



# Longboat Key News

January 31, 2025

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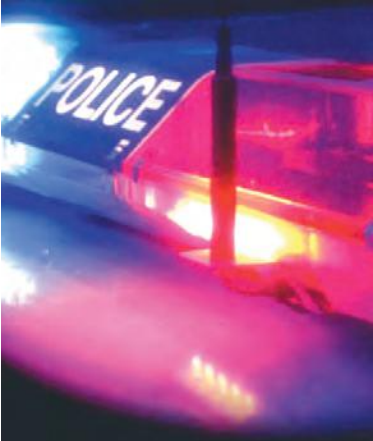
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LBK Ed Center  
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Take note of  
your wines  
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St. Armands tops  
\$5.4 million  
...page 12



Man is “glad to  
be educated”  
...page 10

## Mote Receives 22 Green Turtles in Wake of Recent Cold Snap

*Mote’s expert Sea Turtle Rehabilitation team developed individualized treatment plans based on each turtle’s condition.*

As Atlantic temperatures drop into the 50s, hundreds of green sea turtles are being rescued from the frigid waters off Florida’s East Coast. Last week alone, Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium’s Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Hospital received 22 cold-stunned juvenile green turtles.

Cold-stunning occurs when turtles become lethargic due to rapidly dropping water temperatures. As ectothermic, or “cold-blooded,” animals, sea turtles cannot regulate their body temperature internally and rely on their environment to stay warm. When water temperatures drop too quickly, turtles can go into a hypothermic-like state where their body functions slow dramatically. Cold-stunned turtles often appear lifeless, floating at the water’s surface or onshore, leaving them vulnerable to predators, boat strikes, and exposure-related complications such as pneumonia, infection, and frostbite.

During this cold-stunning event, the affected turtles were initially brought to The Sea Turtle Hospital at the University of Florida Whitney Laboratory in St. Augustine, Florida, for triage. As part of a coordinated rescue effort, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), New



England Aquarium, and multiple rehabilitation facilities across the state work together to ensure turtles receive the care they need. Once stabilized, the turtles are distributed among rehabilitation centers, including Mote Marine Laboratory, for further treatment.

Upon arrival at Mote’s Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Hospital, the turtles undergo thorough health assessments. Mote’s expert Sea Turtle Rehabilitation team then develops individualized treatment plans based on each turtle’s condition. Over the next several days, the turtles are slowly warmed, with their tank water temperature increasing by approximately 3–4 degrees per day until it reaches the optimal range of 79-80 degrees. They are closely monitored to ensure they can lift their heads above the

**See Turtles, page 2**

## Promising Red Tide Initiative Technologies tested



*Three promising red tide mitigation technologies have completed rigorous laboratory testing and received regulatory approvals to begin the field deployment research stage, says Mote Marine Laboratory.*

These advancements mark a significant milestone in the fight against Florida’s and harmful red tide, *Karenia brevis* blooms, and offer a science-based path toward reducing their detrimental effects on marine ecosystems, public health, and Florida’s economy.

Red tides, or red tide harmful algal blooms, are a higher-than-normal concentration of microscopic alga that occur in ocean and coastal waters. In Florida, the toxin producing *Karenia brevis* is the species causing most red tides. Red tides in Florida have been documented since the 1700’s and can harmfully affect sea life, lead to massive fish kills, cause human respiratory problems, close beaches, and determinately impact shellfish, fishing, hotel, restaurant, recreational, and tourism industries.

To address this challenge, Mote partnered with the State of Florida through the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to establish the Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development Initiative. This Initiative, is an independent and coordinated effort among public and private research entities to develop prevention, control and mitigation technologies and approaches that will decrease the impacts of Florida red tide.

Since its inception in 2019 in response to the devastating 2018–2019 red tide bloom, the Initiative has funded more than 50 external partners, supported over 40 projects, and examined hundreds of compounds and mitigation technologies. Among these, three are now in the field deployment testing stage, with several others advancing toward pilot-scale testing. Field trials allow for the collection of in-water data under field conditions, building upon the laboratory research with natural ecosystem components from Mote’s state-of-the-art HAB testing facility.

**See Red Tide, page 2**



Turtles, from page 1

water to breathe properly (clearing) and regain full use of their flippers. If a turtle cannot breathe on its own, it is dry-docked while it regains strength.

During their stay, the turtles receive a complex diet consisting of capelin, squid, shrimp, lettuce, and seagrass. As they recover, they are gradually introduced to Environmental Enrichment Devices (EEDs), which help them reacclimate to the marine environment prior to release. Supportive care—including fluid therapy, antibiotics if needed, and careful observation—typically results in a successful recovery, allowing the turtles to return to the wild.

The last major cold-stunning event that impacted the entire state of Florida was in 2010, when over 5000 sea turtles were stranded. In past years, Mote has primarily rehabilitated cold-stunned Kemp’s ridley turtles transported from New England. Once fully recovered, these juvenile green turtles will be released back along Florida’s East Coast.

