



Longboat Key News

January 17, 2025

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InsideLook



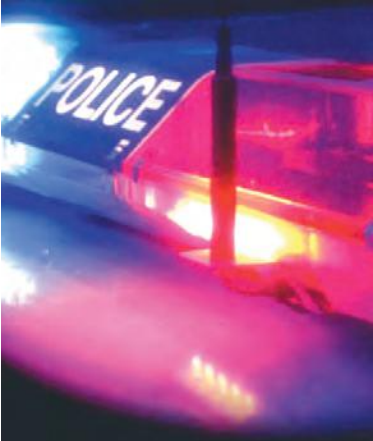
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in the effort
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Tracked Great White Sharks Ping off Sarasota

The great white shark is a 10-foot-long female and weighs 460 pounds at tagging, according to OCEARCH.



Two great white sharks have made their way to the Sunshine State to seek warmer waters. “Crystal” was pinged far off of Sarasota on Jan. 3 at 7:35 p.m. near the West Florida Escarpment. The great white shark is a 10-foot-long female and weighs 460 pounds at tagging, according to OCEARCH. She was tagged on Mar. 14, 2022, at Lookout Shoals (outer), North Carolina as a juvenile. Crystal was named after North Carolina’s Crystal Coast, which is where they were able to tag her, according to OCEARCH. During Expedition Carolinas 2022, Crystal was OCEARCH’s first and only white shark studied. “Keji” another great white shark was pinged in the Gulf of Mexico near the West Florida Escarpment. Keji is a 9-foot, 7-inch great white shark and weighed 578 pounds at tagging, according to OCEARCH. He was last pinged on Jan. 4, at 7:54 a.m. far off Cape Coral. Keji was the 9th shark tagged on Expedition Nova Scotia 2021 and was their 82nd shark studied. His name is after the Kejimikujik National Park, which is located in the region where he was tagged, OCEARCH said. According to NOAA Ocean Exploration, the West Florida Escarpment is between 155 and 215 miles off the west coast of Florida and it goes from about 330 feet deep to around 9,840 feet deep.

SRQ opens one-airline terminal with 3 restaurants, pet room

Sarasota Bradenton International Airport’s newest terminal is now open with three new restaurants and other convenient features for travelers. The Florida Gulf Coast airport had a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new terminal Tuesday, Jan. 14, and the first flight launched from the expansion on Wednesday morning. Named Concourse A, the more than 75,000-square-foot terminal sits to the right of the ticket counters on the ground floor and exclusively services Allegiant flights. “We’ll have, by February, I think it’s 35 destinations from Allegiant,” airport CEO and President Rick Piccolo said. “And they will be our biggest carrier in January and February. They’ll have the most seats of anyone.” New terminal opens after hurricane delays The \$110 million project faced delays in October after Hurricane Milton made landfall in Sarasota. But the terminal was recently completed and its first flight took off Jan 15.

Sarasota’s Powerboat Grand Prix Canceled for 2025

Powerboat P1, the organizer of Sarasota’s annual Powerboat Grand Prix, has announced that Sarasota will not be part of its Triple Crown race series this year. The decision—which comes organizers moved last year’s race from its traditional July 4 weekend date to mid-September—was influenced by budget and safety concerns from Powerboat P1 and uncertainty surrounding ongoing construction at The Bay, specifically around the Van Wezel parking lot and Centennial Park. Powerboat racing began in Sarasota in 1986, and Sarasota has been one of the world’s longest continuously running race sites. The decision to cancel it this year will likely affect local businesses, who say the influx of race-goers provides a bump in revenue during what’s typically a slower time of year. “This event has been a cornerstone of our community for nearly four decades,” says Pete Harvey, director of sports for Visit Sarasota County. “We understand Powerboat P1’s decision and appreciate their commitment to maintaining the event’s high standards. We look forward to its potential return in the future.” While the race won’t take place this year, Thomas Covington, Powerboat P1’s commercial director, says, the company is “optimistic” about finding ways to bring the event back to the area, whether it’s at an alternate site during The Bay’s construction period or securing additional sponsorship support to bolster its budget. Altering the event by making it smaller and adapting to construction and budgetary restraints isn’t an option, Covington says. “We feel scaling down the event would not do justice to the legacy Sarasota has built over the years,” he says.

Sarasota seeks to bolster coyote policies



The Sarasota County Commission has called for more action from the state to deal with what officials said is an increasing local coyote problem. The commission on Tuesday unanimously approved a letter to Terry Burroughs, president of the Florida Association of Counties (FAC), in which it contended that encounters between local residents and the wild canines are happening “with greater frequency and regularity.” The letter said that commissions wanted changes in how the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) handles the state’s coyote population. “The presence of coyotes is increasingly happening in our community and neighborhoods. Our Board feels that this presents an imminent threat to the safety of our residents and visitors,” the letter said. It went on to suggest that the county government advocacy group push state wildlife officials for a more proactive approval to control with coyotes in Sarasota County. Siesta Key has been singled out as a particular hotspot of sightings, though Commissioner Mark Smith, who represents the barrier island, said he surmises that every neighborhood in the county has coyotes. Smith acknowledged that pushing a state-wide policy on how to handle an entire species could be “quite a challenge.” The FWC agency has stressed for years a coexistence approach to the species. Its website makes clear coyotes are here to stay, and says they help balance ecosystems by controlling small mammal populations.

