Longboat Bey Rews

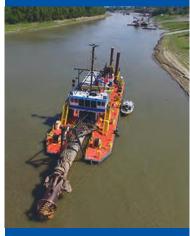
January 10, 2025

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

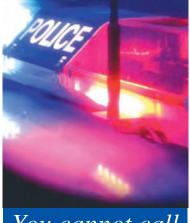
Crash course to up your game ...page 15



The tale of the two grapes ...page 6



Who should pay for dredging? ...page 12



You cannot call the park "home' ...page 10

A drop of hope in solving St. Armands chronic flooding

Last week, following the urging of St. Armands Resident's Association President Chris Goglia, Sarasota County has submitted a work order to inspect and clean all of the drainage infrastructure surrounding St. Armands Circle.

STEVE REID Editor & Publisher sreid@lbknews.com

There is good news for the storm battered and flood prone St. Armands Circle merchants and surrounding residents.

Last week, following the urging of St. Armands Resident's Association President Chris Goglia, Sarasota County has submitted a work order to inspect and clean all of the drainage infrastructure surrounding St. Armands Circle.

This news marks the beginning of what Goglia and surrounding property owners hope, which is either the drainage system is severely clogged and needs to be cleared, or a new approach or replacement infrastructure is necessary. Goglia started his push following last year's unprecedented flood events.

On Jan. 6, Goglia wrote Interim Sarasota City Manager Doug



Ieffcoat and Deputy City Manager Pat Robinson requesting that the City inspect all of the below-grade

"Are our pipes clogged? Have they collapsed? Or are they just storm water drain pipes around the inadequate? We'd like the City to

figure this out, and then put a plan together to address it," said Goglia in his memo.

Goglia also pointed out that the recent hurricane flooding deposited clay like mud all over St. Armands and it has entered the drainage system. He asked how and when it will be removed. He also said that the City recently mulched the medians and the park, despite past flood events moving previously placed mulch into the storm drains. Finally, Goglia urged the City to "televise" the storm system piping to find any breaks or obstructions.

"We expect that you will find that our underground drain pipes are clogged or have collapsed to varying degrees," wrote Goglia.

Rapid response

The day after Goglia sent his memo to the City, he received a See Flooding, page 2

Sarasota to distribute \$210 million in hurricane funds

Sarasota County is looking for ways to distribute \$210 million in federal money to help people rebuild after four hurricanes wreaked havoc across the region over the last two years.

The money comes from the federal department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and is part of \$12 billion being spent nationwide on a program called Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) in areas declared disaster zones by the president.

Since the money comes from HUD, 70 percent must go toward low to moderate income households.

Steve Hyatt, a division manager with Sarasota County government, said the goal is to fill in where insurance money falls short, and address broader needs for economic revitalization in the community.

The county could also buy homes that were damaged or destroyed by Hurricanes Idalia, Helene, Milton, or Debby from willing sellers.

Still, the money is likely to fall far short of the total needed. Hyatt said the county received about \$200 million in federal money for a similar purpose after Hurricane Ian in 2022, even though an analysis found as much as \$800 million in unmet needs.

After Ian, the county commission "dedicated about \$55 million worth of that allocation to benefiting homeowners, and what that entails is funding set aside to reimburse homeowners for repairs to their homes," said Hyatt.

The rollout takes time, however. According to Hyatt, the county is preparing to issue checks of up to \$50,000 to homeowners for reimbursement of their Ian-related repairs "in the next few weeks."

For the latest injection of federal money, leaders will assess local needs over the next few months, and then send a proposal to HUD on how they plan to spend the money.

Poly sculpture installed at 14th Street roundabout

The installation of the sculpture 'Poly' in the roundabout at U.S. 41 and 14th Street has been completed.

Poly, a 20-foot-tall sculpture created by New York-based art studio Hou de Sousa, was installed Wednesday night. Delivered in two pieces, the 2.7-ton piece was placed on its concrete pedestal in the center of the roundabout by the studio's team.

The \$208,000 piece was unanimously approved by the City Commission in September 2019. Poly was acquired through the city's public art fund, which is supported by developer fees. A building permit with a construction valuation of more than \$1 million requires the applicant to contribute one-half of 1% of the total construction valuation toward the purchase of public art.

The sculpture is storm-resilient, built to withstand winds up to 149 miles per hour, or the equivalent of a Category 4 hurricane. Poly will be illuminated at night.



Page 2 Friday, January 10, 2025 The News

Ringling Boulevard & Pine Place roundabout postponed

The planned opening of a roundabout at the intersection of Ringling Boulevard and Pine Place in downtown Sarasota has been delayed from January to April, city officials said.

The roundabout's construction began last April. The city said in a news release that work has been stalled because of supply issues and delays caused by last year's hurricanes.

The intersection is between the Sarasota County Administration Building and the downtown post office.

