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January 27, 2023

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FRFF

Inside Look Of O Beach rights

Beach rights and bike lanes ...page 4-5



Drink-in a time and place ...page 13



Lido lands sale of the week ...page 7



Stranded boat and broken wing ...page 10

County rezones orchestra site clearing way for new complex

The Orchestra plans to build a 245,000 square-foot arts hall on 31.7 acres located at 5701 Fruitville Road.

STEVE REID Editor & Publisher sreid@lbknews.com

The Sarasota County Commission may have started with dissonance, but ended up in harmony voting unanimously to approve rezoning the Fruitville Road property that the Sarasota Orchestra plans to use for a future performance complex.

The Orchestra plans to build

a 245,000 square-foot performing arts hall on 31.7 acres located at 5701 Fruitville Road. The commission last week additionally voted to allow the orchestra to exceed the

See Orchestra, page 3

Longboat man gifts \$10 million for next Sarasota Arts Center

Sarasota's future Performing Arts Center, destined as the centerpiece of the 53-acre The Bay project, received a boost from Longboater Paul Seed.

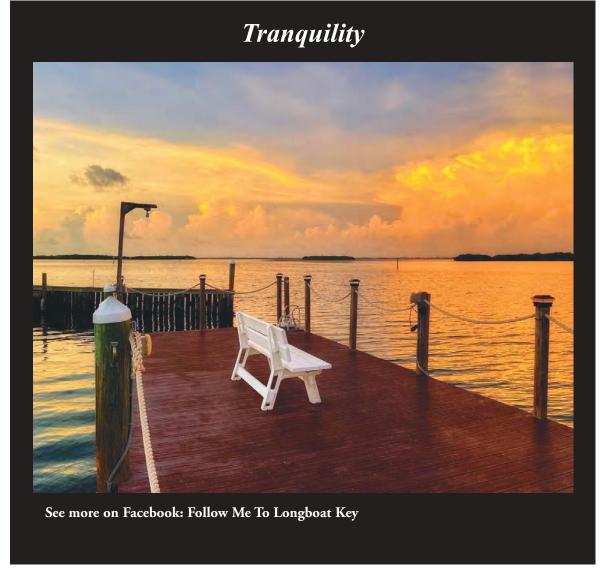
STEVE REID Editor & Publisher sreid@lbknews.com

Sarasota's future Performing Arts Center, destined to be the centerpiece of the 53-acre The Bay project, received a \$10 million boost from Longboater Paul Seed.

The project will include a 2,250-seat main theater as well as a black box theater and education space is slated to not only replace the iconic Van Wezel performing arts Hall, but push the design and specifications to attract even larger productions.

Paul Seed serves as the CEO and was founder of Startech.com a company specializing in connectivity supplies for IT professionals. In 2021, Seed bought a home on Longboat and is known as an avid guitar player as well as a supporter

See Gift, page 3



Zenith Building sold to WMG in Downtown Sarasota

WMG Development, a national real estate investment and development company, has acquired 1390 Main Street in Sarasota, Florida, a legacy property in the heart of downtown Sarasota. The site consists of 1.08 acres of land improved with a 12-story office tower and an adjacent parking garage.

The property is zoned DTB, Downtown Bayfront, and located on the Five Points roundabout. The zoning allows for a mixed-use development which can include residential, retail, office and hotel programming.

Steve Horn and Jag Grewal, partners at Ian Black Real Estate and Jeremy Dee with Kennedy Wilson, brokered the transaction. WMG Development has over 160 active construction sites in

Lanes will close Gulfstream roundabout Thursday night

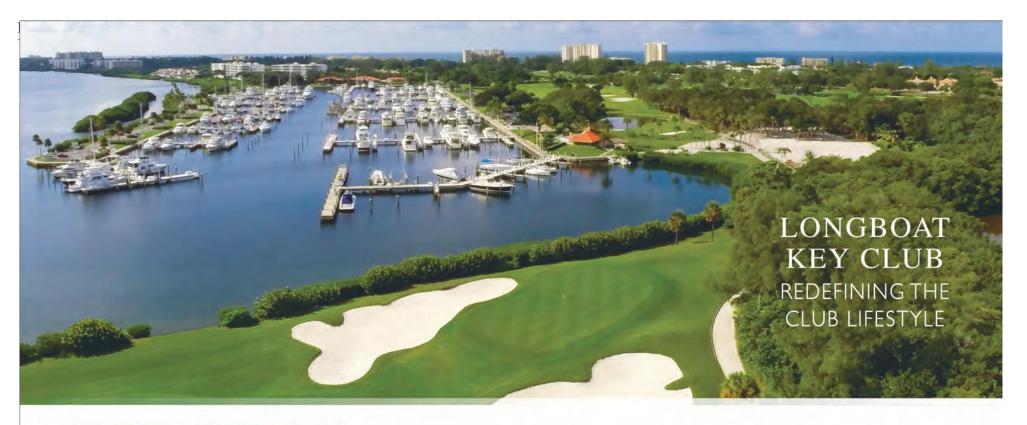
Lanes will close Thursday night while Florida Department of Transportation crews work in the area says the city of Sarasota.

Starting at 7 p.m., crews will install pavement markings near the roundabout. Existing pavement markings will also be removed near the Gulfstream Avenue-Sunset Drive intersection, the city said.

Rolling short-term lane closures will be in place for two to three hours while the work is being completed.

Drivers are advised to use caution in the area and stay alert for possible lane closures. FDOT will maintain access for all routes in the area, the city said. Noise from vehicle backup alarms and grinding equipment can also be expected.





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No red tide is reported

Red tide continues to recede from the Gulf of Mexico beaches.

State environmental officials are saying that only one report of a "medium" amount of red tide was found in the area, along the south Sunshine Skyway fishing pier. No red tide was found at any beaches in Pinellas County for the first time in several months.

Low amounts of it were reported along Manatee County's shoreline on Tampa Bay, as well as the northern tip of Anna Maria Island.

No red tide was reported in Sarasota Bay, which has been plagued by the toxin since shortly after Hurricane Ian came ashore. Low amounts were still found, however, near Venice Beach, Nokomis Beach, and several locations south of Venice.

Still, reports of fish kills and respiratory irritation suspected to be related to red tide came in from Sarasota County over the past week. For more details, visit: https://myfwc.com/research/saltwater/health/fish-kills-hotline/ and https://visitbeaches.org/.

Respiratory irritation suspected to be related to red tide was reported in these locations in Sarasota County: Caspersen Beach, Lido Key Beach, Longboat Key, Manasota Key Beach, Nokomis Beach, Siesta Key Beach, Venice Beach and Venice North Jetty Beach.

\$22 million Siesta Key mansion for sale is most expensive in Sarasota-Manatee

A Siesta Key waterfront estate has been listed for \$22 million taking over the top spot as the most expensive single-family property for sale in Sarasota and Manatee counties so far in 2023, according to Stellar MLS data.

The 1.4-acre property at 3799 Flamingo Ave. on Siesta Key's northern end has 18,706 square feet of air conditioned space, 700 feet of water frontage and a boat dock on the Intracoastal Waterway, according to the Realtor marketing the property.

