# Longboat Rev Revs

February 17, 2023

Serving Longboat Key, St. Armands, Downtown Sarasota & Anna Maria Island

### InsideLook **Dolphin rescued on Longboat beach**



The balloon buffoonery ...page 11



When Amazon gets involved ...page 9



**Beachwalkers** could not coax dolphin back into water. Mote transports dolphin for rehab

Longboat Key beachwalkers tried to push and tug a stranded Dolphin they encountered last week along the Gulf shoreline back into the water to no avail. Thankfully, Mote and its team were able to rapidly respond from its City Island facility and tended to the young roughtoothed dolphin.

After initial care and assessment, the dolphin was transported to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium Fred Howard Park location.

"The dolphin remains in critical See Dolphin, page 3



### **Reflecting the Morning**



### **Red tide still** swimming on Sarasota beaches

Irritating levels of red tide are continuing to be found along Sarasota County beaches.

The latest survey by state environmental officials show red tide is still present in an area stretching from Fort DeSoto in Pinellas County to Anna Maria Island and Longboat Pass in Manatee County.

Medium levels of the toxin continue to be found in Sarasota Bay and beaches ranging from Longboat Key to Siesta Key to beaches south of Venice.

Fish kills connected to red tide have been reported this week in Manatee and Sarasota counties.

Longboat Key leads the sales ...page 7



A car worth leaving behind ...page 10

Facebook: Follow Me To Longboat Key

#### Steube thanks Sarasota Trauma **Center after recovery** from 25-foot fall

U.S. Rep. Greg Steube, R-FL, thanked Sarasota Memorial Hospital Trauma Center personnel after treating him following a 25-foot fall.

"God placed Dr. Ali Al-Rawi and his gifted team in my path the day of the accident, and I remain endlessly grateful for the care I received during my recovery at Sarasota Memorial Hospital," Steube said.

Steube held the appreciation ceremony where he presented two American flags flown over the U.S. Capitol. The team treated congressman Steube for three nights in the trauma center and ICU, calling the treatment "unparalleled" in the area. The congressman said in January See NewsWorthy, page 3



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#### NewsWorthy, from page 1

he was recovering from a fractured pelvis, punctured lung, and several torn ligaments in his neck.

"The expertise in trauma care combined with quick response times played a significant role in jumpstarting my recovery. Sarasota Memorial Hospital has some of the lowest mortality rates in the country, and well below the national average. Our community is so fortunate to have this skilled team of experts to serve Floridians in times of crisis and need," Steube said.

Steube was hospitalized and suffered "serious injuries" after falling off a ladder at his Sarasota property in January. The congressman fell approximately 25 feet down while cutting tree limbs.

'We are thankful we have the experts, resources and advanced technology in place so we could provide immediate care to Congressman Steube, and we're grateful he's on the road to recovery," said Sarasota Memorial President & CEO David Verinder

#### JUDITH DUZGUN OBITUARY

#### Judith Duzgun

May 22, 1939 - February 11, 2023

Longboat Key, Florida - It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved Judith Duzgun on February 11, 2023. Judith was from Stoneham, Massachusetts, and was currently residing in Longboat Key, Florida, with her husband of 29 years, Cemalalettin Duzgun. She passed away peacefully at home surrounded by loved ones. Judith had a zest for life and always lived it to the fullest. No matter the obstacle facing her, she always overcame it and came out stronger. She loved her family dearly, which included her many beloved pets throughout her life. Her compassion toward animals was reflected not only in her at-home rescues, but also in her volunteer work at Mote Marine Aquarium and Wildlife Inc. Education & Rehabilitation. Judith loved the beautiful Florida weather and enjoyed as much time as she could outdoors gardening and taking care of the many plants around the house. Judith also had a passion for traveling and exploring new places, always seeking a new adventure.

Judith is survived by her children; Holly Anderson, Kenneth Bowdidge, his wife, Carol Bowdidge, Mark Bowdidge, his wife, Val Bowdidge, Sid Bowdidge, and her predeceased daughter, Lori Fabbri. She also leaves behind her siblings; Lorraine Hadley and Norm French; as well as her 14 grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews; and a host of other family and friends. A Celebration of Life Service will be Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 1 PM at Skyway Memorial 5200 US Highway 19 Palmetto, FL 34221 with Graveside Service to follow. Online condolences at www.skywaymemorial.com

#### Mote Marine newest temporary exhibition, "Voyage to the Deep," presented by Flying Fishis underway

The interactive exhibition opened to the public on Sunday, Feb. 19, and will be on display at Mote Aquarium until May 21. Mote Members are invited to a special preview of the exhibit on Feb. 18. Tickets and visitor information: mote.org/visit.

'Voyage to the Deep" is based on Jules Verne's famous 1870 novel, "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea." The exhibition brings to life the deep-sea adventures of Captain Nemo, his fantastical Nautilus submarine and the mythical world he inhabited.

"'Voyage to the Deep' celebrates fictional explorers of the deep, while Mote's scientists are real-life explorers and innovators," said Mote's Senior Exhibits Coordinator, Samantha Bledstein. "We want our guests to have the opportunity to put themselves in the shoes of our scientists and know that they too can be researchers and protect our oceans."

With this exhibit, Mote Aquarium visitors will have the unique opportunity to join in the undersea odyssey. Guests can climb aboard the five-part interactive Nautilus submarine, which includes a bridge, control room, salon, living quarters and engine room to explore. The exhibition's educational content is approachable for all ages, and it covers topics such as marine life, submarines and various maritime archaeology.

Through a collection of settings and props, guests will imagine they are submarine captains. Visitors can take up the controls at the helm, peer through the periscopes, crank the propeller, test out the bunks and explore Captain Nemo's Cabinet of Curiosities full of wonderful marine specimens. This indoor, "underwater" playground includes speaking tubes, a squid-themed slide, puzzles and an Atlantis Performance stage, creating a one-of-a-kind visitor experience.

The "Voyage of the Deep" exhibition was created and developed by the Australian National Maritime Museum, an Australian Government entity. The exhibition tour is managed by Flying Fish. Voyage to the Deep is supported in-part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues.

For more information, visit: mote.org/voyage.

#### Dolphin, from page 1

cal condition but is stable and swimming, which is a hopeful sign," said veterinarian Dr. Shelly Marquardt with Clearwater Marine Aquarium. "We are running full health assessments and continue to monitor the dolphin's condition. Our goal is to determine the cause of her stranding and provide the care she needs for rehabilitation."

The veterinary staff at CMA continues to assess what may have caused the stranding.

"This life-saving work is at the core of our mission as a working marine animal hospital, " said

CEO Joe Handy. "Our team of experts will provide round-the-clock care. We are steadfast in our efforts to rehabilitate and release this dolphin back to Florida waters."

