

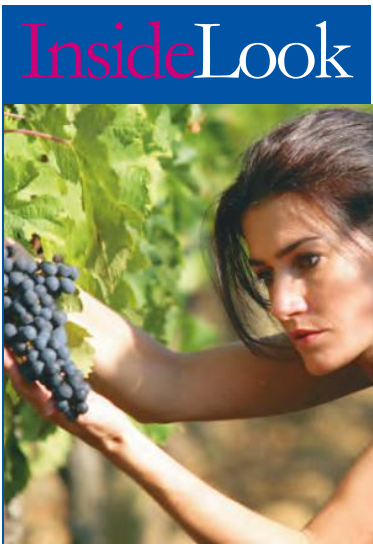


Longboat Key News

June 21, 2024

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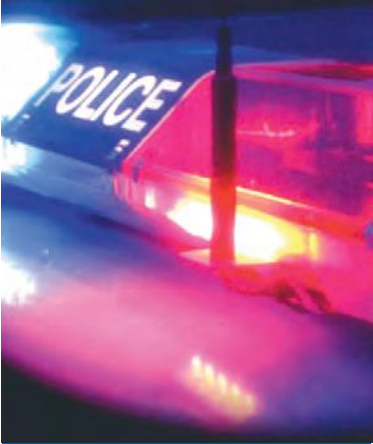
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Whale Key
Bay Isles sells for \$3.85 million ...page 9



Can small hands Rubio be a VP? ...page 7



Arcs and sparks prompt a call ...page 10

Sarasota says flood systems worked at St. Armands during massive storm

Sarasota County spokespersons said Monday that amid heavy damage and flooding at St. Armands Circle at homes and businesses after last week's rains, the new emergency rain pump systems put in place to handle excess runoff water worked as designed.

Even so, many businesses found themselves closed for at least a day or more while clean up and mitigation of the flood waters continued after last week's historic rainfall.

Last year after Hurricane Idalia, Sarasota County engineers said they were working on the a plan to replace 20-year-old flood runoff systems.

During the height of last year's hurricane surge, the electrical panels were knocked off line the old systems causing most of the pumping systems to fail near St. Armands Circle.

The county has upgraded and put a new taller train towers that can withstand more storm force.

One dead after boat crash in Sarasota Bay on Friday

One person has died after a boating accident in Sarasota Bay on Friday evening.

The man has been identified as 46-year-old Mark Hall according to the FWC.

The incident occurred near Longboat Key by 600 Jungle Queen Way in Manatee County around 6:30 p.m., when a vessel traveling on the Intracoastal Waterway struck a channel marker.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Longboat Police Department, Manatee County Fire Rescue, lifeguards, and the U.S. Coast Guard all responded to the scene.

Mote and wounded vets partner to save coral

Many of the CWVC participants were able to dive alongside Mote scientists with specialized waterproof prosthetics.



Earlier this month, Mote Marine Laboratory welcomed thirteen members of the Combat Wounded Veterans Challenge (CWVC) to its Elizabeth Moore International Center for Coral Reef Research & Restoration (IC2R3) in the Florida Keys for a historic outplanting ini-

tiative and groundbreaking research project.

Combat-wounded and injured veterans with various types of injuries, including traumatic brain injuries, transtibial (below the knee), and transfemoral (above the knee) amputations, as well as many other

Seven people were on board at the time of the crash. Two of the passengers were transported to a local hospital, and one died as a result of the accident.

The condition of the second person with serious injuries is still unknown. The crash is under active investigation by the FWC.

Sarasota is changing parking policies

Starting in July, new changes are coming to how you park in the City of Sarasota.

City officials said they're trying to control ongoing parking challenges. While awaiting a long-term solution to their street parking challenges, complimentary city garage parking has now been cut down from 2 hours to 1 hour.

The second hour will cost \$2 and then \$1 more for each additional hour. The daily maximum for garage parking will remain at \$23.

All-day parking for single vehicles at Centennial Park will cost \$5, and \$10 with a trailer.

City officials encourage using the discounted city parking garage.

In addition, 80 spaces along Benjamin Franklin Drive on Lido Key will now cost \$1 per hour, but the beach parking lot with 368 spaces will remain free.

The new parking policies take effect July 15.

Suncoast WaterKeepers collecting data in Sarasota Bay following fish kill

Suncoast WaterKeepers are collecting data in Sarasota Bay following a fish kill.

The organization says the hundreds - if not thousands - of dead fish were reported by commercial and recreational fisherman following the "flush" of rains that came through the Suncoast last week.

Abbey Tyrna, Executive Director of the Suncoast WaterKeepers said, "Everyone could do their part by cleaning up after their pets, clearing storm water drains, and cutting back on fertilizing their lawns and plants to keep this from happening."

the City of Sarasota. Rainbow banners can be seen hanging off light posts along Main Street and there's a Pride flag flying outside city hall.

See NewsWorthy, page 2

CWVC missions.

"This mission holds profound personal significance for me, as it represents not only the vital work of coral reef restoration but also the profound honor of collaborating with combat-wounded veterans," said Dr. Michael P. Crosby, President & CEO of Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium.

The event, marking the 13th year of collaboration between Mote and CWVC, saw a record-breaking coral reef restoration effort, underscoring the organizations' commitments to marine habitat restoration and innovative scientific research. The joint endeavor not only aimed to restore coral reefs but also to advance understanding of new restoration techniques at targeted outplanting sites.

The CWVC divers, along with Mote staff, accomplished remarkable feats, including the production or "fragging" (scientifically breaking apart coral pieces to promote accelerated growth) of 4,538 coral

See Veterans, page 15

NewsWorthy, from page 1

light displays planned for Pride, Juneteenth, Gun Violence Awareness and other awareness days.

The group has already gathered around 1,000 signatures in a petition to bring back the Pride bridge light display for next year. They hope to bring that before state leaders in the months to come.

Manatee County says algae bloom is tainting drinking water

Manatee County officials are warning residents that their drinking water may smell or taste bad because of an algal bloom in the Lake Manatee Reservoir. County officials conducted tests over the last several days that show high algae concentrations in Lake Manatee, which supplies about two-thirds of the county’s drinking water. The water is still safe to drink, county officials said. A similar algae bloom happened last summer, the Bradenton Herald previously reported. Algae blooms in Lake Manatee are naturally occurring, especially during summer months, county officials said. Manatee County Government provides water to about 362,000 people, as well as providing wholesale water to Palmetto, Longboat Key and parts of Sarasota County. The county is using powdered-activated carbon to treat the water in Lake Manatee, but residents may still notice a slight earthy or musty taste in their drinking water.

According to a news release, residents may also use a carbon filter to help get rid of the odd smell or taste.

Hearing for man accused of murdering boyfriend stopped short; judge gets up and walks out

During a “Stand Your Ground” defense hearing for Brennan Wakey last Friday, the judge got up and walked out after 40 minutes. After a 15 minutes recess, the judge decided he was too sick to continue.

Wakey is accused of murdering his boyfriend, Colton Wright, in a hotel room off University Parkway in December 2021.

Sarasota police charged him with the murder after a housekeeper found Wright shot dead inside the hotel room the following day.

Three months after his arrest, Wakey bonded out of jail. He has been consistent in arguing

that he was acting in self-defense when shooting Wright.

