

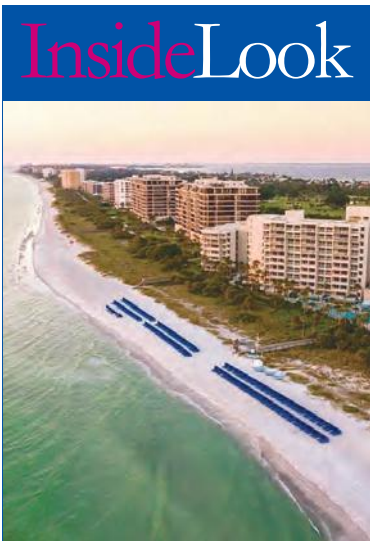


# Longboat Key News

September 27, 2024

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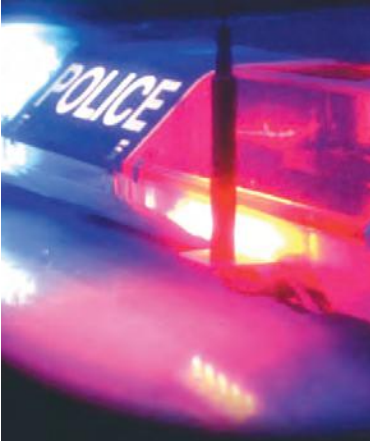
Find your way  
to LBK's sand  
...page 6



Hammerhead  
species found  
...page 2



St. Regis sales  
again lead pack  
...page 11



Truck threatens  
three children  
...page 10

## Helene's devastation surges through our lives

*Rarely does a hurricane meet our worst expectations. We have grown numb to an onslaught of meteorologists throwing spaghetti models across our screens and emergency officials telling residents to write their names with indelible ink on their ankle to be identified after a storm. But in the case of Hurricane Helene, the worst became reality.*



**STEVE REID**  
Editor & Publisher  
sreid@lbknews.com

Rarely does a hurricane meet our worst expectations. We have grown numb to an onslaught of meteorologists throwing spaghetti models across our screens and emergency officials telling residents to write their names with indelible ink on their ankle to be identified after a storm. But in the case of Hurricane Helene, the worst became reality.

The storm started as something of an anomaly as an amorphous and unorganized system south of the Yucatan Peninsula. Within a week, the storm turned into a Category 4 hurricane with sustained 140 mph winds and became the most devastating system to literally wash over the islands around Sarasota with Siesta Key, Lido and Longboat Key damaged to an extent not witnessed in our lifetimes.

To put the destruction into perspective, our area only received wind gusts of about 60 mph, but the forecast of a 4-7 foot storm surge held true with most of the above-named areas nearing 7 feet.

The tremendous volume of sea water flooded countless homes on the barrier islands, left Gulf of Mexico Drive on Longboat Key a veritable sand dune, destroyed and left impassable the state road leading to Longboat Key on Bradenton Beach and cut off access for resi-



dents to Lido Key and Longboat Key following the storm.

Longboat Fire Chief Paul Dezzi led an update less than 24 hours after the storm on Friday afternoon. He spoke of how the entire island was impassable except with high water vehicles supplied by emergency crews.

"It is shocking what we found. Numerous homes were damaged and some destroyed. There is debris everywhere and construction materials strewn about and as we moved to the north end of the island it got worse," said Dezzi.

On Friday after the storm, Dezzi and the police department along with public works and other staff made sure those who decided to stay and

weather the storm survived.

"The people who stayed were calling us and we could not get to them," said Dezzi. "They could not leave the north end because of the road destruction and mounds of sand, and then there were three feet plus of water on the south end. Lido was flooded and the water had nowhere to go," said Dezzi.

Dezzi told almost 200 listeners on the virtual meeting that the town would not allow residents back until it was deemed safe. He pointed out that the water was not up to pressure, much of the island was without power and some streets were filled with debris.



Dezzi said there is a three-tier system for re-entry with the first tier being emergency personnel, the second tier property managers and the final tier residents.

He said the town had to place a bus at Bird Key Park and had brought about 20 residents who had stayed through the storm to the bus and then to a shelter. It took a lot of time and coordination and energy away from readying the island for

See Helene, page 15



# Hammerhead shark species named after Microsoft’s co-founder Paul Allen

*Gonzalez turned her apartment into a makeshift lab to finish the description, showing how it differs from the bonnethead shark in terms of its head shape and the number of vertebrae it has, as well as its highly distinctive DNA profile.*

A hammerhead shark species discovered by scientists finally has a name and its namesake is the late Paul G. Allen, philanthropist and co-founder of Microsoft.

The existence of the new species, *Sphyrna alleni*, was hidden because it looks so similar to another species, the bonnethead shark, *Sphyrna tiburo*, according to Cindy Gonzalez, FIU researcher and lead author of the article in *Zootaxa* that formally describes the new species.

The research team was led by Demian Chapman, then-associate professor at FIU and currently Director of Mote Marine Laboratory’s Center for Shark Research. Chapman is the co-lead of Global FinPrint, a global reef shark survey during which much of the early fieldwork to describe the new species was conducted. The initiative was funded by the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation. Allen was a champion for shark conservation and protecting marine ecosystems, among his many philanthropic initiatives.

“DNA analyses provided the first clue that the bonnethead sharks, as we knew them, were at least two species in the Atlantic and not one,” said Chapman. “But DNA alone is not enough to define a species, so we put a team together to look at specimens and see if there were any physical differences as well.”

Gonzalez, a native Colombian marine ecologist, found similar results when studying bonnethead sharks in Panama in 2015 as part of her master’s research project. Gonzalez worked with Chapman, her Ph.D. advisor, to build a solid plan to work on this subject, since Latin America is the global hub for small hammerhead shark species. The new species ranges from Belize to Brazil, and since most of the research on it was done in Belize its common name is the shovellbill shark to reflect what the people of Belize call it.

Gonzalez and the team visited shark fishing camps, collected specimens, and then began the laborious process of preserving and measuring them.

“The fishers and their families became very invested in this process, helping me in collecting tissue samples for genetics and taking hundreds of measurements of these sharks,” said Gonzalez. “But the process was disrupted when the COVID pandemic prevented international travel, and the university went remote.”

Gonzalez turned her apartment into a makeshift lab to finish the description, showing how



it differs from the bonnethead shark in terms of its head shape and the number of vertebrae it has, as well as its highly distinctive DNA profile.

“It is imperative to study and protect small hammerhead shark species as they are unique to the American continent and have been extirpated, overfished, and misidentified in fisheries,” Gonzalez said. “At the same time, these sharks have played a critical role in shaping the culture and economy of many local communities in many Latin American countries, so it is important to work hand-to-hand with the fishermen on conservation efforts.”

Allen passed away in 2018, but his quest for shark conservation continues. Along with funding Global FinPrint, Allen invested in a wide variety of shark conservation initiatives.

“It is tragic that we have only just recognized that this species exists, and we are already running against the clock to prevent its extinction,” Chapman said. “Fortunately, Belize has taken proactive steps for shark conservation that may help this species, such as collaborating closely with shark fishing communities to manage shark catches, establishing protected areas, and implementing a nationwide gillnet ban.”



