



Longboat Key News

April 26, 2024

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InsideLook



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Baby ducks looking for mom ...page 10

Mote says Manatee needs mates

Buffett was born in human care at the Miami Seaquarium and may not thrive outside of human care.

Mote continues to believe strongly that it is in the best interest of Buffett, Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium’s resident Florida manatee, to not remain by himself with no other manatee companionship. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), and the Manatee Rescue and Rehabilitation Partnership (MRP) have also determined that this is what is in Buffett’s best interest.

Mote has been in ongoing discussions with FWS, FWC, and the MRP regarding how to best achieve the shared goals for Buffett’s future. All facilities in the U.S. that rehabilitate and/or house manatees are permitted by FWS. FWS governs and manages all manatees in human care, in cooperation with FWC and MRP, and is the entity that is ultimately responsible for decisions about manatee transfers and placement.

FWS, FWC, and MRP have made significant progress in deciding where and with whom Buffett will reside. Although there are many moving parts, these decisions are continuing to be thoroughly evaluated by all parties. Once Mote knows more details on a final FWS decision, an update will be announced.



Buffett, Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium’s resident Florida manatee.

The process of planning Buffett’s future, involving many partners and factors, is complex:

- Buffett was born in human care at the Miami Seaquarium and may not thrive outside of human care.
- Previous attempts and trials of other manatees born in human care being released led to poor outcomes, often resulting in death (Adimey et al. 2016).
- Under the direction of FWS, manatees are not permitted to cohabitate with manatees of the opposite sex, to avoid them reproducing under human care.
- Strategic planning by FWS, FWC, and MRP occurs when determining where manatees will be rehabilitated and/or placed permanently in order to maintain females and males separately. For this reason, Buffett may only reside with male manatees.
- FWS, FWC, and MRP have concluded, and Mote agrees, that it

See Manatee, page 2

Siesta Beach Rises to Top-10 Rank Worldwide



Siesta Beach has landed at the No. 2 spot on this year’s TripAdvisor’s Travelers’ Choice Awards Best of the Best Beaches in the U.S.

The global ranking of Sarasota’s Siesta Beach also improved, moving from No. 11 to the No. 9 spot on the 2024 worldwide list.

The list was compiled by analyzing tens of millions of reviews submitted by global travelers over the past 12 months.

“Whether you want to relax or fill your day with activities, Siesta Beach delivers. Kick back on the white sand, go swimming in the clear water, play some outdoor sports, or simply admire the sunset — it’s up to you,” according to the TripAdvisor listing for Siesta Beach. “The family-friendly beach is easy to get to via public transportation, offers wheelchair access, and has plenty of parking, restrooms, and a small concession stand. There are a variety of shops and lively restaurants nearby, too.”

It was the only Florida beach to land on the global list.

Other Florida beaches among the top 25 in the U.S. include:

- No. 4 - Hollywood Beach, Hollywood
- No. 12 - Clearwater Beach, Clearwater
- No. 13 - Panama City Beach, Panama City Beach
- No. 15 - Fort Lauderdale Beach, Fort Lauderdale

- No. 17 - St. Augustine Beach, St. Augustine
- No. 18 - Henderson Beach State Park, Destin
- No. 22 - Bahia Honda State Park, Big Pine Key
- No. 25 - Sombrero Beach, Marathon

Model railroad club reaches operating agreement with Sarasota Toy Museum

The Sarasota Bay Model Railroad Society, Inc., announced Monday that it has reached an agreement in principle with the new Sarasota Toy Museum to maintain and operate the museum’s world-class model train layout.

The Sarasota Toy Museum, now under construction, is scheduled to open in June 2024. Members of the Sarasota Bay Model Railroad Society will operate the layout for the benefit of the public. Plans are being discussed to allow the public to operate individual trains using the DCC system of train control.

See NewsWorthy, page 3

Manatee, from page 1

is in Buffett's best interest to be introduced to another large male long-term or non-releasable manatee as a companion.

- One of the challenges in determining placement and companions for manatees is space limitations within manatee facilities as most are full of manatees being rehabilitated, and also the considerations of compatibility and management of adult males.

- Mote is working to plan for and prepare for any decision made in the interest of Buffett's future.

Although there are a multitude of factors impacting the decision, finding a definitive plan for Buffett is Mote's number one priority. During Mote's recent United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspection on April 18, Mote was found to be in compliance with USDA animal care regulations, and Buffett was found to be in good care and condition.

In addition, Mote continues to exceed the standards of the USDA and the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and continues to work with all partners to ensure Mote continues to provide Buffett with the highest quality care from their experienced veterinarians and biologists.

Mote's animal care team monitors Buffett for any behavioral changes since not having a companion. Buffett continues to exhibit all of his normal behaviors, including his typical behavior of swimming through his exhibit and using his muzzle (nose) to stop on the glass to turn around and swim in the opposite direction.

While many visitors may interpret this face press behavior as a "manatee kiss" on the window, manatees don't have very good brakes, and this is his way of stopping to turn around. This behavior is not new for Buffett, as he has exhibited it over the 28 years he has been at Mote.

Through Mote's rigorous behavioral observation program, it has been found that Buffett's behavior is consistent and maintained, even compared to when he was previously housed with another manatee. Mote continues to use the best available science-based methods to monitor and evaluate Buffett's behavior to be able to address any sudden changes or abnormal behaviors promptly, should they arise.

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NewsWorthy, from page 1

The museum’s layout, measuring 30 by 20 feet, was built by professional modeler David Frary for this museum and models the area around the Killington, Vermont, ski resort. The builder estimates that it has 28,000 individual handmade trees and is unique in that the model scenes change from spring, to summer, to fall, to winter, as you walk around, each season requiring a unique modeling effort. Operating on 3 levels, the layout provides over 240 feet of mainline run. The layout is featured in Model Railroader Scenery magazine, 3rd edition.

