



Longboat Key News

July 18, 2025

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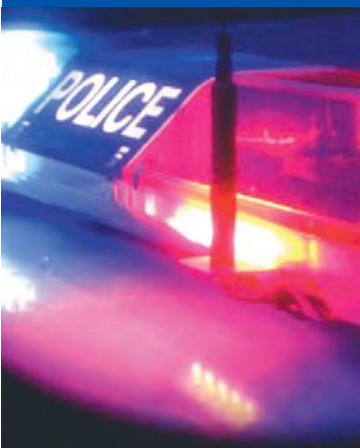
Optimize your health with art ...page 3



\$5.8 million sale on St. Armands ...page 11



Fresh out of Sarasota's oven ...page 15



Officer smells probable cause ...page 10

Police arrest gunman accused of 2017 Longboat double homicide

A man has been arrested as the shooter in the 2017 double homicide at Longboat Key's Zota Beach Resort, a case that has haunted the community for years and remained open.

STEVE REID
Editor & Publisher
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It was a summer night when two employees, security guard Kevin Carter and front desk manager Timothy Hurley, were shot execution-style during an armed robbery at the beachfront resort. For years, the alleged gunman remained at large until last week.

Last week, detectives charged Damien Garvin, a convicted felon, with first-degree murder. He was



Longboat Police in 2017 after the security guard who participated in the murders was arrested. The gunman remained at large until his arrest last week say police.

already behind bars for an unrelated crime in South Florida, a 2020 shooting outside a convenience store in North Miami Beach. The gun he used in that shooting matched the one identified in the Zota homicide through ballistic testing.

Investigators said Garvin didn't act alone. Darryl Hanna Jr., a former security guard at the resort, is

accused of helping plan the robbery. His twin sister, Latoya, allegedly drove the getaway van. A fourth person believed to be involved died of natural causes before charges could be filed.

Detectives said the gun used in the murders was registered to Latoya Hanna and was later tied to the North Miami Beach shooting.

Garvin is now the third person

arrested in connection to the coordinated robbery and killings. Police said the group got away with less than \$1,000 in cash.

Anatomy of the Crime

On August 4, 2017, two murders stunned Longboat Key.

In what appeared a double homicide in tandem with robbery for less than \$1,000 at the just-opened Zota Resort, Longboaters expressed outrage, disbelief, sadness empathy and sorrow.

Longboaters also expressed fear — fear that the crime might go unsolved. Everyone stared quoting the adage that after 48 hours the chances diminish that a perpetrator will be caught. Soon some relief came.

On Day 5 after the murders, the Longboat Key Police Department announced that 29-year-old Daryl Hanna Jr. was under arrest. It gave a degree of closure to a community and region disturbed by a crime that brought national attention to the otherwise idyllic and peaceful island. It also ended a week of intense police work searching for the suspect.

The night...

Longboat Key Police were initially called to respond to an apparent robbery that occurred at about 2:40 a.m. on August 4 and found two employees dead inside the Zota Beach Resort, located at 4711 Gulf of Mexico Drive.

The victims were Timothy Hurley, 59, who was a Night Manager at the Zota Resort and Bradenton resident Kevin Carter, 51, who worked for Victory Security as the evening security guard at the Zota.

Video generates clues, tips

Following the murders, police released a surveillance video show-

See Arrest, page 2

Anna Maria's Magic Bus



The Artists Guild of Anna Maria Island (AGAMI) is excited to welcome new gallery artist member, Gary Green to its Gallery located at 5414 Marina Drive, Holmes Beach. Gary Green is an active artist member of several prestigious art groups, both regional and national. Over the past 4 decades Gary's work has received numerous awards, has been exhibited in juried shows as well as having had work placed in many private collections. His paintings often reflect a sense of casual storytelling, interwoven with unexpected elements that invite reflection and conversation. Gary's mediums of choice are watercolor, acrylic, oil and mixed media. Hand drawn digital painting also keeps his talents fresh and contemporary. Gary's work is now on view in the AGAMI Gallery.

Arrest, from page 1

ing a man carrying a semi-automatic pistol in his left hand and in another clip exiting with a cash box. These videos that were part of the Zota security system provided critical clues. First, the man in the pictures appeared to be left-handed. Also, the perpetrator knew that the right-hand door was locked when he is shown exiting. This led police to believe the man was familiar with the property.

Another tip came from a coworker of Hanna’s at Victory Security who said the mannerisms and movements of the man in the video resembled those of Hanna.

Detectives visited Hanna’s Facebook and his pictures showed him holding a firearm in his left hand and carrying one on his left hip, indicating he was left handed. That matched the suspect in the video carrying a gun in his left hand. He also commented that he owned a 9-mm on Facebook. Police believed that was the gun he used to shoot Hurley and Carter.

Piecing it together...

When police contacted the security firm, Victory Security, that employed Hanna as well as the murdered victim, Carter, they learned more.

Police were told Hanna resigned the day of the murders and that he was the only person who when news about the killings emerged, did not call to ask what happened. Instead, police were told Hanna asked how many times the victim was shot.

Police analyzed the cell phone that Hanna had use of to conform that 12 calls were made on the morning of the murders from Longboat Key.