The hearing was originally scheduled for eight hours. No new date has been announced yet.

Another hearing regarding the case is set for Monday afternoon. The state is requesting to increase Wakey’s bond to \$500,000 in hopes of putting him back behind bars.

Thanksgiving in June! benefits Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee and All Faiths Food Bank in Sarasota

Why wait ‘til November for your favorite meal of the year?

Starting Monday, June 24th thru Thursday, June 27, three locally-owned restaurants, the Lazy Lobster of Longboat Key and both Kacey’s Seafood & More locations (Lockwood Ridge & Tallevast in Manatee County and Fruitville Road in Sarasota County) will be offering a renowned Traditional Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner for \$28 featuring fresh roasted turkey with home style stuffing, turkey gravy, mashed sweet potatoes, mashed Idaho potatoes, green beans with fried onions & cranberry sauce. Our full regular menus are also available.

All guests are encouraged to bring five or more non-perishable food items when you dine between June 24 - 27, and receive \$10 in Lobster Loot or Kacey’s Kash which will be valid on their next visit.

“This is a challenging time of year for hunger in our communities. School closures limit access to available meals for many in the community. Patrons can help us by enjoying a delicious Thanksgiving dinner and giving thanks with a donation to our local food banks” said Co-Proprietor Michael Garey. All that’s missing is football.”

For more information/restrictions and a list of urgently needed items, please visit the web-sites at www.lazylobsterlbk.com or www.kaceysseafood.com. Hours differ by location.

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\$11,750,000 - Under Construction
4 Beds 5 Baths 5,292 Sq. Ft.
Oversized Deep Water Bayfront Lot



3621 SAN REMO TER

\$9,750,000 - Under Construction
5 Beds 7 Baths 5,328 Sq. Ft.
400' Wide Bay Inlet



1212 CENTER PLACE

\$6,995,000 - New Construction
5 Beds 6 Baths 4,750 Sq. Ft.
Rooftop Terrace and Private Beach



6489 GULFSIDE ROAD

\$16,995,000 - Under Construction
4 Beds 5 Baths 6,614 Sq. Ft.
100' of Beachfront

EditorLetters

Longboat Key News and Sarasota City News encourages Letters to the Editor on timely issues. Please email to: letters@lbknews.com or mail to PO Box 8001, Longboat Key, FL 34228. We also print letters sent to Town Hall that address Longboat Key issues. We reserve the right to edit.

Questions asked during the council meeting

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman
 Passing this information along as FYI. Isaac and I are working on a draft letter for the Commission to consider at the June 28th meeting that would summarize the Commission/community opinions on the bridge replacement.
 Howard N. Tipton
 Town Manager
 Town of Longboat Key

Questions asked during the council meeting

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman

There were a couple of questions asked during the council meeting that I wanted to get back with you on the answers. Vice Mayor Haycock had asked about the slope on the Ringling Bridge. The bridge has a beginning slope of 4.4% which increases to 5%; both of which are within ADA compliance. Another question was about the lane widths and total bridge width for the Ringling Bridge.

David Turley
Project Engineer
Florida Department of Transportation

Underground Project Pole work

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
Thank you Mr. Mayor, we will check into it.
Isaac Brownman
Director Public Works
Town of Longboat Key

Underground Project Pole work

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman
Nice! All our Comcast services are out in Sabal Cove. They say they're "improving our service". Any connection to the groundwork?
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Underground Project Pole work

To: Longboat Key Town Commission
Just a quick follow up this week: FPL's pole removal contractor, Irby Construction, continues marching down Phase 2 at the north end with Gulf of Mexico Drive (GMD) pole wreck out and removal. Attached are some pictures along GMD nearby Public Works.
Isaac Brownman
Director Public Works
Town of Longboat Key

Bridge cross-section provided by public

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
If we reduced all 6 lanes from 12 feet to 10 feet except the shoulder, which would go from
12 feet to 8 feet, we could make the new bridge 16 feet narrower with similar lane widths to
Ringling,
Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Bridge cross-section provided by public

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
Isaac and I are working on a draft letter for the Commission to consider at the June 28th meeting that would summarize the Commission/ community opinions on the bridge replacement.

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Bridge cross-section provided by public

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Can you ask them how long each bridge is? If the LBK bridge is higher with less slope than the Ringling bridge it must be a lot longer.
Mike Haycock
Vice Mayor

See Letters, page 6

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648 BAYVIEW DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

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370 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #432 | LONGBOAT KEY

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2110 HARBOURSIDE DR., #547 | LONGBOAT KEY

Delight in captivating bay vistas in this well-maintained 2,039 sq. ft. condominium in The Atrium, situated in Fairway Bay in the gated community of Bay Isles. This 3-bedroom, 2-bath residence features many updates, and floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors to the southeast-facing terrace, showcasing gorgeous views of Sarasota Bay and the city skyline.



\$2,155,000

2185 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #212 | LONGBOAT KEY

Villa Di Lancia, one of Longboat Key's premier communities. This corner residence boasts 3 bathrooms, and epitomizes tropical Gulf-front living. The covered terrace, connected to the living room provides a spacious year-round haven to immerse yourself in the stunning surroundings. A spiral staircase offers easy access to resort amenities and the beach just outside. Includes 2 parking spaces.



NOW PENDING

\$2,195,000

775 LONGBOAT CLUB RD., #308 | LONGBOAT KEY

Three bedroom, three bath Gulf front, coastal oasis that is rarely offered. Savor expansive beach views and breathtaking sunsets from the glass sliders, windows and spacious terrace. This second-floor end unit unfolds across 2,122 sq ft of well-planned space. Enjoy a life of ease at Beaches on Longboat Key!



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525 NORTON STREET | LONGBOAT KEY

Magnificent Key West-inspired waterfront home with expansive canal views. This exquisite 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath residence boasts luxurious features, including roofed decks on all levels. The screened patio area features a heated pool and waterfall spa. Enjoy adventurous excursions from your boat dock offering easy and open access to the Gulf and the Bay.

Editor Letters

Letters, from page 4

Bridge cross-section provided by public

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier, Public Works Director Isaac Brownman, and Town Manager Howard Tipton

I was forwarded the email below and wanted to reach out to start a conversation with my father. He has done bridge work with FDOT (LinkedIN), would be a great resource and is willing to help.

Our family and community was very grateful for the thoughtful questions the Commissioners asked during the meeting and encouraged the Town is looking for ways to minimize the impacts to our community. Thanks again for your help.

Ben Ghosh
Longboat Key

Bridge cross-section provided by public

To: Ben Ghosh

My hope is that we can present a single proposal on behalf of the Longboat Key community that encompasses our recommendations for a best-in-class project.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Bridge cross-section provided by public

I believe Ghosh senior is named Gautam. If he has done bridge work for FDOT, maybe he could be part of our effort to present a realistic engineering alternative to FDOT for narrowing, lowering and, if possible, landing the new bridge at or closer to the current landing site. I think we are near a consensus of what we would like to see done.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Bridge cross-section provided by public

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

During the FDOT presentation of the Longboat Pass Bridge Replacement project status, several members of the public spoke including Ben Ghosh, who is a condo owner at the condos closest/most impacted by any new bridge at the southwest end of the project. During his speaking, Ben introduced his father, Mr. Ghosh (I do not recall his first name), who he stated also designed bridges in the past including for FDOT. The elder Mr. Ghosh then spoke next

as to specific remedies and reductions he would suggest to FDOT to lessen the impact closest to their condo complex. As an example, he came prepared with a new typical section sketch for the bridge showing new widths in each of the lanes that were effectively width reductions from the proposed FDOT section. The sketch was scanned and sent to Tip and all the commissioners and that is what the sketch is.

