



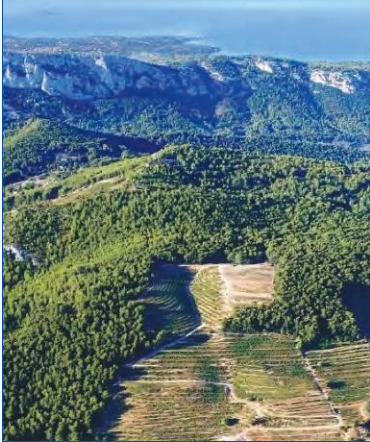
Longboat Key News

September 13, 2024

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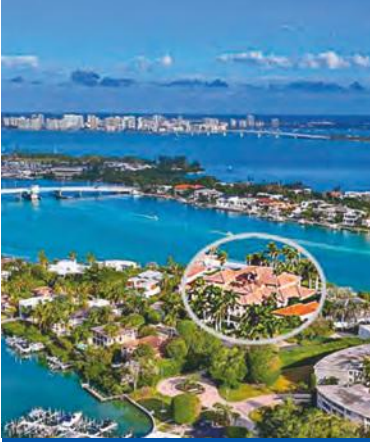
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LBK home hits \$10.15 million
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We did not fish from the dock!
...page 10

Longboat attorney attempts to keep Town Commission and turtles on the right path

Longboat Key Town Attorney Maggie Mooney did her best to keep Town commissioners from becoming as disoriented as misguided sea turtles when talking about beach lighting violations last week.

STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

Longboat Key Town Attorney Maggie Mooney did her best to keep commissioners from becoming as disoriented as misguided sea turtles when talking about beach lighting violations last week.

The St. Regis Resort on Longboat Key has been the subject of violations of the island's turtle lighting ordinance and faced a hearing before a magistrate last Wednesday.

Two days prior, Longboat Key Turtle Watcher Cyndi Seamon opened the commission meeting during the Public to be Heard in stating that, "St. Regis is an issue obviously, an ongoing issue."

Seamon, who has spent many years walking the beach and monitoring turtle nests to help the threatened species make it through their nesting season unfettered by lights from buildings, gave an overview of several issues on the 10-mile-long barrier island. She started by saying that even though it is near the end



Illustration by Dawn Witherington

of turtle season, there are still active nests, but issues with the streetlights on Gulf of Mexico Drive remain.

Seamon spoke of the challenges of Tropical Storm Debby that washed out numerous nests as well

as stakes that are used to demarcate where eggs are buried.

"I would like to avoid talking about specific projects because there is a hearing that will review the alleged violations."

But when the Town Commission brought up the situation of the St. Regis, which opened its doors last month for guests as well as residents in its condominiums, the Town Attorney waxed cautious.

"I would like to avoid talking about specific projects because there is a hearing that will review alleged violations," said Mooney.

Mooney added that there are
See Turtles, page 15

Longboat Key Honors 9-11

As part of the observance of the 23rd Anniversary of the 9-11 attacks, the Town of Longboat Key installed 2,977 American flags in the Town's right-of-way in remembrance of those who died in the attacks and their aftermath that day. The flags were installed on Tuesday, September 10.

This remembrance was initiated by the Town of Longboat Key and Chamber of Commerce in 2002. The Town's Public Works staff has stored and maintained the flags, and set up this display every year.

The idea was to develop a low-key, solemn, yet powerful, memorial by placing a single, small, American flag in the right-of-ways of the Town for each person who lost their life on a day that has forever changed our great Country. People wake up on the morning of 9-11, see the 2,977 flags, and then find them gone on September 12th. This annual, passive display has been the Town's only official commemoration of this important event in our Country's history over the past twenty-three years.

Gulf of Mexico Drive is approximately 10 miles long and has over 100,000 linear feet of right-of-way, counting both sides of the road. In order to accommodate all of the flags, they are placed approximately 20-30 feet apart along both sides of the entire length of Gulf of Mexico Drive, as well as along Bay Isles Road.



NewsWorthy

Mote makes major coral advancement

In a remarkable advancement for coral conservation, Mote Marine Laboratory has successfully achieved the spawning of *Eusmilia fastigiata*, commonly known as smooth flower coral, with parent colonies settled just 22 months prior under managed care.

The original corals were received in March 2022 as part of the Florida Reef Tract Rescue Project (FRTRP), an Association of Zoos and Aquariums member-driven coral rescue and conservation network focused on the rescue, housing, and future propagation of Florida corals affected by stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD). The corals received from the FRTRP spawned, and Mote's International Coral Gene Bank successfully settled them. Over the last two years, the Gene Bank has raised the coral and facilitated the spawning of a second generation.

See Coral, page 15

Resort at the Longboat Key Club
earns award for Service Excellence

The Resort at the Longboat Key Club received a ROSE Award on Friday, which stands for the Recognition of Service Excellence, from the Florida Lodging Restaurant Association. Out of more than 200 nominations, the Key Club had 11 finalists and Helena Magessi won the honor. Helena is one of the supervisors at the Resort's front desk and implemented new standard operating procedures and trains all new hires at the front desk. At the opening of the ceremony, the Florida Lodging Restaurant Association gave a special recognition to another Longboat Key Club employee, Sally Cruz. Cruz is the Banquet Captain and has worked at the Resort for 43 years. She has become a veritable legend having organized countless weddings and events over her decades of service. This is the second year in a row that the resort has been victorious at the ceremony. Left to Right: Helena Magessi, Ivy Diaz, Beatriz Delgado, Sally Krause, Erika Dunham, Dean Murges, Sten Adolfsson



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120 MAPLE AVENUE | ANNA MARIA
\$1,799,500 – West of Gulf Drive
3 Beds 2 Baths 1,764 Sq. Ft.
1 Block to Anna Maria Island Beach
Contact: Janette Schafer 954-298-7791
John Schafer 954-298-6229



6489 GULFSIDE ROAD | LONGBOAT KEY
\$16,995,000 - Under Construction
4 Beds 5 Baths 6,614 Sq. Ft.
100' of Beachfront
Contact: Steven Moore 401-767-7180