Then the police also used the license plate reading cameras that are located on both ends of the Key, which confirmed that a vehicle exited the Key following the murders.

Police Chief account

On the day after Hanna was arrested, then Longboat Key Police Chief Pete Cumming held a press conference in Town Hall on Longboat. He told the dozens of media outlets and members of the public on hand that the perpetrator, Hanna, had worked at Zota as a contracted security guard working for Victory Security Company in the weeks leading up to the murder. Cumming said Hanna shot and killed night manager Timothy Hurley and fellow security guard Kevin Carter and then stole \$900 and fled the scene.

It turns out Hanna had numerous gripes with his pay and hours according to coworkers and had resigned just prior murders. Cumming also said that Hanna knew exactly the layout of the building and location of the cash box and safe.

“He was clearly familiar with the layout of the building and the entrances and that likely caused him to get in without being noticed,” said Police Chief Pete Cumming.

Cumming said he did not think the incident was intended to be just a robbery gone wrong.

Hanna worked as a security guard for the resort just two days prior to the slayings.

The security company asked Hanna to come to work the night of the slayings, but Hanna said he had a new job as a cook and then resigned.

“There seems to be some disgruntled nature, something that occurred,” added Cumming.

It turns out that Hanna had been arrested for theft and had other criminal behaviors and incidents in his background including being charged for marijuana and cocaine possession.

Investigation

Darryl Hanna was apprehended without incident at a

residence in east Bradenton by members of the Longboat Key Police Department and Manatee County Homicide Investigative Unit. He was charged with two counts of second-degree murder and one count of armed robbery.

Darryl Hanna, the first suspect arrested, has since passed away before standing trial.

Darryl Hanna friend, Gernicha Davis, who was also involved in the crime, told detectives what happened, but she too passed away before charges could be brought against her.

Police determined Darryl Hannafriend and his sister, Latoya Hanna, were involved. In January 2024, the Longboat Key Police Department said Latoya Hanna was arrested for felony murder for her involvement in the case, but it wasn’t over.

A break came in 2020 when investigators came across a murder charge against Damien Garvin, Latoya Hanna’s boyfriend.

An arrest affidavit for Garvin said the group of criminals ordered Carter to the floor, as they forced Hurley to empty the resort’s cash drawer.

According to the affidavit, Garvin told Hurley to open the safe. Hurley said he didn’t have the combo to open the safe. The affidavit said Damien told Hurley if he didn’t open the safe, he was going to ‘kill him.’ Hurley told Damien he didn’t have the code.

A member of the group, Gernicha Davis, who passed away since the crime, said she heard a gunshot and Hurley yelling out. Garvin told Hurley to open the safe once more. When he did not, Garvin shot and killed Hurley. On their way out, the affidavit said Garvin shot Carter several times as the group fled.

Garvin is scheduled to be back in court on August 22.



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StayingAlive

Is art collecting healthy?

Data from Rush Medical School demonstrated Alzheimer’s rates declining three quarters when people frequently left home to experience new environments.

MATTHEW EDLUND
Guest Columunist
news@lbknews.com

Art and the quest for beauty can leave you sleepless. A patient recently came to me with an unusual complaint – art collecting induced insomnia.

He could not stop thinking about modern and contemporary prints, what he possessed and more possessively what he further wished to have. A universe of potential desire awaited him each night. The prices, places, avenues of acquisition, bidding strategies, the potential profits all negated the calm and comfort of his night-time life. “Is my art collecting healthy?” he wondered.

I tried to mark out a path where it might.

The Four Fold Path

What’s health? The WHO definition is complete physical, mental, and social well-being. When it comes to art you should add purpose and meaning – the spiritual dimension. That’s how you get to what I call the four fold path of physical, mental, social and spiritual health.

I told my client he might apply each arena to solve his art collecting insomnia, as you could any diagnosis from cold to cancer.

First, physical: chances are he would not be exercising a lot buying prints over the phone, even if he were nervously pacing bidding overseas at auctions slowed by the mighty internet. But walking, strolling, meandering were all forms of physical activity, including the happy French cultural practice of flaneurie, self-mobilizing through a metropolis observing its endless idiosyncracies.

He liked visiting galleries and museums. Not all that travelling had to be by car or public transport. Art districts are generally easy targets to penetrate by foot. And art could certainly get him out of the house. Data from Rush Medical School demonstrated Alzheimer’s rates declining three quarters when people frequently left home to experience new environments. Sufficiently alluring destinations might coax his less art obsessed spouse to tarry along.

Next, mental: viewing the world relentlessly in terms of solutions as opposed to problems can instigate a special cognitive set possessing multiple healthy outcomes. New ways of seeing and understanding the world are thought to be a particular province of art and the art world. I suggested he consider not only the different perspectives and fictional universes created by artists he liked, but the specific technical ingenuity and ideas they used to make what he loved. It’s one thing to enjoy an image, another to recognize how it was made. Or why.

Artists often need considerable grit and innovative capacity to produce work, make others aware of it, and fiscally survive. Plenty of new answers to my patient’s daily anxieties might arise contemplating their creative solutions.

