



Longboat Key News

May 30, 2025

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FREE

InsideLook



Time needs to be on your side
...page 13



The lap of Longboat luxury
...page 11



In France, wine wins the match
...page 15



Stumbling out of a Tesla
...page 10

The massive impact a warming ocean has on sea turtle numbers

Sea turtles have journeyed through the oceans for over 100 million years. They've outlived the dinosaurs, adapted to changing seas, and remain a symbol of endurance.

But today, their survival is threatened by something as invisible as it is powerful—heat, not just in the oceans but also in the sands where their lives begin. The temperature of the sand surrounding a sea turtle nest does more than incubate eggs. It decides whether hatchlings will emerge male or female. A few degrees warmer or cooler can shift that balance entirely. As heat



waves intensify and global temperatures rise, nests are becoming hotter and increasingly female. This isn't just about turtles. It's about what kind of stewards we want to be for the planet. That's why those who support sea turtle research, including scientists, volunteers, community leaders, and everyday citi-

zens, are stepping up to ensure that sea turtles survive and thrive. This story is about resilience, science, and hope. It's about paying attention, taking action, and protecting one of Earth's most ancient and vulnerable creatures.

See Turtles, page 12

Is the housing market finding some stability?

There could be early signs of a leveling off of the housing market in Manatee and Sarasota counties.

According to the latest Realtor Association of Sarasota and Manatee's report, inventory growth is slowing, "indicating a potential shift toward market stabilization as new listings and pending inventory increases begin to level off." The cooling trend in the Sarasota-Bradenton area real estate market accelerated in April, according to a new report, with median sale prices dropping and inventory continuing to grow. The Realtor Association of Sarasota and Manatee's April findings noted some of the steepest drops in median sale prices that the region has seen in years. The association attributed those declines, as

See Market, page 2

Sarasota Orchestra gifted \$10 million toward future performing arts center

"Over the past 25 years, we have witnessed Sarasota Orchestra transform into a fully professional orchestra that is rapidly becoming one of the best regional orchestras in the country."

Jack and Priscilla Schlegel hope their gift of \$10 million toward Sarasota Orchestra's new performing arts center will soon be eclipsed as the organization continues working toward raising the necessary \$375-\$425 million for the project. "Over the past 25 years, we have witnessed Sarasota Orchestra transform into a fully professional orchestra that is rapidly becoming one of the best regional orchestras in the country," said Jack and Priscilla Schlegel. Jack and Priscilla Schlegel, who relocated from Washington, D.C. to Sarasota in 1998, have been active supporters of the local arts community for more than two decades.

The Schlegels met while they were students at the University of the Pacific, where he earned a bachelor of science in pharmacy. He later earned a doctorate in pharmacy and a master of science in education from the University of Southern California. He became a USC faculty member and chief pharmacist at the university before moving to Washington, D.C., to join the staff of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. He later became CEO of the American Pharmacists Association and the Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. About 30 years ago, he launched a consulting and training firm that works with association boards and volunteer leaders in strengthening their governance. Schlegel and Associates has now worked with more than 300 organizations, universities and associations. He also served on the board of



Sarasota Orchestra Music Director Giancarlo Guerrero and President & CEO Joseph McKenna met with the Schlegel's for dinner to celebrate their investment in our future.

the New College of Florida Foundation. Priscilla Schlegel, who earned a humanities degree from University of California-Berkeley, spent more than three decades working for the RAND corporation, a non-profit think tank. The Schlegels' gift is one of the largest the orchestra has ever received and follows a \$60 million gift from an anonymous donor for the music center that was announced in February. Sarasota Orchestra is collaborating with an international team of archi-

See Orchestra, page 2

Fertilizer Ordinance June 1 - September 30

Residents and landscapers are reminded that the Town of Longboat Key's Fertilizer Management Ordinance prohibits the application of fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorous between June 1 and September 30. Summer rain showers can wash fertilizers from our lawns into Sarasota Bay and Gulf waters. Stormwater runoff carrying the nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizers can cause harmful algal blooms, impacting aquatic life. That is why the Town of Longboat Key prohibits the use of fertilizer containing nitrogen and phosphorus during the Summer rainy season, and why at least 50 percent slow-release fertilizer is required during the rest of the year. Questions or concerns, feel free to contact our Planning, Zoning, & Building Department at 941-316-1666.

Sarasota man accused of trying to blow up tank at VFW

A Sarasota man is facing up to 65 years in federal prison for allegedly throwing a Molotov cocktail at a U.S. Army tank on display outside a local VFW post.

Trang Johnny Nha Phan was indicted Tuesday in federal court in Tampa for the incident that happened Feb. 14, the U.S. Attorney's Office said in a news release.

Phan is accused of using a Molotov cocktail to try and set fire to the tank on display outside the Veterans of Foreign Wars Sunshine Post 3233 on Tuttle Avenue.

Orchestra, from page 1

rects, designers and engineers, including Stages Consultants (acoustics/theater planning), William Rawn Associates (architecture), HKS (architecture/engineering) and OJB Landscape Architecture, to transform the 32-acre site into what they call an iconic cultural destination.

The 250,000-square-foot project will include an 1,800-seat concert hall, a 700-seat recital hall and an education and administrative wing just west of Interstate 75.

The Schlegels have also helped fund the early planning the project, which led to the purchase of the land in 2023. They also provided money to the orchestra for support during the COVID pandemic.

Market, from page 1

well as a cooled pace as measured by rising inventory, to a lingering post-pandemic market stabilization.

Median sale prices in single-family homes and townhomes/condos in both Sarasota and Manatee counties experienced a year-over-year decline from April 2024, according to the report. It's the first time those metrics have all dropped by double digits since the Realtor Association published its first available market activity report in 2016.

