



# Longboat Key News

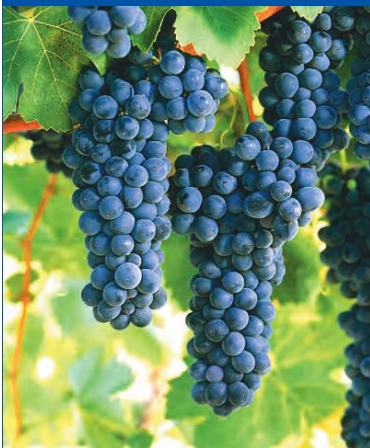
August 2, 2024

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**InsideLook**  
*Is politics keeping you up?  
...page 12*



*Southern Shiraz among the best  
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*How to hit with far more power  
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*Man accused of lawn driving  
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## Boisterous Boaters Erode Patience of North Longboat Homeowners

*The convergence of boaters under Longboat Pass Bridge and encroaching into the swimming and kayaking zone is causing headaches for residents and those wanting to protect a fragile shoreline and quiet lifestyle.*

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

The very northern tip of Longboat Key has long been a residential oasis. But over the past decade, the convergence of three factors – louder boats, louder stereos and far more boaters – is causing numerous north-end Longboat residents to cajole town government to beef up the size and protection of no-boating zones.

Noise has been a long-standing problem, emanating from the large sandbar in front of Jewfish Key as well as the spit of sand under Longboat Pass Bridge known as Beer Can Island.

But most recently, the convergence of boaters under the Longboat Pass Bridge and encroaching into the swimming and kayaking zone is causing headaches for residents and those wanting to protect a fragile shoreline and quiet lifestyle.

No one has been more vocal than Longboat resident Joan Bergstrom who



grew up on the north end of Longboat and whose family, which includes Longboaters Tom Mayers, and sister Michael Saunders, have all lived for extended periods at Lands End directly on the pass.

Bergstrom wrote the Longboat Key Commission last week saying there  
**See Boat Zones, page 2**

## Anxiety Arrives Ahead of Storm

*Longboat Key and Sarasota residents were battered with a deluge of storm modeling, unfavorable tracking predictions and worst-case scenarios throughout the day on Friday as Tropical Storm Debby approached.*



Longboat and Sarasota residents were battered with a deluge of storm modeling, unfavorable tracking predictions and worst-case scenarios throughout the day on Friday as Tropical Storm Debby approached.

The National Hurricane Center said the Tropical Cyclone 4 will likely develop into Tropical Storm Debby on Saturday, and placed both Sarasota and Manatee Counties under a Tropical Storm Watch. The prediction by Friday evening is that starting on Saturday night, more than four to eight inches of rain would arrive, with a storm surge of one to three feet. Manatee County opened a shelter, but there were no evacuations on Friday.

Sarasota County said its public work crews have been busy clearing drains as well as the beaches of lifeguard stands and other objects.

The tropical storm moved across Cuba on Friday, heading over the Straits of Florida, the channel separating the Florida Keys and Cuba. The National Hurricane Center predicted that Tropical Cyclone 4 would grow into Tropical Storm Debby on Saturday when its sustained winds exceed 39 mph. If it reaches 74 mph, it becomes a named hurricane.

Several meteorologists have warned that the extremely warm temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico could lead to the rapid intensification of the storm. If the warm temperature is met with low wind shear, it could more than double in intensity within 24 hours.

For most Longboaters and Sarasota residents, the likely dangers are two-fold: falling limbs and flooded roads. Many in the area remember just two months ago when St. Armands Circle lay more than two feet under water and dozens of cars were stranded after several inches of rain fell within three hours.

## Manatee's Black Swan Faces up to 30 Years

*A Manatee County jury of six found Ashley Benefield, a former ballerina, accused of shooting and killing her estranged husband in 2020, guilty of manslaughter last week after six days of trial.*

The 32-year-old former ballerina who was dubbed the 'Black Swan' was convicted hours after a jury started considering her claim that she shot her then-58-year-old estranged husband, Doug Benefield, during an alleged argument in self-defense in fear for her life.

Ashley and Doug met in 2016 when she was 24 and Doug was 54. They married 13 days later. The following year, Ashley became pregnant. The two eventually opened the American National Ballet.

The court was told that Ashley and Doug had a volatile relationship. Ashley claimed that her husband

**See Trial, page 2**



Trial, from page 1

band had been violent towards her.

On September 27, 2020, Doug Benefield arrived at Ashley’s Manatee County home with a truck. Doug Benefield was allegedly at Ashley Benefield’s home that day to help pack up a U-Haul truck. Ashley Benefield testified that Doug Benefield refused to leave her home, prevented her from leaving and physically assaulted her. Her defense attorney argued she was also a victim of domestic violence.

The prosecution argued Ashley Benefield killed her husband for her own reasons.

After being found guilty of manslaughter, Ashley Benefield was also taken into custody at the Manatee County Sheriff’s Office where she will remain in jail until sentencing. She faces up to 30 years of prison.

## The Sarasota Seafood and Music Festival heading to Fairgrounds

The Sarasota Seafood and Music Festival is heading to the Sarasota Fairgrounds Nov. 29 to Dec. 1 for its Fall edition and Jan. 10 to Jan. 12 for its Winter edition.

For the almost a decade, the event was held Downtown and most recently at J.D. Hamel Park on Bayfront Drive.

The festival started in 2016 and features live music, food and drink over three days with free admission.

Moving the Sarasota Seafood and Music Festival from Downtown to the Sarasota Fairgrounds at 3000 Ringling Boulevard was attributed to multiple reasons including parking congestion (with free and plentiful parking at the fairgrounds) and the impact on nearby condo residences at the festival’s previous location

Boat Zones, from page 1

are essentially four problems:

- Motorboats intruding into the swim, kayak zone to moore their boats
- The intrusion of danger from the motorboats to swimmers and kayakers who have to worry about the motor propellers
- Manatees and sea life are endangered with the motorboats next to the channel leading to Greer Inlet, which does not allow motorboats.

Bergstrom suggests restricting motorboats to beaching on the west side of Longboat Pass Bridge with the east side solely reserved for swimming and kayaking.

Just south of the Bergstrom, Mayer, and Saunders properties, lies the residential community of Lands End. James Haft wrote the Longboat Commission on behalf of the Lands End Homeowner’s Association Board that, “We wholly support Joan Bergstrom’s recommendations regarding the Greer Island Swim Kayak zone.”

Haft added that many boats play “excessively loud music, disturbing not only beachgoers, but the residents at the north end of Longboat Key.”

Haft said signage should also include prohibition on loud music.

Bergstrom’s proposal soon received support from Commissioner Sarah Karon. Karon said she looks forward to discussing with the commission the Bridge-as-Boundary option after town management offers feedback.

Dilemma of shifting sands

The dilemma is a convoluted one on several fronts.

