



Longboat Key News

February 3, 2023

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FREE

InsideLook



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a true danger?
...page 12*



*The joy of
more than one
...page 9*



*A Circle
of success
...page 7*



*Canadian credit
conundrum
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Mote positions itself for more diversity in marine research

Many existing barriers, including financial barriers, can hinder the potential for racial and socioeconomic diversity in the marine science field.

In continuing the goal of increasing minority representation in marine research and aquarium sciences, Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium announced the appointment of Amanda Felix to the position of Diversity and Inclusion Advisor to the President & CEO.

This new position builds on initiatives to increase participation of underrepresented minorities in marine research and aquarium science. In accepting this appointment, Felix will also be able to continue her research as a Mote Aquarium Biologist III while she coordinates and collaborates with Mote's ongoing National Science Foundation (NSF) Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation: Marine Science Laboratory Alliance Center of Excellence (MarSci-LACE) and related programs.

Amanda will coordinate and lead meetings with key stakeholders in the Aquarium Sciences REU program and other Mote diversity and



inclusion-related programs, as well as participate in national meetings, workshops, and conferences with the goal of furthering Mote diversity and inclusion programs.

Felix was a Mote intern herself in

2014, eventually becoming a full-time staff member the following year. "As a former Mote Aquarium intern, I'm excited for the opportunity to improve the intern experi-

See Mote, page 3

New Longboat Town Manager Howard Tipton takes reins

On January 30, Howard Tipton began service as Longboat Key's new Town Manager. He has met with all Commissioners, Department Directors and has been briefed on the major initiatives and priorities moving forward. Former Town Manager Tom Harmer remains through February 6 to guide with the transition.

New College President Fired

Weeks after Gov. Ron DeSantis appointed six new conservative members to the liberal New College of Florida's Board of Trustees, the board voted Tuesday to terminate the contract of the college's president, Patricia Okker.

The trustees also named GOP leader Richard Corcoran, the former Florida House speaker and Florida Commissioner of Education, as the college's interim president.

The board also decided to terminate four positions in the schools Office of Outreach and Inclusive Excellence.

Sarasota County unanimously trims Tree Code

The County unanimously voted in favor of changing rules about when property owners can remove grand trees and how much they must pay.

The amendments give existing lots and new lots different criteria for the removal of grand trees. Until now, they were the same. Under the ordinance approved Tuesday, grand trees can be removed from existing lots for safety reasons or if the property owner can clearly show that "setting aside the space necessary to protect a Grand Tree would unreasonably prevent the development of a lot." Grand trees can be removed from new lots for safety reasons or if the tree is in a required access point to a lot.

The amendments also make owners of existing lots and owners of new lots pay different mitigation rates. Sarasota County's Trees Code makes property owners replace grand trees that are removed, but if a county staff member determines that the trees can't be replaced on site, the owner must then pay a fee, which is used to plant trees in different areas of the county.

Embracing Our Differences art exhibit vandalized

The exhibit was vandalized Jan. 31 around 11 p.m. and the target was one particular artwork in the

See NewsWorthy, page 3

Art on Display



Come out to the Art Show at Phillippi Estate Park this coming weekend. See page 11.



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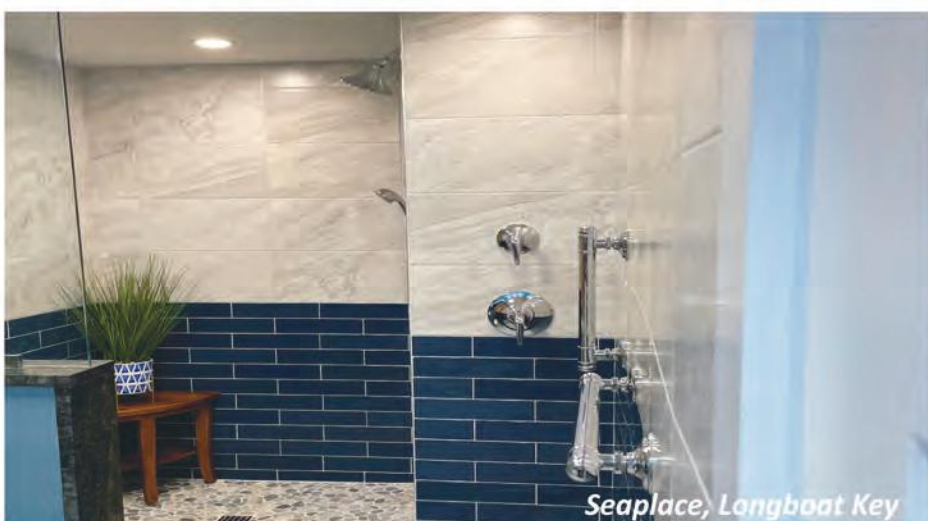
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EditorLetters



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.

SARA Bulletin: Is Winter Fest Legal?

To: St. Armands Residents Association Chris Goglia
Thanks for all your work on this. I have copied our counsel, Tom Harmer and our new Town Manager Howard Tipton, who begins his term Monday. We have meetings and events all day Monday relating to the transition, but I am asking whether we can have a designated attendee at the City's meeting. We continue to believe that a long term, intense, private for-pay use of St. Armand's Park, such as the Winter Festival, is an inappropriate and disruptive use for that public property.
Ken Schneider
Mayor
Longboat Key

SARA Bulletin: Is Winter Fest Legal?