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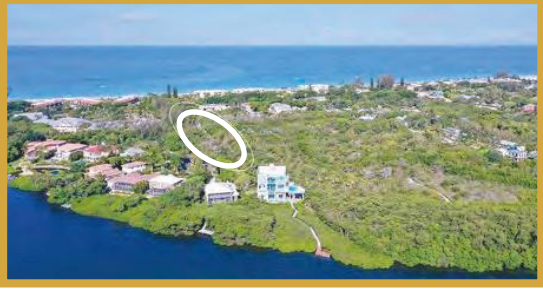
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# EditorLetters

Longboat Key News and Sarasota City News encourages Letters to the Editor on timely issues. Please email to: [letters@lbknews.com](mailto: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.

## Sarasota Open

To: Sarah Baldwin

Hi Sarah. Would you have time for video call with Elizabeth and myself next week? After getting quotes from US Tent for a player lounge that we would put on court #1 most likely (I sent rough numbers, but around \$22k to \$24k to build it out depending on how we lay it out), there would be a way to do the tournament at Payne Park while you keep Court Thirteen open. We would just have to figure out the best secure way to set it up so players can access the locker-rooms securely. There are a couple ways to do this, either going through the second glass door and build out a secure way to get to the bathrooms by making a small walkway next to the Payne Park offices, or go through the fence and do a secure way on the outside of the building and then go through the door through the storage area hallway that goes to where the bathrooms are located.

The main things for discussions would be the economics of food and beverage sales. We need to discuss the options of doing the temporary liquor license or going under yours. In the past when we did the tournament at country clubs, the clubs had the ability to do liquor sales anywhere on the club property and we could do our sales under their license. The cost of the actual temporary license is only \$75, so that was a non-issue. It just takes time to get it processed. Since we did it last year, and we know the best way to do it now. With your license, would the only place you could do liquor sales be from the physical area called Court Thirteen? Or could we have a bar near the grandstand court as well? Last year it was discussed that there were differences between your license and the temporary license, but I'm not sure what they were. We usually have two to three locations that we sell from. I'm looking to understand what the options are and how it could work on this.

If you can think of any other open type issues besides these, please let us know. Let me know a good time for a video conference call with me and Elizabeth. All key decisions with the tournament are done by the both of us.

Steve Gareleck  
Elizabeth Moore Sarasota Open

## Sarasota Open

To: Sarah Baldwin

Thanks for the reply Sarah. Last year you or Sherm had mentioned a way to still get players into the back bathrooms with some sort of separate access. Was this through the storage hallway through the back or was there another way to do this? It comes down to player security and what that would look like. The ATP would only approve showers and locker-rooms in the building, and to rent something like that with the requirements from the ATP would put the costs way out of any reasonable budget. But maybe we could put the player lounge on court 1 and create a hallway next to the wall with the offices, and have the park employees and players access the offices an bathrooms from a 3 or so foot walkway on that side, as it could also include a small area for the stringer, or put the stringer in the player lounge tent. There would most likely be quite a few general ticket holders purchasing drinks etc all day, so that the area inside court thirteen would need to be as big as possible. But I think most people would purchase their drinks and go back to the matches, but not 100% sure. That's what they did when the purchased drinks at the stands when we sold them last year.

When the tournament was at Lakewood Ranch or United in past years, we would go underneath the liquor license of the club. Payne Park is the first venue where we actually got our own liquor license since they did not have one prior.

If that could be figured out, then I think there's a way to make it work. Do you remember what that was? We could put the player lounge tent on either court 1, 2 or court 3, as the City said that was fine. It's how to manage the player access to locker rooms while the Court Thirteen remained open for the general ticket holders. That and the structure of the liquor license are really the only issues we would have to figure out. Currently, can you sell alcohol outside of Court Thirteen at Payne Park or does your license only cover members and patrons purchase alcoholic beverages inside Court Thirteen? Does your liquor license cover all of Payne Park or only the room called "Court Thirteen" relating to liquor sales? The temporary license we pulled allows alcohol sales anywhere in the entire Payne Park Tennis Center. These are really important logistics and we have to make sure we get them right.

Steve Gareleck  
Elizabeth Moore Sarasota Open

## Sarasota Open

To: Steve Gareleck

I'm traveling and won't be around this week, but please collaborate with the PPTC employees to see where on the property all of this could occur. Since it's outside the footprint of our space, I don't think we need to be part of this preliminary meeting since they would know far more about the property than I would.

Sarah Baldwin  
Tevatancorp

## Sarasota Open

To: Sarah Baldwin

Hope your weekend is going well. I sent this email out on Friday but did not hear back. It effects my travel plans for tomorrow. Please let me know if received and if timing works.

Thanks  
Steve Gareleck  
Elizabeth Moore Sarasota Open

## Sarasota Open

To: Sarah Baldwin

Good morning Sarah and Sherman. Thanks for your time in the meeting with the City. I would like to see if we can do a complete reset and start from scratch to see if there is a mutually beneficial way to do the tournament downtown at Payne Park with you guys in a mutually beneficial way. This means we would not look back and only look forward to see how we could both mutually benefit.

I have checked with both the ATP and Sarasota Tent. As long as we build out a setup similar to that of an indoor facility, we would be able to do the players lounge on a court. From the rough numbers provided by US Tent (A/C, generator for A/C, fuel, tent, flooring, doors, windows, waterproofing etc., it would be feasible to do the build-out for less than \$23,000 for the lounge along with space for officials (divided). We could sell extra tickets or increase pricing to cover this delta.

With a mutually beneficial marketing plan, based on what you had mentioned in the meeting (we have not done a great job on the marketing ourselves), we would like to explore keeping the tournament downtown.

I am thinking about coming into Sarasota this coming Monday early evening / Tuesday morning, and would like to know if you could meet at sight to do a walk-through so we could share ideas of what it could look like having you keep Court Thirteen open and still seeing if we could come up with a plan for the bathrooms. You had mentioned a way to do it last year, but I was not sure how it could be done.

Since Tommy's Express Car Wash wants to start a marketing campaign in July / August time frame with the tournament as mentioned, we would need to see if there is a mutually beneficial way to do this as soon as possible. Time is on our side, as there is no immediate rush. With Tommy's and possibly your marketing expertise, we would have the opportunity to make the tournament a little larger in the number of ticket holders (we don't want to get too big). But the larger numbers would probably better for Court Thirteen and for the tournament. We sold out the final weekend (Saturday and Sunday) with very little marketing. We have the ability to increase seat numbers as well for the general ticket holders, so we can grow from there. VIP will be more limited. Please let me know your thoughts on this. Thanks.

Steve Gareleck  
Elizabeth Moore Sarasota Open

## Helene Update

Storm tracking slightly further west which is better news for us, not so much for the panhandle. We are still looking at 4-6 inches of rain and tropical storm force winds starting in the early morning hours on Thursday with the storm exiting our area Thursday afternoon. Surge is still the primary concern as this is forecasted to be a large storm.

Our community is under a state of emergency which is done by the counties. Counties have also issued an evacuation order that is set to start first thing tomorrow morning. City of Sarasota has modified their bridge operations (Ringling will now close westbound when roads are impassable). Manatee County will turn water off when surge is expected to be 5 feet or higher and so we are planning currently for a water shutoff by Manatee. When it might occur we don't know. Water turnoff is a challenge for both potable water and wastewater and will be something we manage carefully during re-entry. Water is one thing but just as important, we have to be sure we have the ability to handle sewage flows before residents are allowed back.

