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## **Blackburn Point Swing Bridge to close for repairs May 26**

The Blackburn Point Swing Bridge will close to vehicular traffic Tuesday, May 26, while necessary repairs are made to the 83-year-old bridge. The closure is expected to last about a month, and vehicular traffic to and from Casey Key will be detoured south to the Albee Road Swing Bridge. Boat traffic will not be affected.

Constructed in 1925-26, the bridge connecting the Sarasota County mainland to the north end of Casey Key is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

While the bridge has been closed temporarily over the years for maintenance and repairs, this project will make substantial mechanical improvements to the 142-foot-long span, including replacement of the bridge center pivot bearing and drive mechanism, the rack and pinion, drive train and wheel assembly.

To alert motorists to the upcoming closure, message boards will be installed on all major roadways leading to the bridge, including U.S. 41, State Road 681, Laurel Road and Casey Key Road, about two weeks before the bridge is closed.

Fire and emergency services crews and equipment will be temporarily stationed on Casey Key during the closure.

The mechanical repairs are not expected to change the appearance of the bridge. The \$483,875 contract for the repairs was awarded to Infrastructure Corporation of America (ICA) by the Sarasota County Commission in December 2008. Headquartered in Brentwood, Tenn., ICA has regional offices in Texas, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida, including one in Sarasota.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

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