



# Longboat Key News

November 22, 2024      *Serving Longboat Key, St. Armands, Downtown Sarasota & Anna Maria Island*      FREE

## InsideLook



*The cost of debris removal ...page 4*



*LBK Canalfront tops \$3 million ...page 11*



*How sweet was the past ...page 12*



*Cat on the Hot White Wall ...page 10*

## Mote reopens following massive storm damage; manatee joins family

*“Mote has overcome the unprecedented challenge of experiencing back-to-back hurricanes, in which our Aquarium infrastructure suffered severe water damage due to Hurricane Helene, and then just days after, suffered significant water and wind damage due to Hurricane Milton,”*

Following massive flooding and damage, Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium opened its doors last Friday to its informal science education center, Mote Aquarium opens following an 8-week closure due to the impacts of Hurricanes Helene



and Milton. “Mote Aquarium has overcome the unprecedented challenge of experiencing back-to-back hurricanes, in which our Aquarium infrastructure suffered severe water damage due to Hurricane Helene, and  
**See Mote, page 2**

## Research shows small shark species suffer most in fin trade

*Their analysis revealed small coastal shark species are more common and threatened by international fin trade.*



Researchers from Mote Marine Laboratory, Florida International University, University of Miami and many scientists across the globe have discovered two areas of concern after analyzing small shark fins from Hong Kong markets — small coastal species are much more common in the international fin trade than previously thought and there is a burgeoning market for juveniles of large species.

Between 2014 and 2021, researchers analyzed the DNA of approximately 4,000 small shark fins collected from the markets. They looked at whole shark fins as well as trimmings taken from large and small fins, resulting in the most comprehensive assessment of species diversity of one of the world’s largest shark fin markets.

Their analysis revealed small coastal shark species are more common and threatened by international fin trade than previously documented, according to new research recently published in Science Advances.

This combined approach highlighted important management gaps for 19 small threatened species that are not currently regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This includes the Triakidae family, which comprise some of the most threatened and most common species in the small fin category.  
**See Shark fins, page 2**

## Explore Longboat’s beaches

*I don’t think you can go wrong with any beach access. The Longboat Key beaches are all beautiful and very rarely crowded. I go as often as I can, even if sometimes it is just to take in our breathtaking sunsets.*



**TRYLA LARSON**  
Guest Columnist  
news@lbknews.com

I know that our beloved island is still healing from the hurricanes. What a stressful and heartbreaking time. If the stress starts to feel overwhelming, take some time for yourself and go to the beach.

The beaches are one of the best things about our island paradise. Sitting in the sand and breathing in the salty gulf breeze is cathartic and beneficial. I thought that now

would be a good time to talk about the wonderful emotional stabilizing gift that nature provides us and which we all have access. There are many Gulf of Mexico beach accesses on Longboat Key, but only 12 of them are open to the public. They are all different. The access at 2825 Gulf of Mexico has parking available at the Town Hall. This means you have to cross Gulf of Mexico Drive to get to the beach. 6399 Gulfside Road has available

parking on General Harris Street. Once again you are required to cross Gulf of Mexico Drive to get to the beach. There have been several times I have seen surfers parking here headed to the beach with their surfboards. I usually see them on days following a stormy day. The 4001 Gulf of Mexico Drive access has available parking at Bayfront Park. An added benefit to this location is the restroom  
**See LBK Beach, page 2**



**Mote, from page 1**

then just days after, suffered significant water and wind damage due to Hurricane Milton,” said Dr. Michael P. Crosby, Mote President & CEO.

In addition to reopening Mote Aquarium, Crosby introduced Lou, who is a rescued manatee with “a remarkable story highlighting resilience and the importance of manatee research and conservation,” said Crosby.

Prior to the hurricanes, on September 11, 2024, Mote welcomed a rescued manatee, Lou, to its manatee habitat, including Buffett the manatee and a variety of fish species.

In anticipation of Hurricane Milton, an incredible effort was made to successfully relocate Lou and Buffett to a partner facility out of the direct forecasted path of the hurricane. Throughout the past week, Mote welcomed back Lou and Buffett, as well as other animals that had been transported off the island ahead of the hurricane.

Lou, a large adult male Florida manatee weighing 2,100 pounds, was transferred to Mote in a specialized manatee transport vehicle. Since his arrival, Mote’s veterinary, hospital and animal care teams have followed a gradual introduction plan, reviewed and approved by USFWS and partner organizations. The transition went very says Mote, and Mote’s animal care team will continue to monitor the manatees to help ensure compatibility.

Lou was rescued in December 2000 following a severe boat strike, resulting in the loss of most of his tail. Based on ten years of Florida manatee necropsy reports examined by FWC, one out of every four adult carcasses show evidence of 10 or more watercraft strikes. With only 4% of adult manatees devoid of watercraft-related scars, it appears exceedingly common for an adult manatee to be struck multiple times in its life. This study shows that manatees are subjected to more sublethal watercraft strikes than any other studied marine mammal and it underscores the need for continued long-term vigilance in conservation actions in Florida.

