# Longboat Rev Rews

July 25, 2025

Serving Longboat Key, St. Armands, Downtown Sarasota & Anna Maria Island



Bird Key Yacht Club future plan ...page 13



A quiet LBK home leads sales ...page 11



Which to blame: Genes or world? ...page 3



A romantic hour in car ...page 10

## InsideLook Mote and Veterans swim together to restore coral

Mote Marine Laboratory recently continued its ongoing partnership with Combat Wounded Veteran Challenge and SCUBAnauts International to advance coral reef restoration.

The groups focused their efforts on maintaining and expanding coral nurseries established by Mote, as well as setting up an experiment at the organization's Looe Key nursery to support the long-term success of its outplanted corals.

This long-standing annual collaboration brings together two mission-driven organizations, one composed of military veterans and one of science-focused students, each committed to saving coral reefs.

CWVC is an organization dedicated to improving the lives of wounded and injured veterans through rehabilitative, high-adventure, and therapeutic outdoor challenges. Their mission promotes personal growth, camaraderie, and healing, while also contributing to ongoing scientific research on the impacts of traumatic brain inju-



ries, PTSD, and limb loss. Each dive offers participants not only a renewed sense of purpose but also the chance to aid in the restoration

of the ocean.

SNI is an organization focused on educating and empowering the next See Mote, page 2

## Market cooling does not stop ultra luxury home sales

The housing market in Sarasota and Manatee counties continued its cooling trend in June, with sale prices dropping, inventory climbing and homes sitting longer before closing.

According to the latest data from the Realtor Association of Sarasota and Manatee, the shift marks a more favorable landscape for buyers than at any point in recent yearseven as prices remain well above pre-pandemic norms.

Single-family home prices fell sharply in both counties year-overyear, with Manatee County posting the steepest decline. There, the median sale price dropped 15.2 percent, to \$440,000, while in Sarasota

See Market, page 2

## State and regional coalitions release updated sea level rise projections

Both the State of Florida's Resilient Florida Program and the Tampa Bay Climate Science Advisory Panel have released updates this year on what sea level rise could look like for our region (based on the St. Petersburg tide gauge). In April, the Florida Statewide Office of Resilience and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) updated their projections, adopting the NOAA Intermediate Low and Intermediate scenarios. In June, the Tampa Bay Climate Science Advisory Panel released their projections, which include the Intermediate High scenario in addition to the two scenarios adopted by the state.

What's the Difference?

The STATE recommends looking at the Intermediate Low (blue line)

and Intermediate (orange line) scenarios. The TAMPA BAY CLIMATE SCIENCE ADVISORY PANEL recommends looking at all three scenarios shown below.

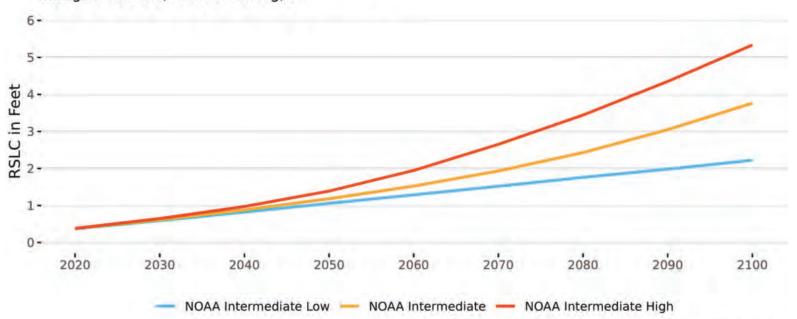
The difference between these recommendations in the near future is not as great compared to further out. For example, if in 2030, a municipality plans to build a new bridge with a life expectancy of 50 years:

- According to the State, they should plan for 1.1ft 1.7ft\* of sea level
- According to the Tampa Bay Climate Science Advisory Panel, they should plan for 1.1ft - 2.8ft of sea level rise.

This is a difference of about a foot, which is significant and makes long-

See Sea Rise, page 2

#### Relative Sea Level Change Predictions Gauge 8726520, St. Petersburg, FL



Source: https://sealevel.nasa.gov/task-force-scenario-tool?psmsl\_id=520

Relative sea level change (RSLC) scenarios for St. Petersburg, FL, as calculated using the corrected NOA2022 curves. : Tampa Bay Climate Science Advisory Panel Recommended Projections of Sea Level Rise in the Tampa Bay Region

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#### Mote, from page 1

generation of ocean stewards through real-world marine science experiences. By engaging teens in meaningful conservation and stewardship projects, SNI cultivates environmental leadership and deep respect for marine ecosystems.

CWVC and SNI worked alongside Mote scientists to install new coral trees and clean existing ones in Mote's Looe Key offshore coral nursery. A critical part of the cleaning process involves removing algae and obstructive, "fouling" bivalves from the trees, which is essential to reduce competition with coral fragments. These combined efforts play a foundational role in sustaining Mote's science-based coral reef restoration and research pipeline.

#### Market, from page 1

County, it fell 8.1 percent, to \$455,000. Despite the declines, both figures remain roughly 35 percent to 55 percent higher than in 2019—a year often considered a "healthy benchmark" before pandemic-era spikes took hold—when the median single-family price was \$325,000 in Manatee County and \$291,925 in Sarasota County.

The time to sale has stretched across both counties. In Sarasota, the median time to sale was 99 days; in Manatee, it was 109 days—both longer than the 90- to 105-day timelines typical in mid-2019, despite faster contract periods back then.

Inventory also continued its upward spiral. Sarasota's single-family listings rose 23.2 percent year-over-year, to 3,955, and Manatee's rose 27.4 percent, to 3,196 — nearly double the inventory levels seen in 2019. That growth pushed the months' supply to 6.3 months for single-family homes and 8.3 months for condos in Sarasota, and to 5.2 and 7.4 months, respectively, in Manatee.

Sarasota's single-family sales rose 1 percent, to 699, while Manatee's dipped by 3.2 percent, to 705 year over year. Cash deals remained substantial—35.8 percent in Sarasota and 28.9 percent in Manatee—though both were down from a year earlier, when cash transactions made up 43.3 percent of sales in Sarasota County and 34.2 percent in Manatee County.

The condo and townhome market followed a similar, if slightly more tempered, path. In Sarasota, median prices declined 3.2 percent, to \$371,750, while sales rose 2.5 percent. Manatee saw condo prices fall 9.2 percent, to \$312,900, with sales down 5.3 percent.

August notes growing hesitancy among condo buyers due to post-Surfside collapse legislation and new requirements that have, in some cases, doubled monthly fees.

#### Sea Rise, from page 1

term planning a challenge.

