



Longboat Key News

March 15, 2024

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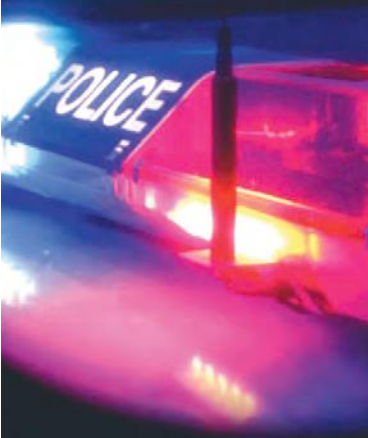
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Mote hopes to find real cause of whale stranding on beach

Last week, Mote responded to a 44-foot, 70,000-pound emaciated live sperm whale discovered off Venice Beach. Why it became stranded is now part of an investigation.



Alongside Mote, various stranding network partners, including NOAA Fisheries Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, ClearwaterMarine Aquarium, University of Florida, and the Sarasota Dolphin Research Program, came together and attempted to intervene.

As desperate as the Network partners were to reach the whale as soon

as they arrived to the beach, the strong winds, harsh wave conditions, and the animal's unpredictable behavior made it unsafe.

Moving large whales, weighing about 70,000 pounds, has serious safety risks for the whale and for the responders involved. Additionally, towing a live whale by its flippers or tail can result in serious injury, including dislocating the tail or

flippers, causing paralysis and is considered inhumane, and was not an option while the animal was still alive.

The whale passed on in the early hours of March 11, 2024. The team then conducted a necropsy lasting over 13 hours in an attempt to determine the cause of stranding and death as well as gather vital data

See Whale, page 2

Sarasota man Who Threatened NY Jewish Organization gets prison time

A Sarasota man arrested after making a threatening phone call to the New York City-based World Jewish Congress in October is heading to federal prison, authorities said.

Deep Alpesh Kumar Patel, 21, was sentenced Thursday to six months in prison for transmitting an interstate threat to injure, according to a U.S. Department of Justice news release. He pleaded guilty to the charge on Dec. 15.

Patel left a threatening voicemail at the organization on Oct. 21. In the message, he identified himself by name and screamed, among other expletives, "If I had a chance, I would kill every single one of you Israelis. Every single one of you! Cause mass genocide of every single Israeli."

When speaking to investigators, he also admitted that he had called a synagogue in Temple Terrace that same day, leaving a threatening voicemail laced with expletives there, as well, the DOJ said.

Patel said that he intentionally chose Jewish and/or Israeli individuals and organizations as the objects of his threat.

Woof Gang groomer charged with animal abuse in Sarasota

The Sarasota Police Department has arrested the owner of a pet grooming business after they say employees told detectives she was abusing animals in her care.

Police arrested Diana Stevens, 41, of North Fort Myers, on March 8 at her business at 1129 S Tamiami Trail.

"Stevens was actually out on probation for burglary and battery out of Lee county," said Cynthia McLaughlin from the Sarasota Police Department.

She has been arrested for burglary, grand theft, vehicle theft, battery, and larceny, over the last 10 years, according to the Lee County Sheriff's Office.

Detectives were initially investigating the former Woof Gang franchise for financial crimes when they uncovered a pattern of animal abuse by Stevens, a news release said.

Police say store employees told detectives they not only witnessed
See Groomer, page 3

Natural Identity



Two different birds, one captivating moment. With eyes fixed on different horizons, they embody the beauty of individuality within unity. Tricolored Heron and Snowy Egret Bay Isles, Longboat Key. Photo by Leighton Allenby. More photos at www.LeightonAllenbyArt.com

Whale, from page 1

for species management and conservation efforts. The collected samples will be analyzed to contribute to understanding sperm whale health and mortality trends.

“Marine mammals often strand themselves when they are sick, injured, or close to death. We strongly encourage people not to push these animals back to sea without the intervention of trained experts to assess the situation. Pushing these animals back into the water could delay the necessary help they need and potentially cause further harm. As soon as the Stranding Hotline began ringing, we wanted nothing more than to get to this animal as quickly as possible to assess how we could help it. When we arrived on scene, the weather and wave conditions so severe that we could not safely approach the whale by boat and a deep trough ran between us and the whale, this coupled with the unpredictable nature and sheer size of the animal preventing us from getting to the animal safely. It was like a gut punch and everyone involved is deeply saddened that we could not have saved this animal, or eased its suffering sooner,” said Gretchen Lovewell, Mote’s Stranding Investigations Research Program Manager. “While we could not save this animal, we will learn from it.”

More about the stranding...

An adult male, emaciated live sperm whale weighing about 70,000 pounds and measuring 44-feet, was first confirmed around 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 10, off Venice Beach after Mote Marine Laboratory’s Stranding Hotline was notified of the distressed animal.

At about 1:45 p.m., March 10, 2024, stranding network partners attempted to get closer by boat with the Sarasota Sheriff’s Office Marine Unit to humanely sedate the distressed animal; however, as desperate as the Network partners were to intervene, weather conditions were too severe, and it was determined that the harsh wave conditions and unpredictable animal behavior made it unsafe.

At about 7 p.m., conditions were still unworkable and the Network made plans to return at first light the following morning.

Venice Police Department and FWC Law Enforcement remained stationed throughout the night and reported that the animal had passed sometime between 3 and 4 a.m., and responders confirmed the that the animal had passed.

At about noon on March 11, 2024, the whale was placed on the beach by a heavy excavator, which was necessary to move such a large animal after it has passed.

The Network performed a necropsy, animal autopsy, from around 12:30 - 8 p.m. on March, 11, 2024, and continued the necropsy and cleanup efforts from about 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 for a total of about 13.5 hours. Samples were collected to attempt to determine cause of illness and death and to better understand sperm whale health, energetics, and life history.

Once the necropsy was complete, Sea Tow of Venice towed the whale offshore to be returned to sea. Results from the samples will be available to the Network to learn more in the coming months.

“NOAA greatly values our stranding network partners and the support from the City of Venice. The hard work to bring the whale ashore to thoroughly examine and collect valuable biological information is vital to providing both a better understanding of and protection to this species that inhabits the Gulf of Mexico,” said Blair Mase - Southeast Region Marine Mammal Stranding Coordinator.

“The City of Venice would like to extend its heartfelt appreciation to the scientific community, law enforcement agencies, and partner organizations that all worked tirelessly to manage this very unique occurrence. This response showcased the power of collaboration among numerous agencies in tackling a challenging situation,” said City of Venice Assistant City Manager James Clinch. “

The information gathered during the necropsy helps to evaluate the long-term mortality trends of these species, especially as it relates to pathology or human-related activities. Such research data are crucial to species management and conservation, and data from necropsies conducted by Mote’s Stranding Investigations Program are provided to state and federal wildlife managers as part of databases of stranding network partners.

Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium’s Stranding Investigation Program responds to calls of “stranded” (i.e., injured or deceased) sea turtles, dolphins and whales in Sarasota and Manatee county areas. To report a stranded animal to Mote’s 24/7 hotline call: 888-345-2335.

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Myer posts two record sales on Longboat

Longboat Key Realtor Bruce Myer represented the sellers of the following two record-breaking sales on Longboat Key in March.

3521 BAYOU POINTE, LONGBOAT KEY

A waterfront residence located in The Bayou section of Bay Isles, Longboat Key, sold for \$3,850,000, making it the highest priced sale in the history of The Bayou. This 3BR+Study/4.5BA, 3,687 sq. ft. residence listed and sold in 36 days. The property features panoramic open water views, a private putting green right by the water, pool, and a dock with lift. Bruce Myer, Coldwell Banker Realty represented the seller, and Deanna Kennedy, Michael Saunders & Company, represented the buyer.

2120 HARBOURSIDE DR., #645, LONGBOAT KEY



A bayfront residence located in The Atrium, Fairway Bay, Longboat Key, sold for \$1,721,000, marking the highest priced Atrium residence ever sold. The 3BR/2.5BA residence spans 2,776 sq. ft. offering 180-degree views of Sarasota Bay, and sold in 18 days. Features include an open, updated interior, plus 2 covered parking spaces. Bruce Myer, Coldwell Banker Realty represented the seller, and Doug Parks, Michael Saunders & Company, represented the buyer. “With the steady return to a more normalized market in our area, the fact remains that the foundational recipe of location, interior condition, price and parking constitute the recipe driving buyers.” Says Myer.

Groomer, from page 1

Stevens abuse the animals as she groomed them, but on several instances, they had to intervene. Customers also reported that their pets behaved abnormally after being picked up from the business, police say. Detectives obtained a search warrant for the store and collected video evidence of animal abuse. Police say the video appears to support allegations that Stevens beat, berated, and tossed animals as she groomed them. Stevens faces five felony charges of aggravated animal abuse and five misdemeanor charges of animal cruelty.

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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.

Please forward

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zonning Director Allen Parsons
We would like to know why the scheduled special magistrate meeting was canceled. We were told by Bryan Wisnom via email that the meeting was taking place a few weeks ago. As you are very aware that the Whitney Plaza Shopping centers parking lots continue to be an annoyance and very disturbing to all the properties across the bayou from the shopping center. We have been very disappointed with your staff’s lack of follow-up and communication with this matter. If you look at the dates when this matter first came to you and your staff’s attention, we are now well over a year of putting up with these annoying and disturbing new parking lot lights. Now, due to your staff canceling this meeting we must all wait another month for a decision to be made. “Very disappointing”. Going forward, would it be possible to have all correspondence regarding this matter forwarded to each of us? We all “Thank you” for your anticipated cooperation with this matter.
Charlie & Betsey Byrd
Michael & Amy Drake
Tiamim Li
David & Lori Price
Ross & Val Schniederman

Dogs on beach

To: Maureen Merrigan
I agree, this is a welcome improvement. For our reference, what are the potential fines? Any point in posting those as well?
Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Dogs on beach

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon
Sorry for the delay. It is \$100 first offense, \$250 second, \$500 third. Code enforcement and PD can write citations. With start of turtle season starts on May 1st, Code Enforcement is out on the beach more. We’re looking at the signage, however our experience is that people become numb to too much information. Working to find the right balance of notice and enforcement

without visual blight.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Dogs on beach

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle
Maybe worth passing along to our 60+ dog owners.
Penny Gold
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Dogs on beach

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Appreciate the comments below and we will share all points with LBK North and the Beach Volunteers. The police have been much more visible these last few days at the entrances so that also helps.
I would hope all residents and visitors, including those with service animals, would be considerate of the sensitive nature of the beaches on Longboat Key.
I don’t think a larger or separate “No Dogs” sign will do anything more, but maybe one that provides a bit more information or the rationale, for example:
“Important Notice: All of Longboat Key Beaches are Bird Sanctuaries; please No dogs on the beach. Help us maintain our beach plantings, dunes and resting areas for migratory birds
Dogs are not permitted on the beach. The presence of dogs, even service animals, can inadvertently disturb the natural habitat, affecting the nesting grounds and resting areas for migratory birds and the growth of beach plantings and dunes.
Leash-free zones are provided at Bayfront Park. Leashed dogs can be walked at Joan Durante Park.”
Thank you Tip, Chief and Susan for the follow-up.
Maureen Merrigan
Longboat Key

Dogs on beach

To: Maureen Merrigan
We’re also looking at a slightly larger and separate sign for no dogs on the beach at our beach access points as our current totem of “no’s” on the beach all kind of blends together. Lastly, Susan will work to advise the media of what’s going on and try to get a story out on that.
Three observations about what’s happening today. First, dogs are allowed to go everywhere (bars, restaurants, stores, flights, etc.) and that’s been a big change over the past years. The social boundaries that we used to be able to set have now become invisible to many. Second, the overuse (abuse) of a service animal designation is prolific. It is a go to excuse for many who
See Letters, page 8

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MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
Thursday, March 28 • 7:30 PM
"As We've Been Done To"
Communion Service remembering the Last Supper.
Choir will sing *"Hope of The World."*

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE
Friday, March 29 • 7:30 PM
"Shadows of The Passion" is a dramatic retelling of the drama leading to Jesus' crucifixion using narratives from Scripture with musical commentary. Presented by sopranos Pamela Snauwaert and Alexa Lowrey, and baritone Dennis Piermont (composer) who will also accompany on classical guitar.

EASTER DAY SERVICE
Sunday, March 31 • 10:00 AM
"Fools for Love"
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Enjoy the Gulf views from this 8th Floor Promenade condominium, offering 2-bedroom, 2-bath, an open floorplan, and a primary bedroom suite with balcony access. Resort living at Promenade is a discerning experience on the beach of Longboat Key!



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648 BAYVIEW DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

Boater's dream property on oversized (19,994 sf) rarely available cul-de-sac end lot with a brand new 320-foot seawall located in Sleepy Lagoon, on the north end of Longboat Key. This location offers fantastic panoramic views of Bishops Bayou and the ICW. Situated on nearly a half-acre lot is a 3-bedroom, 4,157 sq. ft. home, which could be renovated or removed creating a build site for an incredible custom home.



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2110 HARBOURSIDE DR., #547 | LONGBOAT KEY

Delight in captivating bay vistas in this well-maintained 2,039 sq. ft. condominium in The Atrium, situated in Fairway Bay in the gated community of Bay Isles. This 3-bedroom, 2-bath residence features many updates, and floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors to the southeast-facing terrace, showcasing gorgeous views of Sarasota Bay and the city skyline.

KeyOpinion

The frozen cat I buried on Good Friday

I tried to take the turn into the driveway slowly so our cat, Popsicle, who was now melting in a brown box, would not bounce around in the trunk.

STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
sreid@lbknews.com

He lay crouched, shivering in fear, panting in the black night. His hair was wet and matted and I knew immediately Popsicle, our 15-year old cat, had barely survived a fight.

Two minutes earlier, I was in a deep sleep when panic filled the house as my 16-year-old, Ariana, woke me at 3 a.m.

“Dad, some huge animal is fighting outside my window; I think it’s killing our cat.”

I grabbed my cell phone and in boxer shorts ran around the pool cage and saw the outline of Popsicle shuddering in fear as he lay in a small fragrant flower garden where the pool cage joins the house. I flicked the phone’s flashlight on.

Thoughts raced through my head: Is there a rabid raccoon nearby? What’s wrong with Popsicle? Should we take him to the ER?

I fell into the usual male mode of instinct mixed with arrogance mixed with decisive action.

“I need a flat board and an old towel,” I yelled into the night. I thought I was a combination of Hawkeye Pierce and House MD.

“I am not afraid of blood or wounds or bites and I can handle this,” raced through my head. “Between the internet and some antibiotics and attention to any wounds we will get through this,” I said to myself.

Popsicle continued panting and moaning. I slowly pet the animal and he seemed to calm. I gently moved the cat onto the towel and like a hammock dragged the towel onto the board. He groaned. I left the small garden and carried him the long way back through the wet grass around the pool cage and placed him on the floor of the bedroom.

He had been in a nasty squabble it was clear. I felt along his spine and legs to see if any tenderness or any pain hampered his movement. He put his head down. He stopped shivering and shuddering and that made me confident that his high alert fear level had diminished.

After about 15 minutes, I carried Popsicle to the bathtub on the board and towel and gently washed him. I saw blood streaming from his tail. I washed and lathered him and the blood seemed to stop streaming. I noticed two puncture wounds like fang marks at the base of his torso above his tail. I dabbed triple antibiotic cream on him and offered food and water and left him panting as I went outside for clues.

The earth was scratched and scarred. The flower garden was uprooted and the plants were scattered in disarray. Claw marks had dug and scraped furrows and the ground and turf was flung. The cat had been cornered.

The rabid enemy

I am such an idiot I thought. I remembered 15 years ago when I argued we should declaw the cat. “He is destroying all the furniture, killing the orioles and cardinals in the backyard and scratching the baby,” I once argued.

My logic then seemed so sound and impenetrable. Others said I was inhumane, stripping the cat of its only defense system. I remember arguing back saying, “I don’t think Popsicle will be saved when he claws at the inevitable car tire that will run him over.”

Now Popsicle, 15 years later, in the faint moonlight was attacked most likely by a raccoon and all he could do was sway a paw that was as formidable as an oversized Q-tip at the rabid enemy.

Relativity and the tragic

Of all days it was Good Friday. The significance of Good Friday for me is more sentimental and vestigial since my Polish-born Catholic mother long ago abandoned the traditions that once infused the day with an inherited significance.

As the cat moaned, I turned on the news. NBC Newshour talked about 147 killed at a Kenyan university by armed terrorists and then the news shifted to talk of a German pilot who committed suicide by slamming passengers, the plane and himself into the Alps. The commentator sounded as if it was news that investigators found evidence that the pilot was depressed. Somehow these tragedies made the condition of the cat and medical crisis at hand seem manageable.

I called a veterinarian at 9 a.m. and told the receptionist I needed to bring Popsicle in as soon as possible. She said the doctor would call me back. The minutes passed. Popsicle lay and panted. He moved off of the towel and board and I washed his wounds again.

Time ticked slowly as I tried to work. We kept the kids out of the bedroom. After all, Popsicle was a friend to each of our six children. He was there through every pregnancy and would follow my wife around the house. He had smooth black and white markings and was one of those cats that always was happy to be pet and came at the slightest provocation. A simple tap on the lap, a slight meow and there was Popsicle. Now, he lay nearly motionless as I awaited the doctor’s call.

Finally I jump up as the phone rings and it is the doctor. He said if it were a raccoon, Popsicle would likely have had his tail bit right off. Her said to bring the cat in and he could start Popsicle on antibiotics and clean the puncture wounds. Unknowingly, my family saw Popsicle for the last time.

A painful visit

I placed Popsicle in a brown box and raced to the veterinarian. I felt good that the vet sounded calm and collected. The thought that it was not a raccoon and most likely another cat that fought with Popsicle calmed me. But Popsie, as we affectionately called him, was not looking chipper. He panted. He also started to have an infectious smell.

I cracked the window and alternated between Chopin to soothe the cat and Guns N Roses to help me twist and maneuver through traffic.



STEVE REID



I pulled into the vet’s and placed the cat on the big entrance table in front of the front desk helpers. I was summoned to a small room. After all, doctors and vets are all the same. First you wait in a waiting room and then when patience is about to give out, they move you to a smaller room that has a few sundry instruments and equipment, an examination room, and you wait and wait and stare at the walls and the artwork.

I pet Popsicle, whose breathing now resembled the last gasps of an emphysema patient. The minutes felt endless as I waited for the vet and pet the moaning cat. The walls featured posters depicting the heartworm cycle and what ringworm patches look like as well as advertisements for flea and tick drops. I was reading the facts and myths of Lyme disease when the doctor walked in. The doctor immediately said, “Wow!”

Wow is a word you never want to hear from a physician of any type. The vet explained, “He is in shock and really toxic; sepsis from infection.”

He firmly grasped Popsicle’s tail and carefully examined the wounds that he said were “extremely deep and invasive.”

“These punctures are from a raccoon for sure. I thought it was a cat fight but this cat is in complete shock and considering his age he might not make it through the night,” the vet said matter-of-factly.

My mind slowed down as I tried to take in what he said. “Can’t you clean the wounds?” I asked.

“Those punctures could have ruptured his large intestine or bladder. Necrosis is already setting in around the wound site.”

I asked him about the options. “What can we do?”

His answer was overly pragmatic. “We can cremate him and the company will return his ashes and you can have whatever ceremony you like. Or, we can dispose of him of him and you can just go about your business,” the vet said.

His assistant added, “Sometimes families like closure.” I looked at the cat panting. As strange as it seemed I could not talk about the cat’s burial while it was still breathing in front of me. Some need for cat dignity outweighed the scientific pragmatism of the moment. I asked if we could talk about what to do with the cat’s remains in another room. They led me to a kitchen.

The doctor said, “We inject the cat with a muscle relaxant and then another shot that will painlessly euthanize him.”

The Catholic in me recoiled. “So even if we throw thousands of dollars at treatment and put him on some kitty dialysis there is no saving his cat?” I asked almost rhetorically at this point.

The vet replied, “He is 15 and had a good life and I really don’t think he will even make it through the night. He is in shock and infected systemically.”

Then he raised another issue that catapulted the drama into another realm. “Bare in mind the fact that he was bit by a raccoon means he could be rabid and you would never know that without being able to test the brain of the raccoon that bit him,” he said.