County landfills are closed on Thursday and so no trash or recycling pickup should be expected.

Town Hall will be closed on Thursday and Town staff will spend tomorrow preparing for potential storm impacts. The sandbag station by Broadway was well utilized by the public this morning. Please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions.

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 7

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# KeyLife

## Find a way to enjoy Longboat’s beach

*I often see couples taking engagement or wedding pictures there. My favorites are the soon to be moms wearing long flowing dresses that expose their baby bump having pregnancy pictures taken. I also can’t begin to tell you how many dolphins and Manatees I have spotted.*

**TRYLA LARSON**  
Contributing Columnist  
News@lbknews.com

There are numerous Gulf of Mexico beach accesses on Longboat Key, but only 12 of them are open to the public. Each is unique.

The access at 2825 Gulf of Mexico has parking available at the Town Hall. This means you have to cross Gulf of Mexico Drive to get to the beach.

6399 Gulfside Road has available parking on General Harris Street. Once again you are required to cross Gulf of Mexico Drive to get to the beach. There have been several times I have seen surfers parking here headed to the beach with their surfboards. I usually see them on days following a stormy day.

The 4001 Gulf of Mexico Drive access has available parking at Bayfront Park. An added benefit to this location is the restroom facilities at Bayfront Part. The public beach accesses on Longboat Key do not have restrooms, so the ones at Bayfront Park save you from having to get in your car and drive to a restroom. However, like the previously mentioned access points you have to cross the street at this beach access as well.

The beach accesses at 3175 Gulf of Mexico Drive and 3355 Gulf of Mexico Drive have parking on the beach side of the road. If you are not a fan of walking across Gulf of Mexico Drive maybe these are the beach accesses for you.

The beach access at 3495 Gulf of Mexico Drive Has handicap accessible parking on the beach side of the road and additional parking across the street on Longview.

The beach access at 100 North Shore Road in the most Northern access on the island. It has parking on the beach side of Gulf of Mexico Drive. It is also my personal favorite. I loved it when the beach was smaller, and the fishing piers were longer. I used to walk through the trees to get to the very northern beach next to the bridge. It was a great location for photos. During high tide I would sometimes have to wade through the Gulf water to even get to the path that went through the trees.

Now that the beach is wider and deeper it is a beautiful beach that can accommodate more people. Even so, there are always only a fraction of the people there as are across the chan-



LARSON



nel on Coquina Beach. I often see couples taking engagement or wedding pictures there. My favorites are the soon to be moms wearing long flowing dresses that expose their baby bump having pregnancy pictures taken. I also can’t begin to tell you how many dolphins and Manatees I have spotted there. Even the trees that mother nature uprooted and left lying on the beach look like works of art.

There is also an access at 4711 and 4795 Gulf of Mexico Drive both have handicap accessible parking on site. Another good beach access is at 100 Broadway Street. It is one of the larger beach accesses on Longboat Key with a long wooden boardwalk leading out to the beach. They even have little cubbies for your shoes. You can watch a gorgeous sunset on the beach and then walk across the street to Whitney’s for dinner. I love the Strawberry Walnut Salad at Whitney’s. You can also use the parking at the 100 Broadway Street access when using the beach access at 6647 Gulf of Mexico Drive.

The beach access at 7055 Seabreeze has no public parking available. I feel like it is probably used by locals who can walk to that access. Lastly, I have to mention that even though it is not a beach access, if you can go to the parking area at the very south end of Longboat Key, on the West side of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Get out of your car and take the walkway along the water that goes under Gulf of Mexico Drive. Head toward the trees. There is a fairly easy pathway through the trees and park of is even finished with composite wood. There is a conservation area there and several pic a boo views of the water. You will end up at a nice overlook type of deck that looks out onto the water. A lot of times the water is so clear you can see the Sheepshead and other fish swimming around the pilons. I have also on occasion been able to watch multiple kite surfers out on the water. I don’t think you can go wrong with any of the beach access.

The Longboat Key beaches are all beautiful and very rarely crowded. I go as often as I can, even if sometimes it is just to take in our breathtaking sunsets.

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# Editor Letters

Letters, from page 4

FEMA - Hurricane Debby IGA Advisory Sept 24

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

FEMA Advisories are a means of ensuring local town, city and county officials receive important and time sensitive information about specific assistance that may be available for survivors and their recovery from Hurricane Debby. Please feel free to share with your constituents, community leaders and post on your webpages.

The information provided in this Advisory is: FEMA Daily Fact Sheet #32, great for an information resource as well as a media announcement for Disaster Recovery Centers temporarily close.

If you should have any questions, concerns or needs for additional information, please reach out to me. My contact information is below.

Florida Hurricane Debby Recovery  
Sept. 24, 2024

Disaster Recovery Centers in Florida to Close Temporarily for Severe Weather

All Disaster Recovery Centers in Florida will cease operations temporarily at close of business today in preparation for severe weather. The centers will reopen when weather conditions permit.

FEMA specialists offering free rebuilding tips at The Home Depot in Lake City also will suspend operations until weather conditions permit.

How to Apply for FEMA Assistance

If you sustained damage or losses from Hurricane Debby, FEMA may be able to help. You may be eligible for financial assistance for displacement, serious needs, temporary lodging, basic home repairs, personal property losses and other uninsured disaster-related expenses.

Homeowners and renters in Alachua, Baker, Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Hillsborough, Jefferson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Manatee, Pinellas, Sarasota, Suwannee and Taylor counties can apply to FEMA in several ways:

The quickest way to apply is to go online to DisasterAssistance.gov. You can also apply using the FEMA App for mobile devices or calling toll-free 800-621-3362. The telephone line is open every day and help is available in most languages. If you use a relay service, such as Video Relay Service (VRS), captioned telephone or other service, give FEMA your number for that service. To view an accessible video on how to apply visit Three Ways to Apply for FEMA Disaster Assistance - YouTube. The deadline to apply is Oct. 9, 2024.

To date, FEMA has approved \$35.5 million in assistance to households.

Understanding Your FEMA Letter

If you applied for FEMA assistance after Hurricane Debby you will receive an eligibility letter from FEMA in the mail or by email. The letter will explain your application status and how to respond. You may need to submit additional information or supporting documentation for FEMA to continue to process an application for financial assistance. If you have questions

about your letter, or disagree with the initial decision, visit a Disaster Recovery Center or call the disaster assistance helpline at 800-621-3362 to find out what information FEMA needs.