The house was built in 2017 with the property last selling for \$10.5 million in October 2019.

\$4M Settlement Reached In Big Olaf Creamery Wrongful Death Lawsuit

A \$4 million settlement has been reached in the wrongful death lawsuit involving the listeria outbreak connected with Sarasota-based Big Olaf Creamery.

Investigators say the bacteria found in Big Olaf ice cream caused 28 people from 11 states to fall ill between January and August.

The estate of Mary Billman filed the complaint for wrongful death in federal court, charging the woman died of listeria 11 days after eating Big Olaf ice cream in Sarasota.

Billman, 79, was visiting her daughter on Jan. 18, 2022 when she ate ice cream at the company's store on Bahia Vista Street, the suit says.

A week later, she began having gastrointestinal issues and a low-grade fever. Her symptoms persisted, and on Jan 27, 2022 she awoke to a 103-degree fever and was admitted to a hospital in South Florida.





Orchestra, from page 1

65-foot height limitation as well as to allow indoor performances after 10 p.m.

The zoning approval marks a necessary step for the orchestra to move forward with the project that it has spent years attempting to find a suitable site to initiate. The Orchestra announced it landed on the Fruitville Road site after a failed attempt at relocating to Payne Park in the City and its desire to not be part of The Bay project along the downtown water-front

The Orchestra has stated that access to the I-75 corridor will compliment its Sarasota and island-base of attendees with an audience hugging the interstate.

The land the Orchestra will purchase now that the rezone has been approved is owned by WalMart, which has owned the site since 2005.

Gift, from page 1

of local musicians.

Seed's gift matches a \$10 million estate gift from Herta Cuneo, who passed in 2017. The entire project is expected to cost about \$300 million with the City of Sarasota providing the land to The Bay project, and a share of the capital improvement costs.

The future center will be located in what is now the parking lot of the existing Van Wezel. The Van Wezel has served Sarasota for more than 50 years but its lack of a center aisle, limitation of 1,700 seats, acoustical challenges, as well as vulnerability to storms and sea level rise, informed the decision by the City and Bay Park Conservancy to build anew.

The supporters of saving the Van Wezel are trying to work with the City Commission to find alternate uses than as a performing arts center. Under the City's agreement with the Bay Park Conservancy, the Van Wezel cannot operate as a competitive venue to the future Sarasota Performing Arts Center.





5350 Gulf of Mexico Dr. (in the Centre Shops) www.lazylobsteroflongboat.com (941) 383-0440



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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.

Boarder Czar

To: Editor

Has Kamala been demoted to the new "Abortion Czar" from her last post as "Boarder Czar?" I find it interesting that Ms. Harris visited Tallahassee while finding it difficult to spend time on our Southern Border during her lackluster tenure. In a perfect world Ms. Harris would champion all human rights be it US citizens living on our Southern Border or those who are most vulnerable including migrants escaping tyranny and unborn babies who were "inconveniently" conceived.

Melissa Morrill Sarasota

Beach seawall

To: Editor

Congratulations to Deborah Murphy, Commissioner-Elect of District 5. Hopefully our excellent previous Commissioner, Maureen Merrigan, has updated her regarding the Ohana seawall issue. Voices may have quieted down of late, but those of us who are impacted by the lack of full access to the beach are still here and continue to explore our options (see our recent protest here: https://www.yourobserver.com/news/2023/jan/09/rip-current-delaysohana-protest/).

The town of Longboat Key fell short on permitting the seawall to be rebuilt without knowledge that the new owners planned to prohibit walkers over it, thereby constricting residents' beach walks and making difficult the work of turtle patrols, marine clean-ups, etc. Previous owners had no objections to walkers who had access over it for more than 40 years. The local police used excessive force in their arrests in two separate incidents of unarmed men walking over it in their swim trunks when clearly a stern admonition would have been more than sufficient.

We want our uninterrupted beach back and are not going away. Any efforts made to this end by Ms. Murphy and others will be very much appreciated. Please follow us on our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/OneIslandOneBeachInc or on NextDoor: https://nextdoor. com/g/ef7mqrhbu/?is=neighbor_profile

Patricia DeChiara Longboat Key

Bike lanes dangerous

To: Editor

As the picture depicts, someways riding on Longboat Key's Gulf of Mexico Drive's bike lanes



Premier Sotheby's International Realty

50 Central Ave, Suite 110 • Sarasota, FL 34236

After our recent brush with another hurricane, Gulf of Mexico Drive has suffered greatly with rippled paving, chuckholes/ cracked paving and lots of lose gravel, driveway stones, sand, etc. Frequently, a rider has to steer around obstacles in their lane, including litter, palm fronds, materials blown off trucks, crush glass, etc.

Does LBK or the two counties own a street sweeper? Can it be used more frequently? Do these parties receive federal monies for maintaining the bike lanes. Do they own a steam roller machine that could be used on hot days when the asphalt is softened, to roll down and smooth out these horrible, "corduroy" like teeth rattling bumps that frequent our bike lanes.

I would appreciate seeing printed responses to a very neglected "tourist attraction" from the responsible parties!

Thomas Morgan Longboat Key

US 41 at Gulfstream Avenue Roundabout - Night Work Thursday, Jan. 26

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

Night work is scheduled Thursday, January 26 for the installation of new pavement markings in and around the Gulfstream Avenue roundabout. This work will begin at 7 p.m. and last approximately 2-3 hours. Rolling short term lane closures will be in place where the pavement marking operation is occurring. Existing pavement marking removals will be required by the Sunset Drive intersection. Noise from backup alarms, grinding trucks and equipment is expected. Motorists should use caution when traversing through the project and be aware of possible lane closures. Access will be maintained for all routes.

Alice Ramos

Community Outreach Manager Florida Department of Transportation

Sarasota County Visitor numbers

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

Despite a soft holiday period, December ended in the plus column as we saw a return of normal visitation, replacing the hurricane recovery business. Sarasota saw a strong return of our international business giving a good boost to visitor spending. You will notice a big jump in our room nights sold which is a reflection of the increase in vacation rentals in the County.

Our team hosted 15 German travel agents in December in Sarasota which will lead to future bookings for our destination.

Now for the numbers:

December visitors in paid lodging were 100,200, a 7.2% increase

Direct visitor spending in December was \$139,457,400, a 8.7% increase

Lodging occupancy was 65.9%, a 1.1% increase

Lodging average daily rate was \$264.13, a 7.1% increase

Room nights sold was 266,700, a 19.9% increase

Virginia J. Haley President

Visit Sarasota County

Winter Fest is back

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

While the subject of this email is a reference to the book and TV series Game of Thrones, I felt it was appropriate to use this phrase to alert you to the fact that the St. Armands Winter Fest may be coming back again later this year.

In fact, it has been placed on the agenda of the upcoming Monday, February 6, City Commission Meeting (Unfinished Business IX.4). And, the new proposal now includes a Ferris wheel and uses even more of the park than before:

I got wind of this yesterday, and asked Mayor Battie if this could be postponed for a mere two weeks to the February 21 City Commission Meeting for two reasons:

Already on February 21, it is planned that the City Commission will be discussing the legality of the continued use of public right-of-way "parklets" by private restaurant businesses for outdoor dining. My premise is that if this is determined to be illegal, then so must the private use of the St. Armands Circle Park which is also a public right-of-way.

