

Longboat Key News

March 24, 2006

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FREE

Sign Plan Possible for Publix Plaza



Dead River Properties wants more visibility so its signs attract tenants.

Melissa Reid
Staff Writer

Longboat Key resident Madelyn Josey Spoll has been spearheading a petition campaign to persuade Dead River Properties, the owners of Avenue of the Flowers, into renting more of the stores so the complex does not appear abandoned.

The real reason the stores are not rented out, according to Dead River Properties, is that they were not allowed by the Town to place adequate signage to advertise businesses that occupy the building.

A letter from Mary Mulligan, asset manager and legal coordinator of Dead River Properties, to the President of Bay Isles Association stated, "Our tenants have asked us for additional signage so that people driving by will know they are located here. We made the request for additional and larger signage both on Gulf of Mexico Drive and on Bay Isles Parkway and have had our requests denied. We think the additional signage would help us better market the center to new tenants and bring in more business to our existing tenants. We have also pursued approvals to trim the landscaping in the front of the center to improve visibility from Gulf of Mexico Drive, with no success."

If Dead River Properties were to approach the Commission and request a sign code variance to advertise its stores better in an effort to bring in more businesses, that would be tenable. St. Denis said, "If the Town Commission opens up

Sign Plan, Page 8A

Bouquet of Thanks



Steve Reid

Outgoing Mayor Ron Johnson and his wife, Jinny, received flowers of appreciation for their years of service to the Town of Longboat Key at Ron Johnson's last Commission meeting on Monday.

Visioning Price Tag Increases

Melissa Reid
Staff Writer

Planning and Zoning Board Chairman Sandy Gilbert appeared Thursday before the Town Commission and requested \$40,000 for a full survey that would be mass mailed to all individuals on Longboat Key. This survey would be conducted as part of the



Gilbert

visioning process. The Town has already allocated \$25,000 for the survey, and the Planning and Zoning Board is requesting the additional \$15,000 to conduct a more inclusive survey of everyone on Longboat Key. Town Manager Bruce St. Denis noted that Planning and Zoning has an additional \$7,000 it can utilize for the larger survey, and that the Commission Contingency Fund was also available. Herb Marlowe, of the Arrington-Marlowe consulting firm responsible for conducting the visioning process, appeared before the Commission and was asked by commissioners to come back with a proposal for the full survey.

The Planning and Zoning Board voted seven to one on Tuesday for moving

Visioning, Page 6A

Newly Elected Mayor Joan Webster, Vice-Mayor Lee Rothenberg Speak Out

Melissa Reid
Staff Writer

At Monday night's statutory meeting, former Mayor Ron Johnson was honored, and the Town's new mayor and vice-mayor were sworn in. Former Vice-Mayor Joan Webster was nominated and elected for mayor; and Commissioner Lee Rothenberg was nominated along with Commissioner Randall Clair for the position of vice-mayor. Clair, nominated by Commissioner George Spoll and seconded by Jeremy Whatmough, withdrew, and Rothenberg was elected as vice-mayor.

The following are questions Longboat Key News asked of the new mayor and vice-mayor regarding their new positions, and issues that face the Town of Longboat Key.

What are you looking forward to bringing the Commission?

Webster: I'm very interested in the result of our visioning process. I'm interested in keeping commercial business on the island, and tourism. I'm also interested in working with the two counties and let them know what our needs are, and bring some of the money back to our Key. We

need to get to know the commissioners from the two counties. We want a place at the table to know how we're spending the money. We are part of the inter-local education agreement with Sarasota and Manatee Counties; we just want a voice in how the money is being spent. I'm also very interested in developing our emergency response plan, hurricane preparedness plan, and recovery plan. We need to be prepared. We're preparing for it. I want to work on the FEMA issues, to strengthen the Key.

Rothenberg: We have two major complicated subjects that need resolution. One is the beach, and the other is FEMA. There's nothing that I as an individual, or as vice-mayor, can do which is unique or different. I'm one of seven commissioners. We'll have differences of opinion, but the focus is on all of the commissioners.



Webster

What are some of your new duties as mayor and vice-mayor?

Webster: The major thing is that the mayor must conduct the meetings. You also represent the Town at different events. I'm still a commissioner and have only one vote.

Rothenberg: The main direction is to assist and help the mayor in any way possible, to stand in for the mayor when she has other commitments.

What is the biggest problem facing the Town Commission in the next year?

Webster: The Islander hot spot, the FEMA regulations, hurricane preparedness, hurricane recovery, and an emergency response plan.

Rothenberg: The beach, and FEMA regulations.

Speak Out, Page 8A



Rothenberg

InsideLook



Chamber Event...
page 1B

Hannerle Moore

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This three bedroom pool home is Country Club Shores' best value	\$799,000
Walk right out to the beach from this beach front, Beachplace condominium	\$1,095,000
Terrific 2658 sq. ft., deep-water dockage Emerald Harbor home	\$1,275,000
Beachwalk of Longboat Key with incredible gulf, sunset and beach views	\$1,985,000
Spanish, Mediterranean style, beach front Siesta Key home with glorious views of the Gulf	\$1,995,000
Longboat Key bayfront, luxury project for sale. Large parcel with docks for 50' yachts, beach and bay views and access, in final stages of permitting	\$5,995,000
	\$4,950,000

Hannerle Moore



Prudential Palms Realty

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NewsWorthy

Free Admission to Bird Sanctuary

In celebration of its 25th anniversary, the Pelican Man's Bird Sanctuary will offer free admission weekends the last Saturday and Sunday of each month through May 2006. On March 25, the public is invited to an instructional workshop at 11 a.m. to learn about the re-nesting of baby birds. The hour long program will be held in the sanctuary's education center. Ajax, the red-tailed hawk, will also be on hand to meet and greet visitors in his first public debut.

Director Altman Comes to Film Fest

Sarasota Film Festival will welcome famed filmmaker Robert Altman to the closing night presentation of his latest movie release "A Prairie Home Companion" on April 9. Altman is best known for directing such well-known films as "The Player" and "M*A*S*H." His new movie is an adaptation of Garrison Keillor's popular radio program and also

stars Meryl Streep, Kevin Kline, Virginia Madsen and Lindsay Lohan.

Habitat Gets New Direction

Habitat for Humanity-Sarasota announced that Deborah Rohaty has joined the non-profit organization as Director of Development. She will be responsible for the development and implementation of their fundraising program. Rohaty, a native of New Jersey, is the former general manager of The Players Theatre and served as executive director of the Van Wezel Foundation.

"I've enjoyed being in non-profit with the arts but I find it very exciting at this time when affordable housing is such an issue to make a switch in my career to human services and to be a part of the Habitat team," said Rohaty.

Rohaty has a B.A. in integrative arts from Pennsylvania State University and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of South Florida.

Doggone Happy Day



Roger Richards holds Missy's new buddy, Baby, while Samantha Houghton stands with Missy outside the Humane Society of Sarasota County.

Tails were wagging and tears were flowing Thursday when Missy, the Humane Society of Sarasota County's longest canine resident, went home with her new family. After hearing about a Labrador retriever mix's nearly two-year stay at the Humane Society on an Oldies 108 radio show while traveling to work, Pinellas Park resident Samantha Houghton decided to give Missy a loving home with Roger Richards.

"Staff and volunteers never gave up hope that Missy would one day find her forever home, and they worked very hard to promote adoptions and keep cage space available for her while Missy waited for her perfect people,"

said Deborah Robbins Millman, executive director of the humane society.

Missy was brought to the open admission shelter in September 2004. An open admission shelter means they continue to take in animals even when there is no room available.

A crowd of cheering staff and volunteers sent Missy to her new home with many parting gifts, including a new leash and obedience classes at the humane society. "As thrilled as we are, there is a cat that has been here even longer than Missy," Millman said. "Judith, a black cat brought to the shelter as a newborn just one week before Missy arrived, is still waiting for a home."

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Town Study Supports T-Head Plan

Melissa Reid
Staff Writer

Stay the course is the word from Coastal Planning and Engineering when it comes to the T-head vs. permeable groin debate on Longboat Key.

The firm that is in charge of planning and implementing Longboat Key’s beach renourishment project, as well as the groins at the Islander Club and the north-end beach, recommends that the Town does not need to revise the design from solid T-head groins to permeable groins because results from the Town’s \$40,000 sand erosion and groin performance study, the Delft 3D study, suggest that it would not be necessary to allow sand to bypass within groin compartments, because there is enough movement of sand around (seaward of) the T-groins.

Future Plans

Coastal Planning and Engineering, based on the results of the study, also recommends that the Town authorize the last phase of the modeling to identify a beach nourishment design that would address the impacts predicted by the model; to place overfill sand in areas that may experience more sand loss as a result of the groins.

The Delft 3D model was designed to predict what will happen under certain wave and wind conditions, and deter-

mine whether there will be any adverse effects on the surrounding beaches. The modeling device belongs to a company in Holland and uses three dimensional computer imaging to show the possible effects the proposed T-groins would have on the beach in front of the Islander Condominiums. The Delft 3D integrates the effects of waves, currents and sediment transport on the beaches.

The Delft 3D modeling displayed shoreline changes between one, four and eight years after the T-groins are installed. The researchers also performed the modeling on designs of five T-groins and six T-groins and compared them to the shoreline if it received no groins.

According to the Delft 3D study, the beach between the Longboat Key Beach Club and Seaplace will erode from six to 16 feet after eight years. The maximum shoreline retreat is between Seaplace and the Aquarius Club where beach loss is estimated to be approximately 36 feet for both the five T-head groin design and the six T-head groin design. Within the groin field, the modeling found there will be stable beaches.

These areas that would experience sand loss as a result of the T-head groins being placed, are where CPE recommends placing overfill in the amount of sand loss each particular area would experience after the eight year model.

Thomas Campbell, president of Coastal Planning and Engineering said, “We recommend the Town run the last phase of the Delft 3D model with the additional amount of sand that each area experiencing sand loss incurred after eight years. If we run the model with the additional fill to compensate for the loss of sand, and it shows an acceptable amount of maintained shoreline, then we recommend the Town move forward with the permitting for the six (but will only be five T-head solid groins.”

According to Campbell, the Town beaches have enough sand from the current renourishment project at this time to be able to absorb any loss of sand that may happen after the T-groin installation for up to about four years.

“Right now they (the beaches) have plenty of advance fill in those areas. If they build the groins within the next year they would not need to add sand for a few years,” said Campbell.

The results of the Delft 3D modeling have already been received by commissioners and will be further explained by representatives from CPE at the April 3 meeting. This modeling process was used to evaluate whether placing the recommended T-head groins at the Islander will be effective, and if they will be detrimental to adjacent beaches causing more erosion.

Lawsuit Insurance

Mayor Joan Webster has likened the modeling as a type of insurance policy for the Town’s decision to place the T-groins at the Islander. The scientific modeling would offer substantiated evidence that the Town thoroughly investigated the possible outcome of the proposed T-head groins, in the event that any businesses were to be adversely affected by the T-groins, and pursued litigation.