Third on the list, social. People like to make art. They like to get together and talk about it – a lot. For many collecting is not a solitary addiction but a means to meet others with similar inescapable passions, a proclivity art dealers and museums are more than happy to propel. Art in the 21st century has turned relentlessly social, where at the most exclusive global art fairs billionaires park their planes and yachts, better to engage their economic equals. At these mushrooming confabs aspiring collectors can meet similarly “emerging” artists along with models, actors, and the occasional “rock star” painter/multi-media creator arrived by jet carrying her own entourage.

My patient did not possess a personal plane. He did like art parties, though, including those given at local art centers, and was happily surprised how many he met there shared his



MATTHEW EDLUND



interests.

Fourth, the spiritual. If we can believe historians, the first cave paintings were made for mystical and religious reasons. Ideology and art are constant, continuing companions, and much of the world’s greatest art is infused with spiritual feeling. If purpose and meaning can be furthered by connecting with forces or ideas larger than oneself, art provides such experiences. The Monuments Men who accompanied Allied Forces at the end of World War II felt they were preserving western civilization, what was best about human beings. For many, art is the finest expression of what humanity can do. For others, art acts as a kind of religion, providing an introduction to a higher reality.

So what happened to my patient? I told him that before he bought another print he should buy the book. Know about the work he was buying: who made it, how they made it, why they made it, what they thought they were saying, what he experienced in a work’s presence. I pointed out a famous seal of Chinese scholars, often affixed by them to paintings they appreciated: “Once I see it, it’s mine.” Mine in their eyes and minds, their writings and posterity. Connecting with ideas larger than oneself may be easier when enjoying artworks than may last many lifetimes, telling different stories to following generations.

He’s sleeping better now. He’s learned like what many readers know well – that written

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EditorLetters

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

Commission is ridiculous

To: Editor

The town is pathetic.

Owners are doing their best but ridiculous Longboat Key Town is not helping people with distressed property. They are too busy dealing with stupidity and failing owners miserably.

Last year's property taxes need refunding to owners. The town continues with pathetic projects whilst totally ignoring property owners. Disgusted. 'We are adding Seeds along the Key.'

Missing in action. Tell the 'commissioners'... "Get in a car."

Drive and see what you achieved in 9 months: next to nothing.

Stop faking and get the island sorted, if not...move on. Stop making out you know what you are doing...you don't. Move on.

Trevor Gillot

Longboat Key

Follow up to Inquiries

To: Bob Gault

Here are the approved landscape plans from December 2023, which revised previously approved landscape plans for the project. Also attached is a rendering used during Unicorn's presentation of the parking garage concept, which preceded the December 2023 plan update. Not sure if their intention was that the rendering (which most likely depicts fully matured trees and foliage) was for that concept to carry through with or without a parking garage. Please let us know if you have any more questions.

Isaac Brownman

Assistant Town Manager

Town of Longboat Key

Follow up to Inquiries

To: Longboat Key Assistant Town Manager Isaac Brownman

Thank you Isaac.

Bob Gault

Longboat Key

Follow up to Inquiries

To: Bob Gault

Yes, let me work our Planning, Zoning, & Building group to track that graphic down.

Isaac Brownman

Assistant Town Manager

Town of Longboat Key

Follow up to Inquiries

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin

Thanks Gary again to you and Isaac for the follow up on St Regis landscaping. As I recall the elevation rendering presented in the public hearings depicted a very dense grove of palms helping screen the facility, etc. I was thinking how

Thanks Gary again to you and Isaac for the follow up on St Regis landscaping.

As I recall the elevation rendering presented in the public hearings depicted a very dense grove of palms helping screen the facility, etc. I was thinking how can they plant palms so closely together side by side? It was a wall of landscaping.

Currently there are only a handful of skinny Queen Palms and allot of low grass type plants. Can we get a pdf of the rendering perspective presented in the Commission meeting please?

Just trying to understand what happened.

Bob Gault

Longboat Key

See Letters, page 6

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2024

The image shows the logo and banner for Christ Church of Longboat Key Presbyterian (U.S.A.). The logo features three stylized arches in green, blue, and yellow, with a white cross in the center. Above the arches is a banner that reads "CELEBRATING 20 YEARS". Below the arches, the text "CHRIST CHURCH OF LONGBOAT KEY PRESBYTERIAN (U.S.A.)" is written in a serif font, followed by the tagline "Growing in Jesus' Name" in a script font. To the right of the logo, the text "Welcoming & Friendly" is written in a large, elegant script font. Below this, the text "Worship With Us at Our Church" is written in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by "Sunday Service 10:00 AM" and "Dr. Julia Wharff Piermont, Pastor". Below this, the text "Visitors & Residents Welcome" is written in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by "Watch Our 10:00 AM Service Live:" and the website "www.christchurchoflbk.org (follow YouTube link)". At the bottom, the text "6400 Gulf of Mexico Dr. • 941.383.8833 • www.christchurchoflbk.org" is written in a bold, sans-serif font.

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KeyNature

Sightings on a Florida beach

The strikingly beautiful avocet, uncommon here, appeared out of nowhere, causing me to look twice to make sure that I wasn't hallucinating.