In Sarasota County, the median sale price on a single-family home sank 13% — from \$540,000 to \$470,000 — from April 2024. The median townhome and condo sales price fell 14.9% since last April, from \$399,000 to \$339,500.

Manatee County fared similarly, with a 12.5% drop in median sale price from \$530,000 last April to \$464,000 this year. Townhomes and condos declined 14.8%, from \$352,420 to \$300,220.

The Realtor Association's April report attributes these drops to a natural market correction: a persisting stabilization that's followed a pandemic-fueled housing boom in the region. Inventory, though slowing in the pace of its growth, is still the highest it's been in years. Sarasota County currently has a 7-month inventory of single-family homes, which is a 37.3% year-over-year increase. Manatee County saw a similar jump, with a 33.3% increase in single-family home inventory.

Townhome and condo inventory followed the same pattern. Sarasota County experienced a 43.3% increase from last April and Manatee County's inventory rose 30.2%.

The numbers are still surging, but the inventory spikes are tame compared to those in 2022 and 2023. The market experienced year-over-year increases reaching as high as 200% and 300% in those years as the market cooled after the pandemic-fueled buying frenzy.

The Realtor Association says the slowdown in the rate of inventory growth is another sign of a stabilizing market. The numbers are encouraging overall, the Realtor Association said in its report, pointing to a market that will continue to see more balance.



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Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



1540 HILLVIEW DRIVE | SARASOTA
\$8,850,000 - Harbor Acres
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131 GARFIELD DRIVE #4D | LIDO BEACH
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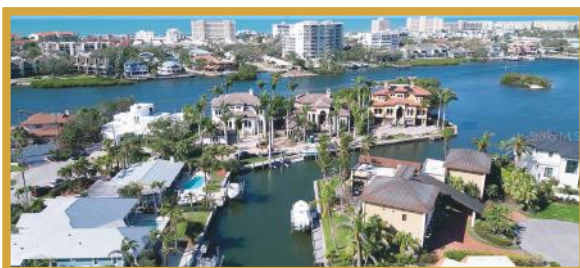
129 TAFT DRIVE #W102 | SARASOTA
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EditorLetters



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.

Gratitude for Town Staff and permitting process

To: Editor

I hope you can include this on your Editorial Page. Counterbalancing the less than supportive narrative lately, below would be in order:

I am grateful for all the exceptional effort personally and professionally put forth by the competent staff at The Town of Longboat Key Planning, Building and Zoning Department.

The permitting process for storm associated damage has been a challenge for all concerned including the additional implementation of a new software program in an effort to streamline the process.

Asking for assistance, town planning officials have exceeded all expectations to help us with the new system that would have caused a delay for our contractor who is lifting/leveling units in Gulfshore.

Patti Fige helped expedite the process and Neal Mazzei and staff have done a great job in helping Gulfshore Shareholders move forward.

Kathy Rylander
Longboat Key

Comcast box at Sabal Cove

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Charlie Mopps

Charlie, Please provide photos of what you're looking for. We may or may not be able to move it. Thank you.

Kevin Murphy
Comcast

Comcast box at Sabal Cove

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Charlie Mopps

You helped my neighbors and me in Sabal Cove last Summer determine that an equipment box on Harbourside Drive at our South entrance belonged to Comcast. We are now trying to replant that entrance area and would like to ask Comcast to move the box behind our entrance signs or further down the street. Can you suggest someone there for us to contact (now that you know them so well!). Thanks.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Property Assessments

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

Your are welcome and I hope you find it useful as we all move forward with our budgeting processes.

Mark Short
Mayor
City of Anna Maria

Checking in regarding Longboat Manatee

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon

Good morning Charlie, the appraiser has advised we should have the report in three weeks.

Peter Morrow | Property Acquisition Division Manager

Manatee County Government
Property Management Department

Checking in regarding Longboat Manatee

To: Manatee County Commissioner Charlie Bishop

I hope you had a good holiday weekend. When you have a moment this week, can you let me know the current status of the County's appraisal for 6920 Gulf of Mexico Drive? Just want to know what the timing looks like going forward.

Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Outrageous noise from Jewfish Sandbar

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

The marine police were out there in force this weekend for long hours, and their efforts did prove helpful in controlling some of the worst offenders. We thank them for their work. But since they can't be there 24/7, I think it would be very helpful if the Town posted some signs on the sandbar and Greer that say something to the effect of:

I realize that FWC approval would be necessary for signage, but I think there's a way to get approval without creating a "boating restricted area". If you and the commissioners approve, I would be happy to work with Maggie & staff on this issue.

James G. Haft
Longboat Key

Outrageous noise from Jewfish Sandbar.

To: Longboat Key Police chief Frank Rubino

Just to manage expectations, Memorial Day is usually the busiest weekend (especially for boating). Aqua Palooza on the south end, Jewfish Key sandbar, heavy beach traffic, and all without a cloud in the sky. Any beach and/or waterfront community on a long holiday weekend with perfect weather is going to have these impacts and there are very real limits to just how much the Town can control, including parking at the privately owned Chiles property.

Frank, I was at Mar Vista for dinner on Saturday and our patrol boat came by around 8 pm and it was great to seem them out on extended hours. Appreciate the operational plans that Police, Fire, and Public Works had for this holiday weekend. We'll meet to debrief on how we can do better in the future as we think about the July 4th weekend.