On February 6, two or more Commissioners or Charter Officials (I'm not sure exactly who or how many) have to leave the Commission meeting at noon and may not be there to discuss and vote on this issue if the meeting runs long.

My request was denied. So Monday, February 6 it is. Would you please take a moment to mark this in your calendar?

Why should Winter Fest not be allowed to happen again later this year? Five reasons:

(1) It may be illegal.

Every square inch of land in the City of Sarasota is either a parcel that somebody owns (and pays taxes on) or part of the public right-of-way. That's it, there is no third option. And St. Armands Circle Park is the only City Park that is not a parcel of land that the City owns, as it is the central island of a roundabout and therefore part of the public right-of-way. Roads, medians, and the central islands of roundabouts are part of the public right-of-way, which means that the public has the irrevocable right to use and access these areas. As with outdoor dining in "parklets", the City is discussing the legality of letting private business use such areas, and the Winter Fest should not even be considered again until that issue is resolved.

(2) It denies the public access to a City Park for nine weeks.

While the majority of the usable space in the St. Armands Circle Park was fenced off for the six week festival, it was unavailable for an additional three weeks after the end of the festival--roped off with yellow security tape--so that new grass could grow. Unfortunately, the areas where the ice rink and carousel were placed are now depressions that hold rain water. Will this cause problems for this weekend's art festival? Will this lead to a mosquito problem? Will the City hold the permittee accountable to make this right, or will tax payers have to absorb this cost?

(3) Both the residents and merchants associations don't want it.

Which means, by extension, that the majority of residents and merchants don't want it

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EditorLetters



Letters, from page 4

either. After all, that's what associations do; they represent their constituents. Look, there are some exceptions. I'm sure there will be plenty of people who are willing to say that they loved the festival. And everyone thought the lights were pretty (myself included), and everyone with kids or grandkids brought them and they all had a great time. Regardless, the residents and merchants associations believe that the majority of their constituents do not think the Winter Fest was a good fit for St. Armands, and certainly not worth denying public access to and use of the park for nine weeks.

(4) If it is successful, it will impact traffic.

At the January 3 City Commission Meeting, one of the applicants said: "Imagine what we could do with a whole year of planning."

Well, on January 10, just one week after those remarks and one week after the closure of the winter festival, the City experienced what can happen when there is a traffic issue on the barrier islands. It wasn't a remarkable day, and it wasn't a particularly busy time of year, but traffic was essentially at a standstill for hours, backed up from downtown to past the Longboat Publix when roundabout construction required the closure of all but one eastbound lane. Apparently, the phones at City Hall and the police department were ringing off the hook with people calling in to complain.

St. Armands, Lido, and Longboat residents (and businesses) are justifiably concerned about anything that can have a significant impact on traffic through St. Armands, including a well-promoted, six week long winter festival. This festival is the equivalent of a six week long art festival which nobody would ever think of doing there. A known traffic chokepoint is not the right place to put something like this. How about the City's own fairgrounds at the Robarts Arena? Has this been considered as a potentially better location for traffic, parking, restrooms, and for many other reasons?

(5) It's a public safety hazard.

We have a picture of a visually impaired individual with a walking stick forced to move out of the way to avoid the trackless train on a public sidewalk:

As the train passes, it can be seen that a second individual with a walking stick or cane, walking in the opposite direction at the same time, also had to move out of the way to avoid the train: How about this young couple with a baby having to hug the concrete wall and bushes to

Should the City at least ban motorized trains from public sidewalks that are simultaneously used by parents with babies, people walking pets, children on scooters, and physically and visually impaired individuals?

Please remember that, for at least the past 40 or so years, there has always been a wonderful Christmas celebration on St. Armands, produced by the St. Armands Circle (Merchants) Association (SACA). The celebration has included the beautifully lit tree and other Circle decorations, a tree-lighting ceremony with cookies and caroling and a visit by Santa and Mrs. Claus, a living nativity scene sponsored by the St. Armands Key Lutheran Church, and many, many other attractions and activities. SACA has always invited residents to help decorate and

has worked with the BID to obtain funds and other assistance. This was always a free celebration that did not require fencing off the City Park and public right-of-way for nine weeks. And this is what we can return to.

What can you do about this? Well, there are five City Commissioners, and, if this email doesn't do it, you'll need to convince at least three of the five of them that this is a bad idea. Here is the link to the City webpage with the names, photos, and email addresses of all five City Commissioners.

We are in District 2 and our District Commissioner is Vice Mayor Liz Alpert. There are two At-Large Commissioners who were elected by the entire City: Jen Ahearn-Koch and Debbie Trice. And even the Commissioners from the other two districts are still supposed to represent the entire City: Erik Arroyo and Mayor Kyle Battie. The listed phone number will take you to their shared executive assistant through whom you can request an in-person or video or phone meeting (although they generally seem to be booked a week or two out).

Or you can email them at their email addresses. In my experience with past issues, emailing the Commissioners hasn't seemed to be very effective, but it's worth trying.

Or you can show up at the February 6 City Commission Meeting to speak on this agenda item. There is some free parking around City Hall, paid parking on the street and at other nearby lots, or free parking at the Whole Foods Garage a couple blocks away. The meeting starts at 9 a.m. and goes until it's over. When you enter the City Commission Chambers, there will be a card to fill out that you then hand to the Deputy City Clerk who sits just inside the door and who can answer your questions.

Will this issue get you out of your comfort zone and get you to a City Commission Meeting? I'll look for you there on Monday, February 6.

Chris Goglia

President, St. Armands Residents Association

SARA Bulletin: Winter is Coming

To: Chris Goglia

I'm away until February 3 and we have our first Commission meeting with our new Town Manager, Howard Tipton, on February 6, but I am forwarding this to Tom Harmer to see if someone can appear for the Town. I'm surprised there's such an early and aggressive push for a reprise as it didn't seem the Carnival was that successful. Have you heard any word on that? Thanks.

Ken Schneier Mayor, Longboat Key

Painting roads on Broadway

To: Longboat Key Commission

My wife and I have lived in the Village for almost 40 years, have built 3 homes in the

See Letters, page 6

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1111 RITZ CARLTON DR., #1703 | SARASOTA
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every room, this expansive northwest-facing, 3BR/4BA
Ritz-Carlton penthouse has been meticulously cared for and
maintained by the original owners.



830 TARAWITT DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY
Just three lots to the ICW from this over 2,500 sf, coastal 2015 built home. Living area and kitchen open to the patio and contemporary pool. The privacy of the second level offers two guest bedrooms with full bath, plus an extra lounge with wet bar.



529 BAYVIEW DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEYContemporary canal-front home with private dock and quick access to the bay and Gulf of Mexico. Located on a quiet street designed for privacy, this 2,808 sf, 4BR/3BA home features an open floorplan with expansive living spaces, pool and a private rooftop deck.