First, the shoreline has changed dramatically since the completion of the north end groins. Although the northwestern tip of the island has eroded, an entire beach of crystalline sand has formed and continues to extend below the Longboat Pass Bridge, creating a crescent that continues to grow toward the mainland. This expanding beach is beckoning to both boaters traversing the intercoastal as well as swarms of kayakers and bathers.

Second, the entire act of creating the already restricted zones represents the adoption of ordinances, the cooperation and approval of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) as well as compliance with Federal regulators. It is not a simple move.

The town commission will meet in September and likely discuss the matter after Town Manager Howard Tipton responds to the suggestions.

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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.

## Upcoming storm

To: Longboat Key Commission

Town staff is closely monitoring Disturbance 15 and coordinating with Sarasota County Emergency Management.

The well-defined tropical wave currently approaching eastern Cuba will continue moving west-northwestward near or across Cuba today, and then the Straits of Florida tonight or Saturday. Conditions are expected to become favorable for additional development after that time, and a tropical depression is likely to form this weekend over the Straits of Florida or eastern Gulf of Mexico near the Florida peninsula. Tropical storm watches or warnings could be required for portions of the forecast area later today. While uncertainty continues in the systems potential development and eventual track, heavy rainfall with localized flooding remains the primary threat at this point for the area. However, if quick development occurs in the eastern Gulf other local impacts would include; a wind threat, coastal flooding, marine hazards and possibly isolated tornadoes.

Any development will likely occur over the Straits of Florida or the eastern Gulf of Mexico this weekend. Heavy rainfall with localized flooding remains the primary threat. However, if quick development occurs in the eastern Gulf, other impacts would include; a wind threat, coastal flooding, marine hazards and possible tornadoes.

While tropical storm force winds and surges potentially as high as 4 to 6 feet could occur over western Florida, the main threat will be flooding rains due to the expected slow motion. Some areas, especially within the moderate impact area, could receive at least 10 to 15 inches of rain from this system.

## Main Impacts

Rain: Expect travel delays as well as cases of urban and small stream flooding. Widespread major street flooding, along with some flood damage could occur in the moderate impact area.

Wind: Power outages could occur.

Surge: Moderate to potentially major coastal flooding is possible

We expect to issue an Alert Longboat Key later this morning to keep residents informed of this incident.

Paul B. Dezzi  
Fire Chief  
Town of Longboat Key

## Town budget

To: Longboat Key Commission

I hope you are all enjoying your summer. As you know, the Town Charter requires that the Town Manager submits the Recommended Budget and accompanying message by August 1st each year for the ensuing fiscal year, October 1, 2024 -September 30, 2025. As Tip is out of the country, he gave me the honor of presenting this to you.

The attached memo provides a summary of our prior meeting on the budget, changes we have made since June and changes we expect to make by the September public hearing.

We are very excited to introduce our first Digital Budget Book powered by ClearGov. Sandi and I have been diligently getting this ready in time for its release this year. Finance has been working over the past year to implement a digital solution and innovative tool for our citizens that provides a comprehensive, transparent and easy-to-understand overview of the Town's

finances. It offers a user-friendly interface that breaks down the data into sections with charts and graphs. Citizens should be able to explore revenues, expenditure patterns and gain a better understanding of the different funds and fund types.

From the main menu, you can easily navigate to the different sections of the budget. Some web pages have additional links that you can click on and see additional detail behind the charts. If you select the Print button, you can select the sections you specifically want and have it email you a custom PDF file. It will tell you it could take up to three hours to complete this task, but it rarely takes that long.

Please explore this format and let us know how you like it. We welcome your feedback, questions and suggestions. This document is still a work in progress and we will continue to improve it over time. Have a great weekend and let me know if you have any questions.

Susan Smith  
Finance Director  
Town of Longboat Key

## Green space

To: Editor

Thanks Steve for the front page update on the proposed Sarasota County Library project on Longboat Key. As you know, I am virtually the “Lone Ranger”, along with my wife and good friend Matt Walsh, in publicly speaking out on this waste of \$11 million in taxpayer money on a new Library in addition to \$1 million a year in operating costs.

Also, waste of an additional \$3.5 million of private philanthropic money for a meeting room and enhanced terrace to be included in the project.

Longboat Key is a very small, affluent Town and even smaller this time of year. There is no common sense argument for this Library other than creating a monument to our County and Town officials.

For example, these millions could be more meaningfully spent on Sarasota County Foster Care kids in need, on the mainland, for tutorial education help or for others less fortunate than us. In Manatee County as well in terms of the philanthropic millions.

Not only is there no substantive justification for this multimillion Library other than “programming promises” in the County Library leader’s sales pitch, they are putting it in the wrong place that will limit Community Entertainment and Holiday Events on the Town Green, which is the real “Crown Jewel” of LBK. It already exists! Four plus acres of open green space to provide proven popular events residents have prioritized in the Town’s own LBK Citizen’s Surveys.

All of this is well intentioned but Longboat and the County needs to get real about our taxes and use priorities. You can bet your bottom tax dollar that the existing Library’s large parcel is being “saved” for expansion of Town Hall offices for additional staff as the Town Manager mentioned in your recent article.

You made real news here Steve, as this is the first time in all the Library location arguments put forth to use the existing Library area for the new one, has anyone from the Town admitted that fact. Only excuses, “it’s too small, it’s too low, it’s too late etc., etc.” Baloney! The County does not care where the Library is located!

(Note past Mayor and Architect Jim Brown’s Commission testimony recommending locating the County Library in the existing Library area and you have published many reader letters with this location suggestion as well).

As I said, it is now evident the Town wants to use a significant portion of the Town Green Community event space for the new County Library while quietly saving the larger existing Library area, next door to Town Hall, for future Town Hall office space expansion to accom-

**See Letters, page 6**

*Growing in Jesus' Name*



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# Editor Letters



**Letters, from page 4**

moderate additional staffing. I suggest exploring that new info more thoroughly with the Mayor.  
Simply put, this new Library and its location, is about what the Town and County officials want, not what the majority of Longboat Key Citizens want. Check out the Longboat Key Citizen Survey priorities for the Town Green on the Town website.  
Town and County officials should listen to the people. That is a scoop Steve!  
Bob Gault  
Longboat Key

**Green space**

To: Longboat Key Commission  
I agree with Bob Gault that the four acres of green space would be kept pristine (for multiple civic uses) and to take the \$11 million and build a new building on the same land as the original library. I'm sure that the foundation is capable of finding worthy places to spend \$3.5 million as well.  
John Wild  
Longboat Key

**Sarasota Library Story Hour “Storytime” on LBK**

To: Jim Whitman  
Jim, thank you for those observations. We were out of town and unable to attend.  
Gary Coffin  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