I consented. Between the necrosis, the infection and now the possibility of rabies, I was able to make the emotional shift to believe I was doing the right thing.

“OK, it is the only responsible thing to do,” I said decisively as if my inner Dr. Kevorkian had counseled me.

Frozen memories

The vet than offered another option to deal with the post-life Popsicle. “After we euthanize, we can put him in a box and freeze him and you can take him home to bury him if you want.”

Now my inner Catholic came back to life. I saw myself leading the family in a solemn ceremony with the cat slowly lowered into a gravesite in the corner of our waterfront property to forever overlook Sarasota Bay.

I saw the family gathered at the ceremony recounting how Popsicle never bit or complained when our little children hugged and squeezed and carried him all the wrong way countless times over the years. And we would talk about all of the times the cat sat with the teenage

KeyOpinion

Cat Tale, from page 6

daughters suffering through episodes of the Kardashians and Kate plus Eight. Not to mention the late nights Popsicle lay on my lap watching peaceful treats such as Training Day, Scarface and House of Cards. And Popsicle would be missed by our three other cats and our Chihuahua and six children. After all, Popsicle moved several times from house to house and always was our loyal family friend.

“Yes. Freeze the cat,” I told the vet.

I though how I had to work and wanted to prepare the ground and shroud the burial from the children if they were too upset over the passed cat.

“Can I pick him up at 5?” I asked.

“Yes, we will put him in the freezer in a box with your name on it, but just get here by 5:30. Do you want him in a box or a bag?” the vet asked.

“A bag?” I asked.

“Yes, some people prefer a bag,” he replied. “It is easier to fit them in the hole.”

A box seemed far more dignified. A bag felt like a disposal service.

A box I told him. Then the doctor approached the cat with a syringe and said, “He might not even survive this relaxant.”

I gave Popsicle a final pet on his head as the doctor pushed the injection into the haunches of the cat.

“It only makes sense this way,” the doctor said as he soaped and washed his hands.

I walked out of the cold confines of the veterinarian office into the harsh sun and sadly and silently drove home.

Betrayals

I felt a failure. I wished I had taken the cat immediately to the vet in the night and not waited to morning. I wished I had not tried to play family medical technician. The doctor said the fact Popsicle was in shock so severely and bitten by a raccoon and was 15 meant he would have been put down anyway.

As I pulled the car into the long driveway I looked at the expanse of water to the west. I looked at the sloping grass and made a mental note of the future pet cemetery. With six children over the years I have buried rabbits, cats, birds, gerbils, goldfish and sea turtles.

The family was sad. We ate pizza and talked about Popsicle and what had happened and what a great cat and all of the things one talks about after someone or a pet dies. I worked the rest of the afternoon trying to sell ads and talk to customers but the long and strange events made it difficult.

The end of his days...

At five in the afternoon I arrived at the vet’s and the assistant apologized for the sad news and went to retrieve the cat.

She came out with a box that seemed small and diminutive. It was frozen. Popsicle was frozen inside. I felt the weight in my hands and placed the frozen cat in the trunk of my car. The whole idea of having our cat that was alive in the morning now frozen in a box in the seat beside me was too strange. After I placed the cold box in the trunk, I drove the miles home.

I was struck with guilt. I had let Popsicle down three times. I declawed him 15 years ago. That left him defenseless.

The second error was I allowed him to roam at night leaving him vulnerable to raccoons.

The final act of idiocy and negligence was I thought I could clean his wounds and heal him as I played House MD with my dying pet and all the while he lay suffering on the bedroom floor.

“Yes,” I thought, “I had betrayed poor Popsicle. Declawing cats is horrible.”

I tried to take the turn into the driveway slowly so Popsicle, who was now melting in a brown box, would not bounce around in the trunk.

I left the family inside and instead walked slowly and quietly shrouded in the breeze and waning daylight toward the hole I had dug about 30 feet from the bayfront.

I placed the box in the hole and took the moist clay soil in my hands clump by clump and sealed the hole so some other animal would not dig him up in the night.

I thanked Popsicle for being such a great pet and for all of the love and all of the years he gave our family. He was the best cat in the world and a gift to our lives. He suffered for all of us and never complained.

New life...

I heard the laughter of my children coming from the house. I saw a fish jump in the water a few yards away. I looked at the cold brown clay of the closed hole.

There was nothing more to be done. Nothing more I could do. The curve of Popsicle’s life had ended and the arc was complete. Popsicle was slowly melting into the brow box and soon the box would melt and merge with the clayish soil that circles the bay.

“It is finished,” I said to myself as I walked toward the house to join the family.

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 4

get caught/confronted and really takes away from the real purpose of the designation. Lastly, and with no offense intended, some of the dogs on the beach are from our own residents who believe “no dogs on the beach” can’t apply to their dog(s).

We have made Bayfront Park’s dog park a first-class facility that is a great alternative for owners who want to let their animals run. Encouraging more use of it while enforcing the rules with enhanced signage will be our effort.

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Expansion of the Agency on Bay Management

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission
I’ve recently received an invite from the staff of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s (TBRPC) Agency on Bay Management (ABM) which would like to have the SBEP join the ABM.

For those that are unaware of RPC’s, they are non-regulatory agencies that are set up more or less as a forum for elected and appointed officials that represent various local, regional and state governments to discuss relevant issues (see list of officers here – Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Leadership: 2023 Officers & Council Members - TBRPC).

The offer is for the SBEP to join the ABM, which is that unit within the TBRPC that focuses on the management of Tampa Bay - Agency on Bay Management (ABM): Protecting and Restoring Tampa Bay - TBRPC. We have interacted with the TBRPC staff on a regular basis these past three years, where we have shared our findings related to red tides and – especially

relevant here – the impacts of 2021’s releases from Piney Point. Both red tides and Piney Point highlight the need for regional coordination, as they are both phenomena that reflect impacts from activities that can be outside the boundaries of any one watershed.

If we were to take up their offer, the SBEP would be involved in the ABM on an official basis, which would increase the peer review aspect of our management guidance. It would have no implications for other TBRPC topics, such as transportation issues – it would only involve participation as it relates to bay-related issues. And frankly, one of the reasons why I think this makes sense is that this would give our neighbors more of an opportunity to learn about what we’ve been able to bring about here – the “delisting” for nutrient impairments and water quality restoration we’ve seen these last few years.

Membership would not require any donations or fees, and it would not obligate any local governments to participate either. In fact, both Manatee County and the City of Bradenton are already members of the TBRPC, with elected officials from both as members of the Council.

To me, this is not a difficult choice to make – it costs nothing, it offers more peer review opportunities, and it does not obligate any of our local governments to participate beyond that which they are already doing. It would only require someone from the SBEP to attend four meetings a year – to discuss water-related issues that affect both Tampa Bay and Sarasota Bay. Finally, although Sarasota County is not a member of the TBRPC, the folks at ABM have made it clear that they welcome us bringing up the issues we’ve faced down there. There are at least four tidal restoration projects that have been implemented in the Tampa Bay region over the past few decades, so that topic alone would help us better understand the benefits and potential unanticipated issues associated with restoring lost historical tidal connections.