George Borsari, president of the Sarasota Bay Model Railroad Society, said, “We are thrilled to be working with the new Sarasota Toy Museum and to be able to have operating sessions on a model train layout of this quality.”

Sarasota-Bradenton Airport hits record-breaking traffic

Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport (SRQ) recorded record-breaking traffic for the month of March 2024. 553,521 passengers came through the airport in March, a 7.5% increase compared to 514,889 passengers in March 2023. The 12-month activity through March 2024 totaled 4,415,951 passengers, a 9% increase compared to 4,048,419 passengers for the 12 mon

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EditorLetters

Longboat Key News and Sarasota City News encourages Letters to the Editor on timely issues. Please email to: letters@lbknews.com or mail to PO Box 8001, Longboat Key, FL 34228. We also print letters sent to Town Hall that address Longboat Key issues. We reserve the right to edit.

Sips is Special

To: Editor

Chris and Justina Carter have good reason to believe that they have given LBK a great selection of wholesome eating. You leave this restaurant with a feeling of non-guilt eating and no indigestion.

So many selections to be found here including gluten free items. We like to eat out a lot without the fuss and drama of getting ready to do so. Sips, 6828 Gulf of Mexico Drive is on the end the island in Whitney Plaza.

Not just smoothies and juices but quality food and always a different selection.

You'll have no heart burn or too full a tummy when you eat here. I was very impressed and extremely content. Take a Sip.

Lu Scheier
Longboat Key

Legislative update

To: Longboat Key Commission

Late yesterday, the Florida Bar's City, County and Local Government Section distributed their summary of relevant 2024 Legislation impacting local governments. The Legislative Update is presented annually by the lobbyists for the Florida League of Cities (FLC) and Florida Association of Counties (FAC) to the local government attorneys. I expect that this same summary will be more widely distributed in the next few days through FLC/FAC channels.

This particular update is one of the more helpful summaries on passed legislation, particularly because they include an itemized bill summary and status (as of 4/24/24) in one consolidated document organized by subject matter (i.e., General Government, Land Use, Public Records, etc.) I will be forwarding this document to the Town's Department Heads as well. As you review this document, it is important to keep in mind that the legislation that was passed is transmitted to the Governor who has the option of: 1) signing the legislation into law, 2) allowing the legislation to become law without his signature, or 3) vetoing the legislation.

Additionally, there are several bills that my office and Town Staff continue to monitor. For example, CS/SB 280 is on our radar due to the pre-emptions relating to rental registry programs. I have been in discussions with the Town Manager and Town Staff about that particular legislation and the impact and potential modifications to Town Code that would be needed if it ultimately becomes law. It is our understanding that that SB 280 has not been transmitted yet to the Governor yet, so it has not been acted upon at all by the Governor and could be vetoed.

As always, my office will coordinate with the Town Manager and Staff to determine what impacts adopted laws will have on the Town when (and if) they become law. If you have any questions about this summary, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Maggie D. Mooney
Town Attorney
Town of Longboat Key

Water update

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

On April 15, 2024, the enterococci survey was carried out during a period of an incoming tide. The data for this survey was collected in the intertidal zone, where salinity levels ranged between 32 and 35 parts per thousand (ppt), and minimal signs of decaying plant matter were observed. In general, the results indicated less than

favorable enterococci levels. Results for sites sampled in Sarasota are as follows:

- Town of Longboat Key Boat Ramp (20 #/mL)
- Bridge Street Pier (852 #mL)
- Palma Sola Causeway North (41 #mL)
- Robinson Preserve N (10 #/mL)
- Emerson Point (Undetected #/mL)

Please note that any count exceeding 71 is considered a failure, indicating a potential health concern.

The well-being of these water bodies holds paramount importance for both the recreational enjoyment and economic stability of our community. We are dedicated to bringing these critical issues to your attention. Enclosed, you will find the official reports for this week's sampling activities, courtesy of Benchmark Enviroanalytical. These reports provide comprehensive data for all the sampled sites.

Additionally, we have provided a link to our website, where you can access more information about our ongoing water quality sampling program. Your support and awareness are vital in our mission to preserve and protect our local water resources. Please direct all questions, suggestions for additional analysis, and feedback to

Abbey Tyrna
Executive Director
Suncoast Waterkeeper

Musi event dissapointing

To: Longboat Key Commission

The Music event held on March 16th, 2024 in the new Town Center Green was very disapointing to me. The attendance was minimal. Yes, there were a few tables purchased by businesses, but few individuals showed up.

I was hoping it would be like the free "Music in the Park" we enjoyed in a Chicago Northshore suburb and are now being held all over. Every Tuesday night during June and July a different band (sponsored by businesses) played in the gazebo. A different local restaurant provided food for purchase. People showed up with lawn chairs, blankets and picnic baskets. It brought the community together. The park was full of people having a great time. We chatted with neighbors, friends, made new acquaintances.

It would be nice if LBK could replicate a really fun "Music in the Green." Charging \$25 in advance or \$35 at site is ridiculous. As seen by the limited attendance, people shouldn't be expected to and won't pay. Businesses and groups could still pay for tables and chairs to be set up if they wanted but for all others to sit, listen, and socialize should be free.

If LBK wants to have inviting community events people will attend then make them free and provide food for sale.

Carolyn Wedekind
Longboat Key

Renee

To be clear, not only has no critical new information about the Town Center siting arisen since January, 2023, there has been no new information whatsoever since that time. All elements of the plan were known well in advance of that date, including the location of the stage and building and the treatment of the wet area behind the stage (which required various permits acquired over several years). Outdoor events were held successfully on the site even while the grass area was entirely under construction, so we will have more than sufficient space to continue those activities.

Thanks again for your cooperation and for your responsiveness to the suggestions of our Commission and residents.

