



Founding father.
PAGE 27A

YOUR TOWN



Courtesy photos

Spring break at the beach

There's a lot more to do on Longboat Key's beaches during spring break than splash in the water or build sand castles.

Brayden, 8, and Andy Gold, 4, from Louisville, Kentucky, learned that while visiting their grandparents. They did a little clamming March 30 (top).

Just up the beach a day later, another group of kids, cousins Grayson and Ellie Tester of Madison, Wisconsin, and Jacob Reyes of Naperville, Illinois, visiting their grandparents, spotted (but didn't touch) a small shark (above).

Public Works, public service

Robert "Rob" Habedank of the town's Public Works Department had a different kind of work day Monday.

Habedank was on duty at Bayfront Park when a woman's dog jumped off the seawall into Sarasota Bay at the south end of park.

A nearby couple tried to help but couldn't find a path through the mangroves to reach the pet. When the couple sought Habedank's help nearby, he jumped into the water, made friends with the dog and lifted him out.

"A wonderful Public Works employee who didn't hesitate for a minute to help," said Elaine Kaufman, who saw it all unfold.



Chief heads back to school

Smith accepts top cop job at Florida Gulf Coast U.
SEE PAGE 2A



EASTER MEMORIES

A lot about the spring holiday seemed normal.
SEE PAGE 1B

Nat Kaemmerer

Suzanne and Reef Keating take a break from egg hunting at Sand Cay on Sunday.



Mark Bergin

Town picks its projects

Sewage-system upgrades approved as part of agreement with state regulators.
SEE PAGE 3A

Town officials selected about \$280,000 in work on the sewage system from a list of about a dozen projects.



Classically new.
SEE PAGE 12B

Officials begin search for new police chief

Longboat Key Police Chief Kelli Smith's resignation is effective as of April 30.

MARK BERGIN
STAFF WRITER

Longboat Key will soon begin searching for a new police chief for the second time in a year.

Police Chief Kelli Smith announced last week she would resign April 30. She is due to start May 3 as police chief of Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers.

"I said in my statement we were disappointed, but I think it's a great opportunity for Chief Smith, and I've wished her well in the transition, and I want to focus on now what's best for the town moving forward," Town Manager Tom Harmer said.

Smith, who started Oct. 26, 2020, declined to speak with the *Longboat Observer* and instead referred to her resignation letter.

"I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the privilege of serving as the chief of police for the town of Longboat Key," Smith wrote in her letter. "During my tenure, we were able to accomplish a lot."

In her cover letter to FGCU, Smith wrote: "In 2020, I returned to Florida and have been the police chief for the town of Longboat Key. While this opportunity is rewarding, I deeply miss the student experience side of university policing and the opportunity to engage with tomorrow's leaders."

The town is set to select an interim chief while looking for Smith's permanent successor.

"It's an area that I plan to be patient on, especially the longer-term appointment of a permanent chief," Harmer said.

"I don't want to rush into that. I want to take our time with that, so we're not going to advertise it immediately."

The town had discussions with employees within the police department and department heads and had nearby law enforcement agencies assist in the interview process to hire Smith.

"It's something that we'll do again," Harmer said.

Deputy Police Chief Frank Rubino was among two internal



Mark Bergin

Kelli Smith is due to start May 3 as the police chief of Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers.

candidates who applied for the police chief role before the town hired Smith. Former Police Chief Pete Cumming promoted Rubino to deputy chief in April 2014. Rubino took a job as captain in February 2013.

"Any qualified applicant will be able to submit," Harmer said. "It's too early in the process to say how many there will be or what-not, but anyone that's interested

in the position internally should communicate that to us."

In October 2020, Cumming retired after a 40-year career in law enforcement, which included 12 years in Longboat Key.

Smith came into the position with 29 years of law enforcement experience, which included roles with the police departments of North Arizona University and the University of Central Florida.

TALE OF THE TAPE

Comparison of Longboat Key and Florida Gulf Coast University, by the numbers:

ANNUAL SALARY FOR KELLI SMITH
■ Longboat Key: \$115,000
■ FGCU: \$125,000

POPULATION
■ Longboat Key: 7,098 full-time residents, up to 24,000 during winter months
■ FGCU: About 16,000 students, faculty and staff

SIZE OF POLICE DEPARTMENT
■ Longboat Key: 18 sworn officers and supervisors and three civilian employees
■ FGCU: 18 officers and supervisors and six civilian employees

DEPARTMENT BUDGET
■ Longboat Key: \$3.18 million, not including capital budget
■ FGCU: \$2.1 million, not including additional grant money the department receives

SERVICE CALLS IN 2020
■ Longboat Key: 11,889
■ FGCU: 26,736

SIZE OF JURISDICTION
■ Longboat Key: About 4.27 square miles
■ FGCU: About 1 square mile for the main campus

Sources: Town of Longboat Key and Florida Gulf Coast University



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3.55196-1

ON THE WATERFRONT

Town leaders select well upgrade, generator replacement to satisfy state consent order connected to 2020 sewer spill.



Photos by Mark Bergin

MARK BERGIN
STAFF WRITER

Longboat Key town commissioners voted unanimously Monday to move forward with a pair of projects to satisfy a state order connected to the town’s June 2020 sewage line break.

The town is proposing to bypass, clean, repair and line a wet well at Master Lift Station D on Gulf Bay Road, which would cost about \$182,000. The plan also includes another \$100,000 to replace an existing 2006 back-up generator at the lift station.

For now, commissioners decided to forego enhancing the seawall at Bayfront Park. There was also consideration of conducting a living shoreline study with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program.

“We believe both of those projects to be submitted directly enhance the sewer system, and therefore we think they’re appropriate for an in-kind [project] versus paying a penalty,” Town Manager Tom Harmer said. “We would rather spend the money on projects or infrastructure here at the town than paying a fine even though the fine amount is less.”

The total of \$282,000 surpasses the \$281,073 required by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. In March, the town chose to pursue in-kind projects instead of paying \$188,382 in civil penalties and costs.

The consent order requires the town to submit its project list for FDEP review by May 3. The FDEP is set to approve the town’s project by Aug. 31, and the plan is to complete the environmental projects by February 2022.

“There’s some opportunity for some back and forth,” Harmer said. “They may want clarification or follow-up information.”

If the FDEP does not approve Longboat Key’s project list, which includes making revisions, the town would be responsible for paying the penalty.

Public Works Director Isaac Brownman is overseeing the management of the town’s con-

sent order. Brownman explained how the town decided the wet well project would be worthwhile after it got cleaned last year.

“Once it was cleaned, it was determined that it would be a very good idea to line that wet well to preserve the life and longevity of that wet well,” Brownman said. “Again, all of the effluent from Longboat Key travels through that wet well before it gets pumped off the island.”

ALREADY FUNDED

The proposed wet well lining project and replacing the generator would be funded in the town’s capital improvement plan. Mayor Ken Schneier expressed his concern about whether the planned funding would prompt the FDEP to reject the proposed project.

“I’m just wondering whether it might be a disqualified or a lead to possible disqualification if we indicated that it’s already a project that we have in mind that is funded in our capital program?” Schneier said.

Town Attorney Maggie Mooney said it shouldn’t disqualify the town.

“The fact that we have built this into a budget should not in and of itself disqualify this project for consideration from the [FDEP],” Mooney said. “That said, we do have certain restrictions on the type and uses of funds that are set forth in the consent order.”

Harmer said the town still needs to put together its formal plan to submit to the state, which includes timing and benefits.

The town is in the process of advancing its redundant pipeline project, which has an estimated cost of \$16 million. Although the town has budgeted for the redundant pipeline project in its utility capital fund, it would not count as part of the consent order.

Commissioner Sherry Dominick said she favored the \$282,000 environmental project versus spending a total of about \$318,000 to include the seawall enhancement and shoreline study.

“We’re going to have a very large commitment to fund a redundant pipeline in the not too distant



Commissioners said a seawall enhancement at Bayfront Park was worthy, but decided against it.

future it seems like,” Dominick said. “It seems to me that [the] Fish and Wildlife project is a bit of a ... wish list.”

Brownman acknowledged the FWC was using Bayfront Park as a pilot study area last year to analyze four approaches to shorelines. He said the FWC canceled the project because of budgeting issues and the COVID-19 pandemic.

FWC has told the town it would be open to resuming the Bayfront Park study at some point.

Other unfunded projects the town considered included using wireless technology in combination with a device to get real-time data on coastal conditions in the Gulf of Mexico or Sarasota Bay; completing the walking loop at the Quick Point Nature Preserve Trail; and donating a town-owned, environmentally sensitive land.

“Although I think the seawall and the Quick Point projects are both very good projects that I think are worth undertaking, I wonder whether the benefit of doing that kind of a purely environmental project is not outweighed by the

negative of the uncertainty of being able to complete it or having some issue about it not being approved,” Schneier said.

Schneier mentioned how unfunded projects could be addressed when the town begins its budgeting process for fiscal year 2022. The commission’s first special workshop meeting for budgeting is set for May 18.

“I think that the environmental projects that have been suggested today are extremely worthwhile,” Schneier said. “I think they should be addressed through the budgeting process and through any other sources that we may be able to come up with, and partly because I think we need to be laser-focused on this FDEP order on coming up with what we are sure will be an acceptable and a certain project to present to them.”

“And if they want something different, then we do have a legitimate fallback.

SEEKING REDRESS

As of March, Town Finance Director Sue Smith estimated the sewage break has already cost the town \$453,287.

The town has asked the environmental engineering firm Greeley and Hansen for hundreds of thousands of dollars’ worth of compensation after the June 2020 sewage break. Greeley and Hansen provided an Aug. 14, 2017, report that estimated the pipe that broke had 20-25 years of life remaining. The force main was built in 1973. In their first response to the town, lawyers for the firm rejected the notion of the town’s request for compensation.

A town-hired consultant estimated about 14.7 million gallons of sewage spilled from June 17-30, 2020, about 400 feet from the shores of Sarasota Bay.

In December 2020, consultant Berkeley Research Group found a buried log rubbing against the underground pipeline likely caused the break.

In August 2020, Environmental Science Associates determined the environmental effect of the break was low based on its water-sample testing in the Sarasota Bay waters.

Lift Station D at 521 Gulf Bay Road collects sewage from Longboat Key and pumps it to a treatment facility in Bradenton.

OTHER BUDGET ITEMS

Other budgeted improvements in the capital plan include:

\$9,500

Installing a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition panel and pressure monitoring gauge at the Manatee County Southwest Water Reclamation Facility

\$22,000

Installing a 14-inch wastewater flow meter

\$26,000

Cleaning and inspecting of the wastewater collection system in the northern section of Longbeach Village

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245207

April Fool's strikes again in the Observer

Wacky sources, ludicrously misshapen story angles and paper-thin premises add up to our annual festival of foolishness.

ERIC GARWOOD
MANAGING EDITOR

You've been had, dear reader. Had by our traditional April Fool's zaniness that tiptoes on a razor's edge between Mad and Newsweek. Funny, but almost believable. We know you're smart enough to get the joke — eventually. And in case you were preoccupied and didn't give reading your full attention, we always own up to it in "It's War"-sized type on the fourth page, right before our regular news begins, with a traditional front page. Gotcha! What's our goal? Well... "I have never heard my son laugh as hard as when he realized he had been 'played,'" a Longboater wrote us last week. "Many thanks to you and your staff." We're laughing right alongside you. (*The managing editor turns to a co-worker, whispering, 'They're laughing, right?'*) We've been doing this for years.