I wanted to get your feedback on accepting this offer, so please let me know your thoughts, but please respond to me individually, rather than hitting the “Reply ALL” button. If no concerns are raised, I’ve been invited to participate in their upcoming meeting, this Thursday.

Dave Tomasko
Executive Director
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

Admission into the Agency on Bay

To: Longboat Key Town Commission, Sarasota City Commission
I just got back from representing the SBEP at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council’s Agency on Bay Management (ABM) meeting. The ABM includes scientist and engineers and planners from various entities, as well as elected officials from local governments. For example, there were elected officials from the City of Largo and Pinellas County and Pasco County in attendance today.

The potential inclusion of the SBEP in the ABM was brought up as an agenda item, and the vote to accept us was unanimous – across more than 30 people in attendance.

See Letters, page 11

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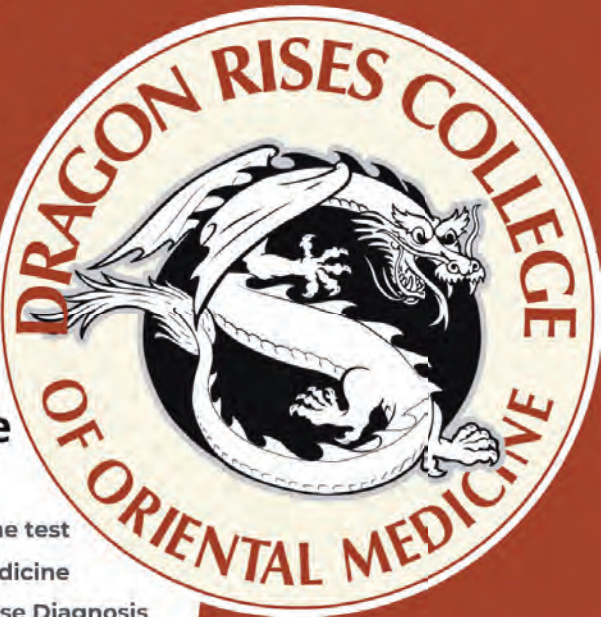
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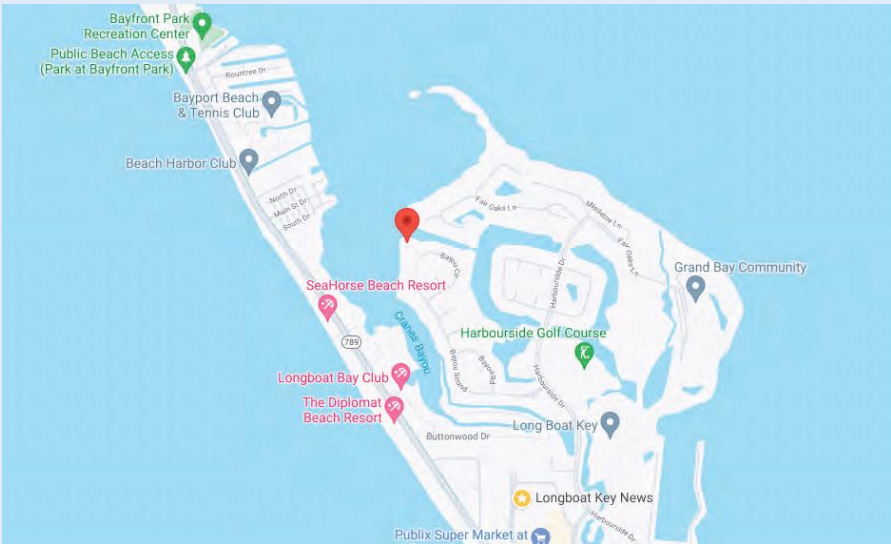
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3521 BAYOU PT	3,687	\$4,150,000	3	4	1	36	\$3,850,000
435 L AMBIANCE DR Unit#K705	2,820	\$3,200,000	2	3	1	29	\$2,900,033
3030 GRAND BAY BLVD Unit#383	2,550	\$1,699,000	3	3	1	0	\$1,600,000
2110 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#538	2,616	\$1,429,000	3	2	1	68	\$1,400,000
2016 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#312	1,192	\$749,000	2	2	0	62	\$740,000
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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.

March 8

Suspended license

8:35 a.m.

Officer Miklos while on patrol received an alert on a vehicle with a suspended license. At that point, Officer Miklos initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle in the 1900 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive and met with the driver. Officer Miklos explained to him the reason for the stop. The driver said his license was suspended due to not having insurance. Officer Miklos issued the driver a citation for driving with a suspended license with knowledge and he was provided with a Sarasota County court date of April 4. The driver was run for wants and warrants which came back negative. The driver was issued additional citations for expired registration and no proof of insurance. Additionally, the driver was issued three warnings for no headlights during dense fog, broken passenger brake light and not carrying a driver license. Proper identification of the driver was conducted via ELVIS. The driver stated his supervisor was en route to pick up the vehicle from the scene. The driver was advised he was not able to drive a vehicle until he got his license reinstated. The vehicle was parked near the guard shack at Harbourside Drive and Gulf of Mexico Drive. Case clear.



an expired set of hand-held flares and a valid set of aerial flares. Once the safety check was complete, the operator and eight passengers were sent on their way without incident. Upon further investigation with the two passengers later in the day, it was determined that the pontoon boat was originally rented for six people, two to three hours, at a cost of \$325 from a company called 'Island Hopper's Boat Tours.' Also, just prior to scheduling they added two more people to their party, totaling eight people. They advised that the owner said that they would need to have a captain and the price would increase by \$90. With full cooperation from the boat passengers, Officer Connors advised that the report would be forwarded to the U.S. Coast Guard for further investigation and

that they may be contacted. Officer Connors forwarded the report and all attachments to the Coast Guard. Case clear.

March 12

Driver's license

Officer Montfort while on routine patrol, observed a vehicle traveling south in the 4500 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive, and he observed the vehicle fail to maintain its lane of travel. Officer Montfort initiated a traffic stop and he did not have a driver's license. Officer Montfort issued a citation the driver was advised to contact a friend or relative to come and remove the vehicle. The man was processed and released in the field. Case clear.

Boat

9:33 a.m.

Officer Connors while on marine patrol, observed a vessel anchored in the Intercoastal waterway and was now a hazard to navigation. The owner advised that he had no commercial assistance coming to assist him and was attempting to get a second motor started. After multiple attempts, the owner was unable to get the motor started. Officer Connors requested the Coast Guard assistance who responded shortly after. The Coast Guard was able to assist the vessel to safe water without incident. Officer Connors and the Manatee Sheriff's Office Marine Unit assisted with safe navigation and escorted the Coast Guard and disabled vessel to safe water. Case clear.