2400 EZZELL CT | SARASOTA
\$949,000 – Downtown New Construction
3 Beds 3 Baths 2,532 Sq. Ft.
Next to Payne Park and The Legacy Trail
Contact: Janette Schafer 954-298-7791
John Schafer 954-298-6229



5444 GULF OF MEXICO DR | LONGBOAT KEY
\$6,900,000 - Bayfront 1.06 Acres
5 Beds, 5 Baths, 6,000 Sq. Ft.
Rooftop Terrace and Private Beach
Contact: Tracey Stetler 941-266.9001



109 N WARBLER LANE | BIRD KEY
\$11,750,000 - Under Construction
4 Beds 5 Baths 5,292 Sq. Ft.
Oversized Deep Water Bayfront Lot
Contact: Patrick DiPinto 941-323-0033



SIESTA KEY RECORD PRICE

4136 HIGEL AVE | SIESTA KEY
\$16,995,000 - SOLD!
5 Beds, 7 Baths, 8,964 Sq. Ft.
1 Acre Modern Compound
Contact: Patrick DiPinto 941-323-0033



610 YARDARM LANE | LONGBOAT KEY
\$4,699,999 - Country Club Shores
4 Beds 5 Baths 4,138 Sq. Ft.
Canal Front with Bay Views
Contact: Nicholle DiPinto 941-928-2922



405 28th STREET | ANNA MARIA ISLAND
\$3,600,000 - Anna Maria Island
5 Beds 4 Baths 3,735 Sq. Ft.
80' of Waterfront
Contact: Steven Moore 401-767-7180



5440-5442 GULF OF MEXICO DR | LONGBOAT KEY
\$6,900,000 - Vacant Land 2.08 Acres
Proposed for 7 Buildable Lots
w/Private Beach
Contact: Tracey Stetler 941-266.9001



3621 SAN REMO TER | SARASOTA
\$9,750,000 - Under Construction
5 Beds 7 Baths 5,328 Sq. Ft.
400' Wide Bay Inlet
Contact: Patrick DiPinto 941-323-0033



1160 CENTER PLACE | LIDO SHORES
\$5,499,000 – New Construction
4 Beds 5.5 Baths 4,000 Sq. Ft.
Rooftop Terrace and Private Beach
Contact: Steven Moore 401-767-7180



2400 EZZELL CT | PAYNE PARK
\$949,000 – New Construction
3 Beds 3 Baths 2,532 Sq. Ft.
Low HOA with Heated Pool & Jacuzzi
Contact: John Schafer 954-298-6229

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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 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.

Our tour last week

To: Longboat Key Vice Mayor Mike Haycock
It was such a pleasure to have you tour our property and meet you in person. We are excited to be a valuable part of this great community. I look forward welcoming you and your grandchildren back often.
Winfred van Workum
General Manager
The St. Regis Longboat Key Resort and Residences

Our tour last week

To: St. Regis General Manager Winfred van Workum
I would like to thank you and your staff for our tour of your beautiful Hotel last week. The design, finishes and out door spaces are first class. The staff was very welcoming and knowledgeable. You obviously have done a great job selecting and training them. Special thanks to Ian for spending so much time showing us all the amenities.
Lyn and I will be regulars and can't wait to bring the grandkids to the outdoor pools and lagoon.
Chuck, you promised LBK a five star hotel and you delivered. Well done.
Mike Haycock
Vice Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Thank you

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman
Isaac, a big thanks to you and your team for the flag deployment. It has a very symbolic meaning to all of us, particularly those who have and our serving in the public safety arena. I know the crew takes time out of their busy schedule to do this. It means an awful lot to all of our citizens. It's just another example of how Longboat Key is now, and always has been a leader in the Florida communities.
Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Thank you

To: Tom Mayers
Thanks for letting us know your concerns about "no motorcraft" markers south and east of Longboat Pass bridge. Perhaps more fine-tuning is needed in this area, to make delineations clear for the many folks who enjoy spending time there. I'm cc-ing our Town Manager, Howard Tipton, here: Tip, are any further signage revisions planned?
Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Mangrove Trimming and Preservation Act Delegation

To: Rusty Chinnis
As discussed at our Commission meeting yesterday, it is our plan to continue to discuss the questions of mangrove delegation and cooperation with the Anna Maria communities. I have attached a report by our Town Attorney to help define the issues involved, which has been or will be shared with the other towns. Please stay tuned.
Ken Schneider
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Mangrove Trimming and Preservation Act Delegation

To: Longboat Key Commission
Regarding the discussion around the Town seeking a delegation of authority from FDEP for mangrove protection, our Town Attorney has provided her research into the matter and our

Planning, Zoning, and Building Director
has provided an update to the barrier island communities staff discussions on this subject. My thanks to both for their efforts. Provided as FYI and for future discussion this Fall.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Mangrove Trimming and Preservation Act Delegation

To: Longboat Key Town Attorney Maggie Mooney
Thanks Maggie & Amy! Very thorough and informative.
Tip- Maggie's memo is associated with a request from the Barrier Island Elected Officials (BIEO) group. I've attached a status update memo, prepared in June, on the BIEO's consensus direction, to applicable staffs, to investigate a coordinated delegation approach. Based on the statutory delegation limitations noted in the Town Attorney's memo, the ability to have a coordinated delegation among the 3 Anna Maria island jurisdictions and the Town is practically unachievable.
As noted previously, Town staff have the ability to halt unpermitted & non-exempt mangrove activity and we will continue to coordinate closely with FDEP on reported mangrove violations.
Allen Parsons
Director Planning, Zoning & Building Department
Town of Longboat Key

Mangrove Trimming and Preservation Act Delegation

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Attached please find a copy of a Memorandum that our office prepared in response to questions about the delegation of mangrove enforcement powers under Florida law. Please review the memo and let me or Amy know if you have any questions or want to discuss this in more detail.
Maggie D. Mooney
Town Attorney
Town of Longboat Key