FDOT was receptive to lane width reductions as they came prepared sharing that can be done as a possible remedy to minimize impacts on the west side as well.

Isaac Brownman
Director Public Works
Town of Longboat Key

Bridge cross-section provided by public

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon

I wanted to thank you for your thoughtful questions during the Commission meeting on the bridge. My family and our community has been very thankful for the response and care you’ve demonstrated since learning about the issue.

If we’re going to spend \$100M+ and forever change the quality of life in our community, I’d like to think FDOT can do better prep work and should not be relying on you to search for simple answers.

I’m still optimistic that with your and others help we can provide guidance to make this project one that we can be proud of. Thanks again for your work!

Ben Ghosh
Longboat Key

Water quality of Sarasota Bay

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

Yesterday, I sent out a Director’s Note about the good news we are seeing, in terms of the bay’s recovery. It is true that our bay’s water quality has improved over the past few years, and that we are likely to see a substantial increase in seagrass coverage when our 2024 maps come out sometime early next year. That is not by chance, it is the result of spending over \$300 million on wastewater upgrades and regional stormwater retrofits.

But it’s also true that our watershed holds more people per square mile than Biscayne Bay, and that when we get hit by rainfall amounts like what we received last week, the bay’s response is not going to be good. Attached are two photos supplied to me by Rusty Chinnis. The first is what it looked like at the 10th Street Boat Ramp, in downtown Sarasota, during that rain event. Notice the water pouring over the sidewalks, overwhelming the stormwater collection system. The second photo is a close-up of what that urban stormwater runoff looked like.

See Letters, page 8

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KeyOpinion

Trump’s VP choice will prove instrumental

In presidential elections spanning many decades, the running mate’s ability to carry a crucial state was paramount (think John F. Kennedy’s choice of Texan Lyndon B. Johnson). But this emphasis has waned.

GREGORY RUSOVICH
Guest Writer
rusovich@lbknews.com

The Republican vice-presidential sweepstakes are underway. Former President Donald Trump has a long list of potential candidates. Who among them most provides an electoral boost, demonstrates loyalty to Trump and has the experience to serve as president?

Leading candidates for vice president include North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, Ohio Sen. J. D. Vance, Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton, New York Rep. Elise Stefanik, and Ben Carson, former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

In presidential elections spanning many decades, the running mate’s ability to carry a crucial state was paramount (think John F. Kennedy’s choice of Texan Lyndon B. Johnson). But this emphasis has waned. Recent vice presidential picks have been based on addressing perceived weaknesses of the presidential candidates. Former President Obama, for example, chose then Sen. Joe Biden to compensate for his own inexperience in foreign policy. Trump selected Mike Pence to indicate stability.

Other contemporary considerations include the desire to diversify a ticket or engage a specific demographic (Biden’s pick of Vice President Kamala Harris comes to mind). Trump has several options who would provide a combination of needed vice-presidential qualities.

Rubio offers the ticket an important reach into the Hispanic community. Biden has struggled to win over the Hispanic vote, and Rubio would intensify the Democrats’ problem in this demographic. His Cuban American roots and fluency in Spanish are clear assets. And a likely GOP win in Florida would be further solidified by his presence on the ticket, allowing the campaign to expend resources in other states. A skilled orator, Rubio is quick on his feet in debates. He also could ease the concerns that some moderate Republicans have about the former president. And most importantly, Rubio himself is capable of serving as president.

There could, however, be a residency issue should Trump choose Rubio. There are conflicting interpretations of the Constitution’s language centered around a president and vice-president residing in the same state. It is possible that Rubio (or Trump) would need to change residency from the state of Florida in order to vie for the state’s 30 electoral votes.

Burgum continues to be on Trump’s short list and according to many accounts, he tops it. While he does not add any specific demographic or geographic enhancement to the ticket, Burgum is smart, knowledgeable and steady. He brings a successful track record as governor of North Dakota and portrays a sense of calm and professionalism, which could broaden the appeal to moderate-conservative voters. He is particularly well versed on energy sector issues and speaks convincingly and intelligently on the issue. Burgum is a wealthy businessman and entrepreneur who previously built and sold his own software company to Microsoft for \$1.1 billion. He is also the founder of the Kilbourne Group, a Fargo-based real estate development firm. Burgum clearly demonstrates significant private and public sector experience. But his ability to add politically to Team Trump is questionable.

Scott could significantly help Trump strengthen his recent gains with Black voters, a crucial demographic for the Biden-Harris campaign. Large Black vote margins in Detroit, Philadelphia and Milwaukee are vital for a Democratic victory, and if the gap tightens, the Biden-Harris camp is in trouble. Scott also would be a historic pick, the first Black man to



RUSOVICH

be on a Republican presidential ticket. He has a sunny demeanor and speaks passionately and compellingly about his family’s journey from “cotton to Congress” in just a few generations. This combination of historic choice, penetration of black voters, and powerful life story shatters the progressive “America is racist” narrative and likely damages Biden margins with Black voters. Scott is also deeply loyal to Trump. And while Scott may lack a certain gravitas, the positives sure outweigh the negatives.

Vance has gained momentum in the vice-presidential race recently. He is a former Marine, Yale Law School graduate and bestselling author. Born and raised in Ohio, he brings Midwest roots to the ticket. He is articulate and a strong defender of Trump and his supporters. Vance is 39 years old, and his youth can be a positive. But he is only 18 months into his first government office term, and voters may question his experience.

There are also a few dark-horse contenders for Trump’s vice president. Stefanik from New York demonstrated her prowess in the recent take-down of Ivy League presidents. But while she may help a bit with suburban women voters, she is relatively young and inexperienced.

Cotton is a decorated combat veteran of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. He also has a law degree from Harvard. But his hawkish views on Ukraine may contrast too starkly with the isolationist wing of the party.

Finally, Carson, Trump’s former HUD secretary and a world-renowned surgeon, is still in the mix. Carson is soft spoken, has a compelling life story, and could also help with building additional Black support. But he is 72 years old and also a Florida resident.

Trump recently has shown more discipline on the stump, and more respect for party norms and leadership. Assuming this newly discovered realpolitik approach holds, my bet is that he chooses to run with Scott or Rubio. Either choice slices directly into a historic Democratic constituency and increases the chances for a Trump victory.

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 6

Note the gray, gritty look to the water mass – this is what a big storm will bring.