March 13

Dog on the beach

6:23 p.m.

Sgt. Montfort while on beach patrol on Greer Island, observed a woman with a small dog in the area of 6800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on the beach. Sgt. Montfort made contact with the woman who was identified by her Driver's License and was advised no dogs were allowed on the beach. Moreover, the woman stated she had seen the prohibited activities sign but did not believe that it pertained to the portion of the beach she was on. The woman left the scene without incident, case clear.

March 14

Construction noise

Officer Maple was dispatched to Lyons Lane for a suspicious vehicle call. Upon his arrival, there was a white Chevy Van with a trailer full of pool supplies parked near a house. Shortly after his arrival, the driver exited vehicle from the passenger side and explained he was there to clean the pool and had been doing so for from the last ten years. The driver stated he had to arrive early due to a busy day and was awaiting until 5:30 p.m. to commence work. No signs of criminal activity was observed or any unusual behavior from the driver. The driver was allowed to wait and commence work while obeying noise restrictions for the time of day. Case clear.

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 8

The inclusion of the SBEP is a bit awkward for an entity called the Agency on Bay Management since everyone knows which “Bay” the B in ABM stands for. To address that issue, one of the members moved to change the ABM to a more regional name – the Agency on Bay and Coastal Management. This way, they can continue to have a focus on Tampa Bay, but there focus would not be exclusive to Tampa Bay alone. That passed unanimously as well.

So, our admission to the group was not only unanimously accepted, but our admission led to them changing the name of the organization that invited us to join them. A good start!

Anyways, there is no financial cost required for admission, and this gives us access to a broader pool of individuals with experience in projects – such as hydrologic restoration – that we don’t have here in Sarasota Bay. I see nothing but good things coming out of this. Also, the ABM’s point of contact for us, excuse me, the ABCM point of contact wants us to give a presentation on Sarasota Bay at an upcoming meeting – how we figured out what needed to be done, how it got done, and how we documented it working. Seems that our successes here are getting to be appreciated outside of our boundaries alone.

Dave Tomasko
Executive Director
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

Whitney Plaza - LBK North Learning Center

To: Longboat Key Commission
This is the latest version of the buildout for the Whitney Plaza Learning Center provided by the Manatee County Project Manager Simona Brinkman. She wanted me to know (and I’ll share) that the County is building out the facility and the School Board is tasked with the FF&E and vending machine (if desired). The biggest difference in this plan that I see is that it creates a better space for the art programming opportunities.

Maureen had shared that she was working to connect Dr. Gansemer (MTC Director and the School’s lead on this project) with Educational Center’s Susan Goldfarb and others to explore possible synergy for offering classes on the north end.

At this point, they’re still planning on opening late summer/early fall. Great efforts from the County, School Board, and community to pull this concept together to create additional space options for arts, culture and education.

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Whitney Plaza - LBK North Learning Center

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
I am deferring to the artist in my family who says this looks great. The only recommendation may be to put another kitch-

enette in the seniors multi years area.

Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Ecosystem Health Scores - Update for 2023

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission
Yesterday, we received the final batch of water quality data for 2023, which allowed us to update our Ecosystem Health Report Card for the period of 2006 up to 2023. As you know, 2023 was a drought year, and we anticipated that we’d see further trends of improving water quality - which is what happened. As a reminder, the SBEP’s Report Card is not simply water quality, but it also includes information about the amount of macroalgae found on the bottom of the bay, and the acreage of seagrass. The water quality data are from more than 300 samples collected and analyzed by Manatee County and Mote Marine Laboratory (for Sarasota County). The macroalgae data are from 540 stations visited by snorkeling to the bottom of the bay. Our seagrass maps are created every two years by the SWFWMD. For the seagrass maps, the last time we had numbers was for mapping in 2022, so those numbers are carried over into 2023.

The scoring is based on the Reference Period of 2006 to 2012, for each bay segment. That reference period was chosen because we had lower levels of nitrogen and chlorophyll-a (a measure of phytoplankton) than the next seven years, and

we had a 28% increase in seagrass coverage. Basically, this bay was healthier during 2006 to 2012 than during the years 2013 to 2019. Why so? Well, a big reason is because our bay-wide nitrogen loads were about 20% lower in 2006 to 2012 than 2013 to 2019. That difference in nitrogen loads gave us our 2021 pollutant load reduction goal of 20%, or 12 tons of Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (DIN).

The great thing about working with our local government is that the combination of stormwater retrofit projects and recently completed and ongoing upgrades to our wastewater treatment processes seem to have already allowed us to meet that 12 tons per year DIN load reduction goal. That is the most likely reason why our bay’s water quality has improved so much over the past few years – from 2020 up to 2023. Our Ecosystem Health Report Card is thus based on how closely we align with the conditions that existed during the 2006 to 2012 reference period. Results are color-coded: blue and green boxes represent conditions that are similar to or better than what we had in the Reference Period. Yellow boxes represent deviations from those Reference Period Conditions that require attention, and Red boxes represent a condition where remedial action is needed.

So, without further delay, here’s our Report Card, updated to include 2023:

Bay wide, we are doing much better than was the case in 2013 to 2019, and much better than the poor conditions we experienced during the years of 2018 and 2019. Palma Sola Bay continues to be a healthy system, and the water quality
See Letters, page 12

Longboat Key News

Sarasota City News

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 11

in the Upper Bay has recovered nicely from the very strong red tide that hit our area in 2018. Despite the effects of Piney Point in 2021 and Hurricane Ian in 2022, our upper and lower bays have continued to show signs of improvement over the past four years.

The increased health of this bay in recent years is related to improving water quality, which appears to mainly be a result of the reduced nitrogen loads to our system. Here’s an example of the magnitude of the water quality improvements – a plot of the Total Nitrogen (TN) concentration in Roberts Bay.

In 2023, the annual average concentration of TN was the lowest value over the past 15 years, and lower than all but one year (2007) during the seven-year Reference Period.

Here’s another example, the amount of TN in the water column in Upper Sarasota Bay (from Manatee Avenue down to the Ringling Causeway).

This bay segment encompasses the widest and largest bay segment, and the TN concentration in the water column over the past two years (2022 and 2023) represent the lowest values in over 15 years as well.

Our bay’s water quality is getting better, the very high levels of macroalgae we had in the Upper Bay after Piney Point (peaking in May and June of 2021) and in the lower bay starting back in 2013 have both decreased dramatically (although problem areas still occur in some parts of the bay). We are setting the stage for a substantial increase in seagrass coverage, which we hope will show up in the 2024 maps. Getting seagrass coverage mapped has been very tricky this year, as is the case in every El Nino winter. But we are confident that the numbers will show a large increase, which means more food for manatees and sea turtles, and more habitat for fish and crabs and shrimp. And also, just a more enjoyable bay to recreate in!

We’re not the biggest bay in Florida, but we hope to be the biggest success story. And the reason why this recovery is happening is pretty clear – our local, regional, state and federal agencies, working with an informed and engaged public, are investing the time and resources needed to bring about this bay-wide recovery.