Mote confirms that Red Tide Contributes to Coastal and Ocean Acidification

A pioneering study led by Mote Marine Laboratory, in collaboration with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission-Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWC-FWRI) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), has uncovered a potential critical link between harmful algal blooms (HABs) and acidification in Florida’s estuaries.

The study reveals that distinct acidification events occurred following red tide blooms, and the growth of *Karenia brevis* (commonly referred to as Florida red tide) may contribute to ocean acidification and significant changes in water chemistry. This finding underscores the need for continuous monitoring to better understand and manage the interaction between HABs and acidification in coastal ecosystems.

Red tides occur when certain algae grow rapidly and overwhelm their environment, sometimes releasing toxins that harm humans, fish, shellfish, marine animals, and birds. These events can disrupt marine ecosystems, degrade water quality, and negatively impact local communities.

Ocean acidification happens when atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO2) is absorbed into the ocean, forming carbonic acid and increasing acidity. Coastal acidification results from a mix of this process and local influences such as nutrient runoff, freshwater inflow and algal respiration.

Masses of nutrients—like nitrogen (e.g., ammonia, nitrate, nitrite, and amino acids) and phosphorus (e.g., phosphate)—entering the water can worsen acidification. These nutrients promote the growth of CO2-absorbing algae, which release CO2 back into the water as they decompose, lowering pH levels.

This cycle exacerbates acidification, which harms coral reefs and hinders the growth of calcifying organisms’ shells and skeletons. Organisms with calcium carbonate skeletons or shells include corals, oysters, clams and mussels. They are essential to maintaining the marine ecosystem and food chain.

By analyzing the growth and decomposition of algal cell communities during blooms, the

study revealed that biological processes play a significant role in altering water chemistry. These processes can sometimes intensify water acidity, a phenomenon closely tied to harmful algal blooms.

“This study highlights the importance of understanding how elevated CO2 affects red tide growth in natural ecosystems,” said Dr. Emily Hall, Senior Scientist and Manager of Mote’s Ocean Acidification Research Program. “By doing so, we can better anticipate and mitigate the impacts of harmful algal blooms on coastal communities.”

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Sherry ‘Nef’ Price is a USPTR certified professional. She played at IMG and Division 1 College.
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4844 BRYWILL CIRCLE | SAPPHIRE SHORES
\$1,600,000
3 Beds 3 Baths 2,672 Sq. Ft. with Casita
Contact: Jules Mackie 773-704-1438



6489 GULFSIDE ROAD | LONGBOAT KEY
\$16,995,000 - Under Construction
4 Beds 5 Baths 6,614 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Patrick DiPinto 941-323-0033



3480 BAYOU SOUND | LONGBOAT KEY
\$5,200,000 - Newly Built Construction
5 Beds 4 Baths 4,000 Sq. Ft., Deeded Beach Rights
Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



5444 GULF OF MEXICO DR | LONGBOAT KEY
\$6,900,000 - Bayfront 1.06 Acres
5 Beds, 5 Baths, 6,000 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Tracey Stetler 941-266-9001



3621 SAN REMO TER | SARAOSTA
\$9,750,000 – Under Construction
5 Beds 7 Baths 5,328 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Patrick DiPinto 941-323-0033



3927 SOMERSET DRIVE | SIESTA KEY
\$2,325,000
3 Beds 3 Baths 2,758 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Jules Mackie 773-704-14383



109 N WARBLER LANE | BIRD KEY
\$10,995,000 - Under Construction
4 Beds 5 Baths 5,292 Sq. Ft.
Contact: Patrick DiPinto 941-323-0033



549 SLOOP LANE | LONGBOAT KEY
\$3,900,000- Country Club Shores
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569-571 CHANNEL LANE | LONGBOAT KEY
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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.

Broadway Mini Circles

To: Pete Rowan
Thank you for writing, and I am glad that the mini-circles are working as intended! To answer your questions, please see below.
Isaac Brownman
Assistant Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Broadway Neighborhood Traffic Calming Mini Circles

To: Longboat Key Assistant Town Manager Isaac Brownman
Good morning. Thank you for installing the neighborhood traffic calming mini circles on Broadway. We now have a few months experience with the circles and would like to communicate with you a few observations that are below:

- We believe the circles slow a certain percentage of the traffic. This is great. They have certainly slowed most trucks and drivers new to the neighborhood. Maybe 50% of the traffic now slows as they navigate around the circles at the 3 intersections.

Excellent! Yes, we are seeing positive results in our observations as well.

- Others are still driving too fast, hugging the curbs as they near the intersections allowing them to speed the length of the street. We had hoped for, and recommended, significantly larger circles that would have prevented such easy driving around the circles.

Unfortunately, and as communicated in the past, we cannot make the circles bigger and fit them within the existing intersection framework as they will compress the travel lanes too much. As season picks up, speeding through the circles will be harder to do.