MICHAEL GIVANT
Contributing Writer
news@lbknews.com

The morning air is crisp, the sun's shadows are hard. My wife and I are congratulating ourselves for getting out to Whitney Beach at 8:15 AM. Then we see a tall man in a familiar looking floppy hat who has been scanning the ocean with a high powered birding scope.

On The Lookout

My friend and birder extraordinaire, John has been out for an hour looking for black scoters, diving sea ducks, which were sighted here twelve days ago. Their appearance has become a major birding event, bringing birders who wouldn't ordinarily be here to the beach because these birds almost never come this far south. John's seen them this morning. He asks if the American avocet that I saw yesterday was flying with a flock of red knots. The strikingly beautiful avocet, uncommon here, appeared out of nowhere, causing me to look twice to make sure that I wasn't hallucinating. No, it wasn't flying with the turnstones. I wonder why he wants to know but forget to ask him.

A large flock of thirty or more “peeps,” which is an all purpose term for small brown shorebirds, is flying close to shore. This group consists primarily of red knots, a dull moderate sized sandpiper, and some ruddy turnstones. These birds sometimes feed together at the water’s edge, probing the sands for small shells.

Overhead a royal tern calls loudly with a fish in its bill and quickly flies away. Later a royal, perhaps the same one, is flying low over the water with another in pursuit. They land and the one with the fish looks like it is about to eat it. Then the first royal walks to the second one who takes it. The first one then flies off without the fish and the second one with the fish follows. I'm confused. Was this a mating gesture or an attempt to feed a juvenile that doesn't yet hunt?

Foggy And Surreal

The next morning is foggy, windy and the temperature not quite sixty. It's hooded sweatshirt, nylon vest, watch cap and shorts weather. I love walking not quite warm enough. It's invigorating and sharpens my senses. No one's here; just me and the birds. Seventeen black scoters are quietly paddling out into pea soup. A male snowy plover, all 6.25-inches of it zips along the beach, stopping at a mound where it "hiccups," raising its head and neck up and down hard. It seems to have indigestion, remaining there a short time, then runs back to the water.

Hovering high above shallow water, a Forster's tern, seemingly waits forever, then plunges down at a 90-degree angle. At the last second the bird just touches the water's surface creating a small splash, aborts the dive and flies off. I often see Forster's diving here. Their plunges usually end in an aborted dive or the bird coming up without having gotten a fish. I'm often concerned that the water is too shallow and the tern will injure itself. However they know what they're doing.

By the dunes there is a puzzling pile of red strand-shaped food that resembles beef jerky. Laughing gulls, the most notoriously aggressive birds on the beach, fly in a few at a time scooping it up as the pile diminishes like red blood drying in the sand. Others reject the snack throwing it down. One laughter chomps down hard and finally swallows but needs to take a few sips of water. It stands there like the food is hard on its stomach and might be wondering "should I have eaten that?" Bizarre. Later when I return, the only thing which remains is a pink stain in the sand.

Egrets And Gulls

At the beach's other end by a seawall is a limping snowy egret. The limp seems more pronounced now than in the past few days. These birds walk stealthily along the shoreline in shallow water, looking for small fish, then suddenly plunge their dagger-like bills into the water. This requires dexterity that the injured bird may not have. The impaired left leg is raised higher in an arch putting more pressure on its right leg. The effect is to make a slow "wheel" like motion. The lean white bird with the black legs and yellow feet, turns in a hunched position staring straight ahead. Suddenly it lifts off flying down the foggy beach.

A great blue heron suddenly splashes its head and body into the water as if it's going for a swim. It comes up with nothing. This bird appears to be a clumsy or immature hunter. Later it walks to a sand mound on the beach where it pulls hard on a weed and then flies. What did it expect to find in the weed?

A lesser black-backed gull has a whole fish with a stiff tail and is vigorously eating. It lifts the fish, pulling at the flesh, walking away to rinse its can opener-like bill. A nearby laughing gull stares at the prize. Then comes a second laughter that is chased by the first one. The message is clear: I'm next. A few more laughs come. The black-backed continues eating, goes to the water and makes a run at one of the would be diners. Soon the laughs are gone and a leisurely meal awaits the black-backed.

The sun has come out and I remove a layer. The water is now light green with continuous waves gliding to shore. A cold, foggy morning has become a full one of birding and become a lazy, sunny afternoon. The black-backed is gone and a ring-billed gull is now feeding on the fish. Tomorrow it will be only white bone with a tail. A turkey vulture lands, walks around a bit, finds nothing and flies off. Man, you should have been here earlier. Like it cares.



Female black scoters.



A male black scoter and several females leaving the beach.

