



Longboat Key News

January 24, 2025

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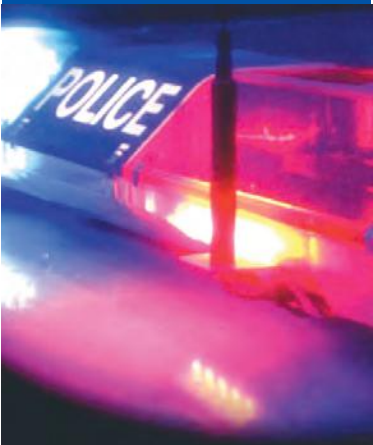
Stress and what it does the body ...page 13



The allure of a wine bar ...page 8



Bird Key clears \$3.5 million ...page 12



Slicked-back and suspicious ...page 10

Longboat beach walkers hope property owner allows passage

Longboat beach walkers are hoping they can once again traverse the 10-mile shoreline and not be blocked at the Ohana Estate.

STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
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Longboat beach walkers are hoping they can once again traverse the 10-mile shoreline and not be blocked at the Ohana Estate.

At a Longboat Key Town Commission Workshop, in which beach erosion during the storm was discussed, Mayor Ken Schneier said, “The issue of the walk-ability of the beach is surfacing.”

He expanded by saying that the Town Commission wrangled with the issue repeatedly in an effort to keep an unimpeded walk-able shoreline intact. The Ohana Estate, located near Cannon’s Marina located mid-key, protrudes like a sea walled pimple into the Gulf of Mexico. The seawall follows the outside of the erosion control line and is on private property. The erosion control line juts out as an anomaly and the entire protrusion is subject to intense erosion. The town has struggled to keep sand on either side of the seawall and the seawall has collapsed or been damaged numerous times over the last 40 years and has been rebuilt each time slightly closer to the shore.

But it wasn’t until about five years ago when the property, which for decades was known as the Yonkers Estate, was rebuilt and marketed as the Ohana Estate. The Polynesian-inspired property was sold for more than \$10 million and the most recent owners posted ‘No trespassing’ signs, ‘Vicious



Dog’ warning signs as well as signs stating that the area was being video taped.

When beach walkers who had for years crossed the Yonkers property, encountered the signs, numerous conflicts ensued. Some residents, pushed the town to investigate and believed that the continuous use created a de facto easement. Other residents said that the seawall in fact had been expanded and that the owners had received some special permissions.

See Beach, page 2

Firefighters face two-alarm fire at St. Armands

The call for the fire was reported at 11:41 a.m. last Thursday near the 300 block of John Ringling Blvd. No injuries were reported Sarasota Police officials shared in a Facebook post. Sarasota County officials said there’s no information about what caused the fire, which will likely need to come from the State Fire Marshals office.

Officials asked residents to avoid St. Armands Circle and follow detours provided by officers. Cars were diverted at N. Washington Drive and N. Adams Drive.



Condo towers to replace 1950s buildings at Golden Gate

The Pier 550 condominiums on the east side of Golden Gate will be razed to make way for Amara, a two-tower, 54-unit project, which on Jan. 8 received unanimous approval from the Sarasota Planning Board. The eight-story buildings will replace the 51 low-rise condominiums built between 1948 and 1953 along a 2.26-acre stretch on Golden Gate Point.

Naples-based Ronto Group completed the acquisition of the properties in May, and their prior owners vacated by September. The site is now surrounded by a construction fence and demolition has begun.

Amara will join construction of three other projects on the 22-acre peninsula jutting into Sarasota Bay just west of the Ringling Bridge. Ronto Group is currently building The Owen, another condo tower, on the south end of Golden Gate Point.

The plan includes a combination of a common garage, private garage and surface parking spaces for a total of 115. There are two lobby entrances from the parking level that lead into the respective north and south tower lobbies.

An amenities center will be on the second floor of the north building, and between the buildings is a common pool and deck space. The bay side of the property will have a limited number of boats docks for unit owners.

Red tide fading off Sarasota, Manatee counties

Red tide is receding in the waters off Sarasota County. For the first time in weeks, only background levels of the toxin were detected. That follows several weeks where medium and high concentrations were found on the county’s beaches. In Manatee County, only very low amounts were found at Anna Maria Island and Longboat Pass Boat Ramp. Medium concentrations were reported on the Sunshine Skyway south fishing pier and in the mouth of Tampa Bay. In Pinellas County, low amounts persist in Bayboro Harbor, south of downtown St. Petersburg. Fish kills and respiratory irritation associated with red tide were reported during the past week off Sarasota County.

Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall is Open Again

The Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall has officially reopened its doors following the catastrophic impact of Hurricane Milton. The iconic venue, affectionately nicknamed the “Purple Cow” for its unique architectural design and lavender hue, was severely damaged during the storm. Hurricane caused extensive structural damage, including a compromised roof, flooding in its orchestra pit, and destruction to its state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems.

“The reopening of the Van Wezel is a testament to the resilience and commitment of this community,” said Mary Bensel, the hall’s executive director. “We’ve preserved a vital cultural institution that has been entertaining and inspiring Sarasota for over 50 years.”