Dave Tomasko
Executive Director
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

Meeting

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown
I hope your day is going well. The Ken Thompson Park proposal will be presented during the PREP Board Meeting on Thursday, April 18 at 5:30pm in the Commission Chambers.
New Business (Limited to 15 minutes each item)
Ken Thompson Park Proposal Presentation – Jeff Koffman, Ride Entertainment
Jerry Fogle
Parks and Recreation Director
City of Sarasota

Stop Sign Cameras for Town of Longboat Key

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schaefer
As a former village trustee in Saddle Rock, New York, I’m committed to community safety, driven by a personal incident where my wife and children were hit by a distracted driver near a stop sign while walking in our town. This distressing incident has driven me to take proactive measures, emphasizing the urgent need to enforce existing traffic regulations.

In our Village of Saddle Rock, only 3 out of 100 vehicles came to a complete stop. However, in just 90 days of installing Stop Sign cameras, over 85% of vehicles demonstrated full compliance by making a complete stop, all at no cost to the municipality through an offender-funded model.

Watch the video as drivers go from disregarding stop signs to making full stops with camera enforcement: <https://gov.stopforkids.com/case-study/>
I look forward to discussing how we can bring these benefits to your community.
Feel free to call me directly at (516) 400-0073, or schedule a 15-minute meeting at a time that suits you through my calendar: <https://calendly.com/kb2>
Kamran Barelli
Co-Founder
StopForKids.com/gov

Home Rule Hero Award

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Penny Gold
I am delighted to notify you that the Florida League of Cities has selected you as a recipient of the 2024 Home Rule Hero Award! Your steadfast dedication to defending local self-government, both before and during the 2024 Legislative Session, continues to inspire and set a standard for local officials statewide. Your contributions are essential to the League’s advocacy efforts and pivotal to our success. To publicize your award, a press release template is attached. FLC typically presents Home Rule Hero awards at a local/regional league meeting. I have

See Letters, page 15

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WineTimes

Why Does Alcohol By Volume Vary?

Why ABV varies from wine to wine makes for a more complex and interesting story than does merely estimating the percentage of alcohol in a wine.

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

A wine bottle sold in the USA has an ABV value on its label. The ABV represents a percentage, generally a number between 5 and 20. The acronym, of course, stands for “Alcohol By Volume”, and it indicates the proportion of alcohol in a quantity of wine. A wine with an ABV of 15 will have about 15% of its volume as alcohol.

Winemakers measure the ABV of a quantity of wine prior to bottling it. This ABV of the wine tells us much about the taste of the wine and the effect of the wine on a person drinking it. A wine with a higher ABV will taste hotter than one with a lower ABV, because a wine with a higher alcohol percentage usually tastes hotter, and a wine with an ABV of 15 will likely give its drinker a greater buzz than a wine with an ABV of 10.

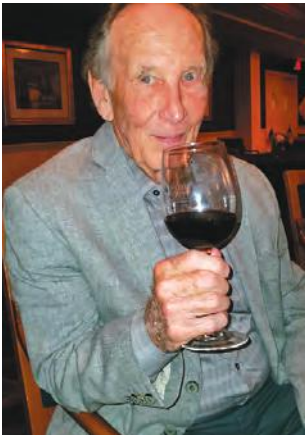
Why ABV varies from wine to wine makes for a more complex and interesting story than does merely estimating the percentage of alcohol in a wine. Dry wines, those with little to no sugary tastes, have higher ABV than sweet wines. When grape juice ferments to produce a dry wine, the fermentation process converts almost all of the sugars in grape juice to alcohol. Hotter weather during recent decades has led to concentrations of sugars in ripe wine grapes and greater potential for wines with ABV’s of 14.5 and higher. Wine consumers have followed this upward trend in ABV; from perhaps a typical 12.5 in the ‘70’s to 13.5 in the ‘80’s to 14.5+ in some regions of Australia, California, Spain, Argentina, South Africa, and the Rhone Valley of France. The so-called fruit bomb dry wines with ripe fruit tastes and high ABV have developed a loyal following. At one extreme, we have the 2014 Mollydooker The Boxer Shiraz (ABV 16%, \$23)

At the other extreme, we have the German late-harvest Riesling, 2021 Schloss Johannisberg Riesling Spätlese Grünlack (ABV 8%, \$24 375ml). Its fermentation process stopped well short of complete conversion of sugars to alcohol, leaving residual sugars in abundance to sweeten this wine.

Producers of big red wines have backed off escalation of the race to create wines with even higher ABV wines. We expect to see wine buyers opting for wines that pair well with food. Variations in ABV’s occur across different types of grapes, changes in weather from one year to the next, earlier or later harvests, and differences in fermentation processes. These variations increase the choices that savvy wine buyers enjoy making.

Note: We have excluded sweet fortified wines with ABV’s at the 18-20% level. Producers of these dessert and after dinner wines add alcohol to increase the ABV to a target level.

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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Letters, from page 12

reached out to the ManaSota League of Cities to find out if there is an upcoming meeting that we can attend to present you with your award. I will contact you once a date has been determined.

Let me know if you have any questions and thank you for all your efforts this year!
Brenda Jones
Legislative Coordinator
Florida League of Cities, Inc.

Fireworks

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
We have never had a complaint about anything in the town of Longboat Key, but we need to know what on earth the Town was thinking allowing such thunderously loud fireworks at 9:30 Friday night. It woke up our 4 young grandkids, screaming as they thought something terrible was happening. We live right across Longboat Club Road from the Longboat Key Club, and these fireworks must have broken every nuisance, noise and disturbing-the-peace bylaw we can think of. We have difficulty believing that the Town thought this was “ok”.
N. Hindle
Longboat Key

Fireworks

To: N. Hindle
Our apologies for this intrusion into your evening. It was an apparently a Town permitted display as part of a wedding event and Town staff is reviewing our process for any future permits so that we don't have a repeat of this going forward.
Again, we do apologize for this lapse in judgement. As you noted, generally the Town's team does an outstanding job and we hope to get back to that level immediately.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Fireworks

To: Longboat Key Commission
This was a fireworks display in conjunction with a wedding at the LBK Club. They did apparently apply for and received a permit from the Town Fire Marshal. The permit information was unknown to most of us until this afternoon. We're looking at the process around approving future permits and if there are any how we keep the public informed.
No doubt it was loud as I heard it up at mid key. My apologies on behalf of our team.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Fireworks

To: Longboat Key Commission
My ears are still ringing from the excruciating bangs from the fireworks at LBK Resort tonight. I live at The Sanctuary which is three condo buildings down from the resort. I actually jumped out of my chair. The sound decibels were way beyond any healthy range...a definite noise violation, how can this be allowed. We were not warned, my dog is still whimpering and my husband is ill and it really was very disturbing, scary (at first I wasn't sure if it was gunfire)... I'm pretty upset about the whole thing. Can the resort disturb the peace whenever? Just would like to know
Patti Farago
Town of Longboat Key