Over the last few days, I have received comments from many fishing guides – including Rusty Chinnis, Captain Scott Moore, and my neighbor Kyle Eldridge, about bad-smelling and foul-looking water, and also fish kills. Yesterday, Dr. Abbey Tyrna from Suncoast Waterkeepers went out on the bay and found fish kills across the northern mainland shoreline of Sarasota Bay, with the worst conditions centered around the area of New College and the Crossley Estate. It might not help that a large area of uplands had recently been cleared just inshore from New College’s shoreline with the bay – creating a large area of newly exposed and non-stabilized sediment right next to the bay. But that’s not the only active construction site along our shoreline, at all. Abbey found low levels of dissolved oxygen in the water, which is the most likely cause of the dead fish noted across the upper bay - Suncoast WaterKeepers collecting data in Sarasota Bay following fish kill (msn.com)

Why low levels of oxygen? Well, low oxygen is brought about mostly when bacteria start to decompose a mass of organic matter brought into the bay. What kind of organic matter? Things like dog poop and grass clippings and all manner of debris that large rain events will wash into our stormwater conveyance systems. And remember, as pointed out recently, it’s not the Lakewood Ranch neighborhoods that are producing most of this impact, it’s the older bay-front neighborhoods, with little to no stormwater treatment systems in place. It’s convenient to blame population growth and new neighborhoods for all our water quality problems, but during events like this, not only do most of our newer neighborhoods have stormwater treatment systems (although they can get overwhelmed) but they are – mostly – farther away from the bay. The big slug of stormwater pollution dumped into the bay last week is more likely than not coming from bay-adjacent neighborhoods built before stormwater regulations kicked in during the mid-1980s, not newer neighborhoods further east.

As Abbey points out in that interview, think of all the pets out there, and the fecal material they can leave behind! But also, think of all the mulch that no longer exists in the bedding around plants put in around the 10th Street traffic circle. Or all the thatch from all the lawns across our watershed. The oils and greases from those cars stranded in flood waters – that went into the bay as well.

And our wastewater system – it continues to be challenged. So far this year, the City of Bradenton’s WWTP has had overflows of over one million gallons. That is not good. But it is also not nearly as bad as the over one billion gallons of wastewater overflows that occurred in the southern parts of the bay between 2013 and 2019.

So, is this bay getting better or not? Well, overall, across the bay, it is. But 10 inches of rain on such a highly urbanized watershed will set us back – no doubt about it. Think of the volume of water, as an example. Our watershed is about three times as large as our open waters, although the ratio is higher in the south. Not all rainfall becomes runoff, but a typical

high rain event like this would likely contribute perhaps as high as 50% or more of rainfall into runoff (much higher than normal). So, imagine 6” of rainfall across the bay, of which let’s say 25% becomes runoff, With a watershed three times as big as the bay, that would be like adding several inches of urban stormwater runoff across the entire surface of the bay. That water would carry sediments and grass clippings and dog poop, and would not only make the water turbid, but would carry organic matter into the water that would use up oxygen in the water (causing fish kills) as they are decomposed and it would bring nutrient loads that could further fuel algal blooms.

Not good – and the kind of rain event that not only appears to be increasing over time, but which is consistent with expectations of climate change. Why? Because warm air holds more moisture, and more moisture means more intense rain events. And both our air and water are warmer now than they were a few decades ago. The Gulf of Mexico is also warmer than it has been since we’ve been recording data.

So how long might this last, this period of poor water quality? It’s hard to tell, but 2022’s Hurricane Ian might help us come up with an expected timeline - Director’s Note: Recovery from Hurricane Ian (sarasotabay.org). After Ian came through our watershed in the fall of 2022, we had similarly massive amounts of rainfall, but mostly in the lower bay. Within a week, we noticed high levels of bacteria in the water, high levels of algae in the water, and a lack of oxygen in the bottom of the bay. The latter of which seemed to create a fish kill in the lower bay, especially in Little Sarasota Bay. Those poor conditions lasted until at least two weeks after the event, but water quality had rebounded to pre-Ian conditions within four weeks.

Based on the lower bay’s experience with a similarly sized rain event, it would seem that the poor water quality we have in the central and upper bay right now might be expected to last some time between two and four weeks. Hopefully not more than that -= but that will remain to be seen.

Without a doubt, this rain event has been a setback, a serious one. But it’s not the end of the world, and it could (hopefully) be useful in helping us remember how important water quality is, and how we need to do a better job with our wastewater collection, treatment, storage, and distribution systems, with our stormwater treatment systems, and with educating the public in our highly urbanized watershed. This is not good for the bay, but if it wasn’t for the investments made over the past few years, it likely would have been an even worse setback that what it is right now.

Dave Tomasko
Executive Director
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

Suncoast Waterkeeper Weekly Report
To: Executive Director Suncoast Water Keeper Abbey Tyrna

See Letters, page 12

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Bird Key, Lido Key, Longboat Key latest sales

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800 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#206	1,150	\$959,900	2 2 0	34	\$900,000
1700 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#8D	1,492	\$1,400,000	2 2 0	4	\$1,400,000
4720 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#Villa 2	912	\$356,900	1 1 0	339	\$313,510
2039 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#G3-305	1,257	\$665,000	2 2 0	141	\$600,000
5265 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#301	1,155	\$700,000	2 2 0	21	\$650,000
4140 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#2	1,298	\$698,750	2 2 0	68	\$690,000
4900 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#PH5	1,312	\$800,000	2 2 0	232	\$700,000
1922 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#1101	1,375	\$735,000	2 2 0	137	\$705,000
672 JUNGLE QUEEN WAY	2,376	\$1,492,000	4 2 0	141	\$1,337,000
1055 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#601	1,172	\$1,699,000	2 2 0	21	\$1,650,000
3580 MISTLETOE LN	3,333	\$3,850,000	3 4 0	0	\$3,850,000



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SARASOTA HARBOR
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Experience breathtaking waterfront vistas from this exquisitely remodeled, light-filled condominium. Situated on the ground floor, this 2-bedroom, 1-bathroom residence offers a welcoming atmosphere from the moment you arrive. Upon entry, you'll be greeted by a well-appointed kitchen and living space bathed in natural light, seamlessly connected to a dining area and a spacious living room boasting stunning Bay views. Meticulously renovated, this unit features brand-new tile flooring throughout, updated kitchen cabinetry and appliances, and a contemporary bathroom vanity. Located in the vibrant 55+ maintenance-free Sarasota Harbor community, residents can enjoy sweeping panoramas of Sarasota Bay.

OnPatrol

The following are actual police reports as written by Longboat Key Police Officers. They are edited for length, punctuation and to protect privacy.

June 14

Driver’s license

9:29 a.m.
Officer Martinson was notified while on patrol by the south end license plate recognition cameras that a white Dodge van with a registered owner that had a suspended Florida Driver’s license was heading northbound on Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Martinson located the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop at the 500 block of Bay Isles Parkway. Officer Martinson made contact with the man who was driving and he presented a Mexico Driver’s license. Officer Martinson explained to the man why he had been pulled over and he admitted to not having a valid Driver’s License. Sgt. Butler had given the driver a criminal citation for driving with a suspended license with knowledge back in October. The driver was given a criminal citation with a court date. The driver was allowed to park the vehicle at his worksite at Grand Bay and advised to call someone with a valid driver’s license to driver. Case clear.



June 15

Lounging

11:00 a.m.
Officer Tillman was dispatched to the 7000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of a suspicious person sitting in a condominium association’s lounge chair. Upon arrival, Officer Tillman spoke with the man who stated he didn’t realize the chair was privately owned. The man returned the chair to its original location and left the area. Case clear.