Beach, from page 1

The issue came to a head when one beach walker and the property owners got into an altercation that turned physical with a thrown and damaged cell phone, threats and an arrest.

So when Mayor Ken Schneier said there may be a resolution, he said it was based on the fact that the property had sold recently and all the signs had come down and people were walking over the property without issue. The Mayor said that the new owners of the Ohana have not been reachable.

“The people crossing say they are doing so with the utmost respect,” said Schneier who suggested that if the new Ohana owners come into Town Hall to talk about a permit for a seawall, “We should raise the issue of crossing the property.”

Town Attorney Maggie Mooney, who went to great lengths in 2022 to make clear that the property is private and the public has no vested right to enter the property.

She also opined that the Town was obligated to enforce the rights of the owners to guard against trespass.

“We are obligated to err on the side of recognizing property rights,” said Mooney at last week’s meeting.

Commissioner Debra Williams was clear in her view, “I know we all want to walk the beach but we need to put ourselves in their position. Can I walk through your property? No, I can’t and I shouldn’t ask to do so.”

Commissioner Sarah Karon, a sea turtle advocate rhetorically asked whether,” Maybe they at the Ohana would allow our turtle watch folks to have access.”

The Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall first opened in 1970, designed by the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation. With its unique seashell-inspired structure, the hall has become a symbol of Sarasota’s vibrant arts scene, hosting world-class performances ranging from Broadway musicals to symphony orchestras, ballet, and comedy acts. Over the decades, it has earned a reputation as one of the Gulf Coast’s premier cultural destinations.

The celebratory reopening gala, scheduled for later this month, will feature a special performance of Moulin Rouge! The Musical.

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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.

Prior Uninterrupted Beach Access Discussions

To: Longboat Key Town Commission
As we discussed at Tuesday’s Workshop, I am attaching and distributing the 2021-22 meeting and workshop materials (Powerpoint, Memos and meeting minutes) that reflect the Town Commission’s December 2021 and January 2022 discussions on the subject of uninterrupted beach access in front of several of the gulf fronting properties on the North End. For those of you who were not on the Town Commission at that time, I am happy to discuss in greater details these materials and the alternatives considered. Please let me know if you would like to schedule a one on one call or meeting to discuss.
Maggie D. Mooney
Town Attorney
Town of Longboat Key

Boat lift ordinance

To: Planning and Zoning Board Member Jay Plager
Please consider this a renewed reminder and request to use your Town issued email address to conduct all Town related business. Using the Town issued email account by the members of the Town’s advisory boards (including the PZB members) and Town Commission ensures that all emails relating to Town business are retained on the Town’s servers and no one’s personal email accounts become subject to Florida’s Public Records laws. Attached is a previously circulated Memorandum dated June 27, 2024 on this subject. Your ongoing observance of these guidelines is requested and appreciated. If you have any questions about the attached Memorandum or the Sunshine and Public Records laws please let me know and we can schedule an in person meeting to discuss the laws.
Maggie D. Mooney
Town Attorney
Town of Longboat Key

Boat lift ordinance

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin
Further on our brief discussion about the LBK boatlift issue. I voted no on the proposal before the P&Z Board on Friday, in part because of the initial staff confusion over exactly what the proposed ordinance would say, and the effort by the staff and the Board to re-write it on the fly during the meeting. (I was the only no vote.) Here’s what I now understand to be where we are:
First, since many boatlifts are attached to docks which are attached to seawalls, we have to go there first. The standard in LBK for measuring the maximum allowed height of permitted seawalls is the old NAVD 1988 standard (the theoretical sea level). The standard we use for docks and boatlifts however is different - it is the Mean High Water Line (MHWL), an empirically-determinable and widely used standard for measuring water levels. Here our water gets a bit murky - the operative difference between NAVD and MHWL as a standard is about 1 1/2 feet - the MHWL is 1 1/2 ft. above the comparable NAVD line, so for example a dock built to the height of its adjacent seawall cap that is at say 4.5 ft. NAVD is actually at about 3 ft. MHWL. (For consistency and simplification we need to amend the standard for seawalls to be the same universal standard as docks and boatlifts - MHWL - but that is a separate issue.)
For some time the maximum permissible height for a seawall was set at 4.5 ft. NAVD - the Commission recently changed it to 6 ft. Current rules on dock heights differentiate between docks attached to seawalls and those without seawalls - dock heights when attached to a seawall