**Sarasota Library Story Hour “Storytime” on LBK**

To: Longboat Key Commission  
As you all know, I’ve had an ongoing interest in the project to add a Sarasota County library to the facilities on Longboat Key. As a result, I took on a trip to Bayfront Park last Wednesday to check out the “Summer Storytime” which was scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on that day, as noticed in the July Town Manager Brief and elsewhere. A very nice young lady from the Downtown Sarasota library was there, but unfortunately not a single member of the Longboat Key public showed up, so she was preparing to leave early. She expressed disappointment at this, and wondered if it would be worth it for someone to come out on the next “Storytime” day, scheduled for August 7.  
I must say that I am not surprised at this, since as you know, expressed public interest in increased library activities on Longboat Key has been very low, particularly in the summer, and

particularly for children’s activities.  
P.S. I was relieved to note that there were no Drag Queens hanging around for this children’s event. This was especially welcome in view of the outrages that were perpetrated on the entire world last week at the Olympics in Paris.  
Jim Whitman  
Longboat Key

**To: Longboat Key Commission**

With thanks to Joan for her thoughtful suggestions, I heartily agree with this proposal. We need a clear, sensible boundary for boaters that will protect this fragile waterway and establish a quiet zone for all concerned (humans as well as manatees). I look forward to discussing the bridge-as-boundary option when Town management has feedback to offer.  
Sarah Karon  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

**Greer Channel and Beach/ Swim and Kayak Zone/ Motorboat Zone Fix**

To: Longboat Key Commission  
On behalf of the Lands End HOA Board, representing the community just south of the Bergstrom/Saunders/Mayer properties, we wholly support Joan Bergstrom’s recommendations regarding the Greer Island Swim/Kayak zone. Due to the vague dividing line, motorboats regularly encroach into the swim/kayak area, creating all the problems noted by Joan.  
In addition, many boats play excessively loud music, disturbing not only beachgoers, but the residents at the north end of LBK. Loud boat music also continues to be a problem on the Jewfish Key Sandbar. Signage should also include prohibition on loud music in violation of LBK’s noise ordinance, both on Greer Island and the sandbar.  
For all these reasons, the entire Greer beach east of the bridge should be reserved for swimmers/kayaks. There is more than ample room for motorboats west of the bridge.  
James G. Haft  
Longboat Key

**Greer Channel and Beach/ Swim and Kayak Zone/ Motorboat Zone Fix**

To: Longboat Key Commission  
My name is Joan Bergstrom and I am a 70 year resident of the Land’s End/Longboat Pass  
**See Letters, page 8**

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# KeyOpinion

## A dive into Kamala’s positions on key issues

*Harris may be able to skirt a substantive discussion of the most critical issues with help from the media and a sometimes mercurial opponent. She could ride the abortion issue and a veiled “threat to democracy” to a narrow win.*

GREGORY RUSOVICH  
Guest Writer  
rusovich@lbknews.com

Now that Vice President Kamala Harris is the presumptive Democratic Party presidential nominee, voters can assess and compare her policy positions and previous performance to that of former President Donald Trump. We are all intimately familiar with Trump’s policies on the border, the economy, energy, crime and other vital issues. He also can be judged by his four-year presidential record. Harris has an extensive record too, one which ultimately may prove problematic for her candidacy.

### On the border...

It’s hard to imagine a more damaging issue to Harris than the border. Despite mainstream media’s cynical effort to rewrite her leadership role in the administration’s border policy, President Biden announced Harris’ designation shortly after taking office. On March 24, 2021, President Joe Biden proudly put Harris in charge of immigration policy. “She’s the most qualified person to lead on efforts with Mexico and the Northern Triangle,” proclaimed the president.

“Thank you, Mr. President, for having confidence in me — the work will not be easy, but it is important work,” responded a grateful Kamala Harris. Let’s assess the results of her “important work.”

Since Biden took office (and Harris assumed the primary border policy role shortly thereafter), there have been approximately 8 million migrant encounters at the Southwest border. Additionally, nearly 2 million known gotaways have evaded U.S. Border Patrol under this administration. Since Fiscal Year 2021, 362 aliens on the terrorist watchlist have been caught crossing our border illegally. Fatal drug overdoses (primarily from fentanyl smuggled through the Southwest border) hit a record 112,000 deaths last year. There also has been a spike of high profile violent criminal acts allegedly committed by illegal immigrants, which resulted in the deaths and rapes of numerous innocent Americans.

Harris certainly bears significant responsibility for the border collapse. Her instincts and statements on the subject are also disturbing. Through her 2019 Medicare for All plan, she has supported giving health care coverage to immigrants who are in the country illegally. When asked in 2020 about calls to abolish U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), she said, “There’s no question that we need to critically re-examine ICE, and its role.... It’s probably best that we think about starting from scratch.” When brave mounted agents attempted to corral a group of rushing migrants by swinging horse reins in the air, Harris compared them to slave masters whipping slaves. She snapped, “It also invoked images of some of the worst moments in our history where the kind of behavior has been used against the Indigenous people of our country, it has been used against African Americans during times of slavery.” So much for having the backs of law enforcement officers risking their lives to protect our territorial integrity.

### Economic take

Turning to the economy, Harris’ previous Senate record is informative and alarming. In 2019, she was one of only 14 senators to co-sponsor the Green New Deal, the largest government-proposed takeover of the U.S. economy in decades. The plan calls for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 60% below 2010 levels by 2030, with the ultimate goal of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. It advocates “basic income” programs, a government jobs guarantee, universal health care, upgrades of all existing buildings in the United States, creation of a system of public banks, rebuilding of the electric grid, trillions in solar and wind development, and the transformation of U.S. agriculture, including an end to much of the cattle industry (with a focus on eliminating cow farts).

Harris was one of the Green New Deal’s strongest advocates. According to PolitiFact, in a Medium post published the day the Senate introduced its resolution, Harris said she was



RUSOVICH



“proud” to have signed on as an original Senate co-sponsor. The then California senator had such conviction around the scheme that she told a CNN town hall on Sept. 4, 2019, that she would support ending the filibuster — the parliamentary maneuver that forces most legislative business to secure at least 60 out of the Senate’s 100 votes, rather than a simple majority — “to pass a Green New Deal.”

The estimated cost of the Green New Deal ranges from \$6.6 trillion per year over 10 years (per the Bloomberg Opinion) to \$93 trillion during its duration (American Action Forum). The Heritage Foundation has calculated expenses associated

with the legislation and found that a family of four would have to spend nearly \$8,000 more per year due to higher energy costs, rising consumer prices and foregone wages. The 20-year cost would total \$165,000. During that same 20-year period, the tax would siphon off an average of 1.1 million jobs per year and diminish GDP by more than \$15 trillion. Meanwhile, total U.S. debt has recently reached a perilous \$35 trillion.

Harris’ backing of the Green New Deal is consistent with her longstanding opposition to fossil fuels. In the 2020 primary, she told CNN, “There’s no question I’m in favor of banning fracking.” She then confirmed that she was talking not only about “public lands,” but also about per se “legislation” and reminded the audience that “I have a history of working on this issue.” Indeed. Offshore drilling would likely be banned as well under a Harris administration. But energy costs are connected primarily to classic supply-demand issues. Clamping down on fracking and drilling decrease supply, thereby increasing prices throughout the economy. Fracking is also essential for natural gas production, which can further bolster our nation’s energy independence and support our allies. While climate purists no doubt would flourish under a Harris administration, consumers may not appreciate the associated soaring energy prices.

