



Longboat Key News

September 8, 2023

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InsideLook



*Gulfside for \$6.45 million
...page 8*



*Who really won
the debate?
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bargain wine
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*Inflated goals in
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City balks at cost of roundabout art

Public Art Coordinator Mary Davis Wallace, offered excuses, explanations and possible compromises as a salvo to the bad news.

STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

The City grossly underestimated what it will cost to build concrete pads to hold the sculptures that were planned and approved by both the City and Florida Department of

Transportation (FDOT) for roundabouts in Downtown Sarasota.

Specifically, the fact that the bids for the concrete pads to mount the sculptures that were to be placed into the center of the roundabouts on US 41 at both 10th and 14th Streets came in at a total of

\$1.13 million from Jon F. Swift Construction. The City had only budgeted \$514,000 for the two pads and rejected the bid from Swift.

City staff, including City Manager Marlon Brown and City

See Sculpture, page 2

NewsWorthy

*The Following are
updates on Longboat
Key Town news and
projects...*

Hurricane Idalia

This storm was mostly a surge event with some wind and rain. The flooding on the bay side in low areas was significant. So that the Town can collect damage data that may help in receiving public assistance funding, please report any damage (water intrusion, structural damage) to permitdesk@longboatkey.org or you may call (941) 316-1966 to report it.

Greer Island Spit Removal and Canal 1A Dredging

Coastal Dredging and their subcontractor are completing the final dredging of the spit. The contractors are preparing to de-mobilizing the dredge equipment. The dune planting is complete. The contractor will work through the punch list items and submit final surveys for acceptance in the coming weeks.

FDOT Crosswalk work now underway on Longboat Key

FDOT has started construction of their crosswalk safety upgrade project. The project begins at the South end of Longboat Key and works its way North through Holmes Beach. The crosswalks included within the Town are Country Club Shores mid-block pedestrian crossing; Bayfront Park mid-block pedestrian crossing; near Banyan Bay Club; near Companion Way; and South of Broadway Street.

2023-2024 (FY24)
Budget to be adopted
in September

The Commission will meet September 11 and September 26 (both at 5:01pm) to hold public hearings to set the millage rate for the Town, and formally adopt the FY24 Budget. The FY24 Budget was developed during Budget Workshops on May 15, 2023, and June 20th during which the Commission identified funding for their priority projects for FY24, and on June 30 when the maximum millage rate was set.

LBK has growth spurt

The State's draft official 2023 permanent population estimate for Longboat Key has increased by 18 people over the last year (and by 32 since the 2020 Census). The Sarasota County portion of the Town increased by 15 from last year's estimate and Manatee County portion of the island increased by 3 during that same period. The total population is 7,537!

Post-Storm Exhilaration



Mote to cut ribbon on Caribbean king crab hatchery to help save Florida reefs

Mote is working on mitigating algal overgrowth and preventing, or potentially reversing, seaweed dominance

Mote President & CEO Dr. Michael P. Crosby and U.S. Representative Steube will be cutting the ribbon at 9 a.m. Monday to a new Caribbean king crab hatchery facility alongside State Senator Gruters; State Representative McFarland; National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Vice President of External Affairs Shannon Colbert; Kevin Claridge, Vice President, Mote's Sponsored Research and Coastal Policy Programs; and Coral Reef Restoration Research Program Manager Dr. Jason Spadaro.

The new facility, named Mote's Florida Coral Reef Restoration Crab Hatchery Research Center, was funded in part by an award from the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation as part of the Mission: Iconic Reefs

See Crabs, page 14



Brooks+Scarpa, STUDIOS Architecture, and Sweet Sparkman Architecture & Interiors shortlisted in Reimagining Pei competition at New College in Sarasota

Three finalists have been selected by the New College and Architecture Sarasota for its Re-imagining Pei design competition to transform the I.M. Pei–designed student dormitories at New College’s East Campus, dubbed Pei Campus. Out of 35 total entries, the three short-listed firms are Brooks+Scarpa; STUDIOS Architecture; and Sweet Sparkman Architecture & Interiors, a Sarasota office. Each will receive a \$10,000 honorarium from the New College Foundation to “further develop their design concepts,” according to a press release. The winning entry will be publicly announced November 17.

Mick Jagger and partner, Melanie Hamrick sell Lakewood Ranch home for \$3.25 Million

Mick Jagger is moving right out of his gated community in Lakewood Ranch, Florida. The Rolling Stones frontman and his partner, choreographer and former ballerina Melanie Hamrick, sold the waterfront home for \$3.25 million at the end of August. The couple, who have been together since 2014, spent more than \$400,000 remodeling the home during their ownership, including cosmetic changes, extensive landscaping and the addition of security cameras and gates.

Sculpture, from page 1

Public Art Coordinator Mary Davis Wallace, offered excuses, explanations and possible compromises as a salvo to the bad news. At a Public Art Committee Meeting last month, Wallace explained that the cost is excessive because US 41 is a State Road with much more stringent construction standards including the ability to withstand 155 mph winds. That makes the pool of possible contractors much smaller than if the pads were to be built on a City roadway such as Ringling Boulevard or Fruitville Road. Wallace also said that construction costs have tripled if not more, “in everyone’s defense.” At the meeting last month, Wallace said that the Public Art Committee should make a recommendation on other locations to place the sculptures, possibly in the “vicinity” of the roundabouts.