#### Is One Scenario More Likely Than the Others?

This is the million-dollar question. However, there are probabilities associated with each scenario based on how likely it is that sea level rise will exceed what's predicted if temperatures rise by 3°C by 2100. Both the State of Florida and the Tampa Bay Climate Science Advisory Panel report that:

- For the Intermediate Low (blue line) scenario, there is an 82% chance that sea levels will be HIGHER than what this scenario predicts.
- For the Intermediate (orange line) scenario, there is a 5% chance that sea levels will be HIGHER than what this scenario predicts.
- For the Intermediate High (red line) scenario, there is less than a 1% chance that sea levels will be HIGHER than what this scenario predicts.

#### **Main Takeaways**

- State and regional agencies and organizations agree that climate change and sea level rise are happening now and will continue to happen. In fact, our area has already seen 9.6 inches of sea level rise since 1947.
- Our area will need to continue talking about these issues across broad audiences so that we can appropriately respond and maintain the economic and quality of life benefits our coastal region provides.

Before these updated estimates were released, SBEP also shared information on recent trends in sea level rise, noting that the rate of sea level rise in recent years is potentially increasing to about 3 inches per decade, which is very similar to the average of the two FDEP-derived estimates, which average 2.8 inches per decade over the next 50 years.

- Sarasota Bay Estuary Program



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## KeyHealth

## What brain genetics say about mental health

It's one thing to know that similar brain areas are activated by psychiatric diagnoses. It's another to see what genetic areas are touched.

MATTHEW EDLUND Guest Columunist news@lbknews.com

Heard of the Brainstorm Consortium? A worldwide group of dozens of researchers is trying to understand diagnosis from the bottom up, starting with your genes.

In a paper in Science, the group looked at 25 "brain associated" disorder, ten of them psychiatric, fifteen neurologic. They sorted them through GWASS – genome wide association stud-

ies, which look at minimal genetic variations, generally of the single nucleotide pair type. Nearly 1.2 million people had their genomes sequenced. Much of what was found found fit clinical suspicions of many years standing; some did not. All the results pointed towards the complexity of psychiatric diagnosis.

MATTHEW EDLUND

#### What the Study Found

The original Human Genome Project expected to find the "schizo-phrenia gene" or the "major heart attack genes." Nothing of the sort occurred. Instead, researchers discovered tens of thousands of genetic variants that increased propensity to major illnesses by small fractions. Fortunately, GWASS can look fairly effectively at how things

sort – what is genetically connected to what. Here are some of the Brainstorm Consortium's major findings:

- 1. Psychiatric illnesses are associated like crazy with each other. Depression and its genetic components are correlated with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, ADHD, Tourette's –all the other psychiatric diagnoses. Schizophrenia to a fair degree shows major genetic connections across diagnoses. Neurologic conditions like stroke Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and epilepsy by contrast siloed out, each separate in their own form. Only migraines, which clustered with ADHD, Tourette's and major depression, was the neurologic outlier.
- 2. Neuroticism correlated with virtually every psychiatric disorder, as well as migraines. If someone has a psychiatric diagnosis, there are profound effects on personality.
- 3. Education and going to college correlated positively with psychiatric diagnoses like bipolar disorder and anorexia, while stroke and Alzheimer's were related to less educational attainment.

#### The Nature of Psychiatric Diagnosis.

It's been known for a long time that psychiatric diagnoses overlap. People looking at brain imaging studies found the same circuits engaged by depression and anxiety, bipolar disorder and ADHD. People with one diagnosis when followed over a lifetime often gain several more, as seen with diabetes, related eventually to hypertension, heart disease, stroke and Alzheimer's. Not infrequently several psychiatric diagnoses are made at the same time, like panic disorder and anxiety coincident with depression.

What's not remarked upon is why this might be. It's one thing to know that similar brain areas are activated by psychiatric diagnoses. It's another to see what genetic areas are touched.

Importantly, GWASS studies often find the genes involved are in the vast array of "junk DNA." Much of human research has looked at the 22-24000 genes that code proteins. The two to twenty million "junk DNA" genes appear in masses of genetic material filled with repeats and odd rhythmic formats.

They are also places where much of the body's regulatory control takes place.

Seeing the body as an information system, this is one of the most complex areas around.

#### **Complex Treatments**

So psychiatric diagnoses involve large numbers of interlocking symptoms and syndromes. They affect all the biological and mental aspects of an individual. They're systemic diseases. They generally last decades, and are often generational.

So why is treatment so neglected and ill funded?

The WHO classifies depression as perhaps the second largest burden on the world economy of any diagnosis. Depression rates are burgeoning among the young, especially young girls. Suicide rates are up in most age groups. Recent studies argue that suicidal ideas precede suicide in 70% of patients in an hour or less.

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ER services work like crazy to get people with stroke into the hospital within an hour so effective treatment can be given. Where is urgency for mental health?

And why is it so difficult to get comprehensive mental health care? Medical psychiatric diagnoses are rife, particularly as we grow older. Why then is Medicare engaged in its "Targeted Probe – Education" program to cut psychiatric treatment? Where else in the world are doctors required to write two simultaneous charts, medical and psychiatric? Asked to track the patient's willingness to be there, as if people walk into psychiatric offices on a lark? Demand that progress occur with each visit, as if schizophrenia is cured in a moment?

Why do so many insurance schemes cut out or refuse to pay for psychiatric treatment, when the result is skyrocketing medical costs in the same people?

The answer to the last question is generally simple – insurance companies don't want to insure psychiatric patients because they have too many intercurrent medical issues. They're costly. It cuts their bottom line.

#### The Real Bottom Line

Psychiatric diagnoses are complex, systemic diseases that are hard to treat. The treatments are also complex. Neglecting them is fiscally foolish – psychiatric illnesses strike the young disproportionately, with major effects on the economy. It's also morally irresponsible.

As the knowledge economy grows, particularly the knowledge economy, so will issues involving the brain. Psychiatric illnesses are increasing, and increasingly important to the physical and economic health of the nation. It's time to give them commensurate concern and resources as kidneys and lungs and hearts.



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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.

#### Sleepy Lagoon Follow up call

To: Longboat Key Assistant Town Manager Isaac Brownman

Thank you for these, Isaac. I had a great catch-up with Blythe yesterday, she has some thoughts on what will be useful to residents in terms of the "dashboard" content. Let's keep in touch as that project comes together, sounds like Charlie hopes to present it on the late Aug LBK North Zoom?

Sarah Karon Commissioner Town of Longboat Key

#### Sleepy Lagoon Follow up call

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon Yes, sounds good, thank you! Isaac Brownman Assistant Town Manager Town of Longboat Key

#### Sleepy Lagoon Follow up call

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon

Here are a few emails that will help with the context preceding the recent Zoom meeting Kalee and I had with Sleepy Lagoon. Thank you!