The juvenile rough-toothed dolphin is a female weighing 156 lbs. upon intake and 198 cm. According to NOAA Fisheries, this species can get up to 8.5 feet long, 350 lbs. and have a lifespan of 36 years. Rough-toothed dolphins are usually found in tight-knit groups of 10 to 20 individuals but have been reported in groups of up to 100 individuals. They often associate with other cetacean species, including short-finned pilot whales, bottlenose dolphins, pantropical spotted dolphins, and spinner dolphins.

If you see a marine mammal in distress, it's important to remember not to intervene, and call trained responders at (877) WHALE-HELP. Please remain at a safe distance, and if conditions allow, take photos to share with biologists once they arrive on scene.

This is the first dolphin to be rehabilitated at CMA's Fred Howard Park rehab facility since 2020, when Rudolph, another rough-toothed dolphin, was transported and rehabilitated there.



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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.

#### **Regarding Pickle Ball courts and Parking at Bayfront Park**

#### To: Editor

I have read the complaints about Bayfront Park and parking. I would suggest that more pickle ball courts and more parking would be the answer.

To solve this problem plans need to begin to move the recreation center to the town center. The recreation building is outdated and I believe needs a new roof time to be replaced.

This area could be used to make more pickle ball courts and a few more parking spots.

The new recreation building located on the town center would be able to use the existing parking already built at town center.

I know this is not a quick fix but with pickle ball on the rise more courts will be needed for sure in the future and the rec center has certainly seen better days.

Matt Costello

Longboat Key Resident

#### Longboat Key can tackle air and noise pollution

To: Mark Pachtman

Thank you for your note. Congratulations on your election to the Board at Bayport! You will be a great asset. I apologize for not responding to you sooner. We have been hosting a number of guests (some international) over the past two weeks, which has interfered with my normal work flow. Yes, there is a condominium association on Longboat Key. The President is David

Lapovsky. I am certain he would be happy to hear from you.

Penny Gold Commissioner

Longboat Key

#### Longboat Key can tackle air and noise pollution

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Penny Gold

I'm glad to see that LBK is studying the subject of eliminating gas leaf blowers. How are you doing? I just ran for the Bayport Board and got elected. The first political effort in my life.

My wife thought she recalled you telling us when we met for coffee that there was a group of Board members from associations that met to discuss how best to manage an association.

Is that memory accurate? If not, do you know of any trade association for condo associations? Marc Pachtman

Philadelphia

#### Longboat Key can tackle air and noise pollution

To: Marc Pachtman



This topic is on our radar. We are talking with vendors about the cost of transition. Welcome back.

Ken Schneier

Mayor Longboat Key

#### Longboat Key can tackle air and noise pollution

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

I hope you had a happy and healthy holiday season and that you are doing well.

Now that my crosswalk project has been resolved for the moment, there is another concern that I have that I hope you share.

Gas leaf blowers pollute our air and are a danger to the health of landscapers and to people with asthma. They also create a horrendous amount of noise.

Maple Shade New Jersey banned leaf blowers.

Spring Lake NJ is exploring a ban.

Philadelphia is considering a ban.

The state of New Jersey is also considering a ban.

It would be great if Longboat Key was part of the vanguard of this movement.

I'm confident that owners here would support an end to both the air and noise pollution caused by leaf blowers.

Below is an article and a podcast about the subject of banning leaf blowers.

https://www.audubon.org/magazine/spring-2021/why-cities-are-taking-action-limit-loudand

Marc Pachtman

Philadelphia

#### Solar panels

To: Longboat Key Commission

This is provided in response to a question posed by the Mayor. The Town has to this point not been pro or con solar, but has a process that conforms to the Florida building code and we take them as they come in which up to this point has not been many. Staff can reach out to the solar companies that serve our area and can make them aware of our process just from an educational perspective.

Howard N. Tipton

Town Manager

Town of Longboat Key

#### Solar panels

To: Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Director Allen Parsons

I have had several questions recently about whether the Town has rules restricting, favoring or regulating solar panels on private residences or businesses. We will probably get more inquiries as the technologies improve and the new rebates and tax credits kick in. Do we address this specifically? Do we want to get out in front?

Ken Schneier Mayor

Longboat Key

#### Solar panels

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

See Letters, page 6



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#### 1630 HARBOR CAY LANE | LONGBOAT KEY

Rarely available Bay Isles Harbor bayfront lot. Sweeping views of Sarasota Bay, this property is situated at the end of a cul-de-sac on an oversized 16,1000 sq. ft. lot with 150-feet of canal frontage overlooking Sarasota Bay. \



830 TARAWITT DRIVE | LONGBOAT KEY Just three lots to the ICW from this over 2,500 sf, coastal 2015 built home. Living area and kitchen open to the patio and contemporary pool. The privacy of the second level offers two guest bedrooms with full bath, plus an extra lounge.



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



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The News

#### Letters, from page 4

The Mayor passed along some questions he'd received about how the Town handles the installation of solar power panels. From the building permitting perspective, we do have Florida Building Code requirements that are applicable, along with a specific Permit type for the installation of "Solar Systems," which includes both electric or water systems. We require engineered plans be submitted for roof-top installations – indicating that an installation will meet roof loads & wind loads. To date, we have not had many installations of solar systems. Good point being made about there likely being more installations in the future as costs continue to come down & the various rebates/tax credits become available.

Allen Parsons

Planning and Zoning Director Town of Longboat Key

#### **Morning Legislative Webinar**

To: Longboat Key Commission

This morning Legislative webinar focused on affordable housing. One of the things that may be of interest to some of our staff is the Hometown Heroes program put in place last year made funds for home ownership available to specific job titles. That has been amended to an income related program.

THE TEAM TO HELP YOU

The other provisions of this pending legislation could require municipalities to allow housing in commercial districts to be built within a one-mile radius of those districts to build housing to the highest density and highest heights that are in the one mile area of a municipality. 40% of the units in these buildings are to be market rate. I do not believe this legislation will impact LBK as we do not really have such a dense commercial area, but Sarasota could be impacted. The State is hoping some of the other elements in these bills will provide the much needed affordable housing for needed employees in a number of arenas.

The other issue discussed was water resource funding and watershed management. Governor DeSantis authorized funding in this area and we were encouraged to be strategic as we considered programs that may be appropriate for funding requests to this program.

Finally, Tiger Bay Club on March 9th will have Bob Bunting addressing climate change and what we need to be doing to keep our communities safe. If you are not a member of Tiger Bay I would strongly encourage you to join.

- BJ Bishop
- Commissioner
- Longboat Ke

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#### Draw bridge

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton Several people told me they were stuck for 30 minutes coming north over the New Pass Draw bridge. I don't think they normally open at "rush hour". Was there a problem today?

- Ken Schneier
- Mayor
- Longboat Key

#### Draw bridge

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

As I shared at the luncheon, no issues were reported to Town Hall that I am aware of. I was at the St. Regis for a tour this afternoon and they shared they had an early cement pour this morning that continued up until lunchtime but nothing out of the ordinary.

Howard N. Tipton

Town Manager

Town of Longboat Key

#### **Bayfront beach tennis courts**

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Hello! I just wanted to add my voice to express concern about plans to potentially remove the tennis courts at Bayfront beach park.

