



# Longboat Key News


April 6, 2024

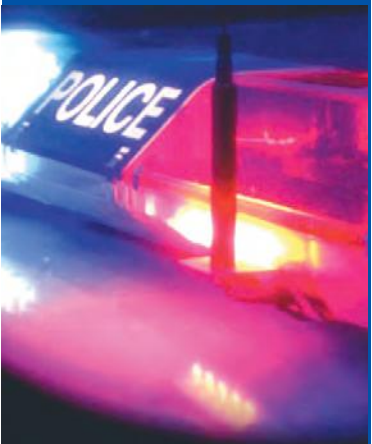
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**InsideLook**  
  
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*Winning with a weak partner ...page 15*

  
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*That chair is for me, not you ...page 10*

## Park privatization plan heading to Sarasota hearing

*City Attorney Robert Fournier says Eric Arroyo’s law firm must sever all business relationships with RIDE Entertainment if he is to ultimately vote on the proposal.*



On April 18, a Sarasota City advisory board will debate a plan to turn City Island’s Ken Thompson Park into a privatized amusement type park with rides and attractions. The City Commission in a 5-3 vote last month forwarded the unsolicited proposal to the Parks, Recreation & Environmental Protection (PREP) Advisory Board, which will debate the matter on **See Park Plan, page 3**

## Affordable Housing Incentives to Allow Triple Density Downtown

*To qualify, 11% to 15% of the units must be affordable housing. The decision could impact more than 700 properties along some of Sarasota’s main corridors including Tamiami Trail, U.S. 301, and Fruitville Road.*

A plan that could change the commercial landscape in Sarasota is getting support from city commissioners. The board approved changes to the city’s existing zoning code in a 3-2 vote. The decision could impact more than 700 properties along some of Sarasota’s main corridors including Tamiami Trail, U.S. 301, and Fruitville Road. The zoning change will give developers a density bonus if affordable housing units are created in the project. The bonus will triple the existing density limits on the properties as long as 11% to 15% of the units are reserved for affordable housing. Base heights of three stories will be allowed, with an increase of up to five stories on parcels of three acres or more that are located at least 100 feet away from residential single-family homes. The bonus units must include a mix of residences that range in cost from those priced at 80 percent or less of the area median income (no more than \$58,500 a year for a household of two, or \$73,100 for a household of four) to units priced at 120 percent of the area median income.

### City to decide historic home’s fate

The future of a historic Sarasota structure is still uncertain after the Sarasota City Commission failed to reach a motion regarding its potential demolition. The potential demolition of the McAlpin House — a 1912 historic home located at 1530 Cross St. — is in limbo until at least May 6, as the commission couldn’t decide whether to approve the demolition at its Monday meeting. Virginia-based developer Orange Pineapple LLC sought to demolish the house to clear the way for a new mixed-use development, and it insisted that preservation wasn’t possible after months of workshopping solutions. Orange Pineapple purchased more than 3 acres — including the parcel where the 1,600-square-foot house lies — for \$32 million last May, and it applied to demolish the house shortly after. Local experts and advocates have since called for Orange Pineapple to plan around preserving the house, which is notable for its connection to prominent Sarasota developer George McAlpin and the pioneering rusticated blocks he used to build it. Orange Pineapple proposed using original materials, replicating the signature rusticated blocks and including a corner façade with two walls of the house in the new development.



## Former Longboater charged with child abuse in attempt to bring 14-year-old to “Furry” convention

*Suspect said he knew the teen for about 10 days after they met on social media.*

A Tampa Bay-area man with a Longboat key address allegedly picked up a 14-year-old in New Mexico on his way to a “furry” convention (where people dress up in furry animal costumes) in Las Vegas and planned to bring him back to Florida, according to a criminal complaint. A warrant was issued Thursday for the arrest of Conrad Coovert, who has a Longboat Key address, on a charge of child abuse. A criminal complaint alleges that Coovert picked up the teen March 27 from a music store where he was frequently dropped off by his mother to play music with other children. The teen was supposed to walk home when he was finished, which was less than a mile away from the store. When he didn’t return home, his mother went to the store and spoke to a manager, who said he saw the teen leave with a man “who appeared to be homeless,” according to the complaint. The manager said he saw the teen carry a bag out of the business, according to the complaint. The property manager said he had video of the teen leaving the store. He also said he had the personal information of Coovert because he had contacted him earlier in the day to report stolen luggage, according to the complaint. Police called Coovert and asked where he was. Coovert asked the officer if the call was about his stolen luggage, to which the officer said it was, according to the complaint. Police met Coovert at a coffee shop where he was found with the teen and his luggage, according to the complaint. Coovert said he had asked the teen to carry his luggage so he could leave Albuquerque and return to Florida. After being read his Miranda rights, Coovert told police he was **See Arrest, page 3**

## Tesla to open at UTC

Tesla could open its new store in Sarasota as early as the end of April.

The electric car manufacturer has built a two-story, 55,000-square-foot dealership at University Town Center in the mall's eastern district, facing the Macy's and backing up to Interstate 75.

Tesla management says the plan is for the store to open before month's end.

When it does open, the dealership will have a showroom, service center and employ about 50 people. An existing showroom in the mall's lower level and a service center at 5231 McIntosh Road will close.

## Mixed-Use Development Headed to North Orange/Fourth

Orange One will be located in Gillespie Park, just east of the Rosemary District, on the corner of North Orange Avenue and Fourth Street. It will be mixed-use, with 30 units.

The condos will have retail spaces on the first floor.

## Reefs installed support essential fish

The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program will provide essential fish a chance to grow healthy with their latest installation of artificial coral reefs.

Deep-cover reef modules will be installed the week of April 22 at six coral reef locations throughout Sarasota Bay, according to an SBEP news release.