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneider
Thank you Ken. We appreciate any and all help from our friends and neighbors on Longboat Key!
Chris Goglia
President
St. Armands Residents Association

Reciprocal library services

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
At a recent commission meeting where we discussed Sarasota County building a library on Longboat Key, the issue of reciprocity between the Manatee County and Sarasota libraries came up, and we were told there were full reciprocal privileges between the two. I would like to clarify that, in the event it comes up in future discussions. The reciprocal agreement only applies to physical library materials, not digital or electronic library materials or services.
Debra Williams
Commissioner
Longboat Key

Reciprocal library services

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams
Thanks for looking at that Commissioner. We'll confirm with the County what we believe the intent has been all along and let you know.

Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Winter Festival - Two Objections

To: Sarasota City Vice Mayor Kyle Battie
I'm writing to confirm that there will be a City Commission agenda item on February 6 dealing with continuing the Winter Festival that had been allowed in the central island and public right-of-way of the St. Armands Circle roundabout that the City operates and maintains as the St. Armands Circle Park. Is this correct?
I have two concerns about this agenda item on that date:
(1) In a Jan. 22 email to Commissioners, the upcoming City Commission schedule shows that "Discussion Re: Outdoor Dining Parklets" will be on the agenda at the Feb. 21 City Commission Meeting. Since this involves the private use of a public right of way, how can the City Commission vote on any other private use of any other public right of way (i.e. the Winter Festival) until this discussion takes place?
(2) On March 21, 2022, an astounding 30-or-so St. Armands residents attended a City Commission meeting to speak against the idea of a carousel on St. Armands. I'm sure you realize how difficult it is for a neighborhood president to get that many people to show up at a City Commission meeting. It's very difficult, and therefore very rare, and that speaks to the strong feelings of people against this usage of the park. Link to video: [click here](#). Public input starts at 7:45:15 (7 hours, 45 minutes, 15 seconds). We all saw what happened on January 10 when traffic on the islands was brought to a standstill for hours, and I expect at least that many people to show up at any upcoming Commission Meeting to speak against the carousel again. Is it correct that at the Feb 6 CC meeting, that the City Manager and at least one City Commissioner will have to leave at noon, and therefore may not be available to answer City Commission questions (the City Manager) and to vote on this (the Commissioner)?
I'm writing to ask that you postpone this agenda item a mere two weeks until the Feb 21 CC meeting at which the underlying legal issue will be discussed first, and when the City Manager and the full City Commission are able to be in attendance. Would you please reschedule this to the Feb 21 CC meeting?
Chris Goglia, President
St. Armands Residents Association
Sarasota

US 41 Gulfstream Avenue Roundabout Lane Closures Night Work rescheduled

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission
Nighttime/Lane Closures:
The inside lanes on US 41 between Main Street and Gulfstream Avenue will be closed. The eastbound outside lane exiting the island will be closed.
Lane closures will be in effect Sunday through Wednesday nights beginning at midnight. Crews will excavate existing pavement and prepare the curb pad for concrete. This work will require machinery to excavate existing pavement, expect noise from backup alarms and equipment operation.
Daytime/Lane Closures:
The inside lanes on US 41 between Main Street and Gulfstream Avenue will be closed. The eastbound outside lane exiting the island will be closed.
Lane closures will be in effect Monday through Thursday between 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.
These lane closures are necessary as crews pour concrete for new median curb and new storm drain inspections.
Motorists should exercise caution when driving through the project, as crews will be working closely next to active lanes. Please watch for concrete trucks, equipment and personnel entering/exiting the work zones.
Alice Ramos
Community Outreach Manager
Florida Department of Transportation

US 41 Gulfstream Avenue Roundabout Traffic Advisory - Lane Closures

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Wonderful!
Jen Ahearn-Koch
City Commissioner
City of Sarasota

US 41 Gulfstream Avenue Roundabout Traffic Advisory - Lane Closures

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch
Thanks Jen. See you Friday. Howard Tipton our new Town Manager is coming with me
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Longboat Key

US 41 Gulfstream Avenue Roundabout Traffic Advisory - Lane Closures

To: Sarasota City Commission
FYI – more concrete work has been scheduled for day time (and night). Thank you.
Marlon Brown
City Manager
City of Sarasota

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LONGBOAT KEY, FL
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\$1,300,000

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EditorLetters



Letters, from page 4

US 41 Gulfstream Avenue Roundabout Traffic Advisory - Lane Closures

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman
Please see the attached notice regarding both day and night lane closures for the Gulfstream roundabout.
We have an opportunity from February 1-3rd to get a lot of curb/gutter/islands and traffic separators poured.
Both the sub-contractor crews and the concrete supplier have committed to this work so we want to seize the opportunity.
Excavation and forming work will happen at night with concrete being placed early morning to mitigate impacts to the public. This work will have a big impact towards completion of the roundabout. Thanks for your support and understanding!
James Nichols
Construction Manager
Florida Department of Transportation

Tackling air and noise pollution

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schaefer
I hope you had a happy and healthy holiday season and that you are doing well.
Now that my crosswalk project has been resolved for the moment, there is another concern that I have that I hope you share.
Gas leaf blowers pollute our air and are a danger to the health of landscapers and to people with asthma. They also create a horrendous amount of noise.
Maple Shade New Jersey banned leaf blowers.
Spring Lake NJ is exploring a ban.
Philadelphia is considering a ban.
The state of New Jersey is also considering a ban.
It would be great if Longboat Key was part of the vanguard of this movement.
I'm confident that owners here would support an end to both the air and noise pollution caused by leaf blowers.
Below is an article and a podcast about the subject of banning leaf blowers.
<https://www.audubon.org/magazine/spring-2021/why-cities-are-taking-action-limit-loud-and>
Thanks.
Marc Pachtman
Longboat Key

Broadway

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle
Sent from Village in response to yesterday's email from Chief Turner.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Longboat Key