Ken Schneier
Mayor
Longboat Key

Library


To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Ken, first, thanks for the response:

1. "Day one" was a long time ago, as no one knows better than you who has driven and suffered this project over the years. The bottom line of where we are now is that in the begin-

See Letters, page 7

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370 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #432 | LONGBOAT KEY

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1211 GULF OF MEXICO DR., #805 | LONGBOAT KEY

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2110 HARBOURSIDE DR., #547 | LONGBOAT KEY

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KeyOpinion

The Suffocation of Opinion

While racial and identity diversity is now the “North Star” to NPR and its employees, viewpoint diversity is extinct. The far left does not tolerate dissent.

GREGORY RUSOVICH
Guest Writer
rusovich@lbknews.com

Uri Berliner, senior editor at National Public Radio (NPR), calls out his newsroom for its pervasive progressive culture. He is forced to resign. Former Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel is hired by NBC News, only to be canned after the army of progressive mouthpieces at the network object to a conservative hire. Meanwhile, former TV news anchor Katie Couric is without reproach as she demeans Trump voters as anti-intellectual, jealous and resentful.

What happened to fair and balanced journalism? Progressive media bias is on full display.

Berliner, a Peabody Award-winning journalist, called out the NPR hyper-partisanship in an essay published recently on



RUSOVICH



the online news site, the Free Press. He cited NPR’s one-sided journalistic handling of major events, including the origins of COVID-19, the war in Gaza, and the Hunter Biden laptop controversy. He wrote that he tried an intervention during an all-hands editorial staff meeting in 2021. “When I suggested

we had a diversity problem with a score of 87 Democrats and zero Republicans, the response wasn’t hostile,” Berliner wrote. “It was worse. It was met with profound indifference.”

But the employees were not indifferent when it came to race and identity. According to Berliner, multiple identity-based “affinity” groups emerged, including “MGIPOC (Marginalized Genders and Intersex People of Color mentorship program); Mi Gente (Latinx employees at NPR); NPR Noir (black employees at NPR); Southwest Asians and North Africans at NPR; Ummah (Muslim-identifying employees); Women, Gender-Expansive, and Transgender People in Technology Throughout Public Media; Khevre (Jewish heritage and culture); and NPR Pride (LGBTQIA employees).”

While racial and identity diversity is now the “North Star” to NPR and its employees, viewpoint diversity is extinct. The far left does not tolerate dissent.

The new CEO, Katherine Maher, has fit right in with NPR ideology. The radical chief executive has previously launched a barrage of “woke” social media posts in which she criticized Hillary Clinton for using the terms “boy” and “girl” and thus “erasing language for non-binary people.” And she apparently has no problem with the looting during the Black Lives Matters protests in 2020. “I mean, sure, looting is counterproductive,” Maher pontificated. “But it’s hard to be mad about protests not prioritizing the private property of a system of oppression founded on treating people’s ancestors as private property.”

Mahe can be seen in widely circulated pictures sporting her mask and Biden-Harris baseball cap. Good to see NPR leadership come clean.

Why should NPR receive a penny of taxpayer dollars? In addition to receiving direct federal funding, NPR receives a large percentage of its revenue from local public radio stations which use federal funds to purchase programming produced by the national entity. As the editors of National Review state, “NPR has every right to operate as a left-wing propaganda outlet masquerading as a legitimate news organization. But it is not entitled to pursue this goal with taxpayer money.”

Former RNC Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel was hired by NBC News in late March. A crazed opposition to the hiring quickly emerged. Left wing star Rachel Maddow pronounced, “Ronna McDaniel will not be at MSNBC.” Other MSNBC hosts joined the rebellion. Joe Scarborough, Mike Brzezinski, Nicolle Wallace, Joy Reid, Jen Psaki and Lawrence O’Donnell all took to the airwaves attacking the decision to dare hire an alternative voice. Chuck Todd and the entire NBC Meet the Press panel also scorned the NBC leadership decision. In quick surrender, NBC released McDaniel. “I want to personally apologize to our team who felt we let them down,” whimpered NBCUniversal News Group Chairman Cesar Conde. Again, dissent was not tolerated.

But NBC News is a for-profit corporation, and losing its remaining conservative and independent viewers is clearly not in the company’s best interest. With recent polls showing President Biden and former President Trump tied at 43 percent, is NBC so servile to its leftist cacophony that it is willing to sacrifice a large portion of the public audience? Now many reporters in its newsroom also are complaining that Republican sources have shut down the typical give-and-take due to the McDaniel firing. A secure echo chamber is apparently more important to NBC than consideration of diverse viewpoints.

As Katie Couric joined the chorus by telling Bill Maher that Trump’s voters are driven by anti-intellectualism, class resentment and jealousy, she exemplified the condescending view of the media elite toward an opposing political movement. “I mean globalization and the transition from an industrial to a technological society — I don’t know if you’ve ever been jealous of someone else or resentful — it is such a corroding and bitter, almost bile feeling,” she told Maher. Couric’s narrative is eerily similar to Hillary Clinton’s reference to Trump supporters as a “basket of deplorables.”

It’s sad that the national media can no longer be trusted to supply trusted, impartial news. Surveys show that Americans have lost confidence in the media. We desperately need more balance and objectivity in our newsrooms.



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EditorLetters

Letters, from page 4

ning, the Town Center site engineering and drainage design significantly restricted the useable land creating drainage swale's on both sides, (a safety issue), and a large drainage retention area on the North side near the drainage ditch. This drainage plan forced the Pavillon forward into the Town Green audience space. The stage footprint also significantly reduced people circulation space.

Yes, the original Master Plan called for buildings and I mentioned back then that we were trying to do too much with too little, especially if the Oak trees were to be saved, which I would think most people want.

2. Based on current real world event operating experience it is apparent that the proposed Library site is also needed for large events like the Town Market Place. As you will note in the County aerial photo, (below), there are 100 10x10 tents in the parking lot for either the Art and Craft Show or the Market Place. As you can see the tents were squeezed together with minimum circulation space, uncomfortable.