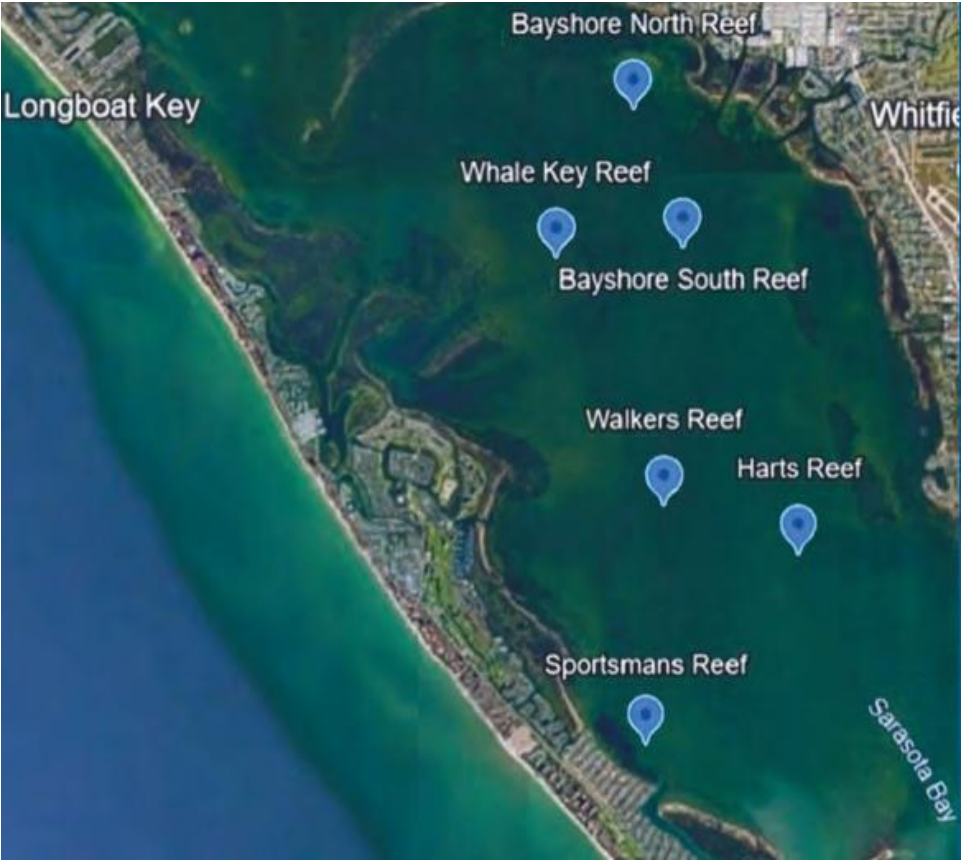
Bayshore North Reef, Whale Key Reef, and Bayshore South Reef in Manatee County; and Walkers Reef, Harts Reef, and Sportsmans Reef in Sarasota County will receive installations.

Twenty four deep-cover reef modules will be installed the week of April 22 at six coral reef locations throughout Sarasota Bay

The modules, created and overseen by Reef Innovations of Sarasota, were made to attract young reef fish like gray snapper, sheepshead and gag grouper, up until they grow to be two years old, the release said.

From there, the reefs keep the fish safe from predators and humans until they grow into adulthood, from which fishermen then benefit.

"People like Sarasota Bay to be healthy enough to catch fish, this helps them catch fish," Sarasota Bay Estuary Program executive director Dave Tomasko said in a statement.



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Park Plan, from page 1

Thursday, April 18, beginning 5:30 p.m. Members of the public may fill out a card to speak about any topic they wish toward the beginning of the meeting.

According to Ride Entertainment, the entity headed by Jeffrey and David Koffman , the proposal would transform the park into a privatized commercial attraction that would include a possible restaurant, nine-hole mini golf course, splash pad and an Aerobar. The Aerobar takes residents into the air over 100 feet and rotates them.

According to Ride Entertainments presentation, they would maintain the park and it would also provide the city with a new source of revenue, among other benefits.

Those opposed say they are appalled at the idea of commercializing the park and public space and also are not in favor of attractions that draw traffic.

Conflict of interest?

Adding a twist to the drama is that Sarasota city commissioner Eric Arroyo has been accused of a potential conflict of interest with his initial vote regarding a proposal to allow an amusement attraction at Ken Thompson Park on City Island along with a golf course. Arroyo failed to disclose that he is the registered agent for Park Golf Entertainment — formerly Ride Entertainment — and Park Golf Entertainment Orlando. Park Golf Entertainment owners and brothers, Jeffrey and David Koffman, proposed the public-private partnership to commercialize Ken Thompson Park.

Arroyo voted last February in favor of allowing the Parks, Recreation and Environmental Protection advisory board to vet the plan at its April meeting.

City Attorney Robert Fournier wrote in a memo last week that Arroyo’s law firm must sever all business relationships with RIDE Entertainment if he is to ultimately vote on the proposal.

Arrest, from page 1

in New Mexico to meet with his boyfriend, but that he never saw him or talked to him while he was there, according to the complaint.

Coovert said he knew the teen for about 10 days after they communicated on social media, according to the complaint. He tried to tell officers it was only a coincidence that he ran into the teen at the music store.

The teen said he had known Coovert for two years and that the two of them walked all night and slept in a park, according to the complaint. The teen said Coovert was taking him to a furry convention in Las Vegas and then they were both going to Florida.

The teen said he had blisters on his feet from all of the walking and was cold from sleeping outside with minimal clothing, according to the complaint.

The detective told Coovert he would be taking his phone to download evidence. Coovert said he also had a tablet. The detective searched Coovert’s bags for the tablet and didn’t find it, but found sexual bondage items and two suitcases were full of furry costumes, according to the complaint.

Coovert repeatedly told the detectives he wasn’t a child predator, and that he had previously falsely been accused of a sex crime with a minor in Georgia, but that the charges were dropped, according to the complaint.

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# Mote Aquarium’s construction continues to ramp up at I-75

Mote Aquarium’s construction continues to ramp up in 2024, including progress on the three STEM Teaching Laboratories.

Mote SEA will embody Mote’s vision of Oceans for All, doubling the number of visitors each year and providing no-cost opportunities for schools to utilize specialized STEM teaching labs.

Mote SEA will provide 70,000 students from Sarasota and Manatee county schools hands-on, marine science education - free of charge.

Mote SEA will feature 110,000 sq ft and one million gallons of informal marine science education space including underwater exhibits and interactive teaching labs. Students will dive into marine STEM in three teaching labs on the first floor of Mote SEA:

The Ocean Technology Lab will be equipped with a range of specialized tools and equipment, empowering students to construct, refine, and test their own autonomous underwater vehicles, develop sensors, and engage in various marine engineering activities.

The Marine Ecology Lab will feature animal habitats, live animal ambassadors and displays showcasing areas of Mote research that will help students explore themes such as connected ecosystems and water quality.