ManaSota League

To: Longboat Key Commission
Update on ManaSota League meeting this week on Thursday, September 12, 2024.
League President Debbie McDowell asked that Board members to be informed the meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. as usual and end by 11 a.m. Our Vice President and Treasurer are both unable to attend and President McDowell has a commitment for which she must leave by 11:00 a.m. If your Commission/Council has developed their legislative priorities, please forward a copy to us.
To ensure a quorum is present, please respond right away if you are unable to attend our ManaSota League meeting on Thursday.
Please respond via phone call to our office ASAP at phone number 941-316-1999 or respond to this email if you will be present for the Candidate Forum on Friday, September 13. Forum begins at 1:00 p.m. You are welcome to invite others to attend. A notice of the event is attached.
There are several candidates who will be participating and we would like to have all our ManaSota League members attend if possible. We believe it will be a very good opportunity to hear directly from candidates running for Florida Legislature in Manatee and Sarasota counties.
We are pleased that Scott Dudley from FLC will be here to be the moderator of the forum. Look forward to seeing you soon!
Gail Loeffler
Administrative Coordinator
ManaSota League of Cities, Inc.

Let's Talk Longboat

To: Longboat Key residents
The Town Manager will be kicking off a new monthly series, "Let's Talk Longboat!" It's designed as a relaxed, unstructured, "no agenda" afternoon, where community members (this means You!) can discuss issues, or ask questions about whatever is on your mind. A completely open dialogue, in a laid back format!
We invite you to the very first of the monthly series – 3 p.m. on October 15, 2024 at the Bayfront Park Recreation Center. Hope to see you there, and let's talk Longboat!
Susan Phillips
Assistant to the Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Longboat Key Budget

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

See Letters, page 6



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KeyOpinion

Takeaways from the Trump-Harris debate

Lots of style, little substance. The moderators pounced at every opportunity to challenge Trump.

GREGORY RUSOVICH
Guest Writer
rusovich@lbknews.com

There were several takeaways from the Trump-Harris debate. Vice President Kamala Harris was articulate and well prepared, but failed to address voter concerns over immigration and inflation. Lots of style, little substance. Former President Donald Trump was boisterous and erratic, but broadly highlighted several of the administration’s failings on critical issues. ABC moderators David Muir and Linsey Davis were surrogates for Harris, and a discredit to their profession and to the country.

Harris overperformed. Democrats were jubilant over the vice president’s poise and ability to goad her opponent into airing his usual grievances. Her successful tactics provoked Trump to use precious time yelping about several matters important to him, but insignificant to the electorate. It was clear that she meant to provoke him, and rather than ignore her obvious taunts, Trump reacted foolishly. And his responses were frequently irrational.

She consistently attempted to reach out to undecided voters, but many of her pleas came across as staged and insincere. Her relentless smirking and exaggerated facial expressions—including placement of her chin atop her clenched fist at one point—became irritating. She spoke of a vague “opportunity economy,” and focused on childcare, healthcare, abortion rights, and down payments to first-time homeowners. Harris steered clear of her weaknesses on immigration and inflation. She was never pressed on the issues by either Trump or the moderators, and she provided no serious proposals for closing the border or reducing inflation. But by remaining focused and centered, she held up on the national stage.

Team Trump’s goal entering the debate was for the former president to simply keep calm, focus solely on the critical issues, and emphasize the Biden-Harris failures. But inevitably, Trump was Trump. He did repeatedly spotlight the border and inflation, and it’s possible that his positions on those issues ultimately resonate with more voters as policy differences seep deeper into the public mindset.

Trump also brought up Harris’ previous pledge of support for transgender surgery for detained migrants. But he frequently found ways to drown out his own assertions and positions, which are supported by many. Since Biden-Harris took office, over 10 million illegal immigrants have poured across the border—resulting in almost 300,000 fentanyl deaths, rampant migrant crime, and overrun communities. Somehow, Trump’s messaging on the border moved away from these impactful points and shifted to pets allegedly eaten by migrants in



RUSOVICH

Springfield, Ohio. Even if this were true, it sounded crazy and played right into Harris’ hands. Trump’s debate preparation process was clearly flawed. The old-fashioned tried-and-true formula of hunkering down, having specific statistics and lines ready to deploy, and pouring through various scenarios with aides is the best way to prep for national debates. Walking into a possibly determinative national debate with the strategy of simply blurting out what first comes to mind is not a winning formula. It led to a lack of discipline, allowed his opponent to cajole him off course, and detracted from his ability to emphasize the most impactful points around his popular positions. Trump’s insistence on winging it may have cost him dearly.

The debate also proved that Republican concerns over partisan moderators in these debates is spot on. No Republican candidate should ever agree to another nationally televised debate unless one of the moderators is from Fox News or the Wall Street Journal. Disney-owned ABC trotted out moderators who had an agenda and clearly displayed their bias throughout the debate. They fact-checked Trump five times and never once did the same with Harris. And she had plenty of fodder to fact-check. Contrary to Harris’ false claims, Trump has disavowed Project 2025, vigorously supported IVF, and never praised the Charlottesville protests. Yet, Muir and Davis sat silent during Harris’ many false statements.

The moderators pounced at every opportunity to challenge Trump on his assertions—only to learn later that they were the ones who needed to be fact-checked. After Trump voiced alarm over certain state laws allowing babies to be killed after birth, Davis inexplicably stepped in and told Trump, “There is no state in this country where it is legal to kill a baby after it is born.” Wrong, Linsey. In New York and Vice-Presidential Candidate Tim Walz’s Minnesota, babies born alive during an abortion can be left to die. Tragically for our republic, partisan moderators and national news outlets are becoming a consistent reality.

Even before the debate, the Media Research Center reported that ABC gave Kamala Harris positive coverage an astonishing 100% of the time. Conversely, Trump received negative coverage 93% of the time.

Charles C.W. Cooke of National Review stated it best, “ABC’s management of the debate last night was a disgrace. It was a scandal. It had no place in a free republic.” It should be noted that Cooke does not support Trump.

Trump is now saying that he won’t debate again. He should reconsider. Let’s have another debate jointly moderated by news correspondents from Fox and another major network. This would satisfy both Republicans and Democrats and address the legitimate complaint of media bias in the last debate. Harris could demonstrate her presumed prowess in another national showdown and Trump, in his final presidential election debate, could show discipline and focus. Viewers may even learn more about the vast policy differences between the two candidates. Too much to ask?