The finished project will mark the completion of a string of roundabouts along Ringling Boulevard at the intersections of Palm Avenue, Pineapple Avenue, Orange Avenue and Pine Place, the city news release noted.

Officials anticipate the roundabouts will improve traffic and pedestrian safety along the city's downtown corridors.

Roundabouts can be controversial in Sarasota, as some drivers find them inconvenient or challenging to navigate. One Instagram account, SRQCircle, tracks video of every crash that occurs at the large bayfront roundabout at Tamiami Trail and Ringling Boulevard.

However, the Federal Highway Administration classifies roundabouts as a "Proven Safety Countermeasure," and national statistics show that they reduce traffic injuries and property damage overall.

Flooding, from page 1

commitment from Sarasota County storm water operations Manager Jason Brown. Brown said that the work order to clean and televise the entirety of the infrastructure around St. Armands Circle should begin in early March of this year and be completed by the end of the month.

Brown pointed out that there were four flood events in 2024 with the first being a June 11 flash flood, which caused the pump station panels around St. Armands Circle to become submerged and fail. Brown said that after June 11, the panels were replaced at a higher elevation.

On Aug. 5, Tropical Storm Debby stalled over the county and dropped about 18 inches of rain on St. Armands Circle. This rain did not cause nearly the damage that Hurricane Helene brought on Sept. 24 when the Circle was inundated with five to six feet of water. Helene shorted out all the new panels even at their higher elevation. The storm also caused the failure of the generator behind the Fire Station because water inundated the fuel.

After Helene, pumps were brought in to lower the water level, and the City began to remove

sand from roadways and parts were ordered to replace the electric panels.

Less than two weeks later, on Oct. 5, Hurricane Milton brought two feet of water into the Circle and it took the entire month to finish cleaning out the outflow pipes from the Circle and remove sand from the roadways.

It is the hope of Goglia as well as area business owners and residents that the City and County aggressively work to improve drainage at St. Armands Circle, fearing a repeat of last year's devastation.

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Sherry 'Nef' Price is a USPTR certified professional. She played at IMG and Division 1 College.
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1212 CENTER PLACE | LIDO SHORES \$6,995,000 - New Construction 5 Beds 6 Baths 4750 Sq. Ft. Contact: Patrick DiPinto 941-323-0033



1155 N. GULFSTREAM AVE #207 | SARASOTA BAY \$1,829,000 - The Vue 2 Beds 3 Baths 1,640 Sq. Ft. Contact: Tracey Stetler 941-266-9001



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



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



5444 GULF OF MEXICO DR | LONGBOAT KEY \$6,900,000 - Bayfront 1.06 Acres 5 Beds, 5 Baths, 6,000 Sq. Ft. Contact: Tracey Stetler 941-266.9001



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



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



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



549 SLOOP LANE | LONGBOAT KEY \$3,900,000- Country Club Shores 4 Beds 5 Baths 4,127 Sq. Ft. Contact: Tracey Stetler 941-266-9001



569-571 CHANNEL LANE | LONGBOAT KEY \$1,050,000 - 2-Family Lot 1st floor storm damage/Repair/Rebuild Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922



4136 HIGEL AVE | SIESTA KEY \$16,995,000 - SOLD! 5 Beds, 7 Baths, 8.964 Sq. Ft. Contact: Patrick DiPinto 941-323-0033



551 SOUTH POLK DRIVE | LIDO BEACH \$3,749,000 - Canal Access & Boat Lift Walk to St. Armands and Lido Beach 3 Beds 3 Baths 2,565 Sq. Ft. Contact: Nicholle DiPinto McKiernan 941-928-2922

941-388-2021

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941-388-2021

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Page 6 Friday, January 10, 2025 The News

Editor Letters



Letters, from page 4

Sharing an important update from the Planning, Zoning, and Building Department regarding condominium structural assessments with the good news that no major structural issues have been identified in the reports that have been submitted.

I want to recognize Allen for his leadership and Patti Fige and Eileen Panza for the extra work that has been required with this new responsibility. This is especially true when we understand that while the report says 66 condominiums, what that really translates to is 244 buildings and 244 engineering reports, each of which is a separate review process. Additional work under normal circumstances but a herculean effort given the storm impacts. We will advise if there is anything remarkable in the 3 reports that we have yet to receive.

Howard N. Tipton

Town Manager

Town of Longboat Key

Condominium Milestone Inspection Reports

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Sharing the status update below regarding the relatively new statutory requirement to provide structural assessments (i.e. Milestone Reports) on condo buildings that are 30 years or older and are three or more stories in height. This is the Florida legislature's follow-up to the Surfside building collapse that obligates condo associations to have a structural building assessment completed and submitted to the applicable local government when a 3+ story building reaches 30 years of age, and then every 10 years thereafter.