The Biomedical/Immunology Lab will allow students to use tools such as digital microscopes and explore topics like finding new medicinal compounds from the ocean and using DNA to investigate conservation-related questions, such as the paternity of sea turtle hatchlings.

Mote will also help bridge gaps between education and careers through four Workforce Development Labs on the second and third floors: the Aquaculture and Fisheries Lab, Conservation Lab, Coral Lab and Veterinary Clinic & Diagnostic Center.

The anticipated opening of the facility remains on schedule for early 2025.



## Mote SEA construction update

As we entered 2024, and shortly after the expansive acrylic panels for the Gulf of Mexico habitat, the largest habitat at Mote SEA, were installed in December 2023, the construction team began to install the remaining large-scale acrylic panels for the balance of the main habitats throughout Mote SEA. Recently, all exhibit acrylic panels were installed and beginning in March, 2024, teams began to fill the habitats with water to test for any potential leaks. Water testing will continue for the next several weeks.

In addition, stairways to the second and third floors were completed, and a complex network of plumbing and life support systems, necessary to breathe life into the one million gallons of habitat throughout the facility, were recently completed.

Heading into April, the final concrete pour will be completed inside the building, and most notably from the exterior, insulation panels will begin to be installed, shortly followed by the final exterior or “skin” panels. In the next several months, Mote SEA, at least from the outside, will look almost complete.

It is anticipated that the certificate of occupancy (C.O.)—a formal approval from Sarasota County certifying that Mote SEA meets all required construction requirements and is safe for occupation—will be applied for in late summer 2024.

Once the C.O. is issued, Mote Aquarium biologists can undertake Mote’s thorough transport and acclimation process for the wide array of animals that will ultimately call Mote SEA home, as well as start to work on the interior look and feel to create an unforgettable experience, as well as work on exhibit installation to ensure every exhibit provides guests with a fun, but educational and science-driven experience.

## Fast Facts

- Mote has reached more than \$107 million toward its \$130 million goal
- Mote SEA is anticipated to open in Winter 2024
- Mote SEA will grow Mote’s public Aquarium space from 66,000 to 110,000 square feet. and from approximately 400,000 gallons of seawater exhibits to close to 1 million gallons.
- Initial attendance will likely be near 700,000 in its opening year—double the current attendance of Mote Aquarium on City Island — and this facility will be built to accommodate over 1 million visitors per year.

# Gift of former Longboaters Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation Sets Stage for Shakespeare at Asolo



The FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training in Sarasota has received a stage-changing gift from the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation.

The Barancik Foundation’s \$50,000 gift has played a crucial role in the construction of a sustainable Elizabethan-style set at the Cook Theatre, nestled within the FSU Center for the Performing Arts. This stage transformation, reimagined into a thrust stage reminiscent of the historic Globe Theatre, serves as a vital educational tool for graduate students and promises audiences an authentic Shakespearean experience.

Andrei Malaev-Babel, Director and Head of Acting at FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training, expressed his gratitude, saying, “The sustainable Elizabethan Playhouse, about to be installed onto the Cook stage for ROMEO AND JULIET, will be transporting our graduate actors and spectators into the original Shakespearean universe for years to come.”

Shakespearean expert, ROMEO AND JULIET Director Jonathan Epstein, played a pivotal role in this venture. Leveraging the Conservatory’s 50-year affiliation with Asolo Rep, Epstein collaborated with resident designer Christopher McVicker to harness the Asolo Rep’s scenic shop, recognized for constructing Broadway-scale sets. Together, they envisioned an original, sustainable Elizabethan set that captures Shakespeare’s aesthetics.

McVicker emphasized the sustainability of the design, stating, “There is a great deal of waste in theatre production. This innovative design will allow the Conservatory to de-install and store the pieces so that they can be used again for future Shakespeare productions—a sustainable solution to stagecraft.”

The FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training presents a season of four productions, serving as hands-on training for its second-year students pursuing their MFA Acting degree. Ending the season with a Shakespearean play has become a tradition cherished by both actors and Sarasota audiences.

The Conservatory’s Shakespearean productions are not just performances but transformative experiences. By immersing students in the very theatrical environment for which Shakespeare wrote, the Conservatory cultivates techniques that expand their skill sets and mastery of classical repertoire.

For more information about the Conservatory, please visit [asolorep.org/conservatory](http://asolorep.org/conservatory)

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\$4,795,000

6609 GULF OF MEXICO DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY

Coastal-inspired elevated pool home. This North Longboat Key 4 bedroom, 4 bath, 4,132 sf home with private beach access features views of the Gulf of Mexico and sunsets from wide covered decks and the third-level widow's walk. The main level is ideal for family gatherings and entertaining with ample seating in the kitchen, living room, dining area and wet bar. All bedrooms have ensuite baths. The Gulf of Mexico facing glass sliders open to an expansive balcony with a gas grill overlooking the pool, spa and lush array of mature tropical trees and landscaping.





\$2,100,000

370 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #432 | LONGBOAT KEY

Delight in scenic views of Sarasota Bay in this custom-designed 4-bedroom, 4.5-bathroom PENTHOUSE. The spacious condominium features soaring ceilings, great room with gas fireplace, and private gated courtyard. All bedrooms are ensuite. Sliding glass doors in the primary suite and great room open to a terrace. An additional west-facing terrace boasts stunning sunset views.





\$2,195,000

775 LONGBOAT CLUB RD., #308 | LONGBOAT KEY

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2185 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #212 | LONGBOAT KEY

Villa Di Lancia, one of Longboat Key's premier communities. This corner residence boasts 3 bathrooms, and epitomizes tropical Gulf-front living. The covered terrace, connected to the living room provides a spacious year-round haven to immerse yourself in the stunning surroundings. A spiral staircase offers easy access to resort amenities and the beach just outside. Includes 2 parking spaces.





\$2,995,000

525 NORTON STREET | LONGBOAT KEY

Magnificent Key West-inspired waterfront home with expansive canal views. This exquisite 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath residence boasts luxurious features, including roofed decks on all levels. The screened patio area features a heated pool and waterfall spa. Enjoy adventurous excursions from your boat dock offering easy and open access to the Gulf and the Bay.





\$1,395,000

1211 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #805 | LONGBOAT KEY

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!