If you overlay that minimum circulation event onto the Town Green you will see it will not fit. The Library proposed site is also needed as it was last Monday at the Market event, another real world example. This is not an opinion, it is a fact. There are many other popular events and shows that can be offered on the Town Center that will draw and entertain LBK Citizens, which was their priority response in the Town Surveys, IF there is adequate event space.

With the Library on the site there is not.

3. Regarding the existing LBK Library site and its adjacent Town Land; this is a perfectly logical and doable site for the New County Library and Community meeting space enhancement. Yes, of course this larger site would need to be filled a couple of feet to match the elevation of the adjacent Town Hall parking area and the new Library elevated as is our Town Hall. The Library at the proposed site has to be elevated as well.

You all have a good relationship with the County leaders and they want to give back in the form of a new Library, great work. It is hard to imagine they would not be understanding of the need to consider this other site option in light of the realization that more space is required for meaningful Community events.

This is new, real time information based on this past season's event experience.

Ken, fundamentally, people are going to be unhappy if there is a County Library on the Town Center land that restricts popular events and creates uncomfortable over crowding of the events that are able to be held there.

The Town Center Master Plan of years gone by is not the reality we have to deal with today. Again, much of the issue today was caused by the site drainage engineering that has significantly reduced the available space for events, which was the original priority of our citizens. (Sorry to keep harping on what the people want).

We know, respect and appreciate all the time and effort you, Town Managers and Commissioners have put into this difficult Town Center Development over the years and sincerely appreciate the significant monetary contribution from the County for the Library and your efforts to get it.

Please don't dismiss this win-win solution out of hand. This should not significantly delay the New County Library and Community Meeting building.

Bob Gault
Longboat Key

See Letters, page 8

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 7 Library

To: Bob Gault

1.From day one, the space now planned for the Community Center/Library was designated for a community center building. In fact, the adjoining treed space was also under consideration for a building but will now be left open. 2. Even while most of the Green was under construction, farmers’ markets and other events were held at the venue with great reviews and without complaint. Promoters love it. There will be more than enough room for these events at the completed Town Green. 3. The existing volunteer library is 1,800 square feet, virtually unusable and located on a lot that floods regularly. No one has shown any interest in funding any new construction on that site. Thanks for your continued interest in this project.

Ken Schneier
Mayor, Town of Longboat Key

Proposed County Library Siting Impact Facts

To: Longboat Key Commission

Note the Art Show or Market Place event in the Town Center parking lot. Where are Community events going to go when the County Library is built on the 12,000 Sq Ft proposed site, which is the LBK Citizen surveyed priority? Answer: Gone. For example, last Monday’s Market Place event filled the entire Town Green and proposed Library site. Event promoters will not consider the Town Green if it doesn’t have at the capacity to make business sense. The Town doesn’t want or need to produce events.

Note the existing LBK Library site, a 21,000 Sq Ft plot and about another 9,000 Sq Ft of available Town land behind the Library. Almost 30,000 Sq Ft of Town land available vs the 12,000 Sq Ft Town Center proposed site. Elevate the County Library building there, with Community meeting room and parking underneath with elevator. This also provides overflow Commission Meeting space convenient to Town Hall.

Given the LBK Citizen survey data says Community Events and Shows are their top Priority and that is a proven fact by previous events, why not leave the available Town Center open green space available for this higher priority event use purpose? If not, again, why not?

Bob Gault
Longboat Key

Proposed Sarasota County Library On Longboat Key

To: Sarasota County Director of Libraries Renee DiPilato

Thank you Renee for your prompt response to my letter to County Commissioners and acknowledging the importance of Community event space on the LBK Town Green. The critical point is to have enough space for our Community events and shows that most people want.

If you read my Communication detail and attachments you will see that my point our Town has critical new information to consider about the proposed Library location since the “Principals of Agreement that was finalized in early 2023”. (The final agreement has not been approved by either Commission).

The new information since early 2023 that must be seriously considered:

Events held on the Green have had to utilize not only the green area in front of the stage but also all the proposed Library site including a hundred 10x10 display and food services tents to meet crowd expectations.

We now have actual event experience that demonstrates the Town Green site limitations due to drainage swales and the large Pavilion Stage that had to be constructed out on the Green due to a retention basin behind the stage. This was not known in January 2023.

It is now a known real world fact that events will have to be drastically limited or eliminated if the Library building is sited on the Town Green. Again, critical new information since early 2023.

There is also very important new information from LBK Town Citizen Surveys that clearly say a vast majority of Citizens top priority is for Community events and shows on the Town Green. What Fact could be more important in this consideration?

Two simple questions many Citizens want to know; Why are Sarasota County Commissioners and Town Commissioners so reluctant to even consider critical New information, since the Agreement early 2023, that will seriously impact the decision to site the new Library on the Town Green instead of considering another viable and available option?

Will someone please help us understand these questions because again there is a solution. Please read my communication from this morning again with the survey summary data and site photo get your attention on this new information.

Thank You for your consideration and response. By the way, I am happy to meet anyone at the Town Green Site walk you through our concerns. I suggest that you all revisit the site and visualize what it will be when the open space is dramatically reduced by the Library building. Respectfully, please adjust your plans accordingly based on new facts.

