which may have contributed to thwarting fire not being able to be extinguished.

I left the scene just before 2am but the fire department stayed on scene throughout the morning and still there today with all of our assets including our fire boat.

The state fire marshal will be here today to conduct an investigation and assist in these determining a cause. There were no injuries reported.

Paul B. Dezzi
Fire Chief
Town of Longboat Key

Fire

To: Longboat Key Fire Chief Paul Dezzi
I'm sure the Fed's will be investigating this thoroughly due to the lithium battery power source. Chief is this the first lithium vehicle/ vessel fire we've had on the island?
Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Fire

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin
The fire marshal is indicating that the batteries were a factor to the fire but has not completed his investigation fully.
Paul B. Dezzi
Fire Chief
Town of Longboat Key

Info line during storms?

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle

In lieu of checking Facebook/online media for traffic and road closures (especially when driving), where can LBK and Sarasota residents find out about road closures, traffic etc., during storms and inclement weather? I had to drive yesterday and tried every AM and FM station with no luck.

I appreciate the Town of Longboat Key calls, but those are more advisory in nature and I'm looking for more specific information like road closures since there seemed to be so many after Debby hit this weekend. For example, in New York there is an AM station called 1010 WINS that does "Weather on the 1s and Traffic on the 10s". Does Longboat or Sarasota have something like that? A 311 feature? A local news app?

Thank you in advance for the information. It will help a lot of residents and assuredly, decrease the number of calls to your office too.

Evelyn Pate
Longboat Key

Info line during storms

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin
Trish forwarded to me yesterday for a response to this resident.
I did respond to her and she has the information she needs for Longboat Key & Sarasota County. Thanks for forwarding.
Susan M Phillips
Town Manager Assistant
Town of Longboat Key

Rain flooding

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Thank you Commissioner, yes, part of Kimley-Horn's solution for Longview is to pitch the road from south to north to fully drain off the roadway in the canal. Looking forward to getting that project going, hopefully, in the near future. Glad to hear about Buttonwood!
Isaac Brownman
Public Works Director
Town of Longboat Key

Rain flooding

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman
Nowhere for water to go after it flows from Bayou Canal across Longview. Buttonwood has a few drains and is fairly dry now.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Town Operations Closed

To: Longboat Key Fire Chief Paul Dezzi
Just got a call that the toilet outside dog park at Bayfront is spewing water.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Town Operations Closed

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
We just drove down there to assess the Causeway for our damage assessment team and the road does have water but is open for traffic. Our employees on the team will be driving out here to complete the assigned mission. Hope this helps.
Paul B. Dezzi
Fire Chief
Town of Longboat Key

Town Operations Closed

To: Longboat Key Fire Chief Paul Dezzi
Just had an emergency call from SRQ County saying stay off roads, numerous road closures throughout county with power lines down.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Town Operations Closed

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Our team was there about an hour ago and it was open...let me check with the City.
Paul B. Dezzi
Fire Chief
Town of Longboat Key

Town Operations Closed

To: Longboat Key Fire Chief Paul Dezzi
ABC just reported causeway from St. Armands closed. Dave is flying in from Cleveland (in air now) so have to decide if he needs a hotel room by airport or if I can navigate truck thru water.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Town Operations Closed

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
St. Armand's is clear however there is some water on John Ringling but it is open.
GMD is clear from the 4400 block south but there is standing water in several pockets
between 4500 to 6100...hope this helps.
Paul B. Dezzi
Fire Chief
Town of Longboat Key

Weather update

To: Longboat Key Commission

We have been monitoring the weather throughout the night and into this morning and have determined for the safety of our employees, it is best to close the town today.

Access to the town from the mainland is very difficult due to so many streets being flooded and I am concerned having employees drive into Longboat.

We will have public works and PZB employees available, as needed to begin post storm activity but the weather will be evaluated later this morning.