Each group of cold-stunned turtles is given themed names to help staff track and remember them in the years to come. This year, the theme is birds, with names such as Owl, Raven, Bluejay, Finch, and Crow. To follow their rehabilitation progress, visit [mote.org/hospital](http://mote.org/hospital).

Mote’s Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Hospital had been closed for four months following the back-to-back hurricanes in late 2024. Severe water and wind damage forced extensive rebuilding efforts, including tearing out walls, replacing pumps, and installing new appliances like refrigerators and washing machines. The hospital was scheduled to reopen the following Monday, but when FWC called for assistance, Mote’s team quickly mobilized to provide emergency care.

Red Tide, from page 1

Three of the Initiative’s projects are in the field deployment stage (with several others to be considered over the next year) and nearing the implementation testing stage:

CLEAR - Principal Investigator: Dr. Dana Wetzel

CLEAR is a novel, naturally derived biocide developed by Mote’s Environmental Laboratory for Forensics. Harnessing the properties of natural plant-based compounds, CLEAR targets *K. brevis* with no environmental impact. CLEAR’s active ingredients are classified as Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS) by the FDA, and studies show no measurable accumulation in the environment. The all-natural biocide degrades fully within half a day, ensuring its safety for marine ecosystems. Regulatory approvals from the EPA, FDACS, and DEP allow for rapid deployment of CLEAR in the event of a bloom. Mote has developed multiple formulations

of CLEAR to ensure versatility. Engineered particle treatments can be deployed on surface waters via vessel-mounted blowers, drones, or backpack sprayers. For underwater applications, remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) or autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) deliver the liquid form directly into blooms. This liquid application may also be deployed sub-surface with a specially equipped boat. CLEAR-embedded dissolvable beads provide sustained protection for 30-60 days, ideal for canals, marinas, and other vulnerable areas. This multi-faceted approach ensures targeted and effective mitigation.

Xtreme - Principal Investigator: Dr. Rich Pierce

Xtreme is a natural, non-toxic water treatment product developed by Heartland Energy Group. Previously used for blue-green algae (a freshwater HAB), Xtreme has demonstrated significant effectiveness against *K. brevis*. Lab testing and mesocosm experiments at Mote confirmed Xtreme’s ability to reduce red tide cells and brevetoxins while posing no harm to marine life, including commercially important clams. Xtreme offers a natural solution that could help control blooms. This product is deployed by a large handheld sprayer.

Ozonix - Principal Investigator: Dr. Rich Pierce

OZONIX® is a patented, chemical-free water treatment technology that combines several processes to eliminate *K. brevis* cells and their toxins. It uses hydrodynamic cavitation (a process that creates bubbles in the water to break apart harmful substances), ozone injection (adding ozone gas to the water, which helps break down toxins), ultrasonic acoustic cavitation (using sound waves to create bubbles that break down harmful materials), and electrochemical oxidation (a process where electricity helps remove contaminants). These techniques work by running large hoses into the water that are connected to a trailer outfitted with a complex water system. Together, these techniques effectively address the red tide algae and its toxins. This mobile technology has been used successfully in demanding industries for over 20 years and is now being adapted for red tide mitigation. Mote’s studies demonstrate that Ozonix effectively destroys red tide and toxins without harming marine organisms. With its mobility, scalability, and ability to rapidly deploy, Ozonix can treat large volumes of water, preventing blooms from expanding into severe outbreaks.

“Our work through the Red Tide Initiative demonstrates the power of innovation, collaboration, and scientific rigor in addressing a complex environmental issue,” said Dr. Michael P. Crosby, President & CEO of Mote Marine Laboratory. “The technologies we are advancing will have a lasting impact on Florida’s environment and communities, and we are grateful for the continued support from the State of Florida and our research partners.”



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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.

## Construction Labor

To: Longboat Key Commission  
As far as I have seen over the past thirty years on LBK, the great majority of builders are having difficulty hiring qualified workers. I believe most of the foundation, framing and roofing work is being performed by Latino workers. I assume some of these people are undocumented. Will deporting law abiding, tax paying workers impact recovery efforts?  
Gene Jaleski  
Longboat Key

## NAVD Canal Measurements

To: Longboat Key Planner Tate Taylor  
The Town has not established a fixed reference point for measuring the vertical datum of

Longboat’s canals.  
Julie Anderson  
Officer Manager Public Works  
Town of Longboat Key

## NAVD Canal Measurements

To: Chris Sachs  
I am forwarding your inquiry to Julie, Office Manager at our Public Works (PW’s) Department as they work with the canals in the Town. Perhaps in the meantime you could send along the contact information of the Surveyor in case PW’s has some follow-up questions.  
Tate Taylor  
Town Planner  
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 8

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# WineTimes

## Wine Tasting Notes

*“Very few if any of the wines at this tasting will have enough sugar to make them sweet.”*

**S.W. and Rich Hermansen**  
Guest Writers  
[wine@lbknews.com](mailto:wine@lbknews.com)

Wine dinners afford the opportunity to taste a variety of wines from (generally) the same vineyard when paired by a chef to a series of dishes. Wine tastings, say the 2025 Butcher’s Block 12th Annual Grand Tent Tasting in Sarasota FL, allow people interested in wine the chance to sample a hundred or more wines. Winemakers, importers, distributors, and their reps pour wines at tables and patiently answer questions from attendees holding out wine glasses like nestlings holding their beaks open and ready for their parents to feed them. At some tables the same questions arise.