Isaac Brownman Assistant Town Manager Town of Longboat Key

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#### Manatee County Days at the Florida Capitol

To: Longboat Key Assistant to Town Manager Savannah Cobb

Can you reach out to the county and make plans for me to attend? Not in the hotel we were in last time Susan made reservations. Thanks.

BJ Bishop

Commissioner

Town of Longboat Key

#### Manatee County Days at the Florida Capitol

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

He also thinks it's a good idea if someone from the Commission wants to represent Longboat Key there. Let me know if you need anything from me.

Savannah Cobb

Assistant to Town Manager

Town of Longboat Key

#### Manatee County Days at the Florida Capitol

To: Longboat Key Assistant to Town Manager Savannah Cobb I think this is a good idea - ask Tip what he thinks please.

BI Bishop

Commissioner

Town of Longboat Key

#### Manatee County Days at the Florida Capitol

To: Longboat Key Town Commission

We're excited to invite you to join us for Manatee County Days at the Florida State Capitol, taking place February 4th and 5th, 2026! This special event brings together representatives from Manatee County Government, our municipalities, and a wide range of local partners to See Letters, page 5



Growing in Jesus' Name

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If you cannot attend but would like to contribute, please send your check to: Christ Church of Longboat Key 6400 Gulf of Mexico Drive Longboat Key, FL 34228 Attn: John Shehorn

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## EditorLetters



#### Letters, from page 4

showcase all that makes Manatee County a premier place to live, work, and play.

There will be many great ways to participate in this event, ranging from sponsorship opportunities, tabling at the Capitol, and general attendance. There are differing sponsorship levels, depending on what your group is looking to support. As a municipality within Manatee County, we want to give you an early opportunity to reserve one of these spots. If interested, please reach out to brent.anderson@mymanatee.org. Please save the dates and see below for a preview of what's planned:

Wednesday, February 4: Join us for a Welcome Reception at the Governor's Club from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. This is a great opportunity to connect with members of the Manatee County Delegation and the many participating organizations in an informal and engaging setting.

Thursday, February 5: We'll be hosting individual 20–30 minute meetings on the 22nd floor of the Capitol, where members of the Manatee County Delegation will meet with representatives from attending organizations. More details and a finalized schedule will be shared as the event approaches.

We truly hope you'll be able to join us for this important and exciting event! Official agenda and additional information are to come in August. If you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Crosley Jones Legislative Aide Bradenton

#### **FDOT**

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Steve Branham

Hi, my name is Hannah Weary and I am a communications coordinator consulting with the FDOT District 1. The FDOT is hosting a Public Hearing for the I-75 at Moccasin Wallow Road Interchange Modification Project. FDOT is required to send a Public Hearing notice to Elected and Appointed officials and wanted to send the notice to Commissioner Steve Branham because of his position in the Sarasota/Manatee MPO Board.

Hannah Weary Longboat Key

#### St Regis Landscape plan

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Penny Gold

Thanks for passing along the question regarding the landscaping on the north side of the St. Regis project. I looked at the landscape plans to see if there were differences between what was depicted on the plans that included the parking structure and the landscape plans that were approved (without the parking structure). There was no change to the plantings that were proposed (and ultimately planted) between those two plan sets. I'll pass along to the development team that there's been complaints from neighbors about the landscaping.

Allen Parsons Assistant Town Manager Town of Longboat Key

#### St Regis Landscape plan

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Penny Gold

Good afternoon Commissioner Gold, I have copied our Planning, Zoning, & Building Department with your question.

Isaac Brownman Assistant Town Manager Town of Longboat Key

#### St Regis Landscape plan

To: Longboat Key Assistant Town Manager Isaac Brownman

The December 2023 rendering with the parking garage includes a planned row of trees between the hotel wall and the Aquarius Condominium property. If I recall, their original proposal also included a line of trees on the north side. I have received several complaints from Seaplace owners about the bare brick wall on the north-facing side of the hotel. Can we encourage St. Regis to move forward with that version of the landscape plan?

Penny Gold Commissioner Town of Longboat Key

#### **Follow up to Inquiries**

To: Bob Gault

Here are the approved landscape plans from December 2023, which revised previously approved landscape plans for the project. Also attached is a rendering used during Unicorp's presentation of the parking garage concept, which preceded the December 2023 plan update. Not sure if their intention was that the rendering (which most likely depicts fully matured trees and foliage) was for that concept to carry through with or without a parking garage.

#### Please let us know if you have any more questions.

Isaac Brownman Assistant Town Manager Town of Longboat Key

Ads that work...

941.387.2200

#### **Follow up to Inquiries**

To: Longboat Key Assistant Town Manager Isaac Brownman Thank you Isaac. Bob Gault

Longboat Key

#### Follow up to Inquiries

To: Bob Gault

Yes, let me work our Planning, Zoning, & Building group to track that graphic down.

Isaac Brownman

Assistant Town Manager

Town of Longboat Key

#### Follow up to Inquiries

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin

Thanks Gary again to you and Isaac for the follow up on St Regis landscaping. As I recall the elevation rendering presented in the public hearings depicted a very dense grove of palms helping screen the facility, etc. I was thinking how

Thanks Gary again to you and Isaac for the follow up on St Regis landscaping.

As I recall the elevation rendering presented in the public hearings depicted a very dense grove of palms helping screen the facility, etc. I was thinking how can they plant palms so closely together side by side? It was a wall of landscaping.

Currently there are only a handful of skinny Queen Palms and allot of low grass type plants. Can we get a pdf of the rendering perspective presented in the Commission meeting please? Just trying to understand what happened.

Bob Gault Longboat Key

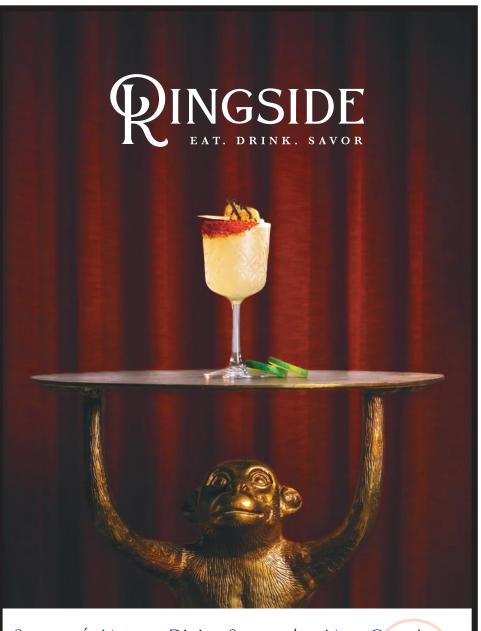
#### Follow up to Inquiries

To: Bob Gault

Thank you for your enquiry this week. Here are the responses from our directors to your questions. Should you have any other questions or feedback, please don't hesitate to reply back or attend our next regular meeting scheduled on September 8th at 1 p.m.

