



# Longboat Key News

March 10, 2023

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*The call of the really wild ...page 10*

## Tracked Great White Shark wanders off Longboat Key

*The 578-pound Great White male shark named Keji was discovered to be zigzagging in waters offshore Longboat.*

STEVE REID  
Editor & Publisher  
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There's a visceral response we all have to the violent jaws of the Great White Shark. But sharks provide a wealth of scientific information and research and as apex predators maintain a reverence indelible in the human psyche.

Last week, a 578-pound Great White male shark named Keji was discovered to be zigzagging in waters offshore Longboat Key.

The shark generated the tracking ping when it breached the surface.

Keji is a juvenile and is part of OCEARCH's research and the nearly 10-foot male has a tracker showing the shark has migrated all the way from Nova Scotia, Canada. Keji is the 9th shark that



OCEARCH, a global non-profit, has tagged and released when the organization took a Nova Scotia expedition in 2021. Keji is one of nearly 100 sharks See Shark, page 2

## New plan pitched for Red Tide remedy using ozone

*Mote has found that adding ozone to water can reduce K. brevis substantially. A project is posited to test on a much larger scale.*

STEVE REID  
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It is said that the eyes don't lie, but in the case of red tide it's the nose, the throat and the faint and growing feeling of nausea that tells us red tide is in the air. And unfortunately, for Longboat Key and the entire Sarasota waterfront region, the ill effects from the algal bloom continue unabated.

Although fish kills have not been as prevalent in the canals in Longboat and Bird Key as in years past, Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton says it's the westerly winds that are creating a churning effect and as the waves strike the shoreline that is creating a toxic aerosol.

In fact, the reported red tide stretching from Napals to Tampa has Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Executive Director David Tomasko asking the Longboat Key Town Commission and other municipalities for support in an experimental program to fight red tide using ozone.

In the past, Mote Marine and researchers in Japan studied using clay and other solubles to bind and cause the red tide to fall to the ocean floor. But those methods prove possibly detrimental as well as hard to replicate on a large scale.

Yet Mote has found that adding ozone to water can reduce K. brevis substantially.

Ozone binds an oxygen molecule with an additional oxygen atom. The problem, says Tomasko, is creating a method to ramp up the amount of ozone as well as the volume of water treated.

In short, Tomasko says he has been in contact with someone who can produce a pilot project that can meet Mote's ozonation target and travel at about the speed of a jet ski

## New Longboat Town Manager: 'This is not a job to coast along'

*"You have to come with your A-game on all issues in all discussions on Longboat Key."*

STEVE REID  
Editor & Publisher  
sreid@lbknews.com

Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton knew residents are highly involved, opinionated and passionate about the island many consider their slice of absolute paradise. But Tipton is pleasantly surprised to be engaged and challenged on every level.

"You have to come with your A-game on all issues in all discussions," said Tipton while discussing several issues and projects underway.

### Pickleball passion

Tipton told Longboat Key News that his staff in the Parks Department estimates that 57 tennis courts have been adopted for pickleball at condominiums and in the private sector on the island. It's obvious at this point to every commissioner that the demand has grown to the point at the Bayfront Park Recreation Center that additional parking and tennis court striping was approved as a pilot program.

"Red tide's only upside is it has eased up on the demand for pickleball courts and parking over the past two weeks," said Tipton.

But Tipton said that the town is going to look at all options including a reservation program that may fit the needs of some pickleballers who want predictability in playing times.

"That could help dispel some of the rush hour effect," added Tipton.

Tipton likened the manner that pickleballers congregate en masse to the influx of cars onto the highways of southern California.

"It's the rush hour effect. Everybody wants to be there from 8 a.m. until 12 noon," said Tipton.

The Town must receive permission from the owners of the former Pattigeorge's Restaurant property to the north for overflow parking in order for the pilot program to move forward. The pilot program would add no less than 15 parking spaces and restripe the one remaining Bayfront Tennis Court for pickleballers. Tennis players can still play on the hard courts at Bayfront, but some may object to the additional striping as distracting.

As a long-term solution the town will discuss in the coming months the possibility of additional dedicated pickleball courts as well as other options. Those options include expanding the Longboat Key Public Tennis Center by adding a pickleball component. That expansion could theoretically occur when the existing Longboat Key Library building is no longer utilized when a planned County library is built at the Town Center project.

### Fear of flooding

Tipton ticks off some of the most important issues in his mind including sea level rise, water quality, and beach erosion.

Longboat has of late spent numerous hours discussing the impact of sea level rise and has produced a study



TIPTON

See Manager, page 2

See Red tide, page 2



# Town of Longboat Key Community Open House & Mini Market postponed

POSTPONED to April 15, 2023

The Town of Longboat Key is announcing the postponement of their annual community open house that was planned for Saturday, March 11th due to a weather forecast that could create impacts from red tide on the outdoor event at Bayfront Park.

“The red tide we’ve been experiencing has been a little stronger in terms of irritation and we felt it was in the best interest of all concerned to push the open house back a month”, said Town Manager Howard Tipton.

“We always look forward to seeing our residents and sharing with them the good work the Town is doing and we’re hopeful that April will provide a better environment for the gathering at Bayfront Park”.

Please call Town Hall at 941-316-1999 should you have any questions.

**Manager, from page 1**

looking at what flooding in 2040 and 2070 will look like. The issue is both sea level rise as well as increasing water temperatures fueling stronger storm events.

“We are as vulnerable as any community in Florida. How do we get ahead of that?” asked Tipton rhetorically.

The solutions will run the gambit from straightforward ideas such as adding backflow preventers on stormwater drain pipes. Other ideas though will become major costs such as seawall elevations islandwide, road raising as well as increased erosion prevention.

**Turning the tide**

Nobody wants to talk about red tide, nor see it in headlines. Unfortunately, the area is stuck in a persistent bloom. Tipton says that the surf is stronger and the winds have generally come from the south and west, causing an aerosol effect and the associated irritation.

On a broader level, Longboat’s Manager says, “It all speaks to the water quality issue. We know it is a natural recurring event, but we also know that tremendous rainfall levels from Hurricanes Ian and Irma washed unprecedented amounts of runoff from most of the state of Florida into the waterways and eventually the Gulf.”

Like everyone, Tipton is hoping for shifting winds as the most immediate cure to the noxious dilemma.

**LBK transformation**

Perhaps most excitedly, Tipton says that the Town is working with FDOT on a complete redesign of Gulf of Mexico Drive. This will include expanding the 8-foot sidewalk on the east of Gulf of Mexico Drive, to 12 feet. The plan is to also install a tree canopy over the future bike and foot path.

“This will have the ability to transform the look of Longboat Key,” said Tipton.

Although it’s only been six weeks on the job, Tipton said the excellent Town Staff and the strong input from residents definitely is a challenge he enjoys but is pleasantly demanding.

“This is not a job to coast in; it’s a chance to keep working hard.”

within the Northwest Atlantic White Shark study and two other sharks have also pinged off of the West Florida coastline in recent months. The etymology of Keji derives from Kejimikujik National Park in Nova Scotia.