Disaster Recovery Centers

§ Alachua County: Millhopper Branch Library, 3145 NW 43rd St., Gainesville, FL 32606 (Open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday)

§ Baker County: Baker County Fairgrounds, 5567 Lauramore Road, Macclenny, FL 32063 (Open 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday)

§ Columbia County: 180 E. Duval St, Lake City, FL 32055 (Open 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday)

§ Dixie County: Old School Board Building, 841 SE Hwy 349, Old Town, FL 32680 (Open 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday)

§ Gilchrist County: Gilchrist County Fire Station #2, 460 NW County Road 138, Branford, FL 32008 (Open 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday)

§ Jefferson County: Jefferson County Courthouse Annex, 435 W Walnut St., Monticello, FL 32344 (Open 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday)

§ Lafayette County: Mayo Community Center, 150 NW Community Circle, Mayo, FL 32066 (Open 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday)

§ Madison County: Madison County, The Bridge Church, 1135 US East 90, Madison, FL 32340 (Open 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday)

§ Manatee County: Lakewood Ranch Library, 16410 Rangeland Pkwy, Bradenton, FL 34211 (9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday)

§ Sarasota County: Sarasota Christian Church, 2923 Ashton Rd, Sarasota, FL 34231 (9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday)

§ Suwannee County: Hale Park, 215 Duval St. NE, Live Oak, FL 32064 (Open 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday)

Be Alert to Fraud After Hurricane Debby

FEMA personnel working in areas impacted by Hurricane Debby carry official photo identification. FEMA representatives never charge applicants for disaster assistance, inspections or help in filling out applications. Their services are free. Don't believe anyone who promises a disaster grant in return for payment. Don't give your banking information to a person claiming to be a FEMA housing inspector. FEMA inspectors are never authorized to collect your personal financial information. If you believe you are the victim of a scam, report it immediately to your local police or sheriff's department or contact Florida's Office of the Attorney General by calling 866-9-NO-SCAM (866-966-7226) or visit myfloridalegal.com. To file a fraud complaint, go online to Scam Report (myfloridalegal.com).

Low-Interest Disaster Loans

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) offers low-interest disaster loans for homeowners, renters, businesses and nonprofit organizations to cover losses not fully compensated by insurance and other sources. Apply online at SBA.gov/disaster. Disaster loan information

See Letters, page 8



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LEARN MORE



# Editor Letters



Letters, from page 7

and application forms can also be obtained by calling the SBA’s Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955.

The deadline to apply for property damage is Oct. 9, 2024. The deadline to apply for economic injury is May 12, 2025.

The SBA has opened three Business Recovery Centers to meet the needs of businesses that were affected by Hurricane Debby. Locations: Rocky Bluff Library, 6750 US-301, Ellenton, and Yankeetown Town Hall, 6241 Harmony Lane, Yankeetown, and Sarasota Christian Church, 2923 Ashton Rd., Sarasota. SBA has approved \$18.9 million in disaster loans to date.

Additional Resources

§ Disaster Unemployment Assistance is available to Florida businesses and residents whose employment or self-employment was lost or interrupted as a direct result of Hurricane. Eligible Floridians may submit a claim at FloridaJobs.org.

§ Tips for Mold Cleanup

§ American Red Cross: Call 800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767) or visit Hurricane Debby (arcgis.com).

§ Crisis Counseling: Call the Substance and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) at 800-985-5990; for Spanish, press “2”).

§ Disaster Legal Services: Call 833-514-2940 Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Disaster Recovery Centers in Florida Will Close Temporarily for Severe Weather

All Disaster Recovery Centers in Florida will cease operations temporarily at close of business Tuesday, Sept. 24, in preparation for severe weather. The centers will reopen when weather conditions permit.

The center at the Mayo Community Center in Lafayette County will close permanently at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 24.

FEMA specialists offering free rebuilding tips at The Home Depot in Lake City also will suspend operations until weather conditions permit.

For the latest information about Florida’s recovery, visit [fema.gov/disaster/4806](https://fema.gov/disaster/4806). Follow FEMA on X at [x.com/femaregion4](https://x.com/femaregion4) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/fema](https://facebook.com/fema).

Kimber Kipp  
External Affairs Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist  
FEMA

Post- storm

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

I spent time with the Mayor of St. Augustine and she shared this important info with me. May need this after this week.

In St. Augustine, efforts to rebuild after flooding involve utilizing FEMA’s Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grants. These grants aim to elevate or reconstruct homes to prevent future flood damage. The city has applied for these competitive grants, which are reviewed by FEMA and the Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM). Homeowners can receive up to \$220,000 for elevating or rebuilding their homes. The process includes outreach meetings to inform residents about grant opportunities, and applications are submitted to FEMA after state-level review[1][2][3].

Sources

[1] 2021 & 2022 FMA Program Summary | St. Augustine, FL<https://www.citystaug.com/1028/2021-2022-FMA-Program-Summary>

[2] St. Johns County residents in flood-prone areas could be eligible for ... <https://www.news4jax.com/news/local/2023/07/31/st-johns-county-residents-in-flood-prone-areas-could-be-eligible-for-federal-grant-money-to-elevate-their-homes/>

[3] Flood Mitigation Assistance Program | Florida Disaster <https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/flood-mitigation-assistance-program/>

[4] Florida needs to stop rebuilding in hurricane storm surge zones [https://www.reddit.com/r/florida/comments/xs9cjb/florida\\_needs\\_to\\_stop\\_rebuilding\\_in\\_hurricane/](https://www.reddit.com/r/florida/comments/xs9cjb/florida_needs_to_stop_rebuilding_in_hurricane/)

[5] Please someone explain this to me.... : r/florida - Reddit [https://www.reddit.com/r/florida/comments/1aspvlq/please\\_someone\\_explain\\_this\\_to\\_me/](https://www.reddit.com/r/florida/comments/1aspvlq/please_someone_explain_this_to_me/)

[6] Florida: City of St. Augustine Elevation of 11 Structures | FEMA.gov <https://www.fema.gov/case-study/florida-city-st-augustine-elevation-11-structures>

[7] FMA Grant Program | St. Augustine, FL <https://www.citystaug.com/1204>

[8] SLOW RECOVERY - St. Augustine Record <https://www.staugustine.com/story/news/local/2018/09/06/fema-locals-spending-millions-to-mitigate-future-storm-damage/10260406007/>

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

Longboat Key Solar Options and the Investment Tax Credit

To: Rusty Chinnis  
Great. Have fun in Door County  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

Longboat Key Solar Options and the Investment Tax Credit

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
Thanks but you don’t need to anything for now, I copied him and have been discussing it with him. Just wanted to keep you in the loop.  
Rusty Chinnis  
Longboat Key

Longboat Key Solar Options and the Investment Tax Credit

To: Rusty Chinnis  
I will get this in front of Tip after we get thru this storm. Great idea  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

Longboat Key Bicycle Assoc. Underpass on GMD

To: Longboat Key  
Thank you.  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

Longboat Key Bicycle Assoc. Underpass on GMD

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
For cyclists, I don’t think it is very useful except to walk the bike as the ramps at each end are pretty steep. The last time I walked through there many years ago it was dark and dank and from what hear it is now worse.  
Arthur Wood  
Longboat Key Bicycle Association

Underpass on GMD

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
I am a Seaplace condo owner. Especially during peak season, it is difficult to safely cross Gulf of Mexico Drive with my bike. There are no marked crosswalks in that part of GMD, and with the opening of the St. Regis, traffic will increase. I regularly use the underpass, and would support the City of Longboat Key taking ownership of the underpass.  
Harry Hilburg  
Longboat Key

Suncoast Waterkeeper Weekly Review

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission  
Interesting about Terra Ceia Bay site – I know it quite well, as I keep my boat down by Snead Island Cut, and also kayak and SUP by that area. There is a large bird island south and west of there, but it’s far enough away that I can’t see it as much of an impact.  
That LBK boat ramp, however – we could do something there. It’s on the barrier island, so not as likely to collect decomposing seaweed and sloughed off seagrass blades as areas on the shoreline. There are live-aboards there, but not close by, and a lot of saline water between them and that site. Instead, I think that big stormwater drain and outfall could be an issue there. There’s a project that could be done there, IMO. The road runoff could be routed into the grassy areas on the north and south side (rather than shooting right down into the bay) and maybe a reverse French drain of sorts (i.e., exfiltration trench?) could be used. Something, because this strikes me as a problem with a potential solution.  
David Tomasko  
Executive Director  
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