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Outrageous noise from Jewfish Sandbar

To: Jim Haft

It has been an exceptionally busy weekend so far. In anticipation of the holiday weekend, staffing levels have been increased, and our team has been actively engaged. Today, we have more than doubled the staffing, ensuring that we have four marine officers patrolling the waters and four officers stationed on land. The marine patrol will focus on the northern end. Rest assured, those who fail to comply with the noise ordinance after receiving a warning will

See Letters, page 5

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Letters, from page 4

be cited.
Frank Rubino
Interim Chief of Police
Longboat Key Police Department

Outrageous noise from Jewfish Sandbar

To: Longboat Key Commission
Though you do great work for our island I am so aggrieved at the horrible loud concussive music coming from boats partying off of the sandbar at Jewfish Key that has been the torment for years and getting worse. Nothing seems to work to relieve this agony. What has been done has not worked and this neighborhood has been suffering. Obviously the police presence does nothing. Why? The excuse that there is not enough marine coverage is dismaying. Then get more. We are a marine community. As I'm writing my strong house is shaking.

Ann Roth
Longboat Key

Chiles Parking Lot

To: Longboat Key Commission
I have reviewed the concerns expressed by others in our Northend neighborhoods regarding beachgoers using the Chiles parking lot this past weekend. I've not noticed this before and agree with others that it is likely to recur on summer holiday weekends. I'd just like to offer a different perspective on this: as far as I know, these visitors were generally peaceful, enjoying the time spent with us, hopefully appreciative of the opportunity to visit the beach, which is taken for granted by us who live on the Key. Perhaps we could be a bit more understanding and tolerant of these few episodes, in celebration of the Summer Holidays. Thanks for listening.

Jim Haft
Longboat Key

Illegal Parking...Childs lot next to Whitney Plaza

To: Paul Hylbert
Thank you, Paul. We'll look forward to learnings once this holiday weekend wraps up, which will enable future planning for July 4 and Labor Day. Managing traffic and expectations will be key.
Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Parking

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon
Yesterday was obviously a record day for beachgoers on the north end of LBK, and after walking this morning, the Town did a great job of cleaning up parking lots and picking up trash. One interesting and concerning situation developed last night with traffic backups going north off LBK lasting until at least 11 p.m. when we went to bed. Not sure what the bottleneck was, but when I walked the dog at 9:15 it was backed up to Whitney condo's and stayed backed up for at least the next couple of hours.....maybe more boat traffic keeping the bridge going up, maybe Cocina traffic with people enjoying the beautiful evening, maybe Cortex Bridge?

I would also add that what we saw this weekend is likely to repeat itself over July 4th and Labor Day. With the growth of Manatee County, which will only accelerate with 10,000 new homes just in the Cortez/75th street corridor, we will need to find ways to manage what will be significantly more pressure on our LBK beaches as well as on the water all around Longboat Pass, Jewfish Key, and out into the Gulf.
Paul Hylbert

See Letters, page 6



Town of Longboat Key ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

The Town of Longboat Key is accepting applications for appointment to the following board:

Consolidated Retirement System Board of Trustees

All applications must be submitted to the Office of the Town Clerk **by 12:00 p.m. on June 11, 2025**. All applicants must be registered voters of the Town of Longboat Key. Late applications will be held for one year for any future board/committee vacancies that may arise.

All appointed individuals are required to file a financial disclosure form within 30 days after appointment and annually thereafter for the duration of the appointment as required by Florida Statutes Chapter 112.

The Town Commission may schedule a Meet and Greet with applicants at a later date. Please call the Office of the Town Clerk at 941-316-1999 for an application or if you have any questions. Applications are also available online at: www.longboatkey.org. Completed applications may be submitted to:

Town of Longboat Key – Office of the Town Clerk
501 Bay Isles Road
Longboat Key FL 34228

Stephanie Garcia, Deputy Town Clerk II
Published: 05-23-2025, 05-30-2025

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Editor Letters



Letters, from page 5

Longboat Key

Illegal Parking...Childs lot next to Whitney Plaza

To: Cathy Ross

Thank you for writing in, Cathy. I've heard from other North End neighbors (included here) as well. I'm cc-ing LBK Police Chief Rubino and Town Manager Tipton, perhaps they will have some more details to share. It's true: the parking lot is private.

Chief, we're hoping folks are parking safely and legally. Thank you and your officers for managing the situation. Please fill us in on any advice you have for neighbors as to what is allowed, when they should call your team, etc.

Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Illegal Parking...Childs lot next to Whitney Plaza

To: Longboat Key Commission

Over 80 cars are parked in the lot by Cedar St off of Gulf of Mexico drive close to the Broadway entrance to the beach. Broadway and Firehouse Rd are at capacity! I was told this is illegal parking so I called the police and I am emailing pictures for your records. The police informed me this is a private parking lot so they cannot do anything. Please stop this as it will hurt our wildlife and ruin our beaches!

Cathy Ross
Longboat Key

LBK Rotary meeting June 3

To: Longboat Key Rotary President Terri Driver

I'll plan to be there in person. Just let us know where and when.

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

LBK Rotary meeting June 3

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

I'm connecting you to arrange details for Tip's visit (in person) for the Rotary meeting June 3 at 5 p.m. I will plan to join you on Zoom.

Terri, brief info on me per your request: I'm a first-term District 5 Commissioner for Longboat Key and the board president of the Library Foundation for Sarasota County as well as an advisory board member (former president) of WUSF Public Media. I came up in the newspaper business (Chicago, Minneapolis) and pivoted into 30 years of nonprofit fundraising, grantmaking and volunteer leadership in MN before moving to Longboat Key in 2014.

Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

LBK Rotary meeting June 3

To: Longboat Key Rotary President Terri Driver

Thank you Terri and I'll be there at 4:30 p.m. Savannah's working on a couple of slides and will share the updated video link on our website.

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

LBK Rotary meeting June 3

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

We are looking forward to you and Sarah speaking at our LBK Rotary Club on June 3rd, 2025, 5 p.m. about the "Complete The Green" initiative.