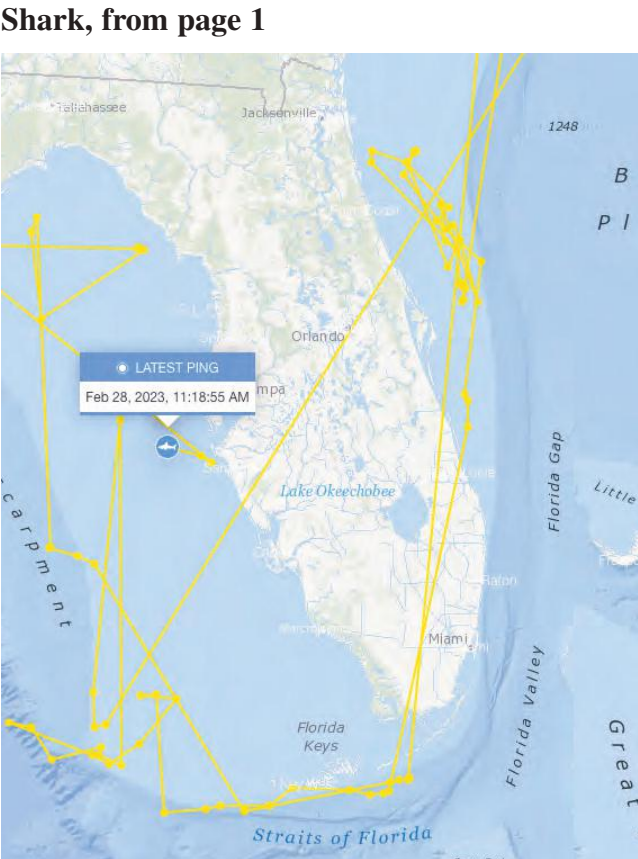
**Red tide, from page 1**

in a pattern. Then the water would be measured to test the results.

Tomasko says that his organization has the funds to pay Mote or the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to collect the data as well as the organization has someone willing to provide the ozonization equipment to run a sizable field test.

Tomasko says, “Lots of agency coordination still needs to be done, but this is worth looking into we believe.”

The Longboat Key Commission will have a red tide update at its next commission meeting and Town Manager Tipton will provide a report as well as Tomasko’s proposal.



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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](mailto: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.

## Woke Mikado

To: Editor

Imagine going to a cowboy movie and finding the director removed all of the cowboys, hats, guns, and horses for fear of offending someone. That's what happened at the Van Wezel production of Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Mikado" Thursday March 8. Originally presented in 1885, the operetta is a wonderful musical comedy spoof about characters in Japan (These days, according to Wikipedia, the play is well received in Japan). Yet at the Van Wezel production almost everything even remotely Japanese was stripped away: no costumes, no beautiful silk kimonos, no fans, etc. The actors were no longer playing people from Japan but were instead dressed like characters from Mack the Knife. Political Correctness strikes again. They ruined it and I want my money back!

Don Burchett  
Longboat Key

## Red Tide and the Governor

To: Editor

We are here for our annual 6-week visit. Been coming here for over 50 years and absolutely love it. However, while we understand the challenges of Red Tide, it's absolutely mystifying how we are hearing nothing from our illustrious, publicity crazy Governor about what is clearly an ecological and financial disaster for the west coast of Florida. Does he only cater to his Uber rich supporters from New York that live on the East Coast where red tide isn't a problem?

Or is he more concerned about jetting around in his mega CO2 generating jet to raise money for his nearly dead presidential campaign?

How about at least an acknowledgement that we have a problem here in our little bit of paradise? To be honest, we are more worried about dead fish and respiratory issues than whatever convoluted campaign promises he is making. Governor, can you please address this situation? Your constituents deserve it!

Donn Seidholz  
Omaha, NE  
Florida Department of Transportation

## Red tide mitigation - potential involvement in field trial

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission

As you are likely aware, we now have a very strong red tide affecting us, not only along our Gulf beaches, but within the bay itself. We know that red tides are "natural" in the sense that the Calusa and Conquistadors both described something like red tide impacts – the discolored water and dead fish. And we know from years of great work by Mote researchers that the red

tide organism (*Karenia brevis*) can assimilate nutrients from natural runoff, dead fish, and human-induced sources such as wastewater overflows and stormwater runoff.

Now consider the fact that our nutrient loading models and other research (e.g., paleolimnology) indicates that nitrogen loads to Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, Lemon Bay and Charlotte Harbor are all about 2 to 3 times higher now than they were 80 to 100 years ago, and it's easy to conclude that humans are most probably making red tide worse, once red tides are advected close to our shores. Within the past few years, some brilliant statisticians at UF demonstrated that nitrogen loads coming down the Caloosahatchee River consistently made red tides in the waters off of Sanibel worse – stronger, longer lasting and larger. Those nitrogen loads didn't create red tide, but they consistently made red tides worse. Based on this and other work done over the past 30 years, the SBEP's primary approach (not our only approach) is to focus on reducing watershed nitrogen loads and increasing the bay's assimilative capacity, which will help create a healthier bay with or without red tide around.

For several decades now, researchers at Mote have explored ways to mitigate red tide, by adding things to the water that can kill *K. brevis* and/or denature the toxin it produces. In general, such techniques have included things that precipitate *K. brevis* out of the water, such as various clay-like additives, or things that can eliminate *K. brevis* in other ways, such as hyper-oxygenation and/or ozonation.

In particular, Mote researchers have found that adding ozone to the water can reduce *K. brevis* substantially, with effectiveness varying directly as a function of ozone concentration. For those unfamiliar with ozone, it is an oxygen molecule with an extra oxygen atom attached (O3, vs. O2). We know that ozonation works to reduce red tide, and the great research done by Mote has even given us a range of values over which the technique should work effectively.

See Letters, page 11

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# Editorial Opinion

## We face biggest national security challenge in a generation

*As one who has conducted extensive business in China, Russia, the Middle East and the Korean Peninsula for many decades, I find it alarming to witness the rapid rise of despotic regimes in a short period of time.*

**GREGORY RUSOVICH**  
Guest Writer  
Rusovich@lbknews.com

For about 25 years following the fall of the Berlin Wall, American foreign policy focused primarily on Iraq, Afghanistan and the dangers posed by radical jihadists. The Middle East dominated our attention and strategic emphasis.



RUSOVICH

The world has changed in the past decade, and now we face a far more serious menace. China, Russia, Iran and North Korea individually present perils; combined, they pose a consequential global threat. Addressing the danger requires tremendous American resolve, strategic purpose and laser focus.

Russia's unprovoked war on Ukraine highlights the concerns. Certainly, the Baltics and Eastern Europe view Putin's aggression and brutality as an imminent peril to their own national sovereignty. But we also have witnessed a surprising weakness in Russia's military prowess. Immediately prior to the invasion, pundits predicted a swift Russian victory over a much smaller Ukraine military. The Biden Administration even offered to evacuate Ukrainian President Zelensky from Kyiv as Russian tanks began their onslaught — prompting the famous response, "I need ammunition, not a ride."

More than a year after the invasion, approximately 200,000 Russian troops have died, been wounded or gone missing in Ukraine. The brutal war is being fought to a deadlock.

American and European military equipment and financial aid have fortified an incredibly brave and savvy Ukraine population and helped deter a Russian victory. It's hard to see an easy path to either Russian or Ukrainian victory in the short term, so what actions should America take to best protect our interests?