100 SANDS POINT RD., #208 | LONGBOAT KEY Gulf front, 2BR/2BA residence with a Chef's kitchen, a spacious, open living area, along with dining space and a separate den area. Located at the Southern Point of Longboat Key within the gates of the Longboat Key Clu.b



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Michael Saunders & Company

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EditorLetters



Letters, from page 5

neighborhood and raised out son there as well. Over the years we have experienced many changes, both good and bad. In the last few years we have seen a tremendous increase in traffic and people in this wonderful neighborhood we call home that has created some unfavorable conditions.

The commission and the town have been doing a lot to help us create a safe and inviting environment for our neighborhood. We realize that it is difficult to please everyone, but we feel we are on the right track to make this neighborhood safe and accessible to restaurant customers and residence of the island.

Today I want to bring up our concerns about the possible painting of lines on Broadway instead of using proven traffic calming methods like four way stops along with speed bumps. We feel that lines on the street will not slow people down as much as giving them a clear runway to the restaurants.

We also believe that there are too many signs along Broadway that need to be reviewed as they are very confusing and add to parking and speeding violations.

We ask that you please take a few minutes to consider the residents views on what is best to deal with these problems as we are the ones who see what happens daily.

We feel a walk through the neighborhood pointing out some of our concerns maybe helpful to the town in implementing a more uniformed plan to reduce confusion and increase safety.

Thanks again to the commission and town for the help you are providing to the historic Longbeach Village neighborhood. Walter Parrish

Longboat Key

Lines on Broadway

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

First let me start by thanking you for all of your support for some of the dangerous situations here in the village. RPP has been a huge success in restoring some of neighborhood feel. It has given us access to our homes again.

There is still an extremely dangerous situation with the speeding on Broadway and some other side streets. As a full time resident who lives on Broadway, I see this everyday. This needs to be addressed immediately before we have a tragedy. We have been lucky so far! There have been many close calls that I have personally witnessed. I feel the current recom-

mendation of painting lines on Broadway would do nothing except create a lane for cars to speed up Broadway. As it is today there are 39 various signs on Broadway to address the speed limit, permit parking, public parking, no parking here to corner, no parking 11-5am, all of which either people ignore or are confused by. Especially the speed limit signs and the flashing speed signs. Painting lines would have people focus on the road and probably overlook all of the signage. Speed limits most of all!

I think an immediate solution to the speeding problem would be four way stop signs at all of the 3 intersections on Broadway. Including a stop line. People will respond to a stop sign and stop. Resulting in obeying the speed limit. It will give residents and visitors alike a chance to access Broadway for walking, bike riding, and to just enjoy our beautiful neighborhood.

We as a community have made several suggestions that we feel would help with safety and add to the overall aesthetics of our neighborhood. We have asked for traffic calming circles, speed bumps and stop signs. Never did we ask for the painting of Broadway. I truly feel that will diminish the overall community feel of our neighborhood. I feel it will not help with safety. It will look, and drive like a highway. Please reconsider the public works proposal for painting lines and find another solution. Stop signs are a quick and less expensive solution to this very dangerous situation. Again thank you for your service to our great island.

Robert Lopez Longboat Key

Lines on Broadway

To: Longboat Key Vice Mayor Maureen Merrigan Thank you very much! Bob Lopez Longboat Key

Lines on Broadway

To: Bob Lopez

Am hopeful the neighborhood committee and Public Works department will consider the input of the expert recommendations and then come forward with a solution that works, and ideally pleases most (although realistically, will never please all). Think your group has a meeting with Public Works upcoming, which seems to be a logical next step.

So glad the parking situation has worked out well.

Maureen Merrigan Vice Mayor Longboat Key

UG Conversion- Phase 2 area

To: Longboat Key Commission

The first electrical conversions from aerial to underground service for properties in Phase 2 will start tomorrow morning. They will be starting around 9am on Dream Island Road.

Thomas A. Harmer Town Manager Town of Longboat Key

UG Conversion- Phase 2 area

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman Isaac, if Wilco is ready to schedule the first series of residential conversions for the week of Jan. 23 I would ask them to schedule it for the morning of 1/23. Just let me know what time and I can send an FYI to the Commission. If they can't do it on the morning of the 23rd let me know. If I am available I would try to come out- but I don't want to slow down their schedule and would prefer sooner than later.

Thomas A. Harmer Town Manager Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 12





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KeyRealEstate

Bird Key, Lido Key, Longboat Key latest sales

Address	Sq. Ft.	List Price	Bed/B	ath/	Half Bath	Days On Market	Sale Price
2450 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#242	2,830	\$1,995,000	3	2	1	0	\$1,995,000
2525 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#4E	1,491	\$1,700,000	2	2	0	21	\$1,600,000
719 BAYPORT WAY Unit#719	1,370	\$760,000	2	2	0	2	\$750,000
605 SUTTON PL Unit#101	1,148	\$600,000	2	2	0	67	\$525,000
546 SPANISH DR S	1,241	\$515,000	2	2	0	0	\$500,000
1955 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#G6-306	933	\$449,000	2	2	0	2	\$454,000
159 TAFT DR Unit#E105	2,460	\$2,899,500	3	3	0	54	\$2,630,000



159 Taft Drive Unit E105



JEFF RHINELANDER

941-685-3590 • Jeff@jeffrhinelander.com

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443F John Ringling Blvd. | Sarasota, FL 34236



BIRD KEY - SARASOTA 465 E ROYAL FLAMINGO DRIVE | \$7,250,000



BIRD KEY - PRE-CONSTRUCTION 314 Bird Key Drive, Sarasota, FL • \$8,145,000



BIRD KEY - SARASOTA 526 BIRD KEY DRIVE | \$2,895,000



SIESTA KEY - SARASOTA 651 AVENIDA DEL NORTE | \$2,795,000



ISLANDS WEST #4E - LONGBOAT KEY SOLD | \$1,600,000

Friday, January 27, 2023 The News

EditorialOpinion

Megatrends, EVs, college admissions and Idaho suspect

BILL ALLEN Guest Writer allen@lbknews.com

A while ago I had mentioned a man named John Naisbit who, in the 1980s wrote a book which was titled "Megatrends" which ran on the NYTimes best seller list for almost a year. The book reported on the emergence of trends which indicated significant changes in our society and turned out to be highly prophetic.

At a party in his honor I had the opportunity to speak privately to him and asked about the process he utilized in gathering all the data.

I was really surprised when he replied that the prime method utilized to identify these trends was for he and his researcher to read newspapers from all over the country which enabled them to identify those which were "catching on."

I mention this for two reasons; one is that I read multiple newspapers, including two weeklies from Longboat Key along with three and a half other papers. The three are the NY Times, Washington Post and Wall Street Journal, The half is the Sarasota Herald which is the worst newspaper I have ever encountered.

The other reason is that I have noticed the emergence and growth of a trend which is really scary and it is that of Mental Health among the population in general and particularly younger people.