The first grouping of condos that meet those criteria were required to provide their first assessments (i.e. Milestone Inspections) by December 31st of 2024. Out of 66 condominium complexes that meet the criteria, we have received reports from 63. We are following up with the three complexes that have not yet submitted. We are very pleased with the response. And are happy to report that no major structural issues have been identified in any of the reports.

This has taken a significant effort to stand up this new Program, including getting a complete inventory of applicable buildings, developing a tracking system, staying on top of the outreach to let condo associations know about their statutory obligations and then reviewing the reports to be sure they meet statutory requirements and following up if there are structural issues that have been identified. Thank you Patti and Eileen for putting this together and for the ongoing follow-up!

Allen Parsons

Director Planning, Zoning & Building Department





Town of Longboat Key

Uninterrupted Beach access fact sheet

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams

That's exactly what we're looking to do, just deleting the stuff that is out of date or no longer relevant. Thanks to all involved for getting this updated.

Howard N. Tipton

Town Manager

Town of Longboat Key

Uninterrupted Beach access fact sheet

To: Longboat Key Chief Information Officer Jason Keen

Thanks for solving the mystery. Rather than remove the document entirely, perhaps it can be updated to reflect the current situation with Ohana (or remove that reference entirely). It still contains accurate and informative data regarding the ECL, beach renourishment, etc. in the Gulfside Road area.

Debra Williams

Commissioner

Town of Longboat Key

Uninterrupted Beach access fact sheet

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams

Julie mentioned below the fact sheet was outdated and should be resolved. Thank you and have a great (little too cold!) day!

Jason Keen

Chief Information Officer

Town of Longboat Key

Uninterrupted Beach access fact sheet

To: Longboat Key Chief Information Officer Jason Keen

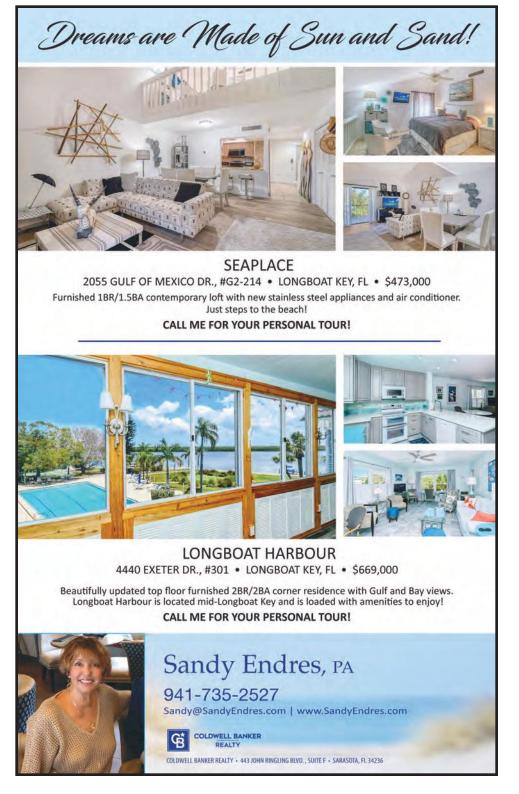
It should be fixed now. I was wondering where the heck that fact sheet was being pulled from, I'm glad you found the location! I deleted the fact sheet because it had outdated information about Ohana House.