Barring an unlikely decisive Russian defeat by Ukraine, we are best served by continuing to make Vladimir Putin's life miserable. The United States should continue to provide substantial and needed military equipment, financial and humanitarian aid to Ukraine, while working with other countries to strengthen every possible sanction on Russia. Boggling Putin down in his own quagmire will further damage the dictator's standing, and hopefully eventually lead to his own demise in the motherland. Additionally, an ongoing appreciation of the potential for escalation is a must, as a direct conflict with Russia would pose an imminent nuclear threat.

America also should insist that Western Europe provide a greater share of military aid. The U.S. has provided \$46 billion in military aid since the beginning of the war. Every dollar comes from American taxpayers and should be tightly monitored. Our friends — Germany, France and Italy combined — have sent less than \$4 billion. This despite the fact that Russian expansionism is a far greater threat to Europe than to the U.S. Commendably, Eastern European and Baltic nations, including Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, are providing more aid as a percentage of gross domestic product than the U.S.

In the Middle East, Iran continues to be a menace. According to The Guardian, Iran is providing advanced long-range armed drones to Russia. The newspaper reports that

Iran delivered at least 18 Mohajer-6 drones, which have a range of around 200 kilometers and carry two missiles under each wing. Iran also has sent Shaheed 191 and 129 drones, which have air-to-ground strike capability as well. All of these high-flying drones are designed to deliver bombs and return to base.

In addition to its close alliance with and support of Putin, Iran is also on the verge of attaining its own nuclear capability. David Albright, founder of the Institute for Science and International Security, said recently that Iran already has acquired enough 20 and 60 percent uranium to produce at least 45 kilograms of highly enriched uranium at 90 percent — enough weapons-grade fuel to produce a nuclear bomb in short order.

The Iranians also use their Houthi allies in Yemen to launch missile attacks on energy-related targets in Saudi Arabia and the Emirates. Overall, Iran acts as the terrorist provocateur in its dangerous Middle East neighborhood. Our own national security interests — which should drive our foreign policy — mandate fortifying relations and support for our long-time Arabic allies such as Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Egypt and Jordan. And of course, we should nurture a close friendship with Israel. Unfortunately, the Biden Administration spent the first two years of its tenure fracturing relations with these longtime partners while kowtowing to the mullahs in Iran in an attempt to obtain a nuclear deal. That policy failed, and it's time to go all out in rebuilding a strong, robust Middle East alliance to challenge Iran in its own back yard.

And then there's China, a real and present danger. From espionage to technology to militaristic hegemony, China President Xi Jinping is on the march. Speaking at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, California, FBI Director Christopher Wray warned, "When we tally up what we see in our investigations — over 2,000 of which are focused on the Chinese government trying to steal our information and technology — there is just no country that presents a broader threat to our ideas, our innovation, and our economic security than China."

American companies doing business in China have complained for years about intellectual property theft by the Chinese. Now, the Chinese Communist Party apparatus has deeply penetrated multiple American technologies on our shores, and even infiltrated our universities. It's good to see bipartisan agreement concerning the threat on Capitol Hill. The likely passage of legislation giving the Administration new powers to ban Chinese-owned video app TikTok, and other foreign-based technologies if they pose a national security threat, will be a positive step forward.

The Chinese behemoth also puts Taiwan and other free Asian nations in immediate peril. As we arm Ukraine to make Putin's life hell, we also should immediately increase military aid to Taiwan and other regional friends to deter Chinese incursion. And as we surround Iran with regional allies, we should simultaneously solidify our Pacific Rim alliances to challenge the Chinese Communist Party. Our security alliances with Japan, Taiwan, South Korea and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations can also serve as a bulwark against an incessantly threatening North Korea.

As one who has conducted extensive business in China, Russia, the Middle East and the Korean Peninsula for many decades, I find it alarming to witness the rapid rise of despotic regimes in a short period of time. We are now at a crossroads. Protecting our own national security interests, fortifying our alliances, and speaking clearly and consistently about current threats to freedom and sovereignty will best serve our cause. There is no moral symmetry between economic and political freedom and dictatorial rule. Freedom must prevail.

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## Supply and Demand for homes on Longboat Key

*With ordinances now restricting height of condo buildings and the size of homes increasing, the number of condos and homes to choose from on Longboat Key has been dwindling.*

TRYLA LARSON  
Guest Writer  
Tryla@lbknews.com

In my experienced opinion as a Realtor, I feel the one of biggest challenges in the housing market right now, and possibly for some time to come, is how few condos and homes available for sale compared to the large number of people who want to purchase. That is certainly something to give thought to, if you're thinking about selling your house, this might be an excellent time to do it. Your home would be welcome addition to a market with fewer homes available for sale than it did during the years before the pandemic.

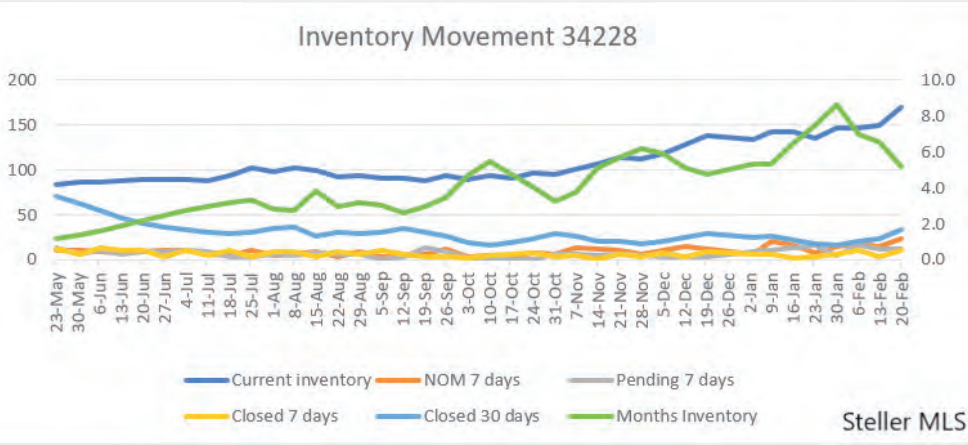


According to the latest Monthly Housing Market Trends Report from realtor.com: "There were 65.5% more homes for sale in January compared to the same time in 2022. This means that there were 248,000 more homes available to buy this past month compared to one year ago. While the number of homes for sale is increasing, it is still 43.2% lower than it was before the pandemic in 2017 to 2019. This means that there are still fewer homes available to buy on a typical day than there were a few years ago."

So, As Home and Condo Owners on Longboat Key, What Does This Mean For Us? Here on Longboat Key there is only so much land to build on. People are tearing down the older and smaller to build bigger and better. With ordinances now restricting height of condo buildings and the size of homes increasing, the number of condos and homes to choose from on Longboat Key has been dwindling. An example is where the new 69 luxury condos are being built at the St. Regis on Longboat Key has shrunk from the 237 residence that was on the same property when the Colony Beach and Tennis Resort was there. Another example would be with the homes getting larger they are taking up multiple lots where more than one home once stood. According to Altos Research it means, "Fewer homes for sale means buyers have fewer choices than they did prior to the pandemic—and that frustration is leading some to give up on the homebuying process altogether. But with mortgage rates sitting lower than they were at the peak last fall, more buyers are willing to come back into the process—they just need to find homes to buy. This is welcome activity for the spring market, especially if you're thinking of selling your house."