June 16

Sea turtle recovery

2:30 p.m.
Officer Kolodzieski while on marine patrol was flagged down by a boater who advised he had called Mote Marine about a dead sea turtle. Officer Kolodzieski activated his blue lights and spoke to the boater who explained the turtle was in shallow water just east of White Key. He further advised that he had provided the coordinates to Mote and that a boat would not be able to get to the location. Officer Kolodzieski plotted the coordinates and was able to see the location was less than a quarter of a mile away, but would be in shallow water that would require a person to respond by wading or in a skiff type of boat. While on scene, two Manatee County Patrol boats arrived. Officer Kolodzieski briefly explained the situation and they agreed that the boats would not be able to get to the location. Officer Kolodzieski advised dispatch to notify Mote Marine, that if they responded, they would need to be prepared to wade to the location. Case clear.

June 17

Driver’s license

7:02 p.m.
Officer Pescuma received a license plate recognition call for a registered vehicle owner with a suspended driver’s license. Officer Pescuma conducted a traffic stop on the silver Hyundai in the 500 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive and made contact with the driver. Officer Pescuma advised the driver that his driver’s license was suspended and he made a spontaneous utterance and said, “I knew it was suspended, I have paperwork from Manatee County DMV but left it at home. The driver could not provide documentation that his driver’s license was valid or that he made attempts to get his driver’s license reinstated. Additionally, the vehicle did not have insurance on file. Officer Pescuma issued a criminal citation for knowingly driving while license is suspended. Additionally, a citation was issued for no insurance on file. Officer Pescuma advised that the driver could not drive and he made arrangements for transportation. Case clear.

Swimming

8:31 p.m.
Officer Ramsaier was dispatched to Sands Point for a call of a marine rescue. The unknown caller stated that they observed someone enter the Gulf with no clothes on. Upon arrival, Officer Ramsaier and Sgt. Montfort made contact with the man who entered the Gulf and he was wrapped in a towel at point of contact. The man said he had a tough day at work and just wanted to go swimming and did not mean to cause any alarm. The man stated he did not want to harm himself and just wanted to forget about the day. The man was escorted off the beach without incident. Case clear.

June 18

Driver’s license

9:52 a.m.
Officer Mathis while on patrol observed a gold pickup truck driving on the sidewalk then moved to the shoulder of the roadway, then maneuvered into the opposing lane of travel and continued southbound on Gulf of Mexico Drive. In fear of a head on collision, Officer Mathis activated his emergency lights and conducted a traffic stop. The driver kept travelling in the opposing lane and then made a left turn onto Lyons Lane and stopped. Officer Mathis made a traffic stop and spoke with the driver asking him for his driver’s license, registration and insurance. The man responded that he didn’t have a driver’s license. The driver further explained that he was not driving the truck, he was just moving it. The driver identified himself by producing a passport. The driver was issued citations for driving with no license, no seatbelt and not maintaining his designated lane of travel. Case clear.

Driver’s license

10:30 a.m.
Sgt. Montfort while on patrol observed a white moped traveling south in the 5300 block. Sgt. Montfort approached the moped from the rear and saw that the moped did not display a license plate. A traffic stop was conducted and Sgt. Montfort made contact with the operator and he said he was unaware that the moped needed to be registered. Sgt. Montfort then asked the operator if he had any sort of proof of ownership documents and stated that the moped was just given to him. Sgt. Montfort then returned to his patrol vehicle and conducted a FCIC/ NCIC check of the Florida ID number which revealed he did not posses a driver’s license. Sgt. Montfort observed the man had a suspended driver’s license for an unpaid traffic offense. Sgt. Montfort detained the driver, the driver was placed in the rear of his patrol vehicle while Sgt. Montfort obtained the mopeds vehicle identification number and it displayed that it was unregistered and not stolen. The driver was then processed and released in the field with two uniformed traffic citations. Case clear.

June 20

Property damage

7:43 p.m.
Officer Miklos was dispatched to a disturbance a the 1000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive between a man and a security guard. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos came into contact with the security supervisor and he said that the guard and a driver had been in a verbal argument over damage to an exit gate arm at the guard shack. The driver’s wife had previously left through the gate and the arm had come down after the woman’s vehicle had passed through, however not before the bike rack on the rear of the vehicle, had cleared the gate arm. The driver said the gate arm became stuck between the car and bicycle and became unattached from the base when the car continued onto Gulf of Mexico Drive. The driver said his wife was unaware that the gate had been damaged. The man advised his wife and the car were not present due to prior plans and he could provide any information needed. The guard requested a property damage report be completed for his company and the damaged gate arm. The guard advised he was not sure how much the damage was caused to the arm or the estimated value. The guard attempted to find the surveillance footage of the incident and was unable to find the recording. The man and the guard were provided a business card with the case number. Case clear.

June 21

Fire

11:19 p.m.
Officer Miklos was dispatched to the 2700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a resident smelling smoke inside the building. The Fire Department advised that there was smoke on the island from a brush fire near Lake Manatee. The Fire Department conducted a check of the building and determined there to be no risk to the building and no police assistance was required. Case clear.

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WineTimes

The Eight Seasons in the Wine World

Summer starts the race to the peak time for harvest. Wine grape growers run a gauntlet of potential hazards along the way. They mend the deer fences, bird netting, fire buffer lanes, flood drainage ditches, and rows and roadways which will be used by those harvesting the grapes.

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

The wine world has eight seasons. Each vineyard and winery has four seasons, and each season has its own agenda. Winemaking above all else involves farming grapes and production of containers of wine. In the springtime the vineyards plant new vines and prune existing vines. Newly planted vines require at least several years to take root and mature to the point of producing wine grapes. Established vineyards replace some vines on a regular basis, but spend more time in the spring cultivating existing vines. The farming of grapes, as with farming of just about anything, amounts to a series of races against time hazards. The races begin with preparing vines to soak in spring rains and nutrients from the soil. In many of the major wine regions, the rainy season ends quickly and the dry heat vital to ripening of fine wine grapes may arrive too soon and leave developing grapes desiccated before they ripen. Vineyards have to protect vines against a hard freeze during bud burst (appearance of young grapes on the vines).



Summer starts the race to the peak time for harvest. Wine grape growers run a gauntlet of potential hazards along the way. They mend the deer fences, bird netting, fire buffer lanes, flood drainage ditches, and rows and roadways which will be used by those harvesting the grapes. Wildfires in California (such as the Point Fire currently burning in the Sonoma region) and in Australia may consume valuable fields or cause smoke damage to grapes. Floods in France and Italy have in prior years ruined vineyards. Under less severe circumstances, Winemakers have to check conditions of the vines and grapes daily as peak harvest time approaches. Different types of wine require different degrees of ripeness of grapes. Once the harvest begins, nothing can stand in the way.

The harvest may overlap into the autumn season. Grape clusters with stems and leaves arrive at a winery in carriers and fill up vats. The grape clusters go through one of many possible multistage processes. Crushing, fermentation, filtering, and storage tend to be the main steps. Other steps may continue through the autumn and into the winter and beyond.

In the fields, work on vineyards continues into the winter season. Pruning of vines prepares them for the next cycle of seasons. The deeper roots of the vines will rejuvenate the pruned stalks. Vineyards till and add fertilizers or other sources of nutrients to the soil around the vines. Vineyards plant cover crops to protect the roots of vines and protect the stalks. Meanwhile, in the winery, usually between November and March, the fermented grape juice becomes wine. Much of this fresh wine will go on to be blended with other wines, further processed, aged in oak barrels, or fortified.