Our group plays at the courts on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and the single court we currently have access to isn't filling our needs. This past Thursday, we had 12 people playing on the single court with 4 or 5 that left due to the long wait to play.

The other tennis court, which is supposed to be available to us, is taken by pickleball players who refuse to yield access to the courts even when we have many tennis players.

In order to serve tennis players' needs, I'd like to see both courts available to tennis players and a sign posted to indicate that pickleball players should yield the court to tennis players if needed. Trying to explain this to pickleball players just leads to arguments which are counter-productive.

Making more courts available for pickleball will only exacerbate the current parking issues at the park. Thank you for your attention with this issue and I hope we can find a solution that serves the needs of all people in the community.

Matt Cecile

#### Longboat Key

#### **Bayfront park - Parking spaces**

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

I am writing to share with you my concerns about "the parking" situation at Bayfront.

I'm sure you are getting inundated with emails. I am a homeowner on the key. I take yoga two days a week at Bayfront Park. My class starts at 10:30 each day. I have been arriving at 9:50 am to try and get a spot. It's very irritating to get so stressed out before a yoga class as to where or if I can get a parking spot. We pay property taxes, we pay the town our annual fee for the classes, and.... We pay \$10 per class. Yet, we can't just pull in & park because most of the cars are from Pickleball players ( who are there for hours).

I'm just trying to park & get my workout in for my health. I also feel for the dog park people as well. Please come up with a solution for all of us.

It just doesn't seem fair to homeowners on the key. P.S. rumor has it that you're going to add more pickle ball courts. Please do not do that. That will only add to the problem. Lynn O'Rear Longboat Key

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#### **Bayfront Park - Parking**

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton I would like to voice my concerns about parking at Bayfront park. The park is used by those who participate in scheduled See Letters, page 12



## KeyRealEstate

### Bird Key, Lido Key, Longboat Key latest sales

Address	Sq. Ft.	List Price	Bed/B	ath/	Half Bath	Days On Market	Sale Price
Address	1,350	\$1,950,000	2	2	0	5	\$1,950,000
1800 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN DR Unit#A1005	3,050	\$3,200,000	4	3	0	26	\$2,900,000
2600 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#C-10	N/A	\$265,000				33	\$237,500
1965 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#G5-404	1,068	\$795,000	2	2	0	3	\$795,000
4540 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#PH4	1,312	\$805,000	2	2	0	116	\$760,000
2120 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#613	2,031	\$949,000	2	2	0	6	\$885,000
2010 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#2003	1,590	\$1,049,000	2	2	1	37	\$980,000
2550 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#343	2,830	\$1,875,000	3	2	1	14	\$1,825,000
311 FIREHOUSE CT	2,352	\$1,995,000	3	3	1	228	\$1,950,000
455 LONGBOAT CLUB RD Unit#608	2,780	\$2,700,000	3	3	1	34	\$2,500,000
415 L AMBIANCE DR Unit#C703	2,822	\$3,300,000	3	2	2	1	\$3,250,000



415 L AMBIANCE DR Unit#C703







#### WINDING OAKS - LONGBOAT KEY 3402 WINDING OAKS DRIVE • \$1,095,000

BIRD KEY - SARASOTA 465 E ROYAL FLAMINGO DRIVE | \$7,250,000

BIRD KEY - PRE-CONSTRUCTION 314 BIRD KEY DRIVE • \$8,145,000



BIRD KEY - SARASOTA 526 BIRD KEY DRIVE | \$2,895,000



SIESTA KEY - SARASOTA 651 AVENIDA DEL NORTE | \$2,795,000



ISLANDS WEST #4E - LONGBOAT KEY SOLD | \$1,600,000

The News

## EditorialOpinion

## New College, New York, Affirmative Action and Spy Balloons

The concept behind these changes is that as public, taxpayer supported schools, they should not represent any political or cultural extremes since taxpayers have different views.

#### **BILL ALLEN Guest Writer** allen@lbknews.com

I indicated last week that there was a big flap going on having to do with New College and that I would offer some thoughts on it this week. For background, New College started out as a private college in 1960, was merged into the University of South Florida and later became the 12th independent four-year college in Florida.

From the time of start up until now New College has had a reputation as one of the most far left schools in the United States, no one disagrees with that description. The school has a 13 member Board of Directors which have obviously promulgated the status quo.

As a public, tax supported State University, New College answers to the Governor and the State Legislature.

Recently Governor DeSantis has replaced seven of the Directors which gives the new group a majority. As of this writing the new Directors have fired the President and are moving to make other significant changes with "Tenure" and also the Faculty Labor Union. They are also planning to hire new faculty who will move the School from the far left more towards the center.

The concept behind these changes is that as public, taxpayer supported schools, they should not represent any political or cultural extremes since taxpayers have different views.

DeSantis also preached that "college is about teaching how to think, not what to think."

The biggest problem in dealing with this subject is that we are dependent on the Sarasota Herald for something they are allergic to, which is to provide readers with factual information which is necessary in arriving at a valid conclusion. What the Herald has provided are numerous articles, editorials and op-eds which , with one exception, have been slanted strong left. This is particularly true of 90 percent of offerings on the Opinion pages which are governed by an Editor who leans in one direction which is far left. His predecessor was far more balanced. So, if you want facts you need to spend time gathering them yourself, so that is what I did.

Here are some key facts which the Herald has not and will not publish:

• The one thing I did not have to research is a recollection of past events where an annual assessment was made of the 12 State Colleges and any of the ones I saw placed New College at the bottom primarily due to financial incompetence.

• New College has very loose admission requirements but still has been losing student population. Their acceptance rate is 78 percent but their student population has declined from 963 in 2016-17 to 660 at the present time. The result of this is that the cost per student skyrockets.

• The cost per student for the other 11 State four-year colleges computed as an average is \$15,165 compared to New College which is \$54,381. They obviously have failed to cut expenses commensurate with loss in the student body.

• The four-year graduation rate is only 58 percent which speaks for itself.

• New College does not give grades, I assume it is that they might upset the students and cause them to seek "safe places" to protect them from reality. Failure to give grades is also an attack on the concept of merit which has been a hallmark of the far left, everybody gets a trophy; nobody flunks.

• The February fifth issue of the Herald featured a front page news article on the New College flap which was totally slanted against the proposed changes and was followed by two more pro New College.

Opinion offerings and two of three letters to the editor slanted towards New College. There is a complete absence of any kind of balance by the Herald which is sad. They might find an increase in their paltry subscriber rates would result from balanced reporting. Last year the Herald was just about giving the paper away with rates lower than I have seen before.

#### Affirmative Action

There was an interesting article in the New York Times about the two cases on Affirmative Action which have been heard by the Supreme Court and are pending decision sometime between now and June.

President John F. Kennedy signed an Executive Order on Affirmative Action in 1961. It was a problem right from the start since it clearly called for favoring one individual over the other which skates on thin ice of the Constitution and the Civil Rights Act.