are the height of the seawall cap; when not attached, 5 ft. above MHWL. I will focus my remarks on docks with seawalls since that is what many canal properties with boatlifts have.
Finally to the boatlift issue - boatlifts as of now can be up to 5 ft. above the dock (or the top of the associated seawall cap). Thus, as a practical matter a homeowner on a canal, such as we have here at CCS, can build a new seawall 3 ft. high (or under the recent change 4.5 ft high) above MHWL, attach a dock at that height, and then add a boatlift structure (supported by pilings) that goes up an additional five feet. The net effect is that a homeowner now can have a structure including a seawall, a dock, and a boatlift together that reach some 9.5 ft. above the water at MHWL in the adjacent canal. Of course, an actual boat sitting on the boat lift’s bunks at maximum height extension (assuming the bunks - the horizontal beams on which the boat sits - of the lift are about three feet below the top of the lift) can be anywhere from 10 to 25 or more feet higher, depending on the size and design of the boat and its superstructure.
(As an aside, my recent renovation of my waterfront involved a new seawall at the 4.5 ft. NAVD level (the earlier rule) with an adjacent dock at the same level, and a boatlift five feet higher - a non-crossbeam lift. My total height then is 8 feet MHWL. I found that quite satisfactory for Helene and Milton and leaves the sightlines largely unobjectionable under normal weather conditions when the boat often sits a bit lower, though it is true that I secure my boat to the lift with heavy straps when needed. My next door neighbor who did not even bother to tie her boat with rope had her boat blown half off her lift in the hurricanes.)

The P&Z Board proposal is for one rule that mandates the maximum allowable height of the pilings on which any boatlift is supported will be eleven feet above MHWL, but it excludes from the rule the crossbeams that the older design lifts use and their motors. The crossbeams, about one foot in height, typically are placed at the top of the pilings, and the motors are on top of the crossbeams, all of which add another two or so feet to the structure. If my math is correct, essentially we are adding a foot and a half of piling and another 2 +/- mechanical structure to the permitted boatlift installation.
My reaction is that this is not enough to make a dramatic difference in the issue of unsecured boats coming off their lifts from the surge of water and wind in a major hurricane, even assuming that is a real problem when boats are properly secured to their lifts. Nor does any study suggest that we are threatened by such great sea rise in the next period of years that it is necessary to make this adjustment now. I favored clarifying a more incremental height limitation closer to the status quo, perhaps more like an even 10 feet, and importantly including all the mechanical parts of the lift since they are the ugly parts of the project. In truth, however, the whole issue may not be significant enough to fall on one’s sword over...I doubt that the excited proponents appreciate how little a change this is, and it seems primarily of benefit to the dock/lift builders and piling people.
PS I am copying this to Ken as he was at a lecture that we both attended recently on ways to mitigate flood damages from storms and we had spoke about it briefly, and a copy to Allen to advise of any misstatements I may have made.
Jay Plager
Member Planning and Zoning Board
Town of Longboat Key

Longboat Key Vacation Rentals-Urgent

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Board Director Allen Parsons
See Letters, page 12

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KeyNature

When morning takes flight on Leffis Key

MICHAEL GIVANT
Contributing Columnist
givant@lbknews.com

There are some mornings I want birding to be a gentle spiritual activity. Recently, a morning at the Bay Walk on Leffis Key was just that. Walking over the Longboat Pass Bridge to Anna Maria Island, there's a highflying osprey moving on a straight line. It's wings methodically go up and down as if on ball bearings. The base of the wing is cupped where it's joined to the bird's body, creating the look of a parachute. The moment is gentle.

At Leffis Key the first overlook has a female belted kingfisher perched high on a branch, overlooking the low tide. It has an overly large head whose feathers stick up like "combs" and a thick dagger-like bill. The dark blue-gray body tapers to a tiny tail, and there's a wide swath of white around the neck that's brilliant in the morning sunlight. Suddenly the bird rotates its wings like propeller blades while turning around on the branch. Those wings rotate very fast



Palm warblers forage on the ground much more than other warblers.

when birds fly off. I never knew they did when the kingfisher turned on a perch.

Coming back onto the path there is a palm warbler in the dirt. The tiny brown bird actually looks smaller than its five and a half inches. With the naked eye I can see its yellowish rump and belly and the light eye bar. The bird is pecking at a stalk, and I can only wonder at what it's eating. It's rare for any warbler to stand still like this one is doing.

At the far end of a tidal pool, looking like a bright, white metal statue, is a great egret. It is bent over, neck tightly crooked, yellow bill inches from the water on which the bird's eyes are riveted, searching for prey. A male kingfisher flies at my approach and goes to a far mangrove. This is kingfisher-like behavior. There are three turkey vultures perching on a tree and another on a nearby one. A few are flying low over the tidal pool. The pewter-colored design on their under wings and their tiny red heads get my attention. These large, almost prehistoric looking birds give the scene an adventure movie look.

There are times in birding when a series of events happens so quickly that the mind can only be sure of what actually happened. This is one of those moments. The kingfisher has flown to the tree where a lone turkey vulture has been perched. That vulture is now in the air. Did the kingfisher chase it or did the smaller bird go there when the vulture flew? I'm not sure that I even saw what happened. But I'm sure of what I'm seeing now. The kingfisher is off the branch and flying hard in a semicircle. In back and off to the side is the displaced vulture, which is gliding. Is this a territorial dispute?

The kingfisher breaks off flying over the tops of the mangroves and out of sight. The turkey



Turkey vultures nest in caves, hollow trees or thickets. Each year it generally raises two chicks.

vulture continues back to where the others are perched. This interaction is the second thing I've never before seen with kingfishers. It seems like a territorial dispute but I'll never know, as the birds won't talk. However my wife will enjoy hearing about both kingfishers, as they are her favorite bird. Below in the water, the egret is still hunting, having ignored the commotion.