We also welcome any other information you or Sarah might want to provide about Town Happenings, such as how is the permitting process going?, what's up with the round about at Broadway?, what's going on with the trees that were cut down along Bay Isles Rd?, etc.

We meet at All Angels by the Sea Episcopal Church, 563 Bay Isles Rd, just down the road from Town Hall.

We usually have 10 minutes of Rotary preamble (just like the Commission Meetings), 30 minute presentation by you and Sarah, 15 minutes Q&A, and 5 minutes final wrap-up.

Tip, we should try to meet in person at 4:30-4:45pm, June 3rd, 2025, to work out the logistics of presenting in person and on Zoom. Basically, we will be using my computer as camera and microphone for you to present to Zoom participants, along with a projector for in-person view.

If you want, you can provide a Power Point Presentation, and we can connect that my computer for either you to advance.

Sarah, if you have a PPT, that is very easy to share via zoom and will be projected on a wall next to Tip for presentation. I will provide the Zoom invite on Sunday, June 1st, 2025. I hope all of this information is helpful. Please feel free to call me if you need additional details.

Terri Driver

See Letters, page 8

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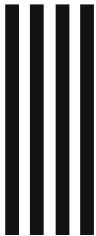


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EditorLetters



Letters, from page 6

Public Image Chair, and President Elect
Rotary of LBK

LBK Rotary meeting June 3

To: Longboat Key Rotary President Terri Driver
I'll plan to be there in person. Just let us know where and when.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

LBK Rotary meeting June 3

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
I'm connecting you to arrange details for Tip's visit (in person) for the Rotary meeting June 3 at 5 p.m. I will plan to join you on Zoom.
Terri, brief info on me per your request: I'm a first-term District 5 Commissioner for Longboat Key and the board president of the Library Foundation for Sarasota County as well as an advisory board member (former president) of WUSF Public Media. I came up in the newspaper business (Chicago, Minneapolis) and pivoted into 30 years of nonprofit fundraising, grantmaking and volunteer leadership in MN before moving to Longboat Key in 2014.
Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Illegal Parking...Childs lot next to Whitney Plaza

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon
Thank you for your message and for including me in this important conversation. I also appreciate hearing from our North End neighbors, who continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to the area's safety. You are correct—the parking lot in question is privately owned; therefore, enforcement on that property is limited unless the owner has taken specific steps to properly post signs that enable them to have violators towed.
We want to ensure that all residents and visitors park safely and respectfully in the surrounding area. On public property, we actively issue citations for vehicles parked illegally; this includes violations such as blocking driveways, parking in no-parking zones, and obstructing traffic flow.
For the holiday weekend, we have increased our staffing levels to better manage the increased activity across the island. Despite these efforts, it has been extremely busy, and we appreciate everyone's patience and continued communication. Here are a few helpful guidelines for residents:
If vehicles are parked illegally on public roadways (e.g., blocking driveways, fire hydrants, or creating traffic hazards), please call our non-emergency number at 941-316-1201, and we will send an officer to investigate.
If vehicles are parked improperly or without authorization on private property, the property owner or manager must initiate enforcement action, such as posting appropriate signage or requesting towing services. For ongoing issues, feel free to share photos or detailed observations with us; we'll work to coordinate a response where appropriate.

We're always happy to speak with residents directly, so don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or would like to discuss any specific concerns further. Thank you once again for your ongoing support in keeping Longboat Key safe.
Frank Rubino
Interim Chief of Police
Town of Longboat Key

Illegal Parking...Childs lot next to Whitney Plaza

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Thank you for writing in, Cathy. I've heard from other North End neighbors (included here) as well. I'm cc-ing LBK Police Chief Rubino and Town Manager Tipton, perhaps they will have some more details to share. It's true: the parking lot is private.
Chief, we're hoping folks are parking safely and legally. Thank you and your officers for managing the situation. Please fill us in on any advice you have for neighbors as to what is allowed, when they should call your team, etc.
Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Illegal Parking...Childs lot next to Whitney Plaza
To: Longboat Key Commission

Over 80 cars are parked in the lot by Cedar St off of Gulf of Mexico drive close to the broadway entrance to the beach. Broadway and Firehouse Rd are at capacity! I was told this is illegal parking so I called the police and I am emailing pictures for your records. The police informed me this is a private parking lot so they cannot do anything. Please stop this as it will hurt our wildlife and ruin our beaches!
Cathy Ross
Longboat Key

Current Town Grants

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
Kalee, the successful acquisition and implementation of our detailed projects is a testament to your dedication to making our town a Premier Community. Your roll is vital to the progress of our town, even though your efforts often go unseen by the public. Please know your efforts are deeply appreciated and recognized by us. Its people like you that make Longboat a better place for all of us.
Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Current Town Grants

To: Longboat Key Commission
During this week's budget workshop, there was a question around how effective our Grants Coordinator has been since she started in July of 2023 (not 2024 as I stated on Monday). As you can see, Kalee has applied for \$25.7 million in grants and has received \$7.68 million. In addition to writing the grants and working them through various processes at the county, state or federal levels, she also manages all of the grants. This means that she's working with the departments on implementation, ensuring that all grant requirements are being met, and also is responsible for all of the grant reporting (back to the granting agencies) which can be quite an undertaking and can last for years. In her spare time she has started a grant coordinator network of area local governments and is also part of our communications team.
Kalee's total compensation package is approximately \$125,000/year which includes both wages and benefits. In 22 months, she has cost the Town \$230,000 or about 3% of the grant amount she has secured. Put another way, she has brought in grant revenue that is 33 times her cost to the Town. I have worked with grants folks in the past and would put in a minimum of 10 times their annual salary and a stretch goal of 20 times their annual compensation. Kalee is at 33 times. By any metric I'm familiar with, as a one-person shop, she has performed in an outstanding manner and I thank the Commission for the opportunity to bring this type of resource in-house.
Additionally, as to workspace considerations since that was also a brief discussion point on Monday, when Kalee was hired it was with the understanding that she would work from home