The four seasons of the wine industry in the northern hemisphere have a mirror image in the southern hemisphere. The first days of summer in the northern hemisphere occur at the same time as the first days of winter in the southern hemisphere. The 2024 vintage in Australia has moved into winery cellars some six months before the California begins its winter season. The four seasons in Australia and the four seasons in California add up to eight seasons in the wine world. All we need to remember about vintages is that a southern hemisphere vintage is six months younger than a northern hemisphere vintage.

The eight seasons may, nonetheless, either complicate or enrich the life of a wine tourist. Say you wish to visit a wine region during harvest. Some wine tourists are looking for opportunities to volunteer to help harvest grapes at small vineyards. You have two harvest seasons to consider. The vineyards of Alsace in France will likely have pleasantly cool, sunny weather during late August, September, and early October. The Barossa Valley near Adelaide in southeast Australia will have the same weather conditions during its harvest season during late February, March, and early April.

A parting note, we must add that wine tourists may not



receive much attention during busy times at vineyards. The early spring and harvest time could be inconvenient times to visit a vineyard. Ask vineyards about convenient times to visit.

S. W. Hermansen has used his expertise in econometrics, data science and epidemiology to help develop research databases for the Pentagon, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Agriculture, and Health Resources and Services. He has visited premier vineyards and taste wines from major appellations in California, Oregon, New York State, and internationally from Tuscany and the Piedmont in Italy, the Ribera del Duero

in Spain, the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale in Australia, and the Otago Valley in New Zealand. Currently he splits time between residences in Chevy Chase, Maryland and St. Armand's Circle in Florida.

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

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 8

On June 10th, the enterococci survey was carried out during a period of an incoming tide. The data for this survey was collected in the intertidal zone, where salinity levels ranged between 33 and 37 parts per thousand (ppt), and moderate signs of decaying plant matter were observed. In general, the results indicated less than favorable enterococci levels. Results for sites sampled in Sarasota are as follows:

- Town of Longboat Key Boat Ramp (Undetected #/mL)
 - Bridge Street Pier (185 #mL)
 - Palma Sola Causeway North (63 #mL)
 - Robinson Preserve N (10 #/mL)
 - Emerson Point (NA #/mL)*
- *Emerson Point was avoided because of the presence of algal blooms and foul smelling odor. Please note that any count exceeding 71 is considered a failure, indicating a potential health concern.

We are dedicated to bringing these critical issues to your attention. Enclosed, you will find the official reports for this week's sampling activities, courtesy of Benchmark Enviroanalytical. These reports provide comprehensive data for all the sampled sites.

Additionally, we have provided a link to our website, where you can access more information about our ongoing water quality sampling program.

Abbey Tyrna
Executive Director
Suncoast Waterkeeper

Suncoast Waterkeeper Weekly Report

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton, Town Clerk Trish Shinkle
Thank you Howard and Trish. I am not sure why they identified the Town of Longboat Key Boat Ramp if it was undetected. Copied some folks from waterkeeper as perhaps they can shed light on that.
Isaac Brownman
Public Works Director
Town of Longboat Key

Milestone Reporting Update

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin
I'm sure we can work that out. Also, I'd like to place on a future Board workshop agenda just to go over the overall program and any challenges we're seeing (and that our condo owners are experiencing).
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Milestone Reporting Update

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Tip, would it be possible for me to grab 20 minutes of Elaine's time to explain the premise of these new inspections and guidelines ?

Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Milestone Reporting Update

To: Longboat Key Commission
We're all aware of the impacts from the fallout of the Surfside building collapse and it's impact on property owners working under the new guidelines. There is also a workload impact to our team and I want to recognize Patti, Eileen, and Allen for all of their efforts to meet the expectations of these new responsibilities.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Milestone Reporting Update

To: Planning and Zoning Department
Sharing Eileen's status update & outreach to properties that have condo buildings that are 30 years or older & are 3 or more stories in height. This is the Florida legislature's follow-up to the Surfside building collapse that obligates condo associations to have a structural building assessment completed & submitted to the applicable local government when a 3+ story building reaches 30 years of age, and then every 10 years thereafter.
The first grouping of condos that meet those criteria are required to provide their first assessments (i.e. Milestone Inspections) by December 31st of this year. Eileen has provided the second official outreach about this upcoming due date yesterday (indicating now a that there's final 6 months remaining).

With approximately 6 months left Patti has approved assessments for 55% of the total applicable properties (36 out of 66) and 41% of the total buildings (100 out of 244).
This has taken a significant effort to stand up this new Program, including getting a complete inventory of applicable buildings, developing a tracking system, staying on top of the outreach to let condo associations know about their statutory obligations & then reviewing the reports to be sure they meet statutory requirements and following up if there are structural issues that have been identified. Thank you Patti & Eileen for putting this together & for the ongoing follow-up!
Allen Parsons
Planning and Zoning Director
Town of Longboat Key

Milestone Reporting Update

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons
As promised, below is an update on the Milestone Phase I Reports:
The 180-day notification letters were sent out yesterday to those Condominium Associations required to submit a Phase I milestone report by December 31, 2024, and have not yet done so. A separate letter was sent to the Associations' for each of their buildings that require submittal of a Phase I report.
Sixty-six condo properties (total of 244 buildings) meet the requirements for a Phase I report to be submitted by Dec. 31, 2024.
Phase I Reports Received/Reviewed
Thirty-six Condos Approved (total of 100 buildings)
Four Condos Disapproved (total of 7 buildings); review comments sent/awaiting revisions
Seventy-five total of condo properties (267 buildings) 3 stories or higher on LBK as of Jan. 1, 2024.
Eileen Panza
Assistant to the Building Official
Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 13

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 12

Milestone Reporting Update

To: Longboat Key Commission
We're all aware of the impacts from the fallout of the Surfside building collapse and it's impact on property owners working under the new guidelines. There is also a workload impact to our team and I want to recognize Patti, Eileen, and Allen for all of their efforts to meet the expectations of these new responsibilities.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Turtle light compliance

To: Longboat Key Commission
Will the St. Regis be in turtle light ordinance compliance, when guests occupy all the rooms and want to enjoy the beau colic gulf views at night, while watching their super bright 60-inch TV? What happens if the resort is not in compliance?
Gene Jaleski
Longboat Key

SRQ Altered Flight Path

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
I haven't had the opportunity to fully research the background on the matters you raised below, but I wanted to acknowledge receipt of your email. I have read through your email and reviewed the accompanying track information, and I have also requested additional back-ground from our Air Traffic Organization so that I can respond appropriately.
I truly believe the FAA has made improvements in the way we outreach to and engage with communities with interests and/or concerns related to aviation noise, but I think we likely missed an opportunity in this case to better share information ahead of the recent flight pro-cedure change and the rationale behind the change.
I assure you that I will reach back out once I have additional information, and I appreciate the work you are doing on behalf of the Longboat Key community.
Michael O'Harra, ASO-1
Regional Administrator, FAA Southern Region

SRQ Altered Flight Path

To: FAA Michael O'Harra and FAA Pearlis Johnson
As our Regional FAA Administrator and Deputy Administrator, I need to bring to your attention a recent SRQ Runway 32 departure change impacting the Town of Longboat Key. Our concerns are three fold. First, the complete lack of communication about flight path changes with the Town, given our long history on this subject, is not acceptable. Second, what was the reason(s) for the change that seemed to also catch our local airport administration off guard when suddenly implemented? Lastly, what other alternatives were explored prior to a final decision? We understand that there are likely competing desires at work here, but it would go along way to help our highly astute community understand the reasons behind this change and what if anything can be done to improve the current situation.