Gary Coffin Commissioner Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 6



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#### Letters, from page 5

#### **Follow up to Inquiries**

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin

As a follow-up to your questions last week, here are some answers below. Please let me know if you have any follow-up questions.

1.Landscaping in front of St. Regis.

1. Hearing from at least one resident that the expectation was that the landscaping would be heartier/more dense.

The landscaping installed at the St. Regis is consistent with the approved landscaping plan. 1. Does the landscaping they have implemented match their approved landscape plans?

Yes. Allen Parsons walked the site with the project's Construction Manager to ensure the installed landscaping was consistent with the approved landscaping plan.

1. Does the landscaping implemented and approved on the landscape plans match the rendering they supplied during public hearings?



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Contact: Brad Wallace, Realtor (407) 375-5994 WEMERT GROUP REALTY LLC

Yes.

1.Do they have any plans of adding more?

Beyond ensuring the installed landscaping was consistent with the approved landscaping plan, Town staff would not have any involvement in the St. Regis' future plans for additional

1. Seems sparse for a 5-star resort and condo development.

The landscaping installed at the St. Regis is consistent with the approved landscaping plan.

1.St. Regis Parking Lifts

1.Also, the recollection is that the final approved plan would have parking lifts. Have those been implemented?

As a part of an amendment package in 2023 (Resolution 2013-12), all 62 mechanical parking lift spaces were removed, and the parking was made up on an expanded surface parking area. The final approved plan in 2023 added one more parking space beyond the original 2021 plan that had the lifts. The 2023 approved plan included a total of 469 parking spaces.

1.971 Longboat Club Road

1. Property is out of sorts (still damaged from storms and no apparent repair activity in sight).

2. Any update/status to repairs on that property?

A Notice of Violation has been filed against the owner. Code Enforcement staff have been in communication with the property owner, who has committed to having her contractors file the correct permits. Code enforcement spoke to the property owner yesterday morning. The owner stated that she has signed contacts and does not know why the contractors haven't applied for permits. The Code enforcement officer has requested twice for her to send him the contracts and still have not received anything. The Code Enforcement officer informed her that she has until 7.30.2025 to have permits applied for. If they are not applied for by then she will receive a Notice of Hearing to appear before the Special Magistrate.

As a side note, she stated to the Code Enforcement officer that she has been dealing personal matters as well.

Isaac Brownman Assistant Town Manager Town of Longboat Key

#### Commission budget and roads communications

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon Yes I am good after 8:30 EST.

Blythe Jeffers Longboat Key

#### **Commission budget and roads communications**

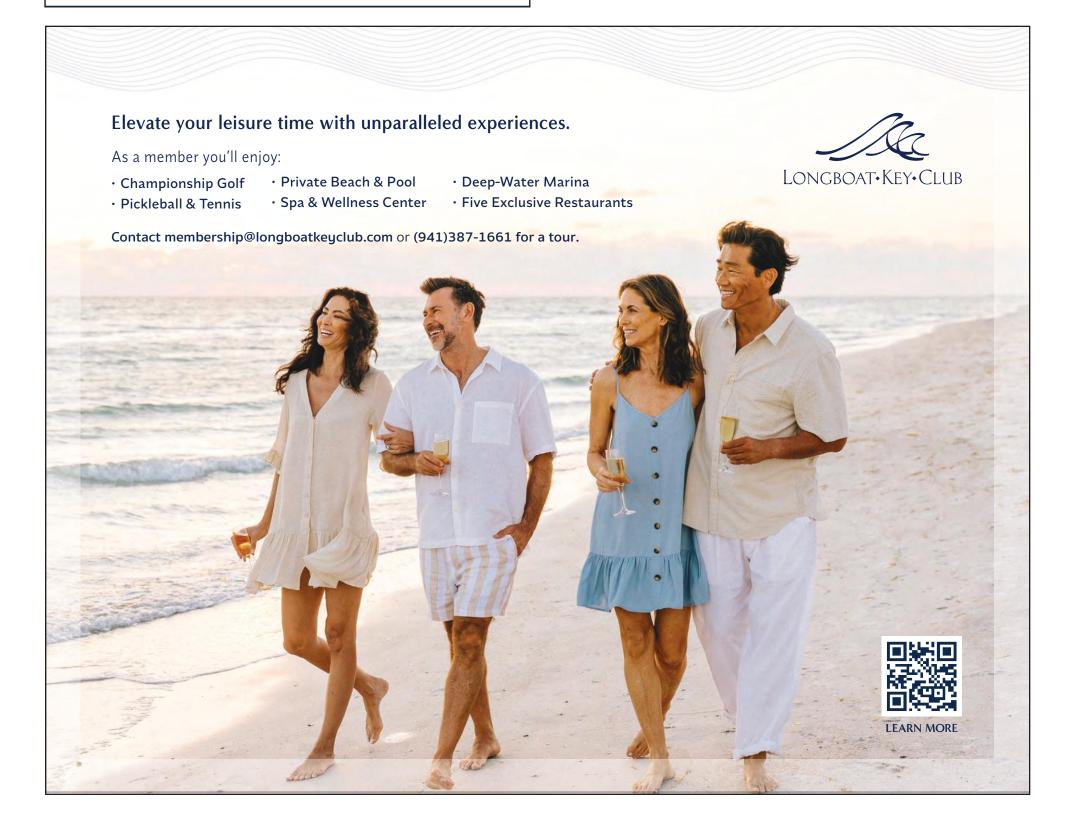
To: Blythe Jeffers

Since tomorrow is no good, any chance for Wednesday before 1 p.m.?

Sarah Karon

Commissioner

See Letters, page 8



www.lbknews.com Friday, July 25, 2025 Page 7





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## EditorLetters



#### Letters, from page 6

Town of Longboat Key

#### Information on Visitors on LBK from Visit Sarasota County

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

Here we are with Q3 data on visitors to LBK. Adding Kim to this email as I see I didn't include her last quarter which is my fault. Reminder, this is brand new data to us too – so we know how we're using it (to help us better target the high spending visitor, during the right time, with the right message) but you may see value in these insights too.

Let us know if there is someone else you'd rather see us share this data with – or if there is anyone else we should add to the list when we send each quarter.

Erin Duggan Presiden/CEO Visit Sarasota

#### Information on Visitors on LBK from Visit Sarasota County

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

Great seeing you two gentlemen last night at the Argus event. It reminded me to reach out to you both and share this information. Please feel free to let us know if there are others within the Town that we should be sharing it with as well.

One of the new "toys" we have access to this FY is a platform called Zartico. We're appreciative the Tourist Development Board and Board of County Commissioners approved this new funding in our budget this year. One promise we made internally within VSC's walls was to share these insights – especially the ones we could pull from regions within the County – with those that might be interested. If this data can help others in crafting marketing / business decisions – all the better!