Media Release for SC-LBK Library Partnership

To: Longboat Key Commission
This morning the Sarasota County Commission supported the principles of agreement with the Town for the design and ultimate construction of a new library on Longboat Key. They also approved the Sarasota County Library and Historical Resources Strategic Plan.
Howard and I both attend the meeting and Sarah Karon also attended as the President of the Sarasota County Library Foundation.
See attached press release regarding the Longboat Key partnership that was sent out after the Commission took action this morning.
Thomas A. Harmer
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Media Release for SC-LBK Library Partnership

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Tom Harmer
Thank you Tom for all of your work on this and for the emphasis on partnership, community input, arts, culture and lifelong learning!
Maureen Merrigan
Commissioner
Longboat Key

Sarasota County Library - Strategic Plan 2023 - 2025

To: Longboat Key Commission
Attached is the new Sarasota County Libraries and Historical Resources strategic plan for 2023-2025. It sets forth their vision for their library system and future (new) libraries. It touches on a number of the vision expectations that the Commission has expressed over the past several years and more recently during the principles of agreement discussion.
It was written with a framework containing seven focus areas:
1. Library as a community convener
2. Lifelong learning
3. Active older adult living
4. Meaningful career journeys

See Letters, page 6

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4975 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #305 | LONGBOAT KEY
Elevate your coastal lifestyle in this magnificent 3BR/3.5BA penthouse in the exclusive beachfront community of Positano on the Gulf, showcasing breathtaking views of turquoise waters and mesmerizing nightly sunsets from the expansive terrace.



\$2,995,000

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.



\$4,995,000

545 KINGFISHER LANE | LONGBOAT KEY
Custom built modern canal front residence. Enjoy 4,646 sf of interior living space with 4 en-suite beds/baths and a out-door areas accented by teak decks, lap pool with waterfall feature, summer kitchen, not to mention a 5-car garage.



\$1,945,000

529 BAYVIEW DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY
Contemporary 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.



\$4,995,000

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



\$1,150,000

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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EditorLetters



Letters, from page 5

5. Healthy living
6. Green living
7. A vibrant cultural life
They also mention the Longboat Key Library under the next steps section.
The Sarasota County Commission is scheduled to approve this strategic plan at their meeting tomorrow. It is on consent so there may not be a lot of public discussion, but I wanted to share the plan as it relates to the Town's developing partnership for a library/community center at the Town Center.
Thomas A. Harmer
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Sarasota County Library - Strategic Plan 2023 - 2025

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Tom Harmer
Thanks for update and all of your work to continue to move this project forward. I could not find any mention of a Longboat Key Library/Community center in the PDF attached.

Mike Haycock
Commissioner
Longboat Key

Sarasota County Library - Strategic Plan 2023 - 2025

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Mike Haycock
Commissioner Haycock, thanks for the note. Longboat Key is mentioned briefly on page 64 of their strategic plan document (page 70 of the entire document).
Tom Harmer
Town Manager
Longboat Key

Sarasota County Library - Strategic Plan 2023 - 2025

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Tom Harmer
Sarasota County's Library Strategic Plan truly demonstrates that they are building something that is so much greater than a "traditional library". It's very exciting for Longboat Key to be a part of this. Thank you for all your efforts on this initia-

tive.
Debra Williams
Commissioner
Longboat Key

Ohana seawall issue

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Deborah Murphy
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 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.

Patricia DeChiara
Longboat Key

Ohana seawall issue

To: Patricia DeChiara
Your letter was addressed as a "Letter to Editor" but wanted to follow-up to let you know I did have an opportunity several weeks ago to provide Commissioner-Elect Murphy with background regarding the Ohana property and beach walker access. We actually walked south on the beach together from N. Shore Rd. We were hoping to cross in front of Ohana due to a very low tide - but the weather, rocks and waves there prevented us from continuing in front of the seawall, as is typically the case now.
I am proud of the many things the residents, businesses and Town Commission have accomplished together over the past few years. That said, losing our ability to have an uninterrupted beach walk for the entire stretch of LBK and not being able to find a viable solution to restore the historic Ohana path was a huge disappointment. I am confident the Town Commission would jump at the chance to address this in the future should a valid opportunity present itself. Thank you for your continued advocacy.
Maureen Merrigan
Vice Mayor
Longboat Key

Longboat Key Bicycle Assoc. Blockage in Bradenton Beach


To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle
Tom Harmer just informed me of the coming blockages that will occur in Bradenton Beach. The southbound bike lane will be closed.
Howard Tessler
Longboat Key

Danger at the new Fruitville Roundabout

To: Longboat Key Town Commission
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
See Letters, page 12


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Bird Key, Lido Key, Longboat Key latest sales

Address	Sq. Ft.	List Price	Bed/Bath/Half Bath			Days On Market	Sale Price
1281 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#303	3,054	\$2,500,000	3	4	0	3	\$2,710,000
3565 MISTLETOE LN	3,158	\$1,899,000	3	3	1	0	\$1,800,000
370 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#426	2,310	\$1,485,000	3	3	1	10	\$1,500,000
4311 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#602	1,140	\$1,159,000	2	2	0	4	\$1,159,000
948 SPANISH DR S	1,399	\$1,000,000	2	2	0	6	\$1,005,000
7135 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#12	1,170	\$899,999	2	2	0	230	\$865,000
615 DREAM ISLAND RD Unit#102	1,293	\$859,000	2	2	0	8	\$859,000
250 SANDS POINT RD Unit#5203	640	\$825,000	1	1	0	8	\$825,000
751 RUSSELL ST	1,050	\$949,000	2	2	0	65	\$779,000
4770 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#V-6	812	\$525,000	2	1	0 0	9	\$505,000
408 JACKSON DR	2,344	\$2,595,000	3	3		3	\$2,800,000
429 PHEASANT WAY	2,706	\$2,200,000	3	3	0	28	\$2,000,000
519 BLUE JAY PL	2,415	\$1,875,000	3	2	0	39	\$1,725,000