Charlie Mapps meeting

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin
Met with Charlie earlier today. Very impressive. He explained options and we discussed how to pay for dredging. Not sure I

ACROSS

- 1 Anchorage
- 5 Vice President Burr
- 10 Middle Ages invader
- 15 Goggle
- 19 Round dance
- 20 Day's march
- 21 Likeness
- 22 Spoken
- 23 Eagerly anticipating
- 24 Ora pro ____
- 25 Out
- 26 Little brook
- 27 Final outcome
- 29 Dignified woman
- 31 Crime-lab materials: abbr.
- 32 "Winnie ____ Pu"
- 34 Bulldog of New Haven
- 35 Holy wars
- 38 Proceeds
- 39 Parade strutters
- 44 Originated
- 45 Director Lubitsch
- 46 Havens
- 47 Pt. of A & P
- 49 Damage
- 50 Cloth-making nettle fiber
- 52 Sinned
- 53 Ballpoint pen inventor
- 54 A Truman
- 56 Pseudonym
- 59 Thor, Loki, et al.
- 60 Station
- 62 In the ____ of: surrounded by
- 63 Marzipan source
- 64 Descendants of Esau
- 67 Drone
- 68 ____ -on-Hudson, NY
- 70 English Channel port
- 71 Cabals
- 73 Harmonize
- 74 Discredits
- 75 Second home
- 78 Elusive
- 81 Spot for an icicle
- 82 Borgnine role
- 83 Very poor
- 85 Extremely
- 86 Initial: abbr.
- 87 Rouen cathedral painter
- 88 Has deep feelings for
- 90 Curly coifs
- 92 Scary quality
- 94 Went too fast
- 95 Customer
- 96 Rock's Brian
- 97 Affair of honor

Parlez-Vous?

Edited by Linda and Charles Preston

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- 98 I toppers
 - 99 Prix fixe meal
 - 105 Type of novel
 - 110 Raines of film
 - 111 Old region in Asia Minor
 - 112 Mimicking
 - 113 One of the lagomorphs
 - 114 Vivid display
 - 115 Perfume ingredient
 - 116 Seed covering
 - 117 Commune in Sicily
 - 118 Immobilizing spray
 - 119 Market
 - 120 Kefauver
 - 121 Take a break
- DOWN
- 1 Roe source
 - 2 Theater box
 - 3 ____ horse: locomotive
 - 4 Japanese memorials
 - 5 Anchises and Aphrodite's son
 - 6 Jots
 - 7 Dramatist David
 - 8 Obstinate or dogmatic
 - 9 Shelters
 - 10 Tint
 - 11 Omnia vincit ____
 - 12 So long, in Soho
 - 13 Not fer
 - 14 Depicted
 - 15 Howe of hockey
 - 16 Soprano's song
 - 17 ____ Sunday
 - 18 "Vogue" rival
 - 28 Ouida's " ____ Two Flags"
 - 30 Architect's annexes
 - 33 D-day craft
 - 35 Door part
 - 36 "Dies ____"
 - 37 Appetizer
 - 38 Gloomy
 - 39 Convex molding
 - 40 Hospitality

- 41 " ____ the pale moon rising ...": Reif
- 42 Justification for existence
- 43 Kind of quartet
- 45 Make a scene
- 48 " ____ Prayer"
- 51 Make ____ of: record
- 52 Firstborn
- 53 Cause to bog down
- 55 Always: music
- 57 Personify
- 58 Vatican attraction
- 59 Countertenor
- 61 Apple seeds
- 63 Burned completely
- 64 Ford failure
- 65 Expand
- 66 Steeples
- 69 Land measures
- 72 Baltic Sea people
- 75 Sheet of stamps
- 76 Wrappers
- 77 Walter or Willis
- 79 Aquatic bird
- 80 Eddie of the Senators
- 82 Odes sung by one
- 84 Crimean conference site
- 87 Rich source
- 88 Sch. of Baton Rouge
- 89 Run
- 91 Chess great
- 93 Have reference to
- 95 Line dances
- 97 "The Wreck of the Mary ____"
- 98 Beatrice's lover
- 99 Semester
- 100 Inter ____
- 101 Voting group
- 102 Party giver
- 103 Aware of
- 104 Level at Shea
- 106 Waterfall fallout
- 107 Superman's flame
- 108 White-tailed eagles
- 109 Exploit

Noise concerns with restaurants/bars with roll-up walls that stay open past midnight

To: Sarasota City Commission
As you can see in the email exchanges below with Development Services, we are likely to have noise issues with certain restaurants that use roll-up walls and stay open past midnight. For example, the Banditos Tacos and Tequila restaurant/bar planned for 1468 Main Street is part of a chain in Maryland where all but one of their restaurants stays open until midnight during the week and 2 a.m. on weekends. The engineering drawings for this restaurant in Sarasota indicate that roll-up walls will cover about 40 percent of the separation between the indoor restaurant/bar and the outdoor space on the rooftop.
If the roll-up walls stay open past the times that outdoor seating has terminated, which they are allowed to do, noise from the restau-

rant/bar will travel to neighboring properties into the morning hours.
This confirms Dan Clermont's worst fears of a rooftop "Mandeville Beer Garden" going up next to The Mark. A concern, by the way, that was brushed off by our Planning Department.
However, if the City has updated noise standards, including a plainly audible standard, that will likely address this concern.
I'm all for young people having a taco and tequila sports bar, but the noise should stay inside with the temporary walls closed past a certain hour in our heavily residential downtown.
Peter Blanton
Sarasota

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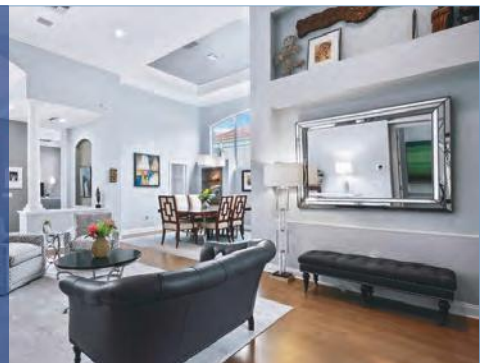
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1065 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #10-402 • LONGBOAT KEY, FL • \$949,000
2BR/2BA • 1,392 SF • Updated • Furnished • Covered parking space



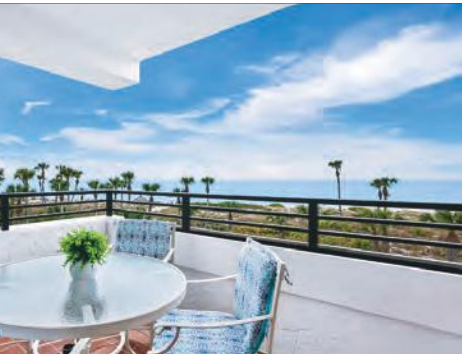
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