Please see attached some quarterly data that targets Longboat Key as the geographic region. Should you have any thoughts/questions, do not hesitate to let us know. I'm Copying Jess Bertolini on this email as she is the internal lead on this system/platform and would be best for answering detailed questions. We have been finding this data useful to help us craft content when we target visitors. Happy to jump on a call to discuss – but the idea is we'll send these along for Q3 and Q4 and see what changes we see/what insights we glean.

Erin Duggan President/CEO Visit Sarasota

#### Suncoast Waterkeeper Weekly Review

To: Suncoast Waterkeeper Pia Ronquillo

This is one of the reasons why our focus is primarily on stormwater retrofits of the older neighborhoods adjacent to the bay, where the development occurred prior to the 1980s-era stormwater rules. That is pretty much untreated stormwater runoff, full of pollen and oak leaves and grass clippings, cigarette butts, un-bagged dog poop, "dust" from brake pads, flecks of asphalt from our roads, etc.

There is, rightfully so, a lot of attention on stormwater rules for new development, like Lakewood Ranch and places like that. But in terms of impacts, those older neighborhoods next to the bay produce, by far, the greatest amount of pollution per acre.

On the plus side, the recent retrofit projects at Hudson Bay and especially at the Bobby Jones

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Dave Tomasko

Executive Director

Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

#### Suncoast Waterkeeper Weekly Review

To: Sarasota Executive Director Dave Tomasko

Yes and it rained heavily the night before and the morning of this week's sampling event. This was the state of the stormwater pipe at Indian Beach.

The rain can carry polluted runoff from yards, including pet waste, and leaky sewage infrastructure into local waterways, causing spikes in fecal indicator bacteria levels. This can make the water unsafe for swimming or recreation for up to 72 hours, especially in areas near storm drains or in poorly circulated areas.

Suncoast Waterkeeper uses the data from our enterococci monitoring program not only to inform concerned residents and visitors about where it is safe to swim, but to advocate for sewage and stormwater infrastructure upgrades that reduce pollution.

Pia Ronquillo

Water Quality Specialist Suncoast Waterkeeper

#### Suncoast Waterkeeper Weekly Review

To: Suncoast Waterkeeper Water Quality Specialist Pia Ronquillo

Thanks Pia – great detail on the conditions!

By the way – those pipes, if they are stormwater, are intended to discharge into the bay. They may be a pollution source (in fact they are) but it's not something that the City can do much about, most likely, as it probably drains dozens if not hundreds of acres of watershed that were developed prior to modern (i.e., 1980s era) stormwater rules.

David Tomasko

Executive Director

Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

#### **Suncoast Waterkeeper Sampling Results**

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

On July 14th, the enterococci survey was carried out during an incoming to high tide between 1.25 ft to 2.42 feet. Sampling was done after and during a heavy rain event. The stormwater pipe at Indian Beach was overflowing into the water, and this was reported to the City of Sarasota. Thick wrack was present at Herb Dolan Park and Longboat Key Bayfront Park. Decomposing Dapis pleousa was still present at Emerson Point Preserve. Lastly, there were no horses in the water or on the shore of Palma Sola Bay.

The results for sites sampled in Manatee County are as follows:

- · Longboat Key Bayfront Park (bay side): 52/100 mL
- · Town of Longboat Key Boat Ramp: Undetected
- · Herb Dolan Park: 3076/100 mL
- · Palma Sola Causeway North: 1067/100 mL
- · Braden River: 156/100 mL
- · Palmetto Bridge: 250/100 mL

See Letters, page 12







Leah George 941-780-0597

Judy Kepecz-Hays 941-587-1700 941-376-6411

**Hideaway Bay** 

Steven Kepecz

#### **Promenade**



1211 Gulf of Mexico Drive #105 \$899,000 Promenade105.com

1211 Gulf of Mexico Drive #704 \$999,000

Promenade704.com

757 Hideaway Bay Drive \$7,680,000 757HideawayBay.com

#### Sanctuary



575 Sanctuary Drive #A303 \$1,620,000 SanctuaryA303.com

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## **Golden Gate Point**



660 Golden Gate Point #32 \$899,000 MarinaView32.com

## **Tangerine Bay Club**



350 Gulf of Mexico Drive #211 \$998,000 Tangerine211.com

#### **Emerald Harbor**



**6011 Emerald Harbor Drive** \$2,350,000 6011EmeraldHarborDr.com

#### Inn on the Beach



240 Sands Point Rd #4201 \$1,198,000 InnOnTheBeach4201.com



\$1,850,000 537GunwaleLn.com

\$1,928,000 521WedgeLn.com Page 10 Friday, July 25, 2025 The News

## OnPatrol



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

#### July 18 Fire

7:11 p.m.

Officer Mathis responded to Bayport Way for a fire alarm activation. The Longboat Key Fire Department arrived on scene and advised all units could cancel their response, cooking smoke had activated the alarm and everything was fine. Case clear.

#### July 19 Boat

12:14 a.m.

Officer Troyer observed a disabled boat trailer in the middle of Broadway Street where the right wheel fell off.

Officer Troyer spoke with the owner who was present with the trailer. The owner contacted a tow company for removal. Case clear.

#### Jet skis 5:35 p.m.

Officer Pescuma was dispatched to North Shore Road in reference to two reckless jet skis. Upon arrival, Officer Pescuma met with the caller who stated that two jet skis were coming to shore and dropping people off and picking people up. Officer Pescuma advised the caller that it was allowed as long as they were operating at a slow speed to shore as indicated by the informational/regulatory buoys. The caller stated he was not aware that they could enter the buoy line. Case clear.

#### July 20 Suspicious person

3:39 a.m.

Officer Troyer while on patrol observed two people cross Gulf of Mexico Drive and walk into Overlook Park located at the 200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Troyer contacted the persons who identified themselves. Officer Troyer informed the two about town ordinance which prohibited being in the park after hours and issued them civil citations. The two left the park without incident. Case clear.

#### Animal

4:04 p.m.

Officer Ericsson while on patrol in Overlook Park observed a woman walking from the water with a dog on a leash. Officer Ericsson made contact and informed her of the town ordinance regarding dogs in the park. She apologized and stated her dog was a service animal and advised she was in the process of leaving. She entered her vehicle and left the area. Case clear.

## July 21 Found property

9:36 a.m.

Officer Zunz responded to the front desk for a found beach pad. The complainant advised he saw the beach pad fly out of the back of a pickup truck traveling northbound on Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Zunz put the pad into evidence for safekeeping. Case clear.

#### July 22 Construction

7:42 a.m.