“Do you have a sweet wine?” a woman in her early forties asks at the Treasury Wine Group Table 13 as her two friends hover behind her. The Treasury rep stands behind a selection of Australian Penfolds Cab/Shiraz and California Stags Leap Petite Sirah, and BV Rutherford Reserve Cab. “Very few if any of the wines at this tasting will have enough sugar to make them sweet,” the rep answers with no hint of condescension. “You might want to try California Chardonnay or Pinot Noir, some of them have fruit flavors that taste sweet, or I believe that I saw an Italian Ripasso or a Moscato dessert wine on the wine list. The Moscato will have a heavy dose of residual sugar that will satisfy any sweet tooth.”

Indeed, Trincherro Family Estates did not bring their lucrative Sutter Home White Zinfandel or M n ge   Trois Dolce sweet wines to the tasting, opting instead to introduce wines from Northern Spain regions of the Ribera del Duero, Rioja, Priorat, and Rias Baixas. Good choices, we have to admit.

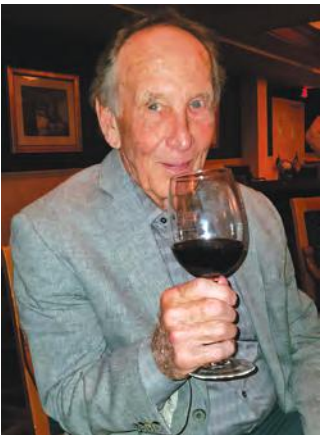
In a similar move, Hess wines stepped up from its mass market wines to its mid-to-upper tier priced wines for this tasting. In addition to five premium Cabernet Sauvignon and red blend wines, the Hess reps poured a 2021 Sonoma Coast “Mardikian” Pinot Noir (\$100) from a select plot. This wine and the 2022 Willamette Valley Vineyards Bernau Block Pinot Noir (\$53) from Oregon rival the premier Burgundy red wines that we have tasted in France.

Other stars of the tasting deserve special mention. The Duckhorn Vineyard Goldeneye Ros  Brut (\$25) from California, the Babylonstoren Mourvedre Ros  (\$19) from South Africa, and the Trincherro Terras Gauda Albarino O’Rosai (\$20), an “ r nge” wine, worked well as refreshing preludes to numerous flinty white wines and robust red wines that dominated the wine list. Tom Hannon, a Sarasota resident representing Tuscany Distributors of Orlando FL, brought several worthy contributors to the scope of the tasting: the 2020 Gen tie Illumin  Bourgogne (Blanc) (\$25), a lovely aged Chardonnay from Burgundy with characteristic peach and floral nectar tastes; a 2021 Boscaini Carlo Valpolicella Ripasso (\$24), made from Northern Italian fruit dried to raisin sweetness prior to fermentation; and, the 2021 Ca’Montebello di Scarani Luigi Barbera (\$26) from Lombardy in Italy, with flavors of cherries and spices.

Among the other notable white wines, the 2021 Ceretto Arneis Langhe Blange (\$19), the 2023 Willamette Valley Pinot Noir Blanc (\$29), and the 2022 DeLille Chaleur Blanc (\$23) white Bordeaux blend of Sauvignon Blanc and S millon from Washington State.

The dominant wine variety in the tasting, Cabernet Sauvignon, comprising about a quarter of the wines on the list, can be found in the tip tier price section of any fine wine shop. No bargains there .... You will find better values in the 2021 Hartford Court Pinot Noir (\$35) from the Russian River of California and the 2021 Bele Glos Dairyman Pinot Noir (\$40) from the same Russian River region as the Hartford Court.

The Butcher’s Block has stocked these wines and others that ne would struggle to find elsewhere in areas other than the major urban centers. Ask for discounted Tent Tasting prices when adding quality wines to your cellar.



*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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# Editor Letters



**Letters, from page 4**

**NAVD Canal Measurements**

To: Longboat Key Planner Tate Taylor

A number of Country Club Shore residents, as well as a contractor and local surveyor have asked if the Town of LBK has established a fixed reference point or “gage datum” for measuring the vertical datum (NAVD) of Longboat’s canals. (This is of particular interest to me as well, given I will be providing an “as built” survey upon completion of my new seawall)! Thanks and I hope your 2025 has gotten off to a good start.

Chris Sachs  
Longboat Key

**Comments Regarding Revised Boat Lift Height Proposal**

To: Longboat Key Commission

We would like to make some comments in regard to the upcoming Commission meeting and agenda item related to the height of boat lifts.

Given the significant impact this proposed change would have on the Key, it seems important that the Commission not rush into a change but instead allow sufficient time for careful consideration of the issues involved.

Over the years Longboat Key has prided itself on assuring that property owners and the Key’s views were protected by passing building height and other restrictions. These protective measures were brought about through careful consideration of often conflicting needs. The St. Regis serves as a prime example of discussion and compromise resulting in an outcome that helped maintain Longboat’s standards.