After his rescue, Lou was rehabilitated and received dedicated care at two different MRP facilities. Unfortunately, neither Lou nor Buffett meet the requirements for release. Based on careful consideration and valuable expert input from the MRP, USFWS recently approved the transfer of Lou to be placed with Buffett as a companion at Mote. The USFWS recommends that these manatees remain in Mote’s expert-managed guardianship to ensure Lou and Buffett receive the best possible care to support their long-term health and well-being.

You can visit Lou and Buffett and learn more about manatee conservation research at Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium, open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Shark Fins, from page 1**

according to Diego Cardenosa, FIU biologist and lead author in the study. He says international trade regulations must be applied sooner rather than later to protect this family due to their increased extinction risk and unsustainable trade levels.

The DNA analysis revealed something else — the small shark species are not the only ones showing up in the fin trade as small fins. A quarter of the small fins were actually from juveniles of large shark species, including critically endangered hammerheads as well as threatened silky sharks and blacktips. This finding indicates substantial exploitation of juveniles could be affecting fisheries’ sustainability.

For more than a decade, fin trade research has primarily focused on large fins, but by surveying small ones, Cardenosa said the actual species composition in the markets is quite different than what the previous assessments represent.

“Customs personnel around the world should thoroughly inspect small fin consignments as they likely hold species that are already regulated by international policies and should be accompanied by the right certificates,” Cardenosa said. “Otherwise, they are being illegally traded.”

Cardenosa is calling for enhanced surveillance and further research to ensure effective conservation strategies under emerging trade regulations. The study is a collaboration between Florida International University, University of Miami, Mote Marine Laboratory and others.

“While most of the management attention has been focused on large, iconic shark species caught in industrial open ocean fisheries, this study highlights that we must also pay attention to small, less famous species that are mainly caught in small-scale coastal fisheries. They may be small in size, but the catch of these species is huge and it is pushing many of them toward extinction,” said Dr. Demian Chapman, co-lead of the study, and Manager of Mote’s Sharks & Rays Conservation Research Program.

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# EditorLetters



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

## Eagles on Longboat Key

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
I again reached out to Headquarters. I was told they are engaging the Office of Communications and the Office of Law Enforcement. I have requested on multiple occasions that you be contacted directly to discuss this issue.  
Ulgonda Kirkpatrick  
USFWS Southeast Region  
Migratory Bird & Eagle Permit Office

## Eagles on Longboat Key

To: Ulgonda Kirkpatrick  
I have not received any communication from headquarters as yet.  
BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Longboat Key

## Eagles on Longboat Key

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop  
I verified that Headquarters staff will be reaching out to you on Monday. They are currently

on travel.  
Ulgonda Kirkpatrick  
USFWS Southeast Region  
Migratory Bird & Eagle Permit Office

## Eagles on Longboat Key

To: Ulgonda Kirkpatrick  
Unfortunately, the bald eagle couple's tree was removed yesterday, preceded by the destruction of their nest in view of the neighbors who have enjoyed their presence for over 15 years. Not only was this just before their nesting season begins, but in the immediate aftermath of two devastating storms that destroyed a number of the homes in the eagles' neighborhood. It was a very sad day for an island that prides itself on conservancy and expends thousands of dollars a year protecting the sea turtles that nest on our beaches.  
For the information of your department, until its destruction the eagles' tree looked exactly as it did before the storms with the exception of a single branch below the nest that could have been easily removed without damage to the nest or its residents. We are very disappointed here in the lack of regard shown by our government in this case.  
Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Town of Longboat Key

## Eagles on Longboat Key

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier  
Mayor Schneier and Commissioner Bishop, my apologies for not responding to this sooner. To introduce myself, I am the Eagle Biologist for the Southeast Region with the USFWS Migratory Bird Program. I work alongside our Permit Chief, Resee Collins, also copied. I am the biologist that reviews Specific permit applications for eagle disturbance and nest take in the southeast.  
Regarding nest SA033- the permit that was issued for nest take was issued out of the Headquarters Office under a General Permit for Bald Eagle Nest Take. The southeast region does not review or issue general permits. I wanted to make sure that was clear. I did not review this application or take part in issuing this permit. If you want to discuss the General Permit that was issued, please contact Headquarters at: [migratorybirdpermits@fws.gov](mailto:migratorybirdpermits@fws.gov)  
This is the official response from our Communications team regarding the permit and regulations. For further questions, please see Carl's contact information below.  
Thank you for reaching out. Please note, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service authorizes the take of an eagle nest.  
The permittee is responsible for ensuring that the activity involving the take of eagle nests authorized by this permit complies with all other applicable Federal, Tribal, State, and local laws. This permit is not valid if implementing any of its provisions may affect a listed, proposed, or candidate species or designated or proposed critical habitat under the federal Endangered Species Act, nor has the potential to cause effects to cultural resources or historic properties protected by the National Historic Preservation Act.  
Eagles are quite territorial and will generally remain within their territory (1.5 – 2 mile radius) whenever a nest is lost. Biologically, it would be best to take the nest either before nesting season begins, or as quickly as possible. That way the pair has time to rebuild before their typical egg laying period, which begins around December or January.