- There have been negative comments regarding the appearance of these circles. The circles are not the most attractive neighborhood traffic calming circles that we have seen. Picture A below is what we envisioned and hoped for, and Picture B below is what we now have.

The solid, rubberized curbing is robust and made for traffic bearing. For this product and specification, there were only two colors/styles to choose from: black w/ white reflectors or red w/yellow reflectors. The red w/yellow, in our opinion, would not have looked good at all.

- As Picture B below shows the sand is leaking out from under the pavers. Thus the edge curbing is now quite a bit higher than the pavers. We suggest the circle edge be made of concrete and sloped similar to the slope of a speed table. Please see the new circles being installed on 75th Street just south of Cortez and the circle edge in Picture A.

We will talk to our internal Public Works team and also reach out to our installation vendor on thoughts/recommendations for the sand. At this point, we are not pursuing concrete curbing as it is much more permanent, impactful to traffic during installation, and costly/destructive to remove to accommodate future resurfacing or road raising projects on Broadway. Also, the idea of this project was to introduce these circles as a “pilot” to see how effective they are before a more permanent concrete solution is considered – the good news is they seem to be working, at least at this point.

Regarding the slope, and as has been communicated in the past, a low-slope traffic table was not the Town’s intent for traffic calming along Broadway at four-way intersections. The idea of roundabouts and mini-circles as raised roadway traffic control, particularly at intersections with multiple movements happening, is the approach The Town supported to slow traffic and maintain more organized intersection movements.

- As we advised, and we think it is fine, most drivers are making left turns in front of the mini circles (except when a car is already there). We anticipated this when reading about neighborhood mini circles. Thus the 6 circle street signs, indicating the approaching circles, are not too meaningful and seem to be ignored by virtually all drivers.

Yes, regarding the first sentences, staff have observed cars making left-turns in front of the circles when it is safe and clear to do so and that seems to be working fine. Regarding the signs, the actual movement intent for vehicles under normal or heavier traffic conditions is to circumnavigate around the circle. The signs will continue to convey that traffic intent.

- The slope of the circle edge is steep so drivers almost always drive around them. We had anticipated the edge of the circle to have a slope like a speed table, and also for the circles to have been much wider. That would have forced drivers to travel over the circle and the circles to act as a speed table at the intersections.

To the first sentence, yes, that is good, that is the intent. For the rest regarding slope, that was not the Town’s intention as intersection control and to slow traffic. The higher edges accomplish both in an effective fashion. Please see above.

- Very long tractor-trailers and large trucks have learned how to manage right turns to avoid the existing curbs. These vehicles must swing wide and often over the circles. Drivers do this slowly and without apparent difficulty.

Good, that is good to hear and what we had hoped/intended as well.

- Thank you very much for not having any street paint.

You are welcome, we believe that the circles are operating well without approach paint, and so the Town does not see a need to install the paint at this point.

Thank you again for addressing the speeding issue on Broadway and we would hope that in the future the modifications noted above could be incorporated.

Brian Feeney
Larry Kanarek
Carla Rowan
Pete Rowan
Longboat Key

Broadway Mini Circles

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Sarah Karon
Thank you Commissioner Karon. Possibly, and we will check into it and options to address.
Isaac Brownman
Assistant Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Broadway Mini Circles

To: Pete Rowan
Thank you for reporting on the new circles, Pete. Glad to know that they are performing as hoped. Isaac and Charlie: I’m curious about the leaking sand, will it require replenishment?
Sarah Karon
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Permitting for Banyan Bay Club

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams
Just letting you know that staff followed-up with the Manager of the Banyan Bay Club.

See Letters, page 6

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Thursday, February 6th, 2025

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 4

There was missing FEMA paperwork. Receiving that information will allow the permits to be reviewed and issued.

Allen Parsons
Planning and Zoning Board Director
Town of Longboat Key

Permitting for Banyan Bay Club

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Alan Parsons
A friend and neighbor reached out to me regarding some difficulty their community at Banyan Bay Club is having getting permits for storm repair (electrical, plumbing, and dry-wall). They have 22 units waiting to be repaired, and are obviously anxious to get the repairs started so they can get back in their homes. They are working with Charlie Bell, Panhandle Contractors, for the repairs. Is there anything that can be done to get the process expedited?
Debra Williams
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

FEMA Fact Sheet

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle
Floridians Can Appeal FEMA’s Decision
If you applied for FEMA assistance, you will receive a decision letter in the mail or via email. If you disagree with the decision about your eligibility, you can appeal within 60 days from the date on that letter.
What to Include When You Appeal
The letter from FEMA will provide additional information on the types of documents or information that you may need to provide.
Supporting documents may include:
• Receipts
• Bills
• Repair estimates
• Property titles or deeds
• Any other information that may support your reasons for the appeal
FEMA will also include an optional appeal form that may be used to help provide additional

information.
When submitting any documentation or information to FEMA, you must include your FEMA application number and disaster number (DR-4806-FL for Hurricane Debby, DR-4828-FL for Hurricane Helene and DR-4834-FL for Hurricane Milton) on every page.
For appeals by a third party, the applicant or co-applicant must also have a valid Written Consent on file for the third party with authorization to appeal or represent the applicant at the time of inspection.
If you have questions about your letter or how to appeal, call the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362.