But it was intended to be a temporary practice designed to help minorities, particularly Blacks catch up and be able to compete on college admission standards without receiving preferential treatment. But the outcome was somewhat predictable since implementation required that one form of discrimination was being replaced with another. The most recent decision of the Court still allowed Affirmative Action but on narrow grounds but has been grossly violated by the colleges in this case Harvard and the University of North Carolina.

The predictions are that the Court will do away with the practice, but according to the Times article there will be a huge unintended consequence. The in depth study they did indicates that without affirmative action the average college population of blacks would drop from 9.7 percent to 2.1 percent which is a long way from their representation in the population. It is also clear evidence that despite the 62-year practice, black students have still lagged behind in progressing.

It is also clear to me that we are once again failing to fix the problem in the wrong way; large numbers of black students are trapped in failing lower public schools and do not attain the basic learning needed to compete for college admissions. It is also a proven fact that a very high percentage of these students who attend private or charter schools can compete without preferential treatment. Thomas Sowell who is, in my opinion, the smartest black man in this country has written a book which provides valid evidence of this.

But "School Choice" is opposed by Teachers Unions and by the Biden Administration which receives all the Union financial contributions; after all, Jill Biden is a Union member.

#### New York, New Jersey

Let us now talk about New York and wonder why some people come down here to escape New York, New Jersey and other like States and then want to turn Florida to be like them.

This is near unbelievable but while New York has less population than Florida their annual monetary budget is almost twice as large as ours (Florida \$114 billion/ New York \$227 billion). Any wonder that Florida is gaining population while New York is losing population.

That big city, like most others, is dominated by high taxes, terrible crime rates, rotten schools and government incompetence and corruption.

Kathy Hochul, the new Governor of New York has diverted \$850 million dollars of taxpayer money for a new NFL football stadium in Buffalo, which is her home; her husband also has a business relationship with the Buffalo Bills. In her State of the State address she spoke mostly about the financial crisis faced by the State. She also approved a \$13,000 pay increase for all legislative members, making them the highest paid in all of the States and a reward for being the most corrupt.

#### Spy balloons

So, the Chinese are floating a "spy balloon" over an area in Montana where we have several ballistic missile sites. Does anyone know that we have 17 alleged intelligence agencies and thousands of other military and civilian personnel whose job it is to assure airspace security?

Despite this the Chinese were able to fly this spy balloon 1,200 miles into our country without being detected.

I am also waiting to see when one of our brilliant young journalists reminds us of the similarity between this event and the U2 which we utilized to spy on Russia during the Eisenhower Administration. More on that next week.



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## WineTimes

## Criteria Wines and the outcome of Amazon acquisition

Much has happened to Criterion wines during the ensuing years. A little over two years beyond 2015, Amazon acquired Whole Foods Market for \$13.7 billion. Perhaps not a good thing for Criterion wines

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

In 2015, Whole Foods Market announced its Criterion wines initiative, a \$20 a bottle market tier brand developed by Master Sommelier Devon Broglie and buyer Doug Bell, as a learning tool to facilitate consumers' quests for greater knowledge of the world of wine. A June 1, 2015 company news release went on to say that the Whole Foods had acquired wine from

acclaimed wine producing regions and bottled them under the Criterion label: the initial benchmark wines included an Italian Pinot Grigio, an Argentine Malbec, an Australian Cabernet Sauvignon, a Spanish Rioja, an Italian Chianti, and a Chilean Carmenere. The company planned to use these wines and others as reference points to help describe varietal, regional, and style preferences to knowledgeable experts at Whole Foods.

Much has happened to Criterion wines during the ensuing years. A little over two years beyond 2015, Amazon acquired Whole Foods Market for \$13.7 billion. Perhaps not a good thing for Criterion wines .... While Amazon currently offers thirteen Criterion wines, it has not favored the house brand on its web site. A search for "wine" displays a number of popular and inexpensive wines before showing a relatively inexpensive Criterion Gamay. It seems likely that Amazon

had established product placement agreements with major producers and distributors and hoped to build on them. Amazon has walked a fine line between a relatively few Amazon brands and popular national brands. The giant company also has to consider the public perception of Amazon as a oligopoly, if not a monopoly, as well as antitrust issues.

The presence or absence of knowledgeable wine experts in Whole Food stores did not draw much attention after the Amazon acquisition. With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic early in 2020, many fewer wine buyers would be in any event seeking them out in Whole Food markets. Then, making a bad situation worse, Master Sommelier Broglie, at the time the Chairman of the Master Sommelier Board of the USA, resigned after being accused of sexual harrassment by a female master sommelier candidate that he was mentoring. That other males on the Board also faced accusations of sexual harrassment did not help the reputation of master sommeliers as a group. It seemed that Dionysius, the patron saint of all things grapes and winemaking, had addled the judgment of many Master Sommeliers. Broglie remains on the roster of Master Sommeliers as eligible to teach; others have dropped their memberships and relinquished their titles.

The Criterion brand has no direct connection to specific places, vineyards, or wineries other than variety and region. Whether a Criterion variety will transition from one vintage to the next remains a open question. Criterion fits the business model of the French négociant, a merchant that buys wines and bottles them under his or her own label. Only these versions of négociants have gone global.

The best of the Criterion wines, the 2019 Criterion Pinot Noir (\$18) from the Central Otago Valley of New Zealand, lives up to the original intent of Criterion wines. It introduces consumers to a region particularly well-suited to Pinot Noir, but not generally known or





available in the USA. The South Island of New Zealand where it originates has cool autumjn temperatures that grow hotter and dry when needed to ripen grapes in the spring. The wine has a lighter red color than other reds and aromas of fruit and berries, yet it is not lacking in robust tannins and spice. It has many of the virtues of much more expensive Burgundies from France.

Rather than leading with a white wine with a popular name, the Italian Pinot Grigio, what about a very inexpensive wine from a prestigious region: the 2020 Château La Gravière Entre-deux-Mers (\$11) from the Bordeaux region of France? This wine differs within the same region from 100 per cent of the more acidic Sauvignon Blanc to 100 per cent of the fuller bodied Sémillon. The Entre-deux-Mers staddles the middle ground. A consumer could taste it and express a preference for more acid or more body.

The ideas behind Criterion wines seem worthy of more thought and experiment. Are there prototypical wines that could serve as benchmarks? Let's leave this question open for future discussion.

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 Otego Valley in New Zealand. Currently he splits time between residences in Chevy Chase, Maryland and St. Armand's Circle in Florida.

Rich Hermansen selected has first wine list for a restaurant shortly after graduating from college with a degree in Mathematics. He has extensive service and management experience in the food

and wine industry. Family and friends rate him as their favorite chef, bartender, and wine steward. He lives in Severna Park, Maryland.



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## OnPatrol

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

#### Feb. 10 Citizen assist

12:58 p.m.