Out on another overlook there are a few cormorants diving in Sarasota Bay. Out of the corner of my eye I see something. In the water's glare are the smallish heads of two ducks. Inwardly I groan, as ducks aren't my strong suit. But when I get my binoculars on these two, I smile. They are red-breasted mergansers here in February and March, sometimes in large numbers. They turn the other way, swimming in a synchronized fashion, dive, come up and continue on the slightly wind-blown water's surface. These ducks have serrated edges on their long, thin bills and can reach 80 mph in flight. Sitting down I enjoy the warmth of the sun on my face and simultaneously, the cool breeze.

Walking back over the bridge, the sky has become a mass of small pebbly clouds eliminating almost all traces of blue. There are a number of the bulky silhouettes of brown pelicans floating in the green Gulf waters. This is the poster bird of the Gulf oil spill whose picture was often in the media caked with bronze-colored oil. Off in the distance coming hard is a red and gray boat. The pellys are in no hurry to escape the boat's noise, but they fly at its approach. When the boat slows, there's something oddly beautiful about its wide-mouthed bow and the thin trailing lines of its wake.

In the water by the dock on the bridge's bay side is a lithe white heron. Could this be the same immature little blue heron that I saw in this same spot two or three weeks ago? In its immature phase, the bird is confusingly white. Focusing my binoculars on the lithe bird I see the pale greenish legs, the almost translucent base half of the bill and its black front half. The bird stabs quickly at the water and comes up with something, immediately swallowing it. There's green weed in the water that frames the bird in the moment's somber color.

The scene's a painting that is almost foreboding. I look up at the pebbly morning sky and am filled with a soothing feeling. That sky is doing a lot to make birding a spiritual activity this morning.

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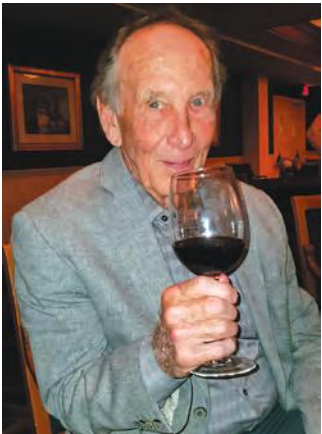
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Guest Writers
wine@lbknews.com

Neighborhood bistros in France; enotecas in Italy; tapas bars in Spain; and, English, Irish, Australian, and New Zealand pubs cater to local regulars and curious visitors. These countries and many others have their own typical neighborhood venues where people returning home from work, shopping, or running errands stop for a drink or two to ease the transition from one social setting to another. Different laws and customs induce variations in when and how these transitions from, say work and family, occur. A bistro may serve as a temporary living room for a French artist who lives in a tiny room in Paris. An Italian ristorante in Florence may not offer reservations prior to 8PM so a couple would meet after work in an enoteca and spend an hour or two before leaving for a dinner reservation. After dinner in Madrid ends at the eleventh (PM) hour, Spaniards may move on to a tapas bar for a couple of hours.

In the USA, federal and state laws, zoning, taxation, and local regulations have a pervasive influence on the types of venues that coexist in a neighborhood. In some states brewpubs enjoy tax advantages, as do tasting rooms connected to vineyards. Expensive licenses for selling spirits prevent many neighborhood cafes from offering full bars. Beer and wines licenses often allow sales for consumption on premises only, but also restrict sales of beer and wine at retail shops to take away only. Wine bars thrive in locations off the beaten path where lower rents and licensing fees give them a competitive advantage. Wine bars often offer light fare that complements tastes of wine, such as tapas, breads, charcuterie, pizza, and green and fruit salads.

The allure of a wine bar increases many fold when owners and staff have a deep appreciation for fine wine and build a cellar of interesting and affordable selections from the rich varieties across the globe. Owners and staff have to know their wine list well enough to guide clients new to fine wine to selections they will appreciate, and more seasoned wine drinkers to selections that align with their tastes yet expand their taste horizons. Music and food quality also add to the allure.

Our recent evaluations rate VINO BISTRO of Sarasota, 1419 5th Street, Sarasota FL 34236, as the best example of a neighborhood wine bar. Co-owner Theresa, with her husband, and the



wine bar's dedicated server and yoga instructor Lesa behind the bar have an infectious passion for wines. The large and diverse wine list brings a world of wine to the novice and veteran wine drinker alike. This wine bar in the Rosemary District of Sarasota deserves more attention.

Another apt example of a neighborhood wine bar, the Siesta Key Wine Bar, had to survive the storm surges of two major hurricanes during late September and early October of 2024. We have not found time to visit this location, but expect to find it retains its stellar rating.

Back to the Rosemary District, we have a nominee for best pizza. The Pazzo on Orange pizza box has become a familiar site in the Rosemary District. The medium to large size of pizza has a righteous balance of cheese to crust and high quality topping. Pazzo has a great little bar, often crowded, outdoor tables, and Italian dishes to love. Good to see the revival of this lovely area of Sarasota.