How to Submit Your Appeal
You can submit your appeal and supporting documentation:
• Online at DisasterAssistance.gov. Log into your account and upload supporting documents via the Correspondence Upload Center.
• By mail: FEMA Individuals & Households Program, National Processing Center P.O. Box 10055 Hyattsville, MD 20782-8055
• By fax: (800) 827-8112, Attention: FEMA – Individuals & Households Program
Stay in Touch
If you applied for disaster assistance, you are encouraged to stay in touch with FEMA. It is important that FEMA be able to contact you. If there are changes in your phone number, current address, banking or insurance information, you should let FEMA know, or you may miss important telephone calls or correspondence. Be aware that phone calls from FEMA may come from unidentified numbers.

For the latest information about Hurricane Milton recovery, visit fema.gov/disaster/4834. For Hurricane Helene, visit fema.gov/disaster/4828. For Hurricane Debby, visit fema.gov/disaster/4806. Follow FEMA on X at x.com/femaregion4 or on Facebook at facebook.com/fema.
LaShardy Leasy
FEMA

Longboat Key Bicycle Assoc. Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Town Clerk Trish Shinkle
Some info on the state of the sidewalks and bike lane on GMD.
At this point it seems that the sidewalks are relatively free of debris.
The bike lanes have some bad spots and there remains a fair bit of debris, glass, etc along the roadway.
As you probably know, the FDOT are responsible for GMD and sidewalks, not the Town. Though the Town does advocate for all cyclist.
Yesterday, I spoke to FDOT, both Manatee and Sarasota, and it turns out they had crews on the road, including a sweeper. However, they would not commit to a completion date.
Today I saw FDOT and AIMM crews working along the road and another crew prepping one of the wash out area’s. So progress is being made.
While there is regular maintenance along the road, if someone would like to report a condition, they can call the Manatee Operations Support Center at 941 708 4400. They will direct the call to those responsible in Manatee or Sarasota as appropriate.
Tom Saunders
Longboat Key Bicycle Association

Longboat Key Bicycle Assoc. Finding Our Strengths / GMD Clean Up

To: Longboat Key Bicycle Association
Following my last email which included some information on the volunteer GMD clean up on February 1st, here is the link to register for the Finding our Strengths get together and GMD clean up; Register here for Finding Our Strengths.
Tom Saunders
Longboat Key Bicycle Association

Finding Our Strengths / GMD Clean Up

To: Longboat Key Department Heads
The Town was approached by a resident who had interest in taking lead on a volunteer based GMD Cleanup to collect debris leftover from the claw trucks and/or just regular trash left along the roadside from littering. I was assigned to work with this resident and connect them with FDOT to help coordinate and get things moving in the right direction.
The event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, February 1st from 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. with a sign-in station at the Longboat Island Chapel. I have arranged to have Keep Manatee Beautiful and Suncoast Aqua Ventures to assist in providing additional volunteers, buckets, pickers, and gloves. FDOT is in full support of the event and will provide safety vests and may erect message boards on the ends of the island (TBD). A hydration and snack station will be available onsite as well. I will talk separately with Public Works on a few other items we may need Town help/support with. There are multiple groups who have come together to support this event with SRQ Strong managing the registration, please see the attached flyer. (Please note: There is an error that will be corrected ASAP on the EventBrite Page as SRQ Strong accidentally listed St Mary’s rather than Longboat Island Chapel).
After volunteers sign-in, they will be assigned to a particular Zone to collect debris and deposit it at a dedicated ‘drop site’ along GMD. Per our latest communication with FDOT, they said they would collect the bags from ‘drop sites’ and I will be reconfirming that along with an anticipated timeframe for collection. Within each Zone we will identify and inform volunteers of public parking areas, restrooms, and water bottle refill stations. No parking will occur within the GMD right-of-way.
Some of the details are still being worked out, but in summary; that is where we are at. It would be great to have the flyer shared on the Town’s social media platforms. I will be onsite for the entire event helping coordinate and helping make sure things run smoothly. I can share a count as to how many folks have registered a few days prior to the event.
As far as the Finding Our Strengths Gathering, I am not involved in that but I have seen the flyer circulating and there has been a request to have it shared on the Town’s social media page and/or possibly posted on the Town Hall bulletin board. I personally feel it would be appropriate to share on social to show our support and encourage community gatherings of this nature. Please let me know if you have any additional questions!

See Letters, page 12

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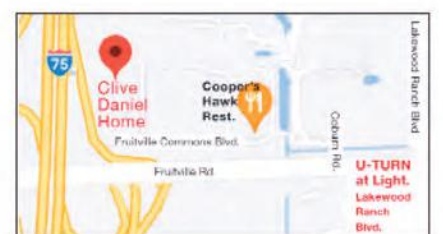
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WineTimes

Roads from Wine Regions to the Australian Open

The Australian Open venues bring together the best of the wines from the different wine regions of Australia.