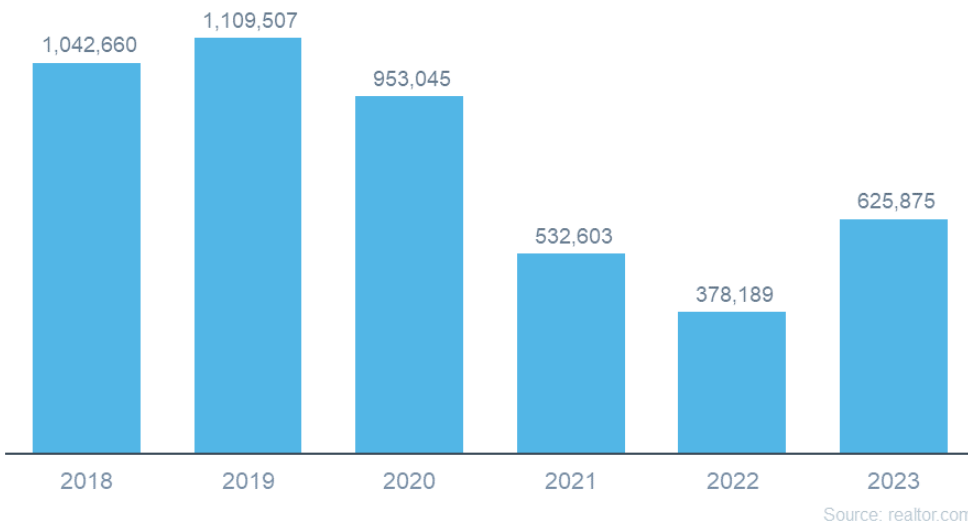
With a renewed interest in buying a home for many, the New York Times (NYT) reports: "Home buyers are edging back into the market after being sidelined last year . . ."

In Conclusion, in today's housing market, if we are going to meet the need of today's buyers, there needs to be more homes available for sale. If you have been thinking of selling, this might be your sweet spot. Then again, do you really want to leave paradise?



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# WineTimes

## A Great Red Wine from Moldova

*The wine calls attention to the Ukranians struggles to remain independent of Russia. Its sales also contribute to the war relief effort.*

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

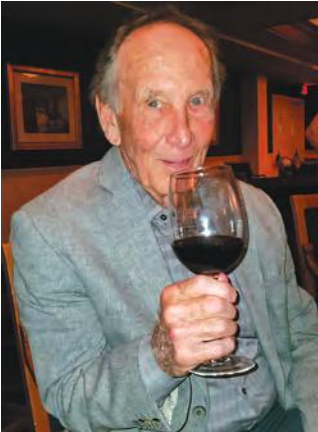
Rarely does a wine deserve top ratings in two categories. The wine that we will present truly does.

- Its rating as a great tasting wine speaks volumes:
- Gold medal, International Wine Contest, Bucharest, Romania;
  - Silver medal, International Wine & Spirit Competition;
  - Bronze medal, Decanter World Wine Awards;
  - Selected UK Wine of the Week by the Financial Times
- wine columnist Jancis Robinson.

A label first released in its 2011 vintage in 2014 by a vineyard established in 1827, buyers of the wine have rated the 2020 vintage on average better than four points on a five point scale. These ratings rank among the top 1% of wines in international comparisons.

It has the nose of a fine Syrah from the Rhone Valley of France, experts say; its dark fruit taste up front segues into sweet and sour tastes of ripe peaches and plums on the back of the tongue, reminiscent of the Grenache grape in the great wines of the Châteauneuf-du-Pape along the Rhone River. The wine does not require more than the eighteen months that it has aged in the cask and bottle before its release. It has no trace of harsh tannins that would demand aging. It's easy to drink now. Held longer, it may lose some of its fresh fruit tastes. We think that it will follow the pattern of fine Pinot Noir, and will transition into a wine that has tastes of dried fruit and spices laid over an firm acidic structure.

For some time now we have cast around in search of a big red wine with the depth that will appeal to lovers of Napa California Cabernet Sauvignon though at a price point that would not break the budget. At \$20, this wine checks the quality/price ratio test. This wine may not appeal to those who associate the distinctive taste of green bell pepper pyrazine with a big Napa Cab. This wine has tastes more like that of the most popular of the high end Cabs: the Caymus Napa Cabernet Sauvignon. Wine drinkers looking for great tasting wine in a lower price tier, this wine fits the bill. Decanter Magazine gives it a 91/100 rating.



The wine also deserves a top rating in a very different category. This wine label originated in 2014 at the time of the Russian invasion of the Ukrainian Crimea. The vineyard producing it lies only fifteen miles from the Ukraine. The smaller countries around the Black Sea and neighboring the Ukraine recognized the ambitions of Russia to regain territories that had split from the old Soviet Union and had become independent. The blend of wines from the Republic of Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and the Ukraine represents the blended quests of these nations to the struggle to remain free and independent of a Russian empire.



The wine calls attention to the Ukrainians struggles to remain independent of Russia. Its sales also contribute to the war relief effort. The winery is donating profits from its sales to support refugees from the ongoing war in the Ukrainian.

This wine would be a great buy at twice its \$20 cost for its taste alone. We'd buy it as a symbol of resistance to Russian aggression. Two good reasons to buy it. We recommend it highly for both reasons.

The wine? 2020 Château Purcari Freedom Blend.

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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Dianne  
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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.

### March 3 Illegally parked vehicle

4:58 p.m.  
Officer Butler while on patrol observed a suspicious vehicle parked in front of the beach entrance at 3800 Gulf of Mexico Drive. This area is a no parking zone. Officer Butler activated his lights and queried the FCIC/ NCIC database. The vehicle was not reported stolen or abandoned. Soon after, the registered owner returned to his vehicle and stated he was on the beach. Officer Butler advised that the area was a no parking zone. The incident was changed to an illegally parked vehicle and a written warning was issued. Case clear.



### Citizen Assist

12:44 p.m.  
Officer Miklos and Sgt. Puccio responded to Jungle Queen Way in reference to a possibly abandoned vehicle parked near the bushes. The complaint came to Longboat Key Police Department through a service ticket from code enforcement. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos located the listed vehicle parked off into the brush next to the street. Officer Miklos observed a no parking sign approximately 20 feet to the east of the vehicle. Officer Miklos conducted a license plate check of the vehicle and it returned to the listed owner and an address on Jungle Queen Way. Officer Miklos spoke to the residents at the location who advised the listed owner had just left and they would attempt to call him. While returning to his vehicle, the owner returned to the residence and Officer Miklos advised him of the parking complaint of his vehicle. The owner advised he had a tow truck from AAA enroute to pick up the vehicle and take it to the auto recycling. Case clear.

### March 4 Citizen assist

11:49 p.m.  
Officer Montfort responded to the 4000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive and made contact with two couples who had just arrived in Longboat Key and needed assistance with locating their vacation home. Officer Montfort assisted the couples with locating their vacation home without incident. Case clear.

### Traffic warning

9:11 p.m.  
Officer Smith observed a vehicle travelling north on Gulf of Mexico Drive without head lamps or tail lights on. Officer Smith conducted a traffic stop and made contact with the driver and informed her of the violation. The violation was corrected and a verbal warning was issued. Case clear.