Julie Anderson

Office Manager

Town of Longboat Key

See Letters, page 12



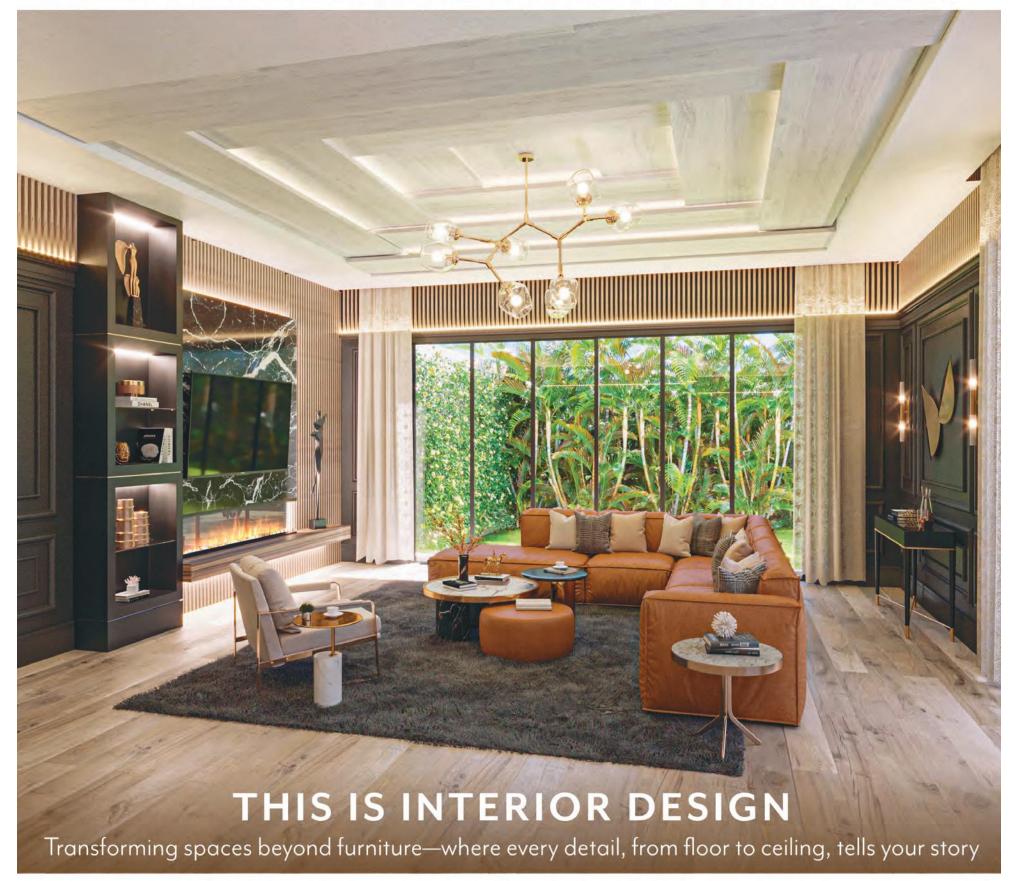




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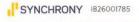
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WineTimes



The tale of the two Malbecs has its own twists and turns. Malbec has thrived in two areas that have very different soil, temperatures, aridity, winds, and sunlight.

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

Until a few years ago we knew Malbec either as one of the wines that Bordeaux winemakers could, according to the strict standards of that appellation, blend with Cabernet Sauvignon or Merlot to add an inky purple depth of color and taste to fine Bordeaux wines. Or as a single varietal star from the Mendoza Valley of Argentina.

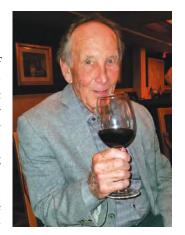
Our world view changed after being invited to a tasting arranged by winemakers in the Cahors region of France. Turns out that Malbec has had a leading role in Cahors, in contrast to its bit parts in Bordeaux, since the heydays of the Roman Empire; that is, until around 1877 when the grapevine disease phylloxera devastated Malbec vines as well as all

other grape stocks in France. Fortunately for the Malbec variety, clones of the grape had made their way to the Americas at least a decade earlier. There the vines found a welcoming landing in the higher elevation, warmer, sunny, and windy plains of the Mendoza Valley, where it thrived and evolved.

The Cahors eventually restored the vineyards of Cahors with phylloxera-resistent Malbec cuttings repatriated from the Americas. In the twenty-first century, the elegant and austere Malbec from the Cahors now competes with better known wines from the Bordeaux.

The vineyards in the Cahors have, unfortunately, lost their brand. Argentina produces huge volumes of fruit-forward, hot (as in high proof) Malbec at lower prices than typical Cahors Malbec. Seventy-five percent of world Malbec production now comes from Argentina, eighty-five percent from Mendoza.

An interesting Cahors wine nonetheless offers great value and quality. The Chateau LaBarrade 2017 Malbec has a sale price under \$10 per bottle at local ABC stores. Our sommelier, the



CHATEAU

LABARRADE

CAHORS

Director of the Greater Washington Wine School, Jane Hermansen, rates this wine as comparable to much more expensive wines from the Bordeaux region.

Compare it to the Casa Natal 2015 Argentine Malbec (\$17, rated 93/100 points by James Suckling). It has more fruit flavors up front, but less structure and depth. The 2014 Domiciano from Mendoza in Argentina (\$20), recommended by Autumn Howard of LBK Liquors, has structure and depth mellowed by age in the bottle. It pairs well with foods such as empanadas, Cuban sandwiches, and grilled pork. This wine fits the profile of a Cahors Malbec better than that of Malbec from the new world.

The tale of the two Malbecs has its own twists and turns. Malbec has thrived in two areas that have very different soil, temperatures, aridity, winds, and sunlight. Disease-resistant clones, irrigation, and cultivation techniques have played roles in its success. The vintages of Malbec have a critical role in taste and nose of the three bottles featured here. Pay heed to the vintages on the labels.



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.



Happy & Healthy New Year to You and Your Family

Thank You

חדות Dêkuji Diolch i chi Gracias Merci Takk ευχαριστώ Danke Grazie Köszönöm Dakujem

Hvala vam

A sheynem dank

благодарю вас

Dziekuje Dank u wel Kiitos Teşekkür ederim

спасибо Paldies Xie xie Arigatou

Nayām barşakō śubhakāmanā

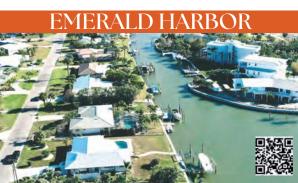
for another wonderful year

Leah Judy

We sincerely hope that it was an exceptional holiday for you and your family, and as always, we thank you for being part of our success.