See Letters, page 12

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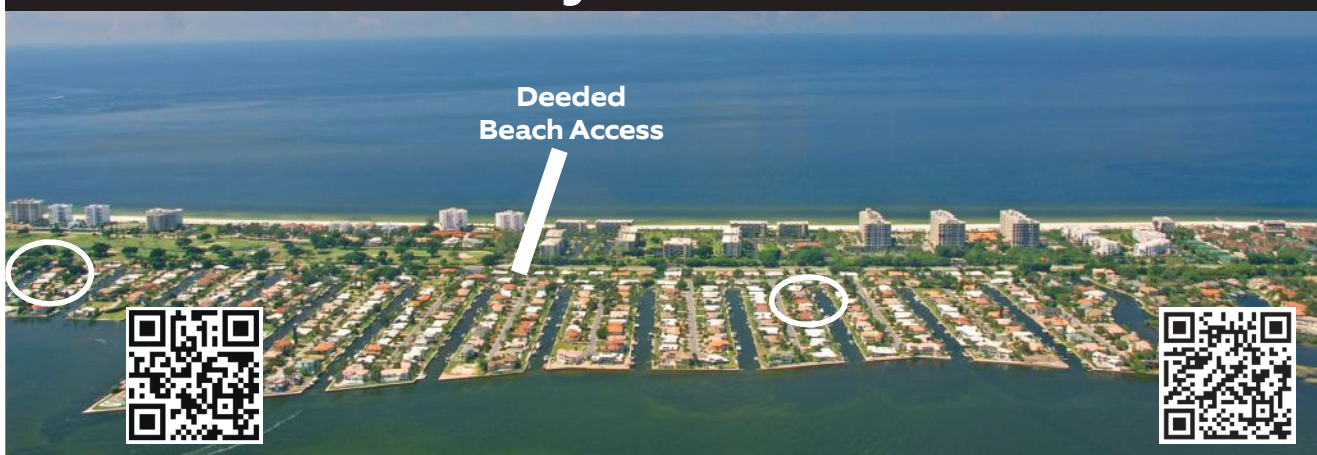
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OnPatrol

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

May 23 Found

11:30 a.m.
Officer Pescuma was dispatched to Sands Point Road in reference to found property at the restaurant. Upon arrival, Officer Pescuma met with the front desk manager fo the resort who stated that she found a brown wallet containing a Florida Driver's License, American Express credit cards and a Bank of America debit card. Additionally, the manager found a small clear plastic bag containing a white powder. The manager stated she believed it to be cocaine. Upon further investigation it was found that the wallet belonged to a guest at the resort. Officer Pescuma made contact with the man and returned his wallet. Upon inquiring about the white powder, the man said it was not his. Officer Pescuma advised the man that he was taking the substance for destruction. Property receipts were completed and the white powder substance was property for destruction. Case clear.

May 24 Trespassing

3:58 p.m.
Officer Troyer was dispatched to Gulfside Road on the report of trespassing. The caller reported there were four to five persons trespassing on her property and were occupying the beach. While enroute, Officer Troyer contacted the caller and she said she was currently not home due to her home being severely damaged by the recent hurricanes of 2024. The caller was apprised by her neighbors, there were unknown persons occupying the driveway and utilizing her property to access the beach. The caller did not give anyone permission to be at the residence, nor permission for anyone to park at her residence. Upon arrival, Officer Troyer observed multiple vehicles parked int eh driveway and observed the vehicles were unoccupied. Officer Troyer walked to the beach and observed track marks leading from the vehicles to a tent placed on the beach and was occupied by multiple people. Officer Troyer contacted the people to which they admitted they were parked at the residence. Officer Troyer asked them if they had permission to utilize the residence for parking, to which they did not and admitted to parking there cause they felt the residence was condemned and there was no issue. Officer Troyer asked the persons for their ID cards, to which they identified themselves by Florida Driver's Licenses. Officer Troyer cleared the individuals for wants and warrants to which they were all clear and valid. Officer Troyer contacted the caller again and explained the situation to her. Officer Troyer asked the caller how she wanted to proceed to which she stated she only wanted the officer to tell them to leave and she did not want Officer Troyer to file any trespassing paperwork on her behalf. Officer Troyer contacted the car owners again and asked them to move the vehicles and explained to them they needed to not be on the property again. They all complied and had no issues with the outcome. Case clear.

Vehicle

4:20 p.m.
Sgt. Montfort while on patrol in the 5500 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive, observed a registration covered by a clear plastic plate. Moreover, the Florida temporary tag did not match the current sequence for temporary license plates issued int eh State of Florida. The Florida temporary license plate was shown to be expired in August 2024. Sgt. Montfort made contact with the operator who said she did not speak English well and contacted a friend to translate. The driver stated she did not have a driver's license and provided Sgt. Montfort with a State of Georgia motor vehicle title which was not completed or filled out. The driver then said she purchased the temporary license plate in Jacksonville from a second hand car dealer. The driver was able to provide proof of insurance. The driver was advised that the license plate was fraudulent and she was likely scammed. Officer Mathis was able to provide the operator proper direction on how to register the vehicle. The driver was processed and released in the field with three uniformed traffic citations. The driver is scheduled to appear in Manatee County Court. The driver said she had contacted a friend with a truck and vehicle dolly to remove the vehicle. Case clear.