### Crime and Punishment

On crime, while Harris and legacy media promoters point to her prosecutorial background, her more recent statements and actions align with the “defund the police” movement. In a June 2020 radio interview, Harris said the movement “rightly” called out the amount of money spent on police departments. She added that U.S. cities were “militarizing police” but “defunding public schools.” In an interview a day earlier, Harris lauded Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti for his decision to slash \$150 million from the police budget and move it into social services. During Harris’ 2020 failed presidential campaign, she backed a bail fund that helped free violent criminals from jail. “If you’re able to, chip in now to the @MNFreedomFund to help post bail for those protesting on the ground in Minnesota,” Harris posted on X (then Twitter) back in 2020. The “defund the police” movement, as well as bail payments (carelessly donated by individuals), led to further violence and death, primarily in poorer communities. Both dangerous initiatives have been largely discredited since and share culpability for a nationwide shortage of cops and increased crime.

Harris may be able to skirt a substantive discussion of the most critical issues with help from the media and a sometimes mercurial opponent. She could ride the abortion issue and a veiled “threat to democracy” to a narrow win. But if the election turns to an actual focus on the most critical issues facing the nation, Harris will return to California as a private citizen. The deep blue state may be more welcoming than a center-right nation.

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# Editor Letters



Letters, from page 6

area located at the North end of Longboat Key. Also, I am a part of the Bergstrom – Mayers - Saunders Family who have lived at Land’s End on the Pass located at the extreme North End of Longboat Key for over 75 years.

We at Land’s End appreciate the Commissioners’ addressing, creating and enforcement of a Swim-Kayak Zone and Motorboat Zone. However, by placing a section of the motorboat west side zone in proximity of the east side swim kayak zone has caused a conflict.

There is a 4 -fold problem that we are witness to daily as this area has great allure for boater and beachgoers alike. There is a problem which needs a clarification of the delineation between the East Swim and Kayak Zone and the West Motorboat Zone. The problems as I see them are below as follows:

- 1) The motorboats are intruding by removing the swim floats and using the swim kayak zone beach to moor their boats. This intrusion causes constant enforcement by the LBK Police and the Manatee County Sheriff’s Dept.
- 2) The intrusion of the motorboats creates danger for swimmers and kayakers for having large motor props to interfere in their passive recreation area.
- 3) The Manatees and sea life are constantly endangered by this motorboat activity next to their Channel to the sanctuary of the Greer Inlet.
- 4) The motorboat activity of this small Greer Channel area blocks the over one million-dollar channel which was built in a joint effort by Manatee County and Longboat Key for access into the Greer Inlet by Homeowners who need access to their homes and docks and the passive use by kayakers, wildlife and the Manatees.

Through the efforts of the Commissioners to create a clear channel opening into the Greer Channel and to create two separate zones was well done. However, now a little further tweaking in the design and signage is necessary to make this nice enhancement function smoothly. If signage could be added stating public beach rules regarding pets in an effort to protect the nesting birds in the area there, it would be a very good thing.

I would respectfully like to support the letter of suggestions recently made to the Town of Longboat Key and the Manatee County Commissioners by Tom Mayers to more clearly separate and delineate the East swim kayak zone area from the West motorboat zone area using the bridge as the dividing line. Kindly refer to the photo diagram of the Greer Channel with an outline design solution for dividing the two zones by Tom Mayers included with his letter. It is confusing and difficult to enforce how it is presently laid out. Thank you for addressing this issue in a timely manner.

I kindly suggest making the Longboat Key Bridge the dividing line between the motorboat area and the passive swim/kayak area so that the problem is resolved with more clarity. Please see Tom Mayers’ photo solution already submitted with his letter in early June, 2024.

Thank you for your prompt consideration and your actions for solving this ongoing matter permanently.

Joan Bergstrom  
Longboat Key

Comment Response

To: Longboat Key North members  
Eddie, Jim and Richard - Know you worked on the LBK North recommendation, so wanted to get you this info from FDOT (this was a follow-up item from our last LBK North meeting). Sounds like FDOT has assigned a community responsive Project Manager (David Turley) to this initiative. Will defer to your expertise in looking at the numbers, but it seems like the difference between the low and mid level bascule is 1 less opening.  
FYI, the initial note that David Turley responded to (at the bottom of this thread) was my personal resident note to FDOT, not our formal letter from LBK North.  
Isaac & Ken - Wasn’t sure you had this info so am passing along. Thank you both for keeping FDOT connected to community.  
Maureen Merrigan  
Longboat Key

Comment Response

To: Maureen Merrigan  
I apologize for getting back to you a little late, but I had to do some digging on the information you requested. The individual information is as follows:  
Low Level Bascule – 26’ clearance – 61.8% of boat traffic can go under – slope of bridge is 3% - Cost: \$147 – \$158 million  
Mid Level Bascule – 36’ clearance – 69% of boat traffic can go under – slope of bridge is 4% - Cost: \$153 – \$165 million  
High Level Fixed – 78’ clearance – 100% of boat traffic can go under – slope of bridge is 4.5% - Cost \$116 million  
As far as the bridge openings per day, we looked at data from 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022:  
2019 – average number of openings per year – 2459, per month – 205 and per day 7  
2020 - average number of openings per year – 2298, per month – 192 and per day 6  
2021 - average number of openings per year – 2589, per month – 216 and per day 7  
2022 – average number of openings per year – (did not have full data), per month – 222 and per day 7  
David C. Turley  
Project Development Engineer II  
FDOT District 1

See Letters, page 13

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# KeyRealEstate

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1130 CENTER PL	972	\$1,999,000	3	1	1	289	\$1,700,000
3551 FAIR OAKS LN	2,966	\$2,395,000	3	3	1	3	\$2,300,000
3520 FAIR OAKS LN	2,902	\$1,699,000	3	3	0	206	\$1,550,000
2525 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#15B	1,491	\$1,550,000	2	2	0	129	\$1,450,000
1211 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#309	1,827	\$1,399,000	2	2	0	45	\$1,225,000
2525 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#7C	1,468	\$1,175,000	2	2	0	96	\$1,150,000
1928 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#1401	1,375	\$699,000	2	2	0	238	\$667,500
1945 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#M2-307	1,076	\$689,000	2	2	0	31	\$665,000
820 SPANISH DR S	1,399	\$615,000	2	2	0	163	\$545,000
4390 EXETER DR Unit#204	837	\$389,000	1	1	0	51	\$385,000



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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.

## July 27 Raccoon

11:00 a.m.  
Officer Miklos was dispatched to Harbourside Drive in reference to a raccoon laying on top of a lanai cage. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos came into contact with the complainant who advised the raccoon has been on the cage for a few hours . Due to the raccoon being on top of the cage and potentially looking ill, Officer Miklos requested animal services respond to the scene. While waiting for animal services, Officer Miklos was able to use a pool cleaning stick and direct the raccoon away from the house. At the time, Officer Miklos determined the raccoon was not ill or sick. The raccoon was able to climb onto the roof and appeared to be looking for a way off the residence. The complainant was advised to call dispatch if the raccoon returns and request an animal services officer due to the location of the raccoon. Case clear.