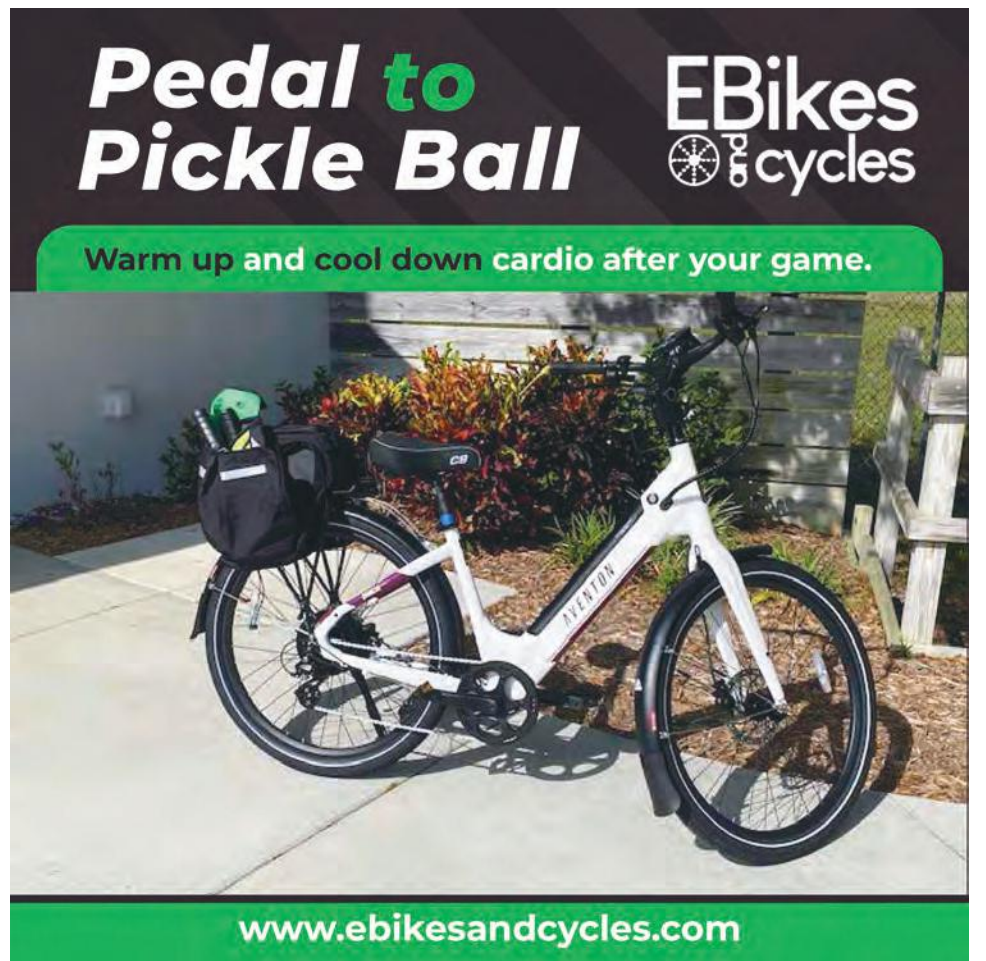
We are expecting more rain and a surge which will bring more water onto the streets. Thank you for your understanding and I will provide updates as deemed appropriate.

Paul B. Dezzi
Fire Chief

Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 8

See Letters, page 8



Editor Letters



Letters, from page 7

Weather update

To: Longboat Key Commission

Early this morning, we chose to close town operations because of the amount of flood water found both on and off Longboat Key. We did have fire, police, and public works employees working on the Key while others were working from home. We plan on normal operating hours tomorrow as we continue to work on our recovery.

PZB employees conducted a thorough damage assessment where they have determined several structures have experienced damage due to water intrusion. This assessment is not complete as data is still being collected.

The City of Sarasota and Sarasota County will be closed tomorrow concentrating on their recovery efforts.

Tomorrow we will have more rain with a possibility of 3-5” of rain. Flash flood warnings will continue until approximately 8pm tomorrow evening.

I do not plan to provide further updates unless we experience unforeseen circumstances.

Thank you for your support of this operation.

Paul B. Dezzi
Fire Chief
Town of Longboat Key

Weather update

To: Longboat Key Fire Chief Paul Dezzi

Thank you so much for all of the steady updates and excellent storm response, Chief. Hope you and your team can feel the community’s gratitude for all of your efforts.

Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Transformer installation

To: Longboat Key Commission

Talk about dodging a bullet! This pix of the transformer across from our house on Norton Street, with its new 24” pedestal, which was installed just last week, tells the tale.

Thanks and congratulations to the folks who did the work, which involved using a crane to remove the old 6” pedestal and drop in the new one.

There was also a lot of work done replacing damaged parts inside the boxes. Unhappily, a few boxes at the end of our street didn’t get raised in time; hope folks there are all right.

Jim Haft

Longboat Key

Weather update

To: Longboat Key Commission

I wanted to give you all a final update before it got too late. We have been monitoring the storm activity speaking with both counties as well as the National Weather Service.