See Letters, page 6

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# Editor Letters



## Letters, from page 4

Permits are issued to the entity or individual conducting the action, such as the owner or manager of the entity conducting the activity. The permittee is responsible for compliance with the permit and must have the authority to implement the required permit conditions. Contractors or consultants may assist in completing an application as well as conducting the work as a sub-permittee but may not be a permit holder. Let us know if you have any questions.

Carli Segelson  
Public Affairs Specialist  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Eagles on Longboat Key

To: Ulgonda Kirkpatrick, Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

I have been the Mayor of Longboat Key for 5 years and participated in a discussion at our Town Commission meeting yesterday that involved the proposed elimination of the one tree on our island that hosts an active eagles’ nest, and has so for money years.

While I understand that it is not within our province at the Town to determine the removal of the tree and these eagles or not, please understand that we take great pride in our environmental awareness and, in particular, the care of our wildlife on Longboat Key. There is a special affinity for our eagle couple and the children the produce almost every year.

I have visited the site of the tree since this issue surfaced and taken photographs. Though I am not an arborist, it would be clear to anyone with vision that the tree in question has one dangling branch, but that its main trunk and elements, including the location of the nest, are demonstrably intact and upright.

As a resident of Longboat who has enjoyed the eagles as a part of our environmental trust, along with the sea turtles and the seabirds that nest on our beaches, I request your help in avoiding the loss of these fine creatures and their home.

Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Town of Longboat Key

## Eagles on Longboat Key

To: Ulgonda Kirkpatrick

You have issued a tree removal permit for a property on Triton Bend Road for removal of a tree that is occupied by two eagles that have been in that tree for over 25 years. The tree, which I have personally seen for 20 years has not been damaged by the recent hurricanes but the people in the home on Triton Bend have wanted the tree gone for some time. There is a limb which may need removal away from the nest, but the tree appears stable.

The Triton Bend home was delayed in construction because it is too close to the eagle’s nest and the eagles had laid eggs.

I am disappointed that you have issued a permit based on a report by someone who can make money by taking the tree down. By the way, the base of the tree is not on the property on Triton Bend but is on the property at 604 Buttonwood Drive.

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

## Dredging

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin

Gary, I was surprised you didn’t represent the interests of your canal front constituents on the dredging issue. What was it that persuaded you?

I still appreciate all you do I was just surprised and somewhat disappointed.

Lynn Larson  
Longboat Key

## Construction

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

Regarding the building permit for 597 Buttonwood Drive, the house and site are still both under construction; drainage and grading work are not yet complete. There is an onsite drainage collection system for the lot that they are tasked with constructing, including drainage inlets and swales, which is unusual for a single-family lot, but is part of the Town’s approval for this site to build in this area. Only portions of this system are in place because they are under active construction. Public Works will be meeting with the contractor onsite on Thursday to inform the contractor that the driveways were not poured per the drainage plan that Public Works approved and to get with their engineer to resolve it.

The new Brista Homes commercial site is also under active construction, and drainage and grading work are not yet complete. The developer has a drainage system that will collect onsite runoff and manage it through their system; the developer also agreed to help collect some of Winslow Place runoff as part of the completed project. Those are all still part of the approved drainage plan and is work in progress.

The Triton subdivision was approved around 2006 – 2008. All those newer Triton subdivision lots drain runoff to roadway collection inlets that are directed to an onsite dry retention area (see image below with red box). That area has a control structure that eventually discharges to the ditch when it reaches a certain elevation and at a reduced release rate. The existing lots that pre-existed the Triton subdivision had some historic runoff flows that flowed through the Buttonwood ditch and were not included to add flow to the retention area. The house under construction at 3100 Gulf of Mexico Drive is one of those lots and they also are tasked with building an onsite drainage system to help manage runoff before it reaches the rear ditch. Ultimately, once the Town advances the Buttonwood drainage improvement projects, the 3100 Gulf of Mexico Drive runoff and other area runoff going that direction is planned to be re-directed away from that rear ditch and taken to the south across the Pyrula Drive right-of-way and work to outfall to another direction. That will help reduce the volume and rate of runoff going through the ditch overall.

Finally, the Town maintains the ditch, and it is on our list as part of debris clean-up effort for the portion east of the Triton retention area. Earth Balance, our contractor who works on a variety of our Town ditches and swales, visited the site and is putting together a quote to help clean up the ditch by removing storm debris. Once we have the quote and if the cost is reasonable, we can proceed with them.

Isaac Brownman  
Assistant Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

## Water Issues

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

Yes, we will provide an update shortly.

Howard N. Tipton  
Town Manager  
Town of Longboat Key

## Water Issues

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton

The neighbors have asked again about the drainage issues with the new home on Buttonwood and now that the shopping center construction has begun and the lot has been raised how that water is going to be handled. Can you please provide an update?