Officer Martinson was dispatched to Ranger Lane on a noise disturbance. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson could hear the sound on a power saw and drill coming from the backyard. The side gate was open so Officer Martinson walked into the backyard where he found a man using a power drill to remove brick pavers around the pool. Officer Martinson advised the





construction worker said he was not aware of the town's noise ordinance and apologized and said he would stop working until 8 a.m. and will make sure not to start before then tomorrow. Case clear.

#### **Turtle**

9:00 a.m.

Officer Miklos was dispatched to North Shore Road and Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a citizen's assist. Sarasota Sheriff's Office Dispatch advised that the caller stated what appeared to be a domesticated turtled crossed Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Miklos contacted the caller who said she was concerned that the turtle would get hit by a car. The caller stated she moved the turtle to North Shore Road and the turtle was walking

towards a yard in the area. At this time, no police assistance was required. Case clear.

## July 23 Incident

4:21 a.m.

Officer Nazareno was dispatched to Bayside Drive for a suspicious incident call regarding a man with a flashlight attempting to make entry into the location. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno observed a white pickup truck owned by a pest control company parked on the main driveway and spoke with the driver who advised that he was clearing the location for the termite removal. The driver was able to provide documents showing the work order for the jobsite and stated that he was unable to open the door with the key he was given due to the lower deadbolt being locked at the back door. Sgt. Smith made contact with the caller and advised her of our findings. Case clear.

#### July 24 Vehicle

3:24 p.m.

Officer Ericsson received a camera alert for a license plate reader regarding an expired registration. Officer Ericsson checked the FCIC/NCIC database and confirmed that the registration was expired on March 25. The vehicle was traveling south and Officer Ericsson conducted a traffic stop at the 6600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Contact was made with the driver and sole occupant. Upon approaching the vehicle and advising why he was stopped, the driver spontaneously stated his license was suspended and he was merely driving because his mother was having a medical issue and wanted him at her house. After confirming the man's mother was not in immediate danger, Officer Ericsson issued the driver a criminal citation for knowingly driving while license is suspended and a citation for expired registration less than six months. Case clear.

#### Vehicle

9:33 p.m.

Sgt. Montfort was dispatched for a report of a suspicious vehicle that was occupied and running in the parking lot for over an hour. Officer Mathis and Sgt. Montfort arrived on scene and observed the vehicle was occupied by a man and a woman. The officers approached the vehicle and made contact with the occupants who stated they were on a date and continued to talk after the sun had set. The occupants were not residents and went on their way without incident. Case clear.

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941.316.8367

www.lbknews.com Friday, July 25, 2025 Page 11

## KeyRealEstate

## Bird Key, Lido Key, Longboat Key latest sales

Address	Sq. Ft.	<b>List Price</b>	Bed/B	ath/l	Half Bath	Days On Market	Sale Price
650 PENFIELD ST	1,579	\$1,125,000	2	2	0	127	\$1,050,000
4600 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#201	1,559	\$849,999	2	2	0	55	\$790,000
1945 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#M2-310	928	\$685,000	2	2	0	91	\$600,000
754 SPANISH DR S Unit#754	1,245	\$359,000	2	2	0	28	\$350,000
914 SPANISH DR S Unit#76	1,341	\$350,000	2	2	0	0	\$350,000
88 TWIN SHORES BLVD	902	\$160,000	2	2	0	208	\$130,000



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opalcollection.com/lido-beach

941.388.2161

Page 12 Friday, July 25, 2025 The News

## Editor Letters



#### Letters, from page 8

· Emerson Point: 20/100 mL

· Terra Ceia Bay: 4106/100 mL

Any count exceeding 71 is considered unsafe for swimming, indicating a potential health concern. The standard for enterococci in Class II and Class III Marine waters is "MPN or MF counts shall not exceed a monthly geometric mean of 35 nor exceed the Ten Percent Threshold Value (TPTV) of 130 in 10% or more of the samples during any 30-day period. Monthly geometric means shall be based on a minimum of 10 samples taken over a 30-day period," (62-302.500 F.A.C.). The two Longboat Key sites are located in Class II waters (https://geodata.dep.state.fl.us/datasets/FDEP::surface-waterclass-boundaries-areas/explore?location=27.336358%2C-82.433979%2C10.00). We are committed to bringing these critical issues to your attention and believe your active involvement is crucial. The official reports for this week's sampling activities, courtesy of Benchmark Enviroanalytical, are attached to this email. We want to encourage you to direct all questions, suggestions for additional analysis, and feedback to Dr. Abbey Tyrna at Executivedirector@suncoastwaterkeeper. org and Pia Ronquillo-See at waterquality@suncoastwaterkeeper.org. Your input is invaluable in our collective efforts to address these water quality issues.

Pia Ronquillo Water Quality Specialist Suncoast Waterkeeper

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#### Saint Armands Fillmore Lot

To: Sarasota City Commission

I wanted to reach out and ask for some help with the maintenance of the Fillmore parking lot on Saint Armands Circle. I realize that we are all still putting the pieces back together from last year's horrible hurricane season but the Fillmore lot has become over-grown and unkept. I'm not sending this to complain or speak poorly of city services but am asking for some help to improve the appearance of the lot. It looks like the people that maintain the landscaping issues of the parking lot are an outside contractor. If that is the case, I don't think that the city is getting what they contracted for. We are using our employees on a weekly basis to empty overflowing garbage cans and picking up yard waste but it's not enough. We are very thankful for the beautification that is occurring in the circle park but the parking lots are not getting enough attention. Attached are some photos to reference the current situation of the parking lot. Thank you for your time and appreciate any help that you can provide.

Scott Macdonald Crab & Fin Restaurant

#### Saint Armands Fillmore Lot

To: Scott Macdonald

Thanks for alerting us to this issue. I saw you copied Deputy City Manager Robinson, but I am going to copy him and the interim City Manager with this response so that the appropriate staff can respond. Mayor Liz Alpert

Mayor City of Sarasota

#### **Media Inquiry**

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch

My name is Clinton Engelberger, and I'm a freelance reporter for Suncoast Searchlight. I'm responding to resident complaints about a religious protester yelling into a megaphone near a beach, and I had some questions about the sound ordinances in Sarasota. I saw in the City's Code of Ordinances that between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m., no person "shall make, cause, allow or permit the operation of any continuous source of sound...that exceeds seventy-five (75) dBA, eighty (80) dBC or has a ten (10) dB or greater difference between the dBA and dBC sound levels."

I was wondering how this ordinance would apply to the religious protester using a megaphone. Do police have a right to stop him if residents claim he is disturbing peace, or must officers have his sound levels on the record to stop him?

Also, would he only need a permit if the sound exceeded that sound level, or would he need one regardless of his sound level as a protester?

Thank you for looking into this, and please let me know if there's anything I can clarify in the meantime.