\$1,085,000

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.





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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.

## Longboat Key Children attending Public Schools

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
Here are 6 years of Student Counts for Sarasota County  
I put it in a spreadsheet. Still waiting for tax collector data.  
Susan Smith  
Finance Director  
Town of Longboat Key

## Longboat Key Children attending Public Schools

To: Longboat Key Finance Director Susan Smith  
The following are the counts for 6 prior years based on enrollment at the end of the school year. I am not able to help with the second request as I do not have access to the amount of property taxes paid to the school system. Thank you and have a nice evening!  
SY2023  
Pineview = 6  
Sarasota Middle = 1  
Sarasota High = 4  
Bay Haven = 2  
Sarasota Military (charter) = 1

Sarasota School of Arts & Sciences (charter) = 2  
Booker Middle = 1  
Booker High = 3  
Brookside Middle = 1  
Dreamers Academy (charter) = 1  
Southside Elementary = 11  
SY2022  
Pineview = 6  
Sarasota High = 3  
Bay Haven = 2  
Sarasota School of Arts & Sciences (charter) = 5  
Booker Middle = 2  
Booker High = 3  
Imagine Palmer Ranch (charter) = 3  
Brookside Middle = 1  
Dreamers Academy (charter) = 1  
Southside Elementary = 10  
SY2021  
Pineview = 7  
Sarasota High = 4  
Bay Haven = 1  
Sarasota School of Arts & Sciences (charter) = 4  
Booker Middle = 1  
Booker High = 1  
Brookside Middle = 1

Fruitville Elementary = 1  
Southside Elementary = 10  
SY2020  
Pineview = 7  
Sarasota High = 5  
Bay Haven = 2  
Sarasota Military (charter) = 2  
Sarasota School of Arts & Sciences (charter) = 3  
Booker Middle = 1  
Booker High = 1  
Riverview High = 1  
Southside Elementary = 9  
Oak Park = 1  
SY2019  
Pineview = 7  
Sarasota High = 3  
Bay Haven = 1  
Sarasota Military (charter) = 3  
Sarasota School of Arts & Sciences (charter) = 3  
Booker Middle = 1  
Booker High = 1  
Riverview High = 1  
Southside Elementary = 11  
Oak Park = 2  
SY2018  
Pineview = 9  
Sarasota High = 3  
Bay Haven = 1  
Sarasota Military (charter) = 2  
Sarasota School of Arts & Sciences (charter) = 3  
Booker Middle = 1  
Riverview High = 1  
Southside Elementary = 11  
Wilkinson Elementary = 1  
Lori Butters  
Supervisor, Student Systems and Assessment  
Sarasota County Schools



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## Longboat Key Children attending Public Schools

To: Sarasota County Schools Student Systems Supervisor Lori Butters  
Thank you. The Commissioner requested counts for past 6 years plus the amount of property tax Longboat taxpayers paid to the school system for each year.  
Sue Smith  
Finance Director  
Town of Longboat Key

## Longboat Key Children attending Public Schools

To: Sarasota County Schools Student Systems Supervisor Lori Butters  
One of our Town Commissioners is requesting the number of Longboat Key Students attending public schools and the amount of property tax Longboat Key residents paid to Sarasota County schools for each of the past six years.  
Will you be able to provide this information? You were kind to help me with this in the past.  
Susan Smith  
Finance Director, Town of Longboat Key

## Longboat Key Children attending Public Schools

To: Longboat Key Finance Director Susan Smith  
I pulled this list together based on the zip code 34228 for SY2023, please let me know if you need anything else.  
Pineview = 6  
Sarasota Middle = 1  
Sarasota High = 4  
Bay Haven = 2  
Sarasota School of Arts & Sciences (charter) = 2  
Booker Middle = 1  
Booker High = 2  
Brookside = 1  
Dreamers Academy (charter) = 1  
Southside = 15  
Home School = 3  
Family Empowerment Scholarship = 5  
Lori Butters  
Supervisor Student Systems and Assessment  
Sarasota County Schools

# EditorLetters



Letters, from page 6

Broadway RAB: two plan sheets

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
Vice Mayor Haycock had asked for a couple plan sheets illustrating about where the two-way left-turn lane leading up to the intersection goes away with the new roundabout project. The two-way left-turn lane is actually being left in place all the way to Cedar Street, which effectively is to the by-pass I was taking about. The new median starts just north of Cedar Street (Plan Sheet 2 of both the 1st and 2nd attachments). Would you like me to send to the Vice Mayor, or would you like to print/send?  
Isaac Brownman  
Director Public Works  
Town of Longboat Key

Broadway Roundabout: two plan sheets

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
Please refresh me on the objections raised by some neighbors to the circle’s effect on the turn lanes? Thanks.  
Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Town of Longboat Key

Broadway Roundabout: two plan sheets

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier  
One objection we have heard from a few residents is that the roundabout will eliminate a portion of an existing two-way left turn lane leading up to the intersection from the south. The existing two-way turn lane effectively runs a total of about 1,500 feet; the actual intent of this two-way left-turn lane is to allow drivers to randomly access the multiples of driveways and access points up and down that 1,500 foot stretch in both directions. During peak season in the early through late afternoons, when northbound traffic can back up well south of Broadway Street, some residents who live in the area on the west side of Broadway Street access Broadway by driving up the full length of the two-way left-turn lane to get to the intersection unimpeded and then make their left-turn at the intersection to get home. With the roundabout, there will be no left-turn lane at the intersection, so that full, unobstructed run to make a left-turn becomes no longer possible.  
The two-way left-turn lane will remain up to Cedar Street, so there is a theoretical possibility that some residents could go around, or “by-pass” that part of the queue by going just into the Village and then coming through the roundabout from east to west.  
Isaac Brownman  
Director Public Works  
Town of Longboat Key

Existing Mangrove/Wetland Mapping Data

To: Rusty Chinnis  
I looked at State and Federal GIS data on habitats & mangrove mapping. The best one looks to be the national wetland inventory. It’s not super fine scale stuff, as it won’t show mangroves growing along a canal but it does pick up larger areas of contiguous mangroves along shorelines pretty well. There are still some misses even with that. Long story short, the GIS data on mangroves that’s out there look to be more regional scale, and not fine-scale mapping to identify locations on a parcel-by-parcel basis. Here is a link to NWI mapping.  
<https://fwsprimary.wim.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/>  
Damon Moore  
Executive Director  
Oyster River Ecology, Inc.