Decades even. Every spring, in the edition as close to April 1 as possible — what a treat 2021 is turning out to be, right? — we spin paper-thin premises with the help of such sources as a scientist named Hayes T. Conclusions, which we then flesh out with ludicrously misshapen story angles remotely connected to local happenings. Meetings are held. More meetings are held. Ideas are spiked or remodeled. Rewrites are ordered. Photoshop is used. So, no:

- Giant dunes like those seen in "Lawrence of Arabia" are not coming to Longboat beaches;
- Angry millennials aren't demanding changes to the names of town landmarks; and
- Power tools won't be banned in favor of Manual Mondays.


Always, though, a schmeckle of truth shines through, as another reader wondered when he saw his hometown of Downers Grove, Illinois, appear in an April Fool's story about an oh-so-pretentious artist and wondered if he had somehow missed a local celebrity. Truth is, that story originally featured the town of Downers Grove, New Jersey. But a quick fact check spotted the little suburban village in the right state. Fact-checking. In a story totally made up. Us in a nutshell.

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Longboat Key town leaders have had discussions with FDOT on improvements to pedestrian crosswalks along Gulf of Mexico Drive.

Mark Bergin

Town survey finds high quality of life

Nearly 99% of survey respondents described life on Longboat as either ‘excellent’ or ‘good.’

MARK BERGIN
STAFF WRITER

It’s no secret why many people choose to live and retire in Longboat Key.

Nearly 99% of the households that completed the town’s second annual citizen survey described the overall quality of life on the island as either “excellent” or “good.” Of them, 69.4% chose “excellent,” which is an increase from 57% in the 2020 survey.

On Monday afternoon, Stephen Neely of the University of South Florida’s School of Public Affairs delivered a report about the survey’s findings to town commissioners.

“It is the second year in a row that we conducted the survey, and so we believe the baseline for some trend data,” Neely said.

USF’s John Scott Dailey Florida Institute of Government helped design the survey with the town, administered it and analyzed the data.

In 2021, a total of 1,524 households responded to the survey after the town mailed out 8,320 invitations for a response rate of about 18.32%. Residents had from mid-January to Feb. 3 to complete the online survey.

“This is really excellent growth

TOWN CENTER

Respondents said they would be “somewhat” or “very likely” to attend the following events:

94%

Farmers markets

87%

Art shows/craft festivals

83%

Outdoor concerts

MULTIPURPOSE SPACE

66.1%

Theater and music

46.1%

Art exhibits

41.4%

Recreation, such as exercise, dance and yoga classes

place to live, visit and retire; ■ More than 95% of respondents reported being satisfied with the town’s overall reputation, aesthetic appeal and safety; and ■ 52% of the respondents reported being either “somewhat dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied” with traffic and congestion on Longboat Key. However, this was down from 82% in 2020.

The survey’s questions focused on seven general categories: quality of life in town, Gulf of Mexico Drive, town amenities, government services, communication with citizens, future priorities and Town Center amenities.

Specifically, 71% of respondents favored improving pedestrian crossings on GMD, and 68% favored improving GMD’s bike lanes.

“A lot of residents in their responses emphasize the desire to see red instead of yellow lights,” Neely said of pedestrian crossings.

“The yellow lights really weren’t visible to them when they were driving, so they didn’t feel as confident when they were crossing with the yellow lights. So that was an issue that came up frequently.”

Nearly half, 46%, of respondents indicated that reducing the speed limit on Gulf of Mexico Drive was either “somewhat unimportant” or “very unimportant.” Only 30% indicated that it was important.

“This was probably the most divided issue on this topic,” Neely said.

in the responses,” Neely said.

In 2020, the town had 597 surveys completed after sending out 8,741 invitations for a response rate of about 6.83%.

“The larger your response rate, obviously, the more confident you can be in the inferences that the data shows you about your population,” Neely said.

Other highlights of the survey included:

■ 94% of respondents rated the town as an “excellent” or “good”

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OPINION / OUR VIEW

The long road ahead

It just so happens we’re living here when the 50-year-old roads and bridges need updating. Still better than New York.

Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop asked a great question at a recent Town Commission meeting on the topic of the impending roundabout construction at Gulfstream Avenue and U.S. 41: “At what volume of traffic do these roundabouts get a failing grade? When we look at the density that’s being created on 41 in terms of apartments being built and the continued density of volume, I would imagine that you’re going to face a failure of traffic in these roundabouts at some point. “What volume of traffic is going to make these no longer functional?” It won’t take much more. That’s judging from the fiascoes we’ve seen recently along the stretch of what should be dubbed the Tom Barwin Tamiami Trail Memorial Traffic Calming Roundabout Nightmare. That’s the stretch of U.S. 41

PROJECT SCHEDULES GULFSTREAM/41 ROUNABOUT

- March-April 2021 — Install erosion control devices, temporary pedestrian paths around the work zone. Build temporary roadway.
- Eastbound Gulfstream to be closed.
- Fall 2022 — Project completion

LONGBOAT PASS BRIDGE

- March 23 — Public Kick-off meeting; develop and analyze alternatives
- March 2022 — Finalize recommended alternative
- October 2023 (tentative) — Location and design concept acceptance
- 2024 — Construction?

from Gulfstream Avenue north to the 14th Street/U.S. 41 roundabout. Welcome to the reality of life for the next three to five years as a full- or part-time resident of the Keys. Knowing how most

island residents can’t avoid leaving their key for various acts of life — shopping, dining, plays, operas, work, doctor appointments, flights, etc. — we’re all going to have to get used to it and grimace and bear it. It’s not just the Gulfstream/41 roundabout. We’re going to get hit at both ends. Around 2024, we can expect the Florida Department of Transportation to begin construction on replacing the Longboat Pass Bridge on the north end. Timing is everything, as they say. And it just so happens we’re all here when the roads and bridges that were built 50 years ago are either worn out or not suitable to handle the load and need to be replaced or altered. Or you could also say we happen to be here when every city manager and urban planner’s dream is to turn their cities into bikeable, walkable wonderlands. At least that was the idea along U.S. 41. We remember when former Sarasota City Manager Tom Barwin was one of the leading acolytes of installing roundabouts on U.S. 41 as a way to create that utopian vision of a pedestrian-friendly Sarasota. The roundabouts would be traffic calming — slowing down motorists to

20 and 25 mph, so pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists alike could take in the scenic views of Sarasota Bay. And there would be peace, love and ecology. But if you’ve had the experiences of navigating this necklace of three roundabouts in recent weeks, it’s comical, as well as dangerous and high anxiety at times. Bishop’s comments about “no longer functional” with higher volumes of traffic come to mind. Traffic calming? *Ha!* Surely, you’ve seen drivers gunning and cutting to make the Fruitville Road westbound lane. Or how about the poor saps heading south on U.S. 41, only to be bottled up at the Fruitville roundabout by motorists exiting Fruitville and heading to the Keys. It reminds us of the way it used to be with traffic lights. Try as you might to calm traffic. People are always in a hurry. And from the looks of it so far, you would have to be one heck of a salesperson to convince anyone that the roundabouts have improved our quality of life. Maybe this will help: Keep your perspective. When you’re weaving through a roundabout, just think of New York, Boston, LA, Miami, Atlanta, Chicago. You could be there.

Rev. Pick’s sermons kept them coming for more

Longboat Key lost one of its modern-day pioneers two weeks ago with the death of the Rev. Edward Pick, 86, founding pastor of St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Catholic Church. For nearly 40 years, Pick was like the papal father of Longboat Key’s Catholic community. As the pastor and face of the parish, he often used humor and pastoral nudging from the pulpit to remind his flock of their good fortune and responsibility to those in need. And parishioners responded, making St. Mary a rock of the diocese.

To be sure, St. Mary has served as a place of friendship and fellowship for parishioners as they fulfilled their weekly obligation to attend Mass. And it was place where snowbirds would renew friendships at St. Mary’s Christmas bazaars, parish picnics and men’s club dinners. But to a great extent, Pick kept them coming to the church. He had two gifts: his writing and his sermons. He was a captivating storyteller. He was that rare clergyman who was able to relay the stories of Jesus, Mary and the legions of saints to our everyday lives in ways that held your attention. And that was because of his writing — often clever turns of phrases, scene setting, detailed biblical anecdotes and funny punch lines. And it was because of his delivery. He would stand at the

lectern, slightly stooped at the shoulders, clacking his teeth intermittently, looking over the rims of his glasses, his type-written sermon unfolded before him, using pauses for impact. His pitched, raspy voice seemed odd for a man so tall. Indeed, it amused many attending Mass for the first time, but it made his storytelling all the more interesting. You could feel the passion of his faith. And yet, there also was the enigmatic side to Pick. We saw it at the *Longboat Observer* in the mid- and late 1990s when we printed each week one of the Sunday sermons from the island’s clergy. We informed the ministers we had word counts, followed certain grammatical and punctuation rules and, on occasion, might have to edit slightly or shorten their masterful prose. All were fine with this except Pick. After we tidied up one of his masterpieces, he called the paper’s managing editor and berated her over the telephone with language you wouldn’t expect from a man of God. He simply didn’t understand or wouldn’t accept what we know in this business: Everybody’s copy is subject to editing — even the pope’s. It was a puzzling reaction from a man who was a master at preaching the lessons of the gospel, who was beloved by much of his flock and who ended every Mass with this special closing: “The Mass is ended,” he would say, “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,” adding in a slow, admonishing cadence “... and be kind to one another.” Ask any St. Mary parishio-

ner — a year-round Longboater or a visiting Catholic snowbird — who remembers Pick at his prime. He or she will tell you that when the Rev. Edward Pick entered from the back of the church for the procession to begin the Mass, his entrance made parishioners look forward to the next hour — to hear what

the master rabbi was to preach and teach that day to his attentive flock. Pick was a transformative figure on Longboat Key, and for nearly four decades the star of St. Mary, Star of the Sea.



‘IT’S JUST ABSOLUTE MALARKY’

After CBS’s “60 Minutes” aired a hit job Sunday on Gov. Ron DeSantis, attempting like so many of the biased goon squads in the Democratic Party media to bring down the governor, Jared Moskowitz, the director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, set the record straight. Moskowitz, a Democrat no less, debunked and refuted on Twitter CBS’s allegation that DeSantis selected Publix Su-

per Markets as a distributor of COVID-19 vaccines as a reward for being a contributor to his election. It’s sickening, frightening and enraging to see the national media forces go all out to destroy anyone who dares to challenge their orthodoxy. Keep going, DeSantis. Stay strong. Stay bold. “Damn the torpedoes!”

LONGBOAT Observer



“If we are to build a better world, we must remember that the guiding principle is this — a policy of freedom for the individual is the only truly progressive policy.” Friedrich Hayek “Road to Serfdom,” 1944

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File photo
The Longboat Pass Bridge was repaired in 2019 and is now the subject of long-term study that could lead to its potential replacement.

Keep the bridge, lose the gridlock

FDOT is proposing to repair the Longboat Pass Bridge or replace it with a either an opening bridge or a fixed 65-foot-tall bridge. Hopefully, FDOT will choose the better and less-expensive option of repairing the existing drawbridge and also take this opportunity to address the traffic gridlock that occurs in and around Bradenton Beach during the season.