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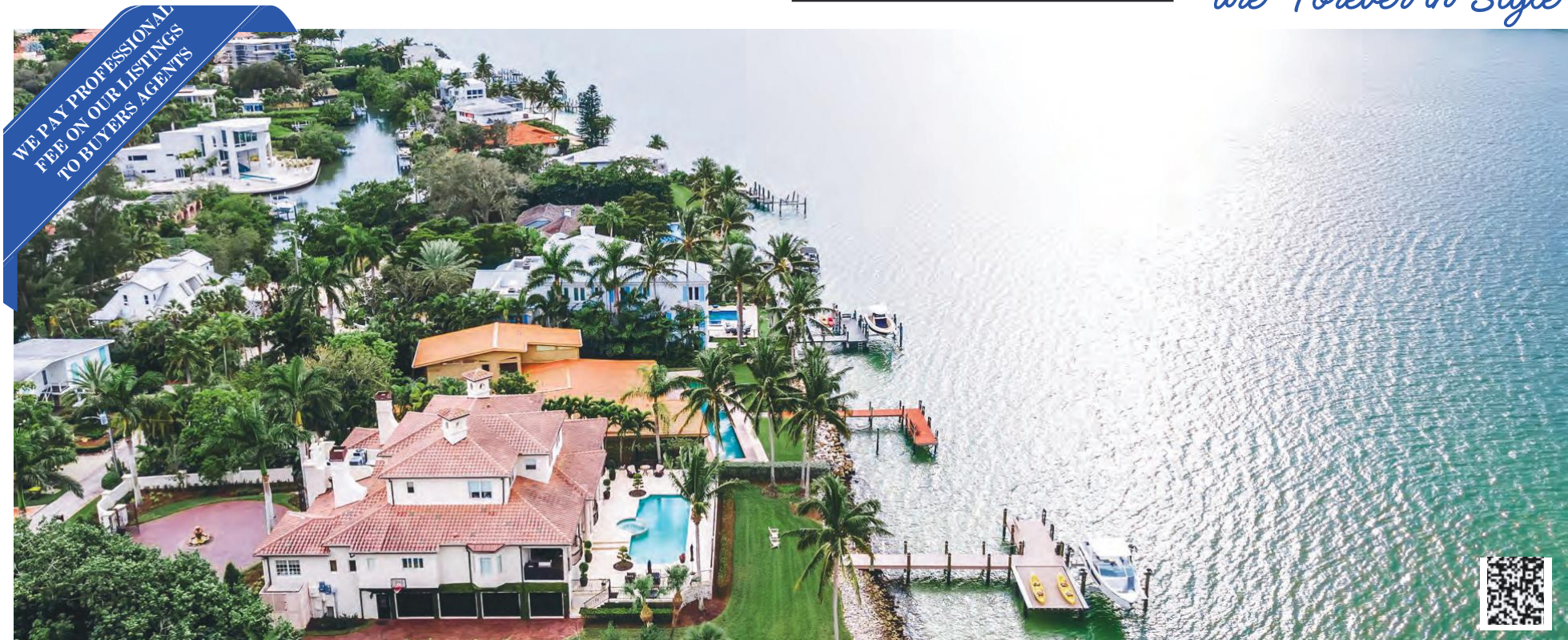
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OnPatrol

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

Sept. 6 Driver’s license

9:04 a.m.
Officer Nazareno received an alert from the license plate reader for an expired registration for a Ford pickup traveling eastbound in the 500 block of Bay Isles Parkway. Officer Nazareno verified the hit information through FCIC which showed an expiration date of April 10. Officer Nazareno then observed the vehicle stopped in traffic of Bay Isles Parkway. Officer Nazareno made contact with the driver and explained to him the reason for the stop. The driver stated that his driver’s license was suspended and was unable to display the vehicle registration upon demand. The FCIC/NCIC checks for wants and warrants came back negative. The driver’s Florida license was suspended indefinitely on Feb. 26 for failure to pay traffic fine. The driver was issued a citation for operating a vehicle while driver’s license suspended with knowledge. He was also issued warnings for expired registration and failure to display registration upon demand. The vehicle was picked up by the owner from the scene. Case clear.

Parking

11:42 a.m.
Officer Miklos and Sgt. Puccio were dispatched to Broadway Street due to a suspicious vehicle. Sarasota Sheriff’s Office dispatch advised the caller did not wish to meet with the police, however, stated the vehicle was parked in bushes and he was unable to see inside the vehicle. Upon arrival, Sgt. Puccio and Officer Miklos discovered the vehicle parked in a driveway off the alleyway off Poinsettia Ave. Officer Miklos didn’t observe anything suspicious in regards to the vehicle as it was legally parked on private property and had sunshades on the windows. Officer Miklos conducted an NCIC check of the registration which returned the vehicle was not reported stolen. The vehicle’s owner had a valid driver’s license from Sarasota. Case clear.

Fishing

8:09 p.m.
Officer Tillman responded to Longboat Drive South for a report of a suspicious person. The complainant advised that someone had arrived on a boat and was fishing from the dock. Upon arrival, Officer Tillman spoke with the four men that were fishing from a boat. The fishermen were advised not to fish from the docks. The fisherman were aware of trespassing and stated that at no time did they fish from the docks. Case clear.

Sept. 7 Noise

5:11 a.m.
Officer Tillman responded to the 4300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a suspicious incident. According to dispatch, the complainant said that they were hearing banging noises throughout the condominium. Officer Tillman was across the street at St. Mary’s Church when the call came out. No one was seen in the area or at the front door within minutes of the call. The complainant asked Officer Tillman



to search the residence and closets. Nothing appeared out of place. Case clear.