Existing Mangrove/Wetland Mapping Data

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton, Mayor Ken Schneier  
I reached out to Damon Moore and wanted to share what he found about existing resources that are available for mapping mangroves and wetlands. I don’t think this has the details we need but I thought you might find it useful.  
Rusty Chinnis  
Longboat Key

Existing Mangrove/Wetland Mapping Data

To: Rusty Chinnis  
Thanks, Rusty. You may have heard we are planning to do a drone survey of mangroves on the island so that we have a base case.  
Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Town of Longboat Key

Existing Mangrove/Wetland Mapping Data

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier  
I spoke to Tip about maybe working with SCWK. We have the drone, software and GPS technology. This a good idea but I don’t think it will replace the enforcement aspect.  
Rusty Chinnis  
Longboat Key

Existing Mangrove/Wetland Mapping Data

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier  
I hope I am not out of order here and that you don’t mind me chiming in to suggest you conduct a water-side survey of mangroves over an aerial survey. A water-side survey will enable you to gauge and record current tree height and note where there are tree height violations. It will also help you ground truth existing aerial maps (whether they be Google Earth images or the National Wetland Inventory) with actual observations of mangrove extent while also mak-

See Letters, page 11



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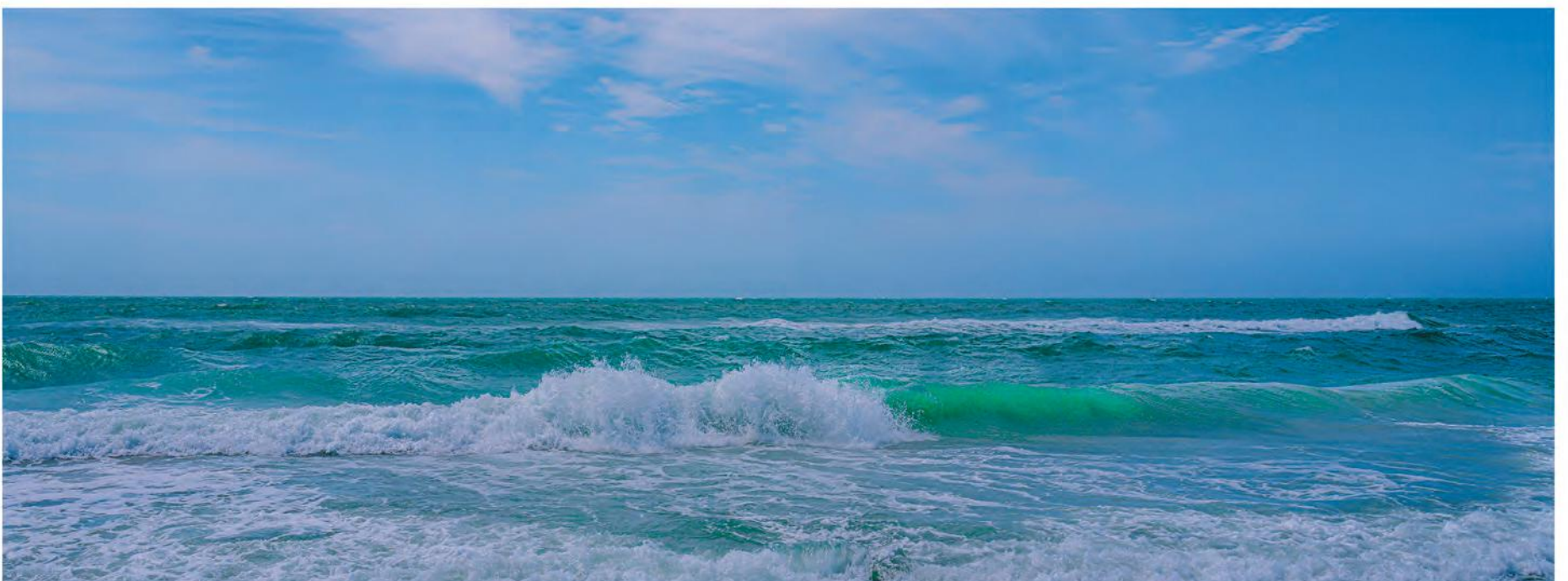
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# KeyRealEstate

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

Address	Sq. Ft.	List Price	Bed/Bath/Half Bath			Days On Market	Sale Price
455 LONGBOAT CLUB RD Unit#4	3,748	\$4,750,000	4	5	1	23	\$4,250,000
435 L AMBIANCE DR Unit#H802	2,525	\$3,788,000	2	4	0	270	\$3,650,000
590 PUTTER LN	2,195	\$2,900,000	3	2	1	0	\$2,900,000
100 SANDS POINT RD Unit#113	2,807	\$2,700,000	4	3	0	218	\$2,230,000
2185 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#214	2,448	\$2,350,000	3	3	0	60	\$2,225,000
535 SANCTUARY DR Unit#A202	2,580	\$2,150,000	3	2	1	28	\$2,100,000
3460 MISTLETOE LN	2,831	\$2,225,000	3	3	1	49	\$2,000,000
3525 FAIR OAKS LN	2,482	\$1,600,000	3	2	1	0	\$1,600,000
625 NORTON ST	1,830	\$1,595,000	3	2	0	63	\$1,545,000
1055 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#502	1,392	\$1,475,000	2	2	0	29	\$1,300,000
3750 GULF OF MEXICO DR	3,470	\$1,395,000	6	4	1	124	\$1,195,000
4835 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#103	1,393	\$1,175,000	2	2	0	8	\$1,150,000
3060 GRAND BAY BLVD Unit#122	2,250	\$1,100,000	3	2	1	115	\$1,100,000
641 SAINT JUDES DR	1,556	\$995,000	3	3	0	85	\$960,000
827 BAYPORT WAY Unit#827	1,260	\$699,900	2	2	0	106	\$670,000
771 FOX ST	874	\$650,000	1	1	0	16	\$550,000



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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.