A 65-foot fixed bridge would be the costliest option and would ruin the beauty of Longboat Pass. A huge, fixed bridge would be out of proportion and an eyesore for everyone, including surrounding homeowners (of which I am one).

The existing bridge allows views from an intimate 15-20 feet above the water and the sands of Greer Island, far different than being 65-80 feet above the water, not to mention the concrete, elevated roadways and disruption that expanded shoreside landing areas would be entail.

Furthermore, a fixed bridge would seal off Sarasota Bay to vessels taller than 65 feet. That would include most sailboats more than 50 feet in length as well as many commercial vessels (possibly even dredging equipment) and large motor yachts. The John Ringling Bridge is a fixed 65 feet on the south, the New Pass inlet is not maintained for navigation, and the proposed Cortez Bridge replacement will also be a 65-foot fixed bridge.

The money saved by repairing the existing bridge could

be used for fixing traffic issues. The bridges at Longboat and Cortez do very little to affect traffic in this area.

Instead, the massive traffic backups are primarily caused by the 1,000-plus cars flowing in and out of the Coquina Beach parking lots every day. On a sunny day, the traffic is as predictable as the tides. If you don't believe that Coquina is the cause, just drive it on a rainy day — there is no traffic.

Traffic flow, especially going northbound, is made even worse by the miniature roundabout at Bridge Street. It is designed to work as a speed bump, bringing traffic to a halt as pedestrians cross at will. Once past Bridge Street, northbound traffic flows freely.

There are several relatively easy solutions to these traffic problems:

- Replace the tiny Bridge Street roundabout with a traffic signal.
- Charge \$25 a day for parking at Coquina Beach, and use the proceeds to fund a shuttle bus or ferry (wouldn't that be more fun?) from a free mainland parking lot.
- Install a southbound right turn lane from 13th Street to the last Coquina parking entrance.
- Eliminate parallel parking along the beach from Fifth Street to 13th Street, or make it resident only.
- Install better signs.
- Provide better guidelines and training for bridge tenders.

Although not the main cause of traffic backups, faster bridge openings would certainly help. I've operated tall-masted sailing yachts up and down the

east coast for years and have never witnessed such slow bridge operations anywhere else. This is less of an issue on Cortez Bridge, which opens on a regular schedule.

JAMES G. HAFT
LONGBOAT KEY

Haze of hate obscures former president's record

Over the past couple months, the Observer has published letters written by people who apparently hate Donald Trump. I can understand why people dislike him: Trump sometimes says and does things that are stupid or offensive. But Trump accomplished many good things during his four years in office. Unfortunately, it seems the haze of hate keeps some folks from seeing this positive reality.


Although it is unlikely anything I say here will clear their eyes, here are a few basic facts: Adolf Hitler was an evil man who started World War II, a conflict that killed more than 50 million people. Hitler also ordered the extermination of millions of Jews, at least 5 million of whom died in concentration camps. In contrast, Trump started no wars and was a solid friend to Israel and the Jewish community.

Comparing Trump to Hitler demonstrates a stunning ignorance of world history.

RANDALL POULTON
BANGOR, MAINE

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10A

LETTERS



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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9A

Talk about greed, hate and deceit

The ignorance and arrogance of a letter writer was on full display March 25.

The letter claimed: "Greed, hate and deceit have divided us, and accountability is a thing of the past. Our grandchildren will be the ones to pay for the self-centeredness of people like you, and God will not be fooled."

In a way, I agree with your statement; however I believe you've missed the mark on the source of the "Greed, hate, deceit and accountability."

Try for a minute to sit on the other side. All the flaws confidently assigned to Trump supporters actually are the hallmarks and accomplishments of the Democratic Party, mainstream media and Never Trumpers.

Truth be damned. If Trump was for it, or Trump supporters favored it, it was hateful and racist. Care to look at our southern border today?

I seem to recall it was Trump who signed the First Step Act into law, a landmark law targeting an unfair and racist penal system.

Oh, and who was it who secured long-term funding for the historically black colleges and universities? Trump. He must certainly be racist. After all, the media and Democrats have been telling us that since before he was inaugurated.

In the world I live in, the greed, hate, deceit and lack of accountability are owned by the Democrats, the Never Trumpers and

the mainstream media.

I guess it's impossible to recognize the venom and hate eschewed by leading lights of the Democratic Party — Rashida Tlaib's "let's impeach the motherf---er" comes to mind. No hate there, I guess. Or Maxine Waters. Or dear old Hillary Clinton and her "basket of deplorables." No "human decency" deficiency there, I suppose.

Accountability? I guess that Steele dossier thing and the impeachment were steeped in facts. Isn't that what the Mueller investigation told us? Oh yeah, I guess not.

Trump's personality is without question caustic, even toxic. In fact, it's loathsome.

Yet the 76 million or so of us who voted for Trump didn't elect him for his personality. We elected him and voted for him again for his effectiveness.

Although it might be hard for you and the rest of the Never Trumpers to fathom, the U.S. and its citizens were on a path to prosperity unlike ever before, with economic benefit to all Americans.

Supporting Trump is far from being beneath all human decency, as you assert. It is a love for what made this country great: opportunity for all who welcome the challenge.

Oh, and I do agree with you on one thing: God will not be fooled.

TOM WALSH
LONGBOAT KEY

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Resident-only parking was begun at the beginning of 2021 in Longbeach Village, though regular ticketing began in the last few weeks.

We will not return

On March 25, we arrived at Mar Vista Restaurant about 4:50 p.m., but there were no parking spaces available in the parking lot. After driving around several minutes and avoiding spaces that were marked “No Parking,” my husband parked our car on the street a block from the restaurant where there was no signage about restricted parking. We had a wonderful dining experience, but returning to our car immediately brought opposite reactions. We were ticketed a \$75 violation for parking “at a place where official signs prohibit or restrict parking.” There was no sign posted at this parking space. When I called the Longboat Key Police Department the next morning, I was told a flash-

ing sign had been set up three months ago at the intersection of Gulf of Mexico Drive and Broadway stating “Residents-only parking unless otherwise noted.” We were intent on watching traffic as we turned and did not see that sign. It is unrealistic to assume that people will observe a sign posted several blocks from a parking space. My husband said it’s simple: “If there had been a sign by that parking space, I would not have parked there.” If the goal of LBK officials is to drive away customers from local businesses, they have succeeded. We will not be returning to Mar Vista or other Longboat Key restaurants.

BETH MCCrackEN
BRADENTON

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Town appoints three new P&Z Board members

Paul Hylbert and Margaret Nuzzo are set to hold three-year terms while Michael Warnstedt is set to hold a one-year term.

MARK BERGIN
STAFF WRITER

The Longboat Key Town Commission on Monday appointed three members to the town's Planning and Zoning Board while reseating two others.

The commission voted for Paul Hylbert and Margaret Nuzzo to serve three-year terms on the P&Z Board. Michael Warnstedt will serve a one-year term.

Several others submitted applications for consideration to the P&Z Board, including former Town Commissioner Ed Zunz, Christopher Carman, Jeffrey Carman, Leonard Garner, Aaron



Michael Warnstedt, Margaret Nuzzo and Paul Hylbert are recent additions to the Planning and Zoning Board.

Photos by Mark Bergin

Penny Gold and Debra Williams became commissioners March 22. Phill Younger also resigned his P&Z seat in March.

Hylbert, Nuzzo and Warnstedt will have until May to get acclimated. In the coming weeks, the P&Z Board and Town Commission will have public hearings about proposed changes to the St. Regis development.

With the P&Z Board vacancies filled, the Town Commission can turn its attention to filling its open District 5 seat.

Registered voters living in District 5 have until 4 p.m. Friday to apply for consideration.

Zunz stepped down last month when he moved out of the town's northernmost district

As of Monday, former Commissioner Gene Jaleski, Maureen Merrigan and Christopher Carman have submitted paperwork.

Town commissioners are set to appoint someone to fill the District 5 vacancy at 11:30 a.m. Monday, April 19.

Kleiner, Steven Miesowicz and Brandie Puls.

"We've got a lot of talent here, and we've got a lot of knowledge on the island," Mayor Ken Schneider said.

The Town Commission also voted to reappoint Gary Coffin and Jay Plager to three-year terms on the P&Z Board.

Hylbert has lived in Longboat Key for three years after moving

from California. He has served on the board of the Longboat Key North community group. As the lead director for National Storage Affiliates, he spent his professional career in building supply, construction and land development.

Nuzzo has lived in Longboat Key for 40 years and has a background in real estate appraising. She is a licensed Realtor in Florida

and New Jersey. She is also a certified tax assessor in New Jersey and served as the tax administrator in Burlington County, New Jersey.

Warnstedt has lived in Longboat Key for about three years and has worked as a licensed commercial real estate broker for more than 40 years.

The P&Z Board vacancies opened when former members

Photo: Cliff Roles

Photo: Matthew Holler

Photo: Sorcha Augustine

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COPS CORNER

MARCH 27

FREE RIDE

2:36 a.m., 1200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive

Suspicious person: While on patrol, an officer stopped to talk with a man sitting by the side of the road. The man said he had just gotten off work and was waiting for a bus, though bus service wouldn't be available for hours. A background check indicated no active warrants but that the man was a registered sex offender. The officer activated his in-car camera and gave the man a ride to the mainland.

NO ONE AROUND

3:52 a.m., 100 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive

Suspicious vehicle: The owner of a vehicle parked after hours in a town park could not be immediately located. A check of the vehicle indicated no wants or warrants.

A CRASH AND A TICKET

6:58 a.m., Gulf of Mexico Drive and Bay Isles Parkway

Vehicle crash: A driver who told an officer he did not see a vehicle stopped for a traffic signal was cited for careless driving following a collision. No one was injured, and the car that was struck from behind was able to drive away. The other vehicle was towed from the scene.

BEACHED

10:21 a.m., Greer Island

Suspicious vehicles: A collection of personal watercraft on the beach attracted attention of a caller concerned about something suspicious. An officer determined the watercraft's occupants were following safety rules.

MARCH 28

FROM THE SOURCE

10:43 a.m., Greer Island

Suspicious incident: Following a noise complaint, police spoke to a man using a chain saw to cut driftwood. While the man acknowledged mangroves are a protected species, an officer could not find a law on cutting other forms of driftwood. The man said he was making swimming pool decorations but would leave if the noise was causing a problem.

BEACH DRAMA

1:36 p.m., 3500 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive

Trespassing: After telling a pair of beachgoers the shower they used was private property, a man found himself confronted by a third beachgoer unhappy with the treatment of his two friends. The man called police, who spoke to the trio, explaining the public and private areas of the beach. The group apologized and said they would not trespass again.

THAT'S WHAT BUMPERS ARE FOR

2:35 p.m., 3400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive

Property damage: As an officer was clearing the scene from a parking violation, he reported his police vehicle bumped a PVC pipe sticking out from the ground, causing a small scratch on the front bumper. The officer said the pipe looked like it had been struck before and was overgrown with grass. The scratch was documented on a police department phone camera.