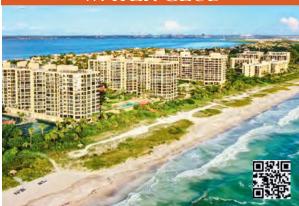


524 Gunwale Lane - \$2,150,000 3 Beds | 2.5 Baths | 2,135 sq. ft. 524GunwaleLn.com

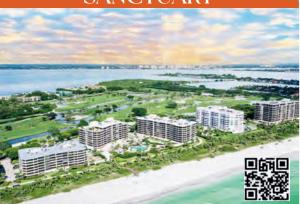


6011 Emerald Harbour Drive - \$2,495,000 3 Beds | 2 Baths | 1,929 sq. ft. 6011EmeraldHarborDr.com

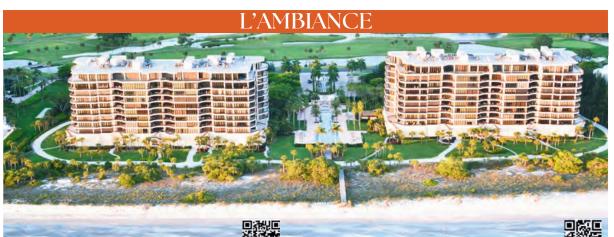
1800 Ben Franklin Drive #A403 - \$998,000 2 Beds | 2 Baths | 1,350 sq. ft. LElegance403.com



1241 Gulf of Mexico Drive #105 - \$2,575,000 A3 Beds | 2.5 Baths | 2,585 sq. ft. | FURNISHED WaterClub105.com

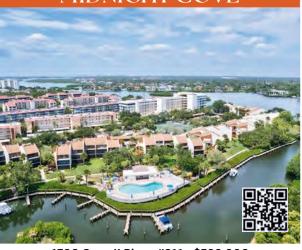


575 Sanctuary Drive #A303 - \$1,999,000 3 Beds | 2.5 Baths | 1,823 sq. ft. SanctuaryA303.com

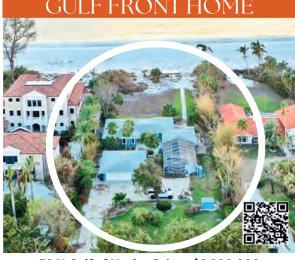


415 L'Ambiance Drive #A401 - \$5,890,000 3 Beds | 3.5 Baths | 3,380 sq. ft. | Furnished LAmbianceA401.com

415 L'Ambiance Drive #A801 - \$7,500,000 3 Beds | 3.5 Baths | 3,380 sq. ft.



1700 Cove II Place #311 - \$598,000 2 Beds | 1.5 Baths | 860 sq. ft. MidnightCove311.com



5941 Gulf of Mexico Drive - \$8,800,000 3 Beds | 3.5 Baths | 2,417 sq. ft. 5941GulfOfMexicoDr.com

LAmbianceA801.com ARIA



2251 Gulf of Mexico Drive #204 - \$7,999,000 3 Beds | 3.5 Baths | 4,032 sq. ft. Aria204.com



350 Gulf of Mexico Drive #211 - \$1,078,000 3 Beds | 2.5 Baths | 2,394 sq. ft. Tangerine211.com



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Page 10 Friday, January 10, 2025 The News

OnPatrol



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

Jan. 3 Suspicious person

6:11 p.m.

Officer Mathis was dispatched to 5300 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a suspicious person. An elderly woman was at the restaurant asking staff where her family was located. Upon his arrival, Officer Mathis discovered that the elderly woman and her family and left the restaurant. Staff advised they had contacted 911 and then canceled the request and told police everything was fine. Case clear.



Jan. 4 Fire

2:52 a.m.

Officer Mathis responded to Old Compass Road in reference to a transformer on fire and popping. Upon his arrival, Officer Mathis noticed the ground around the transformer was actively arcing and on fire. Longboat Key Fire Department arrived shortly thereafter and advised no further police assistance was needed and FPL was on the way. Case clear.

Theft

12:33 p.m.

Officer Van Dyke responded to the 4600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a theft. Upon further investigation, the case was updated to an Officer's Assistance call for service. Upon arrival, Officer Van Dyke met with the resident who advised that sometime between Hurricanes Milton/Helene, contractors took items within the residence. It should be noted that renovation contractor was responsible for all ground level renovation work on the property. On Dec. 27, it was discovered that the plastic had been removed from floor cabinets in the main bedroom, and locked cabinets were presumably opened with force. According to the complainant, clothes were strewn about the room, although miscellaneous clothes were stored away in packing cubes, they are now missing. Per the complainant, items missing include 10 pair of shorts, five bathing suits, 10 t-shirts, five collared shirts, one pair jeans, 10 pair underwear, 10 pair socks with an estimated value of \$350 and replacement cost of \$1,600. According to the General Manager, the contractor had full access to the residences on property including the permission to move whatever is needed in order to restore the drywall and complete the assigned job. The complainant advised that she simply wanted the incident reported. The complainant was told that due to the circumstance, the incident will not be reported as a theft, but rather for documentation purposes. Based on the information, no further investigation is necessary. Case clear.