We should continue to see coastal flooding in some areas. Currently, we have some streets that are flooded mainly in the Village area with much less in the south end.

Manatee County has closed government tomorrow which they indicated to me included the landfill. I ASKED Susan to issue an Alert Longboat Key stating no trash pick-up based off the information we received only to receive a call from a Deputy County Administrator (DCA) indicating that Manatee government would be closed but the landfill including recycling will stay operational. This is why we sent a second message out indicating such.

As I stated, some streets do have flooding, currently while others do not. The decision was to keep the trash pick-up as planned since the vendor had no intention of not servicing Longboat Key. We will continue to assess storm activity make adjustments to our operation as deemed appropriate. Just for your information, Sarasota County and the City of Sarasota will remain open for business tomorrow. Make it a good evening and if you have any concerns please let me know.

Paul B. Dezzi
Fire Chief
Town of Longboat Key

Weather update

To: Longboat Key Fire Chief Paul Dezzi

For reference at the house we have received 7.1 inches of rain since the event began.

Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Weather update

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin

Thank you. The streets south are mainly clear despite the amount of rain. My concern is tomorrow when the winds die down and the surge develops.....need to monitor for employee return to work safely. Thanks for sharing.

Paul B. Dezzi
Fire Chief
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 13

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608 SAINT JUDES DR	2,106	\$989,000	4	3	0	120	\$890,000
1212 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#801	1,532	\$1,400,000	2	2	0	49	\$1,200,000
470 E ROYAL FLAMINGO DR	2,480	\$1,725,000	3	2	0	22	\$1,675,000



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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.

Aug. 2 Driver’s license

4:33 p.m.
Officer Pescuma while on patrol received a target alert service for an expired tag. The vehicle was traveling northbound and the alert was for an expired tag. Officer Pescuma confirmed that the vehicle had an expired tag as of March 29. The vehicle was located and a traffic stop was conducted on a 2011 Chevy Silverado pickup truck. Officer Pescuma made contact with the driver and introduced himself and provided the reason for the traffic stop. Officer Pescuma asked the driver for his driver’s license, registration, and proof of insurance. The driver handed him a Mexico ID card. The driver is listed as the owner of the vehicle, and Officer Pescuma asked him if he knew he should not be driving to which he said ‘yes.’ The driver said he was working on Longboat Key. Officer Pescuma issued a criminal citation for having no driver’s license and advised that the driver could not drive and he arranged for transportation. Case clear.

Aug. 3 Boat

11:04 a.m.
Officer Pescuma was dispatched to Broadway Street in reference to a white sailboat secured to the pier that washed up on July 31. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma spoke with the complainant who was concerned that the sailboat owner had not retrieved the vessel after several days. Officer Pescuma made several attempts to call the owner via cell phone and left a voicemail. The man will be contacting someone with regard to removing the vessel. Case clear.

Suspicious person

7:51 p.m.
Officer Maple, Sgt. Montfort and Officer Mathis were dispatched to Falmouth Drive for a suspicious person call. Upon their arrival, they met with an individual who was walking in the parking lot and provided identification and confirmed he was staying at the location and was just out for a walk. He said he had taken a photo of a car that had its cover blown off from high winds and was in the process of texting the owner to help avert any possible damage from the approaching storm. The person was provided reasoning for their arrival and quickly released from questioning. Case clear.

Aug. 4 Boat

4:43 p.m.
Sgt. Montfort was dispatched to the area of Longboat Pass Bridge for a sailboat loose and heading for the bridge. Sgt. Montfort arrived in the area and observed a blue and white sailboat pinned against the bridge. Sgt. Montfort was able to observe the hatch to the vessel was locked and it appeared there were no occupants on board. Sgt. Montfort notified communications of the situation and due to the current storm, the boat may remain pinned to the bridge. Officer Pescuma notified the U.S. Coast Guard of the navigational hazard. Case clear.



Bridge

6:51 p.m.
Sgt. Montfort while on patrol, observed a backup of vehicles on Longboat Pass Bridge. Sgt. Montfort passed the vehicles and observed that a large drawbridge arm was across the roadway. Sgt. Montfort notified communications to dispatch a representative from Florida Department of Transportation to resolve the issue. Longboat Key Fire Rescue and law enforcement from Manatee County were advised the bridge was impassable. Members remained on scene to conduct traffic control while no calls for service were active. Case clear.