Background
February 1997: The Runway 32 Departure "270 – degree turn" was included in the updated Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport (SRQ) noise compatibility plan. All jet aircraft would be instructed to turn left to a 270 degree radial and continue on that radial until they are beyond the barrier island and over the Gulf of Mexico prior to turning either north or south. The 270 degree turn accomplished the following:
Maximized aircraft flyovers above vacant and residential buyout area.
A reduction of 402 homes in the DNL 65db noise contours.
Less noise exposure along the easter shore of Sarasota Bay which included Trailer Estates, Bayshore Gardens, El Conquistador, and the norther portion of Whitfiled.
Reduction in noise exposure would also occur in the northern portion of Longboat Key, which is also a more heavily populated area.
The area that would receive additional noise exposure would primarily be a portion of Longboat Key from the Sarasota/Manatee County line approximately one mile north. Studies at the time indicated that this area includes:
The least amount of permanent residents
The area does not contain residential development and a significant number of commercial ventures and various time-share and vacation rental properties
The area affected would be located well outside the DNL 65+ db contour
**The FAA identified the area of significant noise exposure from airport noise to be within the DNL 65+ db contour
November 16, 1998: Environmental review completed and the FAA approved the "270 – degree turn" departure procedure.
January 1999 – June 2006: The implementation of the "270 – degree turn" was delayed due to additional FAA requirements and Longboat Key resident appeals. The FAA made its final ruling in March 2001, but a group of Longboat Key residents pursued an appeal in Federal court. A Federal appeals court in 2002 upheld the FAA's stance that the proposed flight path would have no significant environmental impact on Longboat Key residents.
The new flight path could not be implemented until after the airport extended the runway, installed noise barriers at the runway's northern end, and purchased or sound proofed neigh-boring homes. In the Spring of 2006, the FAA conducted a flight check at SRQ and published the new departure procedure (270 – degree turn) in its pilot manuals. On June 8, 2006, the 270 – degree turn was finally implemented and has as far as we know been in place since.
I need to note here that at some point the FAA relocated the VOR from the center of the airfield to the north part of the airfield. This changed the radial to track outbound to a 265 degree turn to but the flight path change occurred over the Bay and the crossing at Longboat Key remained at the same location.
The Town received an inquiry from a resident last month about possible changes they were observing to the long established flight path and that question was forwarded to the CEO (Rick Piccolo) at SRQ. I am attaching the response from Mr. Lionel Guilbert, Senior V.P., Operations & Safety for SRQ, for your review and information which confirmed the change in flight path. It also confirmed SRQ's surprise and disappointment in the way in which this was implemented without any community engagement and disregarding all suggestions offered (by SRQ).
Next, there are two attachments that demonstrate the change our residents are feeling. The first is SRKUS4 departure from 5/1/24-5/15/24 and the second is TIDES1 departure from 5/16/24-5/31/24. SRQ commented that some flights were cutting short over Sarasota Bay
See Letters, page 15

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PO Box 8001
Longboat Key, FL 34228
941-387-2200
www.lbknews.com

Steve Reid, Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

Associate Publisher
Melissa Reid

Columnists
Susan Goldfarb, Sig Hermansen,
Greg Rusovich, Blake Fleetwood

Sales
Lillian Sands
Steve Reid
ads@lbknews.com

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Art Ready To Hang
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Veterans, from page 1

microfragments, and setting 30 new anchors for coral trees in Mote’s underwater coral nursery at Looe Key. In addition, CWVC participants set a new single-day production record for Mote by producing 2,003 new coral microfragments. Dr. Crosby also joined with the CWVC divers and other Mote staff to outplant 1,234 corals in just one day.

This year’s initiative aimed to capitalize on the drive, motivation, and ingenuity of Mote’s CWVC partners to test a novel restoration method at two separate reef sites. “The project is focused on using early successional coral species, sometimes referred to as ‘weedy,’” said Dr. Jason Spadaro, Mote’s Coral Reef Restoration Research Program Manager. Early successional species are those that initially recolonize an

Letters, from page 13

and not flying the complete procedure from point to point, further impacting Longboat Key residents and another point for which we’d like clarification.

Why were these changes made? What other alternatives were considered? Why wasn’t the Town given any notice?

Summary
The Town of Longboat Key is a unique place for many reasons, including the fact that it is located within 2 different Congressional districts (Buchanan and Steube). Both of their Offices have been made aware of our concerns and have encouraged us to reach out to you. At the end of the day, we pride ourselves on developing strong working relationships with all of our government partners and would welcome the opportunity to have a discussion with the FAA on these changes for all of the reasons stated previously.

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your time and attention.

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Canals

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider
Sorry if I spoke out of turn or too strongly - I gather I am way behind on the discussions about this. That perhaps was part of my frustration - I should have thought the Commission would have brought the P&Z Board (and staff?) into these discussions long ago since the use and condition of the actual canals, not just the access channels, bear directly on the use of home properties and their riparian rights (ingress and egress and all that). Is it that much different from front yards and driveway rules?
Be that as it may, I gather there is just now a full report by the consultant that does include the actual canals and their condition... perhaps this would be an appropriate time - assuming the Commission would like some help with the many actual details - for a timely reference to P&Z on those matters. We have the time, now that the Comp Plan is essentially behind us.
Just a thought, but also a partial ‘cover’ for the Commission... see the guy who spoke just before me.
Jay Plager
Longboat Key

Canals

To: Jay Plager
Thanks for your note. We have been working on the canals issue for over a year now and are finally getting our arms around it. I’m not surprised you found it confusing at first glance, but the idea is to develop and implement a program to make all waterways passable that should be passable, provide for their maintenance and implement a fair method for paying for that program. It has been the concept from the start that properties located on dredgeable waterways bear a material portion of these costs, while all taxpayers contribute some portion through an ad valorem component to reflect the value of these waterways to all island residents.
I know you have raised the issue from time to time of the Planning and Zoning Board playing a more expansive role regarding Longboat Key policy than its historic land use and comprehensive plan responsibilities. While bringing the expertise of P and Z members to bear on some of these matters could well be valuable, the downside of formal P and Z involvement would be the need to extend the decision-making calendar for often time-sensitive items and to provide for additional preparation and presentations by an already over-stretched staff. Past P and Z members with interest/expertise in particular issues have contributed usefully by engaging in the public discussion of those matters without creating another layer of procedure.
Just a thought.
Ken Schneider
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

area following a major disturbance (e.g., weeds and grasses following a catastrophic forest fire). Although weedy species have not typically been used in restoration initiatives in the past, Mote scientists are testing their ability to reduce erosion of the reef platform and to jump-start critical ecological processes that may support the survival, growth, reproduction, and recruitment of later successional reef-building coral species.

Under the direction of Dr. Spadaro, this research project will involve repeated outplanting events on discrete plots and then monitoring the outplanted plots, and adjacent control plots, for net accretion (e.g., how much calcium carbonate is deposited as coral skeleton vs. how much is lost to erosional forces) along with many other parameters for several years, with the goal of the high-density outplant plots creating an “erosion veneer” on the reef to jump-start multiple ecological functions and improve restoration outcomes over time.