Sept. 10 Incident

3:29 a.m.
Officer Mathis was dispatched to the 1600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive about a civil issue. Upon his arrival, Officer Mathis met with the resort staff members and they advised that a guest had paid for the room and left the resort but he additional guests remained in the room that was paid for by the man. The staff speculated that the guest who paid for the room had two call girls meet him at the resort and accompany him to his room. The man further advised that a short time later, the man who was intoxicated, came back downstairs to the lobby and appeared distraught. The staff member followed up by saying that the man was waiting for an Uber to pick him up and take him home. The resort staff did not provide the male guest’s identity. A short time later, the Uber arrived and the man left the resort leaving all of his items in the hotel room and with what the hotel staff insists were the call girls. It is speculated by hotel staff that the man who paid for the room left a briefcase with a firearm inside it. The staff member advised they would contact Longboat Key Police Department if services were needed later. The event happened three hours before the police were contacted. Officer Mathis advised the staff that this was a civil matter. Case clear.

Driver’s license

1:51 p.m.
Officer Troyer while on patrol was alerted to the license plate camera hit at the south end in reference to a blue Ford which was traveling northbound on Gulf of Mexico Drive. The owner had an expired Florida Driver’s license as of July 2, 2023. Officer Troyer confirmed the license was expired with the referenced date. Officer Troyer observed the vehicle pass near Bay Isles Parkway and Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Troyer conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle in the 300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Upon observing the driver, Officer Troyer asked for the man’s driver’s license. Officer Troyer issued the man a criminal citation for driver’s license expired more than six months. Case clear.

Sept. 11 Workers

11:55 a.m.
Officer Troyer while on patrol was dispatched to the 1900 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on a report of two suspicious men walking around a residence. Upon arrival, Officer Troyer spoke with the complainant who reported she was walking in the neighborhood and observed two men walking around residences and felt they were suspicious. The complainant reported one man was wearing an orange shirt and the other man was wearing a blue shirt and were around Fairway Bay. Officer Troyer observed the men at Fairway Bay eating lunch. Officer Troyer spoke with the two men and they reported they were working on the residence at 1900 Fairway Bay. Officer Troyer spoke with the homeowner who informed the officer the men were indeed his employees and he pointed them in the wrong direction of the restroom. Officer Troyer didn’t observe anything suspicious or criminal. Case clear.

Sept. 12 Parking

10:33 a.m.
Officer Miklos was dispatched to the 6800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a suspicious vehicle. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos came into contact with the complainant who advised the red Jeep was left overnight and is blocking part of the parking lot. Officer Miklos ran the vin and the vehicle returned to a rental company. Officer Miklos advised the complainant that due to the vehicle being left on private property manager can have the vehicle towed. Case clear.

Construction

8:15 p.m.
Sgt. Martinson while on patrol, observed two FPL trucks parked along Gulf of Mexico Drive and then observed two unknown work style trucks drive out from the driveway and turn southbound on Gulf of Mexico Drive. Sgt. Martinson made contact with the FPL foreman in charge. The foreman said that he and his crew arrived at the property at approximately 3:30 p.m. and were there to assist the contractors and tap power lines from the house under construction into the transformer. The foreman said they ran into numerous problems and when he informed his boss he was told that they had to finish the job. The foreman stated while his FPL crew along with the help of the contractors were working the neighbor came over and started harassing them for working past 5 p.m. the foreman stated he tried to explain the situation to the neighbor but they would not listen. The foreman stated the harassing was so bad that once the wire liens were made safe he just decided to come back to finish the job. Sgt. Martinson spoke with the complainant who did not provide his name and began yelling at Sgt. Martinson about the construction going on past 5 p.m. Sgt. Martinson tried to explain to the complainant that FPL needed to work past 5 p.m. because the power lines were not safe. The complainant told Sgt. Martinson that he needed to give citations to the contractors but since they were working under the umbrella of FPL and needed to stay past 5 p.m. to assist FPL to make the wires safe, and Sgt. Martinson told the complainant that he would not be giving them citations. At this point the complainant demanded the officer’s name and then walked away once it was given. Case clear.

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3281 BAYOU RD	3,345	\$1,549,000	4	3	1	272	\$1,349,000
1000 LONGBOAT CLUB RD Unit#603	1,409	\$1,285,000	2	2	0	92	\$1,175,000
1050 LONGBOAT CLUB RD Unit#1001	1,409	\$1,199,000	2	2	0	36	\$987,500
2295 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#64S	1,235	\$650,000	2	2	0	44	\$625,000
829 BAYPORT WAY Unit#829	1,601	\$575,000	2	2	0	381	\$545,000
420 FIREHOUSE CT Unit#7	1,015	\$573,750	2	2	0	302	\$500,000
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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 8

Tree Canopy Funds Transfer

To: Sarasota City Assistant Manager Pat Robinson
Just coming back to this subject. What I am trying to understand is that with the changes in the budget allocation process, was the Green Canopy and Street Tree Planting program budget value reduced from \$989,000 to \$587,000, and the lower number is what will be available for tree planting in the upcoming budget?
Christopher Naese
Sarasota

Tree Canopy Funds Transfer

To: Christopher Naese
The information sent below was not the complete amount. I asked staff to send you the correct information on the total amount available. If that was not done I will forward the information to you. There’s over \$1m available for the program. Information forthcoming.
Marlon Brown
City Manager
City of Sarasota

Tree Canopy Funds Transfer

To: Sarasota City Assistant Manager Pat Robinson
Thanks for your response to my question. A bit confusing for someone like me who is not intimately involved in the various funding programs and allocations that are set by the city. So am I correct in concluding that the net result for the Green Canopy and Street Tree Planting Program is that its funding value was reduced from \$989,000 to \$587,000 or was the \$587,000 derived from the Tree Replacement funding source added on top of the remaining \$500,000 that was left over after the \$489,000 was taken out of the program’s \$989,000 from the Penny 3 funding source?
Christopher Naese
Sarasota