Centerpiece is on the block

The fact that the City under-budgeted at the 10th and 14th Street locations does not bode well for its Master Plan, which was to install two signature sculptures; one at US 41 and Fruitville Road and the most significant at Gulfstream Avenue and US 41 in the most recently completed roundabout. The City has already paid more than \$58,000 for the two sculptures at 10th and 14th Street and Wallace said she does not want the City to decline the pieces, but bring them into the collection, “near alternative sites.” City Manager Marlon Brown said he wants to have a conversation with the City Commission on the alternatives to the sculptures in the roundabouts, or, to gauge if there is consensus for the City to somehow make a push to find the money and make the Master Plan come to life.

A unique proposition...

Sarasota has been recognized nationally for spearheading with FDOT the Art in Roundabout Program. It is part of the City’s Master Plan for public art as well as mobility and the fact that FDOT agreed to the pilot came after months of working with the agencies crafting plans and fashioning design criteria. The fact that the sculptures may not be placed in the roundabouts is not a loss for Commissioner Jennifer Ahearn-Koch. She says that the City can always bid again and costs can come down and the sculptures could be relocated to the roundabouts in the future. Ahearn-Koch maintains that the public art in the Roundabout Program is not being abandoned, but there simply is not money that can be transferred from some other fund in the City to pay for public art. In fact, she said that the City is proposing raising the Public Art Fund from ½ percent to 1 percent “because things are getting more expensive.” Additionally, Ahearn-Koch pointed out that the 70-foot red sculpture, Complexis, which once loomed behind the current Gulfstream Roundabout, will return to the Bayfront since it is only on loan to the Ringling Museum. She also mentioned that the City is discussing transforming public fountains into locations for public sculpture and art, which is less expensive to maintain. Ahearn-Koch said that if private donors or the Town of Longboat Key or the County wish to contribute to the Roundabout Project, it might be feasible, but this has to be explored.

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5910 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

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830 TARAWITT DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

Just three lots to the ICW from this over 2,500 sf, coastal 2015 built home. Living area and kitchen open to the patio and contemporary pool. The privacy of the second level offers two guest bedrooms with full bath, plus an extra lounge.

EditorLetters

Letters, from page 4

Idalia Flooding

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
More from St. Armand’s. Do we have temporary, portable pumping systems like the county that cd be deployed when needed?
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Longboat Key

Idalia Flooding

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
I’m learning about more and more homes on St. Armands that were completely flooded. The Northeast quadrant of St. Armands around the parking garage seems to have been particularly hard hit.
Former St. Armands Residents Association President Bill Rex sent me the following information from his past experience:
The 5 pumps are underground and should not have shorted out.
The backup generators are elevated.
The county works on this equipment regularly.
There are one way valves on many storm drain pipes.
The system was designed to handle 9 in rain in one day.
Hurricane surge was not part of the engineering plan.

The combination of rain, full moon and the hard side of hurricane combined to be a “hundred year storm” for St Armands
I wish to thank our County Commissioner for District 2, Mark Smith, for asking the County Director of Public Works, Spencer Anderson, to respond to my various questions. Mr. Anderson’s responses are as follows:
The flooding was caused by roughly 3 feet of storm surge on top of the high tides with westerly winds
the tidal condition isn’t higher than the outfall. In this situation, the tide/surge was too high so the island could not drain by gravity.
The County and City have an Interlocal Agreement for the County to maintain the City’s public stormwater infrastructure. The St Armands stormwater system is part of the City’s public stormwater infrastructure.
The large majority, if not all, of the stormwater/drainage outfalls on St Armands have been constructed or retrofitted with backflow prevention devices. These devices are necessary to ensure the pumping system is not constantly pumping seawater during high tides.
We are evaluating options for raising the electrical control panels.
The stormwater pumping system was specifically designed to protect the island for rainfall events not expected to coincide with a tidal/surge event that would result in overtopping of the island’s seawall system. Once the seawalls are overtopped a pumping system cannot overcome the volume