BACK WHERE IT BELONGS

3:14 p.m., police headquarters

Lost property: A smartphone, driver's license and credit cards



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MARCH 28
THE MASK DIDN'T FOOL ANYONE
7:44 p.m., 3200 block of Bayou Road
Animal complaint: Police and animal control officers responded to a report of an injured raccoon in the backyard of a home. Wildlife officers captured the animal and took it to a wildlife rehabilitation center.

were turned into police and taken into safekeeping. While completing a report, an officer fielded a call from the property owner's parent, and arrangements were made for the phone and cards to be returned.

MARCH 29
JUST CHECKING
7:16 a.m., 3000 block of Grand Bay Boulevard
Welfare check: A community security officer spoke to a police officer regarding his concerns for the well-being of a resident. The resident's dog had been barking for hours. An officer knocked repeatedly and announced his presence. Finding the door unlocked, he entered and found the man sleeping. The officer woke the man and explained why he was there. The man said he understood and would quiet the dog.

DRIVING DISTANCE
9:23 p.m., 4200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive
Dog on the beach: A caller who did not furnish a name relayed to police information about a dog and owner walking on the beach. An officer spotted what looked like the described pair about 400 yards to the south, so he drove to the 4300 block and took another look, but the dog and owner were gone.

MARCH 30
NOT A DROP
12:45 a.m., 700 block of Fox Street
Citizen assist: Police responded to a report of a broken sprinkler head. When an officer arrived, sprinklers were neither operating nor leaking.

OH, SCOOTER!
8:23 a.m., 500 block of Bay Isles Parkway
Animal complaint: An officer responding to a report of a dog loose in a shopping plaza found the dog, but the canine avoided being caught and ran to the adjacent golf course. With a concerned citizen's help, the two monitored the dog's movements and kept it from running away. About 20 minutes later, Scooter's owner retrieved the pet.

IN THE WAY
10:22 a.m., 600 block of Halyard Lane
Citizen assist: A caller complained that construction vehicles were parked improperly and that a large waste bin was partially on the road. An officer spoke to a site supervisor who said the bin would be moved that day. The officer found no vehicles blocking driveways or impeding traffic.

THEY'RE GONE NOW
1:14 p.m., 2600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive
Suspicious person: A caller from a condo community sought police assistance regarding a pair

of anglers on the beach, calling back moments later to say they had departed. The officer told the man all beaches are public in town but to call if unauthorized use of condo facilities takes place.

APRIL 1
SWANS CROSSING
12:30 p.m., Bay Isles Road and Gulf of Mexico Drive
Animal call: Residents concerned about the safety of two swans trapped by traffic in the middle of the road called police for assistance. By the time an officer arrived, several citizens had helped the swans reach the golf course and safely return to their pond.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Haycock named to MPO

Vice Mayor Mike Haycock was voted the town’s representative on the Manatee/Sarasota Metropolitan Planning Organization, the region’s transportation planning agency.

Haycock replaces Jack Daly on the MPO. Daly left the Town Commission in March after reaching term limits.

Haycock will also serve on the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Board of Directors and as an alternate to Mayor Ken Schneider on the Coalition of Barrier Island Elected Officials, the Manatee County Council of Governments and the Sarasota County Council of Governments.

Commissioner Sherry Dominick was named to the Economic Development Commission of Sarasota County; Commissioner BJ Bishop was named to the Manasota League of Cities; Commissioner Debra Williams was named to the Manatee/Bradenton Tourist Development Council; and Commissioner Penny Gold was named to the Sarasota County Tourist Development Council.

The seat on the Bradenton Area Economic Development Corporation was set aside for the District 5 commissioner, when appointed.

Packed agenda for April 19

April 19 is shaping up to be a busy day at Town Hall.

The town’s annual Goals and Objectives meeting is planned for 10 a.m. to provide the community a chance to deliver ideas,

thoughts and recommendations to the Town Commission as plans begin to come together for the next budget year. The 2020 version was canceled as the COVID-19 pandemic-related shutdowns began.

Immediately after the Goals and Objectives meeting at 11:30 a.m., commissioners are expected to meet to select a District 5 commissioner to serve until the 2022 elections. Ed Zunz stepped away from his commission seat in March when he moved outside of the district boundaries.

Then at 1 p.m., the newly seated commissioner will join the other six in conducting a regular workshop meeting.

Student film to air on PBS station

A student-created documentary will soon air on TV in the region.

“Into the Storm,” a film created by students in the Booker High School Visual and Performing Arts Film and Animation department, will air at 9 p.m. Thursday, April 15, on WEDU, the Tampa Bay area’s PBS affiliate.

“Into the Storm” is a documentary that highlights the 1966-67 Booker Tornadoes basketball team on its journey to becoming state champions. It is set against the backdrop of the civil rights era and the desegregation of Sarasota schools.

The film was a senior thesis project for students Carol Fauls, editor and director of photography; Lindsey Jennings, assistant director; Sydney Catalfino, screenwriter; and Kiara Harris, sound designer.

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St. Armands group advances pursuit of hotel zoning

The St. Armands Business Improvement District is working with Sarasota city staff on options for changing the Circle’s building regulations.

DAVID CONWAY
DEPUTY MANAGING EDITOR

Could a boutique hotel help enliven St. Armands Circle while reducing the amount of tourist activity in residential areas?

That’s one angle the St. Armands Business Improvement District intends to use as members attempt to sell Sarasota city officials and community members on a series of changes to the zoning code on the Circle. The BID held a workshop March 31 to discuss its priorities as it pursues regulatory changes designed to accommodate the construction of hotels and more residential units in the commercial tourist district at the center of St. Armands Key.

BID board members hope to get the city’s approval to allow the construction of hotels, a use that is not permitted on St. Armands Circle.

The BID agreed to pursue a 45-foot height limit above grade, using the size of the Adams Drive parking garage as a height not to be exceeded. The current height limit in the district is 35 feet above flood elevation.

The group also discussed strategies for making it easier to produce residential units on the Circle. Residential construction is allowed in mixed-use developments at a density of up to 13 units per acre. The BID discussed eschewing a density requirement, instead relying on parking requirements and lot size to determine the amount of residences that a developer could

build on one site.

The BID is working on developing its proposal in consultation with Dan Lear of DSDG Architects. Lear examined three shopping districts where hotels or residential construction is permitted: Fifth Avenue in Naples, Worth Avenue in Palm Beach and Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills, California. Lear identified some common elements he suggested the BID should adhere to, including height limits of three to four stories, a requirement to feature commercial space on the ground floor, setbacks above the first or second level and articulated facades to soften the perceived mass of the building.

If the BID were to hold a community workshop on its proposed zoning code changes by the end of April, Lear said it could proceed to the Planning Board in June and the City Commission in July.

At least one change would take longer to implement. Increasing the maximum height in the district to 45 feet would require a comprehensive plan amendment, which would take until early 2022 at the earliest to process.

The group failed to lock in a consensus on certain aspects of its proposal, including prospective on-site parking requirements for residential projects. The BID is also in the process of working with landscape architect Phil Smith on developing uniform regulations for streetscape design on the Circle, which it hopes to package with the other zoning changes.

Tom Leonard, BID board member and co-owner of Shore, said he was hopeful the group could swiftly develop a policy proposal.

“We don’t have to reinvent the wheel to do this and make this work,” he said. “It’s just a couple of minor zoning changes, and I think we could get people to embrace it.”

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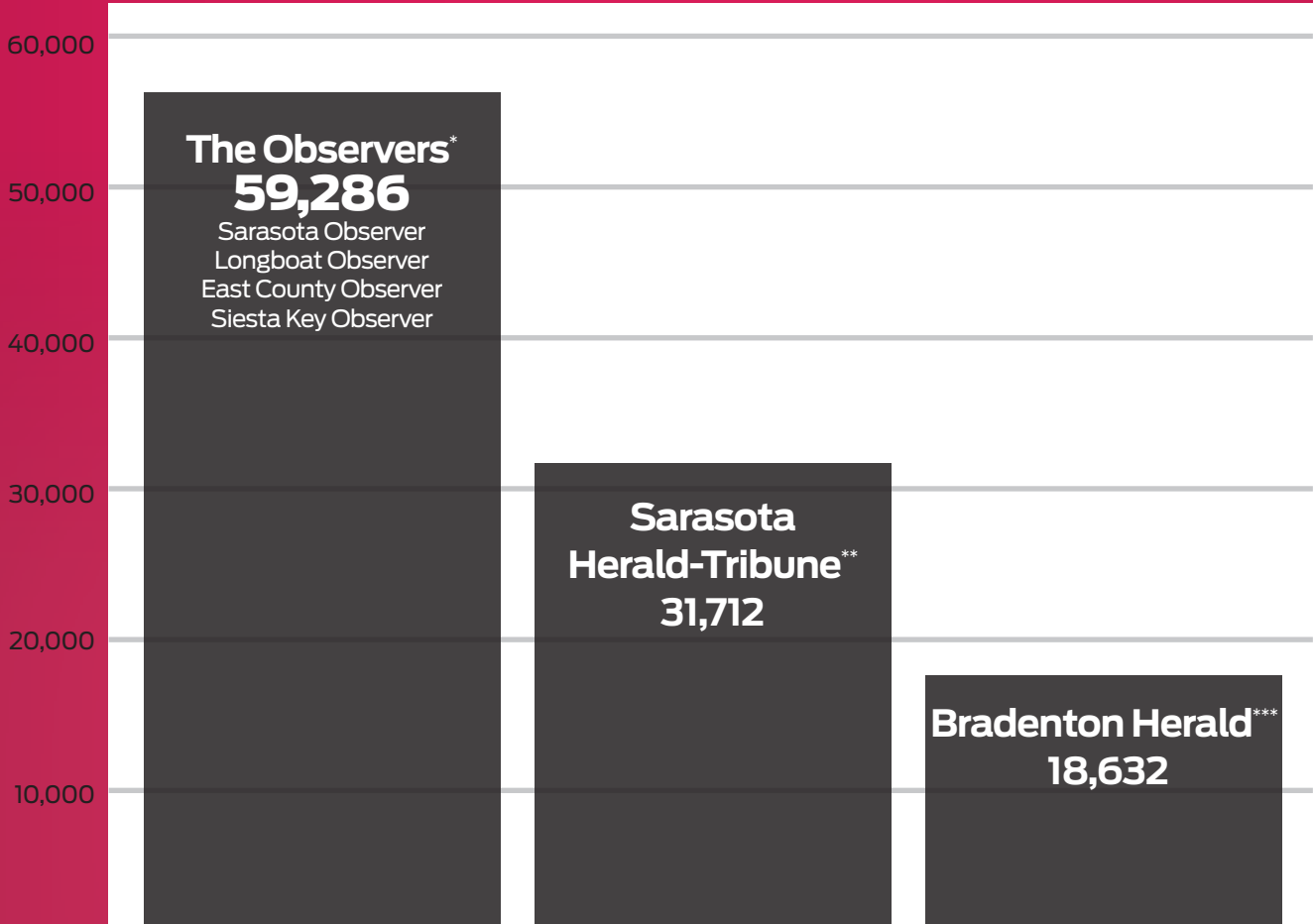
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Lido Beach projects near completion

The reopening of the Lido Pavilion concession stand and the construction of sand-retaining groins mark some of the final steps in a pair of renovation projects.