Suncoast Waterkeeper Sampling Results for Sept. 18

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission  
On September 18th, the enterococci survey was carried out during a rising tide. The tidal stage during the survey started at 1.75 ft at Longboat Key Bayfront Park and reached 2.6 ft at Emerson Point. High amounts of decaying plant matter were observed at Longboat Key Town Boat Ramp, and there were many horses in Palma Sola Bay, although none were around the survey location at the time of sampling. Results for sites sampled in Manatee County are as follows:  
Longboat Key Bayfront Park (bay side): Undetected  
Town of Longboat Key Boat Ramp: 959 #/mL  
Palma Sola Causeway North: 146 #/mL  
DeSoto Memorial National Park: 10 #/mL  
Palmetto Bridge: 41 #/mL  
Emerson Point: 52 #/mL  
Terra Ceia Bay: 767 #/mL  
Any count exceeding 71 is considered unsafe for swimming, indicating a potential health concern. The standard for enterococci in Class II and Class III Marine waters is “MPN or MF counts shall not exceed a monthly geometric mean of 35 nor exceed the Ten Percent Threshold Value (TPTV) of 130 in 10% or more of the samples during any 30-day period. Monthly geometric means shall be based on a minimum of 10 samples taken over a 30-day period,” (62-302.500 F.A.C.). The two Longboat Key sites are located in Class II waters (<https://geodata.dep.state.fl.us/datasets/FDEP::surface-water-class-boundaries-areas/>

See Letters, page 12



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3500 Bayou Louise Lane - Siesta Key- \$10,500,000 Partially Furnished

Located on the sought-after northern tip of Siesta Key, this exceptional gated estate offers unrivaled forever vistas of the Gulf of Mexico, the city, moonrise-sunrise, and sunsets. This home boasts 5 bedrooms and 5.5 bathrooms, sprawling across 6,300 sq. ft. under air. This residence exemplifies luxury at its finest. Featuring a grand 40x20 pool and spa, an elevator, complemented by a 24K boat lift with a 12x20 platform for kayaks or jet skis, perfect for the boating enthusiast. The main level showcases an exquisite primary suite with sweeping panoramic water views, a warm wood-paneled office with a fireplace, a great room with a fireplace, a Clive Christian-inspired kitchen, and a guest bedroom. The 2nd level has 3 bedrooms ensuite—additionally, 4-car garage, a gym and game room. The owner can enjoy access to a beach just steps away, ensuring the ultimate in coastal living.

[3500BayouLouise.com](http://3500BayouLouise.com)



2251 Gulf of Mexico Drive #204 - \$7,999,000

This epic Gulf-front corner residence, which feels like a home on the beach, offers 3 bedrooms plus an office (or 4 bedrooms) and 3.5 bathrooms in a lavish 4,032 sq. ft. space. Revel in your own 3,400 sq. ft. terrace featuring an infinity pool, fire pit, and summer kitchen, with private stairs leading straight to the beach. With a gourmet kitchen, social room, guest suite, fitness center, and a stunning 5-car garage, Aria delivers unparalleled luxury and on-site management.

[2251GulfofMexicodr.2seeit.com](http://2251GulfofMexicodr.2seeit.com)



415 L'Ambiance Drive #A401 - \$5,840,000

Experience luxury at L'Ambiance with this Southwest corner residence featuring a spacious wraparound terrace and stunning sunsets. Enjoy private elevator access, a custom-designed interior with new windows, kitchen, and baths. The Royal floorplan offers three bedrooms, all ensuite, a powder room, and a bonus room. Residents benefit from concierge service, a 24-hour guard gate, an Olympic-sized pool, two tennis courts, a fitness center, game rooms, a library, a wine room, and guest suites. Small pets are welcome, and one underground parking spot is included.

Bonus: We have residence F608 available for assignment.

[lambianceA401.com](http://lambianceA401.com)



65 Lighthouse Point - \$8,150,000

A gated enclave of 16 luxury homes on the southern tip of Longboat Key, luxury waterfront architectural. Modern 4 bed + den/office + bonus area, 4.5 bath, 4,941 sq ft. Stunning living room with fireplace, gourmet kitchen, and spacious family area opening to a pool with water views. 3-car garage with ample storage and a private 40' dock on a wide protected basin with direct Gulf access.

[www.65Lighthouse.com](http://www.65Lighthouse.com)

1241 Gulf of Mexico Drive #105 - \$2,575,000-Furnished

The Water Club on the South end of Longboat Key is a rare jewel in condominium living. Almost new 2,585 sq. ft. under air, features a garden, and partial Gulf views. Southern exposure w/walls of glass, 10 ft. ceilings, wood flooring, extended 1,000 sq. ft. terraces. The Water Club is exceptionally well-run w/strong reserve fund, a magnificent clubhouse, an Olympic-sized pool, tennis, and 2 pets under 35 lbs. welcome.

[WaterClub105.com](http://WaterClub105.com)

408 Jackson Drive-\$2,888,000

Spacious 3-bedroom-plus-den/3-bath home, with an optional 4th bedroom, features a private pool, lush garden, and contemporary updates. Highlights include a modern kitchen, vaulted ceilings, and a versatile family room. A separate casita adds extra comfort. Enjoy elegant outdoor spaces and a prime location near St. Armands Circle.

[408JacsonDr.2seeit.com](http://408JacsonDr.2seeit.com)

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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.

## Sept. 21 Sprinklers

12:50 p.m.  
Officer Troyer was dispatched to Lyons Lane for a call of property damage. The complainant said her sprinkler lines were cut and she believed the neighbor may have been the suspect. Upon arrival, Officer Troyer met with the complainant and her husband who said they lived part time at the residence to which when they were not there, the residence was rented out. Beginning in August 2024, the complainant received the water bill in the mail saying she owed over \$600. The complainant made multiple phone calls to have this checked out on her property from the landscapers to plumbers to find the issue. The complainant arrived back to the residence today, and found what they felt was the issue. The complainant found uncovered sprinkler lines which appeared to be cut cleanly. The complainant felt this was the neighbor's fault. The complainant didn't know the residents, and said no one was currently living there. The complainant said she caught a man party living at the residence on the property line and they recently laid decorative rock on her property which was on the property line. Officer Troyer observed cameras on the complainant's property, however she reported none of them faced where the lines were cut. The complainant also wasn't sure if they were the person to blame either. Officer Troyer asked the complainant if her landscapers could have accidentally cut the lines, but she felt they were very careful and would not make a mistake. Officer Troyer knocked on the neighbor's door, and spoke with a woman through the ring camera, whom only wished to identify herself with one name and provided the officer with a phone number. Officer Troyer asked her if she knew anything about sprinkler lines being cut to which she denied even knowing sprinklers were on that side of the property. The neighbor also reported she was not home. Officer Troyer provided a summary of the investigation to the complainant, and informed her due to a lack of suspect information and evidence. The complainant understood and she mainly wished for the incident to be documented. Case clear.