So far, The Colony Beach and Tennis Resort Chairman Dr. Murf Klauber has voiced his disagreement with the Town’s decision to place T-groins in front of the Islander. He believes that this will cause erosion on adjacent beaches, including his. Klauber believes permeable groins are the solution, such as the one at The Colony, and may pursue litigation if the Town places the T-groins. He has also organized a group of condominium owners and managers who disagree with the Town’s placement of T-groins, as their beaches may adversely be affected.

Most recently, Klauber held a meeting with the condominium owners and Brett Moore of Humiston and Moore Engineering, and Kathleen Tignor of the Tignor Group, engineering firms that both stated at the meeting that permeable groins would be the best option for erosion at the Islander.

Storm Debris May Head to Sarasota County

Melissa Reid
Staff Writer

Sarasota County may be receiving some of Longboat Key’s hurricane debris, and not just from loose lumber blowing across the bay. Town Manager Bruce St. Denis presented an interlocal agreement to commissioners at Thursday’s workshop that would allow the Town of Longboat Key to place its storm debris after a hurricane in Sarasota County’s debris management sites. Sarasota County has a program in which the county would take the responsibility in handling debris disposal for both the county and the cities.

St. Denis has been working with commissioners in recent months to come up with a plan for purchasing land on Longboat Key to use for debris management. The idea has so far been cost prohibitive, with estimates for purchasing the necessary amount of land at around \$20 million. Some commissioners have suggested utilizing the proposed debris management sites as ‘green space’ to be used in non-emergencies as parks and recreational areas.

For now, however, the Town will have to determine if it will be amenable to the interlocal agreement with Sarasota County. St. Denis stated that he believes



As a temporary measure, the Town is hoping to secure an arrangement to send hurricane debris to Sarasota.

this is a good “short-term solution,” but that the Town needs a long-term solution as well, such as purchasing its own land for debris management. St. Denis listed the following concerns about the interlocal agreement for commissioners at the meeting:

1. It assumes we will be able to get from Longboat Key to the point of disposal. St.

Denis is relatively confident that both the Ringling and New Pass bridges will be operational after most storm events. He believes the weak links are the two small bridges located east of the Sarasota Yacht Club and the small bridge just south of St. Armands.

2. If the county starts to experience problems from the standpoint of either

operations or record-keeping, it is possible that the county will discontinue the operation either during that storm or from that point on. This would leave the Town without an option.

3. The plan requires all communities to share proportionately in the cost of any environmental mitigation that needs to be done as a result of the debris handling. Longboat Key’s likelihood of introducing pollutants is relatively small because we are primarily a residential community. Through this agreement we will be asked to share the cleanup cost for communities that have industrial or commercial debris from operations such as dry cleaning companies.

Following a declaration of a State of Emergency by the County and/or State, Sarasota County will accept disaster debris from the Town. The Town would be responsible for the delivery of the debris material to the County’s debris site, and then reimburse the County’s contractor for the processing and disposal. The Town would be required to obtain Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) reimbursement on its own, as well as pay for its pro rata share of any environmental clean up costs.

Town Seeks Reader-Friendly Advertising for Agenda Items

Melissa Reid
Contributing Writer

The Town of Longboat Key’s Advertising may receive some tweaking. At a regular commission meeting on Feb. 6, Commissioner Lee Rothenberg noted that residents have a difficult time understanding the advertisements that the Town is required to publish in local newspapers. These advertisements explain the agenda items to be discussed at the upcoming Commission meetings and workshops. Town Manager Bruce St. Denis said, “It’s (the advertisements) for the public, and it was decided that the advertisements may

not be so clear, and perhaps they should not be printed in the legal-eze.”

Currently, St. Denis and his assistant, Susan Ammonds write the agenda packets and would consequently be the individuals who would write the advertisements as well. Although St. Denis noted that for land-use issues, the writers would be generated by Town staff or the planning board.

The decision is now in the hands of the commissioners and whether they would like to proceed with publishing the new reader-friendly advertisements, or stay with the more legal type of descriptions.

State law requires that the Town publish upcoming Commission agendas in local newspapers. The standards for advertisements as per statutory requirements for ordinances are:

Land use (more than 10 acres)

- For first reading, the ad must run at least seven days prior to public hearing
- For second reading, the ad must run at least five days prior to public hearing

Land use (less than 10 acres)

- For second reading we advertise 10 days prior to the public hearing

Non-Land use

- Only advertise 10 days prior to the second reading/Pubic Hearing

According to a letter from Town Attorney David Persson, “The information for the ads would simply be taken from that which you (town manager) currently provide the Town Commission as well as a short note from Planning and Zoning (Department) when it’s quasi-judicial in nature.”

KeyOpinion

PIC-a-PAC of Peevish Plotters

Richard L. Hershatter
Contributing Columnist

***"Sticks and stones may break one's bones,
But words can never hurt."
That's not quite true; there are a few
That people ought to skirt.***

At their regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday, several of the seven Planning and Zoning Board's members present, wearing their "PIC" hats, vented their sentiments toward the results of the Moore Restaurant rezone referendum and the publicity received prior to the town election.

Claiming a "point of personal privilege," Board and PIC member George Symanski read a prepared statement, but refused thereafter to give a member of the press a copy.

Mr. Symanski's diatribe included accusations leveled against Alan Moore, of the restaurant bearing his name, as well as the Chamber of Commerce, the Sarasota daily newspaper, both Longboat weeklies, their respective owners, publishers and CEOs, and their columnists, including yours truly.

His charges included, collectively and individually, claims of misinformation, ignorance and calumny (although it is not certain that he knows the definition of the last word).

Sandy Gilbert, Chairman of the P & Z Board and past president of PIC, added his opinion that the public had been intentionally misled by the targets of Symanski's vituperation.

It was a classic example of logorrheic paranoia, blaming everyone else imaginable for the outcome of the voting, except the members of the Planning and Zoning Board and the leadership of PIC.

The two proclaimed themselves a "truth squad," and

charged that 75% of the statements made about the Moore problem were "gross lies" and "truly ignorant."

We have written of the good works PIC has done in the past and believe that its goals remain legitimate and the great majority of its members sincere.

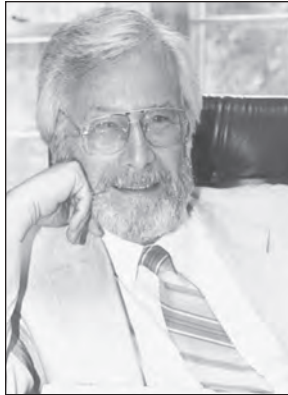
We also do not question the right of any individual to his or her opinion, with the Constitutionally protected right of free speech. What is inappropriate, however, is the utilization of a scheduled meeting of a regulatory Board as a platform for spewing forth personal frustration and spleen.

We are also saddened by the fact that the good, original purposes of the Public Interest Committee have been subverted by four of its present leaders.

The voluble quadrumvirate (for those unfamiliar with communist semantics, that's a "troika," plus one) have indulged themselves in a vitriolic spectacle rare for the Town of Longboat Key.

In addition to Gilbert and Symanski, the gentlemen in question are PIC members Walter Hackett and Jim Brown (no relation to the former mayor and columnist of the same name.)

The attitude displayed by this quartet, both publicly and privately, mandates that each of them must recuse himself from consideration when, and if, a petition for zone change of Moore's property comes before their Board. A failure so to do will mean a certain Court slap-down and reversal, with the extra legal costs involved to the taxpaying public.



In his well-reasoned analysis of the results of the town election, former mayor and Herald Tribune columnist Jim Brown (as we said, no relation to P & Z Board member and PIC leader Jim Brown), points out that notwithstanding PIC's endorsement, successful Commission candidate Bob Siekmann won by a much smaller margin than is customary in such contests.

The facts are that the town was fortunate to have two excellent candidates volunteering to serve on the same unpaid seat. It is perfectly legitimate for PIC to endorse one of them and announce such endorsement, with the reasons therefor, to the general public.

Where PIC's present leadership crossed the line, however, was to follow up with a second, last minute, electioneering pamphlet, parroting the phrases used in the candidate's campaign literature, and crying that PIC's own "volunteers" were being abused.

That made "PIC" a "PAC," or Political Action Committee, which puts the organization under a quite different set of rules, particularly with reference to in kind contributions to a candidate's campaign.

Whatever the legal implications, it is doubtful whether the dues-paying membership of PIC at large would have countenanced the antics of its leaders.

It would seem that Commissioner Siekmann won in spite of PIC. If the organization continues on its present course under its current leadership, its future endorsements will do more harm than good.

To paraphrase the words of the late U.S. Vice-president John Nance Garner, their endorsement will be as useless as a "cup of warm spit."

Richard L. Hershatter is a retired lawyer and novelist who writes a syndicated column of interest to Floridians. He can be reached at Banyan502@aol.com.

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Clintonism, Federalism May Save the Day

Tom Burgum
Contributing Columnist

Justice William Frankfurter once said that federalism was part of the genius of the American experience. In our system of government the authority to govern is divided between Washington and the states. Frankfurter reasoned that each of the states could become a governmental laboratory where different ideas or programs could be tried, allowing the nation as a whole to reject the failed and adopt or emulate those that succeeded. He believed a failed federal program was rarely cancelled and taught but a limited lesson.

We may need the federal system now more than ever in our history. Washington seems exhausted. It appears to even a sympathetic observer to have run out of both ideas and the energy to implement them. The huge federal deficit combined with the bitterly partisan political culture seems to have rendered Washington catatonic. George Bush has ceded the public debate to the Democrats and now seems incapable of promoting any serious agenda. Social Security reform, which many in both party parties believe is desperately needed, is dead. Even though Congress is now looking at tax reform proposals it is inconceivable the current Congress will seriously consider needed reform during this election year. The Republicans in Washington are too busy running for cover from the ports dispute to effectively govern. National Democrats seem incapable of forming a cogent agenda and seem only able to hope the rest of the country can be brought to dislike George Bush as much as they do.

Out in the states it is very different because a "Clintonian" (Bill, not Hillary) renaissance is underway. Many states are sporting a budget surplus and many also seem to have a surplus of clever ideas about what to do with the money. The Economist noted, "Prepare to travel back in time to the era of triangulation, health-care task forces and tedious third-way conferences.



The Republicans may control more governorships, but Clintonian ideas dominate governors' mansions across the country, from Little Rock to Sacramento." Finding an answer to the health insurance problem is first in line. The ideas aren't necessarily new but the great majorities are centrist ideas. Educational reform is still on most agendas, and attracting high-tech business — or almost any business that increases employment opportunities — in a state is one of the old stalwart ideas from as far back as the 70s.

The Clintonian approach take the middle ground is making it possible for various states to find answers without regard to liberal or conservative dogma. The Economist reports, "Conservative stalwarts like Oklahoma and Georgia are providing kindergarten for pre-schoolers. Everybody is trying to attract high-income workers by reinforcing 'clusters of excellence,' investing in 'meds and eds' (ie, health care and universities) and establishing initiatives in the 'life sciences.' In Massachusetts, Mr. Romney is introducing universal health care through a combination of sticks and carrots: everybody will be forced to buy health insurance, with poorer people getting subsidies."

