

BOCA BEACON

\$1

PARADISE COMES WITH A PRICE TAG ...

Vol. 43, No. 40

Boca Grande, Florida

Your Locally-Owned Weekly Newspaper

October 7, 2022

Inside:

- Report from Gov. DeSantis
- More hurricane photos
- 30 miles

Boca Grande Woman's Club creates fund

■ SUBMITTED BY THE BOCA GRANDE WOMAN'S CLUB

The Boca Grande Woman's Club has created a Hurricane Ian Recovery Fund. The intention of this committee-administered fund is to provide assistance for post Ian repair and associated expenses to individuals and businesses with an island connection.

We are very fortunate that some island residents have already made very generous donations to this fund. If you would also like to contribute, please mail a check to the Boca Grande Woman's Club at P.O. Box 65, Boca Grande, FL 33921. Please indicate on your check that your donation is for the Hurricane Ian Recovery Fund.

Applications and further details regarding this fund will be available on the Boca Grande Woman's Club website. The Boca Beacon will also provide updated information on their website and Facebook page.

While the physical appearance of our island has changed drastically, our community spirit continues to shine brightly.

We've got this! Together we will make our island Grande again!

Assessing the damage, picking up the pieces



■ Tom and Cindy Bartzer from Sunsets of Boca Grande place an American flag on the light in front of the Depot Building, letting everyone know we are still here and still strong. At right, Emily Wheeler of Aqua has her gas and cleaning supplies in hand, ready to do some store clean-up at Aqua.



■ BY MARCY SHORTUSE & SHEILA EVANS

The raucous rumble of generators fill the almost-entirely empty streets of downtown Boca Grande on this Wednesday night as we try to get another newspaper out to catch up with last week's tardiness. The stories of the storm are slowly coming out now as people gather in groups at the relief stations and the makeshift cell phone towers. The storm shock isn't really subsiding yet – it's too early. But clean-up has begun in earnest and an amazing

amount of headway has been made.

Still now power on this night, nor water, nor cell phone service, but those things are coming soon.

Gasparilla Island is as naked as a jaybird. I don't know why that's a saying, but the older generations will understand. The entire landscape has changed now and you can see things you have never seen before through the trees. As surreal as it looks, it also gives us glimpses at places we are relieved to see still standing.

The roads are much clearer of

course, but huge piles of brush and logs still remain in most places. The National Guard soldiers are still at the bridge with their AR-15s at the ready, stationed along with a state trooper or two. Don't let the guns fool you, they seem like very kind folk who are just relieved to see a hang tag on a rearview mirror so their job won't be so difficult. Yes, they have experienced some nastiness (who is nasty to a guy with a semi-automatic tactical

See RECOVERY on PAGE 10



30 miles can make a big difference in the scheme of things with Hurricane Ian

■ BY CAPTAIN SANDY MELVIN

Before even starting a conversation about how Boca Grande fared in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, we need to recognize, and never forget, how fortunate we were

to have been spared the high storm surge waters that destroyed homes, business, bridges, roads and lives around Ft. Myers, Sanibel, Pine Island and the surrounding areas.

See 30 MILES on PAGE 12

Groups combine to create Onecoast initiative, helping here on island

■ STAFF REPORT

Captain's for Clean Water and Costa Del Mar with their #Onecoast initiative are working to get needed supplies along the west coast of Florida. Relief on the island will be run out of the Crowninshield Community House parking lot. You can find paper products, cleaning supplies, water, snacks, showers, Port-a-Potties and more.

Relief goods will also be going to Little Gasparilla Island via local boats.

Wesley Locke is the Boca Grande contact. Go to costadelmar.com for more on how to help.

