



SARASOTA

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Force in initial encounter with detainee who died

SARASOTA POLICE: Reports indicate use of Taser and flashlight 'to gain control'

By LEE WILLIAMS
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SARASOTA — Just four minutes after he was stopped by Sarasota Police, John Paul Kaafi was Tasered three times and beaten with a flashlight.

Officer Juan Jaimes stopped the car in which Kaafi was riding on May 6 at 8:45 p.m., reportedly for a defective tag light.

Jaimes first Tasered Kaafi at 8:49 p.m., for five seconds, according to the weapon's discharge report.

Seconds later, he Tasered Kaafi again.

A few seconds later, Kaafi received another five-second electric burst.

Officer Adam Arena also said that he beat Kaafi with his flashlight "to gain control," according to "draft" use-of-force reports obtained by the Herald-Tribune through a public records request.

"Officer utilized the butt end of his flashlight and struck the suspect in the right side of his torso 3-5 times," Arena wrote.

None of the force used to gain control of Kaafi during this initial

See INMATE on 7A



ONLINE: Read the reports and watch a video from the pursuit and the jail's sally port at HeraldTribune.com. Follow the links with this story.

LAWSUIT: A man falsely arrested for throwing a sucker punch outside a Sarasota bar is opting to sue the city. **1B**

No. 1
\$9 million

374 S.
Shore
Drive,
Sarasota



After a banner sales month for homes above the \$1 million mark, Realtors see stability at the top

LUXE REVIVAL



Real estate agent Roger Pettingell says the season has gotten busy, while still seeming stable. "It wasn't 2005 crazy, which seemed almost irrational. This activity is more calculated." **STAFF PHOTO / DAN WAGNER**

By MICHAEL BRAGA,
JOHN HIELSCHER
and JOSH SALMAN
Staff Writers

SARASOTA COUNTY — \$100 million.

To say April was a big month for luxury sales in Sarasota County would be an understatement.

Agents moved 52 properties valued at \$1 million or more, generating \$99.3 million for sellers. That compared with 37 in March totaling \$61.7 million and 46 in April 2014 worth \$84.9 million. The median price last month was \$1.4 million, roughly flat with March.

The high-end market is finally beginning to find some balance, said Roger Pettingell, who has held Southwest Florida's luxury real estate sales crown for five of the past seven years.

The Coldwell Banker veteran has seen the market through the worst of times, and acknowledges that the climb out has been sporadic. There were times when prices were so distressed, affluent sellers could not list even if they wanted to. Then, fears of flood insurance regulations and talk of a double-dip recession swirled.

Now, Pettingell says, he is dealing with sellers who think they

See REAL ESTATE on 6A



No. 2: \$5.5 million

7902 Sanderling Road, Siesta Key



No. 3: \$5.3 million

703 Casey Key Road, Casey Key

TOP 10: More about the Top 10 luxury real estate sales. **6A**



ONLINE: To see a slideshow of the Top 10 sales, go to HeraldTribune.com/insiderealestate.