DAVID CONWAY
DEPUTY MANAGING EDITOR

Between a renourished shoreline and a refurbished pavilion, visitors to Lido Beach have likely taken note of some changes that have come together since last year.

On March 18, the city held a ribbon-cutting for the latest milestone in a pair of renovation projects at Lido Beach, the reopening of the concession stand at the Lido Pavilion. The concession stand closed in September 2019 to accommodate construction at the Lido Pavilion. As part of the \$985,000 renovation efforts, the city has installed a new roof, shade coverings, a concrete patio with furniture, landscaping and a new vent hood system for the concession area.

Now the concession area is open under new management. Lido Island Grill is operated by Laszlo Bevardi, the chef who owns Bevardi's Salute on Lemon Avenue. Bevardi noted the revamped menu at the pavilion includes lobster rolls, a popular

item the previous concessionaire offered. The concession area also has a separate walk-up window for alcohol sales including beer, wine and cocktails. The concession stand is open at 11 a.m. daily and closes between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. depending on activity at the beach.

The city recently began construction on the final stage of the pavilion renovation project, focused on improving the public restrooms. The city closed the bathrooms at the pavilion Friday, placing several portable toilets and hand-washing stations at the beach. In the coming weeks, the city intends to install a high-quality restroom trailer that will be available for the duration of the construction.

The contractor for the project has not finalized a schedule yet, but construction is currently planned to begin in mid-May and could continue through September, city spokesperson Jason Bartolone said.

"We look forward to finishing this much-anticipated project as soon as possible and with the highest of quality to serve our residents and beach visitors," Bartolone said in an email.

The city is also working to finish a \$12.7 million Lido Beach shoreline renourishment project that began last summer. The city worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to renourish Lido Key via the first-ever dredging

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Photos by David Conway
The construction of a sand-retaining groin near Ted Sperling Park is the final step in the city's Lido Key shoreline renourishment project.



The city began a series of improvements to the Lido Pavilion in 2019.

of Big Pass. Although the project team finished placing sand on the beach last year, it is still working to finish the construction of a pair of sand-retaining groins on the south end of Lido Key.

City Engineer Alex DavisShaw said the Army Corps has completed the northernmost groin,

and work is about halfway done on the second groin, located near Ted Sperling Park at South Lido Beach. DavisShaw said the contractor intended to finish work on the groin April 22, with crews demobilizing and moving out the final week in April.

DavisShaw said the city is working to reopen some beach parking that was blocked for construction staging.

Although the project team hasn't conducted a formal analysis of the impact of the renourishment, DavisShaw said she has heard positive feedback to the widened shoreline from beachgoers. And even though a large storm has not directly hit the barrier island, DavisShaw said the renourished beach has held up well during increased wave activity at Lido Key.

"I think it's already been doing what it's supposed to do and adding protection along the shoreline when we have big [storm] events," DavisShaw said.

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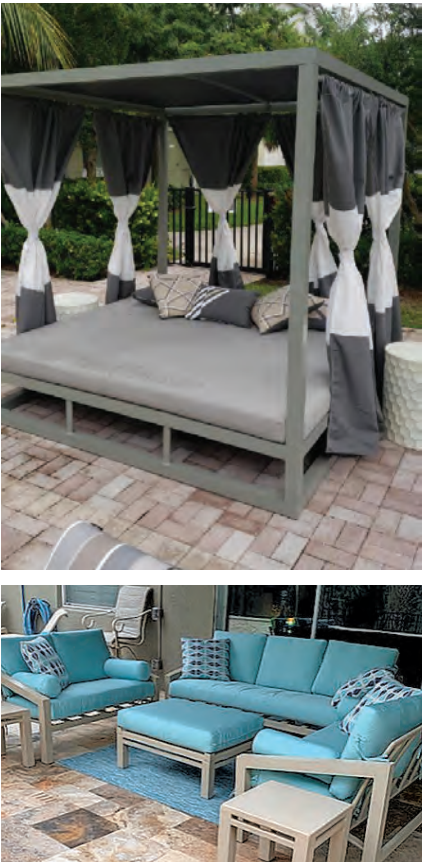
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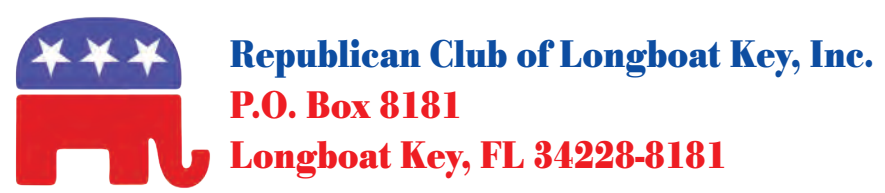
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Photos by Nat Kaemmerer
Penny Gold, right, deposits happy dollars to Jim Larson.

Kiwanis Club hears from Gold, Linkogle

Members learn more about the town’s underground project and the new commissioner.

NAT KAEMMERER
STAFF WRITER

At the April 1 Kiwanis Club of Longboat Key meeting, there were plenty of happy dollars deposited into the club’s pot. In total, there were 17 at the meeting, and a few members were back with the club for the first time since the pandemic. After breakfast, members settled in for a double-header of speakers as Longboat Key Projects Manager James Linkogle gave an update on the town’s underground utilities project, and new commissioner Penny Gold introduced herself. A little more than a year and a half into the utilities project, poles and overhead wires are soon to be disappearing in the island’s southern neighborhoods. Phase two is on the northernmost part of the island, and as of March 31,



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James Linkogle addresses the club.



Jim Burmeister chats with Deborah DiCarlo.

In college, she worked with Nassau County government on Long Island, in Queens County government, on a governor’s campaign in New York and then with program planning and development in Jefferson County, Kentucky, before becoming director of federal programs.

Finally, she made her way to state government. Local government is near and dear to her heart, she said, and now she’s diving into Longboat Key issues.

“It’s difficult to say what my priorities are right now because I’m so new,” Gold said. “Having some place to put all our waste is a high priority because I think the town thought they had 20 or 25 years left on the original pipe, and now suddenly, we’ve got to find a way to do this right now to build a new pipe.”

Gold also named the roundabouts on the mainland and pedestrian safety as a high priority, as well as keeping an eye on what’s going on in Tallahassee and Sarasota.

“My background was legislative lobbying, which certainly gives me a little bit more interest in pieces of legislation that are coming through,” Gold said.



Svetlana Kaminsky

the town had nearly all the conduit installed in the Village. Phase three will start in April.

“We’re always trying to work the phases toward the middle of the island,” Linkogle said. “Phase four is next. We are moving north with phase three toward the county line.”

Gulf of Mexico Drive lighting poles are being installed now, Linkogle said, and the town will try to use those pole locations for future wireless infrastructure to

allow for “work from anywhere” capabilities. The town is working with KCI to negotiate with carriers to incentivize them to team up with the town to increase capabilities.

“Obviously, we’re always looking for this ubiquitous coverage, so everywhere you go on the island, you got a good signal, and then enhanced 911 services and business-related services,” Linkogle said. “We really believe we’re positioned very well.”

Switch orders and pole removal will likely happen phase by phase, Linkogle said as the project moves toward its anticipated completion by the end of 2022.

When it was her turn, Gold introduced herself, telling club members she’s been to every Town Commission meeting since November to get up to speed on issues. She was sworn in last month.

A CPA from Kentucky, Gold has long been around public service.



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Save Our Seabirds hires first-ever vet

The group is hosting a virtual fundraiser event to reintroduce people to the facility.

NAT KAEMMERER
STAFF WRITER

Although its doors remain closed, Save Our Seabirds is letting people take a peek beyond the cages. After canceling its Sunset Soiree in spring and fall 2020, the organization on City Island is putting together a virtual fundraiser to reintroduce people to the place with behind-the-scenes footage of the bird hospital and habitats. Because its doors have been closed for more than a year because of the pandemic, this is a big moment for Save Our Seabirds, which has many chatty, social birds in residence.

“This is just an update on what life has been like since we last saw people,” CEO David Pilston said. “Our staff has really focused on spending more time interacting with the birds than ever before, ... especially parrots are interactive and love to interact with people.”

The virtual event April 7-11 will also serve as the formal introduction to Dr. Maria Passarelli, the facility’s first full-time veterinarian. She started in December 2020 and launched Save Our Seabirds from an avian help center to a full-fledged hospital.

“Historically, our hospital was run by highly experienced hospital technicians,” Pilston said. “[Now] we can do all sorts of other surgeries. Previously, really serious cases we had to send out to a vet and bring back and rehab, and now we can do all those procedures on site.”

Passarelli’s presence will allow the hospital to expand its capabilities not only with surgery and on-site care but also with education. Now that there’s a fully trained vet at the facility, Pilston foresees a future as a true teaching



Courtesy photo

IF YOU GO

SAVE OUR SEABIRDS
When: 7 p.m. April 7 through 7 p.m. April 11
Where: Virtual
Cost: Free
Info: SaveOurSeabirds.org

hospital for Save Our Seabirds.

There’s still no reopening date for Save Our Seabirds, Pilston said, which is why the organization decided to go with the virtual event to catch people up on life at the facility. The hope is that there will be an in-person fundraising event in the fall to officially relaunch the dormant capital campaign, which will expand the facility. Out of a \$5 million goal, Save Our Seabirds has raised about \$2 million.

“Last year’s Sunset Soiree was intended to be the big launch,” Pilston said. “In November 2019, we had a donor appreciation event and introduced the capital campaign to them first. The intention was to do a big formal launch with a couple hundred people in the audience. So this is a relaunch, but we have made really good progress on it.”

Dr. Maria Passarelli will be part of the virtual fundraising event for Save Our Seabirds in which participants can tour the avian hospital and habitats. Passarelli is the facility’s first full-time veterinarian.

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The Rev. Edward Pick, founder of St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Catholic Church, commissioned murals and brought banyan seedlings for the grounds.

St. Mary’s founder, ‘gentle giant’ dies

The Rev. Edward Pick leaves behind a looming legacy that is remembered fondly by congregants.

NAT KAEMMERER
STAFF WRITER

The only thing more imposing than the giant banyan trees on the grounds of St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Catholic Church was the man who planted them: the church’s founder, the Rev. Edward Pick.

“He was definitely a man you looked up to,” longtime friend Tim Clarke said.

Pick died March 27 at age 86.

Pick, whom many referred to as a “gentle giant,” stood about 6-foot-7, cutting a figure that was at once loving and brusque, wise and witty. Ordained in 1968, Pick came to Longboat Key in 1973 and founded the church, which at that time had no building.

Pick preached out of a rented room in the firehouse on the north end, often preaching to a flock that included peacocks that wandered in during Mass. The church wasn’t built until 1978, and by the time the doors opened, Pick had created a masterpiece.

He commissioned murals and stained glass windows and brought 100 2-foot-tall banyan seedlings from Boca Grande to plant at the drive into the church. Under his care, they began to flourish.

He leaves behind a legacy beyond trees and a building

though. Pick was known for his generosity, his commitment to the church and its congregants, his love of the arts and his humor. Often, he would end Mass with, “God bless you, and be kind to each other,” former Mayor Joan Webster remembered.

“Yes, he built a beautiful church, but he also built beautiful souls,” longtime friend Susan Clarke said.

Pick adored his dogs, which were almost always Saint Bernards. Tom Mahoney, who’s been the church’s caretaker for 26 years, saw Pick’s love for his dogs up close day after day.