The current proposed boat lift height change would greatly affect the look of the Key and directly impact waterfront properties and property owners. Many residents have not yet had time to digest the proposal recently approved by the Planning Board, complicated by the fact that many of those that will be impacted remain distracted with post storm home restoration.

The current proposal recommends changing the allowable height of a boat lift from 5 feet above a specific surface to 11 feet above mean high water. This is a large change, and notably now would exclude guides and motors from the height restriction. Certainly boats placed on lifts this high would block the view of many residents. The lifted boats will affect neighboring properties, not just the lift owner’s property, as views up and down the waterfront will also be significantly impacted.

The selection of the new height proposed warrants further discussion. Why should Longboat go this high? What are the pros and cons, including the risks associated with hurricane winds on boats lifted to these heights? Does this increase the hazard potential to neighboring properties?

A reasonable discussion might include raising the height from five to seven feet, with the

lifted height of boats being restricted to the five feet on a normal basis and permitted to be elevated during storm conditions. It seems questionable that any new height limits should be based on outlier conditions or that such heights should be allowed in non-storm times.

Clearly many boats, and many homes, were damaged from the extreme surge and wind conditions of this year’s hurricane season. The height of a lifted boat is one factor to consider in terms of this boat damage, but other factors should be recognized as well. These other factors include ones that are under an owner’s control such as properly securing a vessel during storm warnings, utilizing appropriate strength hurricane straps, and maintaining lifts of proper strength.

We are sympathetic with all our neighbors who suffered lost or damaged boats, and lost or damaged homes.

Yet we firmly believe that approving the proposal as currently worded in response to these losses is not the appropriate solution.

We look forward to an active discussion at the upcoming Town Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kip and Cathy Becker  
Longboat Key

**Comments Regarding Revised Boat Lift Height Proposal**

To: Cathy Becker

There is no address with this letter. Helpful since you are talking about your dock.

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

**Concerns on Proposed Boat Lift Pole Height Increase**

To: Longboat Key Commission

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the proposal set to be voted on next week, which would allow the height of poles supporting boat lift motors to increase from the current 5 feet above the dock surface to 11 feet. While we understand the motivation behind this proposal, particularly considering recent hurricanes such as Helene and Milton, we strongly believe that this decision is being made too quickly and without sufficient input or consideration of the broader impact on our community.

Longboat Key has invested millions to remove utility poles and install underground power lines to preserve the aesthetic beauty of our island. Allowing boat lift poles to more than double in height would work directly against these efforts, creating what we believe to be unnecessary “pole pollution.” The visual impact of an additional six feet would be significant, making these

**See Letters, page 12**

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**575 Sanctuary Drive #A303 - \$1,999,000**  
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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.

## Jan. 24 Cleaning

3:30 p.m.  
Officer Ericsson and Officer Miklos were dispatched to Bay Isles Parkway regarding a verbal disturbance. Upon arrival, officers contacted the manager of the cleaners. The manager and another man were involved in a verbal argument over two pairs of pants that were lost by the cleaner. The manager said he paid the customer by check for one pair of pants that were lost but the second pair was located and returned to the man. The manager further stated it was the cleaner’s policy which is written on the back of each ticket that their business is not responsible for lost articles. The manager agreed to pay for one pair of pants, but denied paying for the second pair, which upset the customer. The customer was irate and demanded to be paid for the second pair of pants or else he would not leave. The customer stated the second pair of pants they claimed were his, did not belong to him. Officer Miklos reminded the customer of the business’s policy regarding lost items and advised him the issue was civil in nature. Furthermore, Officer Miklos advised the customer that it was in his best interest to leave the business voluntarily without further incident. The customer left voluntarily with two pairs of pants and the check given to him by the manager. The incident was civil in nature and no offense occurred. Case clear.

## Case clear

10:30 p.m.  
Officer Maple while on patrol conducted a speed enforcement at the 400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive and witnessed a northbound dark colored vehicle traveling at a visually estimated speed of 50 mph. Later identified as a black Chevy Malibu whose speed was measured at 50 mph in a 35 mph. Officer Maple made contact with the driver who said he did not have his Driver’s License as he left his wallet at home. When asked the status of his Driver’s License, the driver said it was suspended. The man was processed and released in the field with a uniformed traffic citation and scheduled to appear in Sarasota County Court. While completing processing, the driver advised his family member who had a valid license was going to remove the vehicle from the scene. The driver was again advised not to drive until his possessed a valid driver’s license. The driver was also issued a written warning for his speed violation for which he was originally stopped. Case clear.

## Jan. 25 Guard

5:30 p.m.  
Officer Martinson was dispatched to Bay Isles on a call of a citizen assist. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson met with the security officer inside the gate house. The security guard stated that approximately 5:30 p.m., a man riding a bike was not paying attention and rode right into the down gate arm. The guard stated the man was not injured and was no longer on scene. The guard said the bicyclist’s name and where he lived. The guard said the gate was not damaged and it just needed to be popped back on with a new plastic bolt. The guard said he needed a police report to document the incident. Case clear.