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

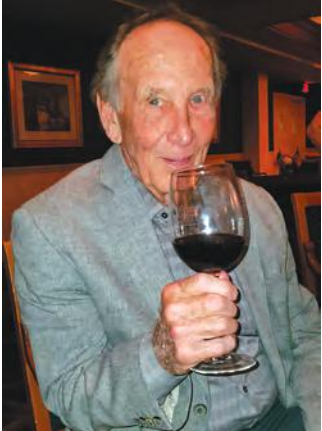
The Australian Open Grand Slam Tennis Tournament has become the highlight of the summer in the land down under, and the Australian sports event best appreciated by sports fans in the USA. Australian rugby and cricket appeal to fans of those sports worldwide, while Australian rules football remains an interesting curiosity on cable TV. Australian Open tennis kick off the professional tennis season, 2025 currently, and showcases the diversity, grace, and glamour of the beautiful game.

The Australian Open in Melbourne, in the far southern sector of the east coast of the country about the size of the USA but with a population of less than 8% of its fellow former British colony in the Western Hemisphere, draws Australian fans from all corners of the country and from abroad. A series of tennis tournaments across from Australia and nearby, on a global scale, New Zealand, prepare players for the main event in Melbourne. By no coincidence, these regional tournaments have close ties to important wine regions throughout Australia and New Zealand.

During late December, Australia hosts the United Cup in Perth and Sydney, two large cities more distant from one another than New York and San Francisco. Perth, on the far west coast of Australia, has the emerging Margaret River wine region to its south. This region's Cabernet and Chardonnay wines compete with California. The 2019 Moss Wood Amy's Red Blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Petite Verdot (\$30) has the classic tastes of a left-bank Bordeaux blend at a fraction of the cost.

On the east coast, the Sydney harbor and its famous Opera House have the look of a cross between Italian red tile roofs and the deep blue water of the Puget Sound outside Seattle. The Hunter Valley wine region north of Sydney near Newcastle is the oldest in Australia. The Tyrrell's Vineyard produces the 2018 Vat 1 Semillon (\$115). This aged white wine has a special place in a collector's cellar.

By the way, the United States team won the United Cup. In Auckland NZ, wine from the South Island had a major role in this event on the North Island. Classic French wines, in particular the Sauvignon Blanc from the Marlborough region



not far south from Auckland and the Otago Valley Pinot Noir from the distant south coldest (and warmest) wine region in New Zealand, must have inspired the winner of the ASB Classic men's singles title, Frenchman Gael Monfils, who became the oldest player to win a sanctioned title. Naomi Osaka of Japan regained form and won the women's title.

Way down in Tasmania, the original home of the extinct devil, the Hobart International Tennis Tournament takes place in a firmly entrenched Pinot Noir wine region. The cool and windblown Tasmanian climate suits the Pinot Noir grape perfectly. The 2021 Devil's Corner Tasmania Pinot Noir (\$25) offers a modest introduction to the wines of this emerging wine region.

McCartney Kessler of the United States won the title at Hobart, defeating the tour veteran Elise Mertens. The renowned wine regions of Southeastern Australia hosted the Adelaide International Tennis Tournament. The great McLaren Vale and Barossa Valley regions have a wealth of wine tourism options waiting those who come to enjoy tennis in the lovely city of Adelaide. The region has far too many exceptional wines to limit mention to a few.

In the men's finals of the Adelaide Open, Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime defeated Sebastian Korda of Sarasota FL in the United States, and Madison Keys of the United States won the women's singles title.

The Australian Open venues bring together the best of the wines from the different wine regions of Australia. Many family farms grow wine grapes and add a degree of authenticity to the better wines from Australia. The fortunes of Australian wines in the international market have risen and waned during the last decade. Look for a reemergence of Australian wines in the near 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. 11 Parking

12:02 a.m.
Officer Troyer responded to Yawl Lane on a report of a suspicious vehicle. The complainant reported a suspicious large truck parked, with the running lights on. Upon arrival, Officer Troyer observed the reported truck which was marked FPL. The truck was also consistent with a Florida Power and Light truck. Officer Troyer spoke with a passenger of the vehicle who said they were restoring power to a house on Yawl Lane. Nothing suspicious was observed. Officer Troyer attempted to contact the complainant but he did not answer the phone. Case clear.



Officer Pescuma responded to a suspended driver's license from the license plate reader alert. Officer Pescuma conducted an FCIC/NCIC query which showed that the driver had a suspended license as of Dec. 23. Officer Pescuma located the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop. Officer Pescuma made contact with the operator. Officer Pescuma asked if he had a bill of sale for the purchase and he replied that he did not. Officer Pescuma was notified by Sarasota Dispatch that the plate came back to a Honda CRV. Officer Pescuma asked the driver of the vehicle for his driver's license, registration and proof of insurance. Officer Pescuma conducted a vin check on the vehicle. The license plate number was not registered to the vehicle and the driver said that he swapped his tag from the Honda and put it on the Pontiac so that he could drive it to the auto store. The driver was unable to produce a bill of sale or title

Driver's license

7:33 a.m.
Officer Martinson while on patrol observed a black Chevy Malibu traveling northbound with a front headlight out. Officer Martinson conducted a traffic stop in the parking lot of the gas station located at the 400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Martinson made contact with the driver who was identified via his passport and explained to him why he had been pulled over. When Officer Martinson asked the driver for his driver's license he stated he did not have one. The driver was given a criminal citation with a court date for no driver's license. The driver parked in the gas station parking lot and called a friend with a valid license to come drive the vehicle. Case clear.