It is instructive to realize the Clintonian approach has enabled Democratic governors to win elections in 12 states won by George Bush. It has also enabled many of these governors to succeed in achieving approval ratings in the 60-percent range despite governing in states with a majority of Republican voters. It is a bit ironic that many Democratic governors now claim to be fiscal conservatives, although a cynic might observe it's good someone is fiscally conservative because the national Republican party seems to have abandoned the idea. Still, it is not surprising to find many state-based Democrats on the conservative side of the spending issue as they seem to have no problem adopting "red-state" ideas. Bill Richardson in New Mexico has cut taxes. The new Democratic governor of Virginia has been a missionary in Latin America. Brian Schweitzer of Montana is an avid hunter and has been careful to support second amendment rights. Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas has proposed a military "bill of rights" to help families of military personnel. Other Democratic governors in both swing and red states have approval ratings in the 50 and 60

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LongboatLetters

Stop Talking Trash, Fix the Problem

Dear Editor:

The recent article about our trash collection service brings pen to hand. I believe most folks would appreciate a better, less expensive and less time-consuming method than we now have. I personally don't have nice things to say about complainers who don't offer at least one plausible solution. Here is one that might energize our leaders to make some inquiries outside our area to communities that already have a better method for accomplishing the same goal. One such method is in place in the small Texas community of Flowermound and surrounding communities near Dallas.

Each resident is issued (loaned) one large black special container with a convenient handle, quiet wheels and a secure lid that is moved to the curb by the resident for a once a week pickup. A truck arrives and uses mechanical means to pick up the container, dump it into the

truck and replace it at the curbside. Only a single driver is needed and no heavy lifting is required. The pickup is cleaner, leaves no debris in its wake and takes about a minute at each stop. This is quite obviously a far better method than we have and should be far better method than we have and should be far less expensive for all concerned. A similar system is used in Clearwater.

With single, larger barrels once a week, garbage collection would be adequate and save the L'Ambiance staff and many others all that wasted motion. We don't need twice a week garbage collection but we do need the once weekly collection regardless of holidays or other excuses and leave the yard trash pick-up as it is.

There is a better way folks. All our leadership had to do is make the necessary effort.

I hope this helps solve the overall problem.

Rolland S. Freeman
Longboat Key

Job Well Done

Dear Juan Florensa:

On behalf of our congregation at All Angels by the Sea let me say: well done!

We appreciated the new lighting now being installed at our end of Bay Isles Road and firmly believe this improvement will make the area safer and more secure. We have a number of elderly people in our congregation who really don't like to drive at night, but a well-lit area will encourage them to participate in our evening church affairs.

You may recall the undersigned is All Angels representative on the Bay Isles Road Association so he knows of you direct involvement in seeing this project come to fruition. Many, many thanks!

Ed Wheeler
Longboat Key

Longboater Helen Martin Passes

Helen Snider Martin died on March 10 at her home on Longboat Key.

Mrs. Martin was born Nov. 3, 1910 in Fountaintown, Indiana, where she lived most of her life. With her late husband Walter, she established a second home in Sarasota in 1958, moving to Longboat Key. Her Hoosier ties remained strong, however, and she returned to Indiana until she was 94, attended services at the Fountaintown Methodist Church to which she had earlier donated her home as a parsonage. In recent years she would stay in an apartment built by her father, J. Harvey Snider, on one of her farms. Helen was also a member from many years of Sarasota United Methodist Church, which she attended regularly until her death. The Methodist Church was a major part of her life both in Indiana and Florida. In Florida she delivered hot food to of invalids as part of Meals on Wheels program until she was 85.

Helen's parents were J. Harvey and Jeannette Snider, life long residents of Fountaintown. Her parents and grandmother owned the Fountaintown Gas Company, which at one time supplied natural gas to a wide area,

including Greenfield. Her first job at eight years old was reading gas meters. By age 10, she was driving and giving violin lessons near town.

A graduate from DePauw University in 1931 with a degree in music, Helen taught for several years at the Soldiers and Sailors Children's Home in Knightstown. This is where she met her husband Walter, who worked in a grocery near the home. They moved into a Fountaintown residence her father had built for them as a wedding gift. Walter managed the farms owned by Harvey Snider until Harvey's death in 1957 and continued the management for Helen and her younger sister, Mary Alice, who preceded Helen in death in 2001.

Mrs. Martin bore three children: Judith May Myer of Lexington, Kentucky, James Robert Martin of Knoxville, Tennessee and John Walter Martin of Mountain View, Hawaii. She has three grandchildren: Bruce Alan Myer of Sarasota, Julia Martin Murphy of San Francisco and Justin James Martin from Palo Alto, California. Her three great grandsons, Parker, Blake and Chase Myer, live in Sarasota. Bruce took particular care of his grandmother in her

later years.

Helen was a strong and forceful woman who traveled the world. There were few places she had not been.

Some travel gained her notoriety. In her late 80's while in Egypt, she refused to be deterred when her flight to Israel was canceled and took a bus across the Sinai. Her story was carried in U.S. and Egyptian media.

As recently as 2004, Helen sold fruit at a roadside stand outside one of her barns near Fountaintown. The fruit was grown by her son, John, in his nearby orchard. He would pick the fruit and she would help him sell it during September and October.

A memorial service will be held at the Sarasota United Methodist Church at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 25 and at the Fountaintown Methodist Church at a time to be announced. She will be buried in the Fountaintown Methodist Church. Toale Brothers Funeral Home, Colonial Chapel, is in charge of arrangements. Memorial donations may be made to the Fountaintown, Indiana, Methodist Church or First United Methodist Church of Sarasota.

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FPL Presents Feasibility of Burying Power Lines

The burial of power lines debate continues. When it comes to maintaining electricity on Longboat Key following a major hurricane, commissioners have debated whether burying power lines throughout the island would be viable. The idea being that buried power lines will not be susceptible to wind that blows trees over and knocks out the overhead power lines. Heres what FPL has to say:

What are the strengths and weaknesses of overhead and underground service that affect performance and reliability?

Underground facilities are not as susceptible to wind and debris-blown damage, they are however, more susceptible to water intrusion and local flood damage which can make repairs more time consuming and costly. Overhead facility damage is easier to locate than underground and can generally be repaired quicker. Underground interruptions may be less frequent, but typically last longer due to more complex repair requirements. Following recent hurricanes, we've found that areas that took the longest to repair were generally those served by under-

ground facilities still flooded days after the storm passed. Damage and corrosion of underground electrical systems often shows up days or even months later, causing additional outages and inconvenience to customers. Storm winds can damage both types of systems causing outages. Overhead systems face outages resulting from trees and debris blowing into lines. Underground systems face outages from trees collapsing on above ground transformers and switch boxes or from tree root systems uprooting buried cable when trees topple.

Can you be more specific about some of the costs converting individual overhead service to underground?

The costs can vary widely and depend on variables such as:

- Whether your local government's electrical authority requires electrical installation or wiring to be upgraded as part of your conversion.
- Whether an electrician (or another tradesperson) will do the work to dig and backfill the trench needed to bring the underground facilities from the easement



Overhead facility damage is easier to locate and can generally be repaired quicker, then underground facilities.

to the building.

- The length of trench that's needed to accommodate the conversion.

Does conversion from overhead to underground require a unanimous agreement from all property owners within the conversion area before FPL will convert its facilities to underground?

Generally, yes due to the following preconditions for such conversion:

- **Easements:** All the easements (property use agreements from owners) must be acquired before an underground electrical distribution system can be installed. new pad-mounted transformers that sit above ground, as well as where to put fairly large, above ground switch cabinets that serve whole groups of homes as part of the underground grid.
- **Cost:** It's also necessary for all the requesting parties to determine in **FPL, Page 9A**

Visioning, from Page 1A

seven to one on Tuesday for moving forward for a full survey of all Longoat Key residents regarding their opinions about what issues face the Key, and what they would like to see as its future direction. According to Marlowe, the full survey could be performed either by phone or a mailing to each of the residents. Mass mailing is more expensive but less invasive, and phone calling is less expensive but more invasive.

At Tuesday's Planning and Zoning Board meeting, Marlowe said, "If folks are willing to put their name and address, I always like mailing, everybody likes that. It's less invasive than phone surveys, but more expensive. We'll try to figure the other options if you're not in favor of that one."

After some deliberation, board members came full circle from thinking that in the interest of cost, it would not be a

good idea to survey everyone to, in the end, agreeing that the full survey of all the residents should be done. The board felt that they had a responsibility to show that the Town is not just interviewing the same group of citizens who are already active in the community. "Right now we want everyone to feel we are doing everything we can to include everyone in the community," said Gilbert.

Marlowe presented his most recent results of the visioning process and said, "I believe my data to date is reasonably valid." He stated that some residents feel there is a link between tourism and property values; people visit and then decide to move to the island. Many people also feel there is a link between retail businesses and traffic increases; if there are no retail or commercial business on the island, then traffic will increase when everyone tries to get off the island for the services they need.

Marlowe said residents on Longboat are

business minded. "Residents here don't respond well to the 'trust me' approach, but if you show them the numbers and the strategies, they'll be receptive."

The most recent focus group that Marlowe received input from was condominium representatives. Among their concerns were water, insurance, maintenance of the business community and beach maintenance. Additionally, Marlowe relayed information to the Planning and Zoning Board regarding perceptions of

the Town government and how the residents are looking for leadership in their Town. Marlowe also stressed the importance of not taking the advantages of Longboat Key for granted. "I think what we're looking at is basically the 're-selling of Longboat.' You have natural advantages, like the beach, but I don't think you can assume that it sells itself. Quality of life is an ever-needed standard to keep it. One of the ways is to work hard to continue the quality of life."

KIM MCNEAL

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KeyArt

Weiser Taps Her Talent

Lisa Hoover
Staff Writer

It's not every day that a person can be a tap dancing waitress, but Longboater Sheila Weiser will surely do it with aplomb. As a member of the Sarasota Senior Theatre, she has been rehearsing her dance number for the upcoming production of "The Marry Go Round."

The original play written by fellow troupe member Joan Marcher is about three couples that get invited to the fifth wedding of their old college classmate. It turns out that tee groom is dramatically younger than their friend, the bride, and the jokes begin to flow.

"It's a fun show and we make lots of jokes about the age difference," said Weiser. "For example, we tell the bride that the only social disease she should be on the lookout for is diaper rash."

Weiser has been with the Sarasota Senior Theatre for four productions. "My partner, Joe, saw an ad for auditions in the paper so we went to try out," recalled Weiser. "We did a ballroom dance and I tap danced. Joe sang 'Hello Dolly' for them and did a magnificent job." And they've been with the troupe ever since.

In a bubbly voice that belies her senior status, Weiser says that this isn't her first foray into entertainment and it likely won't be her last. "I actually tap danced on the radio, of all things, for the old radio

program 'Uncle Don' when I was around nine or 10," she said. "I really enjoy doing this sort of thing. I love the camaraderie. Learning new things at a senior age is really important to challenge your brain and keep you sharp."