408 JACKSON DR



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465 E ROYAL FLAMINGO DRIVE | \$7,250,000

PENDING SALE



BIRD KEY - PRE-CONSTRUCTION
314 BIRD KEY DRIVE • \$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

EditorialOpinion

Presidential investigations, Memphis and Challenger anniversary

BILL ALLEN
Guest Writer
allen@lbknews.com

In January I was the featured speaker at the Longboat Harbour Men’s Club meeting which was attended by approximately 60 men and a few women. I spoke for about one hour about the problems we face in this country but did not have nearly enough time to cover them all.

We know very little about the Pence issue with classified documents at this time so I will focus here on Trump and Biden which I covered in the meeting.

In our divisive society of today some have made the ridiculous statement that since Trump seems to be more guilty than Biden then it means that Biden is not guilty at all. For me, based on what we know at this time the answer is not one of guilty or not guilty but rather that both share some degree of guilt. It is clear to me that Trump obstructed justice by not being forthcoming but as reported by a New York Times podcast called “The Daily,” so did Biden. The podcast focused on the fact that Biden had become aware of the document discovery on Nov. 2, just prior to the midterms and made a conscious decision to cover it up for 68 days when he was forced to reveal it by a CBS report. Even then he did not reveal that further documents had been found. There is no question in my mind that covering up incriminating data is a form of obstruction of justice.

The podcast stated that Biden made the decision to cover it up himself hoping that it would just go away.

The saddest thing about this subject is that we have a current and past President who are both under investigation by “special counsel” for potential violations having to do with mishandling of classified documents. It is also a fact that they are both the subjects of alternative investigations;

Trump for several including the January 6 event and Biden for his alleged collaboration with son Hunter on the Burisma issue. It is crystal clear that the Hunter Biden issue has been covered up by the Democrats when they ruled the House and also by the mainstream media but that is changing.

The New York Times ran a huge three-page report which raised many questions about the Hunter Biden story and my opinion is that it will be an explosive issue when the facts are revealed.

I offer one more comment about the classified documents issue. I had “top secret” clearances both in the military and also when I worked at Cape Canaveral on the Apollo and other programs. My department also handled security clearances. Anyone who mishandled or violated proper use as both Biden and Trump had done would have been fired and in one case prosecuted. What is happening now is one more case of total mismanagement by our government in failing to properly administer the classified documents. There are also far too many documents that get classified, some for the purpose of covering up information that the government does not want to get out; an example are thousands of pages related to the assassination of John F. Kennedy which still have not been released because the CIA and FBI have fought against release.

Armpit of Tennessee

A brief comment on another subject which is Memphis. When I had my Human Resources consulting company, I was sometimes asked by a client to do a geographic location study on where to open a new operation. In one case the client was considering Memphis as the location for a new manufacturing operation. My recommendation was to avoid Memphis for a number of reasons and I offered alternative locations which included others in Tennessee which is a good State to do business in. But, the CEO of the Company decided on Memphis where the plant was built, opened and then closed after two years of bad experiences. Anyone who lives in that State will tell you that Memphis is the “armpit” of Tennessee.

Challenger anniversary

On a sad subject; January 28th was the 37th anniversary of the explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger 73 seconds after liftoff which killed seven astronauts including the school-teacher Christina Mc Cauliff. I was there and we cried. Sadder yet is the fact that it never should have happened; NASA ignored engineers who strongly advised not to go on such a cold day which might cause ‘O’ rings to malfunction and result in an explosion. The Rogers committee investigated the event and covered up the incompetence of NASA.

Electric Vehicles PR

Moving on, we are all being subjected to a huge Public Relations campaign by the Federal Government which is telling us of all the great things about Electric Vehicles but none of the potential downsides which are numerous and as follows:

- Battery operated vehicles require considerably less labor content than gas powered which will result in lower staffing levels for the manufacturers.
- There are at least four materials that are critical in making batteries; lithium, nickel, cobalt and manganese. Much of the mining and refining of these raw materials are based in just a few countries which include China and the Congo which has 72 percent of the cobalt worldwide.
- Public Charging Stations are a big potential problem. I have already read horror stories about people who needed a charge but could either not find one at all or found one that would not work.
- On the plus side there will be battery manufacturing plants opening. Several have already announced locations which will mostly in Southeastern States that are “Right to Work” which means that workers cannot be forced to join and pay dues to a labor union in order to get a job.

On a political issue: Senator Joe Manchin has stated that he would not rule out a run for the Presidency in 2024. Manchin is the moderate Democrat from a Republican State who restrained some of the Biden proposed out of control spending which would have made inflation far worse than it has been.

Some comments on the subject of debt which is much in the limelight right now as we have reached the so-called debt ceiling as a result of our continuing out of control spending by both parties over the years. I had a chat with a woman the other day who stated that then problem was all caused by the Republicans and Donald Trump. The fact is that Trump made his contribution but was a long way from being his contribution but was a long way from even being the biggest spender. The worst of our problem started in the year 2000 and has grown from about \$5.6 trillion then to over \$31 trillion now. The NYTimes Daily show did an excellent podcast on the subject and I also researched other reliable sources for this information.

The ‘Daily’ podcast did an in-depth study on spending since year 2000 and found that it was equally divided by Administrations of both parties.