I offer samples:

- The Pentagon keeps track of the percentage of young people who attempt to enlist in the U S Army and are rejected and the reasons for rejection. It is absolutely shocking that the rejection rate is 71 percent and that mental health is among the reasons along with obesity, poor physical condition, criminal records, drug usage and inability to pass a fairly simple intelligence test. It is a fact that the Army was unable to meet their last annual quota by 20,000 and that they are lowering their rules governing mental health in order to attain their quotas for enlistment. If these problems were present in the 1940s we would have lost the war.
- The military is having to recruit from a population which is increasingly taking medication for behavioral and mental health issues.
- The mental health therapy departments at most American colleges and universities are overwhelmed with student requirements for their services as reported by investigative surveys in major newspapers. The students need to find "safe places" where they will be protected from reality.
- Have you noticed the advertisements on TV and in newspapers by therapists which is something that is relatively new?
- An advisory group called "The U S Preventative Task Force for Mental Health" has recommended that all adults under the age of 65 be screened for anxiety and depressive disorder.
- Mass murders are caused by persons with mental health problems and they have been skyrocketing over the years. The kind of people who perpetuate these acts used to be contained in treatment centers but now they are out in the street. Most of the so called "homeless people" are mentally ill and their numbers are rising constantly.
- The Center for Disease Control has issued a report on an epidemic of anxiety and depression among Adolescents citing suicide as the second leading cause of death for children 10-14.
- Therapists are so much in demand that most of them have transitioned to payment by cash only so they do not need to mess with insurance.
- There are other reports about the huge increases in mental health issues claimed by veterans filing for disability and another on the fact that parents are frequently taking their out of control children to Emergency Rooms for help.
- In the report by the Center for Disease Control there were many reasons given for these problems but high among them was parental neglect referred to as "helicopter parenting" where parents hover over their children and prevent them from dealing with adversity which all falls apart when they encounter reality and cannot deal with it.

Those of us who grew up during the Great Depression and later served our country during wartime had dealt with the adversity of the greatest economic disaster in our history and we were better off for it.

Electric vehicles

Switching topics; Our government has a huge PR Program lauding the advent of Electric Vehicles but completely ignoring any of the downsides in the transition. There are several and one of them which the government could not cover up just surfaced in a town called "Belvedere" which is located in Illinois. Stallantis, a car company which used to be Chrysler

has just announced closure of a Jeep plant there which will result in 1400 employees losing their jobs plus many others whose business is dependent on the auto manufacturing plant. The cause of this is related to the drop in Jeep sales but primarily to the startup of electric vehicles.

The fact is also that the labor content in EV manufacturing is about 30 percent less than traditional gasoline powered vehicles; I also wonder where all the 'Jiffy Lube' type places will do when there is no oil to change. There are lots of other questions including the fact that most of the materials necessary for batteries are in countries that are unstable for many reasons.

I wonder if the direct switch to EVs is maybe "a bridge too far" and we should have gone for a half step to hybrids first. Toyota is not a fan of EVs.

College admissions scandal

Moving on I offer some thoughts on the subject of a "moral compass" which I will describe as the thing inside us that tells us which direction we should choose when faced with a decision on right and wrong. My view is that there is more than sufficient evidence to conclude that we, as a nation have lost our moral compass. If you think we have not then maybe you

The evidence is overwhelming; these columns I write are about 1,000 words and I could write several of them just on this subject of moral decline but let me just describe one that is a classic example. It is called "The Varsity Blues Scheme and it goes like this:

Wealthy, unethical parents want their spoiled children to be accepted to "elite" colleges; they apply and are rejected.

A man named William Rick Singer who is a former admissions officer has an idea; he makes it known that he can help for a fee. He lines up college sports coaches who will receive a fee if they accept his clients children for athletic scholarships for sports that they are not even proficient at. This can be done because Presidents of these colleges have given coaches the authority to admit anyone they choose to with no review of academic proficiency.

Over 50 parents sign up and pay over \$25 million to Singer who pays out over \$7 million in bribes to coaches and exam proctors. The scheme implodes; many of the families are prosecuted and sentenced to jail time and Singer has been sentenced to 3.5 years in prison.

It is one thing to have an individual like Singer without a moral compass but he had no trouble finding parents, coaches and colleges who had lost theirs.

Another prominent case is that of the Republican Congressman George Santos who spun lie upon lie to get elected and no interested parties bothered to vet him, a sign of the times.

And here are our role models, Donald Trump and Joseph Biden who are the two biggest lying Presidents in my lifetime. The Washington Post has the best "fact check" feature in the media; they rated Biden on the topic of false and misleading statements during his first 100 days in office and had rated Trump equally bad on his first 100 days. If your reaction to this is that Biden is still better than Trump then you are missing the point which is that neither of these men are even in the ballpark of what we need as a leader in these times when our country is in a state of seemingly irreversible decline.

Idaho suspect

Along with others I have been following what is turning out to be one of the strangest homicide cases in history which is the killing of four college students in Moscow, Idaho. A suspect has been arrested but so far they are unable to find the motive of the alleged killer who was studying for a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice at another nearby college. From information available as of this writing they have not found a connection between the killer and his victims and are not even sure if he knew them. I have not read or heard of this anywhere but with some investigative experience in my background I offer the following possibilities:

According to fellow students and professors the alleged killer, Brian Kohberger was obsessed with the psychology of criminals, particularly serial killers and the degree of his obsession was beyond normal. He was a 'loner' and not well liked by classmates. Considering all the information available causes me to wonder if this might be the type of crime committed by two men who were students in 1924 and thought they were so smart that they could commit the 'perfect crime" and not be caught. They lured a young man, Bobby Franks, to an out of the mainstream location and killed him. The killers were named Loeb and Leopold and in their trial they were represented by Clarence Darrow whose defense saved them from execution but resulted in lifetime sentences. So much for the perfect crime.

I am just now reading a new report on mental health issues in this country conducted by the Office of Economic Cooperation and Development and will report on it next week along with some fresh data on the huge increase in people pulling their kids out of Public Schools in

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always a place to park the bike!



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The News Friday, January 27, 2023 Page 10

On Patrol



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

Jan. 20

Animal complaint

7:19 p.m.

Officer Montfort while on patrol in the 7000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive, discovered an injured hawk on the shoulder of the roadway. Officer Montfort approached the bird and it did not fly away. The bird appeared to have a broken wing and was nearing the roadway. Officer Montfort was able to don extrication globes and secure the bird with a rescue blanket. Officer Montfort contacted communications who dispatched Officer Straight of the Bradenton Beach Police Department. Officer Straight's family owns an animal sanctuary on Avenue B in Bradenton Beach. The bird was transferred to Officer Straight for further treatment. Case clear.



to notify the Longboat Key Police Department while the violation is occurring. Officer Martinez provided the complainant with a case number. Nothing further.

Citizen assist

2:41 p.m.

Officer Miklos responded to Harbor Cove Circle in reference to an abandoned Bentley Pontoon boat docked at the private dock behind the address. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos came into contact with Construction Superintendent who advised the boat appeared approximately two weeks ago and has no visible registration number. The construction superintendent advised the property owner, and they did

not know who owned the boat. Officer Martinson spoke with Marine Officer Connors who advised the location of the hull number. While waiting for teletype to respond with the results, The hull number was searched via teletype with negative results. While waiting for teletype to respond with the results, the construction superintendent advised the owner of the boat was a friend of his and allowed to dock at the location. Nothing further.