Tree Canopy Funds Transfer

To: Sarasota City Mayor Liz Alpert, City Manager Marlon Brown, Christopher Naese
I spoke with our Finance Director and asked her to provide a brief overview of the topic.
The Green Canopy and Street Tree Planting Program originally had \$989,000 from Penny 3 funding source appropriated.
This amount was reduced by \$489K (\$97K to Streetscape Lighting Improvements and \$392K to Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS)).
The reduction in Penny 3 funding source of \$489K to the Green Canopy and Street Tree Planting Program was replaced with \$575K from the Tree Replacement Fund funding source. This is represented in the 5-year CIP Program.
The Public Hearing on 9/3/24 was specifically for project funding changes in the Penny 3. Hope this is helpful! Have an excellent rest of your day.
Patrick Robinson
Assistant City Manager
City of Sarasota

Tree Canopy Funds Transfer

To: Christopher Naese
Yes, you heard right. I was going to ask about it myself, but Commissioner Ahearn-Koch asked.
I am copying the city manager so that you can get clarification on the funds transfers.
Liz Alpert
Mayor
City of Sarasota

Tree Canopy Funds Transfer

To: Sarasota City Mayor Liz Alpert
I was able to watch much of the city commission meeting yesterday and first want to say I was pleased on the positive outcome of the Colson Hotel discussions. Fingers crossed that an ownership and a rehabilitation plan for the building is determined soon.
I do need to ask for clarification on the remarks made about the funds transfer out of the tree canopy program. Did I hear correctly that the funds will somehow be placed back into this important project? It is more apparent than ever, after a couple of very hot summers, replacing and adding high quality canopy trees to the city is key in helping to moderate the urban heat island effect.
Christopher Naese
Sarasota

Dangerous trench across North Shore Drive

To: Sarasota City Vice Mayor Jen Ahearn-Koch
Somebody dug a trench (Sewer? Or?) completely across North Shore Drive, just a few feet west of Bayshore Road. But they did not fill it in well and I nearly broke an axle driving there!
When you dig a trench across a public road it seems to me the city should make sure it is filled in properly by the builder — or whoever dug it! (I suspect it might have something to do with the empty building lot there.)
Right now, it is a serious road hazard.
Could you please contact whomever inspects city roadways and see if they can get it fixed ASAP?
Thank you. All of us here on North Shore Drive appreciate your help.
Pete Tannen
Sarasota

Dangerous trench across North Shore Drive

To: Pete Tannen

Thanks! I’ve copied the City Manager and Deputy City Manager to address asap.
Jen Ahearn-Koch
Vice Mayor
City of Sarasota

Photos

To: Sarasota City Assistant Manager Pat Robinson
I will be happy to provide a response to the concerns raised by the Jefferson Center. The lift station located at the intersection of Cocoanut Avenue and 10th Street is identified as Lift Station #8 (LS 8). This station is a duplex station which means there are two pumps in the station to provide redundancy. So while one pump (Pump #2) was out of service, the other one (Pump #1) was still functional. In addition to fully functional Pump #1, Lift Station crews deployed a bypass pump to the site to provide redundant pumping capacity. Crews also used tanker trucks to ensure proper flow from the station was maintained at all times.
The City responded to the initial notice that there was a spill at the Jefferson Center and upon arrival at the site I observed the customer side clean out discharging into the green space. I personally checked the City clean out in the right-of-way at the intersection of 9th Street and Cocoanut Avenue next to the bus stop. The level in the City clean out was down which indicates the issue was on the customer side rather than the City side of the sewer lateral coming from the building. Next step was to check the manhole located on the east side of Cocoanut Avenue just south of 9th Street. That manhole was not overflowing.

The lateral coming from the Jefferson Center to the sewer main on Cocoanut Avenue operates by gravity. If the issue at the Jefferson Center had been related to a failure at LS 8 the manholes on Cocoanut Avenue as well as the City cleanout would have overflowed before the private cleanout on the customer side of the lateral. City crews weren’t privy to any activity that had taken place at the Jefferson Center to cause the overflow from their cleanout but, in the interest of public safety, they responded to the spill, erected a berm to contain it, and cleaned the site.

The next morning City crews inspected the site to verify that everything was okay, and the site was still dry from the day before. A contractor was observed setting up a pump in the area, but he told the City technician that he was not going to do any pumping that morning. Later in the day the City received a call from the Jefferson Center stating the spill was happening again. When crews responded to the site they saw the area that was dry in the morning had reached a point where it was about to overflow the temporary berm that the City crews had set up the day before to contain the spill.

During a conversation with the Collection Superintendent, the plumbing contractor stated they broke the clean out cap the day before to stop flooding in the building. He further stated that he needed to pump the area down so they could make repairs to the lateral. The contractor also stated he couldn’t get the water to flow initially in the lateral and had to jet the line clear to make the repair. To our knowledge there has been no other issue with this lateral since these activities were completed.

Several of these activities bring serious concern to the Utility. The Jefferson Center representative indicated that they clear their storm drains every year. How is this done? Do they pump into the sewer lateral? The plumber stated they were pumping water from the building. Was that storm water being pumped into the sewer lateral? Did that pumping cause a blockage in the lateral on the customer side of the cleanout?

It should be noted that pumping storm water into a sanitary sewer collection system is illegal. Pumping sewage out onto the ground, even in a previously erected containment area is illegal. If either of these scenarios are true, the Jefferson Center and/or their contractor could face enforcement action from the Department of Environmental Protection.

Verne Hall
Utilities Director
City of Sarasota

Photos

To: Sarasota City Utilities Director Verne Hall
Please have staff reach out to the Jefferson Center management to discuss their concerns as it seems as though they might not understand was occurring and inform them that the actions of the contractors was/is potentially a violation of state law. Let’s see if we can assist them in getting their management staff up to speed on what they need to accomplish from a regulatory standpoint.
Patrick Robinson
Assistant City Manager
City of Sarasota

Photos

To: Sarasota City Assistant Manager Pat Robinson
We will make contact with them and provide them with the necessary information.
Verne Hall
Utilities Director
City of Sarasota

Photos

To: Sarasota City Utilities Director Verne Hall
The Jefferson Center has additional information related to the “Spill” that they had. They are still claiming the pump station failed. Could you please tender an official response so I can provide it to the complainant and the Vice Mayor. Be cognizant that this appears to be heading towards a risk management scenario based on the first sentence of the last paragraph.
Patrick Robinson
Assistant City Manager
City of Sarasota

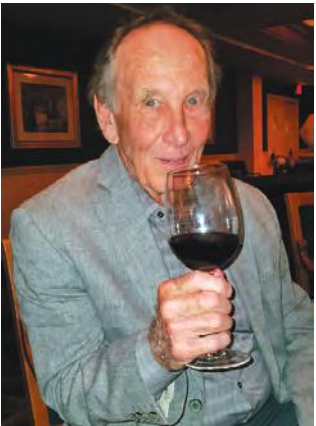
WineTimes

Bandol: An ideal climate for Dionysian delights

Vineyards in Bandol bask in 3,000 hours of sunshine each year, tempered by sea breezes; dry, sandy soils force vines to put down deep roots in search of moisture rich in nutrients.