of water coming over the seawalls. Unless the seawalls can be raised, adding capacity/capability to the pumping system is not anticipated to provide a significantly greater level of flood protection.
Each Friday, the City sends out an email newsletter, and you can view the most recent one at this link. In it is the following request:
If you experienced flood damage at your Sarasota home, please report it to the City at FloodingInfo@Sarasotafl.gov. Include your name, address and contact information as well as a brief description of the damage and photos, if available.
One resident reported to me that emails sent to this email address were not getting through. I confirmed this at the time, but I believe it is working now (at least I’m not getting an undeliverable message anymore).
Another resident noticed that the City has a webpage devoted to flood information which you can access at this link: <https://www.sarasotafl.gov/services/flood-information> This webpage mentions a different, but similar, email address that you can also try to use: FloodInfo@sarasotaFL.gov
So, where does that leave us?
Were the pump station failures preventable? I think so, and I’m glad to hear from the County that they are evaluating options for raising their electrical control panels.
But, the County is also saying that so much water must have been coming over the seawalls at one or more locations that it wouldn’t have mattered; that even functioning pump stations wouldn’t have been able to keep up, and that the only way to prevent similar occurrences in the future is to raise the seawalls. It is my understanding that this is the responsibility of individual property owners, and that there may be limits on how high you can raise your seawall if you choose to do so!
The County is also saying that the large majority, if not all, of the stormwater/drainage outfalls on St Armands have been constructed or retrofitted with backflow prevention devices. I’d like to see an audit of these outfalls to make sure that they all have them and that they are all working. Because I heard from a merchant who saw water coming out of storm drains and onto the streets on Tuesday morning before the peak of the storm surge and tide. This was on Madison Dr in front of the Wells Fargo property.
I will continue to send more information as I get it.
Chris Goglia
President
St. Armands Residents Association

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Congratulations

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Congratulations on your appointment to the 2023-2024 FLC Federal Action Strike Team or FAST, approved by FLC President Greg Ross. Please find your formal appointment letter attached.
Thank you for volunteering your expertise and time to advance the FLC Federal Action Agenda. You can review the committee roster and overview in the attached documents.
Our first committee meeting will coincide with the FLC Legislative Conference, and we will share meeting details with you soon.
Your commitment is highly appreciated, and we anticipate your valuable contributions.
If you cannot serve on this committee for some reason, please contact me or Allison Payne at (850) 701-3602 or APayne@flcities.com. I look forward to working with you

See Letters, page 7



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EditorLetters

Letters, from page 6

this year!
Brenda Jones
Field Advocacy & Federal Affairs, Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Idalia’s Impact on Sleepy Lagoon

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman

Hurricane Idalia's floodwaters affected LBK severely. Possibly no part of the island fared as poorly as Sleepy Lagoon. The flooding in our neighborhood (Penfield Street to Juan Anasco on the east side of GMD, 6100-6600 GMD, Edlee Rd and Gulfside Road) was also accompanied by widespread power outages (well more than half of our appr 250+ single family homes lost power, many for as long as 48 hours) caused almost entirely by the failure of newly installed and activated transformers that were submerged and shorted out. The portion of our beach that runs from the public access point at Gulfside Road north to the Ohana estate, has been diminished even further from its already extremely eroded state prior to the storm.

1) Transformers:

It seems that serious errors were made in calculating the proper pad height, design and waterproofness of transformer units in our low lying neighborhood. Florida Power and Light (FP&L) has now replaced a huge number of our brand new transformers, including all 11 on Marbury Street, at least 7 on Norton Street, and many others on our streets east of GMD. Any transformers in SL that were spared were within inches of being partially or fully submerged.

The failure of these transformers represents a serious safety issue— beyond electrocution concerns for anyone within range of a submerged or partially submerged transformer, residents also reported electrical damage to 220 volt appliances, and one SL homeowner reported a fire and generator transfer switch meltdown apparently related to their transformer malfunction. (Some of the newly installed streetlights are now malfunctioning/strobing as well).

While we know that you are already painfully aware of much of the above, we want to know what the plan is for rectifying this problem. In the immediate aftermath of the storm, FP&L has done the only practical thing— replaced the many transformers that failed— effectively a “band aid” solution. We still have several months of hurricane season in front of us, and there is no reason to think moving forward that such storms won't be increasingly common— a long term solution must be found quickly. (On a related note, it would seem prudent to hold back on switching over power to the other lowest lying areas on the island

until such a solution is in place).

Please let us know what the plan will be for resolving this very serious issue as soon as possible, with any associated timeline(s).

2) Beach at Gulfside Road access point:

There is money in LBK's upcoming FY budget for a ‘modest’ interim renourishment of the beach north of the Gulfside Road beach access point in SL. It's clear that far more than that needs to be done there. As you know, prior to Idalia this segment of beach had eroded to the point where there was often no traversable sand at higher tides that wasn't on private property east of the ECL. This situation has created unnecessary tension between some homeowners and beach users. Idalia has further decimated this area, pushing much of the remaining sand up against houses on Gulfside. It is now the most eroded beach segment on LBK, and we need a far larger renourishment “band aid” effort (perhaps FEMA recovery/grant \$ might be used in addition to the funding already in place?) as well as prioritization and funding of an actual systemic fix. Design studies done to date can be the starting point for evaluating options, but far more action and resources are required from the town for this area.

We truly appreciate all of your efforts on behalf of our town. These are extremely important issues for our neighborhood that we hope you can address soon. Please let us know if we can provide any additional helpful information or documentation.

We look forward to hearing back from you.