## Jan. 26 Noise

10:52 a.m.  
Officer Ericsson was dispatched to Hibiscus Way and Poinsettia Avenue on a noise disturbance. Upon arrival, Officer Ericsson contacted the caller who said there was construction work being done on Hibiscus Way. Officer Ericsson advised the caller that the current Town Ordinance allows for construction to be done on Sundays through the end of January due to the recent hurricanes. He said he understood and thanked him for the information. Case clear.



## Fishing

12:20 p.m.  
Officer Ericsson was dispatched to Longboat Drive East on a trespassing involving multiple parties fishing on the caller’s dock. The caller was watching the individuals via surveillance system. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson, Officer Miklos and Officer Ericsson observed five people leaving the property with fishing equipment. Officers contacted the five mentioned subjects who stated they were leaving. The caller said he had permission from the next door neighbor to be on their property and admitted he should not have been on the caller’s dock. Officer Ericsson advised the group that they should not enter someone’s property without an invitation or permission. Officer Ericsson contacted the caller and advised him of the conversation with the group and he said he just wanted

everyone to leave. Case clear.

## Jan. 27 Cars

11:51 a.m.  
Officer Van Dyke responded to Bay Isles Parkway in reference to an illegally parked car hauler. Upon arrival, Officer Van Dyke observed a man standing near a car hauler titled ‘Classic Car Hauler’ parked in the outside lane of Bay Isles Parkway. As Officer Van Dyke approached, the man inquired where he could park such a large vehicle. Officer Van Dyke advised the subject that a car hauler’s are directed to load/unload near Bay isles Road. The subject was glad to be educated. The driver was also excited that it’s a safer alternative to attempting a U-turn on Gulf of Mexico Drive as well. Officer Van Dyke stayed on scene until the vehicle left the scene and relocated. Case clear.

## Buoys

4:34 p.m.  
Sgt. Montfort was contacted by Chief Rubino who stated that Town Commissioner Gary Coffin observed several crab traps in the channel near the Quick Point Preserve. Sgt. Montfort deployed the patrol boat from the south end boat lift and observed numerous blue buoys floating in the channel. The channel was poorly marked due to the hurricane damage, however, the traps still did pose as a hazard to navigation. Sgt. Montfort observed the numerous buoys to be blue in color. Sgt. Montfort noted the GPS coordinates and made contact with the Florida Fish and Wildlife who will have a representative will further investigate. Case clear.

## Jan. 28 Trespassing

10:39 a.m.  
Officer Pescuma was dispatched to Bay Isles Parkway in reference to a vehicle that accessed the gate without authorization. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma spoke with the security guard at the shack who said that a man in a dark colored pickup truck was going to Bayou Circle and was not int eh computer system to be granted access, but proceeded through the gate anyway. Officer Pescuma asked the guard if the subject was conducting work at the house of if he was a friend/relative of the homeowner in which she was unaware. She attempted to call the homeowner with negative results. Officer Pescuma proceeded to Bayou Circle where he observed a Gray Ford Pickup truck and two men in the garage. Officer Pescuma made contact with the homeowner and his nephew who was driving and had permission to be on the property, however he just got back into town and has yet to add his nephew to the access list. The homeowner stated that he will provide proper documentation to the front gate staff to avoid further complications. Officer Pescuma advised the complainant of the findings and she was pleased that the guard of his findings and she was pleased that the homeowner will add his nephew to the access list.

## Noise

8:22 p.m.  
Officer Troyer responded to St. Judes Drive for a report of a noise complaint. Upon arrival, Officer Troyer did not hear much music coming from the residence. Officer Troyer spoke with the caller to which the caller reported the neighbor whom was identified through previous contact, turned the music down. The caller said the music was previously loud which was why he called, but he did not find the music currently annoying or loud. Officer Troyer arrived at the residence and knocked multiple times and finally spoke with the homeowner and said to turn the music down to which he complied. Officer Troyer observed music coming from the residence, however the music did not appear to be an ordinance violation. Case clear.

## Jan. 29 Driver’s license

8:51 a.m.  
Officer Miklos while on patrol in the 4400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive, observed a gray Nissan truck traveling southbound with no headlights. At the time, there was a weather alert for dense fog in the area. As Officer Miklos got behind the vehicle, and noticed vehicles traveling northbound flick their headlights at the Nissan truck. At the time, Officer Miklos initiated a traffic stop on the truck via emergency lights and met with the driver. Officer Miklos advised the driver the reason for the stop. The driver advised he did not have a driver’s license and has not had one since around 1992 due to legal issues. The driver provided a Florida ID card. He advised his son was enroute to pick up the vehicle with a valid license. The driver was issued a Manatee County Court date and was issued a warning for operating a vehicle without headlights during dense fog. The driver acknowledged his mandatory court appearance through signature. Case clear.