Moving forward, Mote is proactively preparing to safeguard coral nursery stocks ahead of the coming summer months, especially with the threat of another marine heatwave. Last summer, rising heat, high salinity, extreme solar radiation, and potentially low oxygen conditions presented an unprecedented stress event that took its toll on Florida’s Coral Reef along with coral reefs throughout the wider Caribbean region and around the globe. Surface temperatures are currently hotter than they were at this time last year, and Mote scientists are prepared to respond to another potentially catastrophic marine heatwave. It is possible that the La Niña weather pattern this year will offer some respite with increased trade winds but may exacerbate threats to the reef with a potentially active hurricane season and drought conditions throughout the South.

In anticipation of many potential challenges, Mote scientists have developed comprehensive plans to protect vulnerable coral species. Acroporids, like staghorn corals, will be

relocated to Mote’s Upper Keys underwater coral nurseries, potentially out of the path of the worst conditions, where they will be closely monitored throughout the summer months. Mote’s massive form coral species (e.g., boulder, brain, and star corals) will, until signs of thermal stress are observed, remain in underwater nurseries throughout the Florida Keys. At the first sign of substantial thermal stress, these resilient corals will either be shuffled among Mote’s four underwater coral nurseries throughout the Florida Keys or brought in to land to ride out the heatwave in one of Mote’s three state-of-the-art land-based coral nursery facilities in the Florida Keys.

Mote has additionally invested substantially in the development of critical infrastructure at Mote’s Aquaculture Research Park in Sarasota to serve as another option for emergency evacuations of corals in response to a marine heatwave, major hurricanes, or other substantial threats. Mote has more than 40 full-time staff, five dedicated research vessels, and multiple other infrastructure assets among its three Florida Keys campuses standing ready to respond to emergency conditions.

For massive (slow-growing, boulder-like) corals, Mote is prepared to swiftly evacuate tens of thousands of fragments into land-based systems or other in-situ (on-site) nurseries, with IC2R3 expanding its land-based nursery capacity to accommodate an additional 20,000 coral fragments on-site in treated, temperature-controlled seawater systems.

As with last summer’s historic coral evacuation effort, Mote is also capable of immediately mobilizing more than 50 additional staff and multiple other research vessels to assist with any potential evacuations of staff, corals, or infrastructure should the need arise. However, while Mote’s multifaceted strategic plan addresses various potential stress events, the evacuation of corals will only be considered under extreme circumstances, as these operations represent substantial stress on both the coral animals and Mote’s dedicated staff.

KeyCrossword

ACROSS

1. Inventor of a great glass elevator

5. 2nd largest Great Lake

10. Burn balm

14. It was subtitled "A Narrative of the South Seas"

15. It's followed by Febrero

16. One of Asta's owners

17. Specialists in wooden machinery?

20. Raimi/Campbell horror trilogy

21. "Amen to that!"

22. Words of acknowledgment

23. Tribesmen at Red Rock

24. Soft wood used for aircraft parts?

29. Honshu hide-a-bed

32. "I can't ____ thing!"

33. Word with American or Eskimo

34. Place for a short stack, for short

35. Golden Horde member

37. Word with pool or city

38. IM pioneer

39. Food served with frijoles

40. Fabulous storyteller

41. A famously sturdy paddock?

45. Encounter

46. Noble holding

50. It may divide on a slide

53. G&S farce, informally

54. Veneer over a wooden handle?

56. Garfield's punching bag

57. "I'm With Stupid" rocker Mann

58. First name in philosophy

59. It may get trapped in your dryer

60. 1066 and 1492

61. Disco and doo-wop, e.g.

DOWN

1. He doesn't sing Heigh-Ho

2. Something to make or bust

3. Kachina worshipers

4. Sucker

5. As part of this document

6. Like a messy bed

7. Oboe or sax, e.g.

8. Many a Middle Earth warrior

9. Pitcher's goal

10. American Shakers founder

11. She worked for Perry at the Planet

12. Sea World headliner

13. Like a piece of cake

18. Supplement a recipe with

19. Word heard on Lei Day

23. "Eligible" classification

25. Childish insistence

26. Pampering places

27. Narc's jackpot

28. Short shriek

29. Chrysler partner

30. "I've got a bad feeling about this!"

31. Lacquered metalware

35. 18 down's opposite

36. FDIC protectee

37. Brimstone's partner

39. Billy Blanks' calorie burner

40. Capital of Baden's canton

42. Serving at 34 across

43. Hunt's "Mad About You" co-star

44. Homes near buffalo?

47. Many a nurse

48. Where the Magic play

49. Nineveh conquerors

50. One who forgot to touch base?

51. Certain skirt

52. "Alias" director Ken or actress Lena

53. Gila River dweller

55. Conk out

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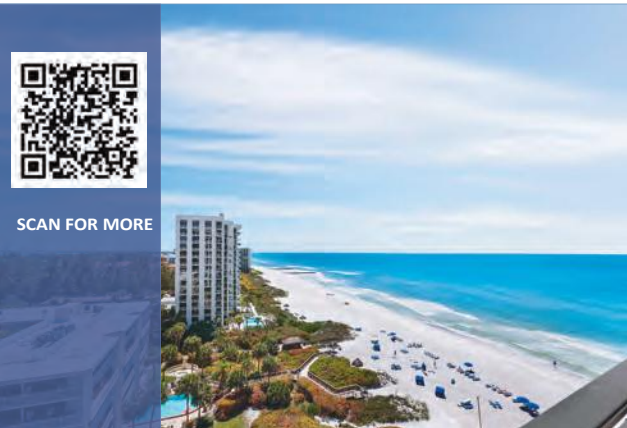
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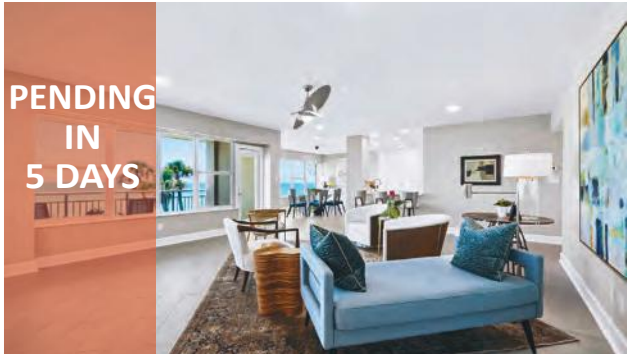
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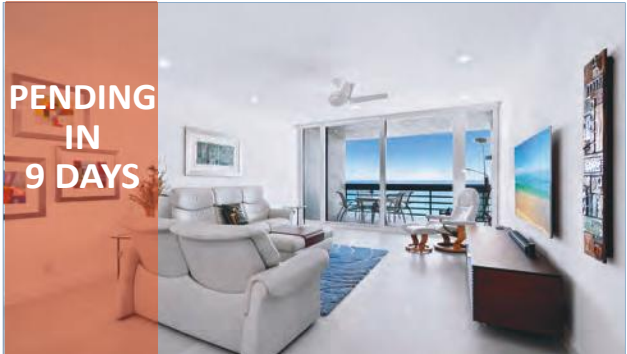
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