John Connolly, President
Jill Hutsko, Secretary
Marie McGregor, Vice President
Pat Watral, Treasurer
Sleepy Lagoon Homeowners Association Board

See Letters, page 11

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6565 GULFSIDE RD

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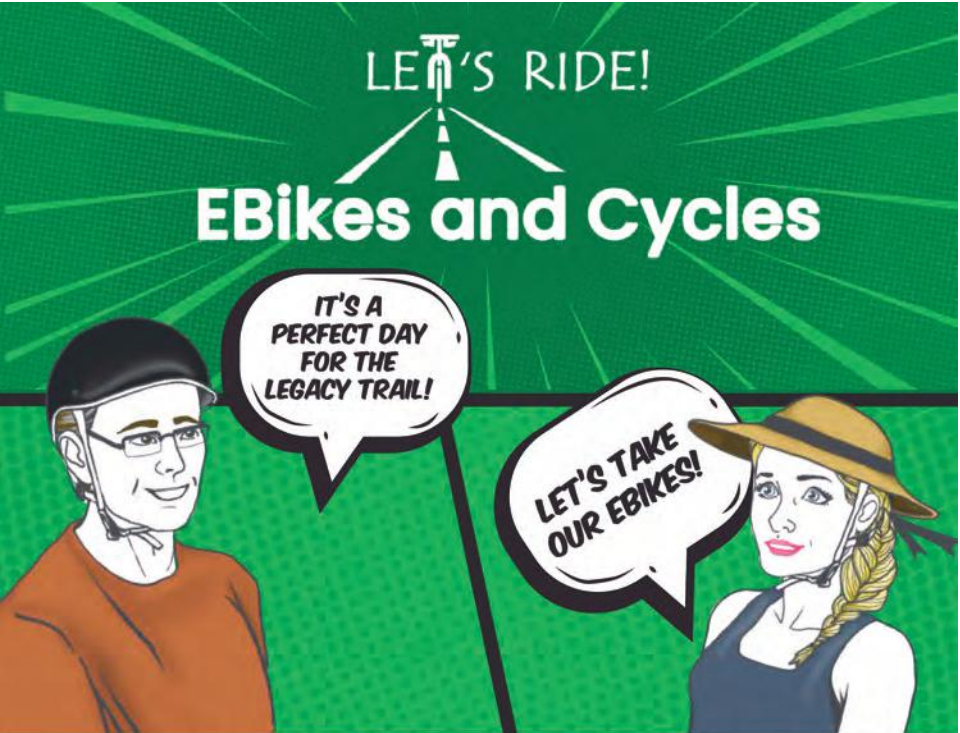
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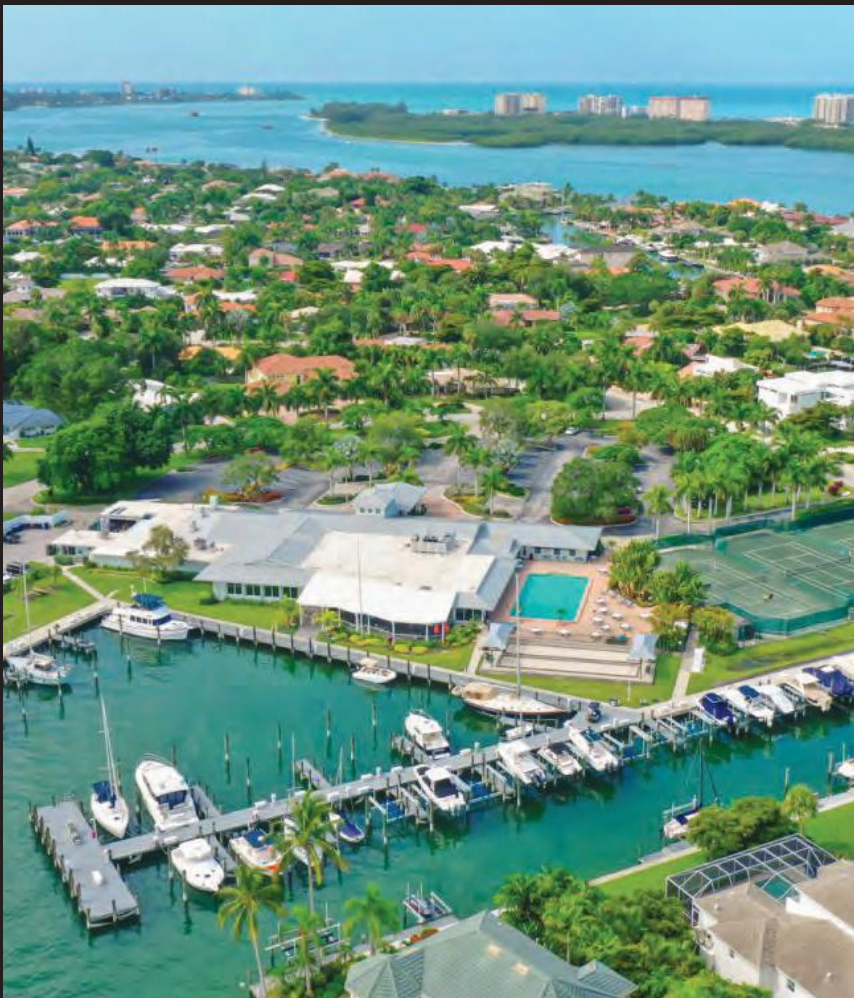
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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 7