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526 N SPOONBILL DR	2,762	\$3,400,000	3	2	0	4	\$3,150,000
465 CLEVELAND DR	1,924	\$1,395,000	2	2	0	15	\$1,275,000
3596 FAIR OAKS LN	3,416	\$2,495,000	4	3	2	11	\$2,395,000
5635 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#103	1,786	\$1,695,000	2	2	0	13	\$1,450,000
3060 GRAND BAY BLVD Unit#111	2,925	\$1,699,000	3	3	0	311	\$1,400,000
3605 FAIR OAKS PL	3,713	\$1,490,000	4	3	1	29	\$1,400,000
3453 WINDING OAKS DR Unit#27	2,608	\$1,150,000	3	3	0	388	\$1,050,000
4485 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#803	1,022	\$989,000	2	2	0	36	\$960,000
2089 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#G1-203	1,214	\$749,000	2	2	1	28	\$681,497
1930 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#122	1,192	\$649,000	2	2	0	176	\$625,000



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# Editor Letters

**Letters, from page 8**

structures far more noticeable and detracting from the scenic waterfront that residents and visitors alike appreciate.

As a boat owner, I currently have a 24.5-foot fishing boat with a hardtop. Even with the existing 5-foot pole height restriction, the top of my boat reaches approximately 10 feet in the air when lifted. If the proposed 11-foot poles are approved, boats could be positioned 16 feet or more above the dock, creating a much larger visual obstruction—especially for those with vessels closer to the 30-foot lift limit. Larger boats also tend to have wider beams, further increasing their visual impact and the potential for blocking or impeding neighbors’ waterfront views.

Additionally, we question the basis for selecting an 11-foot height. When Hurricane Helene struck, the 7-foot storm surge was the highest ever recorded on Longboat Key. While my boat remained secure due to proper preparation, my lift’s electronics and motor were damaged. A neighbor’s boat, however, was lost due to inadequate securing—highlighting the importance of preparation rather than just pole height. When Hurricane Milton threatened the island with a projected 15-foot surge, we were fortunate that this did not materialize. But even if it had, 11-foot poles would not have guaranteed protection. This raises the concern that such a drastic change is an overcorrection based on a worst-case scenario that has not yet occurred.

If additional height is deemed necessary, a more measured approach should be taken—perhaps an increase of one or two

feet rather than a full six feet. The residents of Longboat Key have the means to prepare for storms, and while no precaution is foolproof, it seems excessive to implement such a dramatic change for an event that may never occur again. We must also consider the unintended consequences of this proposal, including the impact on property values and the overall aesthetic of our waterfront.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Commission to delay this decision, allow for more resident input, and explore alternative solutions that balance storm preparedness with the preservation of our community’s beauty.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your service to Longboat Key and look forward to a thoughtful discussion on this important matter.

James Glen Brown and Valerie Brown  
Longboat Key

**Comments Regarding Revised Boat Lift Height Proposal**

To: Longboat Key Commission

We would like to make some comments in regard to the upcoming Commission meeting and agenda item related to the height of boat lifts.

Given the significant impact this proposed change would have on the Key, it seems important that the Commission not rush into a change but instead allow sufficient time for careful consideration of the issues involved.

Over the years Longboat Key has prided itself on assuring

that property owners and the Key’s views were protected by passing building height and other restrictions. These protective measures were brought about through careful consideration of often conflicting needs. The St. Regis serves as a prime example of discussion and compromise resulting in an outcome that helped maintain Longboat’s standards.

The current proposed boat lift height change would greatly affect the look of the Key and directly impact waterfront properties and property owners. Many residents have not yet had time to digest the proposal recently approved by the Planning Board, complicated by the fact that many of those that will be impacted remain distracted with post storm home restoration.

The current proposal recommends changing the allowable height of a boat lift from 5 feet above a specific surface to 11 feet above mean high water. This is a large change, and notably now would exclude guides and motors from the height restriction. Certainly boats placed on lifts this high would block the view of many residents. The lifted boats will affect neighboring properties, not just the lift owner’s property, as views up and down the waterfront will also be significantly impacted.

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Clearly many boats, and many homes, were damaged from the extreme surge and wind conditions of this year’s hurricane season. The height of a lifted boat is one factor to consider in terms of this boat damage, but other factors should be recognized as well. These other factors include ones that are under an owner’s control such as properly securing a vessel during storm warnings, utilizing appropriate strength hurricane straps, and maintaining lifts of proper strength.

We are sympathetic with all our neighbors who suffered lost or damaged boats, and lost or damaged homes.

Yet we firmly believe that approving the proposal as currently worded in response to these losses is not the appropriate solution.

We look forward to an active discussion at the upcoming Town Meeting.  
Kip and Cathy Becker  
Longboat Key

**Comments Regarding Revised Boat Lift Height Proposal**

To: Cathy Becker

Please attend our meeting on Monday, February 3 beginning at 1 p.m. at Town Hall.  
Ken Schneier  
Mayor, Town of Longboat Key

**Spanish Main Update**

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

A handful of permits were issued yesterday so perhaps the rest will follow quickly. All we are doing is drywall 48” high so it’s not like we are asking for permission to build a nuclear reactor. I know the Town Staff are working overtime. Perhaps all these issues will be part of the Milton lessons learned discussions. Thank you for your help!