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Letters, from page 4

Follow up to Inquiries

To: Bob Gault
Bob, Thank you for your enquiry this week. Here are the responses from our directors to your questions. Should you have any other questions or feedback, please don't hesitate to reply back or attend our next regular meeting scheduled on September 8th at 1 p.m.
Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Follow up to Inquiries

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin
As a follow-up to your questions last week, here are some answers below. Please let me know

if you have any follow-up questions.
Landscaping in front of St. Regis.
Hearing from at least one resident that the expectation was that the landscaping would be heartier/more dense.
The landscaping installed at the St. Regis is consistent with the approved landscaping plan.
Does the landscaping they have implemented match their approved landscape plans?
Yes. Allen Parsons walked the site with the project's Construction Manager to ensure the installed landscaping was consistent with the approved landscaping plan.
Does the landscaping implemented and approved on the landscape plans match the rendering they supplied during public hearings?
Yes.
Do they have any plans of adding more?
Beyond ensuring the installed landscaping was consistent with the approved landscaping plan, Town staff would not have any involvement in the St. Regis' future plans for additional landscaping.
Seems sparse for a 5-star resort and condo development.
The landscaping installed at the St. Regis is consistent with the approved landscaping plan.
St. Regis Parking Lifts
Also, the recollection is that the final approved plan would have parking lifts. Have those been implemented?
As a part of an amendment package in 2023 (Resolution 2013-12), all 62 mechanical parking lift spaces were removed, and the parking was made up on an expanded surface parking area. The final approved plan in 2023 added one more parking space beyond the original 2021 plan that had the lifts. The 2023 approved plan included a total of 469 parking spaces.
971 Longboat Club Road
1. Property is out of sorts (still damaged from storms and no apparent repair activity in sight).
2. Any update/status to repairs on that property?
A Notice of Violation has been filed against the owner. Code Enforcement staff have been in communication with the property owner, who has committed to having her contractors file the correct permits. Code enforcement spoke to the property owner yesterday morning. The owner stated that she has signed contracts and does not know why the contractors haven't applied for permits. The Code enforcement officer has requested twice for her to send him the contracts and still have not received anything. The Code Enforcement officer informed her that she has until 7.30.2025 to have permits applied for. If they are not applied for by then she will receive a Notice of Hearing to appear before the Special Magistrate.
As a side note, she stated to the Code Enforcement officer that she has been dealing personal matters as well.
Isaac Brownman
Assistant Town Manager
Town of Longboat Key

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Contact: Brad Wallace, Realtor (407) 375-5994
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Hurricane Recovery Question

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin

See Letters, page 8

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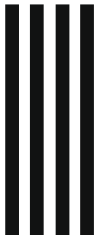
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EditorLetters



Letters, from page 6

Hey Commissioner Gary, yesterday I had the need to travel our entire island up to the north end to Whitney Beach Plaza. Now that we are in the rainy, growing season it is so evident and sad to see the many very large Ficus Banyan trees that are not leafing back out and appear to be unquestionably dead.



This significantly diminishes the aesthetics of our once beautiful island and after the Town worked hard to get all the utility poles and lines down. Also, this is a safety issue with all the bare dead branches snapping off in storm winds.

As you know, much of our property values on LBK are buoyed up by our island paradise landscaping which now is damaged almost a year after our two terrible storms and highlighted by these very large dead trees. We hoped they would come back but many have not.


The question: is there, or will there be a Town plan to deal with these dead trees on right of ways and on private property? Surely private property owners are hard pressed due to the priority repairs they had on their homes and may not have the cash flow to deal with removing these big trees. Can the Town help facilitate financial help from FEMA, State or County for these property owners? We all surely do not want these island eye sores to remain standing tall and dead for another year.

Bob Gault
Longboat Key

Commendation and Lifesaving Award Recommendation – Officer Mathis




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To: Longboat Key Deputy Police Chief Frank Rubino
Officer Michael Mathis is a great guy. I'm not surprised he did what was required of him willfully and timely. We are all so fortunate to have such great public safety folks looking after us. Congratulations Michael.
Gary Coffin
Commissioner, Town of Longboat Key

Commendation and Lifesaving Award Recommendation – Officer Mathis

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
It is with great pride and appreciation that I recognize Officer Mathis for his exemplary service and unwavering dedication, as outlined in the commendation submitted by Captain Hankins. I want to thank Captain Hankins for taking the time to formally document and submit this well-deserved recognition.

Officer Mathis recently distinguished himself in two significant incidents that reflect the highest standards of our department and the profession of law enforcement.

In the first incident, while on marine patrol, Officer Mathis acted swiftly and selflessly to save the life of an elderly man who was in imminent danger of drowning. Without hesitation and with complete disregard for his own safety, Officer Mathis entered the water and successfully brought the individual to safety. His heroic actions under pressure undoubtedly prevented a tragedy and are a testament to his courage and the Town of Longboat Key's commitment to public safety.

In a separate incident, Officer Mathis again demonstrated compassion and professionalism by locating a missing elderly gentleman who had been the subject of a BOLO (Be On the Lookout) issued by the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office. Upon finding the individual, Officer Mathis observed he was disoriented and having difficulty using his phone's GPS. He went out of his way to provide the man with printed directions back to Miami Airport. The gentleman later arrived home safely in Haiti, much to the relief of his worried daughter.

These incidents highlight Officer Mathis's integrity, situational awareness, and commitment to public service. In recognition of his life-saving actions during the marine patrol incident, I am forwarding this commendation to the Department's Awards Committee with my full support for awarding Officer Mathis the Lifesaving Award.