## July 28 Citation

8:38 p.m.  
Officer Martinson while on patrol in the 5200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive, observed a gray Kia traveling north-bound with the front passenger side headlight out. Officer Martinson conducted a traffic stop and made contact with the driver and explained to him why he had been pulled over. When the officer asked for his driver's license, the driver said



that he did not have one. The driver was given a citation with a court date and was told he needed to call someone with a valid driver's license to come drive the vehicle. Case clear.

## July 29 Disturbance

12:00 a.m.  
Officer Tillman reported a disturbance in the lobby at a hotel. Officer arrived and spoke with the person who was upset with the staff because they didn't sell cigarettes. The person was intoxicated and being loud with her demands. The person was asked to go back to her room at which time she eventually complied. Officers were familiar with the person from a previous call on July 27. Case clear.

## Driver's license

7:49 p.m.  
Officer Maple while on patrol received a license plate reader hit from the Longboat Key South Camera for an expired driver's license. Officer Maple conducted a traffic stop in the 3100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive and made contact with the operator who was identified by his Ecuadorian passport, said his driver's license was expired as he was having problems renewing due to his citizenship status. The man said he was aware he was not supposed to be driving and confirmed a driver's license expiration date of Sept. 13. Officer Maple returned to his patrol vehicle and conducted an FCIC/NCIC check, which confirmed the man didn't have a valid license. While completing processing, the man advised that his son who had a valid license was going to remove the vehicle from the scene. The man was again advised not to drive until he had a valid driver's license. Case clear.

## 911 8:55 p.m.

Officer Mathis was dispatched to 4700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to an abandoned 911 call. Upon his arrival to the location, Officer Mathis made contact with the occupant and she advised that she was attempting to call room service and must have misdialled. Case clear.

## July 30 Suspicious incident

5:15 p.m.  
Officer Pescuma was dispatched to the area of Dream Island Road in reference to a suspicious incident regarding intermittent foghorn blasts. Officer Pescuma advised dispatch that due to the severe thunderstorms and heavy rain, the bilge alarms on nearby boats at the pier are activating therefore sounding a foghorn signal. Case clear.

## August 1 Dispute

11:15 a.m.  
Officer Nazareno and Officer Miklos were dispatched to Marbury Lane in reference to a civil dispute between a homeowner and landscapers. Sarasota Sheriff's Office dispatch advised the landscapers were last seen driving a lawn service truck with a trailer. Upon arrival on Marbury Lane, Officer Miklos observed the lawn service truck traveling near Marbury Lane and stopped next to the police car. Officer Miklos asked the driver what happened and he advised he was in a verbal argument with a homeowner over drive over the grass due to the narrow street and the lawn truck he said, did not do damage to the yard. Officer Miklos requested the man's driver's license and he said he did not have one but provided a Mexico ID card and advised he didn't have a valid driver's license. Officer Miklos returned to his vehicle and called the complainant who confirmed the argument was over the vehicle driving in his yard. Both parties advised it was strictly a verbal argument and no damage was done to the property. The complainant spoke to Officer Miklos about the ongoing issues with the street. Due to the lawn worker being in possession and driving the vehicle upon Officer Miklos's arrival, he issued him a criminal citation for operating a vehicle without a valid license. The truck was removed from Marbury Lane by a supervisor with a valid license who arrived on scene after the incident. Case clear.

## Jumping

12:00 p.m.  
Officer Miklos was dispatched to the Longboat Pass Bridge in reference to juveniles jumping off the bridge. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos came into contact with a group of males who advised they were fishing and jumping off the bridge. Officer Miklos advised the group of the dangers of jumping off the bridge as well as informing them that it is a violation of Florida State Statute. The group advised they would stop jumping off the bridge and Officer Miklos said that if he were to get another call about them jumping he would start issuing citations. The group were polite and respectful during the interaction and were last seen heading north on the bridge toward Bradenton Beach. Case clear.

## Longboat Key News Sarasota City News

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# WineTimes

## Southern Hemisphere Vintage Buys

*The Southeastern Australia Shiraz wines, from the Australian clones of the classic red Syrah grape from the Rhone Valley of the South of France, compete head to head with the best of French Bordeaux and California Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon.*

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

Southern Hemisphere red wines occupy very limited shelf space in wine shops and receive fewer reviews in the press than they deserve.

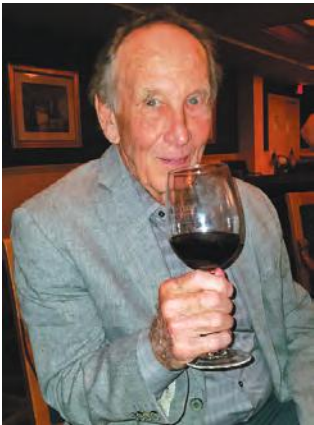
The 2021 vintage down under offers many wine buys that merit the attention of serious wine drinkers. Here we recommend Australian and New Zealand wine regions that have bottled outstanding wines in 2021. We also mention a few wines from these regions as examples of highly rated wines.

The Southeastern Australia Shiraz wines, from the Australian clones of the classic red Syrah grape from the Rhone Valley of the South of France, compete head to head with the best of French Bordeaux and California Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. The old vines in the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale regions near Adelaide are as old or older than the vines on the Chateau of Bordeaux or the estates in the Napa Valley. The heat and long winter days around Adelaide rival summer days in France and California. The Shiraz grapes make boldly tannic wines that stand up to lamb, game, and aged beef in their youth, and soften and mellow with age in the bottle. Look for these wines both for pairing now with grilled meats and to hold for five years or more:

The 2021 Langmeil Hangin Snakes Shiraz Viognier Barossa Valley (\$21) and the 2021 deNegoce Lot 355 McLaren Vale Shiraz (\$13) have the intense cassis (black current) and plum flavors of wines from these regions. The bargain prices make them options for everyday meals.

The small Coonawarra (the aboriginal word for “honeysuckle”) wine region in extreme Southeastern Australia has become a national favorite for Cabernet Sauvignon. Wine Australia calls it “A flat region famous for its terra rossa soils (thin iron-oxide based top soil over limestone)” and notes its temperate climate. The 2021 Stonehaven Limited Vineyard Release Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon (\$30) has the dark fruit, herbal, and spice flavors that Cab fans love. The terra rossa soil adds whiffs of sea salt and iodine.