A non-partisan group which issued an excellent report stated that the five Presidents who have run up the biggest deficits and contributed the most to debt are Woodrow Wilson, FDR, Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

We spend almost 80 percent each year on mandatory requirements and entitlements plus the interest payments on the money we borrow to meet these requirements.

Medicare and Social Security are in trouble but our government ignores them.

There is a big flap going on around here about the fact that Governor DeSantis has appointed seven conservatives to the Board of Directors at New College. The Sarasota Herald, in usual fashion has offered numerous emotional, factless articles to which I will offer my comments in my next column. Have a nice week.

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WineTimes

White Wines at the Under the Tent Tasting

Attendance exceeded the advertised limit of 250 by around 20. Attendees carried out cases of wine. People clustered around tables and listened intently to what was being said about the wines. A good sign for the future

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

Back to the Butcher’s Block on 17th Street in Sarasota FL for an annual wine tasting event This wine tasting has over the years expanded into a tent in the parking lot and twenty tables of wines from around the world. We underestimated both the scope of the event and the crush of the crowd; beginning by habit with the white wines, we lingered at one table after another, and managed to sample only a few of a much larger selection of red wines.

The J. Moreau & Fils Chablis (\$32) from Chablis in France offers a lovely expression of the traditional Sur Lie (sitting on fine lees) method of ageing white wine. Fine lees come from the action of yeast on grape juice. Yeasts convert sugars to alcohol, and, in the process, leave a residue of tiny sugars and amino acids. The fine lees impart delicate flavors of toast or brioche, and hints of butter and cream. The winemaker, Lucie Depuydt, monitors each stage of growing and harvesting of the Chardonnay grape, and she guides the crushing of the grapes, fermentation, and a Sur Lie of eight months. The wine has a clean yet complex light gold texture. It pairs ideally with food such as salmon, sushi, chicken, and cheeses like Brie. The Chablis deserves special mention for the tech sheets that the winemaker gives us. Not only informative, but transparent as well

Equally classic (though more florid in name), the Domaine André Vatan “Les Charmes” Sancerre (\$31) from the Sancerre in the Upper Loire valley of France has the crisp yet restrained citrus taste up front and a touch of apple sweetness in the finish. Pair with a goat cheese.

These true expressions of Chablis and Sancerre wines capture the essence of French white wines: deep, complex, and unadorned. Made to be paired with seafood, bird, or cheese, each draws on a long history of winemaking in a place rich in history and culinary arts.

While Chablis and Sancerre have fervent followers across the globe, other fine wines have drifted into obscurity. In Italy, during the late 20th and 21st centuries, winemakers are reviving

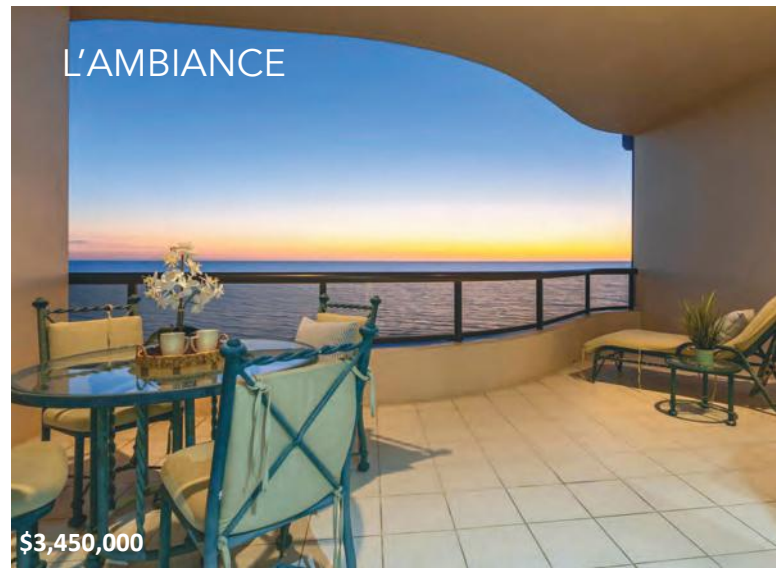
previously obscure grape varieties; white wines from the Piedmonte, Arneis, and from Abruzzo, Pecorino, have enjoyed success in the international market. We tasted the 2021 Umani Ronchi Terre di Chieti Vellodoro Pecorino (\$15). It has a floral nose, a rush of acidity, and a engaging finish. Close by at the tasting, we found a recently rediscovered white grape from Langhe in the Barolo area of the Piedmonte: the E Cagno Anas Cetta Nascetta (\$29). This Nascetta has an aromatic aroma, and delicate flavor of reminiscent of peach and kiwi sets it apart from other Italian white wines. Aged in the bottle, it may develop petrol tastes similar to Riesling. Consumers beware.

Usually we would begin a tasting with a sparkling wine. In this case, we wrapped up our tasting of white wines with a sparkling wine and a good one at that. Bear in mind that a sparkling wine outside the Champagne region cannot be called Champagne. We’ve seen no rule for what one calls it, but we think that it must be a “Crémant”. The Vignoble Bayle -Carreau Crémant de Bordeaux Brut (\$20) blends the Semillon and Ugni grapes from the Bordeaux region of France. This Crémant has the bubbles and fragrance of Champagne, but a smoother finish. A bargain, we’d say, and an interesting way to end our tour.