Marijuana

10:37 p.m

Officer Troyer while on patrol, observed a gray Hyundai driving northbound in the 400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive with a defective headlight. Officer Troyer conducted a traffic stop in the 500 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Upon speaking with the driver, Officer Troyer smelled the odor of suspected marijuana which emitted from the vehicle as the driver's side front window was rolled down. Officer Troyer asked the driver if she had any marijuana inside of the vehicle, to which she opened the center console and revealed a partially smoked marijuana cigarette with a green leafy substance inside. The green leafy substance appeared to be consistent with marijuana. Officer Troyer had the woman exit the vehicle and Officer Troyer conducted a probable cause search of the vehicle which revealed another container which contained more loose green leafy substance consistent with marijuana. Officer Troyer also located a metal tin which had two more partially smoked suspected marijuana cigarettes with a green leafy substance inside of them. Officer Troyer also located a white container inside of a white bag which had a THC label on the container. Inside of the container, Officer Troyer located seven yellow gummies, which appeared to be a common substance known as edibles. Officer Troyer also located a black circular container which had a brown substance inside. The label had "Cannabis Oil." The container appeared to be a THC vape pen. Based on the items located in the vehicle, Officer Troyer detained the driver by placing her into hand restraints. Officer



Troyer searched the driver and placed her into the back seat of his Police vehicle. Officer Troyer field tested the green leafy substance which showed a purple color as a results of the field test. This indicated to Officer Troyer and the liquid in the vape pen. The gummies and vape pen were unable to be field tested, therefore they will be sent for further testing to determine THC contents. Officer Troyer estimated between the loose green leafy substance, and the suspected marijuana cigarettes of green leafy substance the driver was in possession of approximately 2.35 grams of suspected marijuana based upon a weight with a field scale completed with Officer Mathis. The complainant also said she didn't possess a medical marijuana card. Officer Troyer confiscated the following items from the vehicle as a result of probable cause search: container with loose green leafy substance, empty THC container, circular container with

seven yellow gummies, suspected marijuana cigarettes, pack containing seven hemp cigarettes, cannabis oil cartridge. Officer Troyer issued the driver an infraction citation for violation of defective headlight. Based on Officer Troyer's investigation, he found probable cause to issue the driver a notice to appear on a charge of possession of marijuanaless than 20 grams.

Jan. 5 Driver's license

5:42 p.m.

Officer Pescuma while on patrol received a target alert service for a license plate image captured from the license plate reader camera. The vehicle was traveling southbound and the alert was for no insurance on file. Officer Pescuma queried the FCIC/NCIC database and confirmed that the vehicle didn't have insurance on file. The vehicle was located and a traffic stop was conducted on a 2017 silver Dodge Caravan and made contact with the driver. Offier Pescuma introduced himself and provided the reason for the traffic stop. Officer Pescuma asked the driver for his driver's license. Registration and current proof of insurance. The driver stated that he could not renew the vehicle insurance and that he is in the process of obtaining his Florida Driver's License. Officer Pescuma asked the man if he had a valid driver's license and he stated that he currently does not have a valid driver license. Officer Pescuma asked the driver if he had a valid driver's license and he stated he currently does not have one nor was issued one. The driver provided him a picture of his Florida ID card. Officer Pescuma asked the driver if he knew that he should not be driving in which he said yes, however, he said he had to commute back and forth for work. The driver said he is conducting work on some of the businesses on Longboat Key. Officer Pescuma issued criminal citation for No Driver's License, never had one issued. Additionally, a citation was issued for No Proof of Insurance. Officer Pescuma advised the driver that she could not drive and had to make arrangements for transportation. Case clear.

Jan. 6 Motorhome

1:45 a.m

Officer Troyer while on patrol noticed a suspicious vehicle located at 600 Bay Isles Parkway. Officer Troyer observed the motorhome was jacked up on jacks, which appeared as if the motorhome was in a stationary position. Officer Troyer also observed the motorhome was connected to a town supplied water tap with a garden hose. The motorhome was also connected to town supplied power using an extension cord. Sgt. Montfort, Officer Mathis and Officer Troyer knocked on the door to the motorhome. A man exited the motorhome and officers asked him what he was doing in the park. The man didn't think this was a problem, but was cooperative and agreed to leave without any issues. The man was informed about the town ordinances against camping and being on town parks after hours. The area was also marked by a sign with the hours. Officer Troyer issued a citation for No Parking of Recreational Vehicles and Trailers. Case clear.