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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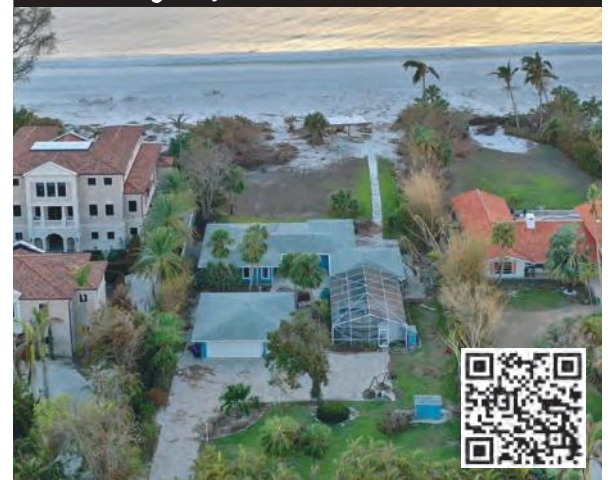
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OnPatrol



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

Jan. 17
Citizen assist

7:11 a.m.

Officer Ramsaier was dispatched to Fair Oaks Place for a water main break. Upon arrival, Officer Ramsaier observed water pooling in the street, stemming from the front yard. Officer Ramsaier was approached by the complainant who said he called Public Works and they were responding. Officer Ramsaier followed up with Longboat Key Public Works and spoke with the complainant who said a crew was on site.

Suspicious

9:59 a.m.

Officer Van Dyke responded to town hall in reference to a suspicious person. Upon arrival, Officer Van Dyke met with a man who said he was a reporter. He advised that a man with slicked back hair, poor hygiene and a FILA shirt who entered a meeting, caused a verbal disruption and said that he was running for the Mayor of Tampa. The man then left on foot heading westbound. Officer Van Dyke then canvassed the area yielding negative results. Case clear.

Bike

12:44 p.m.

Officer Pescuma was dispatched to the 5700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a suspicious person with an electric bike. Officer Pescuma educated the man of the town ordinance that there are not to be any self-propelled or motorized vehicles on the beach. He was not aware and moved the bike off the beach without incident, Officer Pescuma did not observe the man operating the electric bike on the beach. Case clear.

Jan. 18

Boat

12:00 p.m.

Officer Barrett received a complaint from an anonymous person who said there was a derelict vessel in the canal behind General Harris Road. The complainant also advised of a floating refrigerator, a tree and a piece of dock that were obstructing the canal as well. On Jan. 11, Officer Barrett responded by vessel and observed the derelict vessel and the debris the vessel appeared to have fallen from the boat lift during one of the hurricanes was partially submerged in the water. Officer Barrett attempted to make contact with the resident without success. The vessel had a FWC decal attached, ordering the owner to remove the vessel from the water. In addition to the FWC investigation on the vessel, Officer Barrett contacted code enforcement Officer David Woods. Code enforcement was familiar with the residence and advised that there are liens and fines associated with that residence, regrading the violations. In regard to the debris in the canal someone from Public Works Department was contacted who said she was familiar with the concern and stated that she had contacted Sarasota County to assist in removing the debris. On Saturday, Officer Barrett responded back to General Harris Road. While in the area, Officer Barrett obtained a telephone number for the man who currently lives at the residence in question from a neighbor. Officer Barrett contacted the man and he advised that he had made arrangements to remove the vessel from the canal and would work on it this upcoming week. The man was given Officer Barrett's contact information and advised to keep him informed on the progress of the vessel. The man was also advised that leaving a derelict vessel in the water could result in a criminal investigation with the FWC and State of Florida.

Vehicle on roadway

12:20 p.m.

Officer Pescuma while on patrol, was flagged down by a man whose vehicle was disabled on the southbound lane of Gulf of Mexico Drive. The vehicle was off the roadway and not obstructing traffic. Upon making contact with the man, he said that he ran out of gas and needed assistance. Officer Pescuma then provided a courtesy transport for the man to the gas



station to procure gas can and gas. Upon returning to the man's vehicle, he was able to get the vehicle running and departed the scene without incident. Case clear.

Dog

7:13 p.m.

Officer Troyer responded to Bayport Way for a report of a loose dog walking around her residence. Upon arrival, Officer Troyer met with the complainant who said her dog was barking at the door and as she looked outside she saw a large brown dog sitting on her front porch. The complainant didn't know what to do as she was in fear of the dog being loose. Officer Troyer checked the area, but didn't locate any loose dogs which matched the description. As Officer Troyer was following up with the complainant, the

complainant was in contact with the neighbor. The neighbor was holding a brown colored dog which matched the description. The owner said his dog was never loose and was unaware what the complainant was saying. There was no issue and the complainant was happy to meet her neighbor. Case clear.

Jan. 19

Vehicle on roadway

9:52 a.m.