Mar. 29

Dolphin on shore

11:00 a.m.  
Officer Connors and Officer Barrett were requested by the Mote Marine Dolphin Research Program to assist with a dolphin in distress. Officers responded to the Ken Thompson Park and transported Mote Marine personnel to the Long Bar located just south of Sister Key. Officers stood by while they evaluated and assisted the dolphin. Once the dolphin was rescued the staff requested an additional Mote Marine vessel to monitor the dolphin’s recovery. The Mote Marine Personnel that they transported were transferred to a Research vessel. Officers then transported three Mote Marine staff members back to the Ken Thompson Park without incident. Case clear.



Boat

5:37 p.m.  
Officer Connors while on marine patrol in the area west of Longboat Pass, observed a boat which was disabled and anchored. Due to the location, weather conditions, sea state, Officer Connors observed the boat disabled and anchored. Due to the location, weather conditions, sea state, Officer Connors transported two women and two toddlers off the vessel onto the marine vessel and transported them to the restaurant while the captain of the boat awaited commercial assistance. Case clear.

Beach access

4:27 p.m.  
Officer Pescuma was dispatched to Gulfside Road in reference to a suspicious person. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma was greeted by the homeowner. The homeowner said that there were people in front of his residence on his private beach that he did not recognize. He said that he would like them to leave from his property. Officer Pescuma spoke with a woman who was on the beach in front of the home and she said that her deed allows her to have beach access, however she agreed to move south on the beach to avoid conflict from the homeowner. Case clear.

Mar. 30

Registration missing

2:49 p.m.  
Officer Connors while on marine patrol in the area of New Pass, observed a boat failing to display registration and/or registration sticker. Officer Connors conducted a stop and advised the operator of the violation. The operator advised that the boat was recently purchased. The operator supplied a bill of sale dating Sept. 27 which was over the 30-day grace period to register and display numbers. During a safety check, it took the operator approximately ten minutes to locate the required type IV throwable which was not readily accessible. Officer Connors issued the operator a citation. Case clear.

Missing Driver’s license

4:00 p.m.  
Officer Butler responded to a target alert from the license plate reader camera for an expired driver’s license. Officer Butler confirmed the registered owner driver’s license expired on Sept. 30. The vehicle was located and a traffic stop was conducted at the 4000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Butler made contact with the driver and owner of the car and provided the reason for the stop. The driver was asked for his driver’s license, registration and proof of insurance. The driver provided a valid Turkish Driver’s license. Officer Butler then asked him if he had his Florida Driver’s license and he said he never got it renewed. Officer Butler asked him if he had his Florida driver’s license and he said yes and continued to ask for how long and he said two years. Officer Butler advised him that his foreign driver’s license was invalid due to him living in the United States for over one year and he was applying for a Florida Driver’s License to driver. He said he understood that he was preoccupied with getting married. The vehicle was released to an occupant (his father) who was in the vehicle. The driver did not produce proof of insurance. Based on the facts above Officer Butler found probable cause that the driver was in violation of an expired driver’s license for more than 6 months, and no proof of insurance. Case clear.

April 1

Tractor in the roadway

10:39 a.m.  
Officer Carter responded to Bayport Way for a semi-tractor in the turn lane of the roadway. Officer Carter made contact with the driver who advised that his semi had overheated and he was sitting there to allow it to cool down. He said that it would be approximately 30-40 minutes and that he would be able to leave then. The semi was in the northbound turn lane that was either direction. Officer Carter advised and called Sgt. Smith of the situation.

April 2

License

7:38 a.m.  
Officer Martinson was notified by the Bay Isles Parkway camera that a black Jeep was traveling northbound on Gulf of Mexico Drive with an expired tag. Officer Martinson made contact with the driver who was identified through his Florida ID card and Officer Martinson explained to him why he had been pulled over. The man stated that he was aware that the vehicle’s registration expired on Sept. 10, 2022 and he had been given a citation for the offense in the past. The man also stated he knew that his driver’s license was suspended and then admitted he did not have valid insurance for his vehicle. The man was given two criminal citations with court dates for Driving With Suspended Expired Tag more than six months and one citation for no proof of insurance. The man parked his vehicle in the parking lot at Bayfront Park and was advised he could not drive. Case clear.

Suspicious person

1:31 p.m.  
Officer Maple was dispatched to Longboat Club Road for a suspicious person. Upon Officer Maple’s arrival, he met with the complainant who is the manager of the condominium who stated that several people were on the beach and utilizing the private chairs and umbrellas that are for the residents only. Officer Maple spoke with the individual who was in the chairs and she said she did not know they were for residents only. The woman and her five family members relocated their belongings away from the property of the condominium association. Case clear.

April 3

Driver’s license

9:03 a.m.  
Officer Ferrigine while on patrol in the 1000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive when he observed a red pickup truck fail to stop for pedestrians at a crosswalk with signage. Officer Ferrigine conducted a traffic stop and the registered owner was not driving at the time. He asked the driver for his driver’s license and he said he did not have one. The driver was issued a criminal traffic citation along with multiple other traffic citations. The man was advised he needed someone with a valid driver’s license to respond and take control of the truck. Case clear.

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# Editor Letters

## Letters, from page 7

ing note of invasive species or other types of shoreline trees/shrubs. Sarasota County Government does a very similar survey every two years. It uses ArcGIS Survey 123, creating a seamless inventory of existing mangrove conditions.

I am happy to help you with your survey efforts however you see fit.

Abbey Tyrna  
Executive Director  
Suncoast Waterkeeper

## Ebikes

To: Longboat Key Commission

I wanted to bring up a situation whereby I can see one of our neighbors becoming seriously injured due to the increase in e bike traffic on the island. Specifically on the sidewalk that we share with regular non-motorized bicycles.

I am a frequent walker and can walk up to 6 miles most days. I have Witnessed an increase in e bike activity on the same sidewalk. Some are in groups and most are just flying by at very high speed. should a pedestrian be struck, there would be, in my view a great deal of damage.

I have contacted the Longboat Key police and I was told that they would take note but it would be best if I wrote you all an e mail voicing my concerns.

They also explained the current law which allows e bikes on the same shared sidewalk but at no speed greater than 10 mph.

I believe this is a huge mistake since this speed cannot be monitored/controlled and the fact that most of the e-bike users I see are moving way beyond that speed limit.

I urge you to change this policy and do not allow e bike access at all on LBK sidewalks before someone becomes gravely injured.

Manny Jimenez  
Longboat Key

## LBK Kiwanis Lawn Party Luncheon For Foster Care Kids Clarification

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

Hi BJ, just to clarify a point you made in the Commission Meeting recently.