Idalia’s Impact on Sleepy Lagoon

To: John Connelly
Thank you John. We have forwarded concerns to FPL and have asked for a response. The Town is also looking into more longer-term solutions for the Gulfside Road beach area. The solution(s) will probably not fully solve the access issue, particularly around the Ohana house seawall, but certainly with the goal to slow down the erosion rates to some degree. Charlie Mopps is working with our Coastal Engineer on developing solutions further. Copied Charlie for FYI.
Isaac Brownman
Director Public Works
Town of Longboat Key

Idalia’s Impact on Sleepy Lagoon

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman
Thanks so much to all of you for getting back to us so quickly and pushing for resolution on these issues. We really appreciate it.
John Connolly
SLHA President

Idalia’s Impact on Sleepy Lagoon

To: John Connelly
I spoke to FPL earlier this afternoon, and they are escalating these transformer issues to a high level and will be investigating the root cause of these outages and failures. Other low areas apparently did not experience the same failures, and they certainly did not have them on the other island communities north of Longboat, which are also low and many of which are undergrounded. So, they are going to work to determine the root cause and appropriate resolution(s). Once they have some answers and a timeline, we will let you know as well.
Isaac Brownman
Director Public Works
Town of Longboat Key

Idalia’s Impact on Sleepy Lagoon

To: John Connelly
Thank you for sharing Idalia’s impacts on Sleepy Lagoon. The power issues are maddening and I believe that FPL has committed to an initial response back to Isaac as soon as possible, hopefully today. I did also have a chance to look at the storm damage Wednesday morning

beachside and again on Monday morning (while looking at the seaweed accumulation which we’re also working on). Charlie Mopps is one of the best in the business and we’ll await his recommendations for how to best address the erosion at that location.
In the meantime, Isaac is working with Waste Management to ensure as much of the material that got wet in the storm is picked up this week.
Thanks again for your email. Here’s to a dry week.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Thank You

To: Manatee County Chairman Kevin Van Ostenbridge
Although a few days late in getting this out, I did want to share my sincere appreciation for your time last Wednesday on the call that discussed the opening up of the barrier islands. As you heard on the call, we were all trying to deal with various issues to ensure everyone could safely move around their community. Your consideration of the feedback received on the call allowed us to continue to make the needed repairs and safety checks while managing the expectations of the residents and visitors.
Our longtime residents are sharing that this might be the worst water (flooding) event since Hurricane Donna in 1960. On Longboat Key, initial estimates were that more than 70 homes and a number of other businesses saw water intrusion from a storm that didn’t reach winds over 30 mph sustained and only 4-6 inches of rain. What this demonstrates going forward is the continued need to be prepared and to work collaboratively. We value the relationship we have with Manatee County Administration, Public Safety/Emergency Management, and the County Commission. Thank you (and your team) again for the barrier island call and overall storm support.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Labor Day Holiday Weekend

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Thanks Tip - way too much damage to get rest- maybe next weekend.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Longboat Key

See Letters, page 14

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KeyOpinion

Momentum is the key to who won the debate

The recent Republican presidential debate impacted Nikki Haley, Ron DeSantis, Vivek Ramaswamy and Mike Pence as it clarified individual policy positions and further crystallized the race.

GREGORY RUSOVICH
Guest Writer
rusovich@lbknews.com

The recent Republican presidential debate impacted Nikki Haley, Ron DeSantis, Vivek Ramaswamy and Mike Pence as it clarified individual policy positions and further crystallized the race. Donald Trump's absence was a significant factor, but also provided voters an unfiltered view of the participating candidates.



RUSOVICH

Haley exhibited experience, gravitas and candor throughout the debate. The former U.N. ambassador was in command of the foreign policy discussion, schooling Ramaswamy: "He wants to hand Ukraine to Russia, he wants to let China eat Taiwan, he wants to go and stop funding Israel.... You have no experience in foreign policy, and it shows." (And she didn't let up post-debate either, prefacing rebuke of Ramaswamy's policies with a Southern turn of phrase. "Bless his heart. If you say something that is totally off the wall, I'm going to call you out on it. Every single time.") She demonstrated empathy on the abortion issue. She derided former Vice President Pence for his support of a federal abortion ban. Reaching out to independent voters, she emphasized the need for increased adoption and contraception, and called for banning late-term abortions. And finally, she handled the Trump question adroitly. She showed courage and honesty to Republican voters, saying, "We have to face the fact that Trump is the most disliked politician in America. We can't win a general election that way." It was an excellent night for Haley, and her campaign has picked up steam since the debate.

Florida Gov. DeSantis, who fielded the first question of the evening, initially appeared too excited and loud. But he gained his composure and rebellious persona as the debate unfolded. DeSantis staked out the populist lane and conveyed the GOP's current anti-elitist sentiment. He connected rising crime rates to liberal billionaire George Soros and left-wing prosecutors. "These hollowed-out cities, this is a symptom of America's decline," he said. "And one of the biggest reasons is because you have George Soros funding these left-wing district attorneys." The governor then touted his removal of two such district attorneys in Florida for "not doing their job." At times, however, DeSantis appeared to resort to rehearsed campaign talking points. Overall, he seemed too scripted. (He would be well-served to showcase his clear knowledge of domestic issues through a more conversational style.) And when moderator Bret Baier asked candidates to raise their hands if they would back Trump if he wins the GOP presidential nomination but is convicted of criminal activity, DeSantis hesitated. He raised his hand only after most of the other candidates did so. He held his own but achieved no breakout.