Jan. 7 Found property

9:22 a.n

Officer Martinson was dispatched to the kayak boat launch at 3400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on a call of found property. The complainant said they were standing at the boat launch with her two dogs and showed Officer Martinson where she found a flare gun lying on the ground next to an empty case near the launch. Officer Martinson inspected the flare gun which rusted out and determined him to a flare gun lying on the ground next to an empty case near the launch. Officer Martinson inspected the flare gun which was rusted out and determined it was not loaded. Officer Martinson took custody of the flare gun and case and brough it back to the police station to be inventoried for safekeeping. There doesn't appear to be any identifiable numbers on the gun and Officer Martinson was unable to determine who it belonged to.

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The News Friday, January 10, 2025 Page 12

Editor Letters



Letters, from page 8 Uninterrupted Beach access fact sheet

To: Longboat Key Chief Information Officer Jason Keen There was a link on the Town website to the attached Fact Sheet 2/2022, entitled "Uninterrupted Beach Access". The link is broken and no longer available. The page is not searchable either, with "uninterupted beach access" not returning this document. Can you check this out? Thank you.

Debra Williams Commissioner Town of Longboat Key

Uninterrupted Beach access fact sheet

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

Great news, having experienced one of these issues in the past I'm sure all the residents are relieved as well. I'm sure the accumulated data is potentially a gold mine for the fire and rescue services.

Gary Coffin Commissioner Town of Longboat Key

Condominium Milestone Inspection Reports

To: Longboat Key Commission Sharing an important update from the Planning, Zoning, and Building Department regarding condominium structural assessments with the good news that no major structural issues have been identified in the reports that have been submitted.

I want to recognize Allen for his leadership and Patti Fige and Eileen Panza for the extra work that has been required with this new responsibility. This is especially true when we understand that while the report says 66 condominiums, what that really translates to is 244 buildings and 244 engineering reports, each of which is a separate review process. Additional work under normal circumstances but a herculean effort given the storm impacts.

We will advise if there is anything remarkable in the 3 reports that we have yet to receive.

Howard N. Tipton Town Manager Town of Longboat Key

Parcels with and without canal benefits

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams

I am sure we can do that and will provide a timeframe for when we can expect to see this information.

Howard N. Tipton Town Manager Town of Longboat Key

Parcels with and without canal benefits

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton As a follow up to the attached numbers that we received in November, can we get the total taxable valuation for the two groups listed below - properties with canal benefits and properties without canal benefits?

Debra Williams

Commissioner

Town of Longboat Key

Agenda Item

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Debra Williams

You asked 2 questions: 1) What are the total number of properties within the Town? 2) How many of these are properties are located on/have access to canals, and how many do

According to Tara Hollis, our financial consultant for the canal maintenance program, there are approximately 10,100 parcels located within the Town Limits. Those parcels do include some non-taxable parcels (i.e. submerged lands, common elements, governmental and institutional parcels, etc.). Based on our initial analysis using the 2024 Taxable Values as provided by Sarasota and Manatee Counties, parcels that would be subject to a minimum annual Ad Valorem tax of \$1.00 or greater is approximately 9,637.

With that as our baseline, the following is how this would

9637 total Taxable Parcels (All Pay Millage)

3660 with Canal Benefits (Pay Both Direct Benefit Assessment and Millage)

5977 without Canal Benefits (Gulf Fronting Properties, Properties within Bay Front Communities that are not on a canal, other properties not getting a Direct Benefit) (Only Pay Millage).

Those with direct canal benefits total 38% of the total amount of taxable parcels. We are looking to see if we have a breakdown by units (as opposed to parcels) and if we don't have it by today we will have it for the December public hearing (if this item moves forward).

Hope this helps to answer your questions.

Howard N. Tipton

Town Manager

Town of Longboat Key

Donation of Beach Chairs

To: Longboat Key Commission

FYI on a good news story that helps us help some of residents who face mobility challenges with getting on and off the beach. Fire started this effort last year.

Howard N. Tipton Town Manager

Town of Longboat Key

Donation of Beach Chairs

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

There will be an article in the newpaper and a story on News 7 probably tonight about the beach chairs that were donated to us. We received two beach chairs that will be added to the one that we have been offering residents and visitors to use in order to get their elderly family or friends on and off the beach.

This program has been received well as we have been providing one beach chair to citizens for just about a year and know that with the two more in our fleet it will be even better. Just wanted to let you know...News 7 is here now filming.

Paul B. Dezzi

Fire Chief

Town of Longboat Key

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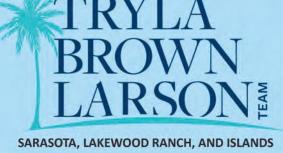
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BreakPoints



How can I raise my overall game

What, and in which strokes, are the main differences between a 3.5 and 4.5 level club player? What should a 3.5 player focus on to improve?