Lest anyone worry about a recession in the wine trade, this event dispels any rumors along those lines. Attendance exceeded the advertised limit of 250 by around 20. Attendees carried out cases of wine. People clustered around tables and listened intently to what was being said about the wines. A good sign for the future

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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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. 28 Suspicious incident

1:03 p.m.
Officer Miklos was dispatched to the 4200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a suspicious incident where Sarasota Sheriff’s Office received a 911 call with no response. Sarasota Sheriff’s Office advised the location was gained through GPS with a 90 percent accuracy within 16 meters. Officer Miklos made contact with the individual who advised he is not sure why his Apple watch keeps sending Sarasota Sheriff’s Office the 911 texts. The man advised he would look into the matter to see how he can get the watch to stop. The man said he is not having an emergency and is ok. Nothing further.



Traffic hazard

2:36 p.m.
Officer Miklos while on patrol on Gulf of Mexico Drive, observed a large black garbage bag blocking traffic. Officer Miklos removed the large garbage bag from the road and placed it on the side out of the way. Officer Miklos requested Public Works remove the bag due to the size, when they are available. Nothing further to report. Case clear.

Jan. 29 Parking citation

8:13 a.m.
Officer Martinson while on patrol on Broadway, noticed a white Ford sedan parked illegally in front of a home without a Longboat Key parking permit or guest pass. The vehicle was given a parking ticket. Case clear.

Citizen assist

8:00 a.m.
Officer Miklos responded to Gulf of Mexico Drive to meet with the complainant in reference to a suspicious charge on her credit card after purchasing gas. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos spoke with a gas station employee who advised the complainant was charged \$50 and only used \$43 and the money was refunded to the credit card. Officer Miklos came into contact with the complainant and advised her when gasoline is purchased with a credit card inside the gas station instead of at the gasoline pump due to her credit card being Canadian. The complainant was advised that her card was refunded the excess amount and she should see the refund in a few days. Officer Miklos advised the complainant that when credit cards are used at gas stations they overcharge the card to ensure enough funds exist to complete the transaction. The charge is listed as a pending charge until the charge is finalized and posted to the account. The complainant was advised to allow the credit card to finalize the charge and call the police department back if the charge is not correct after the charge is finalized. Nothing further to report. Case clear.

Citizen assist

12:40 p.m.
Officer Martinson responded to North Shore Road on a call of a citizen assist. The caller stated there was a 30-40-year-old male wearing a workout top and black shorts piloting a low flying drone near sunbathers. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson met with the man standing outside near the pier with a drone. The man provided Officer Martinson with the Federal Aviation Administration card and stated he was filming the beach and water for his business’ website. The man stated the business is one that makes outdoor gear for military and water sports. He was not violating any laws or privacy and the caller did not wish to meet.

Animal complaint

1:16 p.m.
Officer Martinson responded to Bayview Drive on a call of an animal complaint. Remarks in the call stated there was a black snake in the house behind the sofa. Upon arrival, the person and Officer Martinson were able to use two broom and guide the snake out of the living room to the outside. Case clear.

Jan. 30 Citizen assist

9:30 a.m.
Officer Butler was dispatched to the 3100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a citizen assist. Upon arrival, the complainant met with Officer Butler who stated the complainant needed assistance with his motorized wheel chair. He advised that the battery is dead and he cannot get home. The officer provided transportation for the man back to his home along with his wheelchair that fit in the rear of Officer Butler’s automobile. Case clear.

Abandoned vehicle

10:08 a.m.
Officer Connors was dispatched to the 2000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a report of an abandoned vehicle. Upon arrival, while speaking with the complainant, it was determined that the vehicle belonged to a resident and no further police were needed.

Jan. 31 Noise complaint

5:12 p.m.
Officer Connors responded to Putter Lane for a report of construction noise after hours. Upon arrival, Officer Connors observed no violation as the construction workers were cleaning up the job site. Officer Connors informed the workers of the noise ordinance pertaining to the town ordinance.

Citizen assist

8:54 p.m.
Officer Dodson responded to Old Compass Road and met with the complainant at the Police Station in reference to a citizen assist. Upon speaking with the complainant he informed us a shattered window at his residence. Officer Smith and Officer Dodson followed the man to his residence. The man stated his residence is currently for sale. The man stated, “the realtor was there at approximately 11 a.m. this morning and the window was not shattered. Upon looking at the window, there was grass clippings attached to the shattered windowed and the window adjacent to it. The man explained the landscaping company comes on Tuesday afternoons and it is possible they caused the damage. He said he would contact the landscaping company. The man did not want to file a criminal complaint. He just wanted a documentation report done on the incident. Case clear.

Feb. 1 Suspicious vehicle

3:29 a.m.
Officer Montfort while on patrol in Broadway beach access, and he observed a subject in the parking lot near an illegally parked vehicle. Officer Montfort observed that the vehicle and parked after hours. Officer Montfort made contact with the subject who was ultimately identified as the vehicles registered owner. The RO stated that he had just arrived at the beach access and was attempting to take photos of the moon. The RO was equipped with camera incident. The RO was advised of the town ordinance and was sent on his way without incident. Case clear.

Feb. 3 Citizen assist

12:16 a.m.
Officer Nazareno responded to the 200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a citizen assist call regarding a disabled vehicle. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno contacted the driver who advised that prior to the officer’s arrival. The roadside assist vehicle arrived at 1:09 a.m. Case clear.