Vivek Ramaswamy showed as smart, articulate, quick-witted...and snarky. "I'm the only person on the stage who isn't bought and paid for," the tech billionaire bellowed. While GOP voters have rallied around outside-the-beltway messages, Ramaswamy's approach of insulting every other fellow candidate seemed arrogant. He certainly maintained his position and earned respect for his first-ever debate performance. But the smartest kid in the class is usually not the most popular.

Former Vice President Pence was unusually aggressive. He came across as desperate and regularly interrupted the moderators and other candidates. He did score a proud moment as the other candidates credited him for not caving to former President Trump in refusing to certify the results of the 2020 presidential election. (Pence later described the show of support as "heartening.") He remained strident in his strong opposition to abortion and talked about the need for America to show leadership in the world, emphasizing "peace through strength." But in contrast to Haley's respectful and charismatic demeanor, Pence sermonized and blatantly ignored the debate's agreed-to time constraints. A good man who firmly believes in America's goodness and historic principles, Pence was not helped by his performance and will not be the Republican presidential nominee.

Tim Scott, Chris Christie, Asa Hutchinson and Doug Burgum also failed to gain any momentum. Scott was impactful when given the opportunity but was inconspicuous for most of the night. Christie was an effective debater, but there is no chance that GOP voters will nominate him—he was even booed at one point. Hutchinson and Burgum have been polling close to zero and should drop out of the race.

So, who comes out of the debate with swagger and the

"Big Mo?" Nikki Haley. Her star is rising. Polling in Iowa and New Hampshire demonstrates a significant bump for her candidacy, as other candidates languish. A Washington Post/FiveThirtyEight/Ipsos survey shows Haley seeing the most improvement. It also finds that the number of Republican watchers willing to consider her candidacy increased from 29 to 46 percent. She has moved rapidly from low single digits to double figures in most Iowa and New Hampshire polls. And it's early. (At this point in 2015, Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, winner of the Iowa caucuses, was at just 8% in the most closely watched poll in the state.)

The Biden campaign is also taking notice. "If they nominate Nikki Haley, we're in trouble," a senior Biden campaign strategist told Politico earlier this month. Haley's policy positions increasingly resonate with more moderate voters, creating a nightmare for the Democrats. Axios reports that even Tony Fabrizio, a prominent Trump pollster, told Republican donors that Haley "has surged" in Iowa since the debate. While Trump maintains a substantial overall lead, second place is now in play. And Haley is in striking distance.

Momentum is a precious commodity in the race. The Hill notes that traffic to Haley's campaign website surged 10 times after the debate. Her campaign says it raised \$1 million in the three days following the event. Iowa state Rep. Austin Harris, a Haley backer, tells NBC News that her debate performance has led to his phone buzzing virtually nonstop with folks wanting to "help in any way, shape or form." Presidential nomination contests always have multiple twists and turns. But right now, it's Nikki's moment.

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WineTimes

Bargain wines offer value if selected carefully

Budget versions of age worthy wines from famous wine regions such as Bordeaux and California Cabernet Sauvignon, French Rhône and Australian Syrah/Shiraz or Burgundian Pinot Noir, Italian Barolo, and Spanish Tempranillo generally lack the structure to age gracefully and have an astringent mouth feel of black tea left overnight in a cup. Better to for bargains in other varietals and regions.

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

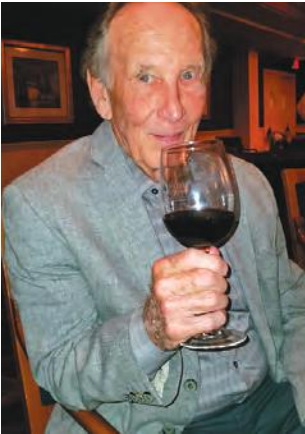
Whether wine drinkers have a glass or two every day or drink wine only once or twice a week, the autumn months offer us the right time to find wines that taste good and go easy on the budget.

Daily wine drinkers may choose to stock up on a few bottles of several different wines - white, rosé, and red – while those who drink wine at most a few times a week may prefer to stock a couple of bottles at a time. In Europe, the regional wines of France (Vin de Pays), Italy (Indicazione Geografica Tipica), and Spain (Vinos de la Tierra) include mellower white wines (French Bordeaux Sauvignon Blanc blended with Semillon, Provence Rhône Viognier blended with Marsanne, Spanish Rueda Verdejo blended with Viura) and lighter red wines (French Rhône and Spanish Grenache/Garnacha and Syrah blends, Italian Chianti and Dolcetto, French Beaujolais). New releases of these wines generally have pleasingly fresh and fruit-forward tastes for everyday drinking. The West Coast of the USA also has wines in the Vin de Pays mode: wines from Paso Robles, Saint Inez, Monterey, Sierra Foothills, and Lake County come to mind.