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

## Hurricanes

To: Longboat Key Commission

May I suggest that the Town lobby Congressmen Steube and Buchanan to sponsor a bill to have Congress declare Helene/Milton as qualified disasters for income tax purposes? This would waive the 10 percent adjusted gross income threshold for casualty losses that otherwise applies in disaster zones. The 10 percent AGI threshold renders the casualty loss deduction unusable for those who suffered less than a total loss or are in higher tax brackets. This was done for Maria, Irma, Harvey and other storms.

James G. Haft  
Longboat Key

## Construction at Buttonwood

To: John Varley

I have been back and forth with town and they have informed the contractor at 597 the driveways do not match the plans and must be corrected.

Regarding the building permit for 597 Buttonwood Drive, the house and site are still both under construction; drainage and grading work are not yet complete. There is an onsite drainage collection system for the lot that they are tasked with constructing, including drainage inlets and swales, which is unusual for a single-family lot, but is part of the Town’s approval for this site to build in this area. Only portions of this system are in place because they are under active construction. Public Works will be meeting with the contractor onsite on Thursday to inform the contractor that the driveways were not poured per the drainage plan that Public Works approved and to get with their engineer to resolve it.

BJ Bishop  
Commissioner  
Town of Longboat Key

## Debris Pick up Reimbursement for Private Roads

To: Florida Division of Emergency Management Special Considerations Planner Ashley Mitchell

I learned from our Longboat Key staff that the resolution of our private road debris pick-up

See Letters, page 8

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# Editor Letters



**Letters, from page 6**

issue was to now allow Town contractors to remove debris from those neighborhoods. This would have been perfect if it had been the policy from the start (as it has been in the past), or even if it had been allowed as of the time we first discussed the matter almost two months ago. Instead, we were advised that Town pick-up would not be allowed (or all public road coverage for the Town would be endangered), but that a plan for reimbursement of neighborhoods employing their own contractors would be explored.

On that encouraging basis, many private road neighborhoods, including the worst affected, sought bids, took pictures and retained private debris removers to prepare to file for reimbursement. If they are now out of luck, the system has failed them.

I would ask, first, that this result be rectified and private road neighborhoods be permitted to obtain reimbursement for debris removal undertaken in good faith. Second, FDEM and FEMA should collaborate now to ensure that the discrimination in emergency services against private road communities that make up so much of Florida’s residential population is clearly reversed going forward. Thanks for all your good works and your continued attention to this matter.

Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Longboat Key

**Debris Pick up Reimbursement for Private Roads**

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier  
That should have read today, tomorrow, or anytime next week. I was writing a reply while leaving church and typed improperly in my haste.  
Ashley Mitchell  
Special Considerations Planner  
Florida Division of Emergency Management

**Debris Pick up Reimbursement for Private Roads**

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier  
I believe this was addressed accordingly at a meeting on 11/15/24 at 2:30EST with all the representatives listed in this email. However, should the information provided prove not to be sufficient, I am available today, rollers, or anytime next week to assist further.  
Ashley Mitchell  
Special Considerations Planner  
Florida Division of Emergency Management

**Debris Pick up Reimbursement for Private Roads**

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
This issue has been on the table for several weeks now with no resolution. I’m afraid that time may run out on any possible option for these neighborhoods to have a chance at reimbursement for storm costs (previously covered), which in some cases will exceed \$100,000. We had an initial enthusiastic reaction from Ashley Mitchell at Florida FDEM, to whom we were directed by Senator Boyd, followed by an all hands meeting on October 25, but no word since.

To be clear, some of these neighborhoods have gone out of pocket to clear their debris and others are in the process. They are not looking for the Town or State to do anything except provide guidance and an avenue for the reimbursement of the reasonable costs of this work.

Thanks again.  
Ken Schneier  
Mayor  
Longboat Key

**FEMA 50 percent presentation**

To: Longboat Key Town Commission  
The City of Clearwater has given their permission to share the handouts and presentation they used at their recent info session for their residents. It focuses heavily on the FEMA 50 Percent Rule.

See yellow highlighter below. And green highlighter below that. The meeting recording is below.

Julie Garrett  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience  
U.S. Small Business Administration

**FEMA 50 percent presentation**

To: Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience Public Affairs Specialist Julie Garrett  
Thank-you for all your help on Saturday, and your presentation provided a great deal of help to our community!

Yes, this is completely okay to share with our peers. Please let them know that the City of Clearwater’s higher standards are slightly different than that of Longboat Key, but the basics and minimum standards associated with the 50% threshold are the same. The City is very happy to assist and please use the presentation if it provides assistance to the their City and community. Also, remind them that Pinellas County also has information that may be shared.