Jan. 21

Noise

7:29 a.m.

Officer Tillman responded to Bayview Drive for a noise ordinance violation. Upon arrival, Officer Tillman met with the complainant who stated that he had a permit to trim the mangroves. Officer Tillman advised the man of the Town's noise ordinance. The man said he would continue work after 8 a.m. Case clear.

Welfare check

2:02 p.m.

Officer Butler responded to Longboat Club Drive for a welfare check. Upon arrival, Officer Butler met with staff who gave them access to the apartment as no one was home. When departing the elevator, the complainant appeared and stated she was waiting in another location to be picked up. Welfare check was completed, and both parties united and no medical assistance was required. Case clear.

Jan. 22

Traffic hazard

Officer Tillman responded to Putter Lane for a traffic hazard. There was construction material on the edge of the roadway. The complainant advised this could be a traffic hazard at night on the cul-de-sac. Officers responded and later put orange cones near the obstruction. Case clear.

Jan. 23 Lost property

11:44 a.m.

Officer Zunz met with the complainant at the lobby of the Police Department. The complainant wanted assistance with filing a lost property report. On Jan. 11 the complainant advised that the Longboat Key resident, for whom he holds Power of Attorney over, lost her purse that contained her Florida Driver's License, her vehicle insurance card, and the only key to her 2009 Toyota Corolla. The complainant presented his Power of Attorney document, which Officer Zunz scanned in and attached to the case file. The complainant is unsure when she last had possession of her purse, but it was noted as missing on Jan. 11. Nothing further.

Noise

1:30 p.m.

Officer Martinez responded to Dream Island Road in regard to a noise complaint. Upon arrival, Officer Martinez contacted the complainant who stated that the neighboring property next to the condominium was playing loud music and disturbing the neighbors and herself. She advised that this was the third time she filed a complaint in regard to the same property for a noise complaint. The complainant also provided Officer Martinez with audio and video recordings of the property in regard to the noise complaint. Upon Officer Martinez's arrival on scene and during his encounter with the complainant, he did not hear or witness any noise disturbance. Officer Martinez advised the complainant if the noise disturbance happens again, tell them before they towed the vehicle. Case clear.

Fire

Jan. 24

Officer Puccio responded to Bayview Drive in reference to a fire assist call involving a possible gas line leak. Upon arrival, Longboat Key Fire and Sarasota County Fire were on scene addressing the situation and advised it was a propane tank leak issue where the excess was going to be burned off. They requested officers remained on scene until the situation was resolved. Sarasota Sheriff's Office dispatch advised that the propane truck was en route from Myakka.

Jan. 25 Noise

Officer Butler responded to Longview Drive to a noise complaint. Upon arrival, Officer Butler observed construction operation violating the noise ordinance. The officer issued a warning to him and advised him of the noise ordinance. Case clear.

Jan. 26 Lost property

Officer Butler responded to the 6700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in regard to lost property. Upon arrival, Officer Butler met with the complainant who stated that around Jan. 5, at 5 p.m., he had returned to his temporary residence after fishing. He was preparing his fish with a custom filet knife and accidentally left it on the table in a public park. When he returned the next day it was gone. The knife is described as a custom filet silver knife with a wood handle. On the blade itself was engraved his name in script. Case clear.

Boat

2:29 p.m.

Officer Connors responded to Greer Island in reference for a sailboat run aground. Prior to Officer Connors' arrival, it was reported no injuries and the captain was awaiting commercial assistance. No further police assistance was needed. Case clear.

Information report

Officer Tillman responded to the 4700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of a stolen Car. Upon arrival, Officer Tillman spoke with the complainant who stated that her Budget Rental Car was stolen. Officers observed drag marks coming from the parking space that were evidence of the vehicle possible being towed from the location. A vigilant check showed the vehicle on the back of a wrecker at Publix and the south side camera leaving the island at 4:52 p.m. The complainant stated that they called Budget rental yesterday due to car problems and Budget was going to replace the vehicle. The complainant stated that Budget Rental did not



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Friday, January 27, 2023 The News Page 12

Editor etters

Letters, from page 6

Status of LBK's Withdrawal from Manatee

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Penny Gold

Hi Penny. This is Roy's daughter. I am reaching out to you today in hopes you can give me an update (or summary) of where LBK is in moving to consolidate into Sarasota.

I am sure you have seen what they are threatening us with on AMI. Because of that, I started a grassroots group to try to fight with a very loud voice. (https://www.facebook.com/groups/ saveamicities/) They keep wanting to know why LBK is being left alone, and of course it's because you are leaving The County most likely. I know a vote happened that overwhelmingly showed favor to consolidate in Sarasota vs Manatee, but

since Dad passed away, I have lost track of how this is progressing. There are a lot of questions about why they are leaving you alone, so I'd like to double check I have facts straight before answering anything further than the fact LBK will likely not be a part of Manatee County for much longer.

I hope all is well with you and Paul. We are now just getting the apartment in M2 back together, after it was destroyed by yet another fire sprinkler malfunction last February. I know Mom has said she wants to come back at some point. Thank you for any help/info you can

Laurel Nevans Longboat Key

Status of LBK's Withdrawal from Manatee

To: Laurel Nevans

Good to hear from you. Yes, I have read about the issue and hope to learn more at the upcoming MPO meeting this week. Perhaps we can talk afterward.

Penny Gold

Commissioner, Longboat Key

County Library Agreement

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Granger

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend Monday's workshop. Accordingly, I would appreciate your reading my brief comments when appropriate during the meeting: "The proposed agreement, offers no substantive role for the Town with respect to the proposed County Library building, with the exception of providing for a 50 year lease on the Town Center property. The agreement specifically provides that the county will have the sole authority , with no definitive role for the Town, to conduct the design and construction of the building, or for any of the operations, management and programing activities. It appears to contemplate a typical stand- alone county library facility for Longboat Key. This would be a far cry from an anticipated partnership to conduct ACE activities in a Town Center facility. I recommend that the Commission negotiate with the County for a substantial role for the Town for each of those specified features. However, if that's not feasible at this stage with the county, I urge that the Commission continue to strive for a public/ private agreement for a second building for the contemplated ACE activities; as outlined in the Exhibit 1 former negotiations with Ringling.

Jack Daly

Longboat Key



County Library Agreement

To: Longboat Key Commission

A request was received from a Commissioner to obtain Exhibit 1, referenced in an e-mal from Mr. Jack Daly that was forwarded to you earlier this date. That e-mail is shown below.

The exhibit was referenced as part of the previous consideration of the ACE facility at the Town Center proposed by Ringling.

Mr. Daly suggested that a proposed contract with Sarasota County include consideration of the items in Exhibit 1 that were previously proposed. The entire agenda packet and Exhibit 1 are attached.