Officer Puccio was dispatched to the intersection of Gulf of Mexico Drive and Longboat Club Road in reference to the light only allowing six cars to go through by a caller who did not wish to meet with police. Officer Puccio contacted Longboat Key Public Works in reference to the complainant and was advised they would go out and take care of the issue. Case clear.

#### **Dolphin ashore**

4:49 p.m.

Officer Miklos responded to Gulfside Road in reference to a beached dolphin. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos came into contact with multiple men attempting to keep the dolphin wet. Sgt. Puccio contacted Mote Marine and informed them about the dolphin. Mote Marine employees arrived on scene and began treating the dolphin. Officer Miklos and Officer Martinson assisted the Mote Marine staff carry the dolphin to their van for transport. Nothing further to report, case clear.

#### Feb. 11 **Found property**

#### 1:00 p.m.

Officer Martinson while on patrol was flagged down by a citizen who stated they found a wallet on the bench in front of a restaurant. Officer Martinson took the wallet which contained a Visa credit card and a Missouri driver's license. Officer Martinson made contact with the restaurant and was told by an employee that no one had reported a lost wallet. Officer Martinson later inventoried the wallet into evidence at the Police Station for safe keeping.

#### Citizen assist

3:04 p.m.

Officer Puccio while on routine patrol observed a vehicle disabled at the 2600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Puccio made contact with the driver who stated she believed the vehicle was out of gas. Officer Puccio then transported the driver to the gas station where they obtained a gallon of gas and then went back to the incident location. The driver placed the gas into the vehicle and attempted to start it, however it appeared to be a bad battery and would not turn over. Officer Martinson and Officer Puccio attempted to jump start the vehicle, however met with negative results. The driver contacted her granddaughter who advised she was on her way to assist. Officer Martinson advised the driver to call if she needed any further assistance from the police department. The vehicle was off the roadway and not causing a traffic hazard. Case cleared.

### Feb. 12

#### Noise

8:00 a.m.

Officer Puccio responded to Gunwale Lane in reference to construction noise. Upon arrival, Officer Puccio made contact with the construction worker who advised he was only picking up his skid steer for another job off Longboat Key and was not doing any other work. Upon completion, he departed without incident. Case clear.

#### Feb. 13

Dog on the loose 5:01 p.m.



Officer Tillman was dispatched to Sabal Cove Lane for a dog wandering in someone's backyard. Upon arrival, Officer Tillman met with the owner who said their dog had escaped the backyard and is wandering the neighborhood. Several neighbors are canvassing the area. Case clear.

#### Feb. 14 **Suspicious vehicle**

1:48 a.m.

Officer Montfort while on patrol, observed a vehicle parked in the parking lot of the hardware store. Officer Montfort made contact with the occupant who was sleeping in the vehicle. The woman in the vehicle spoke a different language and it was difficult to communicate. It was

discovered that the woman was looking for Coquina Beach. Officer Montfort pointed the direction of Coquina and sent the woman on her way. She appeared to be in good health and appeared to have been lost. Case clear.

#### **Abandoned vehicle**

7:29 p.m.

Officer Montfort while on patrol in the 3400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive, checked on a vehicle which was listed as suspicious. Officer Montfort arrived at the bay side beach access and observed that the vehicle was still parked and disabled. Officer Montfort attempted to make contact with the vehicle owner where he left a voicemail requesting a call back. Officer Montfort posted the vehicle with an Abandoned Property Notice on the rear safety glass. If the vehicle is not moved, it will have to be towed from the lot. Case clear.

#### Feb. 15 Citizen assist

10:27 a.m.

Officer Martinez was dispatched to Spanish Drive North in regard to a citizen assist. Upon arrival, the Fire Department was on scene. The complainant stated that a power line wire was down behind the house. No fire, smoke or visible arcing could be observed. FPL was notified, police department was released from the scene. No further incident. Case clear.

#### Feb. 16

#### Citizen assist

8:55 a.m.

Officer Martinson was dispatched to the 6200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on a call of a suspicious person. The caller said the property was under construction and that a transient man entered the property. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson observed numerous vehicles parked on the property and people working on the site. Officer Martinson spoke with one of the workers who stated that everyone there was a construction worker and that he had not seen any transients on the property. Case clear.

#### **Animal complaint**

#### 4:00 p.m.

Officer Martinson was dispatched to the 300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on a call of an animal issue. The caller said there was an injured snow egret on an island near the entrance. While in route, Officer Martinson was notified by Sgt. Puccio that he spoke to someone at Save Our Seabirds and they are aware of the injured bird and will be responding. Sgt. Puccio attempted to call the complainant back with an update and left a message. Case clear.





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## Editorial Opinion

## **Balloon Buffoonery — Be Scared, Very Scared!**

One rational explanation is that Biden, with his aggressive military actions, is trying to avoid the looming U.S. - China crisis by signaling to the Chinese that they will not be able to take Taiwan back without a fight.

#### BLAKE FLEETWOOD Guest Writer Fleetwood@lbknews.com

Last week the major newspapers, cable news channels and social media were completely swamped by an epidemic of balloon mania when a large UFO was spotted and photographed over Montana by a local newspaper editor.

Initially the White House seemed to suggest that the UFO might be the start of an alien invasion. They quickly took this back the next day and said they didn't know what it was -- even though they undoubtedly had high altitude U-2 planes flying around it for days taking pictures.

But think about it ---if it was an alien invasion, you would hardly expect the government to admit it.

What a panic that would be.

The Republicans lost no time in taking advantage of the brouhaha by portraying President Joe Biden as doddering and senile.

"He is not protecting us," they shouted from the hilltops.

UFOs, Aliens invading and Chinese spies marauding about our skies are always good for headlines and whipping up mass hysteria.

President Biden was forced to respond to this "SHOOT THEM DOWN" bloodlust.

The inscrutable Chinese, to their credit, quickly acknowledged their ownership of the UFO and said it was a weather balloon that was blown off course by unusually strong westerly winds.

But for some unfathomable reason the U.S. military was trying to keep the whole thing secret from the public even though they knew from the beginning what was going on.

Maybe, the White House wanted to set up a scenario where Joe Biden could assert his tough guy, macho, war mongering muscles by orchestrating a mid-winter fireworks display -- blasting this invading UFO to smithereens.

Both the Republicans and the White House deliberately kept the suspenseful charade going. To this day the U.S. military never released close up pictures, or the recovered remnants, of this dangerous balloon which flew across 40 states.

Finally, after seven days of suspense and secrecy, The Washington Post reported Friday that the Chinese explanation was probably true, citing government sources. Even the President and the Pentagon, began to give some credence to the initial Chinese explanation and apology.

As it happened, the U.S. has been tracking the balloon from its launch on Hainan Island, in China ten days ago. In fact, according to the latest Pentagon sources, this weather/surveillance balloon was headed not to the U.S. mainland but to Guam, when it got blown off course.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin admitted over the weekend that the object was never a military threat to people on the ground, but was shot down because it could have been a risk to civil aviation and "potentially an intelligence collection threat." An unlikely explanation. It was never meant to monitor our NORAD air force base in Montana.