Property

8:00 a.m.
Officer Martinson was dispatched to Firehouse Court on a call of a citizen assist. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson spoke with the caller who stated while delivering a publication to a house she accidentally backed up into the mailbox with her black Nissan Altima. The mailbox broke off from the pole and she wanted police present when she reported the damage to the homeowner. The driver and the Officer made contact with the homeowner and explained what happened to him. The homeowner stated it was not a big deal and he would fix or replace the mailbox. The homeowner said he didn't want a damage to property report or need police involvement. Case clear.

Jan. 12 Water

7:49 a.m.
Officer Martinson was dispatched to the 2800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on a call of a citizen assist. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson spoke with the complainant who said the water was not working inside her apartment. The complainant said they contacted the property manager last night and they are coming out today to check on the issue. The guest stated they called the public works number just to ask if there was maybe a water main break or low water pressure in the area and the dispatcher told them she would send a police officer. The guests stated they did not want a police officer to come out because they already knew there was nothing officers could do to fix the problem. Case clear.

Jan. 13 Airpods

9:09 a.m.
Officer Zunz discovered a pair of apple airpods that had been left anonymously at the lobby of the police department. An attached note advised that the airpods had been found at the entrance of Durante Park on Jan. 10. The pair of airpods were in their white plastic storage container and inside a rubberized outer protector with distinctive identifying marks. Officer Zunz placed the airpods into a property and evidence locker for safekeeping. Case clear.

Driver's license

4:01 p.m.

and failed to change the registration on the vehicle in which he swapped tags. The driver was given citations for driving while license suspended and no registration.

Jan. 14 License plate

9:55 a.m.
Officer Ramsaier while on patrol when someone handed him a found license plate at Bay Isles Road. Officer Ramsaier conducted a query and found the owner whose residence was at the 6700 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Ramsaier attempted to make contact with the owner at his home, however the property manager approached the officer and said that the owner recently sold his condo. The property manager was able to make phone contact with the owner who said that he registered a new car with a new license plate and had discarded the original license plate. Case clear.

Locked

8:24 p.m.
Officer Troyer responded to Cedars Court on the report of a suspicious person. the complainant reported a man wearing a white tank top and New York Yankees hat was knocking on his front door. The complainant further mentioned the man was now at the pool area walking around. Upon arrival, Officer Troyer observed the man standing in front of the clubhouse. Officer Troyer spoke with the man who identified himself and said he was working out in the exercise room when he needed to use the restroom. The man went to the restroom and was locked out of the exercise room. The man said his entry key fob was in the exercise room as well. Sgt. Montfort was able to find an unsecured door to the exercise room so the man could retrieve his items. The man said he was knocking on doors to find someone with a key fob so he could get in. Case clear.

Jan. 15 Dredging

8:13 a.m.
Officer Ericsson while on patrol in Greer Island, observed a suspicious white truck on the beach. Officer Ericsson contacted the driver who said that he worked for a dredging company and was on the beach to ensure the safety of beachgoers. He added that the dredging company is dredging sand from the north end of Longboat Key, south along the coast and the pipe used to carry the sand is within swimming distance from the beach. He said his job was to make sure nobody entered the water close to the pipe. Case clear.

Disturbance

1:00 p.m.
Officer Ericsson and Officer Miklos were dispatched to Lois Avenue and Linley Street regarding a verbal disturbance at the boat ramp. Upon their arrival, Officer Ericsson was contacted by a man who said the verbal disturbance was over. He said two subjects became involved in an argument over use of the boat launch. The individual stated the vessel, which was a barge used to haul hurricane debris from Jewfish Key was unloading debris from the barge and a man was upset because it was taking too long. The man was waiting to pull his boat from the water. The two men became involved in a verbal argument over how long the barge would take to unload. The barge was leaving as officers arrived and the situation was resolved. Case clear.

Resting

3:43 p.m.
Officer Ericsson was dispatched to the 300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on a suspicious person laying down smoking a cigarette on the side of the road. Upon arrival, Officer Ericsson observed a man laying on the sidewalk. Contact was made with the subject who said he did not need medical attention, but was merely resting after walking. Case clear.