### March 5 Suspicious person

2:02 a.m.  
Officer Montfort while on patrol, observed two men walking in the 6400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Montfort observed the men walking northbound on the west side of the roadway. Officer Montfort made contact with the men who stated that they are returning to the residence following a walk on the beach. The man stated that he lives nearby and went on his way. Case clear.

### March 7 Found property

9:12 a.m.  
Officer Zunz responded to the front office of the Police Department to turn in a women's brown leather purse that he found while riding his bicycle. The cyclist who is a Longboat Key resident, advised that he spotted it on the ground while passing the gas station. Checking through the purse, Officer Zunz noted a Florida learner's permit, two credit cards, an ID card from Nicaragua and \$281. Officer Zunz also discovered a receipt for driving lessons through which Officer Zunz was able to procure the owner's telephone number. Officer Zunz then made contact with the owner who spoke only Spanish, and gave her directions to the Police Department. When she arrived at the Police Department shortly after, she advised that she had purchased two bags of ice at the gas station and after filling her cooler with ice, she must have inadvertently left her purse on the bumper of her vehicle while lifting the cooler into the trunk. She checked through the contents of the purse and advised that all was accounted for. Officer Zunz had her sign the property receipt form and she asked Officer Zunz to call and thank the good Samaritan for turning in her purse, which he did. Case clear.

### March 6 Noise

7:15 a.m.  
Officer Miklos was dispatched to Longboat Drive South in reference to a noise complaint from a house under construction. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos came into contact with the complainant who advised the employee was using a hammer before 8 a.m. Officer Miklos came into contact with the employee who was not currently working and was on the phone with his supervisor. The supervisor advised him the contractor did not advise the company of a noise ordinance on Longboat Key. The man apologized for the noise complaint and advised him to wait until 8 a.m. to start to perform his job on the construction site. Case clear.

### Citizen assist

6:00 p.m.  
Officer Martinson responded to Lois Avenue and Broadway on a call of a citizen assist. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson observed a black Cadillac Escalade parked along the west side of Lois Avenue just north of Broadway. The limo driver was sitting in the driver's seat and stated he was waiting for his customer to leave the Shore Restaurant. Officer Martinson advised the driver that he was parked in a resident only zone and had to either drive around or go park and wait in the Whitney Plaza parking lot. The driver left the area. Case clear.

### Animal complaint

10:09 a.m.  
Officer Miklos was dispatched to 5400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a possible rabid raccoon. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos came into contact with the complainant who led Officer Miklos to the raccoon's location. Sgt. Puccio advised Sarasota Sheriff's Office dispatch to advise Manatee Sheriff's Office animal services. Sarasota Sheriff's Office Dispatch advised that animal services was en route with an estimated time arrival of 20 minutes. Nothing further to report. Case clear.

### March 9 Parking warning

1:19 p.m.  
Officer Tillman responded to North Shore Road for a report of a vehicle parked illegally in front of a residence. Upon arrival, Officer Tillman spoke with the driver of a parked vehicle who was sitting in the driver's seat. She said she had to pull over to make a phone call and will be moving along. Case clear.

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# Editor Letters



Letters, from page 4

The problem is, is this finding scalable in a meaningful way? If something does a great job but can only “treat” 100 gallons a day, that’s not likely going to be very useful.

But what if there was a way to do this in the range of 1,000 to 2,000 gallons per minute (gpm)? Is that possible? We don’t know. But we have someone who says he can produce a quarter-scale pilot project that could meet Mote’s ozonation target for red tide mitigation on a mobile platform that can move around in the bay at 5, 10 or even 20 mph. What could produce that volume of water and be able to move around as well? Basically, a jet ski. Can someone create a process to create an oxygenated volume of water at the rate of 1,000 to 2,000 gpm? Don’t know for sure, but they say they can. And they are willing to bring a prototype to Sarasota Bay to test it out. They have asked us to set up a field study to test if this would work, which is what this email is all about, actually.

So here’s our idea, contingent on a lot of “ifs”. If they can provide the equipment, we would design a Before and After, Control and Impact (BACI) study to be conducted in the bay. If we need permits, we’d have to get them, but there aren’t any ozone standards for Florida waters, and ozone won’t be released as a gas into the air, because the free oxygen atom will bind to organic material – that’s how it works. The project would increase oxygen levels in the water, and the idea is that if these gases are encapsulated into “nanobubbles” the resulting oxygen won’t go into the atmosphere that easily. A nanobubble is basically a bubble so small it doesn’t rise up into the water column like a regular bubble, and its contents are mostly restricted to being in solution in the water column.

If the equipment can be deployed, and if we can get (or need) a permit, we would suggest something like the following as a field test:

Two areas of the bay would be visited during a red tide event, one a “control” and one an “impact”

Maybe 1, or 5 or 10 acres in size each

At the beginning of the day, water samples collected within the two zones

Water samples to be processed by an independent laboratory – best bet being Mote or FFWCC

The two zones would then be traversed by two jet skis, without the ozonation turned on

This would be a control for the effect of the jet ski itself

Water samples taken again

In the Impact zone, the ozonation system turned on and the area traversed again

Water samples collected afterwards

In the control zone, no ozone addition, but the jet ski run through again

Important control in case red tide changes due to tides, time of day, etc.

If this technique works, the difference between the control and impact zones would show up after the ozonation is turned on. If there’s no difference between the two zones, we would let people know, as much as we’d let them know if it does work.

If the technique works, our efforts here would ratchet back, and the community would have to decide what they want to do with such results. Pursue it further or let it slide, it’s not our call. What we think our role is here is to see if a technique that has shown itself to work in laboratory and smaller scale demonstrations could work at a larger scale. IF this works, keep in mind that a jet ski at full throttle can produce 2,000 gpm. If that flow can be ozonated as quickly as it is produced, and it was run all day, it could get you to about 3 million gallons per day. That is in the range of estimates of what the discharge rates were for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill – nobody would call that flow rate inconsequential. An Olympic-sized pool every 4 hours.

We have funds to pay Mote or FFWCC to collect data on K. brevis and/or brevetoxin, and we have someone willing to provide the equipment to run a sizable field test. And we have the local expertise (Mote and FFWCC) that not only has given us a technique that can be tested, but also the independent laboratory analytical skills to test if this works. And we have someone willing to live with the results as they come out – good or bad. We will be bringing this up at our upcoming TAC meeting as well.

We think that this is worth pursuing, but we don’t want anyone caught unaware if they here about this. Lots of agency coordination still needs to be done, but this is worth looking into, we believe. Please contact me if you have any questions or comments or concerns.

Dave Tomasko  
Executive Director  
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

Red tide mitigation - potential involvement in field trial

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

This is exactly the kind of science that I think citizens would like to see, if only to show that something is being done and give hope that it might work. Can we disseminate this widely through our social media?

Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Longboat Key

Red tide mitigation - potential involvement in field trial

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Thanks Mayor. Since the Town participates with the national estuary program we can push it out.

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

Red Tide

To: Longboat Key Commission

Does the state of Florida receive tax dollars to help kill the algae bloom? What is being done to get rid of the algae bloom? If they can clean up oil spills in the waters why can’t they clean up the algae bloom? There are so many health care concerns and costs associated with beach clean-up activities, not to mention the loss of tourism revenue.