Budget versions of age worthy wines from famous wine regions such as Bordeaux and California Cabernet Sauvignon, French Rhône and Australian Syrah/Shiraz or Burgundian Pinot Noir, Italian Barolo, and Spanish Tempranillo generally lack the structure to age gracefully and have an astringent mouth feel of black tea left overnight in a cup. Better to for bargains in other varietals and regions.

Across the globe, wine producers grow over 10,000 varieties of wine grapes. The costs of prime locations for growing fine wine grapes in premier wine regions such as Burgundy or Napa Valley rival the costs of retail shop locations in Saint-Tropez or Miami Beach. Growing grapes for premier wines entails higher labor costs, expensive oak barrels, and costly quality control. Look to the less prestigious wine varietals and less well-known growing areas for the best budget wines. You will likely find them a better buy than the budget versions of premier varietals from famous wine regions.

Let's say that a wine drinker prefers buttery, oaky Chardonnay from the Napa Valley of



California. The 2021 The Four Graces Pinot Blanc (\$18) from the Willamette Valley of Oregan has many of the sought after attributes of a California Chardonnay, and perhaps more. Softer than a Sauvignon Blanc, the wine has a pleasing citrus edge with hints of vanilla, stone fruit, and raw honey.

Those that prefer a rosé like the well-known and enticing rosé of Grenache, the 2019 Chateau D'Esclans Whispering Angels (\$19), could do well to try the 2022 Céline Côtes de Provence Rosé (\$8). This rosé of Grenache, Cinsault, and Vermentino has a fruit taste of ripe red berries that gives it a light and refreshing taste.

Not as satisfying as a 2019 Joseph Phelps Insignia Cab (\$330) with prime NY strip sirloin steaks, but much easier on the budget, the 2021 Bonny Doon Le Cigare Volant (\$15), 65% Grenache, 18% Syrah, 15% Cinsault, 2% Petite Sirah, from Monterey California has a robust structure that pairs well with red meat and other savory dishes. Its taste reminds us of Gigondas or Hermitage Rhône red wines.

Wine collectors hope to find wines that will increase in value through the ages. Most wine drinkers will have drunk the wines they buy within a few weeks' time. We do not try to compete with wine collectors for the premier varietals from famous wine regions. Skilled winemakers produce excellent wines using less acclaimed varieties of wine grapes grown in less famous wine regions. The more one learns about the diversity of wine grapes, the more one appreciates the Vin de Pays wines and the food pairings they inspire.

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.

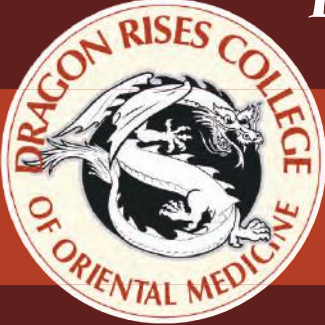
Rich Hermansen selected his first wine list for a restaurant shortly after graduating from college with a degree in Mathematics. He has extensive service and management experience in the food and wine industry. Family and friends rate him as their favorite chef, bartender, and wine steward. He lives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

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Crabs, from page 1

(M:IR) Capacity Building Grant program.

Mote is working on mitigating algal overgrowth and preventing, or potentially reversing, seaweed dominance—both significant challenges to successful long-term coral reef restoration—by growing a program to bolster populations of a key reef herbivore, the Caribbean king crab.

In February of 2022, Dr. Jason Spadaro was working as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Mote’s Elizabeth Moore International Center for Coral Reef Research & Restoration (IC2R3) on Summerland Key when the team hatched Mote’s first clutch of Caribbean king crabs.

Caribbean king crabs consume more algae than any species of parrotfish in the Caribbean and rival the consumption rates of urchins. Further the crabs readily consume algae that are chemically defended and avoided by other grazers in the region. Eventually, these new crabs will be added to coral reef restoration sites, reducing the competition between algae and corals, allowing Mote’s restored corals to grow faster.

This Caribbean king crab clutch would eventually be introduced onto Florida’s Coral Reef as part of the ongoing M:IR initiative led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in partnership with Mote and other organizations

Caribbean king crabs have unexpectedly emerged as champions in the fight to rescue threatened coral reefs. Their unique ability to mitigate the impending threat of algae overgrowth was generally masked by their low natural abundance throughout the region. By increasing their abundance, they facilitate the growth, survival, and recruitment of corals, dramatically improving coral reef restoration outcomes.

These crabs, with their omnivorous appetites, play a crucial role in maintaining the delicate equilibrium of coral ecosystems. As algae populations surge due to external factors, they can smother and weaken coral structures, leaving them vulnerable to disease and bleaching events.

However, Caribbean king crabs are excellent grazers, scouring reefs for algae. By curbing algae growth, these crabs foster a healthier environment for coral growth and settlement, reinforcing the resilience of coral reef communities against the mounting challenges posed by human effects and environmental stressors.