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

Nestled in a niche extending from the Mediterranean Sea to the Sainte-Baume mountain ridge, the commune of Bandol, located in the south-east of the Provence region of France, has an ideal climate and terrain for growing wine grapes. Vineyards in Bandol bask in 3,000 hours of sunshine each year, tempered by sea breezes; dry, sandy soils force vines to put down deep roots in search of moisture rich in nutrients.



The dominant red grape variety, Mourvèdre, requires the extended end of season found in Bandol to ripen properly. Vineyards in Bandol also grow lighter-than-Mourvèdre grape variety Grenache, to add berry and stone fruit tastes, and the heat tolerant grape variety Cinsault to add a floral nose and tart berry tastes.

The fabled Bandol Rosé wines derive from the “Rhône blend” of the red grapes Mourvèdre and Grenache with Cinsault. The 2022 Château de la Noblesse Bandol Rosé (13% ABV, \$26) from the Bandol wine region has a 50% Mourvèdre and 25% Grenache, 25% Cinsault blend. The skins of these red grapes stay in the crush of grapes only long enough to impart a light pink color to the wine. This delicate Bandol Rosé pairs beautifully with grilled baby cuttlefish, a relative of calamari (squid) not found in the Americas but widely available in the Mediterranean coast.

The close to seventy Château vineyards in Bandol have done a good job of maintaining high quality of product and a strong brand. Bandol wines tend to sell for more than \$20 per bottle. Fortunately for wine buyers on a budget, Trader Joe’s has introduced a private label 2023 Grand Reserve Rosé Bandol Lot #130 (13.5% ABV, \$13) and made Famille Revoire Bandol Rosé accessible to the large \$10 - \$15/ bottle segment of wine buyers. This wine has a more robust mouth feel than more delicate Bandol Rosé. In a blind tasting, participants favored the budget Rosé to the more expensive 2022 Château de la Noblesse.

The same Rhône blend of Mourvèdre, Grenache, and Cinsault after more exposure of the grape skins in the crush has a cult following. The Bandol red wine derives a strong base of tannins from the grape skins. These tannins make a young Bandol red wine robust. Aged for years in the bottle, the Bandol red tannins mellow and attain rich aromas and tastes of red and black fruits. The 2021 Domaine Tempier Rouge (\$65) has the potential to improve with age for more than ten years.

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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Turtles, from page 1

specific provisions in town code that are part of both permitting construction as well as mandating compliance with turtle ordinances.

Mayor Ken Schneier asked Seamon about the impact from Tropical Storm Debby.

“Definitely some areas were hit harder than others. Most of the nests closer to the water were impacted and we lost stakes and could not see where some nests were located,” said Seamon. Seamon then said the Turtle Watch organization were “pretty surprised” to discover a new nest on the Friday before the meeting. She said there were two other nests with green turtles eggs on Casey Key and one on Siesta Key. But then the meeting veered off into the very specifics Town Attorney Mooney sought to avoid.

“The lights that need to be fixed are at the Monkey Bar at the St. Regis,” said Seamon.

Attorney Mooney reacted immediately – “We should not be talking about a property (St. Regis) going to a magistrate on Wednesday, and we need to observe and honor that process.”

Vice Mayor Mike Haycock asked the Town Attorney if the magistrate can require an action plan or only simply fines.

“Can there be an action plan; something with a little more teeth? We have been promised for six months or a year that things would be fixed?” said Haycock.

Attorney Mooney laid out the possibilities ranging from docile to draconian.

“The purpose of Code Enforcement is compliance, not to punish people. We have two paths: a fine, a financial path, and a path for bringing corrective action. The magistrate can fine to a certain level and then to an exponential level if the issue creates irreparable harm. This includes not just fining, but also liens that are attached to the deed of the property,” said Mooney.

Mooney then added that if the town finds that this path is not working to its satisfaction, it can always go to court and seek corrective action from a judge. Commissioners asked if they can give testimony at the Wednesday hearing on the St. Regis case and Mooney said the hearing is evidentiary and there is no ability for public comment. She added that the magistrate is an independent contractor that the town has hired and will be sitting as a judge. The Town’s Code Enforcement Officers will present at the Wednesday hearing.

Conversation grows opaque

One commissioner asked rhetorically if the Town’s turtle regulation that dictates the opacity level, or amount of light able to emanate through windows, is stringent enough.

“The St. Regis has 45 percent opacity glass and that is clearly not working as intended,” the commissioner opined.

Mayor Schnieir said the town’s ordinance is not as strong as it could have been and the attorney confirmed that the town has a 45 percent opacity limit on Gulf-facing glass windows.

“The standards are not as stringent as you could have gone, but our code says you can shut off lights or close the blinds,” said Mooney.

Mayor Schneier said that more often than not, turtle violations arise from outdoor lights.

“Some residential properties will come on-line by the end of the year (I won’t mention who). We have to outreach to condos to let the owners know. If they have blinds open and

One Longboat commissioner said the issue of closing blinds and being aware of turtle lighting “might be a good topic for a TikTok.”

drapes open and bright lights on with the opacity we require in our code, they will be in violation,” said Schneier.

One town commissioner said the issue of closing blinds and being aware of turtle lighting “might be a good topic for a TikTok.”

Coral, from page 1

The selective nature for the settlement of this species and the specific conditions required to promote sexual reproduction make the successful production of this second generation under managed care conditions a notable challenge. The feat underscores the species’ ability to be sexually propagated within a controlled environment.