Officer Pescuma was dispatched to the 2100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a disabled vehicle with a flat tire on the southbound lane of Gulf of Mexico Drive off the roadway. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma met with the owner/operator who was driving a silver Acura SUV traveling southbound on Gulf of Mexico Drive when he succumbed to a flat tire on the left rear. The sidewall of the tire was blown out and the vehicle was deemed not drivable. The driver arranged for a tow through his membership. A roadside vehicle arrived to attempt repairs but identified that the vehicle didn't have a spare tire and redirected a flatbed tow truck to location. The driver advised that a flatbed tow truck is en route and he is waiting with the vehicle. Vehicle off the roadway and is not obstructing traffic. Case clear.

Jan. 20

Driver's license

11:00 p.m.

Officer Martinson was notified by the Bay Isles License plate recognition camera that a silver Chevy Silverado was traveling northbound on Gulf of Mexico Drive and the registered owner had a suspended Florida's license. Officer Martinson located the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop and made contact with the driver and explained why he had been pulled over. The driver stated he knew that his driver's license had been suspended for failure to pay child support. The driver said he was supposed to be on a payment plan and his driver's license should no longer be suspended. The driver said he would contact the Manatee County Clerk of Court. The driver was given a criminal citation with a court date for driving with a suspended driver's license. Case clear.

Jan. 21

Doors

2:14 p.m.

Officer Ericsson was contacted by the complainant regarding an open door. She stated she takes care of the residence at the 7100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive and when she arrived on this date, she noticed a balcony door open on the west side of the house. She then located Officer Ericsson and asked if he would check for any possible intruders. Officer Ericsson contacted Officer Martinson who responded to the scene and we both cleared the residence with negative results. Officer Ericsson observed the second story balcony French doors were open. There were no signs of forced entry and all first level doors and windows were secure. It appeared the doors opened accidentally. Case clear.

Jan. 22

Vehicle

11:12 a.m.

Officer Pescuma was dispatched to North Shore Road in reference to a white truck with an flag on the beach on Greer Island. Upon arrival, Officer Pescuma observed the vehicle on the beach and identified the vehicle as a white Toyota pickup truck. The vehicle is currently working on the dredge pipeline. The vehicle is required to be present for the dredge operation. No violations were observed. Case clear.

Driver's license

4:09 p.m.

Officer Pescuma while on patrol observed a blue Dodge pickup truck traveling northbound on Gulf of Mexico Drive with only one operational brake light. The truck was not registered owner based on ELVIS photo image. The driver was asked for his driver's license, registration and proof of insurance. The driver stated in substance that it is his mother's vehicle and that he does not have a driver's license, and handed Officer Pescuma a Florida ID card. FCIC/NCIC confirmed that the driver had a revoked driver's license as of Feb. 2018 and as of Aug. 2022, was confirmed to be listed as a habitual traffic violator and suspended. The driver said that he had to drive in order to get to work, in which he said that he is a construction worker. Based on the fact pattern, the driver was operating a motor vehicle on a public highway when his driver's license was suspended. The action was knowingly as so stated by the driver during the initial traffic stop. The driver was taken into custody and transported to Manatee Sheriff's Office jail. Case clear.

The advertisement for LBK Liqueurs features a central graphic of a pink flamingo standing on its left leg, with its right leg tucked up. The text "LBK" is in a large, black, serif font, and "Liqueurs" is in a black, cursive script font. To the right of the flamingo, the phone number "941.953.1835" is displayed in a black, sans-serif font. Below this, the text "The Island's largest selection of Beer, Wine & Spirits" and "Come check out our competitive prices!" is centered. Further down, "Discounts on cases of wine | Special orders welcome" is centered. Below that, "Locally owned & operated" is centered. At the bottom, the address "Whitney Beach Plaza" and "6854 Gulf of Mexico Drive | Longboat Key, FL" is centered. On the left and right sides of the bottom section, there are illustrations of three liquor bottles in yellow, teal, and magenta colors.

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3810 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#F104	698	\$299,900	1	1	0	113	\$280,000
100 SANDS POINT RD Unit#220	1,492	\$1,175,000	1	1	1	215	\$1,075,000
3542 MISTLETOE LN	3,396	\$2,900,000	4	3	1	35	\$2,800,000
3596 FAIR OAKS LN	3,416	\$2,495,000	4	3	2	11	\$2,395,000



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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 4

Thanks for your response to this letter. I wonder, though, whether the question relates to approval of an applicant to allow a vacation rental as opposed to permitting for rehabilitation? Of course, if the proposed rental property is being rehabbed, it would amount to the same thing.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Longboat Key Vacation Rentals-Urgent

To: RVA, Resort Vacations Accommodations Manager Mindy Farro

The Mayor shared your message. I want to share with you a good first step to help ensure building permit applications proceed through the review process as quickly as possible.

For condominiums, the best place to start is inquiring either with the manager or with a member of the Board to ensure that the unit (you're inquiring about) has been submitted as part of a submission that includes all units that may need to be repaired in a given structure.

Because the Town participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), we have to ensure that improvements to a structure (as a whole) do not exceed 50% of its market value, otherwise the entire structure is required to be brought into full compliance with current flood regulations.