Bob Gault
Longboat Key

See Letters, page 11

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115 N BLVD OF THE PRESIDENTS	2,072	\$1,700,000	3	2	0	45	\$1,550,000
1800 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#B606	2,070	\$3,000,000	3	3	0	68	\$2,870,000
401 PHEASANT DR	2,756	\$3,950,000	3	3	1	5	\$3,950,000
2045 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#M1-402	928	\$469,000	2	2	0	175	\$469,000
4360 CHATHAM DR Unit#203	1,072	\$550,000	2	2	0	2	\$547,000
5220 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#103	1,145	\$555,000	2	2	0	4	\$550,000
2045 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#M1-614	928	\$765,000	2	2	0	12	\$725,000
5270 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#502	1,498	\$850,000	3	3	0	59	\$790,000
1085 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#302	1,392	\$925,000	2	2	0	124	\$865,000
5055 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#122	1,484	\$925,000	2	2	0	0	\$925,000
1095 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#303	1,503	\$985,000	2	2	0	63	\$945,000
3235 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#A505	1,260	\$1,195,000	2	2	0	44	\$1,100,000
3060 GRAND BAY BLVD Unit#132	2,250	\$1,485,000	3	3	1	137	\$1,385,000
3060 GRAND BAY BLVD Unit#153	2,550	\$1,799,000	3	3	1	171	\$1,675,000
531 HARBOR POINT RD	4,050	\$3,799,000	3	3	1	83	\$3,200,000
2399 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#3C1	4,018	\$5,400,000	4	4	1	362	\$5,400,000
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OnPatrol

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

April 19 Parked truck

3:40 p.m.
Officer Martinson while on patrol observed a large machinery semi-truck parked facing southbound in front of the 5000 Gulf of Mexico Drive. The driver was standing outside near the rear of the truck pumping air into a tire. Officer Martinson made contact with him and advised him that he could not park along Gulf of Mexico Drive. The man said he was just waiting to pull into the construction site across the street to pick up an underground drill. About a minute later another truck drove out of the construction site and the man pulled his truck off the road into the construction site. Case clear.

April 20 Parking

12:11 a.m.
Officer Miklos while on patrol near the Bay Isles Parkway and observed a Ford backed into a parking spot with its windows down. Upon approach to the vehicle, Officer Miklos utilized the right ally light and observed a man in the driver seat and a woman in the passenger seat sleeping. Officer Miklos made contact with the man and woman who advised they were homeless and waiting until he started work in the morning at the St. Regis construction site. Officer Miklos advised the man that there is no overnight camping in vehicles on Longboat Key. Officer Miklos conducted a warrant check on the two individuals which both came back negative for any wants. At this time, Officer Nazareno arrived on scene as a backup officer. The two individuals advised they would leave the area and head towards Sarasota until morning. Case clear.

Beach chairs

12:33 p.m.
Officer Martinson was dispatched to the 5600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on a call of a citizen assist. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson was flagged down by the complainant standing in the parking lot of the condominium complex. The complainant then walked Officer Martinson over to a group of beach chairs that were stacked onto each other and stated that she lives on St. Judes Road and as a resident there she has deeded access to the beach via a path that runs along the north side of the condominium. The complainant stated she leaves her beach chair down by the beach so she does not have to move back and forth to her house everyday and has been leaving the chairs in the same spot for the past 13 years. The complainant then walked Officer Martinson where she had left her beach chairs. The area that the complainant left the chairs was above the grassy beach high water line and on the property of the condominium. Officer Martinson advised her that was private property and that someone from the condominium probably had pulled them up from the beach. Officer Martinson then showed the complainant where she could leave the beach chairs in the future. As Officer Martinson was walking back up from the beach, Officer Martinson was approached by management from the condominium and was told they had found the chairs left on their property and thought they were abandoned. Officer Martinson told them that the chairs had not been abandoned and a resident had left them there. The condominium stated they did not want the complainant’s beach chairs left on their property anymore. The complainant stated they would place the chairs on their property anymore. Case clear.

Citizen assist

11:33 p.m.
Officer Miklos while on patrol, observed a loose greyhound running near the 5300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Miklos was able to secure the greyhound with a leash and made contact with the owner. They greyhound was returned to the owner without incident. Case clear.

April 22 Boat

11:15 a.m.
Officer Connors while on marine patrol in the area of Sarasota Bay, was dispatched to the area of John Ringling Bridge to assist Sarasota Police Department Marine with a report of a sailing vessel taking on water. Upon arrival, it was determined that said vessel was a small motor yacht and that was no longer taking on water. The captain was able to identify the location where the water was protruding and made the necessary repairs. Commercial assistance was on scene assisting. Case clear.

Suspended license

4:21 p.m.
Sgt. Montfort while on patrol in the 5000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive, observed a black GMC pickup truck traveling south and saw that the vehicle had left its lane of travel crossing the white hazard marking on three occasions. A traffic stop was conducted in the area of 4800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive and he made contact with the driver who presented Sgt. Montfort with a Mexican Identification Card. The driver stated he did not have a driver’s license because it was suspended. The man then provided Sgt. Montfort with the registration and insurance information for the vehicle. Sgt. Montfort returned to his patrol car and conducted a FCIC/NCIC check. The man did possess a suspended driver’s license for a non-judgement suspension. The man had not renewed his driver’s license since 2005. The driver was processed and released into the field with two uniformed traffic citations. The driver was processed and released into the field with two uniformed traffic citations. The vehicle was turned over to the passenger who possessed a valid driver’s license. Case clear.



April 23 Castaway

9:00 a.m.
Officer Connors and Officer Mathis were dispatched to the area of Linley Street Boat Tamp for a report of a sailing vessel that had broke free from anchor and washed ashore to the nearby beach area. Officer Connors was able to make contact with the owner via phone who advised that he was out of town, unaware that the sailboat broke free and would contact commercial assistance for removal. Commercial assistance arrived on scene shortly after and removed the sailboat without incident. Case clear.

Driver’s license

8:11 p.m.
Officer Pescuma while on patrol, received a camera alert for a license plate image for a suspended/revoked/canceled driver’s license. Officer Pescuma checked the FCIC/NCIC database and confirmed that the registered owner driver’s license was suspended as of Feb. 26. The vehicle was located and a traffic stop was conducted on a blue Kia passenger van. Officer Pescuma made contact with the driver and introduced himself and the reason for the traffic stop. Officer Pescuma advised the driver that his driver’s license was suspended. The passenger said that it was her Florida Driver’s License that was suspended and the driver made a spontaneous utterance, “I do not have a valid driver’s license.” The driver handed Officer Pescuma then asked why he was driving and the driver said they were conducting work for a roofing company. Officer Pescuma advised that the driver could not drive and he arranged for transportation. The officer issued criminal citation to the driver for knowingly operating with a suspended driver’s license. Additionally, a citation was issued for no insurance on file. The man made arrangements for another party with a valid driver’s license to pick him and vehicle up from the location. Case clear.