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350 S POLK DR Unit#303	1,036	\$565,000	2	2	0	18	\$535,000
1001 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#108	813	\$400,000	1	1	1	170	\$325,000
535 SANCTUARY DR Unit#C408	2,375	\$4,950,000	3	3	0	10	\$4,775,000
3030 GRAND BAY BLVD Unit#386	2,925	\$2,495,000	3	3	1	13	\$2,400,000
3030 GRAND BAY BLVD Unit#343	2,550	\$2,295,000	3	3	0	13	\$2,200,000
3060 GRAND BAY BLVD Unit#112	2,250	\$1,695,000	3	3	0	41	\$1,550,000
2110 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#557	2,039	\$999,000	3	2	0	274	\$999,000
610 FOX ST	1,206	\$395,000	2	2	0	9	\$395,000



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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 6

Alexandra Lowe-Mains
Officer Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Finding Our Strengths / GMD Clean Up

To: Longboat Key Department Heads
This is the event that Alex is heading up. It is a clean up event and she volunteered her expertise on making this happen. The Eventbrite registration is for awareness of how many folks are coming. I included her to provide further guidance.
Charles Mopps
Interim Public Works Director
Town of Longboat Key

Police Department Update

To: Longboat Key Commission
As you are aware, we are beginning our transition with the leadership of the Police Department and Deputy Chief Frank Rubino will become the Interim Chief at the close of business today.
Over the coming months as we go through a process to select a new Chief of Police, I want to share with you the priorities that I have shared with Chief Rubino:
First and foremost, we will continue to support our Officers and staff at the PD as I have since I arrived two years ago.

The safety of our community and the support for our Officers remains my highest priority.
I have asked Chief Rubino to meet with key Town Department Directors and Managers with the goal of improving relationships and establishing better lines of communications. The Police Department is part of a larger team and improving our teamwork is critical to our success.
Chief Rubino will be working with our communications team to expand how we share important information with our community. Tina Adams, who lead our emergency communications efforts through this past storm season so successfully, will be the Town's new PIO (in addition to her other duties) and she will work closely with Chief Rubino in this effort.
Our Police Department will continue with their re-accreditation efforts utilizing our consultants and appropriate staff. We remain committed to meeting the highest standards of performance and accountability.
I will be meeting with Police Department staff to talk about this transition period next week. What I will share with them is this:
You have the complete support of the Town Manager and the Commission. My job is to make sure you have the tools and support to be successful and if there is anything you need from me to accomplish this I will work with Chief Rubino to get that done.
We are future focused, looking for opportunities to get better every day. Any suggestions for ways to improve are welcome and will be evaluated and if it moves the needle in a

positive direction will be implemented.
There is a rumor circulating about combining Fire and Police into a Public Safety Department. That has not been, nor will it be, a direction I would pursue. We can achieve everything we need to do with the goal of these two Departments working better together.
While I don't have a set timeframe yet, we will be going through an external search process for the next Chief, just as we've done for the Public Works Director position, and I encourage anyone internally who may have an interest in this to apply. In the meantime, your day to day responsibilities continue to be the same as we provide exceptional services to this premier community.
Mayor and Commissioners, I will continue to update you as needed as we go through these coming months. As I told Chief Rubino, anytime there is a change there can be both challenges and opportunities and this interim period will be no different. My expectations are that we will work as a team, within the Department and the organization, as well as with our community partners. And together, we will manage the challenges and make the most of the opportunities before us.
Howard N. Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Country Club Shores capital projects

To: Longboat Key Assistant Town Manager Isaac Brownman
Perfect Isaac, that will get us rolling.
Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Country Club Shores capital projects

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin
As discussed and in preparation for your meeting, below are updates to select Country Club Shores ("CCS") area capital projects:
CCS Asbestos Cement Pipe Watermain Replacement:
CCS Phases 4 and 5
The construction contract was about \$5.6 million, and construction began in October 2023. The project is anticipated to achieve substantial completion by the end of January. All construction related to the original contract has been completed, and we are currently addressing the final punch list items, which include valve adjustments and hydrant alterations. Additionally, we are awaiting the final reconciliation of billing. This has been a very successful project.
CCS Phases 1, 2, and 3
There is approximately \$3.5 million set aside for this project in the Town's current FY 25 capital budget. At this time, we are pausing on bidding this work right now as we just approved and advanced the water meter replacement and upgrade project with Johnson Controls, Inc. That should take place over the next 6 – 9 months town-wide. Once that project is complete, at least in the CCS Phases 1, 2, 3 area, we can circle back and work to bid out that portion of the asbestos cement water main project.
CCS Turn Lane Project – FDOT funded:
Gulf of Mexico Dr. is a state road owned and maintained by the Florida Department of Transportation ("FDOT"). FDOT has agreed to fully fund the construction contract cost of about \$2.6 million. The project adds 12 turn lanes to the area, five (5) of which will have curbed median islands. This is per FDOT permitting and direction. The Funding Agreement with FDOT was completed in November of 2024. The Formal Contract with Superior Asphalt, Inc is being finalized, now.
Superior's tentative schedule has the project starting in February. They will begin with the Maintenance of Traffic (Traffic Control Devices) set up mid-February. From there they will be conducting earthwork and drainage on the western edge along the roadway limits, and that work should take them through the third week of March. Major construction will continue through the end of May with landscaping and irrigation being established in June. This is the tentative schedule we are working with at this time. Two lanes of travel through the construction area are anticipated to remain open throughout the project. The Town is aware of the concerns raised by some residents about making left-turns out of streets adjacent to a new curbed median island; the Town will continue to work with the Contractor, Design Consultant, FDOT, and the Construction Engineering Inspection firm to address these by shifting the curbing south where available. Please let me know if you have any questions.
Isaac Brownman
Assistant Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

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BreakPoints

Make your opponent play lots of balls

I often suggest it is better to make your first serve even if you slow down your power, then constantly giving your opponent a second serve.