Please advise what is and what else can be done to help get rid of the algae blooms. Especially now in this changing climate the red tide seems to be here longer and will come back again.

Julie Carroll  
Longboat Key

Watering

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Sorry to bother you with this – I just received the notice about watering restrictions. Two questions: Do they also apply to well water? Is hand watering still allowed?

David Gutridge  
Longboat Key

See Letters, page 12

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# EditorLetters



Letters, from page 11

Watering

To: David Gutridge  
Given the notice enclosed in our water bills this month, we may get a number of questions like this. What are the answers, and can we publish the most common Q’s and A’s?  
Ken Schneier  
Mayor, Longboat Key

Watering

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

For the purposes of this notification, hand watering is not a problem and use of well water is not a problem. The Town Code provision that includes well water restrictions is written around emergency drought conditions, which is not the particular case we are addressing. Though it has been dry, there is no “drought” designation by the water management district at this time.  
So, hand watering should not be an issue and well water use should not be an issue for the purposes of this reminder. This is specifically to help manage our utility system and the broad use (or current overuse) of potable water-fed irrigation systems on the island right now. Hope this helps.  
Isaac Brownman  
Director Public Works  
Town of Longboat Key

Red Tide

To: Longboat Key North Representatives  
Am sure many of you are, like me, so horribly disappointed in the arrival of red tide. It is the height of our visitor season and could not be happening at a worse time.  
We had a Town Commission meeting today and wanted to pass along a few notes on the topic that were relayed by Isaac Brownman, our Director of Public works:  
1. Respiratory irritation - This comes from the algae toxins (not dead fish). These toxins become airborne and stirred up when the algae is broken up by waves. These last few days we have had a lot of rough surf - making a bad situation worse. Winds can blow the irritants around, so the winds from the south and west have not helped our situation. The red tide in 2018 summer was actually worse, but because the gulf was relatively calm (no waves), we did not have the respiratory irritation / cough that we have now. I walked the beach yesterday. I put on a new surgical mask and it made a huge difference in terms of red tide respiratory irritation.  
2. Dead fish - They can smell - but they do not cause the cough & sneezing noted above. When I walked yesterday there were fish on the beach (maybe one every 2-3 feet). Saw dead mullet, puffer fish, eels, snook, mackerel, sea-trout, catfish, pompano, permit, snapper and plenty of bait fish - unfortunately, a bit of everything that makes its home in our beautiful gulf . Manatee County did a sweep of the beaches a few days ago and they have committed to doing it again every few days. The tides seem to be moving fish in and out of canals right now. The Counties do not do waterway clean up so any of those efforts are local (homeowners, condo associations and in more severe cases with Town staff).  
3- How long? - We don’t know. If you go to the FWC link you will see that these issues are stretching from Naples to St. Pete right now. Red tide can sometimes move away (offshore) as quickly as it arrives.  
4. Why now? - A mild winter here and up north, warmer water, fertilizer /chemical run-off from agriculture, landscaping, mining/piney point, and especially the storm deluge of Hurricane Ian.  
<https://myfwc.com/research/redtide/statewide/>  
Hope this helps - and looking forward to better beach days ahead.  
Maureen Merrigan  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

Bradenton Mobile Home Park being sold


To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
Unlike the Bradenton Beach mobile home park, the two here have individual unit lot ownership. That’s likely what’s prevented redevelopment of the parks. Getting 260+ owners to agree on what day of the week it is, is difficult.  
With regard to the parks’ former status as being exempt from meeting FEMA flood zone height requirements, the Observer had a good overview article. Happy to fill you in on any background.  
Allen Parsons  
Director Planning and Zoning Department  
Town of Longboat Key

Meeting with Manatee County

To: Longboat Key Public Works Director Isaac Brownman  
Met with Lee Washington this morning who is the interim administrator. We talked about a number of items including their taking the lead on the roundabout and possible additional funding, the unified transit proposal, WCIND funding for the Town’s portion in Manatee (apparently we’ve not had count support for our grant requests as we have had in Sarasota). He said he’d look into all of these and get back to us.  
He had one item for me which was Beer Can Island which I assume is also known as Greer Island. The concern comes from the Commission Chair (KVO) about the sand closing in the canal. The concern is for the sea grass and sea life that could be impacted by that waterway eventually closing in. There are also some navigational issues for the properties in their as well.  
The issue sounds familiar but I don’t recall what the plan is and I’m hoping you can provide the details. I would sure like to address their one request if at all possible as we ask them for multiple things.  
Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

Meeting with Manatee County

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
Yes, the good news that is part of the Town’s “Greer Island Spit Management Plan.” Recognizing that sand likes to migrate around the corner and deposit there over time, the Town embarked on a design and permitting project to be able to excavate and dredge out as much of that sand as possible from time-to-time (and as appropriate) and deposit it back onto the Gulf-front beach nearby. The new rock groin structures that were built in 2021 should slow down that migration significantly, but will be seen over time.  
So, back to the good news: we just finished bidding the first iteration of this construction/  
See Letters, page 14



## Town of Longboat Key

# ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

The Town of Longboat Key is accepting applications for appointment to the following board:

### Planning and Zoning Board

All applications must be submitted to the Office of the Town Clerk by **12:00 p.m. on March 23, 2023**. All applicants must be registered voters of the Town of Longboat Key. Late applications may not be accepted. Any member who fails to attend two of three consecutive, scheduled, and called regular meetings without cause, and without prior approval of the chair, shall automatically forfeit the appointment, and the Town Commission shall promptly fill the vacancy.

All members of the Planning and Zoning Board are required to file a financial disclosure form within 30 days after appointment and annually thereafter for the duration of the appointment as required by Florida Statutes Chapter 112.

The Town Commission may schedule a Meet and Greet with applicants at a later date. Please call the Office of the Town Clerk at 941-316-1999 for an application or if you have any questions. Applications may be submitted to:

Town of Longboat Key  
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501 Bay Isles Road  
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Stephanie Janney, Administrative Assistant  
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# LongboatLife

## What’s Happening At The Education Center At Temple Beth Israel

*View the deserts, rolling plateaus and plains of the ninth largest country in the world.*

**SUSAN GOLDFARB**  
Guest Writer  
susan@lbknews.com

While full-time and part-time residents on Longboat Key prepare for the Spring break visitors and enjoy the beach (hopefully red tide will be gone soon), the Education Center at TBI starts to wind down. We prepare to close the school in mid-April until we open again in the fall. During the spring I plan for the upcoming season. With over 160 programs to conceive, create and schedule; consultations with approximately 100 teachers, performers, and lecturers; writing program descriptions with presenter bios; and proofing the entire brochure several times, it takes at least three months to put the 60-page booklet together from inception to completion.

In June we will be soliciting memberships for the 2023-2024 season. Membership has its perks including a first class mailing of the brochure several weeks before non-members, discounts on all programs and credits for registered programs that members need to withdraw from.

So far, we have processed over 3,400 registrations for the 2022-2023 season. Many of our loyal fans and supporters that came to The Longboat Key Education Center located in the Centre Shops for over 30 years, have followed us to Temple Beth Israel. We are also seeing many new faces.

For the rest of March there will be some wonderful programs that are still available for your consideration and participation. To register please call 941-383-8222, email [edcenter@longboatkeytemple.org](mailto:edcenter@longboatkeytemple.org) or visit our website, [www.tbieducationcenter.org](http://www.tbieducationcenter.org).