Trish Shinkle

Town Clerk, Longboat Key

Sarasota County Library

To: Longboat Key Commission

During my individual briefings with Commissioners last week we discussed the County's Principles of Agreement statements for the proposed library. There was a question about why this document doesn't clearly articulate the vision of the Town for the Town Center and the facilities to be developed. I shared that feedback with the County Administrator on Friday. The County has used this format for other initiatives/projects and doesn't include that type of language- it tends to be more mechanical on how the relationship would work at a high level. There are formal agreements anticipated as part of next steps including a formal land lease and other interlocal agreements that may associated with additional enhancement to the project that may be funded by others.

The County Administrator understood the feedback and confirmed his view that this Library would be closely planned to help meet the Town's vision for the Town Center and they were excited about how this would integrate into the Town Center Green.

I mentioned to him that I was going to prepare an expectations statement for the Commission to consider today that could be shared back with the County. He also offered to do a join press release with the Town announcing the plans to move forward with the design and how this project fits into the Town's plans and goals for the Town Center. I told him we would be happy to help prepare a joint press release.

I have attached a draft expectations statement that I will share with the Commission this afternoon at the meeting.

Thomas A. Harmer

Town Manager. Longboat Key

Sarasota County Library

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Tom Harmer

I think this correctly describes the Town's point of view, consistent with former Commission Daly's recent comments. I hope the County is amenable. Let's talk after today's meeting.

Ken Schneier

Mayor, Longboat Key

Letter to the Editor

To: Editor

Congratulations to Deborah Murphy, Commissioner-Elect of District 5. Hopefully our excellent previous Commissioner, Maureen Merrigan, has updated her regarding the Ohana seawall issue. Voices may have quieted down of late, but those of us who are impacted by the lack of full access to the beach are still here and continue to explore our options.

The town of Longboat Key fell short on permitting the seawall to be rebuilt without knowledge that the new owners planned to prohibit walkers over it, thereby constricting residents' beach walks and making difficult the work of turtle patrols, marine clean-ups, etc. Previous owners had no objections to walkers who had access over it for more than 40 years. The local police used excessive force in their arrests in two separate incidents of unarmed men walking over it in their swim trunks when clearly a stern admonition would have been more than suf-

We want our uninterrupted beach back and are not going away. Any efforts made to this end by Ms. Murphy and others will be very much appreciated.

Patricia DeChiara

Longboat Key

Investment Advisory / Finance Committee Meeting

Please find the agenda packet attached for the Investment Advisory/Finance Committee on Friday Jan 27 at 1 pm.

Susan L Smith

Finance Director, Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 14



WineTimes



A Sense of Place and Time

We prefer wines anchored to place and time to mass market wines doctored to match up to brand buyers' expectations

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

The phrase "Novitiate de los Gatos Black Muscat" takes us back in time to Los Gatos California, where a novitiate housed seminary students ("novices"). The Novitiate de los Gatos became well known in 1920 during prohibition as a producer of sacramental wines under a Volstead Act religious exemption. The Muscat Hamburg Black Muscat fortified wine, more deep orange-red in color than black, gained fame as a dessert wine in California wine competi-

tions. On the same site as the the novitiate, in the foothills of the big cats' home range in the Santa Cruz mountains, the Testarossa Winery 2014 'Br. Korte Cuvee' Black Muscat (\$28) continues the legacy.

A sense of place and time imbues local wines with a special appeal. Whether or not we have visited that place, or even that part of the world, we take in the aroma of the briny air and taste the terroir, all in a glass of wine.

At times we enjoy a wine that we had not tasted before, and we discover more about its origins. During a quick walk through the wine section of a Trader Joe's, we noticed a bottle with an odd shape. A young woman recommended the wine. The label noted its origin in Puglia, the heel of the Italian boot. Turns out to be a single-varietal bottling of a traditional blending grape, the 2021 Ruggero di Bardo Susumaniello (\$11), a special label import. We have never heard of the

boot. Turns out to be a single-varietal bottling of a traditional blending grape, the 2021 Ruggero di Bardo Susumaniello (\$11), a special label import. We have never heard of the Susumaniello (sue-sue-man-yell-o) grape; it grows only in the Province of Brindisi, facing Albania from across the Adriatic Sea. The grape's heavy clusters of thick skinned and dark fruit don't develop fully as wine grape until the vine reaches the ten year mark; then, it produces fruit worthy of fine wine. Its name brings up images of little black donkeys weighted down

with clusters of grapes as they make their way down the slopes to the vineyard. The grape produces juice comparable in deep color and black fruit flavors to the best of Malbec from Bordeaux or Mourvèdre from the Rhône Valley of France.

Prices of estate wines from grapes grown in one location tend to increase as the word gets out about these unique wines. A local wine in California has grown in stature to a level that has elevated it from a local wine to a cult classic. The 2020 Cline Cellars Small Berry Mourvèdre (\$60) from the Brig Break Vineyard in Contra Costa County has a deep and dark texture that will endure for a decade or more. A Cline representative turned us onto this delectable estate

wine. It was in short supply then at a low price and remains in short supply now at a high

price. How many other local wines at \$10 price levels are waiting to be discovered and elevated



Province of Brindisi

to cult wine status?

Each locale has conditions that change with the weather. A precious few vintages have close to ideal growing conditions for a grape varieties; others have defects that winemakers try to remedy. Local wines offer a slice of the history of a place. We prefer wines anchored to place and time to mass market wines doctored to match up to brand buyers' expectations. When a Cabernet Sauvignon and a Pinot Noir from the same brand begin to taste much the same from one vintage to the next, its buyers lose that sense of place and time.

S. W. Hermansen has used his expertise in econometrics, data science and epidemiology to help develop research databases for the Pentagon, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Agriculture, and Health Resources and Services. He has visited premier vineyards and taste wines from major appellations in California, Oregon, New York State, and internationally from Tuscany and the Piedmont in Italy, the Ribera del Duero in Spain, the Barossa Valley and McLaren Vale in Australia, and the Otego Valley in New Zealand. Currently he splits time between residences in Chevy Chase, Maryland and St. Armand's Circle in Florida.

Rich Hermansen selected has first wine list for a restaurant shortly after graduating from college with a degree in Mathematics. He has extensive service and management experience in the food and wine industry. Family and friends rate him as their favorite chef, bartender, and wine steward. He lives in Severna Park, Maryland.

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EditorLetters



Letters, from page 12 **Proposal/Concept for Speeding Reduction on Broadway**

To: Longboat Key Commission

Heartfelt thanks for your service to our community, and at the moment especially for your interest in eliminating the constant, and often life-threatening, speeding on Broadway. (This life-threatening speeding has become even more alarming as more and more children move into the Village, many often active on their bikes, scooters and on foot on or across Broadway. We ourselves recently witnessed a near fatality between a teen on a scooter and a speeder on

In this regard, we understand that the Town may be considering painting white and yellow lines on Broadway.

Please do not do this. Again, for emphasis, please do not

Mere common sense dictates - regardless of what any "expert study" may have suggested to the contrary -- that white and yellow lines on Broadway will suggest to these irresponsible speeders (who already ignore fixed and flashing speed limit signs directly in their field on view on Broadway) that Broadway is not a quiet residential street where children play and where adults and the elderly walk, bike and drive, but rather is a public highway thoroughfare where speed limits are "optional,"" in the eye of the beholder," or just "suggestions" for motorists who don't have the professional driver skillset to pilot their vehicles down Broadway like road course racers on a Sunday afternoon.