April 24 Parking after 11 p.m.

2:11 a.m.
Officer Butler while on patrol when he observed a car parked in the rear of Bayfront Park with the vehicle lights turned off. The driver was sitting alone in the vehicle wearing a headlamp. Officer Butler advised that the park was closed since 11 p.m. and asked what was his purpose in the park. He said he was driving and visited parks. Officer Butler proceeded to inquire about his conduct due to the unreasonableness of the time. He continued stating he was very busy working during the daytime and this was his only free time. The occupant was in violation warning for being in Bayfront Park after 11 p.m.

Ducklings in swimming pool

4:46 p.m.
Officer Martinson was dispatched to the 2700 block of Gulf of Mexico drive on a call of an animal problem. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson was met by the caller and she led the officer to the pool area in the backyard. Once at the pool, Officer Martinson observed four small ducks huddled together swimming in one of the far corners. The baby ducks did not appear to be injured or in need of any help. The caller said she had called Save Our Seabirds and was told they could not come out until tomorrow morning. The caller stated this had happened a couple of weeks ago and after a while the mother duck returned and collected her babies. The caller was concerned because the baby ducks had been there all day and the mother duck had not come back. Officer Martinson advised the caller that if she was okay with allowing the baby ducks to stay in her pool it would probably be best to wait until tomorrow for the trained professionals at Save Our Seabirds to help in which she agreed. Case clear.

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 8

Roundabout at the Post Office

To: Sarasota City Manager Marlon Brown

You will recall that I previously had concerns about how, after the roundabout is completed, drivers would enter the Post Office parking lot. The new design brings cars directly into the lane closest to the building – the lane that is usually a bottleneck with drivers waiting for a parking space or stopped to deposit mail into the curbside mailbox. I recommended that the Post Office be asked to provide an alternate curbside mailbox that wouldn’t require entering the parking lot. I hope this is being considered.

On further consideration of the effect of the roundabout design on the traffic flow within the Post Office parking lot, I’ve noticed two serious problem areas. (Marked X on the diagram.)

The X on the lower-left marks where the entering traffic crosses the exiting traffic – with no apparent traffic control. (Are we moving the potential T-bones from the intersection to the parking lot?)

The X on the upper right is the location of the bottleneck where both of the exits are impeded by cars stopped at the curbside mailbox. (This spot is currently a bottleneck when mailing volume is high. Today, it can be avoided by entering, parking and exiting on the westbound lane. Post-roundabout, all Post Office traffic will have to go past that bottleneck.)

Obviously, the Post Office is not a City agency. But the roundabout will seriously compromise the viability of the Post Office’s current parking lot design. Is any effort being made to urge USPS to redesign their parking lot to improve safety and traffic flow? I hope a solution to this problem can be found.

Debbie Trice
City Commissioner
City of Sarasota

Office Hours

To: Longboat Key Employees

As you’ll recall, we implemented in January a pilot program that changed our operating hours to 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. for certain Town functions (I.T., PZB, Finance, Clerk, Support Services, and Public Works). Our goals were two-fold: 1) improve employee drive time home and; 2) maintain or enhance our customer service levels.

The results over the past 3 ½ months have been positive toward both goals. Having the ability to leave at 4:00 p.m. has indeed reduced drive times home for most of our team. Using 3:00 p.m. traffic times from Google Maps as a baseline, and just measuring time to get from Town Hall to U.S. 41 (if going south) and to Cortez (if going north), people leaving at 4 p.m. saw on average a 10-15 minute savings going south and a 15-20 minute savings going north vs. leaving at 5:00 p.m. Again, that’s just time saved to get off the island. Many employees reported that once on the mainland, they were ahead of the heaviest traffic and so the actual time savings getting home are even greater (on average). There have been of course those few days where it didn’t matter what time

you left, but we know that stuff happens beyond anything we can plan for (especially for people traveling north off of the island). We do believe the completed U.S. 41 roundabouts with all of the lanes open has helped make a positive traffic difference going south this year.

From a customer service perspective, we’ve had no complaints that I’m aware of and actually have received positive feedback from PZB customers who very much appreciate the ability to start their day earlier with Town staff which makes sense when you consider what time contractors start their day.

With all of this positive feedback from employees and customers, the recommendation has been made to continue the 7:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. schedule into the future which is exactly what we will do effective immediately. I want to thank everyone for their flexibility and adaptability as we pursue better ways to improve services and operations.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about this. And if there are other ideas on how we can improve performance, let’s talk about it. We’re all in on getting better!

Howard Tipton
Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

Broadway roundabout

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Given the recent changes in the Broadway roundabout design, we are putting together a Longboat Key North task team to focus specifically on this latest design proposal.

Paul Hylbert, LBK North co-chair, will lead the group. It will have representation (TBD) from the closest neighborhoods.

Nothing has changed regarding the over-riding community concern for safety at that busy intersection (as reinforced during our LBK North meeting this past week), but the new design, as you are well aware, raises a number of issues (e.g.,

flooding, vegetation).

Thank you for ensuring LBK North involvement.

Steve Bergman (LBK North - Conrad Beach)
Bob McRae (LBK North - Village)
Wendi Bundy (LBK - North N. Shore)
Eddie Abrams (MPO Community Rep)

Library

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Again , at the risk of sounding like a broken record, my biggest disappointment during my Commission Terms occurred when the then Commission Chair and Vice Chair expressed concerns with continuing the ongoing working relationship with Ringling and the Town to create an ACE Town Center building , which resulted in Ringling walking away from the relationship. I also recall you and I later meeting with Ringling to rekindle that relationship, which was not successful. While I still feel that would have been the best arrangement to serve our community; under the evolving and present circumstances, I recognize and support your and the Town’s efforts to achieve the goals of a Town Center with the Sarasota county Library project. Among other advantages, it would provide Longboat with some financial return of the significant taxes paid to the County over the years, while addressing many of the goals of an ACE stand- alone facility. Again, I appreciate your and the commission’s ongoing efforts to best achieve such goals.