Eugene (Gene) Henry  
Floodplain Administrator  
City of Clearwater

See Letters, page 15



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[lambianceA401.com](http://lambianceA401.com)

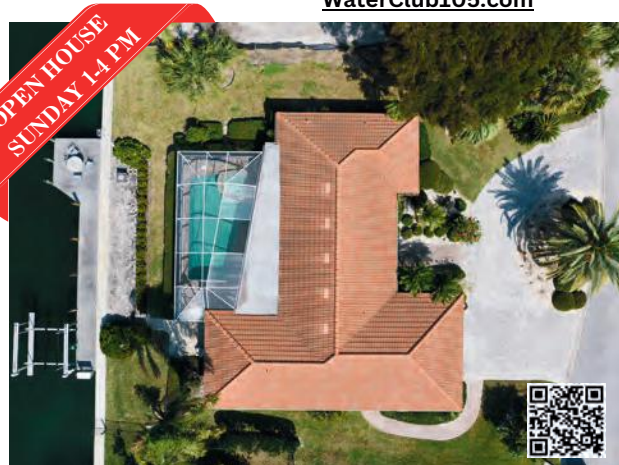
## L'AMBIANCE



**415 L'Ambiance Drive #F608 - \$6,900,000 - Contract available for assignment:**  
Experience luxury living at its finest with this stunning Royal floorplan. Offered turnkey furnished, thoughtfully curated, only a few items excluded. This exquisite residence features three bedrooms ensuite, office or bonus room. Private elevator into your residence, 10-foot ceilings, stunning herringbone-patterned wood flooring. This home has been fully renovated to the highest standards by Mark Sultana of DSDG, featuring premium Thermador appliances and new windows and doors. State-of-the-art fitness center, Olympic-sized pool that overlooks the Gulf with direct access to the beach. L'Ambiance on Longboat Key is not just a residence; it's an exclusive lifestyle waiting for discerning buyers seeking the pinnacle of luxury living.  
**No water intrusion in this home from the storms.**



**2251 Gulf of Mexico Drive #204 - \$7,999,000**  
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**No water intrusion in this home from the storms.**  
[Aria204.com](http://Aria204.com)



**521 Putting Green Lane - \$1,899,000**  
Value-Location and Instant enjoyment is waiting for you in this 3BR bedroom home w/deeded beach access on protected, sailboat water w/direct access to SRQ Bay w/no bridges. It is located in desirable Country Club Shores on the South Longboat key. This home offers Newer HURRICANE IMPACT GLASS/Sliding glass throughout the entire home. Newer roof, air conditioning, mar-cited pool and spa, newer seawall and lift rated for a 10,000-lb capacity. Enjoy all the amenities of elegant living, plus the social and enriching events that make Sarasota the cultural capital of Florida. Sarasota bustles with many art galleries and antique shops. From New York bagels to elegant bistros and world-class restaurants, its marinas, and golf courses.  
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[521PuttingGreenLn.com](http://521PuttingGreenLn.com)

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[WaterClub105.com](http://WaterClub105.com)



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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.

## Nov. 15 Cat

6:06 p.m.  
Officer Ericsson was dispatched to the 3800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on an animal call involving a cat stuck in a wall. Officer Ericsson called the person and advised him that the police department does not handle animal calls of this nature. The complainant advised that the cat came out of the wall on its own.

## Fishing

9:05 p.m.  
Officer Miklos and Officer Martinson were dispatched to the intersection of Firehouse Lane and Firehouse Road in reference to five people loitering. Upon arrival, Officer Miklos came into contact with a group of men who were legally parked along the side of the road. The men advised they were getting their fishing equipment out of their vehicle and about to walk to the beach to fish. There was no suspicious activity observed and the men did have fishing equipment. Case clear.

## Nov. 16 Labor and Work Contract

12:02 p.m.  
Officer Nazareno was dispatched to the 2000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a civil dispute call regarding a subcontractor and his employer who was not on scene. Upon arrival, Officer Nazareno made contact with the complainant who said that he had a dispute over his employer over the phone regarding his wages for the hours worked this past week. Due to the complainant not being able to speak in English, Sgt. Smith contacted the employer and was advised that the dispute was a civil matter. The complainant was given instructions in Spanish on how to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor. Case clear.

## Nov. 17 Racoon

12:35 p.m.  
Officer Tillman while on patrol, was flagged down by a citizen. The citizen advised that he as traveling south on Gulf of Mexico Drive and hit a racoon that had run out into the roadway. Once the man found a safe place to stop, he observed the racoon was resting behind the front grill of a 2024 Lotus. Manatee County Animal Control was advised of the situation and shortly arrived on scene. Manatee County Animal Control Officers were able to retrieve the uninjured racoon from the vehicle's front grill. Case clear.

## Residence check

7:35 p.m.  
Officer Ericsson and Officer Martinson were dispatched to Longview Drive on a report of a suspicious incident. The caller said the owners were not home, lights were on in the residence and there were workers present during the day. The caller stated she believed someone could possibly be inside. Upon arrival, officers noticed lights on inside the residence. An exterior check was conducted and all doors were locked except the second floor rear sliding door, which was closed, but unlocked. An interior check of the residence revealed the house to be empty and no signs of foul play. The door appeared to have been left unlocked. Officer Ericsson contacted the calling party and advised her of their findings. She thanked officers. Case clear.