"It's a lot of work, though," Weiser went on to say. "We rehearse two times a week for at least two hours and even occasionally meet outside of rehearsal times to practice. They told us the day of the dress rehearsal to be there at noon and plan to stay until at least

six."

"My feet sometimes hurt," she added with a laugh.

Weiser has lived in Longboat Key for six years after her sister encouraged her to move here from Massachusetts. When she retired from her private psychotherapy practice, that's exactly what she did. "I loved (my job)," said Weiser. "It was very rewarding and I liked feeling that I contributed to people's happiness."

As she tap dances her way through the Easter weekend performance of "The Marry Go Round," Weiser will be contributing to the happiness, and belly laughs, of the show's audience members.

"The Marry Go Round" will be performed at The Player's Theatre, 838 N. Tamiami Trail on April 13 - 15 at 8 p.m., wiht a 2 p.m. show on April 15. Tickets cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 16.



Longboater Weiser will spend Easter weekend on stage at The Players Theatre.

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Leaders Talk Traffic, Erosion, Rebuilding

Speak Out, From Page 1

Should telephone lines be buried?
Webster: I like the idea a lot, but what I don't like is the cost. After I listened to the representative from FPL, it's better to bury lines when it is new construction, but not for existing structures. Right now, the cost is too much.
Rothenberg: Another complex situation because there are advantages and disadvantages to both. The state legislature will be examining this issue and placing pressure on FPL to bury

the lines. The chances are that because the subject is not only complex but also because it is also extremely expensive. We have to see if the state legislature is going to subsidize the cost, and then FPL could say, 'okay, we'll charge more money.' The bottom line is that if there is a mandated change toward burying more lines. This would happen over a period of 10 years; nobody in the state would see any changes for a few years.
What do you think should be done

'The oversimplified fundamental question is, should the Town build five or six groins by the Islander?'

Sign Plan, from Page 6

the sign code, then it could go to the Planning and Zoning Board — it is possible to do that.”
At Thursday's Commission workshop, Spoll asked the Town Commission to help persuade Dead River Properties to rent out more of the stores at Avenue of the Flowers. Madelyn Spoll has gathered more than 500 signatures, and would like to have the Town Commission use its influence to persuade the owner to take whatever steps are necessary to rent the stores.
Town Manager Bruce St. Denis noted that “It's a presentation of a petition, but not in the sense of a traditional petition. The Commission cannot do anything that says 'you must rent this.'”
Currently, Dead River Properties uti-

lizes The Sembler Company based in St. Petersburg to manage the property. Dead River Properties is located in Maine. The Sembler Company has managed the property since 2001, and according to Dead River Properties, they have spent money advertising the property. In the aforementioned letter to the President of Bay Isles Association, Dead River Properties stated that they have sent over 900 mailers to retailers such as florists and gift shops as well as service providers such as doctors, family practitioners, CPAs, and attorneys. They have offered an incentive plan to tenants which provided for a rent reduction if they referred a new tenant to one of their vacancies. Dead River also stated that they advertise in local newspapers.

about Longboat's traffic?
Webster: We had a meeting of the Barrier Island Elected Officials and we talked about the traffic problems as part of a regional problem. Part of our problem on Longboat Key is St. Armands. It may be that part of the solution may not be as readily available as we would like. We as reasonable people should discuss these things.
Rothenberg: There was a meeting last night of the Barrier Islands Elected Officials group. The idea at the meeting was that a group that does survey work for Florida Department of Transportation would conduct a very thorough scientifically planned out survey that would calculate where cars came from and where they were going. The consultant will then come back with recommendations. The one plan that intrigued all of us at the meeting was a survey where a picture is taken of the license plate at one end of the island, and then a picture is taken at the other end.
What do you think of the Town's 'visioning process'?
Webster: I like what the visioning process is doing. I support what we're doing and they're giving us some new ideas and how to deal with some things. I'm eager to hear the strategies as to what we can do to make the Town better.
Rothenberg: Personally, I'm a firm advocate of the visioning process. I think they're collecting valuable information. They're unbiased, and they're outside of the Town. Being from South Florida, you wouldn't want to have a someone from Chicago.
Do you think the Town should make any changes to the FEMA regu-

lations?
Webster: I think we're on the right track to be talking about this. What our commission needs to do is decide what policy we want to have; what do we want to fix and why. Do we want to make any changes or not? We have to decide if we want people to build non-conforming types of structures or conforming structures to withstand storms. I am open to any suggestions, I want our people to live in sound structures and safe structures. I want them to have their quality of life. We are an aging population and I want to do what's good for the Town's residents.
Rothenberg: There are two simple portions of it that we will wrestle with. One is should we make any changes in the Town's policy in connection with modifying, improving or rebuilding structures now. The other is what should the Town's policy and procedures be after a major storm event. Should we rebuild the building as it was; to standard, or require the rebuilding to meet FEMA specifications. Some of this would go to the Planning and Zoning Board first.
What should be done about the erosion at the Islander?
Webster: I believe in maintaining our beaches with renourishment, and working on the Islander 'hot spot.'
Rothenberg: The oversimplified fundamental question is, should the Town build five or six groins by the Islander? If so, what kind of groins? The reason this subject has gone on for so long is because it's complex. Any time you deal with mother nature, it's not stable. If it were simple, there would be a decision already. Personally, I operate under the theory that hurricane season will be worse in coming years than in the past.

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Town Must Choose Emergency Notification Service Provider

Melissa Reid
Staff Writer

The Town of Longboat Key will have to select one of two firms who will provide a demonstration of their emergency notification services. This system would allow the Town to contact a large number of citizens in a short amount of time by telephone. The cost of this service will be approximately \$10,000 to \$15,000 for the first year, and \$5,000 to \$6,500 for each following year. The cost represents an “external Web-based notification system”, which means that an outside agency handles the delivery of messages to hundreds of outside numbers in the Town. The Town staff recommended at Thursday’s workshop that the Town Commission transfer money from the Town Commission Contingency Fund to allow the Town to enter contracts with the chosen emergency service provider. This emergency notification service

would notify residents in the event of a natural disaster such as a hurricane, tornado, flood, terrorist attack or other emergency. Other uses for the service include special meetings notifications, special events, special alerts, bridge closures, scheduled water and wastewater repairs, etc. The notifications are mainly made through telephone calls with a recorded message, but notifications can also be made through email and text messaging through cell phones.

The external Web-based notification system was chosen over the internal based notification system mainly because of its initial up front cost. The setup cost for the internal based notification system is from \$25,000 to \$50,000 and has a yearly fee of \$800 to \$1,500. Additionally, there would be a reoccurring system maintenance cost and dedicated staff time required to maintain an internal system.

FPL an easement or easement equivalent, we would only consider this alternative, if we cannot physically install the cable in private property. Only cable and conduit are allowed in the public right-of-way in these rare cases. These public right-of-way easements also would need to be legally conveyed and expressly reserved on FPL record drawings. However, it’s been our experience that local governments are reluctant to grant such right-of-way easements or easement equivalents.

What might it cost to convert from overhead to underground service?

Underground facilities can cost anywhere from \$500,000 per mile to more than \$4 million per mile.

FPL, from Page 6A

advance and agree on how all the conversion costs are going to be allocated among those benefiting from the project before FPL can begin construction.

Why not place underground facilities in the public right-of-way?

Typically, the only facilities FPL places in the public right-of-way are those necessary to cross under streets, like cable and conduit. The reason is that otherwise every road widening or improvement project could potentially compromise the company’s ability to deliver safe, reliable, uninterrupted power. If, on the other hand, a local government were to offer

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APRIL 3, 2006

10:00 AM



The Town of Longboat Key Town Commission will be holding a Special Workshop on Monday, April 3, 2006 at 10:00 am in the Commission Chamber at Longboat Key Town Hall (501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, FL 34228).

Special Presentation regarding the Delft 3D computer modeling of the updrift and downdrift effects of T-head groins in the vicinity of the Islander Condominium.

Speakers Include:
Tom Campbell, Coastal Planning and Engineering (CPE)
Dir-Jan Walstra, WL / Delft Hydraulics

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NOTE: §286.0105, Florida Statutes, states that if a person decides to appeal any decision by a board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at a meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Jane O'Connor
Town Clerk
Town of Longboat Key

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School Concurrency Agreement with Manatee County

Melissa Reid
Staff Writer

At the April 3 regular Commission meeting, the Town Commission will decide if it is prudent to continue participating in the Manatee County Interlocal Agreement for Public School Facility Planning.

In 2003, the Town of Longboat Key agreed to participate in the interlocal agreement to guarantee its representation when school related issues are being discussed in Manatee County. The Manatee County School

District is now asking if the Town would like to continue to remain as part of the interlocal agreement. Since Longboat Key does not have public schools or have significant numbers of students enrolled in Manatee County schools, the Town may be eligible for exemption from the agreement.

However, Town staff recommended in a letter to Town Manager Bruce St. Denis that the Town continue its participation in the Manatee County Interlocal Agreement for Public School Facility Planning due to the benefits of

proposed sharing of information and intergovernmental coordination, and the benefits involved in school concurrency.

In June of 2005, Governor Jeb Bush signed the Senate Bill 360, which requires that local governments and school boards adopt a school concurrency program, as part of the State's 'Pay-As-You-Grow' growth management system. Part of this program includes participation of local governments with school system.

KeyOpinion

Burgum, from Page 4A

percent range. Janet Napolitan in Arizona, Kenny Guinn of Nevada, Bill Owens in Colorado, and Thomas Vilsack in Iowa are successful Clintonian governors. The essential lesson here is that Democrats in the heartlands have become pragmatists and have some sense of how to connect with the voter, a talent seemingly withheld from many in Washington.

The Democrats have an excellent chance to win back both the House and Senate in 2006 with a presidential

victory in 2008. But they can easily blow it and are sending signals they intend to do just that. The lesson to be learned from what is now going on in the states is that voters appreciate office holders who care more about solutions than they care about liberal or conservative doctrine; they also appreciate leaders more concerned with solving problems than they are with leaders who only use the problems as political ammunition. Harold Ford, Jr., a Democratic Congressman from Tennessee, is running for the empty Senate seat. Ford is a model Clintonian candidate. He is a moderate liberal who refuses to join the nattering, braying chorus of criticism flowing forth from the Democratic leaders in Congress. His disputes with the Republicans and the President are always issue-based and Ford has the gift of disagreeing without being disagreeable. He is currently leading in the polls and stands a chance of becoming the first Southern African-American elected to the Senate since Reconstruction.

The lessons taught by the Democratic governors and

candidates like Ford are lost on John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.). Conyers is the ranking minority on the House Judiciary Committee and he has made it clear he will actively pursue a bill of impeachment against President Bush if the Democrats regain control of the House of Representatives. Conyers well knows there is no chance that even a Democratic-controlled Congress would actually go through with a bill of impeachment but this will not stop him or even give him pause. The histrionics of an impeachment fight might succeed in energizing a certain portion of the Democratic base. It would most certainly energize even a larger share of the Republican base. Such a grandstand play would likely demonstrate to skeptical uncommitted voters that Democrats in Washington remain less intent on governing than in demonizing the President.