This species could be a critical component to the long-term success of coral reef restoration efforts.

“We understand the potential of the Caribbean king crab in supporting coral recruitment and reef fish diversity,” said Spadaro. “With this new facility, we will continually manage aquaculture systems that support mass production and survival of crabs to support large-scale coral reef restoration.”

The 6,000 square-foot hatchery facility is now home to more than one hundred Caribbean king crabs that will serve as the initial broodstock at Mote’s Aquaculture Research Park in Sarasota, FL. The operational strategy for the facility is to gradually increase this to 300-400 adult broodstock and, eventually, produce an estimated 250,000 juvenile crabs every year. Once the baby crabs reach a releasable size - three to five months after hatching - they will be screened by a veterinarian before being transported to Summerland Key for release onto restoration sites along Florida’s Coral Reef.

Longboat Key News

Sarasota City News

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Letters, from page 11

Rosemary Park Status

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown

I hope your day is going well. Parks and Recreation has received quotes and created Purchase Requisitions for the below amenities for the Rosemary Park. Once the POs are approved, Parks and Recreation will order the amenities. Juan De Pazos (Capital Projects Coordinator) is the Project Manager and will be working closely with the City’s continuing services contractor Magnum Builders for the installation of the amenities and construction of the park. Juan will revise the construction schedule once Magnum works out the construction details. Parks and Recreation planned to work with Windemuller the City’s continuing services electrical contractor for the installation of lights, however, they are unable to do the work due to staffing issues. Magnum Builders has agreed to do the electrical work; however, they need to work out the logistics and cost. Parks and Recreation will need the information from Magnum Builders before the construction schedule can be revised. I will forward the revised construction schedule to you/Mr. Robinson, along with Mr. Pallegar to share with Mr. Lough, Ms. Mones, Mr. Lampl and RDA, once completed. This may take a couple of weeks.

Vendor: Wausau (Purchasing REQ-001053)

3-piece Nest Bench set

Pop up Tree Grates

Custom Pavers

Vendor: Landscape Forms (Purchasing REQ-000899)

4 Tables (36-inch diameter)

4 Table Mount Umbrellas (78-inch square)

16 Stools

1 Litter Container

3 Bike Racks

Vendor: Electric Supply (Purchasing REQ-001056)

Light Fixture Bundle

Jerry Fogle, Parks and Recreation Director, City of Sarasota

Parks

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown

Just wanted to provide a brief update on the parks. The Saprito Pier is open. Bayfront park was closed due to lighting outage throughout the park, along with damaged sidewalks. The Bayfront park will open today. Bayfront will open from dawn to dusk until the park can be rewired. Public Works will be rewiring the park. Parks and Recreation will secure the damaged sidewalks and post temporary “Dawn to Dusk” signs. The plan is to open Ken Thompson Playground tomorrow. The City’s continuing services contractor “Mulch Blowers” will be blowing Engineered Wood Fiber mulch for the playground tomorrow. We will notify Jan/Ciera once the playground opens. I copied Jan/Ciera on this email to assist with notifying the public. Thanks Jan/Ciera!

Jerry Fogle., Parks and Recreation Director

City of Sarasota

KeyCrossword

ACROSS

1. Awesome

5. Hard on the lungs

10. Quickly, quickly

14. Velvet

Underground vocalist

15. Snake feeder

16. Actress Pinkett Smith

17. The yoke's on them

18. They take seven digits

20. Put aside

22. Made merry

23. Popular droid

24. Houston sch.

25. Prior's prior

26. Gray area?

28. Postal letters

30. They may hold counter demonstrations

38. Waffler's words

39. One who may keep you on your toes

40. Became a member

41. Sushi center?

42. Julia's Oscar-winning (2001) role

43. One of fifteen states that ceased to exist on January 1, 1992: Abbr.

45. No milquetoasts, they

49. Water nymph

53. Instrument in a Picasso painting

55. High-ranking NCO

56. Curios

58. They have their pluses and minuses

59. "The Birth of a Nation" group

60. Helena rival

61. French wave

62. Sources of taxol

DOWN

1. Gay leader?

2. "Up" studio

3. Seal the deal

4. They may be sent with flowers

5. Well

6. Bill's partner in love

7. "The Ice Storm" actress Christina

8. Composer Albéniz

9. Ferret

10. Cracked, in a way

11. Bar freebies

12. Psychiatrist Alfred who coined the term "inferiority complex"

13. ___ quatre

19. Judgment, of a sort

21. Additional dose

24. Smooth over

27. Ellington contemporary

29. Pull

30. One of six for a hexagon

31. Bang on ___ (NYC music festival)

32. Popeye feature

33. GPS part: Abbr.

34. Logician's statement

35. Having more smarts?

36. Sulky event

37. Sun. deliveries

43. Hard on the lungs

44. Fine fur

46. "Someone ___ America" (1996 film)

47. Central spot

48. Matrilineal

50. "The Who" song of 1973

51. Dads' rival

52. Rave part, perhaps

54. Remote locations?

55. Flower holder

57. Mens ___

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