Monday’s Afternoon Update
What you need to know about Florida today

| 4:05PM |

Majority of Floridians feel inflation is impacting their finances

Most Floridians are concerned with the state of our national economy and it could impact summer travel, according to a recent poll done by FAU researchers. Monica Eckes, is the chair of the economics department at FAU. She says a recent poll she conducted indicated that 80% of Floridians feel inflation is impacting their personal finances. “Individuals are cutting back in goods and services and travel, but it was interesting to see that close to 60% said that they are going to cut back on travel,” she said. More from WPLG.

NASSA seeks input on Gulf of Mexico aquaculture sites, including 3 off Florida

When a Hawaii-based aquaculture business proposed a demonstration farm off of Florida in 2019, residents along the Gulf Coast voiced concerns about potential environmental impacts — including its potential to exacerbate red tide blooms. Now, the federal government is considering allowing commercial aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico — including areas off the coast of Collier, Sarasota and Pinellas counties — and is seeking public input as it crafts an assessment of impacts from the sites. More from the Sarasota Herald-Tribune.

Gas prices across Florida set another recent high, with $6 a gallon a real possibility

Gas prices across Florida have set another recent high, and could eventually climb to $6 by the summer. According to AAA’s daily price monitor, the average price of a gallon of gas content to $3.74 on Sunday. That’s an increase of 15 cents from the previous week, and 30 cents higher than at this point last year. John Harts, a spokesman for AAA, said in the release that oil and gas prices are still high in the future market, largely due to supply constraints over the European Union’s ban of Russian oil as well as increased demand expected this summer. More from WFLG.

Reliefief bill sprouts hope for Florida mangroves and other Indian River Lagoon life

Researchers estimate more than 2.5 million acres of seagrass remains in Florida seagrass waters, which provide an estimated $2.4 billion annually to the state’s economy. However, the threat of oil spills or invasive species could wipe out the entire ecosystem in Florida’s seagrass waters within 20 years. The bill would be the first to provide funding for mangrove research and preservation. More from Florida Today.

The Columbia Restaurant’s Richard Gorostiza, retiring? Can it be?

Richard Gorostiza, 70, fourth generation co-owner of the historic Columbia Restaurant and the company’s chief stylist, is handing over control of the daily deals to his daughter, Andrea Gorostiza Williams. 42, is increasingly taking the reins of the family’s famous restaurant. Richard Gorostiza has said he plans to retire at age 70, the age of his father, Cesar Gorostiza, who died “but nobody believes him,” says Andrea Gorostiza Williams. More from the Tampa Bay Times.

Open Barbecue
Florida’s beaches may soon host rollbacks to Kenny’s Park Center launch pad

NASA has sent the Artemis I rocket back to the launch pad at Kennedy Space Center for testing. The rocket will be taken apart and the core stage, boosters, and first stage will be transported to the launch pad. The move comes after a successful test of the rocket. More from WFLG.

Out of the Box
Two St. Petersburg moms are taking Wargame to a new level

Kathleen van der Meulen and Erin Johnson had several years ago, when their kids took lessons at the same happy. The two young mothers quickly became fast friends, their families pairing together; working together. And now they’re in business together. Last year, van der Meulen and Johnson started St. Pete Shutter Company, which arranges themed shutter parts complete with colorful text, decorative plates, candle holders, and other accessories. Business has been so good they’ve started offering photo sessions and celebratory yard cards.

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