ONGOING TUESDAY LECTURE SERIES 3-4:30 PM Members \$15 Non-Members \$20

BEST ART EXHIBITS—NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL- with Louise Bruderle, publisher of West Coast Woman. This PowerPoint tour of museum art exhibits will keep you in the know and up to date. Tuesday, March 14.

THE JEWS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA-History lecturer Lael Hazan, will concentrate on the histories and current activities of the Jews of less well-known nations such as the Jews of Singapore, Thailand, and Myanmar, as well as the island nations. Tuesday, March 21.

HOW THE U.S. SUCCESSFULLY FIXED THE KGB-BUGGED MOSCOW EMBASSY-presented by Michael Boorstein whose professional focus as a career Foreign Service Officer was in management. This story of how the United States addressed the inadequacies of our



GOLDFARB

embassy in Moscow is the stuff of spy novels. Tuesday, March 28.

SPECIAL ONE-TIME FRIDAY LECTURE Friday, March 17, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM. Members \$15, Non-members \$20.

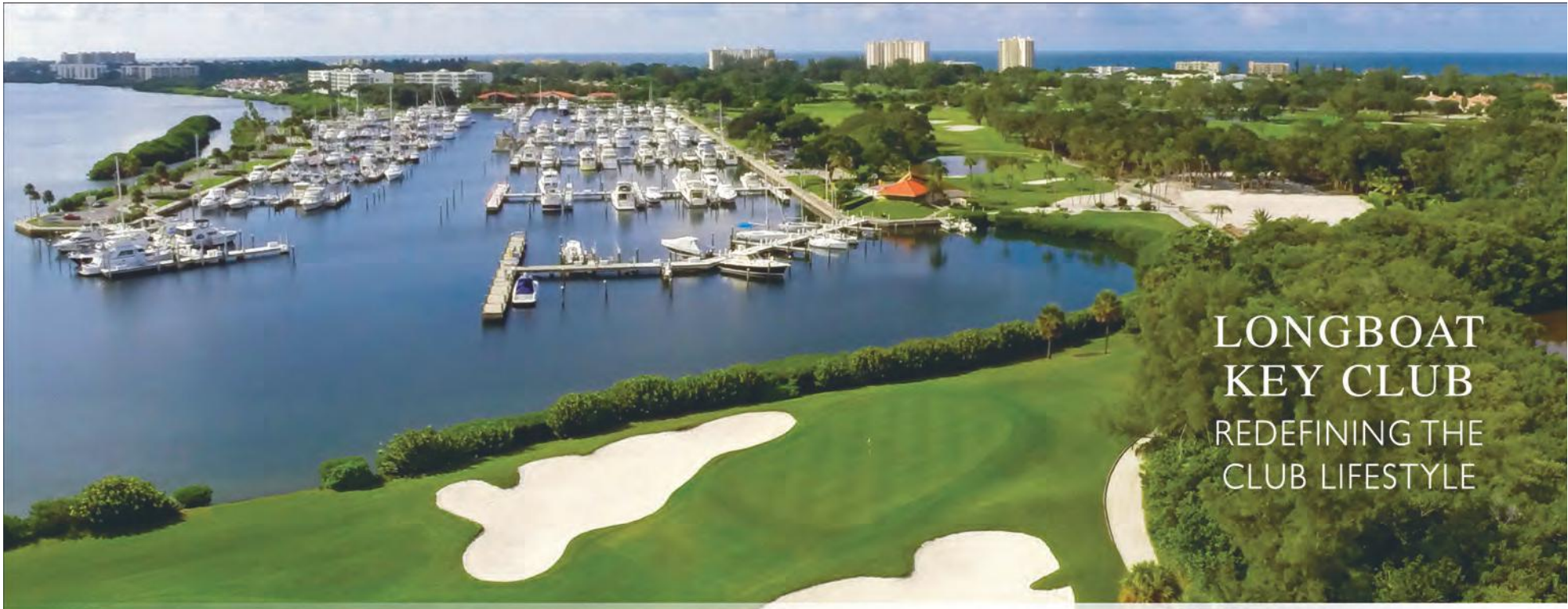
THE SOUL OF KAZAKHSTAN—A Fascinating Country! Join master photographer and world traveler Wayne Eastep in this multimedia presentation with spectacular photos, and an informative look into this beautiful, distant land and its people. Wayne has had a longstanding interest in little known cultures. Wayne says, “Because Kazakhstan had become so isolated and repressed by Stalin little was known in the west and even in Kazakhstan about the long rich culture in Kazakhstan. Gary Steen, a producer of culture projects for Mobil Oil knew about my previous projects like Bedouin, a book about nomadic life in Arabia and my feature story for National Geographic Traveler about Japan’s Kyoto & Nara. When he approached me and wanted to know if I would be interested in creating a book about Kazakhstan I quickly said yes. I saw it as an opportunity to look deeper into what elements defined their essence, for example, the soul of their culture---hence the title of my book, The Soul of Kazakhstan. “

“My wife Patti and I spent five years working on the book. We did research to frame questions and find resources to illustrate features of the culture and history. We spent one year photographing and interviewing in Kazakhstan, traveling from the Chinese and Mongolian borders to the Caspian Sea, from the northern border with Russia to the southern borders with Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. We then spent four years writing, editing and fact checking the content for the book.”

View the deserts, rolling plateaus and plains of the ninth largest country and largest landlocked country in the world. Did you know the apple originated in Kazakhstan? The tulip is originally from Kazakhstan. The horse was first domesticated in northern Kazakhstan about 5,500 years ago. It is theorized that the female Amazon warriors were from Kazakhstan. There are about 120 ethnic groups and nationalities. There is so much more fascinating history waiting for you to discover and photos that will take your breath away in Wayne’s presentation.



Wayne Eastep photographing Eagle Man



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# BreakPoints



## Your complete guide to Tiebreak success

*Tiebreakers can be confusing for even the most experienced players, because there are a lot of moving parts.*

**JACKIE BOHANNON**  
Guest Columnist  
tennis@lbknews.com

Recently, I was playing a doubles tournament, and all four of us were confused about the format. We couldn't agree on when to play the tiebreaker, how to play the tiebreaker, who served in which order, who served first in the tiebreaker, or who served next after the tiebreaker, or if it was seven or ten points. HELP!



Tiebreakers can be confusing for even the most experienced players, because there are a lot of moving parts. I will try to answer all of your questions, as simply as possible, while sometimes reiterating the points with different verbiage that actually means the exact same thing.

The first step in any tournament is to look at the entry form or ask the tournament director what the exact format is. Tournaments have many varying formats, but the most common are 2 out of 3 sets and 2 out of 3 sets with a 10 point tiebreaker in lieu of a 3rd set. Therefore, the only time you play a 10 point tiebreaker is when you and your opponents have each won a set. The first team to get to 10 and win by two is the winner. For example, the score could be reported 6-3, 4-6, 10-8. 10 point tie breakers are sometimes also referred to as super tiebreaks.