## Driver's license

1:03 p.m.  
Officer Troyer while on patrol driving southbound on Gulf of Mexico Drive noticed a Chevrolet Silverado with a front side window tint which appeared to be in violation of tinted windows. Officer Troyer conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle in the 4100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Upon contacting the driver, who identified himself with a Mexico identification card. Upon contact with the driver, Officer Troyer informed the driver the reason he stopped him and how his window tint appeared to be in violation. Officer Troyer checked the front side window tint which measured eleven percent, which is in violation of Florida State Statute. The driver informed the officer he never had a driver's license issued to him despite living in the United States of America. Officer Troyer cleared the driver through the Sarasota County dispatch center for any wants or warrants. The driver was clear, however, no driver license was found for him. Based upon the investigation of the traffic stop, Officer Troyer found probable cause to issue him a citation. Case clear.



## Water

7:03 p.m.  
Officer Martinson was dispatched to Norton Street on a call of a citizen assist. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson observed the water shooting out from the backflow pipe in front of the residence. Officer Martinson contacted an employee from Public Works. The employee told the officer to turn the valve off on the backflow pipe, which he did, and it stopped the water from leaking. The employee stated he would inform the residence about the pipe needing to be repaired. Case clear.

## Sept. 22 Noise

11:29 a.m.  
Officer Nazareno was dispatched to the 6100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a noise disturbance call regarding construction noise at the location. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno observed workers from a company using power tools to cut tree branches. Officer Nazareno made contact with the employee who did not speak English and had him contact his supervisor by phone. Officer Nazareno spoke with the supervisor on the phone and told him that the company was in violation of the sound ordinance and have to immediately cease the use of power tools. The supervisor then immediately ordered the workers to stop the work and pack up the equipment. The supervisor was advised of the work hours for construction noise. A written warning was issued to the company for the sound ordinance violation. Case clear.

## Citizen assist

2:19 p.m.  
Officer Nazareno was dispatched to the 7100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a possible motor vehicle crash. The call was from an Apple phone crash notification rapid location. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno observed a man handing a broken phone to a motorist. Officer Nazareno canvassed the entire length of Longboat Bridge, and was unable to locate a crash scene. Dispatch was advised to update the call to a citizen assist call. Case clear.

## Jet skis

6:34 p.m.  
Officer Tillman responded to the 6700 block of Gulf of

Mexico Drive for a report of a reckless boat. Officer Tillman arrived on scene and observed several jet skis in the area. No infractions occurred while Officer Tillman was present. All jet skis were idle speed minimum wake when close to shore. Officer Tillman spoke with the complainant who stated that the jet skis were going too fast and were not coming into the beach at a fast speed. The complainant stated that the jet skis were approximately 100 meters away from shore. Case clear.

## Boat

12:42 p.m.  
Sgt. Montfort while on marine patrol, observed a vessel disabled and aground in the area of Quickpoint Park. Sgt. Montfort was unable to get to the aground vessel and utilized the public address system to make contact with the occupants. Sgt. Montfort instructed the occupants that they would have to push the vessel free and then follow the marked channel. Within a short time, the operator pushed the vessel into deeper water and left the area without incident. Case clear.

## Sept. 23 Found card

4:21 p.m.  
Officer Zunz met an anonymous good Samaritan in the police department lobby to turn in a Visa credit card she had found just outside of Publix. Officer Zunz procured a phone number and called the owner of the card. The owner stated, "I must have dropped it outside of Publix." The owner of the card promptly arrived at the police department and presented her driver's license and signed the property receipt after he gave her back the Visa card. Case clear.

## Sept. 24 Agency assist

2:06 p.m.  
Officer Van Dyke responded to Longboat Club Road in reference to an odor of gas. The call for service was changed. Upon arrival, Longboat Key Fire Department advised that their scanners yielded negative results for natural gas. Based on the aforementioned reason, no further investigation is needed, as Longboat Key Fire Department handled the call for service. Case clear.

## Vehicle

8:33 p.m.  
Officer Maple while on patrol was flagged down by a complainant who later called dispatch to report an incident involving a suspicious vehicle. The complainant stated she was getting sand at the local pickup area when a lifted truck drove in carelessly and almost hit her three small children. She also stated the driver was rude and possibly impersonating a law enforcement officer. Officer Maple spoke to the truck driver who stated he didn't see the children and there was only a brief argument between parties as they unloaded their sand. Officer Maple didn't observe the incident and the area in question was dark with several other vehicles loading sand. No other drivers reported an issue. Case clear.

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1561 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#201 & 202	10,887	\$21,244,000	6	6	2	0	\$21,244,000
1561 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#401	5,895	\$12,995,000	3	3	1	0	\$12,995,000
1561 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#301	5,895	\$12,430,000	3	3	1	0	\$12,430,000
1561 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#204	4,967	\$9,011,750	3	3	1	0	\$9,011,750
1581 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#408	4,017	\$7,995,000	4	4	1	0	\$7,995,000
1581 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#306	2,347	\$4,850,000	2	2	1	0	\$4,850,000
1591 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#412	2,154	\$3,017,100	2	2	1	0	\$3,017,100
1591 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#513	2,154	\$2,565,100	2	2	1	0	\$2,565,100
1591 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#215	1,556	\$2,390,000	1	1	1	0	\$2,390,000
3536 FAIR OAKS LN	2,921	\$1,545,000	3	3	1	33	\$1,425,000
3563 FAIR OAKS LN	3,544	\$1,595,000	4	4	1	253	\$1,350,000
1000 LONGBOAT CLUB RD Unit#706	1,409	\$1,000,000	2	2	0	59	\$1,000,000
1930 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#155	1,270	\$565,000	2	2	0	54	\$530,000



1591 GULF OF MEXICO DR



JEFF  
RHINELANDER  
941-685-3590

Jeff@jeffrhinelander.com



COURTNEY  
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453 E. ROYAL FLAMINGO DRIVE, SARASOTA  
NEW CONSTRUCTION • \$8,495,000



5BR/6BA • 4,500 SF





# Editor Letters



## Letters, from page 8

explore?location=27.336358%2C-82.433979%2C10.00)

We are committed to bringing these critical issues to your attention and believe your active involvement is crucial. I have enclosed here the official reports for last week’s sampling activities, courtesy of Benchmark Enviroanalytical. We want to encourage you to direct all questions, suggestions for additional analysis, and feedback to Abbey Tyrna at Executivedirector@suncoastwaterkeeper.org. Your input is invaluable in our collective efforts to address these water quality issues.

Dave Tomasko  
Executive Director  
Suncoast Waterkeeper

## Potential impacts of Helene

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

First off, a few caveats. The National Hurricane Center is tracking “Potential Tropical Cyclone Nine”. As of 11 AM today, this system is located south of Cuba. However, there is a high likelihood of it becoming a tropical storm, and perhaps even a major hurricane. This system is expected to move northward into the Gulf of Mexico, with “...increasing risk of life-threatening storm surge and damaging hurricane-force winds...” along the northeastern Gulf.

According to the National Hurricane Center, there is a more than 50% chance that our region will experience tropical storm winds, likely between Wednesday night and Thursday morning.

It is way too early to talk about rainfall amounts, but there is a strong possibility of more than a foot of rain along the western tip of Cuba over the next 24 hours, so this could also mean a large amount of rain could affect us as well. Why? Well, because we are likely to be on the east side of the storm, where most of the heaviest rains occur.