JACKIE BOHANNON
Guest Columunist
tennis@lbknews.com

I hurt my shoulder when playing in a match, so I resulted to dropping the ball and hitting it underhand for serving. My opponent said I couldn't do that, so I retired. Are there any alternatives if you can't serve overhand?



BOHANNON

You and your opponent were both correct essentially, but there was a critical piece of information you were missing. Many people serve underhand for a variety of reasons: sun in the eyes, shoulder injuries, bad serving day, or new to the sport. However, while you can serve underhand you cannot let the ball bounce. All of the same rules apply to the underhand serve as the "normal" overhand serve. You have to hit it out of the air, you can't foot fault, and you still have to hit it into the correct service box. I have seen many players develop a good underhand serve for a variety of reasons and still play at a high level of recreational tennis. You'll even see the pros throw in a trick underhand serve here and there. (Nick Kyrgios is infamous for this.)

I was playing a doubles match, and every time my partner served our opponents would slam the ball at me at the net. I backed up to the service line, but I still couldn't return it. I have OK volleys generally, but against them we lost all of our service games. Any advice?

This can happen mainly for two reasons. One, if your opponents have strong ground strokes, or two, your partner has a weak serve. Worst case scenario is when your partner has a weak serve, and your opponents have great groundstrokes! The first step is to try to get your partner to get their first serve in, and if possible diversify their targets so your opponents don't know what is coming. I often suggest it is better to make your first serve even if you slow down your power, then

			1	7		6		
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Ads that work...

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constantly giving your opponent a second serve. However, the easiest and most simple solution to this scenario is for you to back up to the baseline. Playing both back is both the safest and most defensive position. If you are getting attacked at the net BACK UP! Players play both back for a multitude of reasons: their opponents are attacking them at the net, the player's groundstrokes are much stronger than their volleys, it mixes up the formation against the opponent, etc. If you are playing and getting attacked at the net, this strategy also gives you more time. The most important strategy in recreational tennis is to be consistent, and make your opponent play as many balls as possible, so at least by backing up you are giving yourself a chance to make them hit one more ball!

Serve Jackie your best question!



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

Pink Slip

- ACROSS**
- 1. River hazard
 - 5. It aids commerce in Cancun, Kalamazoo, and Calgary
 - 10. Left 21 across or 8 down
 - 14. He's blue without his red or white
 - 15. Offering from Google or Yahoo
 - 16. He may be blue because he's in the red
 - 17. Golden rule word
 - 18. Princess in plum?
 - 20. One might clean up at a Vegas hotel
 - 21. Certain hand-outs
 - 22. Coolpix camera maker
 - 23. Fabric for a sundress
 - 25. Creatures of clay
 - 26. Share the stage with journalist Andrea?
 - 30. See eye to eye
 - 31. Lord's Prayer start
 - 32. Blown away
 - 36. Org. that sticks to its guns
 - 37. Auto dealer's option, and a hint to this puzzle's theme
 - 41. Greeting for Caesar
 - 42. Congers and morays, e.g.
 - 44. Keats creation
 - 45. Novelist Joyce Carol
 - 47. Caesar's boastful bon mot?
 - 51. Like this clue
 - 54. Pendragon of legend
 - 55. Stock holding
 - 56. Word with back or off
 - 58. Tach readings
 - 61. San Fran sportscaster?
 - 63. "Piggies"
 - 64. Caesar's challenge
 - 65. One with grievances, perhaps
 - 66. Classic Lotus model
 - 67. Kind of waist
 - 68. Strand in Rapunzel's rope
 - 69. Oxford fellows

Robert Stockton

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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64					65						66			
67					68						69			

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DOWN

- 1. Like one leg of a triathlon
- 2. First of a famous sailing trio
- 3. Like AZT
- 4. "Well said!!"
- 5. Himalayan denizen
- 6. Worn magic item
- 7. McDonald's, e.g.
- 8. Certain hand-outs
- 9. Tide alternative
- 10. Silverback, e.g.
- 11. No longer napping
- 12. Asp's output
- 13. Moran and Brockovich
- 19. Hydroxyl compound
- 24. "...until _____ a man with no feet."
- 25. "It's Raining Men" singer Halliwell
- 26. Heroine of a classic children's reader
- 27. Man-eater of myth
- 28. Many a software engineer
- 29. Blue, red, or white
- 33. Sport with very wet horses?
- 34. What to get after an insult
- 35. He loved Lucy
- 38. Unchangeable storage
- 39. Stir
- 40. A bagel and lox, perhaps
- 43. Buttress
- 46. Kept at bay
- 48. Mouse manipulator
- 49. You'll find many in a pound
- 50. Pronounces
- 51. How good was it?
- 52. Tony-winning Rivera
- 53. Dennis Miller specialty
- 56. Evening on the Champs-Élysées
- 57. Land of the leprechauns
- 59. Like 27 down
- 60. Apr. 15 data
- 62. Wine container

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