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EditorLetters



Letters, from page 6

Northbound Trail to only one lane as you make the turn onto Fruitville.
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

Danger at the new Fruitville Roundabout

To: Jim Whitman
We fought this without success. I continue to communicate with FDOT and City of Sarasota on my concerns as other Commissioners have done.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Longboat Key

Danger at the new Fruitville Roundabout

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
I don't recall hearing about us fighting this. I don't live on the South End, but if I did I would be raising Holy Hell about it, from the head of FDOT to the Governor.
Also the Press, as I recall your doing regarding a recent episode when the Gulfstream roundabout was briefly restricted to one lane.
Just imagine what it would be like in an evacuation. This is completely unacceptable, and must be dealt with!
I do recall that the mucky-mucks came to our Town Hall awhile ago and reassured us that everything would be fine.
I noted to them that Highway 41 between Gulfstream and Fruitville was slated to be reduced from 3 lanes to 2 in each direction when the Gulfstream roundabout was completed.
They reassured us that the Southbound lanes would be reversed in an emergency, thus providing 4 Northbound evacuation lanes.
Until traffic gets to Fruitville. When three of those lanes would have nowhere to go!
And what about traffic on 41 headed Southbound towards the Fruitville roundabout?
Where are they supposed to go?
Is this really all right with you all? Or is it time for some good trouble?
Isn't this at the top of the list of the Commission's roles and functions?
Jim Whitman
Longboat Key

Danger at the new Fruitville Roundabout

To: Jim Whitman
Unfortunate that you do not remember our battle at the MPO - both Jack Daly and Mike Haycock as well as me thru years of meetings. Obviously, you were not on the phone with me when I spoke to FDOT officials when the latest interruption took place. It has not helped that the City of Sarasota asked for this project. I have continued to plead with the City to keep this interchange open.

BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Longboat Key

Danger at the new Fruitville Roundabout

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop
Thanks so much for your response and historical account, which I did not know about, as it was "behind the scenes" for citizens like me.
It has been an adventure for me to plumb through the multiple layers of government, even in a relatively small community, with the MPO being just one example.
I really appreciate your engagement with these multiple layers over time, and your and others' efforts to secure a viable evacuation capability for all of us.
I know you are not shy in expressing your advocacy for our Town. That's what I call good trouble.
As you know, I try to keep up with all of this on an ongoing basis. The fact that I was not aware of these machinations suggests that ongoing communication with citizens could be enhanced, and this would be greatly appreciated.
If I am missing something in terms of staying informed, please let me know!
Jim Whitman
Longboat Key

Danger at the new Fruitville Roundabout

To: Jim Whitman
Thank you. Citizen input to FDOT and the State legislators is helpful as well.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Longboat Key

EV chargers

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Tom Harmer
I just returned from a lovely 6 week stay on Longboat Key. It was our second year of doing this, and I hope we return several more times.
I have a suggestion that the town management might be able to work out. I have a plug-in hybrid car, which means that I can get by using the gas engine. That's what I had to do because there was nowhere to charge my car. There are very few EV charging stations on the island, and they are all Tesla stations I believe. It seems to me that you should be able to facilitate the installation of charging stations, working with the electric utility and a company like ChargePoint. I think the island could use 3 of them at least. You could install them in parking lots, like the one at the north end that has Chubby's Bar. The store owners should like that because they will attract people who might not otherwise stop by.
The future of vehicles is electric, and most of the housing developments do not have charging stations. You need to be thinking ahead. Thank you for your consideration of this idea.
Jerry Frankel
Longboat Key

EV chargers

To: Jerry Frankel
I'm happy to hear that you enjoyed your stay on our beautiful island. As the owner of 2 EVs, I understand your concern and fully appreciate the need for charging stations. This is a topic that has been discussed many times by the current town commission. As much as we would like to see more charging stations on LBK, we don't have the authority to tell individual property and business owners to install EV charging stations - installing one is a decision that businesses make based on customer needs. The Longboat Key Resort, Whitney's Restaurant, and Bayfront Park (this one is free) all have EV charging stations. City Island and the parking deck in St. Armands also have charging stations.

See Letters, page 14

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EditorLetters



Letters, from page 12

Did you consider asking your host to install an EV charging station? If you and other guests ask it will create more incentive to do so.
Debra Williams
Commissioner
Longboat Key

Federal Appropriation for Wastewater Funds

To: Longboat Key Commission
As you are aware, the staff has been working with our federal lobbyist on several appropriation requests. This past year we received an award of \$350,000 for drainage improvements and the staff is working with the granting agency to receive those funds. As part of the 2023 Omnibus Budget that was approved by Congress in December the Town also has been awarded \$3,000,000 for Wastewater Line Replacement. This earmark appropriation (see attached) was sponsored by Congressman Buchanan.
We have additional requests in for projects that would be for consideration as part of the next federal funding cycle. We have been advised that the granting agency for this new \$3 million appropriation will be reaching out to the Town to go the process to receive the approved funding.
Thomas A. Harmer
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Open container law

To: Sarasota City Commission
The open container ordinance applies city wide and has not been revised or repealed. I wonder if what you are seeing is the result of Senate Bill 148 (2021). The legislature passed this law allowing restaurants or other alcoholic beverage vendors to sell alcoholic drinks to go. But this does not mean that all open container laws are abrogated. Both the state statute and city ordinance remain in effect. The places authorized to sell "to go" must sell the drinks in a sealed container and cannot sell drinks to go larger than 32 ounces. Also, the sale of the alcoholic beverage must accompany the sale of food with the same order. Establishments qualified to sell alcohol to go in sealed containers must have at least 2,500 sq. ft. of dining area, must maintain a minimum seating capacity of 150 people and must receive at least 51 percent of their revenue from food and non-alcoholic beverages. Apparently, alcoholic drinks to go became an important source of revenue for restaurants that were trying to survive during the pandemic and this bill grew out of the situation during pandemic. But if people are opening these containers to imbibe before they get home or to other pri-

vate property, they are likely violating the open container laws.
Robert M. Fournier
City Attorney
City of Sarasota