The Town has supplemented our staffing & Town staff are working overtime to move storm damage permits through the

review process as quickly as possible. We know how important it is to get people back in their homes and back to recovering economically.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me or staff at the PZB Department.

Allen Parsons
Director Planning, Zoning & Building Department
Town of Longboat Key

Longboat Key Vacation Rentals-Urgent

To: RVA, Resort Vacations Accommodations Manager Mindy Farro

Thanks for your note. You raise an interesting point that may arise from the crush of redevelopment permit requests at the Planning Board. I am forwarding your note to Town Manager Howard Tipton and Planning and Zoning Director Alan Parsons and will discuss the issue at tomorrow's Town Commission meeting. The meeting begins at 1 pm, and you would be welcome to further discuss your issue during public commentary.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Longboat Key Vacation Rentals

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

I am reaching out as a member of the Longboat Key community who is deeply invested in the island's tourism and

housing sectors. Due to the significant impact of recent hurricanes, many properties remain uninhabitable, forcing us to move guests to alternative accommodations at the last minute. Unfortunately, the delays associated with condo application restrictions for vacation rentals have made this process increasingly challenging.

With many properties still unavailable for use, expediting the handling of condo applications for vacation rentals could provide much-needed flexibility for housing displaced guests and supporting the local economy during this recovery period. The current application timelines, while understandable under normal circumstances, are adding a layer of difficulty in meeting the immediate needs of both property owners and visitors. I have several displaced guests that I am in the process of potentially having to cancel their month long reservations due to limitations on timing of condo application approvals.

I kindly ask for your assistance in exploring ways to temporarily streamline or expedite the condo application process for vacation rentals to better accommodate these unique circumstances. Your support would go a long way in helping the community recover while maintaining Longboat Key's reputation as a welcoming destination.

I would be happy to discuss this matter further or provide additional details to illustrate the urgency of this issue. Thank you for considering this request, and for your continued dedication to the well-being of Longboat Key and its residents and business owners.

Mindy Farro
RVA, Resort Vacations Accommodations
Reservations Manager/Rates Strategist

Longboat Key Vacation Rentals-Urgent

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons

Thanks for your response to this letter. I wonder, though, whether the question relates to approval of an applicant to allow a vacation rental as opposed to permitting for rehabilitation? Of course, if the proposed rental property is being rehabbed, it would amount to the same thing.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

Longboat Key Vacation Rentals-Urgent

To: RVA, Resort Vacations Accommodations Manager Mindy Farro

We (the Town) do not make the rules for condos- their HOA's establish their own.

BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Longboat Key Vacation Rentals-Urgent

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Thank you for responding so quickly. I think my email may have been misunderstood. I am a manager of a large vacation rental company in LBK and we are having issues with condo associations approving rentals in LBK (last minute) due to properties being under construction or not ready for season. Many of our guests have been calling LBK their 2nd home for generations and I am struggling trying to find options for these guests to move to. Is there anything that can be done to exempt condo association application timeframes for approval?

Mindy Farr
RVA, Resort Vacations Accommodations Manager

Longboat Key Vacation Rentals-Urgent

To: RVA, Resort Vacations Accommodations Manager Mindy Farro

Thanks for your note. You raise an interesting point that may arise from the crush of redevelopment permit requests at the Planning Board. I am forwarding your note to Town Manager Howard Tipton and Planning and Zoning Director Alan Parsons and will discuss the issue at tomorrow's Town Commission meeting. The meeting begins at 1 p.m., and you would be welcome to further discuss your issue during public commentary.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Town of Longboat Key

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Focus on the Serve & Volley

Sometimes my opponent will suddenly start to serve and volley. What is my best strategy to deal with that? Also, when is it appropriate to serve and volley, and when does it not make sense?

JACKIE BOHANNON
Guest Columnist
tennis@lbknews.com

If your opponent starts serving and volleying, focus on the ball and not on the movement of your opponents. Have a preplanned game plan of how you are going to return based on the serve you receive. If your opponent has a strong serve, an appropriate return to neutralize the serve and volley is a lob over the server's partner's head. Down the middle and low is always a good return. Try to make sure if you can't lob or pass your opponent that you hit your shots nice and low at their feet. Positionally, stay one-up one-back as the receiving team unless you are not having success. If you are getting attacked off your return then I highly suggest having the receiver and the receiver's partner at the baseline. Having both players at the baseline, gives the serving team a different look which alone can cause good results. Playing both back takes pressure off the receiver so they aren't pressured to hit a perfect return. If the receiver's partner is at the baseline they have a better chance and more time to defend themselves if needed. The receiver's partner can always resume their position at the net if their partner hits a good offensive lob, or if the serving team stops serving and volleying.