What is most unsettling right now – but which could be incorrect – is the potential for storm surge of what could be a very large and very powerful hurricane.

I’ve broken this down into two screenshots – the first is the lower bay, shown below:

Keep in mind what the values mean here. They don’t mean that the area in red represents a potential for storm surge to inundate areas up to 9 feet in elevation. The areas in red represent a potential to have more than 9 feet of water over the surface of the ground. According to the models, there is a chance that Siesta Key could have 6 feet of water on top of their roads.

In the upper bay, the model suggests that there is the possibility of Longboat Key and Anna Maria Island having between 6 and 9 feet of water on top of their roads:

Will this happen? It is too early to tell. But keep in mind that Debby and Idalia almost completely inundated the only roads onto and off of our barrier islands, and those were from what were (at the time) tropical storms over 100 miles offshore. This storm has the potential to be a major hurricane, not a tropical storm. And while we don’t know where it will make landfall, the likelihood is that it will be to our west, which means we will be on the strong side.

Our air is warmer these past 20 years than what we’ve experienced, on average, across the entire 20th century. Our bay is warmer, and the Gulf of Mexico is warmer than it has been at any time during which we have records. Warm water and warm and moist air are fuel for the “heat engines” otherwise known as tropical storms and hurricanes. It would be prudent to do what we can to try and prepare for a couple of days (at least) when you’re on your own.

This may not be a big deal – it could very well be that it doesn’t get as strong as it could be, or that it passes by with “only” the amount of storm surge that Idalia gave us. But it could also be as bad – potentially – as what these maps suggest.

We shall see...regardless, we’ll be letting you know everything we know, as soon as we know ourselves.

Dave Tomasko  
Executive Director  
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

## Longboat Key Bicycle Assoc. Underpass on GMD

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Personally, I have used the under path many times to cross GMD without being a target for cars. Living in CCS it was an easy way to get home. In season it’s sometimes hard to cross GMD and the under path just makes it easier. Having said that I have never seen a pedestrian or a biker using it. People most impacted are those living in the area of Bay Isles or in CCS. I agree not a general LBK issue for the Association.

Emmanuel Charron  
Longboat Key

## Interactive map

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin

Here is the interactive map you requested. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to help you, and please let me know if you would like to collaborate in the future on something similar to this. Take care and enjoy your weekend!

Dylan Niner  
Longboat Key

## FDOT

To: Longboat Key Vice-Mayor Mike Haycock

This project has been on the books to get done for a number of years, the design that FDOT wanted to see (it is their road) is completed and the project as Isaac pointed out has been bid. Additionally, while the bid came in \$1.3 million higher than FDOT budgeted, FDOT has just committed this week to cover the entire additional cost which saves the Town at least \$400,000. The key to receive the funding is to be under construction as FDOT wants the project completed and the money spent.

It is possible to stop the train to see if FDOT would accept a redesign of the project (which the Town must pay for), however my experience with FDOT is that the funding will go away and the train may never get started again. Both FDOT and the Commission have previously approved the project (which will complement the Town’s complete streets vision for the future), it has been bid and the bid has been awarded, and we will proceed with construction

as designed unless the Commission directs us otherwise.

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

## Country Club Shores Turn Lane

To: Longboat Key Vice Mayor Mike Haycock

Thank you Vice Mayor Haycock, here is a plan sheet of the Hornblower Lane location (bottom frame). The FDOT required these medians as part of our project design. The bids have been received, and we anticipate starting construction in the near future. As you may recall, the project has been under design and FDOT permitting for some time, and this is the configuration the FDOT approved for permitting purposes. Because a car exiting Hornblower will be exiting from the right side of the road, it looks like there may be enough room to position oneself in the median before merging into traffic (this would be for one car; two cars could not do that and stage at the same time). Included Tip for FYI as well:

Isaac Brownman  
Director Public Works  
Town of Longboat Key

## Country Club Shores Turn Lane

To: Jeff McKee

I will follow-up and get back to you. This project will be covered in the 1:00 Commission meeting at Town Hall on Monday. I suggest you or Chris attend and share your concerns. I will be out of town.

Mike Haycock  
Vice Mayor  
Town of Longboat Key

## Country Club Shores Turn Lane

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Issac Brownman

Passing on for input and follow-up. Can you forward the most recent drawing of this area.

Mike Haycock  
Vice Mayor  
Town of Longboat Key

## Country Club Shores Turn Lane

To: Longboat Key Vice Mayor Mike Haycock

Chris and I read the article in the newspaper and are concerned about the proposed curbed median south of Hornblower Ln. We have lived on Hornblower for 25 years. While we welcome a turn lane on GOM we feel the curbed median will create more problems for us when turning south from Hornblower Ln. One of the purposes of such a lane should also be the merging of traffic onto GOM. The curbed median would prohibit this function for residents on our street. I understand the aesthetics of a median but it shouldn’t impede flow. We ask that the town/commissioners reconsider the placement of the median as shown in the Observer article.

Jeff McKee  
Longboat Key

## To: Mary Ciner

Good idea Mary. We can pass this along to the County (copied).

Jen Ahearn-Koch  
Vice Mayor  
City Commissioner  
City of Sarasota

## Turn the town teal ribbons

To: Julie Franks

Thanks for the email. I do see in her email she will remove the ribbons after September 30, but I have copied the City Manager on this email to respond with the confirmed removal date and/or any detailed that were worked out for the awareness effort.

Jen Ahearn-Koch  
Vice Mayor  
City of Sarasota

## Turn the town teal ribbons

To: Sarasota City Vice Mayor Jen Ahearn-Koch

Hello, I live in Sarasota off Bahia Vista and have noticed the teal ribbons wrapped around almost every post along the street. I google searched and found a few public emails from Amy Kipla to yourself but no other city commissioners giving approval for the ribbons. I also do not see a date for the ribbons to be taken down after September 30th, ending the awareness month. Can I get some clarity on this because these ribbons are now coming untied and they don’t look so great. I have attached the email from

Amy to yourself along with a photo I just took this morning, September 24, 2024.

Julie Franks  
Sarasota



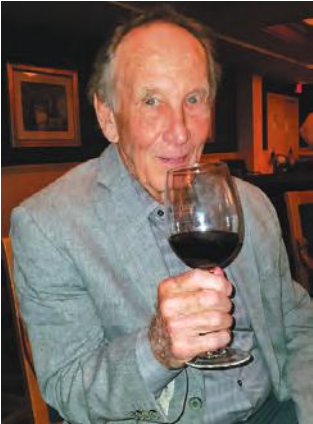
# WineTimes

## The value of unusual blends

*The tried and true classic blends of wines from premium producers command high prices. For the main part, unusual blends tend to have lower prices.*

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

A varietal wine contains a very high percentage of one variety of wine or only one variety of wine. Think of a red Burgundy (Pinot Noir), a white Burgundy (Chardonnay), a California Cabernet Sauvignon, an Italian Barola (Nebbiolo) or Chianti (Sangiovese), a Spanish Tempranillo, or a French Cahors or Argentine Malbec. These wines often combine grapes from different plots and clones, but all from the same variety.