Drinks To Go

Has the City ordinance changed on open containers? Some restaurants seem to be under the impression they can sell a drink for people to enjoy while walking around St. Armands Circle, as long as it's in a plastic container. Thanks for your help on this.
Dan Kriwitsky
Sarasota

Drinks To Go

To: Dan Kriwitsky
Thank you for your email per open containers on St Armands. I see you copied the City Attorney on this so I will defer to him but I do think St Armands does have an exception, or it is my understanding that they did but I'll let the City Attorney respond accordingly so we both know for sure.
Jen Ahearn-Koch
City Commissioner
City of Sarasota

Parking on South Orange Avenue

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch
I'm writing to ask for direction on how best to work with the city to secure on-street parking options for the residents of Kanaya, a 35-unit residential condominium with two commercial spaces, located at 505 South Orange Avenue between Burns Court and Laurel Park. The rezoning and removal of the city parking lot on South Orange Avenue resulted in the loss of parking options for the guests, service personnel and caregivers of our residents. We are hopeful that a walk of the area surrounding the building with a city parking expert could produce some options that could help our community while avoiding inconveniences for our neighbors in Laurel Park. Thank you for your help with this matter,
Lee Duffey
Sarasota

Parking on South Orange Avenue

To: Lee Duffey
Thank you for your email per on street parking around Kanaya. I would be more than happy to meet on site and discuss this with you and have copied the City Manager and Christina (Commission Liason) to arrange a meeting.
Jen Ahearn-Koch
City Commissioner
City of Sarasota

KeyCrossword



**Adam and Eve ...
Ernst and Young ...
Thelma and Louise ... and?**
By Jim Bernhard

ACROSS

- 1. Change
- 6. Monica of the International Tennis Hall of Fame
- 11. What some Whitman College students do in Pioneer Park
- 14. One of the Montagues
- 15. Slanted
- 16. Whitman department housed in the Fouts Center
- 17. Notable collaborators in television sketch comedy
- 19. Position held by Whitman alumnus **Ralph Cordiner '22** at GE from 1958 to 1963
- 20. Cruellest mo., according to T. S. Eliot
- 21. Definitely all right, as astronauts such as Whitman alumna **Dorothy Metcalf-Lindenburger '97** put it
- 23. Sound from a pound
- 26. Notable collaborators in 1960s rock songs
- 31. Key _____, 1948 John Huston film
- 33. _____ Camera, 1951 play by John Van Druten
- 34. Companion of crackle and pop
- 35. Trembled
- 36. Bivalve mollusks
- 38. McAnuff, acclaimed theater director
- 39. Stags' mates
- 41. Key in which London's Big Ben plays quarter-hour chimes (abbr.)
- 43. He said, "Politics is war without bloodshed."
- 45. Freeway entrances and exits
- 49. Hunter constellation
- 52. Kind of exam
- 54. Unusual
- 55. Potters' ovens
- 56. Notable collaborators in frozen desserts
- 59. Meadow
- 60. Serious road offense, for short
- 61. La la preceder
- 62. Whitman students earn these, briefly
- 64. Notable collaborators in internet technology
- 72. In the manner of, to a chef
- 73. Economic resource
- 74. Ron, who served 28 years as Whitman registrar and retired in 2013
- 75. Common name for Whitman's administrative building

- 76. Macbeth or Macduff
- 77. Michael who played the titular *Alfie* in the 1966 film

DOWN

- 1. Noah's craft
- 2. Anonymous John
- 3. Singer-songwriter Winehouse
- 4. It may be split
- 5. A long one is 2,240 pounds
- 6. Kind of four-line verse
- 7. Everlasting
- 8. Prevaricate
- 9. Annex at right angles to original building
- 10. Position normally occupied by another
- 11. Notable collaborators in a nursery rhyme
- 12. Rock with minerals
- 13. "Little _____," 1964 song from Ronnie and the Daytonas
- 18. Type of genie in Dungeons & Dragons
- 22. Black _____, covert activities by an espionage agency

- 23. Actor Pacino and Whitman alumnus **Ullman '35**, a longtime U.S. congressman from Oregon
- 24. Borleske Stadium cheer
- 25. Notable collaborators in fantasy fiction
- 26. Frequent wild card
- 27. MDs' org.
- 28. Famous person
- 29. OPEC member on the Persian Gulf
- 30. Vinyl discs
- 32. Sticky substance
- 37. What the air in Walla Walla unhealthily turns sometimes
- 40. Reddish-brown variety of chalcedony
- 42. Fleischer or Onassis
- 43. Unruly crowd
- 44. Come as you _____ (kind of party)
- 46. Army rank equivalent to Navy lt. cmdr.
- 47. Twelve-year-old, perhaps
- 48. Notched on the edge
- 50. Whitman's annual _____ Act Play Contest

- 51. Spy agcy. established by President Harry Truman
- 53. Profession for Whitman alumnus **William O. Douglas '20**
- 57. Try to bite, like a puppy
- 58. Operated
- 62. One of Chef Emeril's favorite words
- 63. Lambic or stout, for instance
- 65. Whitman alumnus **O'Donnell '43**, physicist, diplomat and namesake of a Whitman lecture series
- 66. U.S. gov't. admin. agcy.
- 67. Husband of a *duchesse*
- 68. Top half of a bikini
- 69. MLB stat
- 70. Bond creator Fleming
- 71. Opposite of SSW

—Jim Bernhard has written crossword puzzles for *The New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Times* syndicate, among other media. His books include *You're On! The Theatre Quiz Book* (2017), *Final Chapters: How Famous Authors Died* (2015) and *Puns, Puzzles, and Wordplay* (2014), all released by Skyhorse Publishing.

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See Crossword Answers, page 12

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