When Mahoney would eat at a restaurant with Pick, he would order an extra meal of hamburgers to take home, so his dogs could eat well that night, too.

In the summers, Pick would ask Mahoney to bring his truck over to the rectory, so he could load the dogs up and take them to the beach.

“We’d go right across from Bird Key,” Mahoney said. “I used to be able to park the truck right on the hill, and Father would get into the water with the Saint Bernards.”

The promise of the beach wasn’t the only thing that pulled him away from the rectory on warm afternoons.

When the Cincinnati Reds, Pick’s hometown team, were playing in spring training or at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, Pick couldn’t resist the lure of the diamond.

“On an afternoon, if Father’s favorite team was playing in Sarasota, he’d say, ‘Tom, let’s go to the game,’” Mahoney said. “And I’d say, ‘Father, I’ve still got work to do,’ and he’d say, ‘That’s OK, we’re going to the game.’”

Above all, the church was his life. Even after he retired in 2008, Pick would step forward to help with Mass for his successor, Monsignor Gerry Finegan, and the church’s new pastor, the Rev. Robert Dziedziak.

“I would have to describe him as a brilliant homilist,” Tim Clarke said. “He would give brilliant services in plain language. They were motivating and inspiring.

He really built the entire service of the Mass that day around the theme of the sermon. He was a

“On an afternoon, if Father’s favorite team was playing in Sarasota, he’d say, ‘Tom, let’s go to the game.’” And I’d say, ‘Father, I’ve still got work to do,’ and he’d say, ‘That’s OK, we’re going to the game.’”

— Tom Mahoney, caretaker of St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Catholic Church

very bright man, very smart.”

His humor and love of the arts shone through his daily homilies. Pick often said that if he weren’t a priest, he would have liked to be on stage, and he put his raspy singing voice to use often at church parties and in soliciting donations. When Pick would stay at the Clarkes’ Michigan home, he would sing show tunes for them after dinner.

“He made friends with his demeanor and size and wit and humor and excellent mind and attention to detail,” Susan Clarke said. “He was really quite the formidable man.”



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YOUR NEIGHBORS

Hunting for Easter normalcy



The kids taking part in the egg hunt wait patiently to pick out their baskets.

Photos by Nat Kaemmerer

People attended services in person this year and saw family, a huge difference from 2020.

NAT KAEMMERER
STAFF WRITER

Last year on Easter, in the early throes of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rev. Dave Marshall of All Angels Episcopal Church preached from outside the COVID-19 ward at Blake Hospital in Bradenton rather than in an empty church. “I wanted to go to a place where there’s new life or a place that needed hope, and that seemed to be the COVID ward,” he said. In 2021, Easter service returned to churches, though attendance was smaller, and many worshippers still attended virtually.

Still, there’s a pent-up desire for normalcy even if the pandemic teeters at a turning point with all adults in Florida now eligible for vaccines.

“This year, we’ll be straining to include as many people as want to come,” the Rev. Norman Pritchard from Christ Church of Longboat Key said. “Our registrations are running close to 200. ... Our numbers have been creeping up Sunday by Sunday, since mid-February. What we’ve been finding is that a number of people are actually quite happy watching the livestreaming. Our numbers continue to astonish us.”

For some Longboat Key residents, Easter marked the beginning of the end of the pandemic, though public health experts still advise caution.

Some left the island to be with family for the first time in months, and others are starting to emerge from their homes.

“We will have some folks in church on Easter who have not been in church in over a year,” Marshall said last week. “I know that sounds strange because there are people that just show up on

Christmas and Easter, but these are not those people.”

Generations of the Kotz and Crane family, who travel to Sand Cay every year from Michigan, have been going to St. Mary, Star of the Sea, Catholic Church on Easter for 30 years.

They missed last year. But not 2021 as Easter looked more normal for them this year; the youngest family members even participated in the Sand Cay egg hunt.

“This is our first big travel since COVID, actually in two years,” Peggy Kotz said. “There are 17 of us together here.”

Even though 2021 is a year with one foot still in the pandemic and one foot out the door, this Easter captured more of the hopeful emotions of the holiday.

For Patterson’s first Easter on the island, Longboat Island Chapel hosted a sunrise service in the garden with cool weather and about 60 attendees.

“The pandemic has got everybody in a little bit of chaos, but to see people come back and feel comfortable over these last few months has been wonderful,” Patterson said. “If that means we’re multiplying services to get everybody in, that’s what we’ll do. But for my first Easter here I couldn’t be happier.”

Aside from services, another important Easter tradition has resumed in some parts of Longboat Key: the Easter egg hunt. On April 2 at Sand Cay, kids of all ages ran rampant around the grounds scooping up all the eggs they could find.

“Let’s let the kids have fun today, something normal,” Sand Cay Owner Lyn Sorensen said.

Kids scoured the grounds for eggs with siblings and newly made vacation friends.

Those who found golden eggs got first pick at the smorgasbord of overflowing Easter baskets that Sorensen and staff laid out for them. Once everyone had their new toys, the yard was filled with a new kind of chaos as water guns sprayed and jump ropes flew through the air.



Above: King Michael picks a basket laden with toy cars
Left: Lyn Sorensen gets every kid’s attention, so they can pick out Easter baskets.



Connor Steiner carries his eggs and Easter basket.



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Hundreds of followers and church figures met on Main Street near the Hollywood 11 theater and walked to 14 stations of the cross, where they reflected on Jesus' journey. Mayor Hagen Brody, church figures and other supporters spoke to the assembled crowd at each station before concluding at Church of the Redeemer Episcopal Church.

— HARRY SAYER



Photos by Harry Sayer
Petra Greenidge sings a movie piece to the audience.



Above: Maryann Grgic and Sarasota Mayor Hagen Brody walk with the crowd.
Left: Hundreds of followers gather for the pilgrimage.

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YOUR CALENDAR

SATURDAY, APRIL 10 AND SUNDAY, APRIL 11

ST. ARMANDS CIRCLE ART FESTIVAL

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days, head to St. Armands Circle to browse the works of artists from around the state of Florida and the country. Masks are required by artists and attendees. Visit bit.ly/StArmandsArt to book a time slot.

RECURRING EVENTS

MONDAYS

STRETCH & STRENGTHEN

From 10-11 a.m. at The Paradise Center, 546 Bay Isles Road. Focus is on strength training and flexibility for balance. Class is outdoors and led by Suzy Brenner. Fee is \$10. Walk-ins welcome. For information, call 383-6493.

HULA CLASS

From 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at The Paradise Center, 546 Bay Isles Road. Held outdoors with social distancing and led by native Hawaiian Debbie White. Free for members, \$10 per person. Walk-ins welcome. For information call 383-6493.

DON'T MISS

FRIDAY, APRIL 9 AND SATURDAY, APRIL 10

BLOOD DRIVE

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, donate blood at Longboat Island Chapel, 6200 GMD. Donors will receive a \$10 Publix gift card and a 10% off coupon for the Lord's Warehouse. There will also be a food drive. Email vbutz@hotmail.com for details.



THINKING OUT LOUD: TIMELY TOPICS WITH MIKE KARP

From 1-2:30 p.m. at The Paradise Center, 546 Bay Isles Road. Topics will include U.S. and world current affairs, popular culture and topics relevant to seniors. Held outdoors, weather permitting. Cost is \$10. Walk-ins welcome. For information call 383-6493.

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY

PUMPING THE PRIME WITH MIRABAI HOLLAND

At 10 a.m. on the lawn of the Bayfront Park Recreation Center, 4052 Gulf of Mexico Drive. Class led by Mirabai Holland. Class is \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers. Sign up online at FabulousForever.com.

For information, email Mirabai@MovingFree.com, or call 201-956-1466.

TUESDAYS

QI GONG

From 10-11 a.m. at The Paradise Center, 546 Bay Isles Road. Qi Gong is a mind-body-spirit practice designed to improve mental and physical health. Class is outdoors. Cost is \$10. Walk-ins welcome. For information call 383-6493.

MAHJONG

From 1-3 p.m. at The Paradise Center, 546 Bay Isles Road. Beginning or intermediate players. Held indoors or outdoors, weather permitting. Face masks required indoors. RSVP to check availability and/or be put on a wait list: MaryAnnBrady@TheParadiseCenter.org or 383-6493.

SWEET AND SPIRITED YOGA

From 9-10 a.m. at the Longboat Key Education Center, 5370 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Suite 212. Members \$88; nonmembers, \$104, or pay as you go. Call 383-8811, email info@LBKEducationCenter.org, or visit LBKEducationCenter.org.

THURSDAYS

ZUMBA AND MAT PILATES FOR SENIORS

From 10-11 a.m. at The Paradise Center, 546 Bay Isles Road. The class, designed for active seniors, starts with Zumba and shifts to all-level mat Pilates at 10:30 a.m. Class is outdoors. Cost is \$10. Walk-ins welcome. For information call 383-6493.

IPHONE & IPAD: 'BEYOND' BASICS PLUS

From 1-3 p.m. with the Longboat Key Education Center. Zoom only. Four sessions. Members \$100, nonmembers \$110. For information call 383-8811, email info@LBKEducationCenter.org, or visit LBKEducationCenter.org.

FRIDAYS

YOGA AND MEDITATION

From 10-11 a.m. at The Paradise Center, 546 Bay Isles Road. Class is outdoors. Walk-ins welcome. Cost is \$10 for nonmembers, free for members. Walk-ins welcome. For information, call 383-6493.

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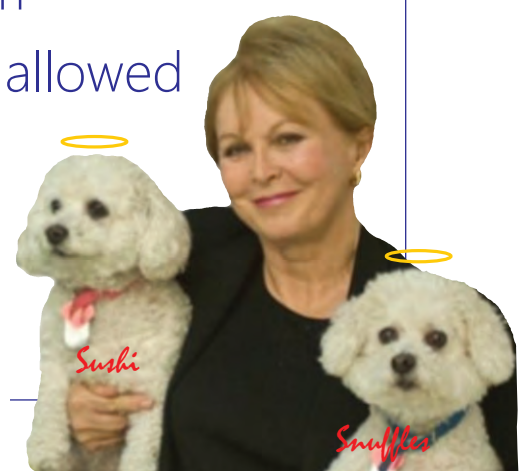
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BIRD OF THE WEEK

A closer look at the feathered friends with which we share Longboat.

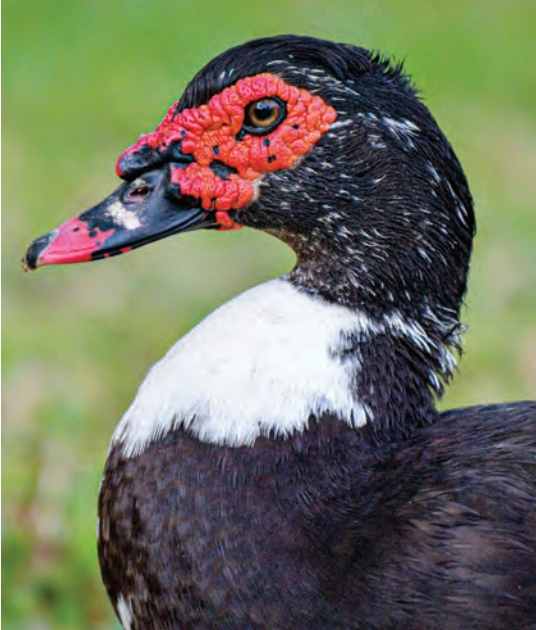
Muscovy duck

These odd ducks hiss instead of quack, have clawed feet (which allow them to move easily on land, as well as roost and nest in trees) and have distinctive lumpy red patches of skin on their faces. Muscovy ducks originated from a wild, tropical duck species, native to Central and South America, and are the only domesticated duck not derived from the wild mallard.