Please join me in commending Officer Mathis for his bravery, compassion, and exemplary service to the Longboat Key community.
Frank Rubino
Interim Chief of Police, Longboat Key Police Department

Road change

To: Longboat Key Assistant Town Manager Isaac Brownman
Based on what we know so far, I wonder whether we should start asking questions on this subject. Everything cited in Maggie's note, including legislative history, seems to address the name of the body of water only and not that of anything else bearing the Gulf of America. I suggest we hold fire until fired upon.
Ken Schneier
Mayor, Town of Longboat Key

Road change

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
Thank you Mayor and Maggie, I am going to reach out to two of our FDOT District 1 leadership team contacts and see if they have direction related to the two questions/items below.
Isaac Brownman
Assistant Town Manager , Town of Longboat Key

Road change

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier
The answer to your question is not as clear as I would like, but it appears that HB 575 only updated the statutory references for Gulf of Mexico to Gulf of America. There does not appear to be an "explicit or implicit requirement" in the legislation for the Town to change the name of the road.
That said, the bill analysis includes certain assertions that imply that the drafters contem-
See Letters, page 12

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OnPatrol

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

July 12 Citizen assist

9:05 p.m.
Officer Maple was dispatched to the corner of North Shore Road and Firehouse Court regarding a disturbance. Upon Officer Maple's arrival, the call was upgraded to officer assistance. The call was initially made by a caller who reported that she was on a boat off of Longboat Key with her friend and a man when they got into a verbal argument with the man who had told both women to leave the boat. At the scene, Officer Maple made contact with a passerby who said he had been flagged down by two young women whose cell phones had died and who had requested assistance. Officer Maple then interviewed the two women, aged 19 and 21 years old, who explained they and been out on a boat with an acquaintance they had known for a few days and got into an argument with him and then he beached the boat, threw their property into the water and ordered them to disembark the vessel. Both women confirmed that the incident didn't involve any physical altercation. They said that the man had become upset because they were "talking too much." One of the women further explained that her belongings were in her car at a boat dock in Tampa, where they had departed from earlier that morning. Both women's cell phones were completely discharged at the time of the incident. Officer Maple transported the women to the Longboat Key Police Department, where he provided them with charging cords to recharge their phones while they contacted an Uber driver. Officer Nazareno arrived to assist and remained in the parking lot of the police station while the women were inside the building, staying until the Uber driver arrived. The Uber driver subsequently picked up the two women and transported them to their vehicle in Tampa. No criminal activity was determined to have occurred during the incident. Both officers simply provided assistance to help the women return to their vehicle. Case clear.

Vehicle

9:50 p.m.
Officer Smith while on patrol observed a vehicle parked in front of a residence under construction. Officer Smith made contact with the driver and she said she was just picking up a friend from the beach. The driver left the area without further incident. Case clear.

July 13 Incident

7:12 p.m.
Officer Maple responded to the 400 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive for a suspicious incident at the gas station. Upon arrival, Officer Maple canvassed the gas station to locate the suspicious vehicle that had been reported. The vehicle was described as a brown Toyota sedan with no plate given. The complainant had reported observing an approximately 30 year-old woman wearing a long-sleeved shirt with a head covering. Officer Maple was unable to locate the vehicle as it was gone on arrival. While Officer Tillman and Officer Maple continued canvassing the area, the complainant arrived on scene to provide additional information. She said she had observed one woman with headgear standing outside the vehicle cleaning a windshield with a child in her hand. The complainant also described seeing two other men in the area. She explained that she had told herself that if they were still there when she returned tot he island, she would call the police. When she returned the woman was still present with the vehicle, however, the men had departed. At that point, the complainant called 911. After speaking with the complainant, Officer Tillman did not determine any suspicious incident had taken place and concluded that no further law enforcement presence was necessary. Case clear.

July 14 Suspicious person

11:39 a.m.
Officer Pescuma was dispatched to Putting Green Lane in reference to a suspicious person



on or near the property. The caller stated she could see what appeared to be worker's from her front door camera. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma observed contractors from Comcast installing conduit that starts from the west side of the property and will go under the driveway towards the east. The caller was concerned of property damage, however, Comcast stated that her property will not be affected. No suspicious activity observed. Case clear.

Vehicle

2:02 p.m.
Officer Pescuma while conducting traffic enforcement, observed the defendant driving southbound on Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Pescuma while conducting traffic enforcement, observed a vehicle driving southbound on Gulf of Mexico Drive and speeding. The radar detector confirmed the defendant was speeding at 48 mph in a posted 35 mph. The vehicle was located and a traffic stop was conducted on a 2022 SUV. Officer Pescuma made contact with the driver on May 18, and Officer Pescuma advised him the reason for the traffic stop. Officer Pescuma advised the driver that he was observed doing 48 mph in a 35 mph zone then asked for the operator's driver's license. The driver handed the officer his Florida driver's license that has a 'business purpose only' restriction that expires on Oct. 2025. The driver had two passengers and said that they were from out of town and he was showing them around. At the time of the traffic stop, the driver was not driving to and from his place of business nor was it an emergency. Officer Pescuma issued a criminal citation for 'Failure to Obey Driver's License Restriction.' Additionally a citation was issued for unlawful speed. Officer Pescuma advised that the driver could not drive, he made arrangements for transportation. Case clear.