## Resident assist

11:05 p.m.  
Officer Miklos while on patrol observed an unknown man in dark clothing stumbling in the middle of the southbound and bicycle lanes. Officer Miklos made contact with an intoxicated man who advised he left a wedding at the resort and he was able to call a friend who arrived on scene. The man said they were staying at the resort and the two men were provided a courtesy ride to the resort. Case clear.



## Nov. 18 Driver's license

4:42 p.m.  
Sgt. Montfort while on patrol in Longbeach Village, observed a maroon pickup truck pulling a black trailer with no license plate. A traffic stop was conducted in the area of Linley Street. Sgt. Montfort observed the pickup truck driver was not wearing a seatbelt. Sgt. Montfort made contact with the operator who provided the officer a Guatemalan Passport, and he was asked if he possessed a driver's license and he said 'no.' Moreover, the driver said he was moving the trailer for his boss and was unable to provide any registration documents. Soon after, the registered owner of the trailer arrived on scene and provided the license plate and correct documentation on the trailer and said it was just purchased. The driver did not have an excuse for not attaching the license plate to the trailer. Sgt. Montfort returned to his patrol vehicle and conducted a FCIC/NCIC check of the pickup truck's registration which returned to the driver. Sgt. Montfort further observed the driver had numerous suspensions for failing to pay traffic offenses. The driver was processed and released with three uniformed traffic citations. The vehicle was turned over to the driver's friend.

## Construction

6:18 p.m.  
Officer Ramsaier was dispatched to the 2800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a call of a suspicious person. The complainant said that an unknown man was bulldozing debris in the rear of the location and dumping the debris on the beach. Upon arrival, Officer Ramsaier made contact with the man who was observed operating a Bobcat in the back of the location. The man said that he was doing cleanup for the owner of the hotel. Officer Ramsaier did not observe any debris on the beach portion at the back. Case clear.

## Nov. 19 Parking

11:31 p.m.  
Officer Pescuma while on patrol, observed a vehicle parked in a closed commercial lot. A NCIC/FCIC check shows that the vehicle was not reported stolen or abandoned. There were no occupants and the vehicle was not derelict. The officer found a note on the windshield stating, "waiting on tow in the morning due to flat tire." Case clear.

## Nov. 20 Driver's license

4:40 a.m.  
Officer Ramsaier while on patrol observed a vehicle travelling in the same direction whose tag lights were not illuminated and not clearly visible from 50 feet. The first observation was in the 1900 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Ramsaier continued in the same direction, behind the vehicle until reaching the traffic light at the intersection of Gulf of Mexico Drive and Bay Isles Parkway. The vehicle pulled into the right turn lane with a steady green light and remained stopped at the light for approximately five seconds before turning eastbound onto Bay Isles Parkway. The traffic stop was conducted at the 500 Bay Isles Parkway. Officer Ramsaier conducted an FCIC/NCIC query at the time of the stop. Officer Ramsaier made contact with the driver and asked him if he was the owner of the vehicle and he said that he was not but that it was his son in law's car. Officer Ramsaier explained the reason for the stop and requested the driver's license from the driver. The driver stated he works on Longboat Key. When the officer asked if he had a driver's license, he replied that he does not have one. Officer Ramsaier asked if the driver had any identification or anything with his name on it, and he produced a Consulate Identification Card from Mexico. Officer Ramsaier asked if the driver was aware that he needed a valid driver's license to operate a motor vehicle, and he replied that he needs to work. The driver said he works at the Club. Officer Ramsaier cited him for no driver's license and improper tag lights. Case clear.

## Resident check

12:14 p.m.  
Officer Maple was dispatched to Exeter Drive for a signal 13 call. The call was in reference to a male caller saying something was in the water but it was not an emergency. The caller hung up after saying it was not an emergency but a woman in the background could be heard saying "no, no, no." Upon Officer Maple's arrival, he thoroughly canvassed the body of water in between Exeter Drive and Falmouth Drive with negative sightings for anyone in distress or any emergency circumstances. Bystanders said they didn't see or hear anything out of the ordinary in the vicinity and no personnel were located close to the water. Case clear.

## Nov. 11 Resident assist

9:45 a.m.  
Officer Maple was dispatched to the 5400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a suspicious incident call. The call was in regard to possible illegal dumping of two railroad ties in front of the complainant's home. Upon his arrival, Officer Maple spoke to the complainant who said her home on Cedar Street had been devastated by a recent hurricane and they had to throw most of their furniture out by the street. The furniture disposal occurred on or about the 11th of November. During that time, there was no railroad ties on her property. After her furniture was removed from the road she noticed the large railroad ties and believes they were placed there by her neighbor but does not have proof. The complainant said her neighbor is not friendly and complainant does not believe she should be responsible for the removal costs. Officer Maple explained without evidence or a witness it would most likely be the homeowner's responsibility to remove. Case clear.