But the big takeaway about all this, why all the secrecy. No pictures, no debris for more than a week. All this information was hidden from the American people. Why aren't they showing us all this stuff? When authorities or the FBI routinely seize a cache of weapons or cocaine, they proudly spread it for all the media to see and take pictures.

Even today some senators, kept in the dark like the rest of us, still believe that the UFO is part of an alien invasion. "We are being invaded and the government is doing nothing to protect us," according to legislators. Always good for a headline.

From the beginning the big UFO, given all the public angst, should have certainly been shot down over deserted and uninhabited portions of Alaska, the Yukon, Canada or Montana, where the remnants could have been easily picked up and examined. The official explanation that shooting it down would have injured people on the ground is a crock. On its own, it was more likely to come down dangerously over a population area.

The White house certainly had no hesitation in downing the next three balloons overland. They didn't seem to be worried about injuring innocent civilians then.



The U.S. reaction to the balloons brings back the scene in the classic movie Casablanca when Captain Renault closes down Rick's Cafe using the pretext,text, "I am shocked, shocked to find that gambling is going on!"

Since the beginning of the modern military, Generals have dreamed of the ultimate Balloon Bomb

During World War II Japan launched 9,300 incendiary balloons toward the U.S. They were incensed after the Doolittle Raid in April 1942 which managed to firebomb downtown Tokyo from long range. The Japanese Fu-Go bombs were intended to start large forest fires in the Pacific Northwest.

But only about 300 made it to the Americas. Riding on the prevailing jet stream, the bombs were ineffective fire starters due to damp conditions, causing only minor damage and six deaths in a single civilian incident in Oregon in May 1945.

At the time all information about the Fu Go bombs was censored and blacked out. The news media and radio stations were prevented from writing or reporting about the balloon attacks for fear of inciting a mass panic.

In the 1950's the U.S. AirForce, under President Dwight Eisehower, launched a weaponized balloon project. Project Genetrix was dedicated to spying over China, Eastern Europe, and the Soviet Union. The Genetrix balloons reached altitudes of 50,000–100,000 feet, well above the range of contemporary fighter planes.

Between 10 January and 6 February 1956, a total of 516 high-altitude vehicles were launched from the five different launch sites Norway, Scotland, West Germany and Turkey. Only 31 provided usable photographs. Most of the balloons were shot down or blown off course, and the flights led to many diplomatic protests from the target countries. Russian MiG fighter pilots learned that at sunrise the balloons dipped into shooting range because they floated to a lower altitude. The lifting gas cooled at night and became denser, reducing lift.

In the late 1950s.the inefficient Genetrix balloons were replaced by the U-2 spy plane. This high altitude plane, the brainchild of the CIA, was touted as a technological marvel traveling at altitudes of 70,000 feet. It is still flying today. The CIA said that it could take pictures of headlines in Russian newspapers as it flew over and that the Russians had nothing that could shoot it down and anyway the pilot had pills to kill himself.

But on May 1, 1960 a U-2, piloted by Francis Gary Powers was shot down over the Soviet Union. The incident derailed a summit meeting between President Eisenhower and Soviet Leader Nikita Khrushchev that was scheduled for later that month. Khrushchev pulled off an incredible international coup when he produced not only the mostly-intact wreckage of the U-2, but also the captured pilot-- very much alive.

There must be some underlying important issues behind all this UFO Sturm und Drang



**FLEETWOOD** 

When NORAD did finally blast the UFO out of the sky, they used a \$400,000 Spitfire missile where it would land in the ocean. Why not just puncture it with a high powered rifle or a small cannon so it would come down slowly and could be retrieved easily. Who knows?

When they shot down the next three UFOs with the same expensive missile, did they express any worries about where the large explosive missile would land? One Spitfire missed its target because Spitfires aren't made for this kind of warfare.

The government is claiming that it can't find what's left of the next three balloons. Hogwash!

When the UFO first wandered over U.S. territory. First reports had it flying at 75,000 feet, then 65,000 to 75,000 feet, then 60,000 feet. We will never know.

This is important because, by international agreement, space begins at 62,000 feet. Countries do not have sovereignty over anything higher than 62,000.

Why would China launch a spy balloon in the first place? It would be a waste of money. They already have 68 military satellites orbiting the earth every few minutes. These satellites can already easily read the license plate number off a Montana sheriff's car.

Our 122 U.S. military satellites can do the same thing, even better. Russia has 74 military satellites flying over the U.S. every few minutes.

It has been said that spying is the world's second oldest profession.

"I am shocked, shocked! to find that gambling is going on!"

caused by both political parties.

Edward Snowden, the former CIA operative and whistleblower who exposed how the CIA was listening to all of us, all the time, suggested that Washington created the UFO incidents to divert attention away from the U.S. role in blowing up the Nord Stream gas pipeline.

To be sure, there are increasing tensions between the U.S. and China over the real possibility that China will invade Taiwan. The Chinese say the takeover will be non-violent?

Would we go to a major war -- perhaps nuclear -- with China over Taiwan? Who knows? There is a hate China lobby that is trying to influence major elements of the U.S. government and is trying to drum up anti-China feelings.

They understand that the American people will not support such a dangerous war unless they are convinced that China is an eminent threat to the U.S.

One rational explanation is that Biden, with his aggressive military actions, is trying to avoid the looming U.S. - China crisis by signaling to the Chinese that they will not be able to take Taiwan back without a fight.

One may be sure that the White House, the Pentagon, and the CIA are thinking about this all the time.

Blake Fleetwood was a reporter for The New York Times, and has written for New York Magazine, The New York Daily News, and the Wall Street Journal.

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The News

#### Letters, from page 6

exercise classes, dog park users, pickleball players, playground users, and those who enjoy water sports. A lot of activity for very limited parking. The Town has a problem.

To my knowledge, those who participate in the exercise classes (I am one of those people) are the only ones who pay a fee. Most of us pay a membership fee to the town of Longboat in addition to a class fee. Those who don't pay a membership fee pay a higher class fee. The fees go to pay the instructors and a portion also goes to the Town of Longboat.

When I arrive for the 9 a.m. class there is usually only a few parking spaces available. For the 10:30 a.m. class - forget about parking. There's nobody in the playground, very few people in the dog park, so most of the parkers are Pickleball players. The problem is that those of us who go to exercise classes and have no parking, leave. That means we don't get in our exercise and the instructors don't get any money.

Don't get me wrong, I am not opposed to Pickleball. In fact, I play a little myself. But what I am opposed to is that they have overtaken the parking at the park.

Some of us have been using the parking at the old restaurant site north of the park. I realize that is only a temporary solution. In fact, it probably is not a solution. However, until a solution can be found, I would ask that you do not expand the Pickleball courts.

Complaining without solutions is not fair, so perhaps here are some solutions:

- schedule Pickleball hours by "beginner, intermediate, and advance" play to limit those waiting for a court.