A recent Washington Post/ABC poll affirmed that the public feels the President and the Republicans are doing rather poorly. But the poll also revealed (pay attention, Mr. Conyers) Republican misfortune will not necessarily translate into Democratic votes. According to the Washington Post, the same poll showing Republican slippage found that "Perceptions of Democrats who have struggled to take advantage of Bush's lack of popularity, declined..." The Post article also revealed that many Democrats do not like or appreciate the Congressional leadership and party spokesmen. That is also a problem for the party because those attractive Democratic governors remain virtually hidden in the shadow of the strident national leadership.

Since it is the governors who have shown that a centrist agenda works, it is not inconceivable the next Democratic presidential candidate could come from this impressive list, if Hillary Clinton should stumble. The national Democrats are still struggling to take advantage of Republican weakness, but it can be said the old Clintonian centrism has new life in the states and Clintonian governors could show the way for the Democrats to come in from the cold.

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Longboat Key News

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Longboat Key Life

March 24, 2006

Art, Real Estate and Community Life

Section B

Building Success

Members of the Longboat, Lido and St. Armands Keys' business community flocked to a business after hours event held at the Vollmer Financial Group's 5,000 square-foot swanky new headquarters at 444 Gulf of Mexico Drive last Wednesday night. Vollmer, a long-time familiar face and financial planner, made a speech at the close of the event congratulating the Chamber of Commerce and its President, Gail Loeftgren, as well as Remax Excellence Broker/ Owner Andrew Vac and Remax Excellence Realtor Marnie Matarese.

"Marnie and Gail helped save the Chamber from extinction," said Vollmer. "When Gail came on in 1993 there were 106 members and the Chamber was thought of in Longboat as just a social gathering group. Now we are a viable force."

Vollmer took a playful jab at Vac: "Is there ever going to be a decade where Andrew Vac is not Chamber president?"

Most attendees were jealous of the Sarasota Bay views and the stately appearance of the freshly finished offices that sported an abundance of mahogany and marble. The Vollmer Financial Group is part of the Stanford Group Company, a private wealth management firm.

February Stats

WebSite:

Hits: 228,714

Visits: 7,687

Top 5 Countries:

- 1) Canada
- 2) Switzerland
- 3) Netherlands
- 4) United Kingdom
- 5) Germany

Keyword Searches from "Membership Section":
159,337

Total Referrals from "Membership Section":
165,545

Inquiries by Email: 321

Referrals: 1

Visitor's Guides Mailed: 8,720

Relocation Packets Sent: 19

Wedding Packets Sent: 10

Visitors to Office: 1,786



The Vollmer financial group is all smiles about their new offices on South Longboat Key. Shown from left in front is Marie Gardner, Managing Director Charles Vollmer, Donal Bahrenburg and Laura Skirvin. Center is Stephanie Van Dyke, Kristin Kiehl and Susan Atherton. In the back is Robert "Butch" Klemeyer, Mathew Drews, Bruce Lang and James S. LeBaron.



Doug Seel of Small Business and Residential Network Installations enjoyed a cold drink while making the rounds.



The duo, Chuck Vollmer and Andrew Vac, long-time Longboaters charmed the crowd.



Northwestern Mutual's Linda Stewart picked the winning ticket.



RE/MAX Excellence agent Marnie Matarese got a leg up on the fun.



Sue Causey and Harold Freeman, of Maus & Hoffman Clothiers were one of the more colorful couples of the night.



Bob Barr of Bitdiddle's was all smiles.

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\$1,075,000 - LONGBOAT KEY CONDO

2 Bedroom/2 Bath; Small Direct Gulf Front Complex (only 6 units). Oversized patio area overlooking the pool and Gulf. Wooden boardwalk from the back door to the sand. This very well maintained unit would make a terrific 2nd home or investment.



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DAILY RENTALS



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OnTheHook

Captain Larry McGuire

The snapper action is by far the best this week. Our clients maxed out on their 10-per-person federal aggregate snapper limits on our nine-hour charters, catching large mangrove, yellowtail and lane snapper, as well as gag and red grouper — a variety of sharks and the kingfish were cutting us off right and left. We should be expecting some kingfish and mackerel action in the weeks to come.

The baits we used were jumbo shrimp for the snapper. These shrimp were so large that we were cutting them into three pieces. Other baits used were frozen Spanish sardines and live Key West grunts. We were fishing out 25 to 38 miles this week.

Show Me The Fish Charters

Captain ‘Zach’ Zacharias

Things are beginning to pop in the Gulf and Bays around the Sarasota and Bradenton area.

A couple of trips along the beaches of Longboat Key and Anna Maria this week produced some huge Spanish mackerel and a couple of school kings. A couple

Tide Tables for the Week of March 24 — 30					
Date	Low	High	Low	High	Low
24	3:38 a.m.	—	—	7:25 p.m.	—
25	4:33 a.m.	11:36 a.m.	3:23 p.m.	8:55 p.m.	—
26	5:18 a.m.	11:33 a.m.	4:38 p.m.	10:07 p.m.	—
27	5:55 a.m.	11:40 a.m.	5:35 p.m.	11:10 p.m.	—
28	6:25 a.m.	11:51 a.m.	6:27 p.m.	—	—
29	—	12:07 a.m.	6:51 a.m.	12:05 p.m.	7:16 p.m.
30	—	1:04 a.m.	7:12 a.m.	12:23 p.m.	8:05 p.m.
Water Temperature: 71 degrees					

of really large screamers bested our too light tackle, and I believe they were big kings. All of the beach action came on both live shrimp and white bait. The white bait is slowly filtering into the area, and I was able to get a well full at the end of the week.

On the inside, the action consisted of reds and snook, with a few trout, black

drum, jack crevalle and pompano.

Karom Gurses, his son-in-law Robby, along with Tom and Ray Schmitz, all winter visitors to the area, hammered a slew of the big mackerel and juvenile kings last week. The quartet also did well on reds and snook earlier the same day.

The end of the week was a little slower, but Dick Fluke, Bob Freeman and Bob Birk managed a decent catch of mackerel, bluefish and redfish with shrimp and white bait.

Snook fishing is really coming, and as soon as some reliable white bait settles in to the area, there should be some top-notch action.

Cobia should also be crashing the party any day. The red tide that plagued us for so long last year is now just a bad memory and things are really looking great going into spring along the Southwest Gulf.

DEE JAY II

Captain Wayne Genthner

Big snook have been ambushed in Sarasota bay. We're catching them early in the morning using big shrimp, in the middle of the afternoon using smaller shrimp, just before sunset on any live bait and well into the dark evening hours using live grunts.

If a snook doesn't get your bait, then a nice red fish will, and if he doesn't get your bait, then a big sheepshead porgy will. We're still catching those scrappers by the bucket load. Out in the Gulf, we're catching cobia, king mackerel, bluefish, huge sheepshead porgies and keeper grouper and snapper in close. As the water in the Gulf warms into the upper sixties on the bottom, we'll be seeing more and more grouper feeding on schooling bait just a few miles out from the beach, which puts them and large mackerel within half-day reach.

Wolfmouth Charters



Pam Hamel of Edina, Minn. with her first-ever gag grouper, caught aboard Show Me the Fish Charters.



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OnPatrol

Continued from Page 3B

Drunk Driver Hits Tree

6:23 p.m. – OfficerThompson – I responded to a report of a traffic crash with a car on fire. Upon my arrival in the 500 block of Bay Isles Road, I observed a 2003 blue Mercedes that traveled off the roadway and had struck a large tree head on.The impact caused airbag deployment and the Mercedes was now on fire.

A white man was laying face down next to the vehicle in the grass. He was identified as the driver and owner of the vehicle.A witness advised he had pulled the man from the driver’s seat to safety. Another officer and I pulled the man to a safer area away from the fire.

I then held C-spine (immobilized his neck) until paramedics arrived. During this time I was directly over the man and detected a very strong odor of an alcoholic type beverage coming from his breath as he exhaled and spoke to me.

I also observed his eyes to be bloodshot and watery.



His pupils were also constricted. Paramedic Keith Tanner and EMT Jim Haas took over to treat the man.

During the crash investigation, a second witness advised the Mercedes turned onto Bay Isles Road from Bay Isles Parkway at a high rate of speed almost striking her and her dog. She also stated the Mercedes was too fast, jumped the curb and hit the tree.

The crash scene presented a shadow mark where the tires went over the curb.There were no visible skid marks or signs of braking on the roadway, sidewalk or grass prior to impact with the tree.

The man had made the following spontaneous statements: “Did I hurt anyone?” “I don’t know what happened.” “I was going home from court, I’m an attorney.” “I’m tired.”

I concluded my crash investigation and observed the man, who refused EMS treatment, fall while standing up. Paramedic Keith Tanner caught him before he fell on his face. The man appeared to be intoxicated. He was unsteady on his feet and appeared clumsy or was having trouble maintaining his balance.

I asked him to perform field sobriety task and he did so poorly, I had to stop the task. This was videotaped from an in car video camera and the tape was placed into evidence.

The man was placed under arrest for DUI with property damage and injury. Two ATM receipts were found when they fell from his shirt pocket.They are from the Scoreboard Bar. One withdrawal receipt is from 1:16 p.m. and the second is from 4:53 p.m.They were placed into evidence.

The man was transported to the department at which time he was read implied consent. I asked him to take blood test due to the internal and external mouth inju-

ries he sustained in the crash. He refused the blood test and signed the implied consent form. Paramedics standing by were released.

I then read Miranda and the man refused to be interviewed. He was charged with DUI with property damage and injury and was cited for careless driving.

Nightshift Officer Beardsley transported the man to the Sarasota County Jail. While in booking, a Scoreboard Bar bouncer, jailed on an unrelated charge, pointed out the man as driving away from the bar earlier drunk and they (the staff) had tried to stop him. Nothing further at this time.

Officer Erickson towed the vehicle and also brought the defendant’s briefcase, checkbooks and other personal affects to the police department for safekeeping.

March 11

Peaceful Sleeping

1:42 p.m. – Officer Erickson – I responded to a report of a fight or disturbance at the 1600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. I contacted a white male from Rochester, NY, who stated that he, his wife and his daughter had been sleeping for several hours. Everything appeared to be OK. No further action.

Landscaping Sting

11:13 a.m. – Officer Thompson – Upon my arrival at 5900 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive, I met with the homeowner. He was trimming hedges and shrubbery near his seawall. The cuttings were not mangrove trees, nor does he have any on his property. There was no violation.

Lawn Ornament Bandit Strikes Again

4:16 p.m. – Officer Nagell – I met with the complainant who advised that sometime within the last week some person(s) took a ceramic statue and a wheelbarrow from her property. The valued of the wheelbarrow is approximately \$70 and the complainant stated that the statue is not replaceable.