The Gene Bank, located at the Mote Aquaculture Research Park (MAP) in eastern Sarasota County, serves Mote’s mission to protect and restore coral reefs. It acts as a sanctuary for corals from Florida’s Coral Reef and other Caribbean regions, with future plans for expansion into the Indo-Pacific. The Gene Bank houses thousands of coral genotypes (genetic varieties) of at least 26 species stored in triplicate, offering a critical safeguard against the loss of coral genetic diversity.

Smooth flower coral is also highly susceptible to SCTLD, making Mote’s success in breeding it a significant win for coral conservation efforts. To date, this species has not been heavily utilized for active coral restoration efforts, but the ability to reproduce within a relatively young age may change this paradigm.

Smooth flower coral, however, remains notoriously difficult to settle. To encourage settlement, conditioned plugs are used and coated with bacterial films and a specific type of algae called crustose coralline. The species’ highly selective nature and the specific conditions required for settlement result in

The commission was told that the Longboat Key Club reminds guests via text each evening to close the blinds and drapes and dim lights. “They’re proactive,” remarked a commissioner.

After the commission finished their impromptu discussion about turtle lighting and the St. Regis, a resident approached the dias and offered some help.

“This might help with the St. Regis. We found blinds that are semi opaque and block 96 percent of the light. They are no big deal to install and we got them at Lowe’s.”

Two days later, the magistrate gave an extension to the St. Regis to reach compliance with the turtle lighting ordinance.

Turtle lighting season ends on Oct. 31 and the St. Regis will have to demonstrably be in compliance before that time.

particularly low success rates. This makes the Gene Bank’s recent feat all the more significant.

The achievement of settling second-generation smooth flower coral within managed care holds immense potential for advancing coral research and restoration efforts as it has demonstrated the ability to reach reproductive maturity at a significantly smaller size and much younger age compared to most other coral species commonly used for restoration. While many boulder coral species found in Florida may require over ten years to grow large enough to spawn, smooth flower coral has shown the remarkable ability to spawn within just two years. This accelerated reproductive cycle is potentially crucial in the face of rapidly changing environmental conditions, such as rising ocean temperatures and increasing disease prevalence, as it may promote faster rates of adaptation through time. The ability to adapt to these changing conditions will be vital as coral reefs face ongoing degradation worldwide. Additionally, by incorporating smooth flower coral into restoration programs, scientists can enhance the community diversity and resilience of reef ecosystems, thereby improving the long-term efficacy of reef recovery.

45 corals that we settled only 22 months ago showing eggs or larvae in their tentacles is a strong indicator of the health and viability of these individuals. This achievement not only contributes to our understanding of coral reproduction but also offers hope for the future of coral reefs under threat.”

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ACROSS

1 Admiral William or running back Billy

5 Menlo Park monogram

8 Red or structure start

13 Bordeaux's red wine

15 Welsh actor Ray

19 Group conventions

20 Laid back

22 Play necessities

23 Stolen jewelry?

24 Mecca trekkers, var.

26 L'I Abner's Daisy

27 ___ girl

28 Abound

30 Ye ___ Shoppe

31 Sale caveat

32 Mil. decoration

33 Tower of London guards

37 Gomer Pyle, played by Jim ___

39 Vikings' rivals

40 Something superlative: sl.

41 ___-chef: kitchen assistant

42 Vulgar

43 Cromwell bugbear

45 Easy win

46 Connive

48 Seinfeld or Mason

49 Saudi states

53 A.k.a. Charles Lamb

54 Maugham novel

56 ___ roll: going well

57 See 58 Across

58 A circus ride, with 57 Across

59 Inactive

60 Impediment

61 ___ what you can do: JFK

62 Tummy

66 Virtuous

67 Simon Templar

69 Swiss mathematician

70 Makes merry

72 Average

73 Native Israelis

75 Actor Pitt and pol Sherman

76 Parisian's phone greeting

77 Castle feature

78 It doesn't pay

79 Customer

81 Horse feathers!

83 Independent hydroelectric agency

86 Orbital motions

87 Trickery

89 Shucks!

90 Dear, Italian style

91 Before, to Browning

92 Balearic island

95 Musical master from Bonn

98 ___ Grows in Brooklyn

100 Gangster's warning

102 Psychics

103 Once-popular person

104 Pavarotti and Caruso

105 Icelandic writings

106 G. Nasser's dream

107 Lanchester, of "Murder by Death"

DOWN

1 Warm water chordate; var.

2 Dies ___

3 High level land

4 Race officials

5 Twirl

6 Astingent

7 Sailors' saint

8 Mischievous kids

9 Part of Scand.

10 A through Z

11 Fixes

12 Evaluate

13 Scooters

14 Numbers game?

15 The Louvre or Beaux-Arts

16 Swallows up

17 Carter and Gwyn

18 Historic Scott

20 Neighbor of Niger

21 Musical symbols

25 Hombres, in Hialeah

29 Pompadour or Butterfly

31 Constrictor

33 Smiles broadly

34 Leisure

35 Carpet: obs.

36 Author Jong

38 Stick out like ___ thumb

39 Stroke of luck

42 Cowardly

43 Prodded

44 Haying machine

45 Anger

46 11th Hebrew month: var.

47 Collision

48 Gem weights

50 Brewing grain

51 Finnish lake

52 Wise men

54 Normandy city

55 Certain sneakers

58 Hat part

60 Sleuth's name

62 Nobleman

63 Early modern jazz

64 Hearing related

65 Scheduled

68 Parts of pumps

70 Author Ambler

71 Kind of excuse or duck

74 Units of electric current

75 Girl who has less fun?

76 Put on notice

78 Proofreader's mark

79 Goalie's area

80 Light or night start

81 Island greeting

82 Virologist Albert

83 Show partiality to

84 Gets ready, for short

85 Pros' opposites

88 Small measure

90 Hot chocolate

92 Jumble

93 Philippine island

94 Offshore

96 Blake's "Book of ___"

97 Party guests?

99 Time period

101 Auction or chariot ending

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