The LBK Kiwanis Club Annual Community Lawn Party Luncheon in support of area Foster Care Kids in need, did not outgrow the Town Center Green.

Three years ago we had a very successful charity Lawn Party Luncheon event at the Longboat Key Town Center and two years ago we were told the Town Center was not available due to construction of the Pavilion. Our past two annual events had to be produced on Sarasota Ken Thompson City Island.

We have recently been considering bringing this popular Foster Care Kids charity Community event back to Longboat Key in early December this year but the Town Center County Library discussions may negatively impact that opportunity.

FYI, this event last year, raised \$101,250 for the Children's Guardian Foundation.

Other popular Community events like this are possible on our Town Center open green space depending on how many buildings, sizes and what locations are planned for the Town Center limited open green space.

Please reconsider the proposed County Library location and locate it on the existing Library site to allow adequate green space for Longboat Key popular events.

It can be done, you can make it work, if you will.

Bob Gault  
Longboat Key

## Existing Mangrove/Wetland Mapping

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Penny Gold

Cindy Seamon forwarded the link below to information about the concrete mangrove reef walls. Keith Van de Riet, University of Kansas Architecture - Mangrove Reef Walls: parametrically modeled and digitally fabricated seawall panels which imitate nature (theplan.it).

Trish Shinkle  
Town Clerk  
Town of Longboat Key

## Visit Sarasota County

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission  
Hello and Happy Wednesday!

This monthly email is to share the latest research numbers from February here in Sarasota County, Florida!

Comparing February 2024 to February 2023:

- Visitors were 107,600 compared to 122,000 in 2023.
- Visitor direct expenditures were \$182,975,200 compared to \$191,861,600 in 2023.

- Lodging occupancy was 81.9% compared to 86.0% in 2023.

- Lodging average room rate was \$312.57 compared to \$303.86 in 2023.

- There were 334,500 room nights sold compared to 343,100 in 2023.

This paces very similarly to January. We see dips in number of visitors and in occupancy, but continue to see rate hold.

Proud to share that this February alone - our visitor center team interacted with 5,695 residents and visitors, mailed and distributed 6,642 visitor guides and created 1,215 visitor welcome bags for visiting groups.

We have a partner orientation coming up this Thursday, April 4. (Tomorrow!)

If you'd like to learn more about what we do/how we do it - reach out and let's get you signed up to participate. It is via Zoom at 9AM and will help you connect to many of the resources we offer.

Erin Duggan  
President & CEO  
Visit Sarasota County

## Traffic

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Penny Gold

I watched the last few meetings and wanted to comment on two items

1 - Bridge: Thank you, Mayor Schneier, Commissioner Karon and others for recommending the Town take a posi-

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# WineTimes

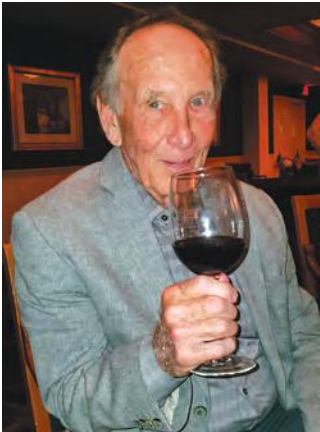
## Undervalued White Wines Part 1: Chenin Blanc

*Beyond the Loire Valley, growers are producing high quality wine grapes in California and Australia; nonetheless, Chenin Blanc has deeper roots, so to say, in South Africa.*

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

The Market data company Meininger’s International reports increases in white wine sales in North America, France, and Australia while red wine sales continue to decline. These trends during the past decade likely mean higher prices for white wines in the future.

Wine drinkers looking for white wines during the spring and summer months will find their favorites more expensive to drink. Those looking for oaky, buttery Chardonnay or tropical citrus tastes of New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc may have to look to different varieties of white wines to stay within budget.



One worthy candidate, Chenin Blanc, deserves a closer look. Wine blogger Robin Garr, in a recent post on Chenin Blanc wines, reminds us that wine writer Jancis Robinson called the variety the “most underrated” of white wine varieties.

Similar to the French Rhone Valley red grape, Grenache, it is widely planted and makes both dry and sweet wines. It has a high end (though modestly priced, for instance, the 2022 Florent Cosme “Gross Pierre” Vouvray (\$20) from the French Loire Valley region where the variety originated). Jug wine producers also use large quantities of Chenin Blanc from corporate farms. It also excels as a sparkling wine grape. The versatility of the grape may belie its role as a premier dry wine grape.

Garr recommends the organic and biodynamic 2022 Lena Filliatreau Saumur (\$18). This varietal has a gold color, a flora bouquet, and a acidic body that will age well for at least a few years. It offers taste and mouth feel akin to a premier Chardonnay at a lower cost.

Beyond the Loire Valley, growers are producing high quality wine grapes in California and Australia; nonetheless, Chenin Blanc has deeper roots, so to say, in South Africa. More Chenin Blanc is planted in South Africa than in its homeland of the Loire Valley. The wine industry in South Africa has embraced Chenin Blanc as its future star of wine exports, and with encouraging results. South African Chenin Blanc has fared well in head-to-head comparisons with other white wines.

The inexpensive 2022 Pearlstone Chenin Blanc (\$12) from the Rhebokskloof region of South Africa has a nose reminiscent of white peaches, though with an initial bite of citrus. Though dry, the wine has a sweet ripe melon taste that carries over into a long, smooth finish. Pairing it with a slice of baked ham on a brioche bun enlivens the tastes of both.

Keep an eye out for Chenin Blanc wines on the shelf or in restaurants. The versatile Chenin Blanc grape promises that wines made from it will have the complexity of wines from



Bordeaux,Burgundy, and Alsace,

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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# BreakPoints



## How can I win with a weak partner?

*In countless doubles matches my opponents always hit the ball to my partner who is a weaker player. I get it, they want to win. Should I aggressively poach or go for winners every time I get the ball? It makes for a tense and confusing game. What should I do to better my chances of winning (other than getting a stronger partner)?*

**JACKIE BOHANNON**  
Guest Columnist  
tennis@lbknews.com

Definitely do not go for winners every ball. That is an extremely low percentage strategy and will only put more stress and pressure on your partner who you do not want to feel inadequate. Do your best to give your partner confidence and get the most out of their abilities.