Flood water

7:06 p.m.
Officer Pescuma while on patrol, came upon a disabled vehicle in the 4600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Upon arrival, Officer Pescuma observed a 2011 blue Ford sedan disabled in flood water blocking the southbound lane of Gulf of Mexico Drive. A good Samaritan assisted with pushing the vehicle to the side of the road thereby opening the southbound lane. Operator of vehicle will arrange for a tow. Case clear.

Aug. 5 Marine rescue

2:19 a.m.
Officer Ramsaier was dispatched to the 1900 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a marine rescue call. Upon arrival, Officer Ramsaier spoke with the complainant who stated he observed a white blinking light approximately 200 feet away from the Gulf of Mexico. Officer Ramsaier along with Sgt. Montfort determined it was not a boat in distress but a channel marker that became detached and was in the area. Case clear.

Stranded car

3:58 p.m.
Officer Miklos while on patrol on Gulf of Mexico Drive, observed a blue Toyota van parked on the bicycle lane and in the northbound lane of travel near 4600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Miklos made contact with the manager of the resort who was able to provide a contact number for the

car. The owner advised his car shut off after driving through a flooded roadway. The owner of the car returned to the scene where Officer Nazareno and Officer Miklos assisted push the vehicle out of the lane of travel. The vehicle was moved to the southbound side of Gulf of Mexico Drive into the right of way. The vehicle is no longer blocking a bicycle or vehicle lane. The owner advised he was making arrangements for a tow truck to pick up the vehicle. The owner advised the tow company provided an estimated time arrival of two hours. Case clear.

Aug. 6 Boat motor

8:58 p.m.
Officer Tillman responded to Broadway for a boat motor missing from the Broadway access. The man stated that he had the boat tied up to a friend’s sailboat before the Tropical Storm Debby arrived. Once the storm has passed the boat is missing. The man stated that if the boat is located he will contact the police department. Case clear.

Aug. 7 Water

3: 28 p.m.
Officer Mathis while on beach patrol, observed a large quantity of water being pumped from a large hose. The water was being pumped in such a manner that it had created a large crevasse through the dune and beach with water flowing into the Gulf of Mexico. Sgt. Montfort and Officer Mathis parked the UTV at the dune and made their way to the residence. Officer Mathis then made contact with the site supervisor for the landscape company. Officer Montfort had the supervisor shut off the pumps and introduced himself and explained the reason for their visit. The supervisor knew he should not be pumping the water from the home’s water feature and pool onto the beach. The supervisor was given a verbal warning. The supervisor apologized for the negligence. Workers began filling in the crevasse they created in the dune. Case clear.

Aug. 8 Damaged property

3:15 p.m.
Officer Pescuma was dispatched to the 400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to property damage to a gas pump hose. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma met with the complainant and said that a white box truck drove away with the fuel hose and nozzle from the gas pump. Officer Pescuma reviewed the video surveillance and observed the vehicle driving off with the fuel hose still attached. Officer Pescuma also observed advertising printed on the side of the box truck for furniture, mattresses and appliances. Officer Pescuma called the company and spoke to the production manager and advised him of the incident and asked if his company had any deliveries on Longboat Key in which he said they did. The man spoke to the owner and exchanged contact information. Case clear.

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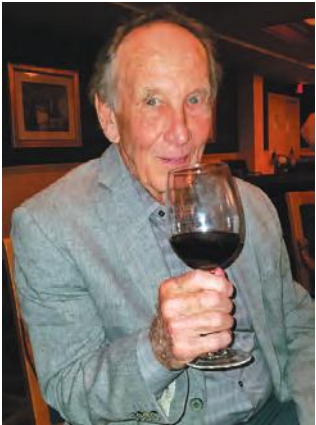
WineTimes

The Western North Carolina Wine Region

Below the ridges, country roads twist and wind through gaps between small wooded mountains reminiscent of the Sierra Foothills or Mendocino wine regions of California. A few wineries have tapped into the potential for wine tourism...

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

We drank a bottle of wine that we later discovered was a gift intended for another person, Whoops, and we had no success finding the same wine at local stores. This pretext led us to the location of the seller of the misappropriated wine, a Limited Release Gewürztraminer from Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina.



A tropical storm meandering around the Gulf of Mexico prompted us to make a field trip to the Blue Ridge area of Appalachia, a mountainous area extending from south of Birmingham, Alabama to north of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and west of Atlanta, Georgia and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and east of Nashville, Tennessee and Cleveland, Ohio.