July 15 Trespassing

3:43 p.m.
Officer Pescuma was dispatched to the 6800 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a 50 year old man trespassing at the establishment, subject was last seen shirtless with gray shorts. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Van Dyke and Sgt. Butler located the subject at the 6900 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive who was checked through FCIC/NCIC and yielded negative results for warrants. The man said that he bought a sailing vessel with a blue hull named 'Perserverance' about a week ago and is currently anchored off of Linley Street boat ramp. The man appears to be a transient and was asked by the manager of the bar not to return to the bar. The manager didn't want to issue a trespass warning, however requested the officers speak with him to ensures he honors his request. Case clear.

July 16 Med card expired...

2:28 a.m.
Officer Troyer while on patrol when he observed a Ford SUV with a defective driver side headlight where no light was being emitted. Officer Troyer conducted a traffic stop and spoke with the driver. Upon speaking with the driver, Officer Troyer smelled the odor of marijuana which emitted from the vehicle. Officer Troyer asked the driver if he possessed a medical marijuana card to which the driver provided. Upon observing the medical marijuana card issued, Officer Troyer noticed the card was expired as of Jan. 25, 2024. Officer Troyer asked him if there was any marijuana in the vehicle, to which he said there was. Officer Troyer asked the driver to exit the vehicle and read him his constitutional rights per Miranda, to which he agreed to speak with the officer. Officer Troyer conducted a probable cause search of the vehicle due to the driver not being an active medical marijuana card holder and the odor of marijuana emitting from the vehicle. Upon conducting the search, Officer Troyer located two containers which are typically used to break down marijuana into smaller sizes, commonly referred to as 'Grinders.' Officer Troyer located a green leafy substance consistent with marijuana inside both containers. The grinders were located in the center console of the vehicle where the driver said they were. One of the grinders was a clear jar with the black rubber type covering and a multi-colored lid. The other container was simply-multicolored. Inside of the black rubber covered jar, and observed a visible amount of loose green leafy substance, whereas the other container only had a small amount of loose green leafy substance. Officer Troyer conducted a roadside field test of the green leafy substance, testing for marijuana. The presumptive field test resulted in a purple color, which indicated a positive result. Based on the investigation, Officer Troyer found probable cause to charge the driver with possession of marijuana. Marijuana was entered into containers as evidence and Officer Troyer confiscated the expired medical marijuana license. Case clear.

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775 LONGBOAT CLUB RD Unit#902	1,842	\$1,799,000	3	3	0	132	\$1,700,000
2301 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#26N	1,235	\$1,025,000	2	2	0	60	\$950,000
230 SANDS POINT RD Unit#3404	634	\$900,000	1	1	0	0	\$905,000
780 TARAWITT DR	1,540	\$900,000	3	2	0	288	\$650,000
651 FOX ST	1,416	\$575,000	3	2	0	110	\$500,000
683 SPANISH DR S	1,361	\$289,000	2	2	0	20	\$250,000
400 N WASHINGTON DR	3,348	\$6,450,000	5	4	0	128	\$5,800,000
767 JOHN RINGLING BLVD Unit#34	816	\$320,000	2	1	0	0	\$320,000

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Editor Letters

Letters, from page 8

plated that there would be an impact on local governments (ie, cities). The comments state:

- “The bill aligns Florida Statutes with the recent federal designation of the “Gulf of America” in Executive Order 14172—Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness—by replacing references to the “Gulf of Mexico” with “Gulf of America.”

- The analysis indicates the only impact on local government would be an insignificant, negative fiscal impact from updating official documents, websites, signage, publications, and other materials to reflect the new designation change from “Gulf of Mexico” to “Gulf of America.”

- The analysis also references the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (BTIITF) action: “On March 5, 2025, the BTIITF (a/k/a Governor and Cabinet) issued a resolution directing all state agencies, divisions, and personnel under its jurisdiction to update maps, records, publications, and resources to reflect the new designation. The resolution also mandates that administrative rules, policies, and procedures be updated on a continual basis and authorizes the adoption of rules specifically for this purpose. Additionally, all land managers of publicly accessible state-owned lands bordering the Gulf must designate suitable locations for signage recognizing the name change.” The jurisdiction for BTIITF applies to state agencies – which does not typically encompass municipalities.

The legislative analysis summary is intended to point

out, that while the legislation does not specifically include a requirement on a municipality, the legislative analysis seems to indicate an implied assumption that general purpose governments’ (ie, cities and counties) would be impacted and would absorb costs associated with things like signage changes. So the analysis, which is not law, creates confusion.

As you are well aware, Gulf of Mexico Drive (a/k/a State Road 789) on Longboat Key is a road owned and maintained by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). However, FDOT refers to its state road inventory using a numbering system, not a naming system. For this reason, I suspect (but have not found documentation) that the naming of state roads occurs at some other local level; and that Longboat’s Gulf of Mexico Drive was given that name by the Town, or Manatee County, or by the State. As you know, the same State Road 789 heading north is named “Gulf Drive” on Anna Maria Island.