• have pickleball players park at the old restaurant site

• have pickleball players pay a fee (perhaps during the "high use times - 8:45-11:30") for use of the courts

• move the pickleball courts to the new Town Center where there should be plenty of parking • move the exercise classes to an appropriate (and much needed) space at the new Town Center.

Thanks for listening.

Karen Gross

Longboat Key

#### Introduction

To: Erik Vatter

Erik, I certainly appreciate the referral from Mayor Schneier. My goal is to solve the stalemate that has existed on Longboat Key since the State gave rights to EV owners to charge their vehicles within their condominium properties. Simply said, it's not been possible to exercise those rights. BA and other forward thinkers have come forth using their parking lots for customer convenience and an additional revenue stream.

Residents of the Town of Longboat Key have purchased EV's at a rate well above the national average. However, these EV's are almost exclusively from single family homes as condominium associations have not solved power adequacy and power distribution problems for their many residents. To accommodate these underserved residents and also seasonal and periodic visitors, the solution appears strongly to be public Level III fast chargers.

The BA facility on Longboat Key has an overflow lot with 17 marked spaces. It is rarely if ever used and is adjacent to a major power source/transformer. A Tesla placement representative has responded favorably to this potential location as it meets their criteria of size and its proximity to retail and food outlets. There are other charging providers besides Tesla that would have similar views of the opportunity, including those who may have contractual rela-



#### tionships with BA.

I believe this is an opportunity for BA to increase their Longboat client count, get very positive press coverage, and greatly enhance its community leadership position from many perspectives.

The Town has named me and a few others to an ad hoc committee to pursue solutions. This offers me no personal benefit as I've been charging my vehicle in my garage. However, I will certainly assist my community in any manner to evaluate and support EV charging for all. Please contact me at your earliest convenience.

David E. Novak

President

Longboat Key

#### Introduction

To: Erik Vatter

I want to introduce you to David Novak, a good friend on Longboat Key. David is a property manager, tends to our wonderful swan population and focuses on many environmental issues, including the location of electric vehicle charging stations on the island. He may wish to contact you about this last subject.

I hope all is going well with the branch as residents return for the Season. Many people have told me they are very happy you re-opened. If I can be of any help, please let me know.

Ken Schneier Mayor

Longboat Key

#### Introduction

To: David Novak

Mayor Schneier thank you for the introduction to Mr. Novak, this sounds like an amazing opportunity. I've added members of the Bank leadership team in Sarasota to assist in navigating next steps etc. David, I am traveling to Houston this week to host an event for some of our Bank teammates from across the country. Perhaps we can connect the week of the 19th to understand what steps would be needed and what parties would need to sign off on pursuing this opportunity. My assistant Angela can help us find time to talk through this together. My interest has definitely been piqued, look forward to further conversation.

Erik M. Vatter

President, Bank of America Sarasota/Manatee

Merrill Wealth Management

#### Introduction

To: Erik Vatter

I'm very pleased and grateful to receive your response. For his constituents, I'm sure Mayor Schneier would like to resolve the EV charging problem especially when it can be accomplished with a private enterprise solution. To that, I have requested, through the Mayor, initial involvement from the Town Manager and his resources. My schedule is flexible, so I will standby and be ready to assist at your convenience.

David E. Novak

Longboat Key

#### EV Charging on LBK

To: Erik Vatter

I do know that Mayor Schneier has lined up Allen Parsons and Tom Harmer to represent the Town for the first steps such as zoning classification and site walkthrough. Just let us know when you're ready to meet.

David E. Novak

Longboat Key

#### **EV Charging on LBK**

To: David Novak

Hi David...my teammate and Consumer Banking Leader Jeff Crabtree is copied on this reply as I believe he has made good progress in connecting with folks to drive this conversation forward. Jeff, could you weigh in here and help me and David get up to speed and determine if we should be meeting with Allen and Tom?



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#### Letters, from page 12

Erik M. Vatter President, Bank of America Sarasota/Manatee Merrill Wealth Management

#### **EV Charging on LBK**

To: Erik Vatter and David Novak

Good afternoon! We have made progress for sure and gained some initial interest. I have been told that the process while not fast moving is under way to review the site for EV Charging stations and next steps for site evaluation. I do believe it is too early to meet however as I learn more along the way I will be sure to share the progress made. More details to come. Looking forward to reconnecting. Happy Holidays!

Jeff Crabtree

S.V.P. Regional Executive West Florida Region

#### **EV Charging on LBK**

To: Jeff Crabtree

Jeff, thanks for the update. I am copying Allen Parsons, Director of Planning and Zoning for the Town. The Town is very supportive of this opportunity and we are prepped and ready for your availability.

In my research into Bank of America, it was nice to see that corporate support is established and growing for such efforts using Electrify America. This particular opportunity is a cut above the standard offering in that it would attach notoriety to Bank of America for a major contribution to an island community in need of an EV charging solution. Hope to see you

and the team soon, David E. Novak Longboat Key

EV Charging on LBK

To: Jeffrey Crabree

Jeffrey, following the year end hiatus, are you ready to meet and discuss possibilities?

I see where Bank of America is supporting EV adoption in their auto loans. Nice touch. Bank of America Becomes First National Bank to Let Customers Finance Chargers With Their EVs (yahoo.com). Maybe we can put the Sarasota region in the news with an EV Fast

Charge Station? David E. Novak

Longboat Key

#### **EV Charging on LBK**

To: David Novak

Good morning! I hope that your new year has started well. We have the review process underway however we are not at a point to meet as of yet. I will definitely keep our group in the loop. Feel free to keep in touch over time as well. Have a great week!

Jeff Crabtree

S.V.P. Regional Executive West Florida Region

#### **EV Charging on LBK**

To: David Novak

The Town is sponsoring another discussion of EV's on Longboat Key at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, February 22 at Town Hall. Someone from Bank of America might be interested in attending for background. Carolyn Brown has more info.

Ken Schneier

Mayor

Longboat Key

#### **EV Charging on LBK**

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier Thank you Ken. Please ask Carolyn to connect with me and we will review. Thank you. Jeff Crabtree

S.V.P. Regional Executive West Florida Region

#### EV stats

To: Longboat Key Support Services Director Carolyn Brown

For purposes of the EV discussion on February 22, I've been asked if we can get EV registration data for 34228 to determine how many we have on the island. Thanks. Ken Schneier

Mayor

Longboat Key

#### **EV** stats

To: Longboat Key Support Services Director Carolyn Brown Probably DMV's, if anywhere? Ken Schneier Mayor Longboat Key

#### EV stats

To: Longboat Key Support Services Director Carolyn Brown

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) received your public records request as per email below.

We do not have an accurate count of electric vehicles in Florida since we have been capturing the Fuel type very recently. Attached is the most recent statistical report of the currently

registered vehicles by fuel type and county. We do not have the data per specific zip code. Kathryn Draughon

MS Business Consultant II

Florida Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles

#### EV stats

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

I contacted the DMV and I received the following message and attachment. I further asked if by chance they collect the information via municipality and they confirmed they did not (only by fuel type by county).