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1581 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#605	4,017	\$7,876,100	4	4	1	0	\$7,639,817
550 WEDGE LN	2,649	\$3,250,000	4	4	0	0	\$3,185,000
2410 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#144	3,825	\$3,195,000	3	3	1	20	\$2,900,000
612 MARBURY LN	1,128	\$850,000	2	2	0	344	\$755,000
2045 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#M1-615	1,076	\$769,000	2	2	0	1	\$750,000
860 EVERGREEN WAY	1,440	\$768,000	2	2	1	72	\$750,000
6750 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#161	936	\$495,000	1	1	0	131	\$350,000
4310 FALMOUTH DR Unit#A205	747	\$399,000	1	1	0	121	\$390,000
2600 HARBOURSIDE DR Unit#G-14		\$216,000				91	\$210,000



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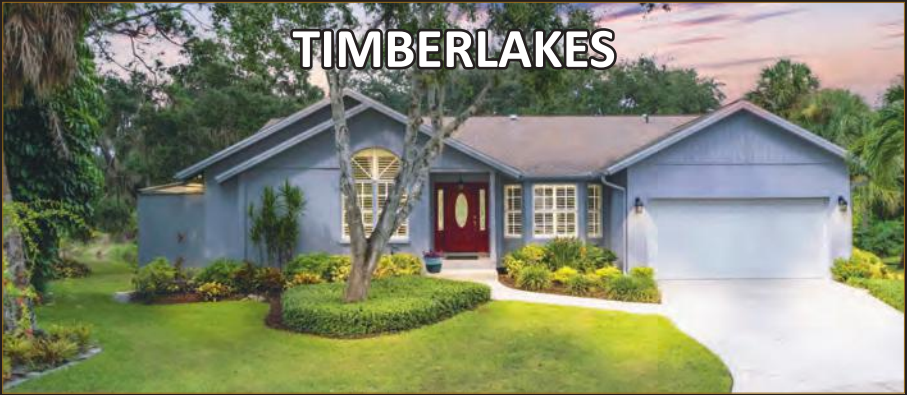
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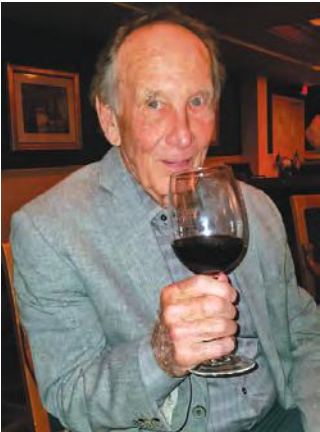
# WineTimes

## How Sweet It Was!

*Wine drinkers of all ages in the USA shifted their purchases of wines dramatically from sweet wines to dry table wines between 1960 and 1980.*

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

As the Thanksgiving holiday in the US approaches, families are shopping for all of the traditional fresh turkey and dressing, glazed ham, cranberry relish, corn pudding, sweet potato casserole, green vegetables and salads, wine, beer, and spirits.



Food and drink fit the harvest season and the advent of cooler weather. Gravy and cream sauces, craft beer, sweeter wines, and sipping whiskey, liqueurs, and dessert wines. No doubt favorite Thanksgiving white wines such as Riesling, Gewürztraminer, Moscato, Muscadet, Viognier, Roussanne, and Marsanne tend to have sweeter or heftier tastes than crisper white wines such as Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, and Pinot Gris/Grigio.

But how do popular wines today compare with popular wines in prior decades? This question came to the fore when I noticed “Blu Nun” on the wine list of the Turmeric Restaurant in Sarasota. Blue Nun wines enjoyed a wave of sales in the USA during the 1960’s. A small taste of the Blue Nun Riesling confirmed suspicions that the wine would taste far too sweet: cloying, in fact. We had preferred the Blue Nun



Liebfraumilch which has an even more cloying 32 grams of residual sugar per liter compared to the Riesling merely excessive 27 grams per liter. (True sophomoronics, we called the

Liebfraumilch “Leap Frog Milk”)  
Not only has generation O (for old) tastes evolved from sweet wines capable of inducing a diabetic coma, wine drinkers of all ages in the USA shifted their purchases of wines dramatically from sweet wines to dry table wines between 1960 and 1980.

The reasons for this shift remain unclear. Perhaps because the average Alcohol By Volume (ABV) of wines has increased from around 12% prior to 1980 to 14.5%-15.0% currently, the need to fortify wines has lessened. The 1980 and later wines have been in effect fortified by a 3% increase in ABV.

The American Association of Wine Economists’ graphics show the progression from one decade to the next. The substantial increase in the popularity of sparkling wines looks trivial in comparison to increases in the popularity of dry table wines.

Concerns about sugar content of wine likely has played a role among dieters and advocates of a Mediterranean diet. We suspect that wine buyers pay more attention to calories in wine than beer and spirits drinkers.

How sweet was wine in the 1960 era? Drugstores in the USA continue to offer the sweet wines of the 1960’s. Try one of them and see for yourself.