Clinton Engelberger

Sarasota

#### Bikram Yoga studio

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch

When I heard of the legacy business acknowledgement happening at City Hall for the Bikram Yoga studio I routinely practice at, I immediately felt compelled to share a meaningful testimonial about this extraordinary business. Perhaps it can serve in some way for the strategic planning of the Downtown Improvement District as it relates to culture and economic development. If so, I am honored to contribute.

For a small space, this business uses every inch of its physical location to benefit its customers/practitioners and to set a tone of culture, including its exterior. The welcoming warmth of vibrant colors and painted poses on the building's external walls is distinctive and adds to its Downtown presence for its community and visitors alike. Those of us who appreciate and practice Bikram yoga are known to seek out this "hot room" yoga wherever we travel, and that is certainly what I have experienced – and have sought out – at Bikram Yoga Sarasota.

There is a peace and a natural order to the business as a whole. When one walks in, often there are fresh towels being folded, chilled water visible, and a welcoming space to place your shoes. In a minimalistic yet intimate fashion, credit card transactions take place at a tiny counter with an array of mats displayed like artwork on the wall directly behind the counter. The Bikram yoga teachers in simple garb welcome you in, handle the credit cards gently, and all business is complete in a few seconds. The entire rest of the studio experience is focused on entering the "hot room" through a softly lit pathway, with changing areas along the way.

The care, attention, and devotion given by each of the Bikram yoga teachers during the 90-minute class is so individually specific, and at the same time, completely inclusive of all in the room, that a sense of community – along with a collective feeling of "accomplishment" naturally arises.

To me – in so many distinctive ways – the Bikram Yoga studio co-owned by Farky and Timi exemplifies the very best of what Sarasota has to offer, class after class. The beauty of Sarasota's downtown close to the bay – the value of taking care of oneself while developing a capacity for balance and lifelong health – the deep commitment to customer relationships – all of these qualities are a reflection of what Sarasota has become known and appreciated for.

Thank you for honoring this legacy business. May this small testimonial resonate in consonance with creating legacy business acknowledgement in the City of Sarasota.

See Letters, page 13











## Editor Letters



#### Letters, from page 12

Carrie L. Williams Atlanta, Georgia

#### Bikrim Yoga studio

To: Carrie williams

Thank you so much for the kind words and also for the beautiful (and accurate) testimonial for Bikrim!

I have copied the City Manager and Economic Development Director on this email in the hopes that your words can be added to Bikrim Yoga Studio's online narrative on the City's Legacy Business Web page.

The City of Sarasota is fortunate to have a number of local businesses to create our tapestry which makes us unique, and our Bikrim Yoga Studio is a wonderful example of a small, but mighty business that is a service to the residents and an attraction for visitors, adding economic value while increasing our quality-of-life.

Thank you again for taking the time to email me and to add you voice and support of the City's Legacy Business Program and specifically for our Bikrim Yoga Studio.

Ien Ahearn-Koch City Commissioner City of Sarasota

#### Bird Key Yacht Club Follow Up

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn Koch

I am providing a response to the clarification questions you had on the Bird Key Yacht Club project. I hope this provides the clarification you were seeking. Please see below:

Trees: The Tree Report was submitted with the initial application materials and the plans were updated several times after submittal. The tree removal count on the Tree Report is off by 9 trees (tree numbers 9-16 and 36). It appears the Tree Report was not updated as the plans were being reviewed and changed. The landscape plan has the correct information including those 9 trees to be removed, 8 of which do not require mitigation. All other information is consistent and

Lighting: Tennis court lights are all new, the parking lot was previously illuminated but they are replacing the lights with new LED bulbs and new fixtures. The applicant stated they put a test light but its gone now. The photometric plan will be required during the building permit phase and all lighting will have to be in compliance with Section VII-1402 of the Zoning Code. This petition contains a condition of approval limited the hours of the tennis court lights. In addition, the applicant has submitted this statement:

"A light of the same specification as that proposed for the parking lot and tennis courts was installed on the BKYC site on January 14, 2025. It has remained there in operation for the public to observe. The BKHOA and Architectural Review Committee were advised of the light and welcomed to review at their convenience. The President of the HOA Board and the former Chairman, and current member, of the Architectural Review Committee have reviewed the light and

Longboat Rey News

Sarasota City News

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found it to be acceptable. We do not know how many other residents may have viewed the fixture. It has been available for review for over six months. A photometric diagram was provided showing no light bleed. Tennis lights are proposed to mimic daylight savings time during the winter hours. BKYC committed to a hard shutoff at 9 p.m. until 8 a.m. the next day. No lights will be on unless a court is in use."

As of this time we have received no negative feedback on the proposed light fixtures.

Financial Site Plan Criteria: The applicants' response to the financial Site Plan criteria is below. Staff accepted this as meeting the criteria.

Planning Board Public Input: The Planning Board minutes included in the City Commission agenda request back up states that only affected persons spoke during public input and no general citizens. It appears that there were general citizens that spoke. Staff is looking into this and will update the minutes as needed.

Historic demo: The Planning Department stated that the building at 301 Bird Key Drive is listed on the Florida Master Site File as eligible for both local and national historic designation. It will require historic review and most likely a review by the Historic Preservation Board before a demolition permit could be approved. The applicant is fully aware of this requirement. I will try to check in with the Planning Department to see if there is any additional information on

Hours of the Club: The hours are not changing as part of this petition. The applicant has submitted a proffer statement stating what the hours are but they are not listed as conditions of approval.

Lucia Panica

Director of Development Services

City of Sarasota

#### Bird Key Yacht Club Follow Up

To: Sarasota City Director of Development Services Lucia

Thank you Ms. Panica for the follow-up information. I do appreciate it.

I am asking this item be pulled for formal discussion, clarification, and questions on these item and any others that may arise. Also, I have requested Consent 1 item 2 (Stormwater) to be pulled as well, to discuss the Action Plan, p 69-76.

Jen Ahearn-Koch

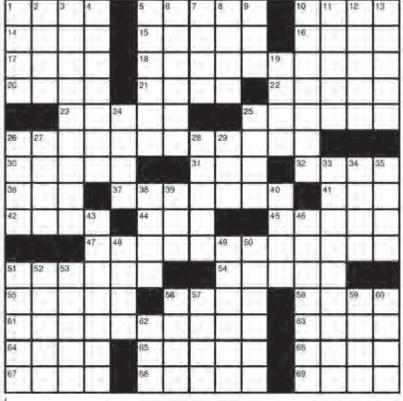
City Commissioner City of Sarasota

#### Pink Slip

#### ACROSS

- River hazard
- It aids commerce in Cancun, Kalamazoo, and Calgary
- Left 21 across or 8 down
- 14. He's blue without his red or white
- Offering from Google or
- He may be blue because he's in the red
- 17. Golden rule word
- 18. Princess in plum?
- 20. One might clean up at a Vegas hotel
- 21. Certain hand-outs
- Coolpix camera maker
- Fabric for a sundress
- Creatures of clay
- 26. Share the stage with journalist Andrea?
- 30. See eye to eye
- Lord's Prayer start
- 32. Blown away
- Org. that sticks to its guns
- 37. Auto dealer's option, and a hint to this puzzle's theme
- 41. Greeting for Caesar
- 42. Congers and morays, e.g.
- 44. Keats creation
- 45. Novelist Joyce Carol
- Caesar's boastful bon mot?
- 51. Like this clue
- 54. Pendragon of legend
- 55. Stock holding 56. Word with back or off
- 58. Tach readings
- 61. San Fran sportscaster? 63. "Piggies"
- 64. Caesar's challenge
- 65. One with grievances, perhaps
- 66. Classic Lotus model
- 67. Kind of waist
- 68. Strand in Rapunzel's rope
- 69. Oxford fellows