JACKIE BOHANNON Guest Columunist tennis@lbknews.com

For those unfamiliar with ratings the NTRP classifies players by their tennis playing abilities. A 1.5-2.0 is a beginner, and a 7.0 is a touring pro. Therefore a 3.5 is your average tennis player, a strong intermediate, who can for the most part play and fit in with anyone at the club. A 4.5

is an advanced recreational player. They are usually your best players at the club. Typically teaching pros start at 5.0 and higher, so your 4.5 players are usually your top echelon of recreational players.

As you improve up the ratings it increasingly becomes more difficult to get to the next level. That is because the details of the game start to become more minute. To answer your question, the difference between a 3.5 and a 4.5 is everything. The 4.5 is more well-rounded. The 3.5 may have one or two aspects of their game that are perhaps stronger than the 4.5 but the 4.5 has fewer weaknesses, more diversity, more match tough experience, etc.



BOHANINONI

If a player rated 3.5 has a goal of reaching 4.5 there are many areas to focus on to improve, so I will focus on the following: footwork, stances, anticipation, reaction, consistency, control, placement, and power.

Footwork- Generally, the better the player the better the footwork. Many 3.5's will split step for their volleys, but not at the baseline. Better players are always on their toes. Try split stepping anytime your opponent hits the ball.

Stance-Work on diversifying your stances. Many 3.5 players still hit with a mainly closed, or semi-closed stance. I highly recommend hitting open stance. Generally, more advanced players (like a 4.5 or higher) hit more balls with an open stance. You need a variety of footwork and stances, but the open stance disguises your shots more, gives you more topspin, and makes your recovery more efficient.

Anticipation — Beginners tend to start moving for the ball once it is already on their side. Intermediates usually start moving when the ball has already been hit by the opponent and is close to clearing the net. However advanced players tend to watch the ball come off their opponent's racquet, so they are able to start reading where the ball might go, and anticipate where they need to move. That is why when you watch advanced players it can look more effortless. A 4.5 will look at their opponent and recognize when they are in trouble and move in to look for a short ball. A 4.5 will recognize when their opponent is going to drop shot them. A 4.5

will see their opponent is going to hit a topspin or slice backhand.

Reaction — A 4.5 has better hands and quicker reaction times. A 3.5 should work on volley volley drills back and forth working on consistency first and then speed. A 3.5 might be able to volley back and forth at the net with a friend 30 times in a row. A 4.5 can do it 100 times and the speed will increase. Also a 3.5 tends to watch their shots, but a 4.5 hits and recovers immediately. A 3.5 gets surprised by their great shots, but a 4.5 expects them. A 3.5 remembers their good shots after a match, a 4.5 dwells on their bad ones.

Consistency — Generally,

a 4.5 is more consistent than a 3.5. One of my favorite drills is the 100 Ball Club. Try rallying with a friend or a pro and your goal is to get 100 balls consecutively baseline to baseline. Work on getting a higher first serve percentage. 3.5's still make more mistakes than winners. A 4.5 generally doesn't beat themselves. They make their opponent work for each and every point.

Control — A 3.5 needs to develop many speeds. Every ball can not be hit at the exact same pace. You need to have your consistent rally ball and your put away shot. Work on being able to hit at 25, 50, 75, and 100 percent power levels. You want to be able to hit angles, drop shots, lobs, as well as flat, topspin, and slice.

Placement — Work on hitting targets. Instead of focusing on a general area like hitting your forehand cross court, put targets out and aim for the target. Make the target smaller and smaller. At Bird Key we have a circle target where players can focus on hitting through the circle. This develops excellent placement and control. Always practice and hit with a purpose. Often I find players are thinking about just getting it in. A 4.5 really knows how to develop a point, and place the ball. They always have a plan.

Power — Not only does a 4.5 usually hit harder, but they know when to hit harder. Sometimes you'll have a 3.5 that can hit hard, but they are not consistent. A 4.5 attacks all short balls, and generally puts the ball away everytime they get a short, weak, or soft ball. If a 4.5 gets an overhead the point is done. If in doubles the 4.5 gets a shot at the net the point is done. A 4.5 knows when to pull the trigger and be more aggressive. Oftentimes a 3.5 doesn't put the ball away when they get the chance, or it takes 2 or 3 times to finish the point. Focus on finishing the point and putting the ball away the first time you get the opportunity.

In conclusion, advancing from a 3.5 to a 4.5 brings to mind one of my favorite philosophies called marginal gains. Marginal gains is the process in which small incremental improvements add up to significant improvement when they are all added together. This is a perfect mentality and work ethic for a tennis player looking to improve. Hopefully my few suggestions today will help you reach your goals.

Jackie Bohannon is the Director of Tennis at the Bird Key Yacht Club.

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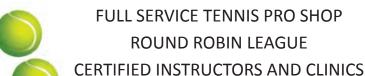
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