Jack Daly
Longboat Key

Dredging project

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Tip several months ago I gave you an article from the Tampa Bay Times that addressed the Pasco commissioner’s assessment for coastal dredging of their canals. I’m wondering

See Letters, page 12

Longboat Key News

Sarasota City News

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WineTimes

Vineyard Friends of the Earth

Organic, sustainable, biodynamic: these wines offer distinctive tastes that supermarket wines lack. Look for them on the shelves of wine shops.

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

The wine industry in the USA divides into many sectors. Mammoth corporations rule the predominate sector; they conduct the industrial farming and winemaking operations required to produce the lion's share of some 36 billion bottles of wine each year. The 71 largest corporate producers of wine sell a half billion bottles per year in the USA, according the information services company Statista. Three US corporations, E&J Gallo, Constellation Brands, and The Wine Group, claim just over 50% of US wine sales. Wine brands such as The Gallo bestseller, Barefoot, produce a wide range of wine varieties under one brand name, including Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Pinot Noir, Malbec, Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, and Moscato, plus sparkling and sweet wines. The usual price of this brand, now about \$8 per 750ml bottle, positions these wines just above jug wines; nonetheless, expert ratings of mass produced Barefoot wines within tend to be no worse than other wines in their price range.



Gallo Barefoot and Signature Series, the Constellation Brands' more expensive Mondavi, Meiomi, and Simi varieties, and The Wine Group's multiple wine variety Cupcake and Chloe brands and popular Franzia box wines offer consistent qualities and a spectrum of tastes year after year. This "supermarket tier" sector of the market for wine draws on many sources of grapes and blending wines to meet demands for volume in a highly competitive market.

At the other extreme, close to 10,000 wineries in the USA produce 60,000 or fewer bottles of wine per year. The majority of these wineries produce fewer than 12,000. The vineyards supplying this sector have to limit the varieties they produce. Except for a relatively small number of wineries that large corporations have acquired but allow to operate independently, the small producers have very limited access to supermarket buyers. They fill a niche in the wine market for distinctive, interesting wines on local restaurant menus, tasting rooms, wine clubs, web marketing, favorable reviewer ratings, or appeals to special interests.

A special interest important to many wine buyers is the impact of food and beverage production on their health, the environment, and climate change. Friends of the Earth favor the idea of natural wines with no additives and few winemaker interventions, produced from grapes grown in traditional ways in harmony with the environment. The 6,000 years history of winemaking using naturally occurring yeasts and grapes attuned to local foods has applied the test of time.

Traditional dry land farming of grapes not only reduces drains of scarce water, it also improves wine grapes by thinning vines and concentrating the flavors in grapes. Using sheep and goats to help weed vineyards and surrounding vines with lavender, sunflowers, roses, and herbs adds a diversity of plants to otherwise monoculture fields and helps control destructive insects. These practices help growers avoid using commercial pesticides and herbicides.

Certified organic wines meet the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) or other standards. An early entry in the market for organic wines, Frey Vineyards Organic White (\$10), has carved out a niche in a tough market to crack. It has no added sulfites. This non-vintage wine has a atypical blending of Butte County Chenin Blanc and Mendocino County Chardonnay from California. It has aromas and tastes unusual for its varietals: melon and white nectarine. It has less of a citrus edge than one might expect, but pairs well with strong shell fish tastes of crab and tuna.

Wines certified as organic have improved in quality and price during the last few years. The 2022 Cono Sur Organic Pinot Noir Colchagua Valley of Chile (\$14), for instance, rates higher than earlier vintages.

A different standard for earth friendly wines, sustainability, has taken hold in international wine markets. USDA organic wine standards parallel sustainability standards, though the former stresses organic processes and additives while the latter emphasizes practices that sustain vineyards over the long run. These practices essentially boil down to earth friendly conservation practices that reduce waste, conserve resources, and reduce the burden of winemaking on the environment. Biodynamic wine making pushes the envelope even farther. This standard considers healthy interactions between the vineyard and its environment as beneficial in the future.

The 2022 Guilhem Moulin de Gassac (\$12) blend of 40% Grenache Blanc, 30% Sauvignon Blanc, and 30% Rolle conforms to the Terra Vitis sustainability standards. It comes from the wild west of France, the Languedoc. Aside from its earth friendly certification, it has the pale gold color of a premier Rhone Valley white blend, a floral nose, and a clean and refreshing taste.

During a recent visit to the wine shop in Morton's Gourmet Market in Sarasota, we asked wine expert Kailey Goodman about sustainable wines. She pointed to labels on South African wines: all of the South African imports highlight sustainability certification. Morton's is beginning to store these features of wines in a database that will support searches for organic, sustainable, and biodynamic wines.

Organic, sustainable, biodynamic: these wines offer distinctive tastes that supermarket wines lack. Look for them on the shelves of wine shops.



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

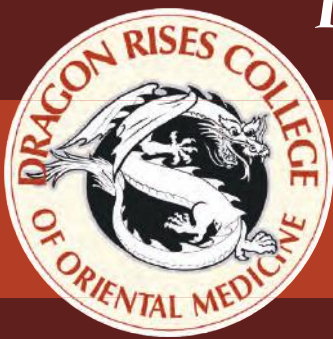
Rich Hermansen selected his first wine list for a restaurant shortly after graduating from college with a degree in Mathematics. He has extensive service and management experience in the food and wine industry. Family and friends rate him as their favorite chef, bartender, and wine steward. He lives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

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BreakPoints

If you play it, the outcome counts...

Yesterday when I was playing my doubles match, the score was 15-all but I accidentally served on the ad side instead of the deuce. We won the point. I offered to replay the point, but my opponents said it was their point. Who was right?