To the east of Australia in New Zealand, the Pinot Noir grape has taken footholds in the Central Otago and Marlborough regions on the South Island. Cold summers and temperate winters favors Pinot Noir wines as much as the leading wine export from New Zealand, Sauvignon Blanc. Plots of Pinot Noir alongside larger expanses of Sauvignon Blanc in Marlborough help grape growers to diversify. Central Otago wine grape dry land farmers have improved Pinot Noir ratings steadily over the last decade, and Marlborough growers have followed suit. The Central Otago and Marlborough



Pinot Noir ratings for the 2021 vintage exceed the best of the French Burgundy parcels and California regions except for the matching Anderson Valley ratings. The lovely 2021 Peregrine Pinot Noir Central Otago (\$22+) and the 2021 Pa Road Pinot

Noir, Marlborough (\$19) represent balanced combinations of intense fruit tastes and tight tannic structure. The former pleases the tip of the tongue, and the latter lingers in the back of the mouth. New Zealand Pinot Noir tends to be difficult to find in the States, and in most other areas of the world as well.

Keep an eye out for the 2021 vintage top rated Syrah/Shiraz and Pinot Noir. Climate changes mean more variation year to year in the climate events either favorable and unfavorable to grape growing in any one location. It pays to look for wines from regions that have been blessed during a vintage year.

*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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# KeyHealth

## Political Insomnia disorder

*Politics and propaganda, images and utterances promoting fear, hatred, loathing and revenge, do not have to keep you up at night.*

**MATHEW EDLUND**  
Contributing Columnist  
edlund@lbknews.com

“I can’t sleep!” people keep telling me – even if they’ve slept well their entire lives. “What I saw today was unbelievable, I can’t get it out of my mind!” Television images of fear, rage, intimidation and destruction seep into their dreams: of friends and neighbors screaming at them to leave their homes, workplaces blasted in fire, wars in the streets while their children fight far away.

Not since 9/11 has the clinical population I and others so complained of the inability to turn off and rest. Here is a partial explanation of why – and what to do to change it.



MATTHEW EDLUND

### If It Bleeds It Leads

Humans are built to notice the needle in the haystack. We best commit to attention and memory the odd or bizarre – and the emotionally inciting. The Internet potentiates a visually charged era where extremity, virtual and non-virtual of virtually any form, sells and sells and sells. The extraordinary and previously unimaginable stokes and produces ratings, money, influence and power. This is the also media political arena right now.

So when Republican presidential aspirant Donald Trump was discovered tweeting the sayings of Italian fascist leader Benito Mussolini, his response was “it got your attention, didn’t it?”

### That was the whole idea.

Getting attention is the particular game of this political cycle, and if posturing violates civility and cultural norms the more attention is “won.” So if Trump says he would date a young woman if she were not his daughter, talks of building continental walls higher than the original Tower of Babel, suggests protesters be beaten or demands terrorist families be targeted for extermination, he unsurprisingly gets maximized attention. Playing to the same wave, terrorist leaders check their social media feeds to see which act of calculated carnage creates the most “hits.”

Such is the “news” that keeps so many of us up at night. It should not.

### TV or Not TV, That Is the Question

Huge numbers of Americans say they “fall asleep” watching television. These days, more and more cannot.

With the declining exception of a few benighted public stations desperate to hold onto shrinking Congressionally controlled budgets, most media has a primary goal of making money. They don’t make money if their nightly audience is asleep. And they really know how to keep you up. Alert and ready to ingest the advertising that’s the main source of their cash.

So most media, particularly ones with high visual content, do whatever is in their power to keep you riled as the night wears on – with bold images, lurid colors, noisome soundtracks and remarkably pretty people. And since it changes by the second, a big driver of stimulation is the “news.”

It’s hard to visually dramatize a hundred million people falling victim to Dengue fever. A few hundred Zika virus babies with tiny, misshapen heads gets a lot more “hits.”

Fear, hatred, cheating and loathing keep ratings up. Terrorism in particular sells. Seeing people “just like us” blown to bits in airports and grocery stores are images people can’t forget – and often can’t stop watching. Many patients tell me that the Paris and Brussels attacks



“glued” them to their sets for days. Through endless repetition television keeps such images “alive.” That this is exactly what terrorists want. That such attention often provokes the political and military decisions the terrorists also desire receives far from sufficient comment.

So one of the rules of good sleep is particularly relevant in a period of self-promoting, polarizing political machines – turn off the electronics an hour before sleep. Yes, turn them off. Turn down the lights. Calm the mind and body so your body clocks will nudge you into sleep.

### The News and the Facts

Americans now frequently complain that their news outlets are “biased” and not reporting the facts.

In fact, bias is normal in any media. Ideology – we all have our own – routinely shapes our perception, acceptance, and description of events.

So when it comes to American news, it may sometimes be best to look overseas. Even if journalistic traditions of reporting “facts” rather than opinion now appears increasingly vestigial, foreigners possess a very different take on American events. In particular the Brits, with their long journalistic traditions and caustic and bemused reading of American affairs, can be looked to in times of high emotion. Virtually all ideological positions are available. I would recommend recourse to the BBC, the Economist, the Financial Times and the Guardian for those who want to have a less conflicted version of what’s going on here. In general, print will prove less inflammatory than visual media, and because of the way the brain shapes information, often more measured.

Another tack to try to emphasize facts. Politifact and other resources attempt to give people some semblance of what is truly real, what is conjecture, and what is propaganda. Reading history, particularly about periods with similar forces like the 1930s, can also calm and clarify the mind.

### Bottom Line

Politics and propaganda, images and utterances promoting fear, hatred, loathing and revenge, do not have to keep you up at night. Turn off the electrifying electronics and turn on your analytic powers. For in the end it is better to be an actor than a spectator. The truth may be elusive and may not at all set you free, but it is worth striving for and using as a guide to the actions that control our lives. Democracy depends on informed, active citizens, and knowledge is implicit power. Placed by you in your own hands, knowledge can provide both encouragement and solace, and even help lead you peacefully to your night’s rest.

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# Editor Letters



Letters, from page 8

Comment Response

To: FDOT Project Development Engineer David Turley

Thank you for your response. I co-chair a large community group with 24 homeowner and condo associations on the north end of Longboat Key (LBK North). Thank you for leading a project that will improve our infrastructure, transportation and safety, especially pedestrian and bike safety going over the Longboat Pass bridge. The community also appreciates the considerations you and your leadership are giving to reduce proposed bridge width and height.

One question that has come up from our group of 24 representatives, is concerning the number of bridge openings. Do you have data to share that indicates the number of openings, including times of day and months, that occur for the Longboat Pass Bridge currently? This data would help us better understand the potential impact on travel times. If the numbers are not broken down - even averages would help. In other words, does the bridge open 2 times a day or 22 times (we assume somewhere in between) and do these numbers change significantly throughout the day or by month?

Another question we get is the difference in height, slope, cost and bridge openings between the current bridge and the two other bascule bridges. Do you have a graphic that I can share with the group? (I think you had a summary graphic at the last Town Commission meeting).

Lastly, can you remind us of the next step in the design /decision process. Feel free to call if easier to discuss. Thank you for any assistance with this information.

Maureen Merrigan  
Longboat Key

Comment Response

To: Maureen Merrigan

My name is David Turley and I have taken over as the Project Manager for the SR 789 (Longboat Key) PD&E Study. The reason for the email is to respond to your comment made during the workshop:

“Dear Mr. Bateman,

Thank you for soliciting input regarding the Longboat Pass Bridge. Our first priority should be to repair and extend the life of the current bridge as long as feasible. It serves us well and has no significant impact on traffic. The relationship between LBK north end traffic and bridge openings is minimal at best.