Sound of Silence

6:43 p.m. – Officer Erickson – I checked the area of Emerald Harbor Drive and old Compass Road unable to locate a construction being done or noise.

March 12

What’s With Kids Today

3:49 a.m. – Officer Funaro – I initiated a traffic stop on a Honda SUV that had a burnt out taillight. The driver and passenger were questioned as they were youthful in

Continued on Page 5B

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OnPatrol

Continued from Page 4B

appearance and there was the odor of alcoholic beverage emitting from within the vehicle. There were also beer bottles and a carton of beer in plain view. The subject seated in the front passengers seat had a bottle of Bud Light adjacent to him. He was removed from the vehicle and was identified as a 15-year-old male by his license contained in his wallet. The wallet was underneath the seat. While obtaining the license, officers observed two clear yellow Ziploc baggies containing white powder within the inner portion of the wallet. One of the baggies was full and the other retained residue of the substance. The juvenile was read his Miranda rights and agreed to answer questions. He was questioned about the white powder and advised the powder was cocaine. He said he purchased the cocaine earlier for \$20. He also remarked he snorted two lines of cocaine.

The cocaine was tested via presumptive test kit and proved positive.

The juvenile was arrested for possession of cocaine and possession of alcoholic beverage by a minor. He was transported to the Juvenile Detention Center after receiving an evaluation from the Manatee Memorial Hospital.

Get Off the Road

1:22 p.m. - Officer Thompson - While on patrol I observed a 1993 black Nissan four-door headed south-bound in the 4000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. I conducted a traffic stop because the tag displayed a 2005 expiration sticker. The tag did not belong on the vehicle and came back to a Mitsubishi two-door.

I made contact with the driver who admitted to not having a driver's license and also could not produce any paperwork for the car, tag or insurance.

The unregistered vehicle was towed and the tag was confiscated to be placed into evidence.

The driver was issued two summonses to appear for no driver's license and no motor vehicle registration. No



further action was taken.
The driver's employer came out to pick him up.

Watch Your Kids

4:01 p.m. - Officer Jackson - I responded to a report of a young child out alone. Upon arrival, the complainant stated she found the neighbors two-year-old out by her pool. She knew the child from the next-door residence. The complainant returned the child back to its parents. The father said the baby had slipped out.

Work Outside the Law

5:46 p.m. - Officer Nagell - While responding to the Longboat Pass Bridge for a complaint of property damage, I made contact with a purple Dodge and a red Toyota SUV who were parked off to the side of the road on the Bradenton Beach side. The drivers related that there had been contact from the Dodge to the Toyota. I offered to do a drivers exchange form and both subjects refused saying they would work things out themselves.

There were minor damages to the Dodge, however both vehicles were drivable, as they had been moved approximately a mile prior to my arrival. I obtained both drivers information and there were no wants and warrants and both licenses are valid.

Runaway

10:13 p.m. - Officer Funaro - I interviewed the complainant at her residence concerning her daughter who

ran away. The complainant advised they were involved in a disagreement earlier in the day and the daughter never returned home. The complainant advised the daughter was last seen at 10 a.m. and left on foot possibly on Holmes Beach.

March 18

Sign Under Surveillance

6:24 p.m. - While conducting surveillance on Greer Island, I observed a group of subjects attempting to steal the post and sign which sets forth the State/County/Town ordinance prohibiting camping, alcohol and dogs from being on the island. (This particular sign was just installed at that location this date in an attempt to educate the visitors during LKPD's planned increased enforcement efforts. All prior signs were stolen and not recovered.)

This group consisted of four adults males, one adult female and two children. Upon initial arrival of law enforcement, the group was on their knees and the sign was lying on the ground. Upon becoming aware that they were under surveillance by law enforcement, the group abruptly stopped moving the sand back into the original hole and stoop up. They then conversed and placed the sign back into the hold and piled sand around the post. They then walked away from the sign and boarded a red Donzi. This Donzi was observed in the area earlier in the day by LKPD after responding to reports of violent behavior and alcohol violations.

This incident was video tapped utilizing Car 2 video system. There was not enough observed conduct to support an arrest for attempted theft or of criminal mischief to the sign, but there is evidence to take action for violating the regulations set forth in writing by the sign.

The video clearly proves that these subjects allowed their dog to run loose of the beach in violation of the posted ordinance. This case was turned over to Officer Silverio for further investigation and follow-up.

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KeyRealEstate



551 Putter Lane

Open bay panorama embraces this bay front residence located on Longboat Key. Offers deep sail boat water dockage large enough for an 80-foot yacht. The appointments include travertine, marble floors, four bedrooms, custom granite kitchen, media room, fitness room, fireplace, elevator, wine cellar, six-car, tiled, air-conditioned garage, and an infinity pool. Outdoor living area is complete with summer kitchen to summon you to relax in the Gulf breezes paradise. Offered for \$4.75 million. This property is listed with Coldwell Banker Previews agent Judy Kepecz-Hays.



35 Watergate Drive 1503

Unsurpassed 180° views of Sarasota Bay can be enjoyed from every room. This furnished residence is blessed with natural beauty and cosmopolitan amenities. From the moment you step inside your private foyer entrance, you experience an open and generous layout featuring almost 3,000 square feet, three bedrooms plus a family room, an expansive master suite, gourmet kitchen and a sprawling terrace.

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The following real estate transactions recently took place in Manatee County.

\$2,391,000 Bartizal, Fred J. to Minkovitz, Giuliana and Ross, Lots 2,12 Block 61 Illexhurst.

\$733,500 Morse, Paul J. to Cendant Mobility Financial Corp., 4215 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Longboat Key Yacht and Tennis Club Mark 2 Unit 203. 1,284 sq. ft. Last Sale Date: July 2004 for \$594,500. Built in 1974.

\$700,000 Messer, James L. to Oakland Partners LLC, 1800 North Gulf of Mexico Drive, Lacosta Unit 108. 952 sq. ft. Last Sale Date: Aug. 1999 for \$200,000. Built in 1979.

\$348,000 Walsh, Patrick F. and Yvonne

M. to Zaborny, Leba B., 634 South Spanish Drive, Spanish Main Yacht Club Unit 111. 1,516 sq. ft. Last Sale Date: Aug. 2004 for \$265,000. Built in 1972.

Longboat Realtor Wins Award

Local Realtor Steven Kepecz received the prestigious RE/MAX International Platinum Club Award. Kepecz, of the Re/Max Excellence office, was recognized as a top 6.4% Realtor. He was also recently named to Who's Who in International Real Estate and named a Five Star Best in Client Satisfaction Real Estate Agent by Sarasota Magazine.



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L'AMBIANCE - Spectacular Sweeping Sunset, gulf, golf and bay views! This magnificent Royal Model features phenomenal views, 3BDR + Den, 10 ft. ceilings, granite counters, marble floors, and a gorgeous wrap-around terrace. Prestigious south Longboat community featuring state-of-the-art fitness center, hospitality suite, concierge and Olympic sized pool for your entertainment. \$3,100,000.



LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION - Two lots both featuring 126' on the water with a southern exposure. Purchase the lots individually or together for a combined 252' of water frontage. THE BEST CITY VIEWS IN ALL OF SARASOTA BAY! Offered from \$3,200,000 to \$3,450,000.



NEW LISTING - Extensive canal views to the bay from this charming 3 BDR home. This residence features a large screened lanai w/ pool and endless opportunities. Fantastic sailboat water, deeded beach access, & w/in walking distance to spectacular shopping & dining on St. Armands.

CASUAL RELAXATION - A Boaters Paradise on Longboat Key! Fourth from the point. This wonderful Ranch style home offers beautiful water views, 3 BDR, open floor plan, furnished, & a beautiful pool w/screened outdoor lanai. Wonderful Sailboat Water w/your own private dock. \$1,495,000.



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KeyCalendar

Through March 31

A special group show of more than a dozen leading Russian artists of the **Surikov Institute** will be on exhibit at **Wallace Fine Art** through March 31.The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call 387-0746.

Through April 16

The **Longboat Key Center for the Arts** will host a juried exhibit “**The Art of Travel.**”The gallery is open from Monday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 383-2345.

Through April 24

The **Longboat Key Center for the Arts** will feature “**Too Much Beauty: The Peacocks of Longboat Key**” through April 24 as part of the National League of American Pen Women group exhibition.

March 25

The **Longboat Key Center for the Arts** will hold “**Make a Pottery Birdhouse with Potter Abigail Akers**” from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 383-2345.

March 25 – 26

“**Florida Sportsman**” Magazine will host their first annual **Fishing and Boat Show** at the **Sarasota Bradenton Convention Center** from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. The show features ongoing seminars, kids events, hands-on instruction, demonstrations and the most popular part of the event, a huge indoor tackle sale. Tickets are \$7 for adults and children under 12 are free. For more information, call 355-9161.

March 26

The **Acoustic Alchemy** featuring **Terry Disley** with special guest **Eric Darius** will take the stage at the **Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall** at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40 and \$35. For more information, call 953-3368.

SaBra Hadassah will feature Former US Army Medical Corps Major **Dr. Patrick Contino** who will present **Magnetic Technology and Wellness** from 10 a.m. to noon. Contino is Board Certified in Family Practice with 8 years clinical experience and will explain magnetic technology wellness products at **Lakewood Ranch Town Hall**. Call 373-6542 for more information.

The **Sarasota Opera House** presents a chic, new Sarasota event, the **Spring Gala Dinner**, to celebrate the grand finale of the **2006 Winter Opera Festival** at 6 p.m. The dinner costs \$125 and does not include performance ticket. The **Spring Gala Concert** marks the close of the **Winter Opera Festival** with **Maestro Victor DeRenzi** conducting the orchestra, chorus and internationally renowned soloists at 9 p.m. Tickets for the concert range from \$25 to \$75. For more information, call 366-8450.

March 27

The **Sarasota Folk Club Sailing Squadron** will hold a monthly concert featuring **Erica Wheeler**. Wheeler is a singer-songwriter in the tradition of Mary Chapin Carpenter. There will be an open mic held at 7:15 p.m. and the concert will begin at 8:30 p.m. For more information, call 377-9256.

Sarasota Season of Sculpture in collaboration with **Marie Selby Botanical Gardens** will host an afternoon lecture with **Philip Jackson** from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Great Room by the Bay at Selby Gardens. Jackson is an award winning British sculptor, noted for his modern style and emphasis on form. There will be no charge for this event. For further information, call 366-5731.

March 28

The **Ladies Guild of St. Mary Star of the Sea Church** will hold its annual Fashion Show, “**Fashion Fantasia**” at the Bird Key Yacht Club. The event begins at 11:30 a.m. and will feature spring fashions from **Patchingtons**. Tickets are \$25 each and tables of 6 or 8 can be reserved. For more information, call Kay Gibbons at (614) 395-5002.

March 29

The **Ringling School of Art and Design** will hold an art lecture on “**Calendar Posters in Shanghai during the 20’s and 30’s**” at 10 a.m. The lecture will be presented by **Carolyn M. Bloomer**, coordinator of Cultural Beliefs in the Liberal Arts Department at Ringling School of Art and Design. Now a highly collectible genre, these posters present a fascinating historical study. The lecture is free for Library Association members and \$10 for non-members.