Tom Freiwald  
Longboat Key

**Spanish Main Update**

To: Tom Freiwald

Has the FEMA paperwork been submitted with the permit requests?  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key

**Spanish Main Update**

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

We still do not have any permits.  
Tom Freiwald  
Longboat Key

**Durante Park Walkway**

To: Longboat Key Assistant Town Manager Issac Brownman  
I know you and now Charlie have a lot of high priorities

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February is the busiest month of the year at The Education Center. A handful of programs such as Watercolor, Literary Gems, Chair Yoga, Private Piano Lessons, Hollywood Icons, At The Movies, Watercolor Etc., Advanced Intermediate Bridge, Chair Yoga, Mixed Levels Yoga, Mindfulness Meditation, Qigong, Annual Lecture Series, and iPHONE/iPAD, that began in January, will continue into February.

Two of our most attended Exclusive Engagements in our Sunday Performing Arts Programs are presented by the engaging musical biographer Susan Benjamin, with gifted Cantor Jay O'Brien, and the amazing Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe (WBTT), directed by Nate Jacobs, founder and artistic director of the troupe. This year Susan and Jay, accompanied by Robert Hanson on the piano, will bring you *The Sounds Of Simon: The Life and Music of Paul Simon* on Sunday, February 16, from 3:00-4:30 pm. WBTT will present *Men Of Soul!* On Sunday, March 9, from 7:30-8:30 pm. This will be a rousing evening as they perform hits from the late 1960s—James Brown, Otis Redding, and Sam Cooke, to name a few. Temple member and Longboater Sy Goldblatt has generously sponsored the WBTT events for many years for The Education Center. Both concerts will be followed by a complimentary champagne reception. Also included in our Sunday Performing Arts Programs in February is the entertaining storyteller, musician, and public speaker, Sandy Moulin, presenting *Over The Moon—The Story of Johnny Mercer*, on Sunday, February 9, from 3:00-4:15 pm.

Wind Down Wednesdays in February will bring back the enjoyable Thomas Carabasi New Jazz Standards Quartet playing jazz classics by Charlie Parker, George Gershwin, Carles Mingus and more, on Wednesday, February 26 from 5:00-6:30 pm. Wine and cheese are included with this Jazz Happy Hour. New Orleans Jazz & More with Kid Dutch and his jazz artists is back Tuesday, February 18 from 7:30-9:30.

A special art exhibition to honor The Highwaymen, African American landscape artists who sold their work from the trunks of their cars along the eastern coastal roads in Florida, will be



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on view from February 10-16. Twenty-two artists will be represented. The paintings will be provided by an anonymous collector and will be hung in the hallway as you enter the Education Center. This is a tribute to the artists and Black History month. For further enhancement and understanding of their amazing work, a lecture titled, The Art of The Highwaymen, will be given by art historian and lecturer Kevin Costello on Tuesday, February 11, from 3-4:30 pm.

Some highlights from our February schedule include: our annual Jewish/Israeli Film Festival, Hot Topics, Let's Go Birding, The Nature Of Longboat Key, Dean Martin And Sammy Davis Jr., Autobiography, Great Art Heists, Irving Berlin And Harold Arlen, Memorable And Enduring Speeches and much more!

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# Editor Letters



**Letters, from page 12**

on your plates, but I'm again asking about the repair schedule and timing for re-opening up the pedestrian walkways at Durante Park. As you well know, it's one of Longboat's premier walkways.  
Jack Daly  
Longboat Key

**Your help**

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
You may or may not remember me, but I and others here at Longboat Key played tennis with you a few years ago. Would it be possible for you to help with the on-going "problem" described in the self-explanatory message I sent to Howard Tipton, at <https://www.longboat-key.org/town-government/town-manager> ? I have not received any reply from him, and I would like to have a chance to practice and/or play tennis at either one of the Bayfront Park hard tennis courts. I was at the park again around 1:30 this afternoon (Monday, January 27, 2025), but was not able to use either one of the tennis courts because of the same situation described below, with the exception that today one (and only one) of the six pickeball courts was being used and half of both tennis courts were taken by pickleball players. Thanks for anything you can do.  
Marcelo Crespo da Silva  
Longboat Key

**Your help**

To: Marcelo Crespo da Silva  
I will follow up with Mr. Tipton tomorrow. We are dealing with a great deal of hurricane issues-my home was totaled.  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

**Your help**

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
Mark Richardson is reaching out to the Friends of Pickleball group to remind everyone that we support both tennis and pickleball and ask for their assistance in making everyone feel welcome.  
Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

**Designated Parking for Handicapped Dogs**

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton, Mayor Ken Schneider  
In July, we started a written dialogue regarding the use of the Bayfront dog park for handicapped dogs. An administrative Assistant was kind enough to call me to further discuss the issue and how I might want to see a policy implemented and I appreciated the attention and problem solving. The August, September and October storms hit and there were more immediate and pressing problems and understandably, the dialogue was left hanging. Therefore, I am resurrecting this issue in the hopes that we can come to a solution and I need your assistance.  
As we are getting back to normal, my problem still exists to wit: there are times I am unable to park near the entrance of the dog park to offload my three dogs, one of which is handicapped and has only three legs. She is not able to walk a great distance and on one occasion I double parked and was issued a citation. The park has been such a great addition but let's implement a policy/system/parking space whereby the dog park can be used for its intended purpose by all dogs. Perhaps a sticker which would allow me to park in a special parking spot during limited hours or some other policy. Mine is not a unique problem. If we work together, I know we can find a solution  
Debi Nettlow  
Longboat Key