Carolyn Brown

Support Services Director Longboat Key

#### **EV Registration**

To: Daveney Iglesias

See Letters, page 14

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#### **EV Charging on LBK**

To: Longboat Key Support Services Director Carolyn Brown Can you provide some info for Jeff Crabtree at Bank of America regarding our EV program on the 22nd? Thanks.

Ken Schneier Mayor

Longboat Key

#### EV stats

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier I am looking into where I can get this info. I will see what I can do. Carolyn Brown Support Services Director Longboat Key WRITING WORKSHOPS IPHONE & IPAD BIRDING NATURE WALKS WELLNESS LANGUAGES SATURDAY WORKSHOPS BROADWAY BIOS CONCERTS SPECIAL ONE-TIME EVENTS & MUCH MORE!

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#### Letters, from page 13

My name is Carolyn Brown and I am with the Town of Longboat Key.

I have been asked to research the number of EV (Electric Vehicles) within the Town's 34228 zip code. This zip code makes up the entire town boundaries. I am not quite sure if you all would be able to run some kind of a report or from whom I might be able to get this information?

As you are probably aware of all of the increased interest in electric vehicles. It is now important for us to think about the infrastructure needed to support those vehicles - like charging stations. Thus the reason we need to know the number of registered electric vehicles. We don't need any personal information. Just the quantity of electric vehicles in our zip code - - 34228.

Thank you for any assistance and direction. I wrote to the DMV, but haven't heard back. Wasn't sure if you might have any other ideas on who might be able to provide this information.

Carolyn Brown

Support Services Director, Town of Longboat Key

#### **EV** stats

To: Longboat Key Services Director Carolyn Brown As of Sept 30, 2022 there were 176 battery electric vehicles (BEV) and 39 plug-in hybrids registered in the Town of Longboat Key. We purchase the vehicle registration data from IHSMarkit on a quarterly basis. The year-end data is expected to be sent to us in the next 10-14 days. Please let me know if you need anything else.

**Devaney** Iglesias

Area Manager, Florida Power & Light Company

#### **EV Registration**

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Good news on getting data! Please see the email below from FPL. They buy data and indicate that there are 176 battery electric vehicles (BEV) and 39 plug-in hybrids registered in the Town of Longboat Key. Please let me know if there are any further questions.

Carolyn Brown

Support Services Director, Town of Longboat Key

#### **Bayfront Park issue**

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

Concern about the use of Bay Front Park by pickleball. I Play pickle ball and tennis occasionally. Pickleball has changed the whole concept of bayfront park. Pickleball needs to find its own location. Park was remodeled to be a quiet, peaceful park. Use a kayak, walk your dog, park and go to beach, sit and enjoy the view of bay. Also, a little shuffleboard or quiet game of tennis, pilates, yoga at rec center

## Longboat Rey News Sarasota City News

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and maybe grandkids in pick up basketball. No more, loud and organized pickle ball has changed all of that. Though I enjoy occasionally, that game is a fad such as racquetball that you will throw money at it and it will be gone in 5-10 years. And the way it is organized, players are forced to play at tennis court if not considered good enough for the newer courts. Tennis players have also been accosted verbally when they ask for their tennis courts. Tennis went to round robin to allow players to get some play, but it is no longer a place you and significant other can just come and play on your own. The same is true for pickle ball. If you and spouse and a few friends just want to play at your own pace it is not available. That is the kind of park I believe Bay Front was projected to be. Low key, beautiful, quiet and open to different uses. Pickle ball has overrun it. You need to find a location for them to go to. The cost of those courts is not that significant and might be able to be located at the town center behind Publix or maybe a lease at the old tennis courts at long boat resort near Chart House. Please, do not ruin a beautiful park for a fad.

Ron Sislowski Longboat Key

#### **Ongoing conflict with the Sarasota** Water Department

To: Sarasota City Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch

We have owned our home at Arlington St. in Sarasota for more than 20 years and have had no previous problem with our water services. Over the past several months, however, we have been billed for tens of thousands of gallons of water we have not used. We have had the property checked for leaks and have been told definitively there are no leaks on the property. During the initial billing cycle in question even the toilet had been turned off to avoid any inappropriate water use.

The supervisor of the department has been extremely rude, hanging up on us and saying it is our problem and we have to deal with it.

As we are unable to identify any problem at the house we are at a loss to know what to do. We are elderly and cannot afford to continue to pay these outrageous bills.

George Vraney Sarasota



#### ACROSS

- 11 on the back (praise) \*4 Peter Pan and Skippy
- competitor
- More than \_\_\_\_\_as many 7 total entries as any other crossword dictionary
- 12 Keogh Plan alternative
- 13 2002 Winter Olympics host
- 14 Eret Harte character
- 15 The only crossword dictionary based on the clues in America's most crosswords
- 17 "Cannery Row" star
- 18 Glona Vanderbilt logo
- 19 Computer capacity unit, for short
- 21 Checkout scanner ID: Abbr.
- 24 More than ten times as (like "Titanic") many as any other crossword dictionary
- 29 Wind heading: Abbr.
- 32 Mesopotamian kingdom
- 34 Saran
- 35 Appropriately, there are 40 entries under this word, meaning "thorough"
- 38 "Darling, Je Vous
  - Beaucoup" ('55 song)



- The only crossword dic-61 tionary with "sound bite", "world-class" and thousands of other terms
- \*62 Lumberjack's tool
- '63 Alphabetic trio
- \*27 lcicle spot
- \*28 Risky business, for short
- Union bane \*29 \*30 I" (French "Bon farewell)
- Actress Thompson \*31
- \*33 "Take on Me" rock group

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Has brunch 39 40 NYSE regulator 41 More than ten times as (like Chevy and many Oreo) as any other crossword dictionary 43 Former US Airways rival Comparative suffix 45 47 Jay Leno prominent feature Mr. T's TV group 51 The only crossword dic-55 tionary with full coverage of contemporary life and 58 Actress married to composer Kurt Weill 59 "Today | \_\_\_\_man!" 60 Barnyard sound

DOWN Gladys Knight's group \*1 \*2 "Pretty maids all in \*3 Spanish snack "4 Summer mo "Love Many-\*5 Splendored Thing!" \*6 Pig's home "The Rain in Spain" is one \*7 \*8 Doctor of sci-fi \*9 Crete, for example Abbr. (footnote phrase) 10 Op. 11 Ending for ethyl Burmese statesman \*16 Kelly the clown \*20 \*22 capita iricome \*23 Monty Python member Jettas and Beetles \*25 Dame Judi Dench film \*26

Magic Marker \*36 \*37 Where Sydney is capital Abbr. \*42 Yankee great's nickname \*44 Get busy Some TVs \*46 '48 Dromedary feature Desert Storm site \*49 \*50 -miss (close call) \*51 Caricaturist Hirschfeld et 刞 \*52 AVIV \*53 Disney deer \*54 First name of the author of "We the Living" Actress Thurman \*56 \*57 John Grisham's profes-SION

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