The **Longboat Key, Lido Key, St. Armands Key Chamber of Commerce** will hold its “**Good Morning, Longboat Key!**” breakfast on at the Chamber office from 8 a.m. until 9 a.m. The breakfast is free of charge. Benefits of Chamber

membership will be discussed. Chamber members and prospective members are welcome to attend. For further information or reservations, call 383-2466.

March 31

The **Florida Studio Theatre** will be holding a new poetry discussion class “**Poetry: Exploring the Human Experience for adults**” beginning March 31. The class meets on Fridays from 2:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. The theatre’s associate director, **Kate Alexander**, will be teaching the class. The fee for the class is \$115. For more information, call 366-1350.

The **Jigsaw Jugband** will perform at **Fogartyville Café** at 8 p.m. Mixing old acoustic blues and ragtime with parody, both social and political, the band uses kazoos, guitar, percussion, washtub bass and a washboard to entertain the audience. For more information, call 741-9755.

April 1

The third annual **Island Garden Tour** to benefit the **Anna Maria Island Community Chorus & Orchestra** is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine. This year’s tour features five enchanting and unique gardens, as well as boutiques at select gardens. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 on tour day. Call 778-4868 or 778-1880 for more information.

The **Jacobites Pipe and Drum Band** will appear in a show filled with color and motion with the **Sarasota POPS Orchestra** at 3 p.m. at **Van Wezel**. Tickets are \$16, \$19 and \$22. For more information, call 351-8000.

The **2nd annual Hollywood Family Fair** will be held in Main Plaza’s Courtyard of the Stars and will featuring a free screening of the movie “**Hoot,**” based on **Carl Hiaasen**’s children’s book. The event will feature arts and crafts, interactive booths, animals, music and games.

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens will once again host the **Orchid Ball, “The Age of Elegance.”**The evening will begin with hors d’oeuvres and cocktails on Sarasota Bay at 6:30 p.m., followed by a sumptuous dinner catered by Michael’s on East, with dancing under the stars to the live music of Mainstream. In addition to a silent auction, fundraising for the event includes a live auction. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact the Selby Gardens’ development office at 941.366.5731, ext. 236 or 266 for information.

April 1 – 2

The **Longboat Key Center for the Arts** will host an **April Fools’ Weekend Clay Pottery Demo and Workshop, “Making Big Bowls,”** with famous artist **Charlie Parker** of St. Pete Clay. For more information, call 383-2345.

April 2

Classical guitarist **Rex Willis** and flutist **Lisa Barbanera** will perform at **Bishop Planetarium** at 5:30 p.m. in a specially designed moving star show. Tickets are \$15. For more information, call 746-4131.

Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks return to the **Players Theater** for one performance at 8 p.m. All seats are reserved at \$21. For more information, call 365-2494.

April 4

The **Friends of the Selby Public Library** will present **Books & Coffee** with “**The World is Flat**” by **Thomas Friedman**. **Robert Sessions**, former manufacturing executive for GE, will review the book at 10:30 a.m. The presentation is free of charge. For more information, call 861-1140 or 365-5228.


The **Florida Studio Theatre** will hold four final performances for the **Improv** group’s “**And the Red Tide Also Rises.**” The shows are Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. in the **Goldstein Cabaret**. Tickets are \$12 per person. For more information, call 366-9000.

The **American Red Cross** will host its monthly **Volunteer Coffee Club** at 10 a.m. at the Manatee County chapter in Bradenton. It’s open to all Red Cross volunteers and individuals in the community. There is not cost to attend. For more information, call 792-8686.

The **Holistic Moms Network** will hold a meeting from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at The Whole Foods Market. The group is a non-profit support and resource organization bringing moms and grandparents together who share a common interest in holistic health and parenting. For more information, call 504-9284.

April 5

The **American Red Cross** will offer **Standard First Aid** training from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Manatee County Chapter in Bradenton. The course trains people in **Adult CPR** and **First Aid**. Advance registration is required and



Rabbi David Starr, Ph.D., will discuss the outcome of the elections and their effect on Israel’s present and future in his lecture, “Post Election: Israel’s Present and Future” from 3 to 4:30 p.m. on March 29 at the Longboat Key Education Center. Starr, an assistant professor of Jewish history and dean of Me’ah at the Hebrew College of Newton, recently returned from a visit to Israel during the elections. There will be a question and answer period and an opportunity for open discussion. Admission to the lecture is \$20. For more information, call 383-8811.

the cost is \$45 and includes training materials. For more information, call 792-8686.

April 6

SaBra Hadassah will screen “**Europa, Europa**” from 9:15 a.m. to noon at **Temple Beth Sholom**. The story of **Soloman Perel** is the tale of a young Jew who was able to not only “pass” for German, but became an honored Nazi soldier during the war. A discussion will follow the movie. Admission is free. Call 907-2683 for more information.

April 7

The **Community Associations Day Trade Show and Educational Expo** will be held at the **Sarasota-Bradenton International Convention Center** from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The morning will include a **Homeowners Educational Forum** on “Legislative Updates” and a **Manager’s Continuing Education Course** on the “2006 Legal Update.” The afternoon will be a Legal and Insurance Panel and Q&A Session. Admission is free. For more information, call 755-8352.

April 8

Florida Studio Theatre will honor long-time supporter **Ruth Gluck** with a **Day of Dedication**. The event will honor Mrs. Gluck’s past commitment to FST as well as the new Ruth Gluck Family Endowment Fund. Following a welcome reception at 11:00 a.m., **Richard Hopkins**, artistic director & CEO, will lead the dedication ceremony at 11:30 a.m. in the **Keating Theatre**. An hors d’oeuvres and punch reception will follow the ceremony. For more information, call 366-9017.

The **First Annual Charity Golf Tournament** benefiting the **Virgil Mills Elementary School** will be held at 1 p.m. at **River Wilderness Golf and Country Club**. The outing is a four person team scramble and is \$400 per team. For more information, call Michelle Hart at 721-2140 ext. 421.

April 9

Ann Stephanian Kale will be signing copies of her two children’s books, “**Marco and Princess Gina**” and “**Artie — The Ugly Frog**” at 11 a.m. at **Circle Books** in St. Armand’s Circle. All proceeds from both books will go to the **CASP orphanage** in Gamo, Armenia. For more information, call 388-2850.

April 11 – June 10

Florida Studio Theatre will perform “**Around the World in 80 Days**” to end the 2005-2006 **Winter Mainstage** season in **Keating Theatre**. Tickets range from \$29 to \$32. For more information, call 366-9000.

April 13

Chavurah Ner Tamid will hold its second annual **Passover seder** at 5 p.m. at the **Lakeside Clubhouse** in Bradenton. The seder will be catered traditionally, with a choice of brisket or roast chicken and other Passover favorites. Share in the ancient story, songs and spirit of this occasion. Cost is \$25 for members, \$30 for nonmembers and \$18 for children. For more information, call 755-1231.

April 13 – 16

The performance schedule for the comeback of **Larry Parr**’s “**Ethel Waters: His Eye is on the Sparrow**” has changed. “**Ethel Waters**” will return to the **Florida State Theater**

KeyCalendar

Continued from Page 9B
beginning April 13, with performances in the Gompertz Theatre. This will be a special, limited-engagement run of the popular show. For information, call 366-9017.

April 14
A production of **Gloria Musicae** will be presented on Palm Sunday at 4 p.m. in St. Boniface Church on Siesta Key. Tickets are \$19 for adults and \$10 for students. For more information, call 945-4223.

April 17 – April 23
To celebrate **Earth Week** at Mote Aquarium, a **scavenger hunt** with free takeaways will be held to teach guests how to be more earth-conscious and help protect marine life. **Gilly the shark** will make appearances daily between noon and 2 p.m. Bring a printer cartidge or cell phone to recycle and receive a dollar off admission for up to four guests. Proceeds from the drive will benefit **Mote’s Dolphin and Whale Hospital**. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$10 for children ages 4 to 12, and free for Mote members and children under three. For more information, call 388-4441.

April 18
The **Bradenton Branch of the American Association of University Women** will meet for dinner at 5:45 p.m. at the Terra Ceia Golf and Country Club. Representatives from the Village of the Arts, The Manatee Players and Fogartyville Cafe will discuss “**The Arts are Alive, Well and Thriving in Manatee County.**” College graduates with a two-year degree or higher are invited to attend. For reservations call 753-4378.

April 20
The **Sarasota Sports Foundation** will be serving up a **Grand Slam Celebrity Tennis Classic** with a player's party, pro exhibition, dinner and auction at 6 p.m. at Longboat Key Club and Resort. The fundraiser to help break the cycle of child abuse, neglect and abandonment costs \$150. For more information, call 927-0559 or 346-2146.

April 21
The **Sarasota Ballet’s Spring Finale Festival** will open at 8 p.m. at FSU’s Center for Performing Arts. The program will include two world premieres, **Javier Dubrocq’s “Triptych”** and **Robert de Warren’s “Episodes,”** and the return of de Warren’s “**Bolero.**” Tickets start at \$15. For more information, call 351-8000.

April 23
The **Alliance for Lupus Research** will hold **Walk With Us to Cure Lupus**. The 5K walk starts at 10 a.m. at Siesta Key Beach in Sarasota. Walker check-in starts at 9 a.m. For more information, call (866) 925-5257 or visit www.lupusresearch.org.

April 28
Chavurah Ner Tamid will hold its commemoration of **Yom HaShoah**, Holocaust Remembrance Day, at 7 p.m. at the Lakeside Clubhouse in Bradenton. The service will be led by the chavurah’s **Rosh Chodesh** study group, with a special **Oneg** following the program. For more information, call 755-1231.

May 13
The **2006 Helping Women Thrive Symposium** will be held at the Sarasota-Bradenton International Convention Center. The symposium will bring a day of activities lead by some of the area’s most respected physicians, educators and community leaders. Admission is free. For more information, call 798-6056.

July 8 – July 9
The **2006 Greater Venice Florida Dog Club’s Dog Show** will be held at the Sarasota-Bradenton International Convention Center from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days. There is no charge for attendees.

Ongoing
There are only a few weeks left in the **Big Cat Habitat’s Spring 2006 season**. Demonstrations are held every Saturday and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. The **Big Cat Habitat and Gulf Coast Sanctuary** is a nonprofit organization safe haven for exotic cats, bears and native wildlife. Reservations are required by calling 371-6377.

Monday through Friday, with the peak of Florida’s flu season fast approaching, **Nokomis Walk-In Clinic** is offering discounted flu shots on a walk-in basis or by appointment from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 485-5645.

“**Rounds, Rhymes and Silly Songs,**” a music and movement class for young children with their parent or guardian, is held Mondays at 10 a.m. through April 10 at the **Longboat Island Chapel**. Cost is \$5 per session or \$40 for ten sessions. For more information, call 383-5086.