#### Robert Stockton



#### DOWN

- Like one leg of a triathlon
- First of a famous sailing
- Like AZT
- 4. "Well said!!"
- Himalayan denizen
- 6. Worn magic item
- 7. McDonald's, e.g. 8. Certain hand-outs
- 9. Tide alternative
- 10. Silverback, e.g.
- No longer napping
- 12. Asp's output
- 13. Moran and Brockovich
- 19. Hydroxyl compound
- 24. "...until a man with no feet."
- 25. "It's Raining Men" singer Halliwell
- 26. Heroine of a classic children's reader
- 27. Man-eater of myth

- 28. Many a software engineer
- 29. Blue, red, or white
- 33. Sport with very wet horses?
- 34. What to get after an insult
- 35. He loved Lucy
- 38. Unchangeable storage
- 39. Stir 40. A bagel and lox, perhaps
- 43. Buttress
- 46. Kept at bay
- 48. Mouse manipulator
- 49. You'll find many in a pound
- 50. Pronounces
- 51. How good was it?
- 52. Tony-winning Rivera
- 53. Dennis Miller specialty
- 56. Evening on the Champs-Élysées
- 57. Land of the leprechauns
- 59. Like 27 down
- 60. Apr. 15 data
- 62. Wine container

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## **Business Directory**







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www.lbknews.com Friday, July 25, 2025 Page 15

## WineTimes



## How to Ruin Classic Food and Drink Recipes

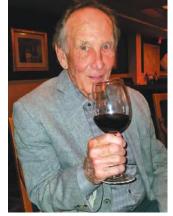
The too much cheese topping and heavy fried batter examples often occur when chefs are trying to hide inferior or less than fresh ingredients.

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

Ever order a classic dish from a restaurant menu or a classic drink from a bar menu and have

it prepared in a way that ruins it? We understand that creative chefs and bartenders should have the freedom to put their own twist on a classic recipe. Here we are talking about gross changes that ruin the taste of a dish or drink.

We have a thing for Oysters Rockefeller. Jules Alciatore, son of the founder of Antoine's Restaurant in New Orleans, created Oysters Rockefeller in 1899 when he could not find snails to serve as an appetizer. The recipe calls for fresh oysters on the half shell, a spicy sauteed greens mixture (say, fresh spinach with parsley, herbs, garlic and scallions) laced with Pernot, Pastis, or another anise-flavored liquor, and breadcrumbs mixed with grated Parmesan or Romano cheese. The greens top the oysters in the shell and the breadcrumbs on top of the greens, all toasted under a salamander or broiler oven and served.



Recently we have ordered Oysters Rockefeller at different

restaurants and, for reasons that would never occur to us, they have served them covered with a thick layer of sticky cheese. This variation in the classic recipe makes it taste like, well, a Mozzarella cheese pizza with oysters and spinach buried underneath.

We have found it even more common to have enchiladas in Mexican restaurants served with a topping of thick layers of sticky cheese. So much so that very few customers know today that a classic cheese enchilada has a filling of shredded onion mixed into soft cheese like Oaxaca (Quesillo) or Asadero. Wrapping this mixture in a tortilla dipped in a simmering sauce stays soft when heated and does not stick to the tortilla. The classic recipe calls for a red sauce with or without meat to be poured on top when served, definitely not a layer of sticky cheese.

Even pizza suffers from having far too much sticky cheese on top (or in some cases buried in the crust as well). A one-fifth serving of a sixteen-inch pizza with a heavy cheese topping gives you the calories and fat in 12 slices of cheese on a toasted cheese sandwich (720 calories and 34 grams of fat). That's not counting fatty meat toppings. Consider that unhealthy to say the least.

Too much cheese overwhelms the tastes that other ingredients add to a classic dish. It quells hunger pangs for a time, but contributes to health problems such as obesity, diabetes, and

Similar to the cheese topping problem, the overuse of breading in classic fried foods com-

bined with overcooking ruins dishes such as fried shrimp, oysters, softshell crabs, fish filets, and whole fish. Thick coatings of egg batter require longer time to cook in the skillet or deep fryer. The finished product has a barrier of batter that literally has to be stripped away to get to the main ingredient of the dish. A classic recipe for fried foods specifies a light coating and a minimal time in the skillet or fryer.

The too much cheese topping and heavy fried batter examples often occur when chefs are trying to hide inferior or less than fresh ingredients. A thick coating of bland cheese will hide off tastes and poor consistency. A thick crust will have the same effect pm humans that hush puppies have on dogs.

Many other examples of classic recipes ruined arise when bartenders and chefs cut corners to reduce costs or speed up order processing:

- Craft cocktails made with anything other than fresh orange, lime, lemon, grapefruit, papaya, guava, or mango juice.
  - Reheated pasta or the wrong pasta shape for a dish.
- Chicken or sausage in seafood gumbo or fish chowder adds a greasy layer that smothers the briny edge.
- Sauces heavy with cornstarch in Asian dishes.
- Limp and greasy French fries.
- Green tomatoes machine sliced instead of ripe tomatoes sliced by hand.
- Cool Whip on fresh baked pies instead of real whipped cream.
- Soggy bacon with eggs.
- Processed chicken and turkey lunch meats in place of sliced from roasts.
- Fructose cola instead of cane sugar cola in a Cuba Libre.
- Crab cakes outside Maryland, DC, and Virginia (too many bad examples).

Our list has grown too long to add more to it at this time. You may have your own items to add, or disputes about what we have included. We invite feedback.

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 Otego Valley in New Zealand. Currently he splits time between residences in Chevy Chase, Maryland and St. Armand's Circle in Florida.

Rich Hermansen selected has 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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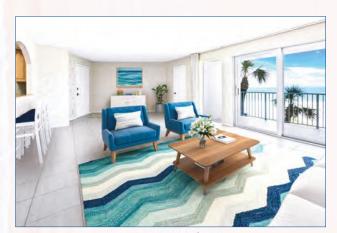
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