If the bridge is to be replaced, only the lower bridge would fit the scale of the community and surrounding areas. A lower bridge would still allow for recreational fishing.

The proposed width of the bridge in each of the new build options is excessive. The expansive width will increase the cost of the project unnecessarily and impact the vegetation, noise barriers and adjacent residential property (Northgate condo units and the N Shore Rd entrance.) The proposed width in no fashion aligns with the adjoining Gulf of Mexico Drive roadways.

Please consider shoulders 1/2 lane width (vs the proposed full 12 ft length lane).

While the outer pedestrian, bike and fishing lanes would benefit from being wider than the current 5 ft lane, 8 ft lanes are more than sufficient. The proposed 12 ft lanes on each side would only waste tax payer dollars on excessive cement and construction and encroach on current vegetation and nearby housing.

I am completely opposed to the taller bridges, as someone who bikes and walks over the bridge frequently. FDOT must already be aware of the year on year increase in e-bike and scooter traffic going over the LB Pass bridge by residents and workers who are trying to avoid the traffic backups. The taller bridges are much more dangerous due to the natural acceleration of bikes (electric and manual) and scooters going over the bridge.

Any opportunity for passengers to appreciate the beauty of the pass is lost on the taller bridges - all one typically sees in steeper, taller bridges is the cement and sky in front as one climbs up a bridge, and the road and tops of houses and trees as one descends.

Finally, FDOT should do all it can to maintain the current bridge landing footprint (LBK side) to minimize impact to the surrounding neighborhood, existing housing and vegetation.

I hope FDOT can explore methods to extend the life of the current bridge. If FDOT must construct a new bridge, please construct one that is low (Alternative 1) and much thinner than the proposed options presented.”

Thank you for your input on this study. We are exploring options to reduce the width of the replacement options, including reducing shoulder or travel lane widths.

David C. Turley  
Project Development Engineer II  
FDOT District 1

Comment Response

To: Maureen Merrigan

Thanks for this. I believe David Turley is the new FDOT representative taking over since Patrick has moved to other projects. David was introduced at a couple of recent meetings and seems to be responding to emails that we all sent a few months ago. This is very encouraging.

I agree with your assessment that the difference between lowest and highest Bascule bridge looks like it is one per day. I wonder if they have seasonal data? Are there days or months when the openings become greater than say 10 per day?

Just a couple of thoughts for now.

Hope everyone has a great weekend.

Eddie Abrams  
Longboat Key

Added Clarification Necessary

It seems that I might have misspoken in my earlier email to Gary Coffin, whom I have cc'd on this update.

A close reading of ordinance 151.03 B(3)(a) does actually state (mind-bogglingly), “shall not protrude more than 12 inches seaward of the existing seawall or seawall cap.” This makes no sense! We all know that seawall “caps” extend well beyond the actual sea wall.

Accordingly, I know of at least one contractor who has interpreted this to mean that they can measure 12 inches from the seaward edge of an existing seawall cap, thereby protruding

well beyond 12 inches from the actual seawall. This is not the intention of this ordinance. Who is actually responsible for writing this ambiguous and contradicting language? (As an aside, this ordinance also uses both “protrude” as well as “project” in the same paragraph). It is very apparent from the approved issued permits I have seen, and forwarded in my previous email (none of which include actual measurements, only a “disclaimer” acknowledging “12 inches from seawall or seawall cap”), that this ambiguous language is already being exploited by contractors.

This is a huge problem, that I wonder might come into play in the mitigation of the issue now before the Town regarding Ranger Lane.

We need an emergency HOA Board Meeting to discuss this, with the intention of presenting our concerns and seeking clarification from the Town Manager. Let’s discuss when Lynn is back in town!

Chris Sachs  
Longboat Key

Added Clarification Necessary

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Am I correct that modification of this ordinance falls under the state’s no amendments for two years?

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

Noisy Offensive Construction Traffic on Old Bradenton Road

To: Sarasota City Engineer Nik Patel

As we agreed, I have initiated a conversation with MasterRock, asking that they route their dump truck traffic out of our neighborhood onto US301.

In last Thursday’s phone conversation with Kevin, a manager, I asked the company to reroute their trucks. His responses were the following,

- We’re allowed to use the street, which is correct – currently.
- Other trucks use Old Bradenton Rd, which is also true. But,
  - o The MasterRock trucks are like an army of giant noisy ants having discovered a stash of honey, a pile of dirt in this case. One neighbor counted 38 in one morning. It would take days to count that many “other trucks.” I’ve observed 3 in 10 minutes.
  - o The other trucks have better noise reductions in their exhaust systems. People can hear the MasterRock trucks three blocks away. Imagine the decible level on Old Bradenton Rd and Myrtle. Those trucks were not designed to operate in residential areas.
- His first comment was, it’s the shortest route, which it is not. From the light at the 7-11 and University Pkwy where the trucks have to turn, using US301 is a third of a mile shorter. Friday via a certified postage, I sent the attached letter to MasterRock.

This industurial noisy traffic is negatively impacting the quiet and peaceful enjoyment of our homes. Please know, our effort to get this traffic out of our neighborhood will not end here.

How can we get together to talk about this? Our August officer’s meeting is 8/12, 6 p.m. at the home of Mary and Pete Fischer, 3407 Old Bradenton Rd. You are most welcome to join us, as are any of those copied on this email. An RSVP would be useful, considering their home would be hard pressed to accommodate everyone copied.

Richard Harris  
Sarasota

Noisy Offensive Construction Traffic on Old Bradenton Road

To: Richard Harris

Thanks Richard for this outreach effort and for copying me on this. I am not sure what the City can do to help (legally and practically since we don’t have official truck routes) but this is a good first step on your part. Keep me in the loop and I’ll keep this on my list of discussion items with Mr. Brown, Mr. Robinson, and Mr. Fournier.

Jen Ahearn-Koch  
Vice Mayor  
City of Sarasota

Legacy Business website update

To: Sarasota City Vice Mayor Jen Ahearn-Koch

Please see the link to the City of Sarasota’s Legacy Business website. Jennifer said that when you tried to pull the site up it was completely blank on your phone. I tested the site on my city cell phone and it came up with no issues. When you get in the office please let us know so we can have IT take a look at your device.

In discussing the vision for the webpage Wayne advised that they are in development of a more visually appealing landing site for the program with logos of each legacy business and perhaps a photo of the organization getting their recognition. As it currently stands there are 5 Legacy Businesses listed on the GIS Map on the webpage, they are adding two additional that just received their recognition. If you have any further questions please let me know.

Pat Robinson  
Deputy City Manager, City of Sarasota

Legacy Business website update

To: Sarasota City Assistant Manager Pat Robinson

Thanks for getting back to me. I probably did not explain myself clearly as I am not having trouble with the Legacy Business landing page but it is the (hamburger) dropdown menu that links to nothing (see attached screen shots). I have attached screenshots. I am aware staff are working on this and am eager to see the updated site when it starts to fill in with info.