May 25 Boat

12:24 p.m.
Officer Barrett responded to Lenaire Drive regarding a reckless boater. Upon arrival, the vessel had left the area. Officer Barrett made contact with Florida Fish and Wildlife who was on scene, they advised that a vessel drifted into an anchored vessel's anchor line which caused parties to become involved in a verbal argument which ended quickly. There were no injuries or damage to either vessel. Case clear.

Parking

2:35 p.m.
Sgt. Montfort was dispatched to 6900 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of 80 vehicles illegally parked in the lot. Sgt. Montfort made contact with the caller who stated that the subject were parked illegally and needed to be removed. Sgt. Montfort advised the caller that the lot is privately owned and law enforcement was unable to conduct parking enforcement in the lot. The caller was not the owner of the lot and unable to provide owner information. Case clear.

Person

7:21 p.m.
Officer Pescuma was dispatched to the 2800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a suspicious person. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma met with the caller who stated that he was concerned for an adult woman who he observed falling and stumbling to her vehicle, a gray Tesla, he thought she might be impaired. Officer Pescuma along with Officer Ericsson, made contact with the woman and explained the reason for contacting her. The woman did not display any signs of impairment and was there to watch the sunset. No signs of violating state statute or town ordinance. Case clear.

Noise

9:56 p.m.
Officer Pescuma was dispatched to Sands Point Road in reference to a disturbance. The caller stated that a man was causing a scene in the bar area and was asked to leave by the staff. The subject refused to leave. Upon arrival, Officer Pescuma met with security staff, who stated that the subject was impaired and being loud while watching a sports game in the bar area. When asked to leave by bar staff, he refused. The man was not present when Officer Pescuma arrived, however he located him in the parking lot. After speaking with the man he agreed to go back to his room for the evening and the resort staff were satisfied with the outcome. Case clear.

May 26 Alarm

10:05 a.m.
Officer Nazareno was dispatched to the 2500 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for an audible alarm call regarding the building south of the location. Upon arrival, no audible alarm was heard on the property. Officer Nazareno spoke with the property manager who advised that the noise might be coming from a fan belt on the AC Unit at the rooftop. Case clear.

Marine rescue

1:06 p.m.
Sgt. Montfort while working an active marine rescue of a swimmer and distress, Officer Mathis and Sgt. Montfort were alerted to a man on a personal watercraft in distress near the base of the Longboat Key Bridge. Officer Mathis and Sgt. Montfort cleared our previous incident and responded immediately locating the subject in distress. The operator of the PWC which stated he sucked a loose line into his jet drive rendering the PWC inoperable. The operator stated he was unable to get the PWC started and was now at risk of striking the bridge and flipping over the PWC. Moreover, during this time, a very strong current was present which created for an extremely dangerous situation. Officer Mathis and Sgt. Montfort were able to place the PWC in a hip tow and moved the vessel to safer waters. The operator also had in his possession two small dogs which were placed onto the patrol vessel. Officers transported the man back to the Motor Yacht which was near Jewfish Key. The PWC, operator and dogs were transported safety back to the awaiting vessel. Case clear.

Marine rescue

3:11 p.m.
Sgt. Montfort while on patrol in the area of Jewfish Key observed a man being swept out by a strong current towards the Longboat Pass Bridge. Officer Mathis and Sgt. Montfort observed the man in obvious distress and arrived within seconds. Officer Mathis and Sgt. Montfort pulled the man aboard the patrol vessel who stated he was extremely tired attempting to swim through the current and could not get back to the vessel. The man was over 100 yards from his vessel. The man declined medical assistance and we provided him with a transport back to his vessel. Officers were unable to obtain his pedigree information, as another marine emergency was brought to the attention with a vessel in distress in the area of Longboat Bridge. Case clear.

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Letters, from page 8

as well as the office, which allows her to share office space with our Payroll Coordinator who works remotely most days. Please let me know if you have any questions.
Howard Tipton
Town Manager, Town of Longboat Key

Current Town Grants

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
For forwarding to the Commission, attached is our grant tracker. In the grant world, they define the award amount a little differently than us accountants. So that there is no confusion, I added a column at the very far right which is the actual grant dollars, removing the Town match. The Status column also provides items in progress and submitted waiting approval. As you can see this is very impressive. Let me know if you have any questions.
Sue Smith
Finance Director, Town of Longboat Key

Outrageous noise from Sandbar

To: Longboat Key Commission
Though u do great work for our island I am so aggrieved at the horrible loud concussive music coming from boats partying off of the sandbar at Jewfish Key that has been the torment for years and getting worse. Nothing seems to work to relieve this agony. What has been done has not worked and this neighborhood has been suffering. Obviously, the police presence does nothing. WHY?? The excuse that there is not enough marine coverage is dismaying. Then get more. We’re a marine community. As I’m writing my strong house is shaking.
Ann Roth
Longboat Key

Turtles, from page 1

How Temperature-Dependent Sex Determination Works
Unlike humans, who inherit their biological sex from chromosomes, sea turtles rely on their environment. Temperature-dependent sex determination (TSD) is the process through which the warmth of the sand during incubation determines the sex of the hatchlings.
The science is delicate. Sand temperatures around 29°C (84°F) tend to produce an even mix of males and females. A nest just one or two degrees warmer may yield nearly all females, while cooler sand brings more males. For millennia, natural variation across nesting sites has kept populations balanced. But now, that balance is unraveling.
With warming temperatures, the scales are tipping. Hatchlings are overwhelmingly female, and climate, instead of nature’s rhythm, is shaping entire generations. It’s not just about biology. Extremes are now distorting a system that once relied on subtlety.