The next step is to know when to play tiebreakers during sets. The terminology can be confusing because a 12-point tiebreaker and a 7-point tie breaker are the same thing. In a match if the game score reaches 6-6 then you play a tiebreaker. This tiebreaker is the first person to reach 7 points but wins by 2. The winner of the tiebreaker then gets the winning game for that set. For example, the score could be reported as 7-6 (7-5). The tiebreaker is played until someone gets to 7 or wins by two. Therefore, the tiebreaker could still report a score of 10-8 or 12-10 if no one was 2 points ahead when someone reached 7. (Different tournaments may have different formats. In pro sets tiebreakers are played at 8-8 and in fast four they are played at 3-3.)

So now that we know when to play tiebreakers, and how to keep score, how do we actually play them? Traditional tennis had players switching ends of the court every 6 points, but in the early 2000s the Coman tiebreaker gained popularity as the go to tiebreak. Nowadays almost all tour-

naments incorporate the Coman. The Coman is perceived as being fairer, because it has players serve from the same end of the court as they had the whole match. It also gets rid of any perceived advantages like wind or sun. To play a Coman tie breaker you switch ends after the first point, and then after every 4 points. So typically you change ends when the score adds up to 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, and then 21 and so forth if needed. That is how you change ends. Now let's dive in to changing sides.

In tennis if the score is even you should be serving to the deuce side. If the score is odd you serve to the add side. When a tiebreak begins the score is 0-0 therefore the first point is served to the deuce side. After that all new servers start on the ad side. In a tiebreaker, the first person to serve serves 1 point, and then everyone else serves 2 points until the desired score is reached.

But who serves next? The serving order continues the same throughout the tiebreak as it did throughout the set. If Joe served first, then Bob ( Joe's opponent), then Steve (Joe's partner), then Jeff (Bob's partner) that same order stays during the tiebreak. So if the score reaches 6-6, the person who is supposed to serve next in the game is actually the person who serves the first point in the tiebreak. Since the game score is 6-6 all players have served 3 times, and now Joe would start the tiebreak. Joe serves at 0-0 from the deuce side. Because the score was 6-6 there is no changing of ends or a water break. Joe serves the first point. Now both teams change ends of the court. Now Bob serves two points starting at the ad side. Now Steve serves two points. Five points have now been played so players change ends again. This process continues until a player reaches 7 points and wins by two. Basically, the first person to serve serves once, and then from that point on everyone serves twice. If the score is even you serve from the deuce side, if the score is odd you serve from the ad side, and when the score adds up to

### 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 on strategy, technique, mental game, fitness, equipment, etc., to: tennis@lbknews.com*

1, 5, 9 , 13, or 17 you change ends of the courts. Deuce side is the right side of the court, and ad is left. Try to refrain from saying the forehand and backhand side, because some players are right while others are left handed.

Ok, so say you are Joe and you just won the first set 7-6. Who serves next? Joe's opponent. Why? Because if Joe serves first in a set that goes to a tiebreak, he will always return first in the next set. Another reason is because Joe served first in the tiebreak. It doesn't matter what the score is when the tiebreak ends. This does not affect serving or receiving order. When the tiebreak is over the score is now considered 7-6, so you now have a break (typically 2 minutes), and change sides with your opponent. You didn't ask this but at the beginning of a new set, either partner can serve, so using our fictitious characters Bob or Jeff can serve. Joe's team served first in the first set, so now Bob's team will serve first in the second. Also note that when a set ends you can switch sides with your partner if you prefer to return from the other side. No changes can be made mid set, only after the set is complete.

I hope this helps! Tiebreakers can be very confusing, but with a little practice you will get the hang of it.

### Letters, from page 12

dredge project on Feb. 23rd and received two bids. The low bid is \$1.1 million. We are working with Sue Smith on a Beach Fund budget amendment resolution to take to the commission; I believe we are targeting the April meeting. Once this first construction iteration is completed, the goal is that this would be more of a maintenance dredge occurrence during our regular beach nourishment cycles as an additional, albeit smaller, sand source.

Copied Charlie as well who is working on it. Let us know if you would like to discuss further.

Isaac Brownman  
Director Public Works  
Town of Longboat Key

### Greer Island

To: Longboat Key Commission  
I'd like to thank the commission and particularly Commissioner Merrigan for your attention to the dredging at the North End of Longboat and the work to institute a bathing area.

The situation has improved remarkably with the changes that were made.

I am writing to let you know the sand has begun to accumulate again between the Land's End dock and the extension of Greer Island and ask for your assistance in completing the dredging of the waterway back to the lagoon.

This is an important environmental and access issue. There are times now during low tide that the lagoon is nearly completely dry and we are not able to access our property through the canal. Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

Ben Ghosh  
Longboat Key

### Greer Island

To: Ben Ghosh  
Thank you for the note. The work to improve conditions on the north end of LBK, near Greer (noise, dredging, no motor-

ized boats, bathing/kayak area) has been a team effort with all of the Commissioners and Town staff.

I agree with you, the area near the LandsEnd dock must once again be addressed. The timeline given to the Commission to dredge the spit at Greer has come and gone, as work was to have begun in December and be completed well in advance of turtle season. Things are obviously behind schedule and the large pile of dredged sand is falling back into the bay. This along with the natural erosion patterns on the north end are resulting in the same issue that has twice resulted in "emergency" dredges in the area. We have a Commission meeting tomorrow. Will get an update and request action in the near term.

Maureen Merrigan  
Vice Mayor, Longboat Key

### Accident prone intersection

To: Sarasota City Commission

There have been 3 significant auto crashes in the past week at the intersection of US 41 and Boulevard of the Arts. Since the opening of the Bay Park, this intersection has become busier for pedestrian traffic, especially as we are now in season. Given the increase in the number of pedestrians waiting by the traffic signals to cross US 41, it follows that the risk to pedestrians of being involved in even more serious accidents has also risen.

What are the city's plans and timeline for reducing risk at this intersection?

In particular, I urge you to revisit the option of an East/West pedestrian bridge over the intersection. While I understand that some in city government may object to this option, I believe that it is a viable, efficient, safe and attractive one.

Whatever your position on the bridge, I have no doubt that you all regard pedestrian safety as paramount. For that reason alone, I hope you will prioritize a solution for this problem.

Dermot Somerville  
Sarasota

Longboat Key News

Sarasota City News

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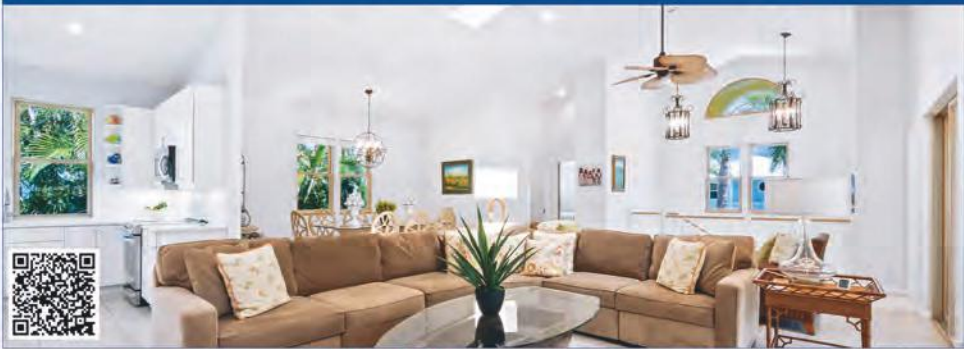
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