Muscovies were intentionally introduced into the U.S. in the mid-1960s to “enhance aesthetics” of urban parks. These large ducks are also popular farm animals (for their eggs and as food) and sometimes escape or are released illegally.

The distinctive red lumps on Muscovy faces are called caruncles. They are fleshy outgrowths on bird faces, often used by males to attract mates. Muscovy caruncles might indeed serve this purpose; females have smaller patches than males. Their caruncles, however, also contain oil glands. And by rubbing the oil released from the caruncles over their feathers during preening, they clean and waterproof them.

Although they’re excellent at pest control — because they consume insects (including mosquitoes) at every stage of life —



Miri Hardy

Muscovy ducks are considered an invasive species. They threaten native species by hybridizing and competing with them for food and nesting space. If they become accustomed to being fed by humans, they can become a nuisance, begging for food. By never feeding Muscovy ducks, we can encourage them to move on.

— MIRI HARDY,
SAVE OUR SEABIRDS

The distinctive red lumps on Muscovy faces are called caruncles.

Save our Seabirds is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to rescue, rehabilitate and release sick and injured wild birds. Follow@SaveOurSeabirds to learn more.

care redefined

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feeling nostalgic about the future

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NAME Arturo “Tito” Santos

RELATIONSHIP Blue Butterfly Volunteer

QUOTE After my mom died, I wanted to give back. I see goodness and hope as the kids heal from their loss.

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Courtesy photo
Rotary Club of Longboat Key members at their final stop on the walk.

Rotarians host Walk for Water

A group of Longboat Key residents went out for a stroll March 27 but had something more in mind than exercise. About 10 members of the Rotary Club of Longboat Key set out for Walk for Water to raise funds for a sustainable water system in a community in Peru. They began at All Angels Episcopal Church, where they held meetings before moving to Zoom during the pandemic. The club joined the Lakewood Ranch Rotary Club's efforts because the organizations are in the same district. The Lakewood Ranch club coordinates the local rotary district's efforts in WASH, the water, sanitation and hygiene initiative led by Rotary International. Participants were encouraged to donate whatever they felt comfortable contributing. In total, the Longboat Key contingent raised \$1,200 for a system that will provide clean water to 3,600 residents.


— MICHAEL JORDAN

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WELCOME HOME: Cydnie of Country Club Shores poses on her first day home after being rescued by Janice Cook.



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The co-founders of the contemporary music group continue to redefine perceptions of new music.

MARTY FUGATE
CONTRIBUTOR

“The present day composer refuses to die.”
— Edgard Varèse

Samantha Bennett and George Nickson agree with Varèse. They’re the founders and co-artistic directors of EnsemblenewSRQ, a Sarasota contemporary music collective.

They’ve been committed to fresh, new classical music since they founded the group in 2016. And it’s a commitment based on both knowledge and practice.

Both are principal players in orchestras. Bennett is Sarasota Orchestra’s principal second violin; Nickson is the principal percussionist at the Dallas Symphony and also teaches percussion at Southern Methodist University. This pair draws on that experience in their EnsemblenewSRQ concerts, as well as their occasional concerts for the Sarasota Concert Association and New Music New College.

They see themselves as musical ambassadors. They love their work, though it isn’t easy. The pandemic made it even harder. But it didn’t make them quit.

When most people imagine “classical music,” they imagine dead, white, male composers in powdered wigs. That’s the cliché association. But you prove them wrong.

Nickson: That’s what we’re here for. There is an incredible

range of people writing fantastic music right now. The contemporary musical universe is rich and amazingly diverse.

Bennett: We want our audiences to explore the full scope of that expanding universe.

You play great music. “Easy listening,” it’s not. Your compositions can be dissonant or atonal – or from a non-Western musical scale. How do you draw audiences into that?

Nickson: Well, each concert is its own musical journey. We guide the audience along the way. In the same way a museum director curates an art exhibition, we curate the concert experience. We try to show the listeners the connections between different musical forms. What’s the starting point of the style, how it proliferated and cross-pollinated with other styles and how it connects to the composer’s culture.

You don’t throw the listener in the musical deep end.

Bennett: No. We try to share our excitement with what’s happening in the music world right now. That creates a real connection with audiences. This music isn’t remote or from the past, and that’s particularly important in the time of COVID. It speaks to what we’re living through in the 21st century.

Nickson: Exactly. We don’t have to fight to put ourselves in the point of view of an 18th-century composer. Collectively,



Courtesy photos by Matthew Holler
Samantha Bennett and George Nickson, founders of ensemblenewSRQ

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we have all lived through the same experience.

What’s a short list of contemporary composers you love?

Nickson: That’s constantly changing, but people we performed recently include Nico Muhly, Eric Wubbels, Jessica Meyer and Elizabeth A. Baker.

Bennett: I’d also like to mention Kevin Day, Quinn Mason and Andreia Pinto Correia — she’s a

fantastic Portuguese composer. Their works have become part of our repertoire.

How has the pandemic affected your commitment?

Nickson: It prompted us to offer streaming concerts. We originally thought we could return to live performances this spring, but it’s just not feasible.

Bennett: But it also opens up new possibilities. When we planned this season, we had to cut down the repertoire to what we could fit on stage. That forced us to leave out a lot of great compositions. Going virtual allows us to put them back in.

Your streaming concerts are free. Why?

Bennett: We wanted to keep our music accessible during the pandemic. Everyone’s so much more isolated now. People are starved

for artistic experiences. We made sure we could reach them.

Has streaming content expanded your base?

Nickson: Yes, it has. People from outside Sarasota — people from all over the country and the world can now see our concerts. Going virtual has increased both the geographical and demographic range.

Bennett: We’re also drawing in lot more young people. That’s something we’ve always wanted.

Your commitment to diversity extends to composers as well. You’re using the pandemic to highlight work by composers who are female, LGBTQ and people of color.

Bennett: Absolutely. These composers have been historically underrepresented. We’ve always championed a very diverse group of composers. That’s been part of our mission since day one. But in light of the social issues of our time, we’re reexamining our work to see if we can be even better.

Your ‘Sun Colors’ streaming concert is coming April 19. What’s one great composition?

Bennett: They’re all great. But if I have to stick with one, I’ll go with “Darshan,” by Reena Esmail, an Indian American composer. She composed this amazing work for solo violinist, and I’m super excited to get to play it. It’s based on “Raag Charukeshi,” a melodious raag centering on a particular scale from Hindustani classical music. It’s a very different experience, and I think audiences will be transported.

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3.50/5/6-1

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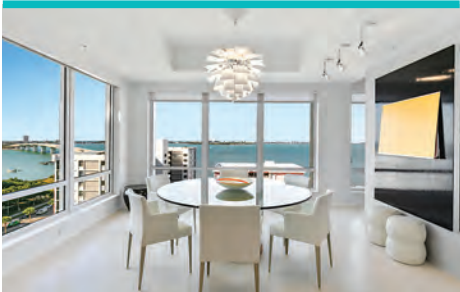
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941-914-0496 A4458742 \$3,650,000



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941-356-6777 A4481414 \$3,075,000



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941-735-7005 A4492778 \$1,150,000



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941-928-3559 A4484014 \$649,000



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355150-1

Bird Key home sells for \$3.5 million

ADAM HUGHES
RESEARCH EDITOR

A home on Bird Key tops all transactions in this week’s real estate. Erik Abrahamson, of Clearwater, sold his home at 111 N. Warbler Lane to Kevin and Karen Lucey, of Sarasota, for \$3.5 million. Built in 1976, it has four bedrooms, three baths, a pool and 3,251 square feet of living area. It sold for \$1.88 million in 2019.

BAY ISLES

John and Patricia Stitzel, of Nashville, Tennessee, sold their home at 3571 Bayou Circle to Francis Howard Jr. and Francis Howard III and Kathryn Howard, of Venetia, Pennsylvania, for \$2.8 million. Built in 1985, it has four bedrooms, four baths, a pool and 4,278 square feet of living area. It sold for \$1.45 million in 2017.

Thomas and Margaret Baron sold their home at 3330 Bayou Sound to Michael and Katrina Spies for \$995,000. Built in 1979, it has four bedrooms, three-and-a-half baths, a pool and 3,396 square feet of living area. It sold for \$885,000 in 2006.

VIZCAYA AT LONGBOAT KEY

J. Wesley and Barbara Compton, of Longboat Key, sold their Unit 1B3 condominium at 2333 Gulf of Mexico Drive to John Blake and Mary Blake, trustees, of Longboat Key, for \$2.75 million. Built in 1997, it has two bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths and 2,961 square feet of living area. It sold for \$2.15 million 2014.

LONGBEACH

Patricia and Edward Zunz, of Longboat Key, sold their home at 677 Lands End Drive to Shelby Oakley and Pamela Oakley, trustees, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, for



The Bird Key home at 111 N. Warbler Lane backs up to water and offers four bedrooms, three baths, a pool and more than 3,200 square feet of living area.

\$1.66 million. Built in 1989, it has three bedrooms, two baths and 3,433 square feet of living area. It sold for \$402,500 in 1995.

SANCTUARY AT LONGBOAT KEY CLUB

Anndon Holdings Inc. sold the Unit B-205 condominium at 565 Sanctuary Drive to Victor Keen and Jeanne Ruddy, of Philadelphia, for \$1.65 million. Built in 1989, it has three bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths and 2,580 square feet of living area. It sold for \$415,000 in 1990.

Judy Gail Tobias, trustee, sold the Unit B-402 condominium at 585 Sanctuary Drive to Fifth Third Bank, trustee, for \$1.3 million. Built in 1990, it has three bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths and 1,823 square feet of living area. It sold for \$952,500 in 2015.

QUEENS HARBOUR

Thomas and Sally Sappenfield, of Orland Park, Illinois, sold their home at 3527 Fair Oaks Lane to Joseph Contorno and Elaine Linker, of Longboat Key, for \$1.4 million. Built in 1994, it has four bedrooms, four baths, a pool and 4,154 square feet of living area. It sold for \$1,225,000 in 2013.

TARAWITT DRIVE

Thomas Pituch and Cynthia Barnes, trustees, of Cumberland Foreside, Maine, sold the home at 853 Tarawitt Drive to 853

Tarawitt LLC for \$1.33 million. Built in 1961, it has four bedrooms, three baths, a pool and 2,882 square feet of living area. It sold for \$700,000 in 2004.

HARBOUR COURT

Nicholas and Lynne Giordano, of Longboat Key, sold their home at 2202 Harbour Court Drive to Judy Gail Tobias, trustee, of Longboat Key, for \$1.3 million. Built in 1988, it has four bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths and 2,462 square feet of living area. It sold for \$905,000 in 2014.