The Thermal Threshold: Finding the Sweet Spot
A narrow range of sand temperatures called the pivotal temperature leads to balanced sex ratios. The closer the nest stays to this thermal sweet spot, the more likely it is to produce a sustainable mix of male and female turtles.
But the margin is slim. A shift of even half a degree can lean a nest’s outcome heavily in one direction. And with global warming tightening its grip, many nesting beaches are crossing that threshold more frequently. Instead of balance, there’s a growing divide.
The science behind TSD isn’t new, but its urgency is. When the pivotal temperature is exceeded repeatedly, season after season, the repercussions ripple across generations. One hatchling may seem like a small loss, but when the majority

are born female, the entire reproductive chain weakens.
The Impact of Heat Waves on Nesting Beaches
Why Hotter Sand Means More Females
Rising temperatures change the environment. On nesting beaches, even small increases in sand temperature can have a big impact. Nests that used to produce a good mix of hatchlings are now mostly, if not entirely, female.
In some areas, sex ratios have reached nearly 99% female. This change threatens the population’s ability to survive. While females are crucial for reproduction, having too few males means fewer fertilized eggs, leading to fewer turtles in the future.
This problem is not limited to one area. It’s a global issue that’s getting worse. Climate change and environmental damage are turning ancient nesting sites into places where nature is out of balance.

Climate Change and Escalation of Nest Temps
The world is getting warmer, and the sand is showing the effects. Longer summers, stronger heat waves, and changing weather make it harder for turtle nests to stay at safe temperatures.
When the sand gets too hot, problems arise. Turtle embryos might not develop properly. Hatchlings that make it out may be weaker, slower, and less likely to survive their journey to the sea. This results in not just fewer male turtles but fewer turtles overall.
Urban development near beaches makes the situation worse. Buildings, roads, and other structures absorb and reflect heat, raising the temperature of the sand. Human activities make survival more difficult for turtles each year.

What the Data Tells Us
Over time, the data reveals patterns where temperatures rise fastest, which beaches produce fewer males, and which areas need the most urgent intervention. It’s a window into a species’ future.
Patterns show that on many nesting beaches, male hatchlings are becoming rare. Some sites produce female-only generations year after year. But there’s cautious optimism in places where temperature interventions have been tested. Even small shifts in temperature can help restore the balance.

Why Sex Ratios Matter for Long-Term Survival
A Population Without Enough Males
Nature relies on balance. In sea turtle populations, an extreme shortage of males can lead to lower fertilization rates, reduced genetic diversity, and an increased risk of long-term decline.
If this imbalance continues, some populations may collapse not because there are too few turtles overall but because there are too few to reproduce effectively. A future where hatchlings emerge but can’t carry their species forward is not sustainable.

Avoiding the “All-Girl Generation” Crisis
The concern is real: the creation of “all-girl generations” with no male counterparts. Without action, this trend could become the norm in regions already experiencing high temperatures.
Preventing this outcome requires both awareness and proactive measures. Protecting beaches, monitoring nests, and intervening where necessary is not about overstepping nature. It’s about giving nature a fighting chance to correct itself.

Global Examples of Heat’s Impact on Sea Turtles
Australia’s Great Barrier Reef
Researchers in northern Australia found that over 99% of hatchlings from some green sea turtle populations are female. This discovery led to changes in conservation methods, such as new shading techniques and better data collection. The work has become a global example of how science can lead to quick actions to address urgent threats.

Florida’s East Coast
Similar patterns have been seen on the southeastern coast of the United States. Many nests still have more female turtles, but there are signs of improvement. Cooler seasons and increased help may be starting to change this trend, giving hope to future generations. There is still a lot of work to do, but this shows that informed and strategic actions can make a real difference, even with global climate challenges.
— Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center

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BreakPoints



Time needs to be on your side in tennis

We always hear about developing our forehand as a weapon or our first serve, etc. Can you give us something more philosophical, strategic, or abstract?

JACKIE BOHANNON
Guest Columnist
tennis@lbknews.com

We always hear about developing our forehand as a weapon or our first serve, etc. Can you give us something more philosophical, strategic, or abstract?

The concept of time is probably one of the most underutilized strategies and concepts in tennis. Time can be your biggest weapon on the tennis court. When playing a match, it is often a good idea to keep the tempo and momentum going when you are winning. Whether you are serving or receiving when you are on a streak try to keep the play as continuous as possible. Don't take big breaks between points or between games if you don't need it. Try to capitalize on your upward stride.



□□□□□□□□

On the flip side, if you are losing take your time between points and try to slow down your opponent's rhythm (within legal parameters). Fix your strings, wipe your hands with your towel, take a couple extra breaths. The biggest mistake players often make when they are losing is they rush. They double fault and then serve again without taking a chance to calm down. When you miss don't dwell or beat yourself up, but don't rush right back into the fire. Tennis ebbs and flows and you need to know when to put your foot on the gas pedal and when to put your foot on the brake.

One of my favorite games to practice the mental aspect of this concept is tug of war. The score starts at 5. When one

opponent wins the score goes up and if the other opponent wins the score goes down. The first player to get to 10 or 0 wins. This drill can work on the mental toughness needed to finish a match and learn to endure the rollercoaster of emotions tennis can provide at times.

The other concept of time that is a huge weapon is while the point is being played. All players have one goal: give yourself more time and give your opponent less. Now how do you do that?

Step 1) Never let a ball bounce that you could take out of the air! This is especially critical at the net. If you are at the service line you must not let the ball bounce ever. Your next goal is to never let the ball drop below the net, which makes your volley more aggressive and higher percentage. Take your overheads out of the air, and from the baseline anytime your opponent hits a loopy ball take it out of the air as a swinging volley.

Step 2) Work on taking the ball on the rise. When you have the chance to attack (but the ball cannot be taken out of the air), move forward and take the ball while it is traveling upward not down.