From south to north, Appalachia has a similar terrain: rolling hills and mountains covered with hardwood trees and long river valleys with crops and pastures carved into somewhat level spaces near river beds carved out by glaciers and floods. The 206,000 square miles in Appalachia has 2.63 million inhabitants or 128 persons on average per square mile. Massachusetts has seven times the population density of Appalachia. During the hot summer months, the mountains have the cool evening temperatures and invigorating air quality that appeal to tourists. The popular Blue Ridge Parkway follows high ridges for 469 miles from the Great Smokies National Park in Tennessee to the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. Parkway observation points offer panoramic views of the hills and valleys below the ridges.

Below the ridges, country roads twist and wind through gaps between small wooded mountains reminiscent of the Sierra Foothills or Mendocino wine regions of California. A few wineries have tapped into the potential for wine tourism, but for the main part the area around Asheville lacks some of the features of wine regions in Oregon, Virginia, Texas, or, for that matter, Eastern North Carolina. The absence of signage on roadways pointing to wineries, combined with the the tendency to show only the names of cross streets on street signs, makes it doubly difficult to locate them. Navigation programs often fail to connect to the internet in dead zones within Appalachia. Further, the towns do not have much of an identity other than that provided by churches of various denominations and farm supply stores. Rarely does a sign mark the beginning of a town and another its end. A town may be nothing more than a wide space on a road.

The one common theme in Appalachian wine tourism has to be the lure of music. Wineries host weekend appearances of local and touring bands. Radio spots playing between the constant clinking of banjo, mandolin, and guitar rhythms and twangy nasal vocals of Bluegrass, Blue Ridge Rock, and Nashville Country & Western direct fans to obscure locations in the heartland of Appalachia.

Circling back to the Biltmore Gewürztraminer, we learned how Biltmore and other wineries augment their wine portfolios. Biltmore imports the Gewürztraminer from California and puts its own label on the bottle. This practice actually does have a sensible purpose, in that it gives wine buyers a choice of a better version of a wine than that the Biltmore could grow on its estate. In truth, the Gewürztraminer in its niche of off-dry white wines rated in our tasting better than the passable but bland Biltmore estate-grown Chardonnay or Sauvignon Blanc,

Emergence of Appalachia as a wine tourist destinations will depend on how well wineries in the region provide, either by growing locally or importing, wines that appeal to tourists and wines that attract tourists. We'll have more to say about wines that appeal to tourists. The local Chardonnay and Avignon Blanc that we have tasted will appeal to people who are looking to kick back and enjoy a smooth wine and country road music.

Over time we hope to see Appalachia vineyards produce



grapes amenable to the local climate and soil, as has happened in Virginia with French Viognier, indigenous Norton, and French Cabernet Franc, in New York State with German Riesling and ice wines, and in Texas with Spanish Tempranillo and Albariño. Each emerging wine region has to discover its

signature wines, Appalachia is entering the process of doing that. This wine region has great potential and will likely find a good way forward.

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 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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StayingAlive

Memory problems? Take a walk

Like most regenerative activities, the rebuilding of your body occurs without your seeing it.

MATTHEW EDLUND, MD
Contributing Columnist
edlund@lbknews.com

Can't remember names? Birthdays?
Sex grows brain memory areas – in mice. But what works in people? The answer: walking.

There are numerous studies that show walking can prevent Alzheimer's. Can it improve memory?

A recent research study at the University of Pittsburgh was simplicity itself. Two groups of adults were looked at, from age 55-80. Both groups did little "exercise." One group was asked to walk three times a week. The goal was 40 minutes a time, though rather few made it that long. The other group spent the same amount of time stretching, doing yoga and lifting weights.

At the end of the year, the walking group showed improved memory. And something else. A bigger hippocampus — a 2 percent increase. The group that stretched showed a decline of 1.4 percent of hippocampal size.

Why should you care? The hippocampus is critical for memory.



LBK Special

How memory works

The hippocampus engages in a near endless conversation with the cortex to entrain memory. Much of this conversation takes place at night — during sleep (check out previous articles at www.therestdoctor.com for explanation).

In the Lubeck study, reactivating memories by placing an odor in people's nostrils during deep sleep markedly improved memory and learning scores. You grow your memory storage in sleep. You learn while you sleep and rest. What these and other studies are also saying is:

1. You can literally grow new memory storage — if you walk.
2. The memory cell growth is primarily in the hippocampus, not in the cortex.
3. Brain derived nerve cell growth factors increase with walking.
4. The new cells made are used within days, letting you

store more knowledge — and potentially learn more.