SUNSET BEACH

Rubens Brothers Real Estate LLC sold the Unit 3405 condominium at 2105 Gulf of Mexico Drive to

Mark and Lynda Arrimour, of Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania, for \$1.27 million. Built in 1984, it has three bedrooms, two baths and 1,837 square feet of living area. It sold for \$485,000 in 1995.

BIRD KEY

MRP Properties Sarasota LLC sold the home at 600 Wild Turkey Lane to Diane Suner, of Sarasota, for \$965,000. Built in 1971, it has three bedrooms, two baths, a pool and 2,044 square feet of living area. It sold for \$750,000 in 2019.

WINDING OAKS

John Schaye sold his Unit 25 condominium at 3449 Winding Oaks Drive to Christina Landry, of Longboat Key, for \$855,000. Built in 1988, it has three bedrooms, three baths, a pool and 2,555 square feet of living area. It sold for \$435,000 in 1997.

BEACHPLACE

Arthur Grant Jr., trustee, of Newport, Rhode Island, sold the Unit 301 condo at 1145 Gulf of Mexico Drive to Timothy and Wanda Holcomb, of Cincinnati, for \$835,000. Built in 1980, it has two bedrooms, two baths and 1,172 square feet of living area. It sold for \$465,000 in 2000.

SEE REAL ESTATE, PAGE 16B

REAL ESTATE

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TOP BUILDING PERMITS

These are the largest building permits issued by the Longboat Key Planning and Zoning Department for the week of March 26-April 1 in order of dollar amounts.

LONGBOAT KEY

ADDRESS	PERMIT	APPLICANT	AMOUNT
5910 GMD	New single family residence	Clare Marie Fox	\$750,250
435 L'Ambiance Drive #J703	Interior alterations	Janet Hoyl	\$685,000
415 L'Ambiance Drive #A501	Interior alterations	Michael Brookshire	\$654,573
535 Sanctuary Drive #C307	Interior alterations	Donald K. Burchett	\$381,528
2425 GMD #6C	Interior alterations	Zuluaga Family Revocable Trust	\$302,355
1925 GMD #201	Interior alterations	Kirk Charles Baker	\$292,964
3030 Grand Bay Blvd. #324	Interior alterations	Herman W. Herring Jr.	\$143,000
660 Emerald Harbor Drive	Pool	Chris and Kristin Wood	\$96,850
3070 Grand Bay Blvd. #645	Interior alterations	Andrew H. Deuble	\$90,000
3710 GMD #C20	Interior alterations	Dexter Daniel	\$77,506
3542 Mistletoe Lane	Canopy	Christopher W. & Pattia	\$63,309
604 Rountree Drive	Seawall	Karen & Andrew Kober	\$58,171
601 Putting Green	New roof	Satish Maripuri Revocable Trust	\$58,000

Source: Town of Longboat Key

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Angie Blunt captured this kayaker against the full moon on Sarasota Bay.

FORECAST

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

High: 77
Low: 67
Chance of rain: 11%

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

High: 79
Low: 70
Chance of rain: 13%

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

High: 77
Low: 70
Chance of rain: 37%

SUNRISE / SUNSET

	Sunrise	Sunset
Thursday, April 8	7:13a	7:52p
Friday, April 9	7:12a	7:52p
Saturday, April 10	7:11a	7:53p
Sunday, April 11	7:10a	7:53p
Monday, April 12	7:09a	7:54p
Tuesday, April 13	7:08a	7:54p
Wednesday, April 14	7:07a	7:55p

MOON PHASES

April 26
Full

May 3
Last

May 11
New

May 19
First

TIDES

	Highs		Lows	
Thursday, April 8	12:04p	11:09p	5:49a	5:49p
Friday, April 9	12:14p	11:57p	6:19a	6:31p
Saturday, April 10	—	12:23p	6:43a	7:07p
Sunday, April 11	12:40a	12:32p	7:03a	7:40p
Monday, April 12	1:21a	12:43p	7:20a	8:13p
Tuesday, April 13	2:01a	12:58p	7:35a	8:47p
Wednesday, April 14	2:42a	1:17p	7:50a	9:24p

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CROSSWORD

PICK, QUICK! by Hal Moore;
Edited by David Steinberg

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126

ACROSS

1 Sprinkler sites
6 One may be incandescent
10 Text format letters
13 Strong criticism
17 Earth Day’s month
18 Pirates’ sea in movies
20 Echo voice
21 Mexican dip in Manila?
23 Report on
24 Look after a pet, say
25 Knobs
26 Venomous porcupine’s defense?
28 Where paradise was lost
30 Chinese menu general
31 Country lodging
32 Series of concerts
33 Cold, as a look or a brook
35 “It’s of no ___ me”
38 Smallest possible amount
41 Guthrie at Woodstock
43 Weed chemical, for short
44 Beehive State native
45 Starts feeling fatigued
47 Heineken alternatives, informally
50 Curved path
52 Gravelly sound
54 Tiffany fixture
55 One particle in alignment with another?
58 Streetcar
60 Historical period
61 Stage sister of Masha and Irina
62 Hide’s counterpart, in a game
64 Missions, briefly
65 Come out on top
66 Charming old color as-sortment?
70 Resistance measure
73 Big ___, California
74 Pop star nickname hidden in “Missouri River”
75 Marsh plant
76 Kool ___ Dee (hip-hop pioneer)
77 As of right now
81 Factory that makes noisy toy ducks?
85 Instrument that tunes an orchestra
86 Opera star
88 Sister with a habit
89 Shows the ropes to
90 Under siege
92 Mafia
93 Part of a gym set
95 Australian greeting
96 Senator Warnock
98 Gulf ship
100 Wager
101 Select the best of
102 Invader of Gaul
103 Santa ___ winds
105 Smoke with a pen
109 Airplane flyers who have misgivings?
113 Decrees
115 ___ de los Muertos
116 Not trendy
117 “Behave,” or a theme hint
120 Agenda components
121 Komodo dragon’s country
122 Prize highly
123 The Terra-cotta Army guards one
124 Rooibos or oolong
125 Largest of Canada’s First Nations
126 Dueling swords
47 Explode like a volcano
48 Enticed
49 “Genesis does what Nintendo’n’t” sloganeer
51 Sea seen from Baku
53 Mentored one
56 Place to hibernate
57 Irish actor Stephen
59 Take place?
63 Russell of “The Americans”
67 Muslim face veil
68 Play about Capote
69 Outdoor wedding need
70 Union Pacific’s Nebraska base
71 Baklava sweetener
72 Queens team
73 Bicyclist’s challenge
77 Interview goal
78 ___ Eats
79 Sammy with six Silver Slugger Awards
80 15 minutes, say, at a crossword tournament
82 Ringlet
83 What an athlete might take in protest
84 Certain flat-screen set
87 Remote abbr. near a “+” and a “-”
91 Beats, as a lovestruck heart
94 Vast grassland
97 Weisshorn or Matterhorn
98 One-up
99 Harmonious
100 Halloween animals
102 Odyssey automaker
104 Valley known for vineyards
106 Discombobulate
107 Irritated feeling
108 Simplifies
109 Give up
110 Golden rule word
111 “Uh, I’m standing right here”
112 It may be dotted or dashed
113 Firework feature
114 Rescue
118 Opposite of ‘neath
119 Quick snooze

CELEBRITY CIPHER

By Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“H.J.C. GMWHJA MPKGDFKI, K
GWFJG NPIJRA ... VPK KHUDRH KIE
FKEPMJIP XKDI KHP LPMGWFJIN
DPH UW GWFPEZ DPKSPI.”
— CKRM HREIJGX
Puzzle One Clue L equals W

“UNY SXCB RN VN RSMNYVS
RSNWB TNYERXAEW XEP CXIIBUW –
KBFXYWB RSXR’W DSXR IAGB AW:
WNYI VMNDRS.” — DXUEB EBDRNE
Puzzle Two Clue: F equals C

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SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

		5	7	1	6		3	
			9	3				1
8	1							6
3	5						8	
			4					
	7						1	5
1							2	7
5			2	3				
	4		1	9	7	8		

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peekers' place

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This week's Celebrity Cipher answers

Puzzle One Solution:
"R.I.P. Cloris Leachman, a comic genius ... Bea Arthur and Madeline Kahn are welcoming her to comedy heaven."
Paul Rudnick

Puzzle Two Solution:
"You have to go through those mountains and valleys -- because that's what life is: soul growth."
Wayne Newton

This week's Crossword answers

L	A	W	N	S	B	U	L	B	S	M	S	F	L	A	K				
A	P	R	I	L	C	A	R	I	B	B	E	A	N	A	L	E	X	A	
P	H	I	L	I	P	P	I	N	E	Q	U	E	S	O	C	O	V	E	R
S	I	T	D	I	A	L	S	P	O	I	S	O	N	Q	U	I	L	L	
E	D	E	N	T	S	O	I	N	N	T	O	U	R						
I	C	Y	U	S	E	T	O	M	I	N	I	M	U	M					
A	R	L	O	T	H	C	U	T	E	T	I	R	E	S					
S	T	E	L	L	A	S	A	R	C	R	A	S	P	L	A	M	P		
P	A	R	A	L	L	E	L	Q	U	A	R	K	T	R	O	L	L	E	Y
E	R	A	O	L	G	A	S	E	E	K	O	P	S						
W	I	N	Q	U	A	I	N	T	P	A	L	E	T	T	E	O	H	M	
S	U	R	R	I	R	E	E	D	M	O	E								
J	U	S	T	Y	E	T	Q	U	A	C	K	I	N	G	P	L	A	N	T
O	B	O	E	D	I	V	A	N	U	N	T	E	A	C	H	E	S		
B	E	S	E	T	M	O	B	R	E	P	G	D	A	Y					
R	A	P	H	A	E	L	O	I	L	E	R	B	E	T					
C	U	L	L	H	U	N	A	N	A	V	A	P	E						
Q	U	A	L	M	P	I	L	O	T	S	F	I	A	T	S	D	I	A	
U	N	H	I	P	M	I	N	D	Y	O	U	R	P	S	A	N	D	Q	S
I	T	E	M	S	I	N	D	O	N	E	S	I	A	V	A	L	U	E	
T	O	M	B	T	E	A	C	R	E	E									

This week's Sudoku answers

4	9	5	7	1	6	2	3	8
7	2	6	9	3	8	5	4	1
8	1	3	2	5	4	7	9	6
3	5	1	6	7	2	9	8	4
9	6	8	5	4	1	3	7	2
2	7	4	3	8	9	6	1	5
1	3	9	8	6	5	4	2	7
5	8	7	4	2	3	1	6	9
6	4	2	1	9	7	8	5	3

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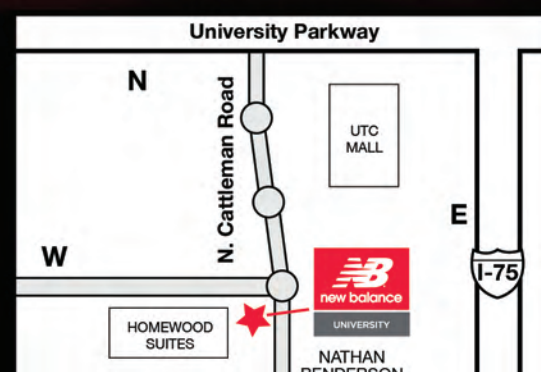
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