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

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

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Letters, from page 8

FEMA 50 percent presentation

To: City of Clearwater Floodplain Administrator Eugene Henry  
Could I get an electronic copy of your presentation/the packet you gave out Saturday? Longboat Key in Manatee County – if it is okay with you, I would like to share it with their Building Dept – or you could reach out directly:  
Allen Parsons – Director of Planning, Zoning and Building  
aparson@longboatkey.org  
I spoke with the assistant to their town manager and told her about your “teach in” on the FEMA 50 percent rule and that I would ask if you would share your presentation. Or is there a recording on the city website?  
Julie Garrett  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience

EFEMA 50 percent presentation

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton  
Good idea to include insurance in your community session. I have heard a lot of stories from homeowners over the years about their struggles to get their claims processed fairly.  
Please allow us to participate as we have good options for folks. I am going to share some of the points below... don't want to overwhelm you with too much info.  
I've been assigned to outreach for Sarasota and Manatee Counties, so hoping to visit your office in person in the near future.  
Low interest, federal disaster loans are for homeowners, renters, businesses of all sizes, and

Longboat Beaches, from page 1

facilities at Bayfront Part. The public beach accesses on Longboat Key do not have restrooms, so the ones at Bayfront Park save you from having to get in your car and drive to a restroom. However, like the previously mentioned access points you have to cross the street at this beach access as well.  
The beach accesses at 3175 Gulf of Mexico Drive and 3355 Gulf of Mexico Drive have parking on the beach side of the road. If you are not a fan of walking across Gulf of Mexico Drive maybe these are the beach accesses for you.  
The beach access at 3495 Gulf of Mexico Drive Has handicap accessible parking on the beach side of the road and additional parking across the street on Longview.  
The beach access at 100 North Shore Road is the most Northern access on the island. It has parking on the beach side of Gulf of Mexico Drive. It is also my personal favorite. I loved it when the beach was smaller, and the fishing piers were longer. I used to walk through the trees to get to the very northern beach next to the bridge. It was a great location for photos. During high tide I would sometimes have to wade through the Gulf water to even get to the path that went through the trees. Now that the beach is wider and deeper it is a beautiful beach that can accommodate more people. Even so, there is always only a fraction of the people there as are across the channel on Coquina Beach. I often see couples taking engagement or wedding pictures there. My favorites are the soon-to=be moms wearing long flowing dresses that expose their baby bump having pregnancy pictures taken. I also can't begin to tell you how many dolphins and manatee I have spotted there. Even the trees that mother nature uprooted and left lying on the beach look like works of art.  
There are also accesses at 4711 and 4795 Gulf of Mexico Drive. Both have handicap accessible parking on site.  
Another good beach access is at 100 Broadway Street. It is one of the larger beach access points on Longboat Key with a long wooden boardwalk leading out to the beach. They even have little cubbies for your shoes. You can watch a gorgeous sunset on the beach and then walk across the street to Whitney's for dinner. I love the Strawberry Walnut Salad at Whitney's.  
You can also use the parking at the 100 Broadway Street access when using the beach access at 6647 Gulf of Mexico Drive.  
The beach access at 7055 Seabreeze has no public parking available. I feel like it is probably used by locals who can walk to that access.  
Lastly, I have to mention that even though it is not a beach access, you can go to the parking area at the very south end of Longboat Key, on the West side of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Get out of your car and take the walkway along the water that goes under Gulf of Mexico Drive. Head toward the trees.  
There is a fairly easy pathway through the trees and part is even finished with composite wood. There is a conservation area there and several picaboo views of the water. You will end

nonprofit organizations – these loans are for uncompensated physical losses – filling that gap between what insurance pays and what your residents need to fully repair and rebuild, including if your homeowners must rebuild to higher standards due to FEMA's 50 percent rule.  
Disaster loans cover things FEMA and insurance do not, including insurance deductibles and outdoor damage to fencing, decks, sheds, landscaping, driveways, walkways, etc. They cover condos and HOAs. There is the option to add mitigation funding to these loans. Those with severe damage have the option to roll their repairs and existing mortgage into a new, low-interest loa, or to use their loan to relocate. So, it is more than just a straight-up loan; there are nuances.... that can really give your residents additional options for their recovery.  
We encourage everyone with damage to apply; it is free to apply and there is no obligation to accept. They have 3 weeks to look over the paperwork and decide, and if they decide not to get the loan at this time, they have 6 months to change their mind. Once they get a loan, they have 2 years to increase the amount if their repairs end up costing more than planned or if they want to add funding for mitigation projects.  
If tourism is down and your small businesses are feeling economic impacts, they can apply for working capital to help them meet their operating expenses and keep the doors open until Longboat Key fully recovers. They can also cover lost repairs and lost rental income for Air BnBs or vacation rentals through business loans.  
Julie Garrett  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience  
U.S. Small Business Administration

up at a nice overlook type of deck that looks out onto the water. A lot of times the water is so clear you can see the sheepshead and other fish swimming around the pylons. I have also on occasion been able to watch multiple kite surfers out on the water.  
I don't think you can go wrong with any beach access. The Longboat Key beaches are all beautiful and very rarely crowded. I go as often as I can, even if sometimes it is just to take in our breathtaking sunsets.  
Remember to take time for yourself and go to the beach. Dig your toes in the sand. Breathe in the Gulf air and as they say in the Disney movie Frozen, “Let it Go.”

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