For starters, identify your opponents' weaknesses and try to expose them. Do they have a partner that is significantly weaker? Can they hit a forehand, a backhand, a volley, and overhead? Can they run? Focus on your opponents' shortcomings instead of your partners.

The next step is for you to be consistent and reliable. Play the big points well. Get your first serve in, don't miss your return of serve, and put the ball away when the opportunity presents itself. Always hit high percentage targets. (I.e. down the middle or at the net player's feet)

Finally, I suggest mixing up your positioning. Don't be predictable. This will help you poach more and be more



BOHANNON

interactive and also confuse your opponents. For example, if you are serving sometimes serve and volley, sometimes have your partner poach, sometimes fake, sometimes have your partner play both back. When you are receiving, try chipping and charging, lobbing and charging, drop shot a 2nd serve, playing both back, etc. If you find a strategy that works stick with it until it stops working and then change it up again. When there is a significant differential amongst the partnership the key is for the opponent to never know where the stronger player is going to be, and never know what you are going to do. Keep them on their toes, and while you are at it, stay on your toes too!

*Jackie Bohannon is the Director of Tennis at the Bird Key Yacht Club.*

## Serve Jackie your best question!



Long-time tennis pro and recently-named America's Top Coach Jackie Bohannon will answer any question on tennis. Please email question you have on strategy, technique, mental game, fitness, equipment, etc., to: tennis@lbknews.com

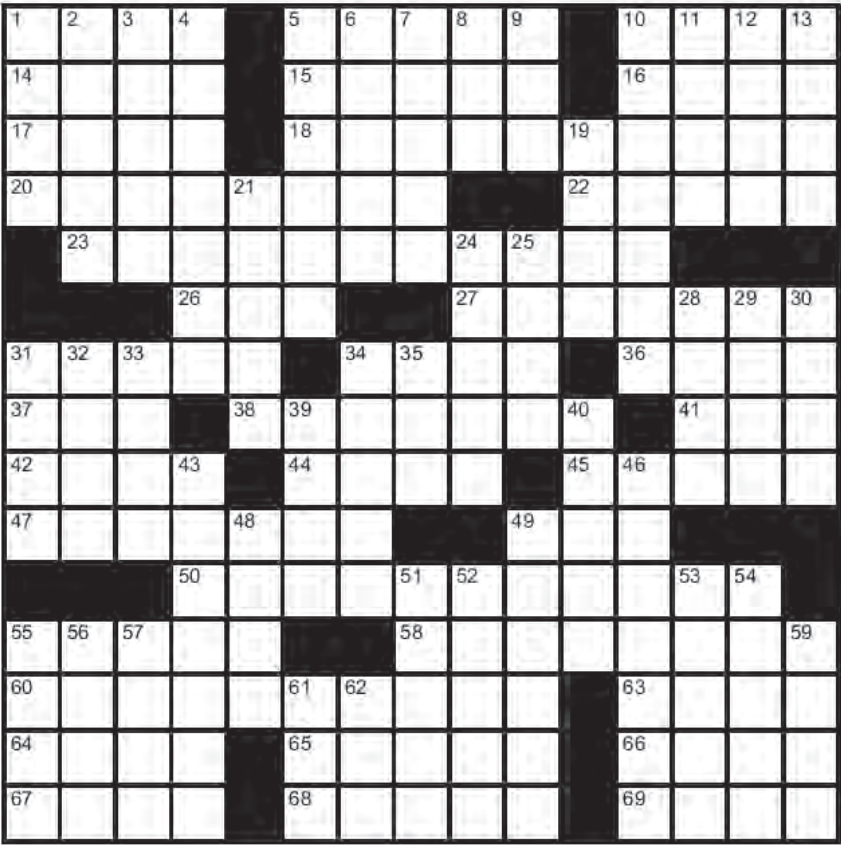
# KeyCrossword



### Multiple Choice

#### Across

- 1. Disputed strip in the mideast
- 5. Olympic skater Cohen
- 10. Minute meadow mammal
- 14. Offs
- 15. Transparent
- 16. Foley on film
- 17. Sunday speeches: Abbr.
- 18. Flared fashion
- 20. Woes
- 22. Washer cycle
- 23. Lesser cinematic fare
- 26. Count follower
- 27. Dedicatory dip
- 31. Kinda
- 34. Meat in a can
- 36. Ketch's kin
- 37. Modern form of address?
- 38. Vice-like devices
- 41. Bad beginning?
- 42. Prefix with "-syncratic"
- 44. Opera set in Egypt
- 45. Word with library or tomato
- 47. Taoist principle
- 49. Dad's daughter
- 50. Gold, Juno, Omaha, Sword and Utah, historically
- 55. Seawall
- 58. Surfer's haven
- 60. Online answer
- 63. Melody at the Met
- 64. Agfa product
- 65. Slander
- 66. Member of an order
- 67. Like open-source software
- 68. A8s and TTs



- 69. "I drew my snicker-\_\_\_\_" -- Mikado, Act 2

#### Down

- 1. Crux
- 2. Bitter tasting
- 3. Weightless state
- 4. Guarantee
- 5. Attacks with boiling oil
- 6. Aachen avenue
- 7. Temblor
- 8. Solo in space?
- 9. Exist
- 10. "The spice of life"
- 11. They can take a yoke
- 12. Dieter's portion
- 13. Ultimatum word
- 19. Cofee maker's method
- 21. Kind of training

- 24. He served in the Illinois Senate from 1997 to 2004
- 25. Siren
- 28. Hill's competitor
- 29. Babe Ruth's "sultanate"
- 30. Fr. miss
- 31. \_\_\_\_ pro quo
- 32. Pakistani language
- 33. Others in the forum
- 34. Slug-like
- 35. Something to do with a budget or a bra
- 39. Diego's dwelling
- 40. Dune's "melange"
- 43. Traditional
- 46. Hindu hermitages
- 48. Pastoral poem
- 49. Hooved partiers, in myth

- 51. Chimp or chicken, but not cheetah
- 52. China' Zhou \_\_\_\_
- 53. Kenneth Lay's company
- 54. Vertical fishnet
- 55. Comedian Foxworthy
- 56. Kuwaiti chief
- 57. It may be tall and short at the same time
- 59. The house's receipts
- 61. Cape Town country: Abbr.
- 62. Ostrich's Aussie auntie?

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