In addition, the white lines will – again, as clearly dictated by common sense - recreate the parking-along-the-curbs problem that the Town just recently eliminated when it employed taxpayer dollars to remove the prior white lines.

Finally, as I am sure each of you would not want painted yellow and white lines on your unpainted residential asphalt street (if that is the type of street you live on) for aesthetic reasons, we do not either.

We cannot possibly thank you enough for addressing the inevitable speeding catastrophe on Broadway - it is only a matter of time before something terrible happens - but please address it with something that will work (4-way stops signs at each intersection, speed humps, small traffic circles at each intersection, a combination of all of those, etc.), not with something that not only will make the speeding (and the likelihood of death or injury) worse, but also will re-cause the very parking problems you previously resolved, along with aesthetic damage to our neighborhood.

Thanks again for your public service and your attention to this problem, and please act on this promptly before irreversible damage is done.

Longboat Rey Rews

Sarasota City Rews

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Henry and Donna Rae Smith Longboat Key

Danger at the new Fruitville Roundabout

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Please view the attached photos of the new Fruitville/ Tamiami Trail roundabout, in particular the turn from Northbound US 41 onto Fruitville going East. This is our evacuation route, folks! And for City Island, Lido Key, Bird Key, and St. Armand's!

You will notice that traffic is reduced from 2 lanes on the Northbound Trail to only one lane as you make the turn onto

There is no provision or possibility to increase the number of lanes turning Eastbound onto Fruitville. I had no idea this would happen until I saw it. This dangerous bottleneck will wreak havoc on evacuation traffic when an emergency occurs.

It must be dealt with before a disaster happens!

Jim Whitman

Longboat Key

2023 LBK Citizen Satisfaction Survey

To: Pat Watral

Ah, if only it were true that the Survey isn't "just for show." Unfortunately, the Town Commission has continued to ignore citizen input from last year's survey. Among other things,

townspeople stated that they have little interest in having theatrical events staged on the island, in view of the many such events currently staged by professional troupes on the mainland.

Our commissioners instead continue to advocate for facilities to be built on the current open space at our Town Center, such as a "Black Box Theater."

The town's Planning and Zoning Board is holding a meeting tomorrow morning to review proposed ordinances to implement "Phase 3" of the Town Center project. This would include construction of 2 large buildings, removing those beautiful 100-year-old live oak trees, and taking up a third of the entire site!

This Planning and Zoning Board meeting is a vital opportunity for citizens to appear and contribute their input into this massive project, which would have significant construction and ongoing maintenance costs.

But I betcha never heard about this meeting; the announcement about it appeared in the newspaper only last Thursday!

If you have an interest in attending, the meeting is at the Town Hall at 9:15 a.m. Thanks for listening.

Jim Whitman Longboat Key

KeyCrossword

Dr. Mericle Worker at Fairview Lakes Medical Center by George Barany and Friends

ACROSS

- 1. Grad sch. goal
- 4. Chemist's workplace
- 7. Indians, on the
- scoreboard 10. The front halves of 31-, 45-, and 61-
- Across 14. Fruit used to flavor
- liqueur it or lose it!
- _ graphics
- 17. Surname of all three Giants who made outs against the 71-Down on 9/10/63 in the top of the 8th inning
- 18. Swimming area
- To the
- degree
- 20. Predate 22. She made her debut on May 14,
- 25. Every, in an Rx (letters on a telephone "6", but in a different order)
- 26. Genetic stuff
- 27. Hawaiian hellos or goodbyes 31. 22-Across made
- them grand 36. Net destination
- _ Peak" (Pierce Brosnan film)
- down a bunt 39. Bullets, etc.
- 40. John Denver's "Thank God Country Boy"
- 41. Bit the pullet? 43. Two-time Super Bowl M.V.P.
- Manning 44. "Halt!" to a salt
- 45. 22-Across changed their lives, ap-parent-ly
- 49. Long hikes
- 51. Word said after "no" or "yes" 52. Hearst kidnap grp.
- 53. Charged atom
- 56. Put up, as a picture

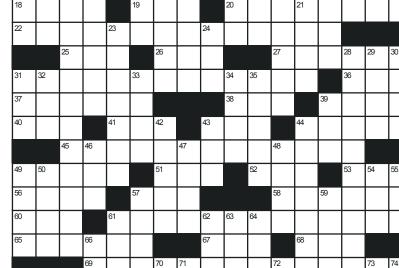
- 57. Breast-58. Playground
- comeback 60. Pigskin pickoff:
- Abbr. 61. 22-Across made
- them grand 65. Lisa, to the second name of 45-Across (see also 13-Down)
- 68. Match a bet in
- poker 69. Arithmetical statement
- 75. Beginning of adulthood
- declaration
- (part of a palindrome)
- 80. One of seven in the Big Dipper -com
- math, or moon
- 84. The back halves of 31-, 45-, and
- 85. Sounds of hesitation
- 87. Falcon

DOWN

- 1. Trudge 2. Dodge's ram,
- 3. Set the boundaries of
- 5. To the rear (of a boat)
- 7. "Red Lobster"
- 8. 11-Down's better half
- 10. Start of something

- . "Labor" day (May 14, 2013): Abbr.
- involving 22- and 45-Across
- 78. Wedding
- 79. "Able was
- 82. Word with born,
- 83. It was used to run an Apple II
- 61-Across

- Mack's bulldog,
- 4. Respiratory organ
- 6. To the rear (of a person)
- specialty
- 9. Where a river meets the sea



- 11. Well-meaning character in many a ioke told in the Upper Midwest
- 12. Up-to-date 13. First name of 65-Across to the first name in 31-
- Across 14. Health resort
- 21. Slippery like a fish 23. Closes tight 24. Droop in the
- 28. Sympathetic kind of newspaper story

middle

- 29. Guns, etc. 30. Opening for a coin
- 31. 401, in Roman numerals 32. "Green Eggs and
- spumante (wine) 34. Jazz's Fitzgerald

- 35. April showers 39. Park in N.Y.C., e.g.
- 42. Pluralizers 43. Mr. Potato Head piece
- 44. A skilled counter. from ancient times
- 46. Ticker test 47. Pro or con, in a debate
- 48. 554, in Roman numerals 49. "Analyze (1999 Robert De
- Niro film) 50. Punjab princess 54. Bear, in
- Barcelona 55. Hide-hair connector
- 57. Prohibited 59. Like the best straight, in poker
- 61. Authentic 62. Loss leader?

- 63. Zapping in the microwave 64. One of the
- Ramones 66. Ski tows 70. Bela Lugosi's "Son of
- Frankenstein" role 71. Moisés 17-Across closed out his
- career with them 72. Scattered
- 73. God of love 74. Some M.I.T. grads 75. "Acid" used in
- some trips 76. May 8, 2013, to
- 22-Across 77. Flit (about)

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The News Page 16 Friday, January 27, 2023

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