5. Not only do the results show up with better memory — you see an actual anatomic change in the brain as a result of walking.

Walking for your health

Humans are walking machines. We have walked across the face of the earth. We walk alone and in groups. We walk to wars and we walk to demonstrations for peace. We walk for our health and survival.

What's most remarkable is how well walking works in all age groups; in rather small amounts; that it prevents heart attacks and strokes; opens up arteries; controls blood pressure; changes digestion and weight gain; improves mood.

In a word, walking regenerates us.

Your regeneration project is critical to your survival. If you can walk, you can regenerate multiple cell groups from your brain to your muscles. You can also walk to visit and socialize,

walk to obtain sunlight and fresh air, and walk to experience the innate human pleasure in nature.

Walking can and should be used for many different kinds of active rest: physical, mental, social, and yes, spiritual. People have been using walking meditation for thousands of years, and walking in nature is one of our fastest ways to better mood. And even if some find it less pleasurable than sex, walking will grow your brain.

Like most regenerative activities, the rebuilding of your body occurs without seeing it. Yet it is brought on by the simplest activities — walking, talking, laughing.

So when you go out with a friend for a walk, tell them you have another reason for wanting to see them — a chance to rebuild yourself and improve your mind. Is it really this easy to help prevent Alzheimer's disease and many of the major health scourges of mankind? Yes it is.

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 8

Weather update

To: Longboat Key Fire Chief Paul Dezzi
Closer to my front door than I have experienced before coming from Weston Point Basin.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Weather update

To: Longboat Key Commission
Just a quick update:
We have not had any residents call for assistance nor have we needed to offer sheltering.
We do however have flooded roads as reported and we are still having rain coming in from the Gulf.
Tomorrow once we are in a low tide status, we have the probability of a storm surge around the same time that we anticipate will cause continued flooding. Let’s hope we continue the course we are on. Thanks again!
Paul B. Dezzi
Fire Chief
Town of Longboat Key

Concerns about Comp Plan Amendment for Mall

To: Sarasota City Planning and Zoning Director Steve Cover
As you know from our meeting last Tuesday, I have serious concerns about the proposal. As I reviewed it more closely in preparation for our rescheduled CC meeting, more items that I couldn’t make sense of jumped out at me.
It’s very possible that I don’t understand certain provisions and/or didn’t read that portion of the 306 pages where the issue was covered. I will be in the office tomorrow if you and/or staff have time to address my concerns before Thursday morning — or we can try to address most of it via email.
Page 10 of 306: Many of my concerns are on this page.
1. Is the number of buildable residential units really based on the size of the entire parcel regardless of what else is built on the parcel? With 25 units/acre density, can 750 residential units be built on a 30 acre parcel AND offices and commercial be built on the same parcel? I would have expected the number of units would be based on the portion of the site used for residential — if half (i.e., 15 acres), it would be 375 units.
2. What limitations are placed on office/commercial buildings on the site? I assume Floor-Area-Ratio will apply. Would it apply to the entire site — including the residential buildings? What F-A-R number would be used? (Could you give me an example of an existing development with that F-A-R so I can put it into perspective?) If it doesn’t apply to the entire parcel — and the residential density allowance does — why the difference?
3. Is there any requirement for a certain percentage of green space (not counting paved parking areas as green space)?
Looking at the specific proffer of 10% attainable:
If you look at the percentages in paragraph C, only 5% of the first 400 units are attainable; with the Planning Board change, 60% of the next 50 units are attainable, potentially becoming a low-income enclave (without the Planning Board change, it would have been 30% — still significantly different from the 5% section of the development, but not a majority). (And these differences seem to ignore the Commission requirement that attainable be evenly distributed throughout the project.)
As I mentioned on Tuesday, there didn’t appear to be any remedies to require additional attainable units if the developer stopped building residential before reaching 400 units. I suggest a time limit for providing the required attainable units. For example, 3 years after occupancy of the initial residential units, the developer would be required reach the 10% attainable percentage, even it that required converting market rate units to attainable units. (What would be the penalty for failing to comply?)
Also note that Paragraph 3 of the proffer (page 34 of 306) actually rescinds the 10% proffer if they build fewer than the maximum number of units. (This is unacceptable; it even sounds like “bait and switch” with the developer having no real intention to build the maximum number of units — nor to include attainable housing.)
I would appreciate any clarification you can provide before Thursday’s CC meeting. As I currently interpret the document, it is not ready for passage.
Debbie Trice
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Concerns about Comp Plan Amendment for Mall