Jen Ahearn-Koch  
Vice Mayor  
City of Sarasota



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# BreakPoints

## Loosen up if you want to hit with more power

What is the best technique to increase power?

**JACKIE BOHANNON**  
Guest Columnist  
tennis@lbknews.com

There are many different ways you can increase power throughout your tennis game. On groundstrokes the very first suggestion is holding the racquet as loose as you can. When you squeeze your grip, you are less likely to get racquet head speed. Therefore, the looser you hold the racquet the more racquet head speed you can generate. If you watch a recreational player and a professional player, one of the biggest differences is the racquet head speed the professionals generate.



BOHANNON

How do we get more racquet head speed? As mentioned above, first hold the racquet looser. I like to say hold the racquet like you are holding a baby bird. Firm enough that it cannot fly away, but loose enough you won't hurt it. Another way to get more power but also stay loose is to use your legs. When the ball bounces you want to bend your knees so you can accelerate up and push off with your legs. This is called loading up.

You are generally going to think you are hitting the ball harder when you hit it flatter. Stepping into the ball causes the ball to be flatter while an open stance naturally creates more topspin. Regardless of your stance to get more power you want to rotate your hips. It is imperative to maximize your lower body usage in order to get more power. You literally want to push off starting with the big toe, bending the knees, turning the hips, and then follow through. You want to follow through until your racquet stops against your back or shoulder. If you slow down your swing, don't follow through, or jab the ball you will also lose power.

Many times recreational players worry about hitting long. If you are going to miss the worst thing you can do is hit the ball into the net. Don't worry about overhitting. It is much easier to learn to control the ball or put spin on it to make it stay in. Therefore, one of the best drills to work on racquet head speed is to have a pro or ball machine feed you and from the baseline try to hit the back fence. This works on racquet head speed. Oftentimes when I do this drill I find not only do my clients not hit the fence but they end up hitting the ball beautifully a few inches from the baseline. You have to trust the racquet and let it go. Another great drill to work on racquet head speed is rallying with a friend from 10-15 feet behind the baseline, or again having a pro feed you, but you stand as close to the back fence as you can. These drills really help improve racquet head speed. Racquet head speed=power!

Most of the aforementioned suggestions also apply to the serve and overhead: be loose, accelerate, turn your hips, and use your legs, however there are two more tips to get more power on your serve and overhead. On your serve and overhead you want to hold the racquet a little lower than you

would on your groundstrokes or volleys. When I go to serve I generally have my pinky and or my pinky and ring finger off the racquet. This keeps me looser and generates 10-20 more miles per hour. If I want to hit a more conservative serve I keep my hand in the same position as I hit my groundstrokes. Holding the racquet lower allows you to snap your wrist more efficiently which will also generate more power. Similarly to the groundstroke drill, I often recommend having clients serve into the fence to work on racquet head speed. For overheads I work on snapping the wrist so the ball will bounce in and then go over the fence. On overheads that can not be smashed over the fence, work on hitting your overhead through the court where it only bounces once. You know you are getting good power on your overhead if it hits the fence after only bouncing once. I hope these tips help you continue to develop and improve your power game.

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# KeyCrossword

### Pink Slip

#### ACROSS

- 1. River hazard
- 5. It aids commerce in Cancun, Kalamazoo, and Calgary
- 10. Left 21 across or 8 down
- 14. He's blue without his red or white
- 15. Offering from Google or Yahoo
- 16. He may be blue because he's in the red
- 17. Golden rule word
- 18. Princess in plum?
- 20. One might clean up at a Vegas hotel
- 21. Certain hand-outs
- 22. Coolpix camera maker
- 23. Fabric for a sundress
- 25. Creatures of clay
- 26. Share the stage with journalist Andrea?
- 30. See eye to eye
- 31. Lord's Prayer start
- 32. Blown away
- 36. Org. that sticks to its guns
- 37. Auto dealer's option, and a hint to this puzzle's theme
- 41. Greeting for Caesar
- 42. Congers and morays, e.g.
- 44. Keats creation
- 45. Novelist Joyce Carol
- 47. Caesar's boastful bon mot?
- 51. Like this clue
- 54. Pendragon of legend
- 55. Stock holding
- 56. Word with back or off
- 58. Tach readings
- 61. San Fran sportscaster?
- 63. "Piggies"
- 64. Caesar's challenge
- 65. One with grievances, perhaps
- 66. Classic Lotus model
- 67. Kind of waist
- 68. Strand in Rapunzel's rope
- 69. Oxford fellows

### Robert Stockton

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18					19				
20					21					22				
		23		24					25					
26	27						28	29						
30							31				32	33	34	35
36					37	38	39				40		41	
42			43		44					45	46			
			47	48				49	50					
51	52	53						54						
55						56	57				58	59	60	
61					62						63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

#### DOWN

- 1. Like one leg of a triathlon
- 2. First of a famous sailing trio
- 3. Like AZT
- 4. "Well said!!"
- 5. Himalayan denizen
- 6. Worn magic item
- 7. McDonald's, e.g.
- 8. Certain hand-outs
- 9. Tide alternative
- 10. Silverback, e.g.
- 11. No longer napping
- 12. Asp's output
- 13. Moran and Brockovich
- 19. Hydroxyl compound
- 24. "...until \_\_\_\_ a man with no feet."
- 25. "It's Raining Men" singer Halliwell
- 26. Heroine of a classic children's reader
- 27. Man-eater of myth
- 28. Many a software engineer
- 29. Blue, red, or white
- 33. Sport with very wet horses?
- 34. What to get after an insult
- 35. He loved Lucy
- 38. Unchangeable storage
- 39. Stir
- 40. A bagel and lox, perhaps
- 43. Buttress
- 46. Kept at bay
- 48. Mouse manipulator
- 49. You'll find many in a pound
- 50. Pronounces
- 51. How good was it?
- 52. Tony-winning Rivera
- 53. Dennis Miller specialty
- 56. Evening on the Champs-Élysées
- 57. Land of the leprechauns
- 59. Like 27 down
- 60. Apr. 15 data
- 62. Wine container

# KeySudoku

					7			
		2	4		6	3		
	1	7				9	6	
5	8						3	
				9				
	7						4	2
	9	4				6	5	
		5	2		8	1		
			5					

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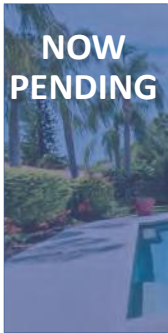
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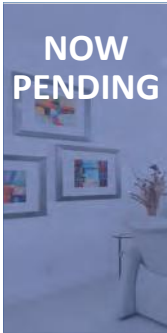
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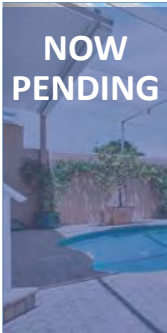
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