**Designated Parking for Handicapped Dogs**

To: Debi Nettlow  
Thank you for your message through the Town's web portal. Your suggestion to provide some dedicated parking for people who have handicapped animals is the first time I've had this request and I've been doing this type of work for a few years now. You mentioned you've seen this in other areas and if you can recall where, we'd like to contact those cities to see how they make it work.  
Whether we're talking about able bodied people or animals, we appreciate being made aware of the challenges distance can make as it is your experience that increases our awareness. Thank you for letting us know and we look forward to exploring how this might work.  
Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

**Designated Parking for Handicapped Dogs**

To: Debi Nettlow  
This is something we can discuss. Maybe a space restricted to handicapped dogs could work.  
Ken Schneider  
Mayor  
Town of Longboat Key

**Designated Parking for Handicapped Dogs**

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider  
Thank you, Ken for your response. How do I move forward on this? As you can imagine it's really crowded this time of year up until June 1 or so. I appreciate your consideration.  
Debi Nettlow  
Longboat Key

**Longboat Key Undergrounding**

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider  
I apologize for my delayed response. I was stuck in a Manatee County Commission meeting all day yesterday, but I did have a chance to speak with Hau and discuss the remaining pieces of the conversion project.  
Last week at the ManaSota League of Cities, he provided Commissioner Bishop with a conservative timeline of "before June." However, I am working with the team to get a firmer date for you. From my understanding, pole removals in phase 3 were put on hold because communication lines had still not been removed (as of last week). The service to the St. Regis is scheduled to be completed in the next couple weeks and once that is done, we will see progress pick up some speed.  
We are all eager to complete this project and continue to be all hands-on deck to get it across the finish line. I will circle back with you, Howard and Isaac as soon as I firm up the date with the team.  
Devaney Iglesias  
Area Manager  
Florida Power & Light Company

**Longboat Key Undergrounding**

To: FPL Area Manager Devoney Iglesias  
In advance of our February Commission meeting next Monday, I thought I would check in concerning the finalization of our undergrounding project on Longboat Key. As we approach the 6 year mark of this program, about 50% of the island still has poles and wires along Gulf of Mexico Drive. Even after the recent storm-related delays, we were led to hope this equipment would be largely, if not completely, removed by the end of March. Can you confirm that is still the plan or if the target has been altered again?  
We do appreciate the added attention and manpower that has been directed to our project in recent months and look forward to removal of the last overhead pole and wire. Thanks again.  
Ken Schneider  
Mayor  
Town of Longboat Key

**Vote on wastewater Pipeline**

To: Jim Haft  
Yes, thank you. Attached is an FAQ and also a Powerpoint presentation that were developed. We would be happy to go over either one further, as needed.  
Isaac Brownman  
Assistant Town Manager , Town of Longboat Key

**Vote on wastewater Pipeline**

To: Jim Haft  
I know there are talking points in the works. Oddly, State law allows the Town to circulate facts and answer questions concerning a referendum, but we can not promote a position on the issue, other than to say the Commission approved the  
Jim: I know there are talking points in the works. Oddly, State law allows the Town to circulate facts and answer questions concerning a referendum, but we can not promote a position on the issue, other than to say the Commission approved the program (unanimously in this case). Thanks for your help.  
Ken Schneider  
Mayor, Town of Longboat Key

**Vote on wastewater Pipeline**

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider  
Could Charlie or Isaac or prepare a one-pager with a brief description of the project, why it must done, how much the State Revolving Loan will save the Town vs. alternative funding sources, and conclude with an "ask" for a Yes vote on March 11. I'll help them polish it up if they like. I'll pitch, post & distribute it as widely as possible when we get a little closer to the election.  
Jim Haft  
Longboat Key

**Vote on wastewater Pipeline**

To: Jim Haft  
Thanks, Jim. Yes, a simple majority of votes cast is what is needed. Any help you can give would be appreciated.  
Ken Schneider  
Mayor  
Town of Longboat Key

Vote on wastewater Pipeline  
To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider  
At our LBK North meeting yesterday, Isaac explained the benefits of voting YES on pipeline bond referendum. I'm happy to assist in an "Education/Get out the vote" drive for this issue. BTW, is a simple majority vote sufficient for approval?  
James G. Haft  
Longboat Key

**Vote on wastewater Pipeline**

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider  
I was at your meeting this week. I was very impressed with the Commissioners and how you handled the meeting. Thanks for all you are doing. I want to let our owners at Longboat Key Towers know about the financing vote. Can you tell me when the vote is and if there is any material I can share in advance of the vote. The question that will be on the ballot would be a big help.  
Barry Renninger  
Longboat Key



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