Step 3) On rally shots take the ball at the peak or on the rise not on the drop. The longer you wait to hit the ball the more time your opponent has to get ready. Your strike zone can be at your waist, your chest, even your head height if needed. Strike zones at our kneecaps and shoelaces should be avoided unless it is an emergency and we are barely getting to the ball. Besides giving your opponent way too much time, strike zones below the waist are low percentage because as the ball drops it drops fast, and this can result in a lot of net errors.

Step 4) Last but not least, try to position yourself on the court in a favorable spot so you are not in a defensive posi-

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Long-time tennis pro and 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

tion. For example, if your opponent lobs you and you shuffle backwards to return the shot you are now 10-15 feet behind the baseline, and have given them a ton of time. If you stay at the baseline and take the ball on the rise, or move inside the baseline and take the ball out of the air you have accomplished two things: one your positioning is not defensive it is neutral or even offensive, and secondly you took time away from your opponent.

I hope these tips help you next time you are playing! Try to find opportunities to steal time away from your opponent. Every advantage in tennis no matter how minimal can result in big rewards. Good Luck!

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Vive la France

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

The two sons of France in the French Open Tennis Tournament in Paris, Gael Monfils and Arthur Fils, have drawn huge, raucous crowds to their matches.

Monfils, at 38 the oldest player to make it to the 2nd round, has aged especially well in a sport that subjects players to grueling matches that can last four hours or more. At the opposite end of the touring pro age spectrum, Fils at age 20 has become the top-ranking French tennis men’s player and ranked #14 in the international Association of Tennis Players rankings. These two exceptional athletes fit the French fascination through their history with the interplay of old and new, vintage and avant garde, in art, music, architecture, fashion, and cuisine.

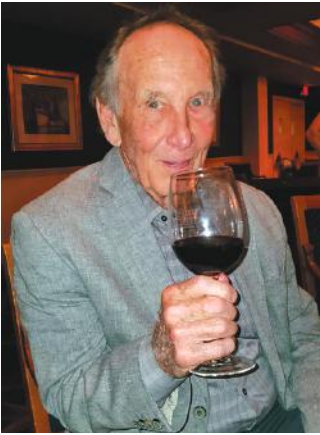
In French cuisine, the classic recipes and wine pairings thrive today as comfort food. A coq au vin blanc has a simple base of chicken sections on the bone, mushrooms, pearl onions, carrots, sprigs of rosemary and thyme, bay leaves, star anise, and white wine (Chardonnay). The 2022 Drouhin Mâcon-Villages (Chardonnay \$20) will work well as a base for the dish and a wine to enjoy with it. For cooler weather, the bœuf à la bourguignonne recipe of renowned chef Jacques Pépin marries beef shank, vegetables, herbs, and spices in a sauce base of robust red Burgundy. A 2021 Diora La Petite Grace Monterrey Pinot Noir will, as in the case of the coq au vin blanc dish, do well as a sauce base and a wine pairing for the dish.

Nouvelle cuisine satisfies the French quest for the avant garde as a contrast to the classic dishes that sustain people day to day. Progressions of fancy plates of small tastes amuse diners. This new school of French cuisine emerged in the 1970’s. It emphasized fresh and seasonal ingredients, light and delicate tastes, and artistic presentations of foods on a plate.

The Paris restaurant Lucas Carton has a reputation for its tasting menu selections combined with wines that have the same distinctive aromas and tastes. A Fourme d’Ambert blue cheese paired with a 2021 Unang Cotes Du Ventoux Rouge (\$21) from the Southern Rhône Valley brings out sweet cream and red fruit tastes laced with spice from assembled servings of scallops, baby squid, fresh anchovies, and other delicacies from the sea, vegetables from small farms and jamón ibérico from the land, and breads from the ovens.

The interplay of the old and new stands out on the courts of Roland Garros and in the kitchens of Paris restaurants. The French know how to live.

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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Sherry ‘Nef’ Price is a USPTR certified professional. She played at IMG and Division 1 College. Call Payne Park Tennis center at 941-263-6641 to schedule. Payne Park Tennis Center, 2050 Adams Lane, Downtown Sarasota, 34237

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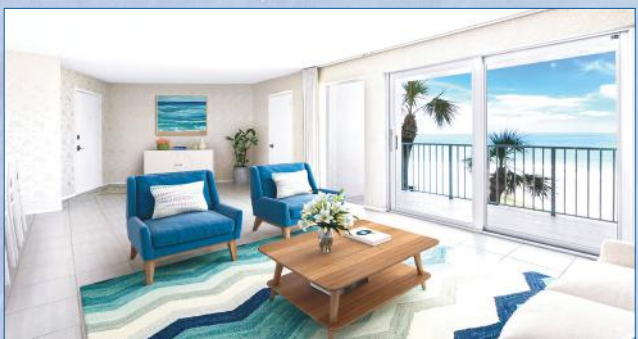
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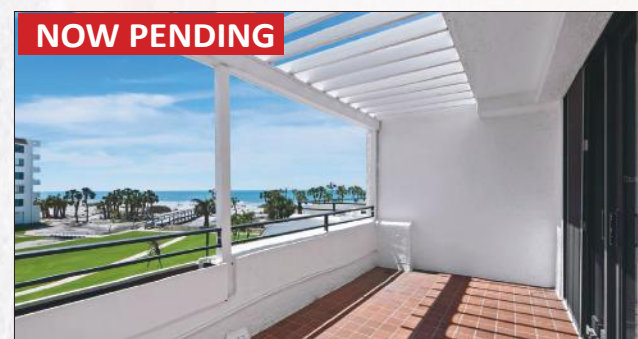
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