BOHANNON

Serving and volleying is a great strategy if you have good mobility, a strong serve, and solid volleys. If you or your partner have a difficult time moving backward it is probably not for you. I do not suggest ever serving and volleying on a second serve. Serving and volleying can be used as a change of positioning/strategy if you are losing. Sometimes, just making your opponent have a different look can sway momentum. Perhaps your opponents don't have a good lob, or seeing you rush the net puts pressure on them? Sometimes serving

and volleying can cause missed return of serves because it makes the receiving team nervous. These are potential benefits or serving and volleying. Also, if you have a big serve and or your opponent has a weak return, serving and volleying makes sense. If you play someone that has an effective drop shot serving and volleying helps take that shot away as well. Generally, throwing in some serve and volleying is a good strategy because you want to take your opponent off guard. No matter how good you are at serving and volleying do not do it every time, because you do not want to be predictable. Serving and volleying is a great skill set to develop, and when used at appropriate times can be highly effective.

Serve Jackie your best question!

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

KeyCrossword

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			5				
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ads@Lbknews.com or 941.387.2200

From Tin Pan Alley

Edited by Linda and Charles Preston

ACROSS

1 "Myra Breckinridge" author Gore
6 Golfers' goals
10 Old hat
15 Insult
19 Grenoble's river
20 "a Song Go ..."
21 English playwright Joe
22 Skirt style
23 Apportion
24 Stare
25 Qom coins
26 Comic King
27 Most recent
29 Property broker
31 Catchword
33 Tiny, along the Tweed
34 Farrow, of film
36 Popular pain plants
37 Roofed with reeds
38 Hit from "Hi Diddle Diddle"
41 Three-banded armadillos
44 Council city on the Adige
45 Uncommon
46 Goldwyn or Houston
49 Biblical spy
50 "the ramparts ..."
51 Hastily
53 First name of 10 Down
54 "The Farmer in ...", comedy film
56 Ostrich or emu
58 Bonheur or Parks
59 Chinese minority in Vietnam
60 Get thee hence!
61 Family cars
62 Hit from "Leave It to Me"
68 "Did not ___ with thee ..."
69 Actress Ella
70 Dead ember
71 Osmond or Antoinette
72 Found the answer
73 Calloway's "Minnie the ___"
78 Ogles
79 Certain scout
80 Priestly attire
82 Gibe
83 ___ Moines, IA
84 Incipient butterfly
85 Prohibited
87 Accede
88 Hit from "Jubilee"
92 Caressed
95 White with age
96 Rural add.

97 Simple sugar suffix
100 Out of bed
101 Fall back
103 Sudden
105 Departed
106 Courageous phrase
108 "With ___ of his head ..."
110 Ancient tongue
111 Composer of "Le Roi d'Ys"
112 Ship of the desert
113 Large amount or fish of the Mediterranean
114 City on the Mohawk
115 First place
116 Toward the glacier
117 Hamilton bills
118 Feudal fieldhands

DOWN

1 Little bottles
2 Muslim religion
3 Feature of a big river
4 Indonesian islands
5 Song dropped from "Paris"
6 Iron shape
7 Winged
8 Kind of rifle
9 Enter surreptitiously
10 Composer of songs in puzzle
11 Melodically declamatory
12 Lead role
13 The sun personified
14 Encircle
15 Know-how for the street-wise
16 Granite State's flower
17 ___ of bitters
18 Abounding in evergreens: var.
28 "___ folly to be wise": Gray
30 Bewildered
32 Misanthrope's emotion
35 Elaine, the lily maid of ___
37 Vestige
38 TV's talking horse
39 Lode load
40 Furnace fuel frameworks
41 Part of a play
42 Ugh!
43 Pub order
46 Manic Street Preachers release: "So Why ___?"
47 "___ flowing with milk ...": Exodus
48 Disordered
51 Made amends
52 Sonar sounds
53 Musical finale
55 Traditional erudition
56 Recall vividly
57 Past, in the past
58 Another hit by 10 Down
60 ___ and end-all
61 Mediocre
62 Emulated Marceau
63 Belgian violinist Eugene
64 ___ mud in your eye!
65 Goddess of discord
66 Heavy shoe
67 Drum
72 Toothsome
74 Confine
75 "Ben-___"
76 Helm letters
77 Road map abbreviation
79 Study of human breeding
80 Temporary suspension
81 Mariner's diary
84 Small short dog
85 Salty drop
86 Side-by-side
88 Beantown
89 "___ No Business Like ___"
90 City traveler's stop
91 ___ body meet ...
92 Room, at Versailles
93 Footstep
94 Shuffle, as cards
97 ___ left field: far from the mainstream
98 Zesty ingredient
99 Alcohol lamps
101 Branch, in Barcelona
102 Means ___ end
104 Charlie Brown expletive
107 Gram. case
109 A.D.A. member's degree

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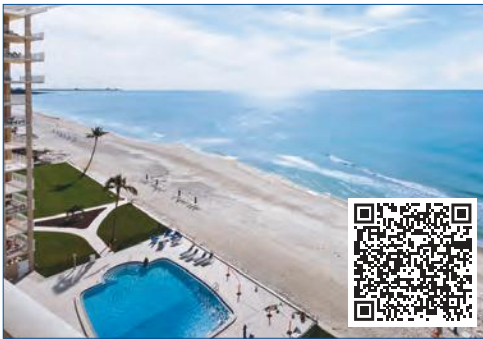
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2BR/2BA • 1,458 SF • Gulf & Bay views



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