To: Sarasota City Commission
FYI, I had a very productive meeting with Philip DiMaria this afternoon. My concerns about residential density were put to rest. However, I expect a few changes to be made regarding the attainable housing proffer at Thursday’s meeting.
Debbie Trice
Commissioner
City of Sarasota

Harbor Drive

To: Sarasota City Mayor Liz Alpert
Hi Commissioner Alpert. Over the last 45 days we have experienced significant flooding on Harbor Drive. We have lived here through three hurricanes and have not experienced the type

of flooding we are now seeing. I’m not sure if it’s all because of the new construction contributing to this, failed storm water systems, or just the perfect storm conditions. We need help from the City to fix this issue. I have spoken to 10 concerned property owners on Harbor Drive (there will be more) and we are hopeful you can lead the charge to fix the issue.
Jamie Ebling
Sarasota

Harbor Drive

To: Jamie Ebling
Thanks for contacting me about the issue with Harbor Drive. I think we have recently experienced “the perfect storm” on two separate occasions which caused unusual flooding. The first was the almost foot of rain that fell in a couple of hours and this time almost a foot of rain that fell non-stop over a two day period. There is not a practical stormwater system for such occurrences.
That being said, if you have been getting flooding at other times, then we need to see what’s going on and if there is something that needs to be done. I am copying the city manager and deputy city manager, so we can check out the situation for you and the other residents on Harbor Drive. Since, we are dealing with the aftermath of T.S. Debby, we may not be able to respond as quickly as normal. But, be assured, we will.
Liz Alpert
Mayor
City of Sarasota

Sandbags

To: Sarasota City Vice Mayor Jen Ahearn-Koch
I was very disturbed to find that Sarasota did not have a single sandbag distribution center during Tropical Storm Debby.
Is this a City or County responsibility?
Either way it is reprehensible that this crucial service was not provided.
I would welcome an explanation.
Ruth Firth
Sarasota

Sandbags

To: Ruth Firth
Thanks for the email. I did double check and as far as I know, Sarasota did not have a sandbag distribution. As you may know, Sarasota County is responsible for stormwater and emergency services (in coordination with the City).
I have copied our District 2 Commissioner Mr. Smith on this email so he is aware of your input. Also, the City and the County are holding an inter-local meeting and I do believe that will be an opportunity to give input as well, although I am not positive as this is the first City/County inter-local meeting we have had since I was elected seven years ago!
I have copied the City’s Auditor and Clerk, Ms. Griggs, on this email to respond to the process and procedure question. Thank you again for your email and I am confident we will receive a response to your question.
Jen Ahearn-Koch
Vice Mayor
City of Sarasota



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BreakPoints



How can I win with a weak partner?

In countless doubles matches my opponents always hit the ball to my partner who is a weaker player. I get it, they want to win. Should I aggressively poach or go for winners every time I get the ball? It makes for a tense and confusing game. What should I do to better my chances of winning (other than getting a stronger partner)?

JACKIE BOHANNON
Guest Columnist
tennis@lbknews.com

Definitely do not go for winners every ball. That is an extremely low percentage strategy and will only put more stress and pressure on your partner who you do not want to feel inadequate. Do your best to give your partner confidence and get the most out of their abilities.

For starters, identify your opponents' weaknesses and try to expose them. Do they have a partner that is significantly weaker? Can they hit a forehand, a backhand, a volley, and overhead? Can they run? Focus on your opponents' shortcomings instead of your partners.

The next step is for you to be consistent and reliable. Play the big points well. Get your first serve in, don't miss your return of serve, and put the ball away when the opportunity presents itself. Always hit high percent-



BOHANNON

age targets. (I.e. down the middle or at the net player's feet)
Finally, I suggest mixing up your positioning. Don't be predictable. This will help you poach more and be more interactive and also confuse your opponents. For example, if you are serving sometimes serve and volley, sometimes have your partner poach, sometimes fake, sometimes have your partner play both back. When you are receiving, try chipping and charging, lobbing and charging, drop shot a 2nd serve, playing both back, etc. If you find a strategy that works stick with it until it stops working and then change it up again. When there is a significant differential amongst the partnership the key is for the opponent to never know where the stronger player is going to be, and never know what you are going to do. Keep them on their toes, and while you are at it, stay on your toes too!