Blending of varieties of wine has become an art form in designated regions of France. In Bordeaux, judicious red wine blends of Left Bank Cabernet Sauvignon or Right Bank Merlot or Cabernet Franc with Malbec or Petit Verdot adds depth and hue to a primary wine varietal, or, in the case of white Bordeaux, blending Sémillon smooths the acidic edge of Sauvignon Blanc. These Bordeaux blends and the Rhône Valley red wine blends of Syrah, Grenache, and Mourvèdre (GSM) and white wine blends of Roussane and Marsanne give us superb examples of classic complementary wines.

The tried and true classic blends of wines from premium producers command high prices. For the main part, unusual blends tend to have lower prices.

Exceptions among unusual blends, such as the Super Tuscans from, as one would expect, the Tuscany region of Italy, have gained cult followings willing to pay premium prices. (Robert Parker, the popular wine writer and rater, came up with the label “Super Tuscan” in his 1971 reviews of the unusual Tignanello blend of 80% Sangiovese and 20% Carbernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc.) We must remember that the cult favorites originated as unusual blends that many savvy buyers appreciated and bought as bargains before more cautious buyers joined the cult and pushed prices higher.

The risks of buying a case of the early release of an unusual blend of wine varieties can be mitigated by considering the factors that make or break wines. Look for wine made from grapes grown on mature vines in dry soils during a good vintage for a wine in a region. Check the background of the winery and the winemaker. Let your tastes be your guide. At the least, you should like the primary wine in the blend.

We recommend that you taste in a wine shop or buy a bottle of these unusual blends if you can find them priced close to what we have paid:

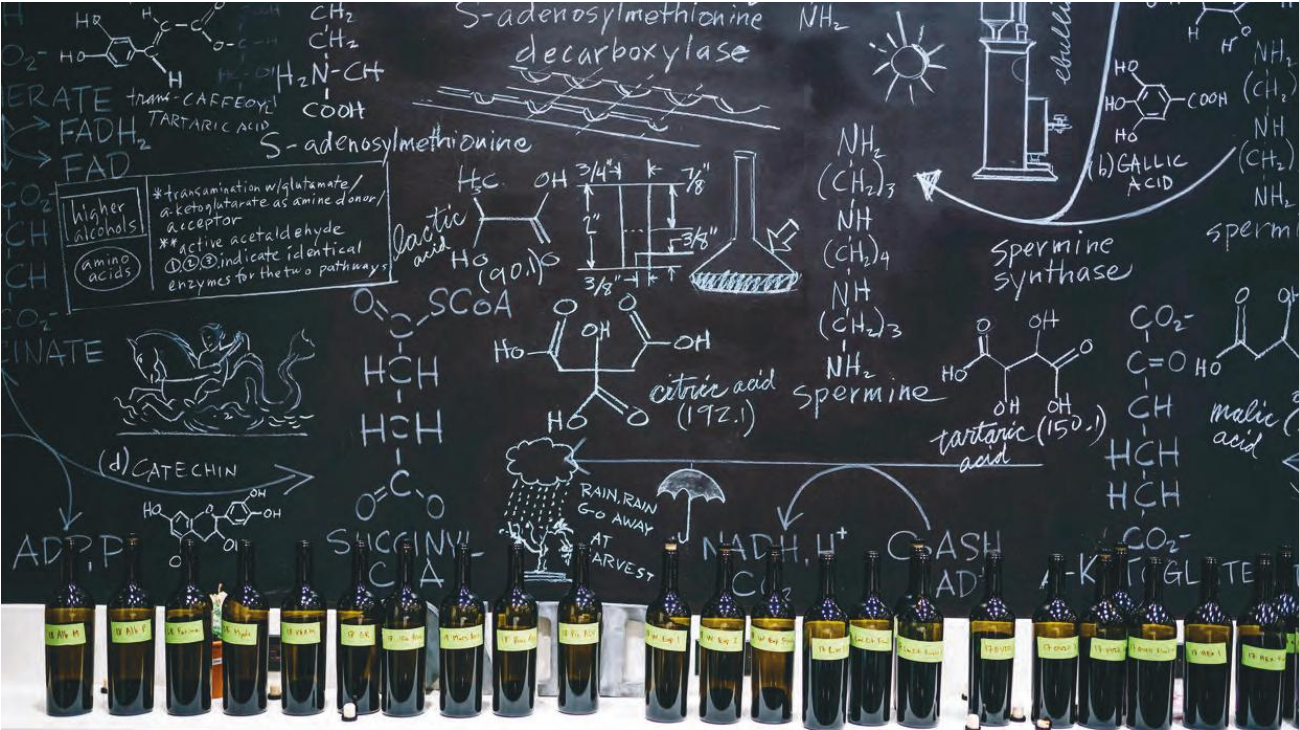
2022 Avaline White Blend (\$16). This blend of three wines - Malvasia, Macabeo, Xarel-lo often used to produce Cava (sparkling) wines in the Penedès region of Spain - has clean and refreshing tastes and floral notes, and, as with Pinot Grigio and Chenin Blanc, complements light fin fish, chicken, and grilled veggies.

2021 Marietta Cellars Christo (\$29). 60% Syrah, 24% Grenache, 12% Petite Sirah, 4% Viognier includes Petite Sarah to add depth to a California North Coast estate-grown Rhône blend. Dark fruit and spice flavors in this robust wine pair well with grilled lamb, pork, or beefsteak, and with game.

2021 Matrix Russian River Valley 50% Zinfandel 50% Petite Sirah (\$34) red blend. This blend of California wines is becoming more and more popular in the golden state. The bold and spicy tastes in this wine matches up to a wide variety of hot Latinx and Asian dishes, root vegetables, and dark chocolate.

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

Rich Hermansen selected has first wine list for a restaura-



nant 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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**Helene, from page 1**

those who had evacuated.

Another concern for Dezzi was the prospect of electric vehicles left charging in garages that likely flooded. Town Manager Howard Tipton spent the entirety of the previous evening on the Key and said the storm surge was up to six feet and that Gulf of Mexico Drive was “left like a sand dune. Our beach is largely on Gulf of Mexico Drive now.”

Tipton said 20 cars were found stuck on Gulf of Mexico Drive and that the state road would have to be rebuilt and the north entrance will be compromised and impassable for some time. Residents at the meeting said they needed to return to their homes quickly to perform the same kind of work property managers do and to not compound the damage by allowing contents to mold and fester.

**Siesta Key and St. Armands**

St. Armands Circle and its numerous businesses stood in several feet of water during the height of the surge. Lido Key residents as well as Longboat and Siesta Key will have suffered a total loss to hundreds and hundreds of vehicles, virtually any vehicle that was not parked either in a elevated garage or in an elevated condominium garage.

The impact on Siesta Key was equally severe with most every home built on grade flooded unless it was above seven feet in elevation.

On Friday, residents were let back onto Siesta Key, but roads were mostly impassable and there was no electricity nor water. Florida Power and Light could not give any forecast as to when power would be restored and the county was struggling to operate the nearly two dozen lift stations on the island, which were overrun and needed to be reenergized and repaired.

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On the Sarasota the mainland, 24 hours after the storm, everything appeared mostly back to normal. Roads were clear, electricity on and unless an anomalous flood zone, the impact was minimal.

But for those who lived on islands or directly on Sarasota’s waterways, the storm will have long-lasting consequences and costs and will remain a harbinger as the region enters the uncharted waters of sea level rise and increasing oceanic temperatures.



Longboat Key News

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