JACKIE BOHANNON
Guest Columnist
tennis@lbknews.com

Great question. Both of you are wrong! Any point played in good faith stands, and as soon as the mistake is recognized corrective action should be taken. In this particular instance because you won the point the score would now be 30-15, and you would again serve from the ad side. Similar circumstances occur when partners accidentally switch sides when returning serve, or when the wrong team or wrong server begins a game. This also happens frequently in tie breakers when changing sides or ends of the court happens more repeatedly. All points that are played count. You never redo a point because you accidentally served on the wrong side or end of the court. The only time you redo a point is if a let is called during the course of play.



BOHANNON



Serve Jackie your best shot!



Long-time tennis pro and recently-named America's Top Coach Jackie Bohannon will answer any question on tennis. Please email question you have on strategy, technique, mental game, fitness, equipment, etc., to: tennis@lbknews.com

KeyCrossword

Letters, from page 12

with Staff deserve the credit and thanks.

Per the dog park at Pioneer Park... that might be a little more complicated but something we can absolutely talk about.

I am well aware of the need, as I see the tennis court regularly used as an off-leash dog park. And, that use, while nice for the dogs and their owners, is definitely not the best thing for the tennis court.

On a side note, I don't think we can do an off-leash park just for small dogs, it would have to be for all dog sizes, I would think, and it would need about the same space that is at Gillespie Park.

In Our Parks Masterplan, I believe we have another off-leash dog park scheduled but am not completely sure so I have copied the City Manager/Deputy City Manager on this email to respond accordingly.

I will bring this up again in my next meeting with the City Manager/Deputy City Manager and keep you up-to-date on the potential for a new off leash dog park at Pioneer Park. The Commission would have to budget for this as well and approve a plan.

Jen Ahearn-Koch
Vice Mayor
City of Sarasota

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ACROSS

- 1 Fragrance base
- 6 Aegean isle
- 11 "Shane" star
- 15 Benevolent brother
- 18 Insect stage
- 19 Actress Leachman
- 21 Israeli port
- 22 Easy as ____
- 23 Aristocratic intellectual
- 27 Inflames
- 28 Green
- 29 Jalopies
- 30 Kindled
- 31 Mister, in Mainz
- 32 "The ____ Love"
- 33 Office worker's wear
- 39 Mil. school
- 41 Gallant musketeer
- 45 Assistant
- 46 Bahrain export
- 47 Family outcast
- 49 Slammin' Sam
- 51 ____ Pasha: Egyptian viceroy 1863-79
- 53 Frenzy
- 54 "Do ____ say..."
- 55 Kite's org.
- 56 ____-Tin-Tin
- 58 European capital
- 59 Ind. mediator
- 60 Kill or joy lead-in
- 61 Anti-union canine?
- 64 James ____: philanthropist
- 66 Fred's dancing sister
- 67 Billed and cooed
- 69 Sugar pill
- 72 Paisley people
- 75 Sailing
- 77 Goof off
- 81 Cronos
- 82 Tom Hanks film
- 84 ____ Rabbit
- 86 Confusion
- 87 Demure
- 88 Augment
- 89 Auction
- 90 Public house
- 92 Castor and Pollux
- 94 Tenderfeet
- 97 Environment: comb. form
- 98 Pot starter
- 99 Intuit
- 100 Brandy gr.
- 101 Lunch toter
- 105 Singer from Nigeria
- 107 Nashville music hall
- 109 Wilder's " ____ Town"
- 110 Singer Neil

Color Captions

Edited by Linda and Charles Preston

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14		15	16	17	
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- 113 Tibet's locale
 - 114 Lured
 - 120 Influential senior
 - 123 Seadog
 - 124 ____ out: endured
 - 125 Panic
 - 126 Burma's neighbor
 - 127 Fr. holy woman
 - 128 Winter weather word
 - 129 Prepared
 - 130 Jones or Stengel
- 11 Bringing up the rear
 - 12 Perform
 - 13 Overwhelm
 - 14 Take away
 - 15 Majestic
 - 16 Cuff connection
 - 17 Hogsheads
 - 20 Litigant
 - 24 Secular
 - 25 Flynn, of films
 - 26 Actor Brian or David
 - 31 Legendary Bears' coach
 - 32 Statuette for Streep
 - 33 Short-tempered
 - 34 Depend on
 - 35 Perfect
 - 36 Kind of party
 - 37 ____ Gatos: health resort
 - 38 French porcelain
 - 40 Water buffalo
 - 42 Toss
 - 43 Estonian island, German style
- 44 Steeple
 - 47 Short single
 - 48 Soviet police
 - 50 Fumbles
 - 51 ____-Chinese
 - 52 Feeling poorly
 - 57 ____ Jima
 - 60 Repute
 - 62 WWII vessels
 - 63 Wild asses
 - 65 "Toledo" painter
 - 66 Head monk
 - 68 Notes outstanding
 - 70 Scots' family group
 - 71 Teacher's deg.
 - 72 Fetches
 - 73 Core group
 - 74 Poet Nash
 - 76 Macaw
 - 78 Baker's topping
 - 79 French tale
 - 80 Bandleader Kay
 - 82 Humbug!
 - 83 " ____ a Parade"
 - 85 Each and ____: all
 - 89 Court wear
- 91 Hassle
 - 93 Droll one
 - 95 Attempt
 - 96 "Marriage is a ____": Cervantes
 - 101 Stiff drink
 - 102 Public officer
 - 103 Totally defeat
 - 104 Semetic language
 - 106 Pythias's pal
 - 108 1/8th gallon
 - 110 NCOs
 - 111 Part of QED
 - 112 Defy danger
 - 113 Over again
 - 114 Indian tourist town
 - 115 Walked on
 - 116 Last Supper depiction
 - 117 Little ones
 - 118 Buffalo's waterfront
 - 119 6/6/44
 - 121 Wedding words
 - 122 Before poetically

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