Jackie Bohannon is the Director of Tennis at the Bird Key Yacht Club.

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Long-time tennis pro and recently-named 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

KeySudoku



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ACROSS

- 1 Brazilian soccer star
5 Do a greenhouse job
10 "Slammin' Sam," of the PGA
15 Room in a Spanish house
19 Tel ____-Jaffa
20 Lana Turner's home state
21 Pod or psych follower
22 Coagulate
23 Wax
24 Jeans fabric
25 Digs for ore
26 French roast
27 Palm cockatoo
29 Early autos
30 Architect's scheme
31 Heavyweight champion Joe
32 Comets and meteors have them
34 Dawn goddess
36 Gratified completely
38 Clothes or cover starter
41 Caviar
42 Columbus sailed from here
44 Type of lion or horse
45 Charles Dutton sitcom
48 French poet and novelist Louis
50 "____ Heaven": 1937 film
52 Jockey who rode 4,779 winners
54 Sacred book of 121 Across
55 Breakwaters
56 Actor Stephen
58 Lowest point
59 Barbara or Anthony
60 Noted Pittsburgh Pirates slugger
61 Arms, legs and wings
63 Utopia: var.
64 All-American who played for the Chicago Bears
66 Young seal
67 Bowling
69 Special times
70 Surveillance device
71 Memiment
72 Multiple Indy 500 winner
76 Metal container
77 Winner of 11 Triple Crown races
82 Son of Jacob
83 Car purchase to regret
85 Groans mournfully
86 Philippine Moslem
87 Activate
89 Highland cap
90 Bill of fare
91 He played in 14 World Series

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- 92 Some joints
94 Gobi and Mojave
96 Inclined
97 Verb or prop follower
98 Chatter idly
100 Lectures
101 Singer Janis
102 Commercials
103 Word before plant or play
105 Literary initials
106 Make into law
108 Confused son
111 Stuporous condition
113 Age or box starter
115 "The ____ Is a Lonely Hunter"
119 Mine entrance
120 Southwest Spanish seaport
121 The Moslem religion
123 Confused
124 Talk wildly
125 Organic compound
126 Difficult period?
127 Coarse, shredded tobacco
128 Deuce topper
129 Communist leader
130 "The Prisoner of ____"
131 Sargasso Sea swimmers
- 2 "If ____ I Would Leave You"
3 Euro predecessor
4 Popular Wimbledon winner
5 Disencumber
6 First woman to swim the English Channel
7 Window sections
8 Home state of Jim Backus
9 Three-time Cy Young award winner
10 Four-time AFC-leading rusher
11 Brush or head starter
12 Heating vessels
13 Spheres of combat
14 Abnormal: prefix
15 Young haddock
16 Baseball brothers' surname
17 French novelist Pierre
18 Ancient Philippines inhabitants
28 Home-run star Hank
31 Memorize
33 Charged atom
35 Corrida cheers
37 "____ and Sympathy"
38 Patisserie worker
39 Wear away
40 Challenged
42 Volcano on Martinique
43 Denude
- 45 "____ Days": Woody Allen
46 Diana loved him
47 Trite and sentimental
49 Work crew
50 Some ballads
51 Haw's companion
53 Country singer Johnny
55 Mosque tower
57 Its shell is lined with mother-of-pearl
60 Playwright Capek
61 Carry something heavy
62 Small daggers
65 Legal matter
66 Groan producer
68 Egyptian god of the setting sun
70 Proscribe
71 River steps in India
72 Texas shrine
73 Track and field star of 1984 Olympics
74 Conserve of grapes
75 Winged goddess
76 Celestial body
77 Classifies
78 Hemsley TV sitcom
79 Hungarian producer and director Zoltan
80 Made a mistake
81 "Take Me Home, Country ____"
84 Cap or house starter
- 85 1972 Olympic gold swimming medalist
88 Disease of rye
90 Convent compartment
91 Former Cincinnati Reds star
93 Bones or horse lead-in
95 PGA star and sand wedge developer
96 Chinese pagoda
99 Grew to be
101 Away from the coast
103 Seven-time Daytona 500 winner
104 French sculptor
106 Terry or Corby
107 Poke fun
108 Light, open wagon
109 Last Jewish month
110 Wine's companion
112 South of France
114 Words of understanding
116 Wimbledon winner Arthur
117 Former Spanish coin
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