Chavurah Ner Tamid is offering **Hebrew classes** to those with a basic knowledge of the language. If you’re out of practice and need a refresher in reading Hebrew, or if you have had some basic instruction and want to get better, come to Prayerbook Hebrew classes. In just a few weeks you will be able to read prayers and Torah readings in Hebrew. For more information, call 755-1231.

The **Association of Sons and Daughters of WWII Veterans** will lead a group to England and France during April 2006 to commemorate the 62nd Anniversary of these historical events: the D-Day landings, the Battle for Normandy and the drive through France to Bastogne. The itinerary will include London, Portsmouth, Cherbourg, OMAHA and UTAH beaches, Caen, St. Mere Eglise, Caretan, Argentan, Falaise and Paris. A memorial service will be held at the American Military Cemetery at Collevill Sur Mer in France. Call **Sy Canton** at (561) 865-8495.

Support local artists. **Urban Way** is a contemporary fine furniture showroom (floor samples & custom furnishings), featuring local artists in rotating exhibits. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday to Saturday. 2402 Manatee Ave. East, Bradenton, 714-0428. www.urbanway.biz.

Israeli Folk Dance lessons will be 7:30 to 9 p.m. Mondays at the **Colonial Oaks Park Community Center**, 5300 Colonial Oaks Boulevard in Sarasota. Cost is \$6 per class or four classes for \$20. Call **Mary Finegold** at 727-5109.

The **Longboat Key Rotary Club** meets at the Hilton

Longboat Key Beach Resort Wednesdays at noon. Lunch is \$14. 387-0706.

Sports & Fitness classes are being offered at the **Bayfront Park Recreation Center**. Low impact aerobics, 8 a.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays; Interval training, 7:45 a.m. Saturdays; Young at Heart, 9:30 a.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (moves to 10 a.m. on Jan. 2); and Muscles and More, 8 a.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (classes will be at 8:30 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. on Jan. 2); N.I.A., 9:15 a.m. Tuesdays; Joy of Stretching, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays; Pilates, 9:15 a.m. Tuesdays and 9:30 a.m. Saturdays, and T’ai Chi, 11:15 a.m. Wednesdays and Fridays. Call 316-1980.

The **Cancer Support Group** meets 2 p.m. Mondays at All Angels by the Sea Episcopal Church. 921-5539.

Business Network International meets 7:30 a.m. Tuesdays at the Hilton Longboat Key Beach Resort dining room. 383-5543.

Longboat Library is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday, and 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays. The library is at 555 Bay Isles Road. 383-2011.

Yoga classes on the beach take place every Wednesday and Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at the Pine Avenue public access on Anna Maria Island. 778-4977.

The **Sarasota Philatelic Club** has donated subscriptions of Linn’s Stamp News to your local library. Club meets the first Tuesday of the month from 7 to 9p.m. at the Unitarian Church, 3975 Fruitville Rd. 376-5689.

KeyCrossword

Pa Comes First

Edited by Linda and Charles Preston

ACROSS

- 1 Monk
4 River and town in S. Wales
7 Grabs some shut-eye
11 Wild ass
17 Wander
18 Graph or chute start
20 Mozart’s “___ Pastore”
21 TX river port
22 Reiterative 1960 US Open champ?
25 Actress Patti
26 Carson’s reiterative predecessor?
27 German POW camp
29 Beam
30 In the past
31 “___ Nacht, heilige Nacht”
32 Whiffenpoof
33 Clasp closely
35 Towel marking
37 MIT graduates
38 Son of Telamon
41 Advance to the rear
45 Young fellas
47 Mailroom employees
49 “... baked in ___”
50 Diametrically opposite
53 Uno plus due
56 Greet the villain
57 Hat type
59 Mystery
61 African antelope
63 Drive-in worker
65 Virgil hero
66 Pointed end
67 Neon and phosgene
68 Today I ___ man
71 Poker choice
72 Reiterative former Miss America emcee?
75 Solisson seasons
76 Greek Aurora
77 Martinique volcano
78 Equestrian sport
79 Guard
81 Blood component
83 Deadly
84 Imitation gold
85 Lamentation
87 ___ a one
89 Sun. talk
91 Civet’s cousin
92 Former Montreal athlete
93 Surpassed
96 Collection of verses
98 Watts or Waller

- 100 Swerve
101 Dos Passos title
102 Bad actors
106 USA counterpart
107 ___ was saying...
109 Cloak
112 Handle roughly
113 Issyk-___: lake in Kyrgyzstan
115 Same old thing
118 “Carlito’s Way” reiterative star?
120 Author Wylie
122 Reiterative French chemist?
124 Ninesome
125 Woody’s son
126 Part of 105 Down
127 Environment-modified plant
128 Buddhist tower
129 Actress Cannon
130 Cee follower
131 In the, in Italy

DOWN

- 1 Search for food
2 Deep-seated ill will
3 Frenzied
4 Modernized

- 5 Most foolish
6 South African villages
7 Zero
8 Beggar’s cry
9 Fictitious reasons
10 Type of ecological stage
11 ___ podrida
12 See 7 Down
13 Dada artist
14 Reiterative “Old Blood and Guts”?
15 Best of acting fame
16 Cardinal van ___ of Belgium
17 Indian potentate
19 “Oh, What ___ Was Mary”: 1919 song
23 Retro discs
24 Regions
28 Montauk to Manhattan line: abbr.
34 Heavens: prefix
36 Presented theatrically
39 “Miracle on 34th Street” reiterative actor?
40 Saharan

- 42 Demitasse drink
43 Focus on the target
44 Afternoon social
46 First word in the Aeneid
48 Endive variety
50 “___ porridge hot...”
51 ___ a customer
52 Reiterative chemistry Nobelist of 1954?
54 Faithless
55 Extract with a solvent
58 Contentment sounds
60 Controversial insulator
62 Nile serpent
64 Invite
67 Elaborate parties
69 Park of ballet fame
70 City on the Nile
73 Shade provider
74 Poker kitty
75 Interweave
77 Review unfavorably
80 Hence
82 Fraternal group
83 Cleaver

- 85 Vitality
86 61, in old Rome
88 Informative report
90 Fasten anew
94 Home of the Jazz
95 Bombeck namesakes
97 Examine by touch
99 Hostile raid
101 Still owed
103 For each
104 Guidebook
105 Rapier
108 Caesar or chef
110 Xanadu’s river
111 It is set up to warn the public
113 Retain
114 Arm bone
116 Wagnerian goddess
117 Luau dance
119 Scales: prefix
121 Classic or colonial lead-in
123 Charged particle

MatterOfTaste

No Bones About It

Mary Cohen
Contributing Writer

Upon entering Mr. Bones BBQ at 3007 Gulf Drive, Holmes Beach, at 7:30 p.m. on a Tuesday, I couldn't help but be impressed when I heard there was a 30-minute wait. It seemed quite unusual for a Tuesday night off-season. It appeared that many of the diners were "locals" and they, presumably, know what's good.

Charlotte Mansur, who owns Mr. Bones, along with husband, Eric Connors, confirms that they have a strong local following and don't see much change in business from the season to off-season. However, they do take reservations. Having owned the restaurant for 15 years, Mansur explained that the business has morphed into its current state during their tenure.

They've added things they like to the menu and purged things they don't like.

Mr. Bones has a tiki hut-type ambiance and is decorated with many interesting masks from Central Asia, Africa and Mexico — remnants of Mansur's career in the import business in Philadelphia. Upon entering, you are directed to an ice-filled coffin (part of the "Bones" theme) filled with beer, from which you choose your favorite. I counted 47 brands and only five were domestic.

There were beers from all over the world — Germany, Belgium, the United Kingdom, Jamaica, Japan and Holland.

As you enter the dining room, a sign hangs above, "No salt, pepper, ketchup, etc. in dining room. Don't even ask. Our food is expertly made by New Orleans-trained chefs. No improvement is needed." Our waitress was wearing a T-shirt that said "Don't Even Ask" on the back. "Yeah, right," I thought.

Herein Lies the Rub

Ribs seemed to be the thing to order here, be they spare ribs or baby back ribs. The ribs are hickory smoked before saucing. But which sauce? There is:

- Mr. Bones secret BBQ sauce, extra spicy or regular
- Honey glazed
- Mongolian, prepared with Peking Duck sauce, and
- Mandarin, a savory Chinese orange-ginger sauce

You can choose these sauces on chicken or wings as well. Spare ribs are \$13.95 and baby back ribs are \$16.95. The most expensive item on the menu at \$17.95 is the rib and chicken combo served with one of the sauces. Two side dishes are served with dinner; four are offered — potato salad, cole slaw, candied yams, and BBQ baked beans.

The menu also offers the standard sal-

ads, subs and burgers. Interestingly, it also has a section called "Exotic Stuff" offering dishes mainly from India, but also from Thailand, Tibet, Mexico and China.

Peer pressure forced me to order the classic baby back ribs with Mr. Bones secret BBQ sauce. I was not disappointed. The ribs were amazingly tender and flavorful. They could have been a little spicier, but ordering the extra spicy ribs would have taken care of that problem. The sauce was very good and extra sauce is offered at no extra charge.

The tables around us also enthusiastically ordered ribs. The man on one side of us was a tourist; this was his first visit to Mr. Bones. He was suspicious when he ordered his ribs, but at the end of his meal, he declared, "We have ribs from Chicago

sent to us and these are right up there with those ribs." The Osmond family, at the next table, are regulars. They told me they have never ordered anything other than the ribs. "These are the best ribs in the area," said Mike Osmond. Ten-year-old Kellen Osmond loves them, too.

My companion ordered a burger, advertised as fresh-ground. It was char-grilled and juicy and nicely spiced. He declared the BBQ baked beans to be as good as any he has had, and believe me, he's had plenty.

Mansur told us the baked beans are made daily and are baked for five to six hours. The prep chef comes in at 5:30 a.m. to begin this process. The cole slaw was also homemade and not like the #x\$! from the grocery store.

My other companion, the more adventurous one, chose vegetarian Tikka Masala from the Exotic Stuff section of the menu. Mr. Bones should stick with what they know. The vegetables were not particularly fresh and were overcooked. They were seasoned with spices — mostly paprika — that had no resemblance to any Indian spice combination with which I am familiar. It was served with a type of cilantro chutney that was oily, and did not have any of that familiar Indian zing that is standard with cilantro chutney. Mr. Bones offers five vegetarian dishes to entice the non-meat eaters, but they would be better off ordering a salad.

You don't have to go to Mr. Bones to get their ribs. They sell their best products by the pound or pint. You can put on a good party at home and, depending on your moral center, you can tell the truth and say Mr. Bones catered, or you can stash the bags and claim you made everything — I would.

Mr. Bones is open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 9 p.m.



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Featured Property



BAY ISLES \$2,295,000

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SEA GATE. Breathtaking views of the Gulf from every room of this lovely 2BR/2BA residence. Furnished. **\$949,000**

THE BAYOU. Warm and inviting Florida lifestyle. Gourmet kitchen, vaulted ceilings, fireplace, pool. Tropical landscaping provides total privacy. **\$899,900**

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