Because of this uncertainty surrounding the origination of the road’s name, we are recommending that Town Staff: (1) reach out to the FDOT contacts for their perspective and see if they have issued any position on this question, and (2) conduct research into when (and which entity) named State Road 789 “Gulf of Mexico Drive”. I hope that with this additional information, our office will be able to provide a more definitive answer on the question.

Our firm will continue to see if there is any other guidance on this topic. Please give me a call if you would like to discuss further.

Maggie D. Mooney
Town Attorney, Town of Longboat Key

Road change

To: Longboat Key Town Attorney Maggie Mooney
Is there any explicit or implicit requirement that the name of Gulf of Mexico Drive be changed? It seems this issue will come up in the Fall.
Ken Schneier
Mayor, Town of Longboat Key

Road change

To: George Reenstra
G-we are in full accord and supportive of the change of name of the Gulf...Craig/Kip
Craig Hall
Longboat Key

Road change

To: Longboat Key Commission
I wanted to resend this email as I have not had a response. Please advise the next steps...should I attend meeting and raise this question, is it under consideration, what is the Town’s position?
George Reenstra
Longboat Key

Road change

To: Longboat Key Commission
The Florida legislature has recently passed for implementation by the FDOT house Bill 575.
This bill, signed by the governor requires agencies to make changes from Gulf of Mexico to Gulf of America. I live on Longboat Club Road, I drive of Gulf of Mexico road daily.
I support the name change, can you please advise the timetable for compliance. I am not sure if the current name extends beyond the bridges at the north and south end of Longboat Key.
How do we proceed? I understand your privacy policy, I have BCC a number of residents that support this change.
George Reenstra
Longboat Key

My sympathies

To: Longboat Key Commission
I have read the correspondence in this mornings mail and m this morning’s mail regarding requiring actions to satisfy to autocrats: renaming a body of water and responding to bureaucratic DOGE demands for a large amount of information in a short time. My thought is “Thank God I am not there to deal with such nonsense.”
I also am reasonably confident that some of those who have been eager to earn their stripes in supporting a renaming would be among those complaining about wasteful Town spending at other times. As would The Longboat Observer. Address changes are costly for jurisdictions in signage, mapping, correspondence and a host of other things. Private properties will also have some expense in address changes and for condominiums, certain signage.
To what end? The body of water does not care. It exists regardless of human impositions, such as what someone decides they want to call it. And sometimes that body of water pays visits to those humans to make its point.
The Florida DOGE request speaks for itself in carrying on the proud and effective tradition of its Federal forebear. Toadying personified.
Good luck to all of you as I know these impose added effort that your position requires that you and staff grin and bear it. I do not have to grin and can be outraged. Free state of Florida my gavel!
Terry Gans
Former Mayor

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BreakPoints



Time needs to be on your side in tennis

We always hear about developing our forehand as a weapon or our first serve, etc. Can you give us something more philosophical, strategic, or abstract?

JACKIE BOHANNON
Guest Columnist
news@lbknews.com

We always hear about developing our forehand as a weapon or our first serve, etc. Can you give us something more philosophical, strategic, or abstract?

The concept of time is probably one of the most underutilized strategies and concepts in tennis. Time can be your biggest weapon on the tennis court. When playing a match, it is often a good idea to keep the tempo and momentum going when you are winning. Whether you are serving or receiving when you are on a streak try to keep the play as continuous as possible. Don't take big breaks between points or between games if you don't need it. Try to capitalize on your upward stride.



BOHANNON

On the flip side, if you are losing take your time between points and try to slow down your opponent's rhythm (within legal parameters). Fix your strings, wipe your hands with your towel, take a couple extra breaths. The biggest mistake players often make when they are losing is they rush. They double fault and then serve again without taking a chance to calm down. When you miss don't dwell or beat yourself up, but don't rush right back into the fire. Tennis ebbs and flows and you need to know when to put your foot on the gas pedal and when to put your foot on the brake.

One of my favorite games to practice the mental aspect of this concept is tug of war. The score starts at 5. When one opponent wins the score goes up and if the other opponent wins the score goes down. The first player to get to 10 or 0 wins. This drill can work on the mental toughness needed to finish a match and learn to endure the rollercoaster of emotions tennis can provide at times.

The other concept of time that is a huge weapon is while the point is being played. All players have one goal: give yourself more time and give your opponent less. Now how do you do that?

Step 1) Never let a ball bounce that you could take out of the air! This is especially critical at the net. If you are at the service line you must not let the ball bounce ever. Your next goal is to never let the ball drop below the net, which makes your volley more aggressive and higher percentage. Take your overheads out of the air, and from the baseline anytime your opponent hits a loopy ball take it out of the air as a swinging volley.

Step 2) Work on taking the ball on the rise. When you have the chance to attack (but the ball cannot be taken out of the air), move forward and take the ball while it is traveling upward not down.

Step 3) On rally shots take the ball at the peak or on the rise not on the drop. The longer you wait to hit the ball the more time your opponent has to get ready. Your strike zone can be at your waist, your chest, even your head height if needed. Strike zones at our kneecaps and shoelaces should be avoided unless it is an emergency and we are barely getting to the ball. Besides giving your opponent way too much time, strike zones below the waist are low percentage because as the ball drops it drops fast, and this can result in a lot of net errors.

Step 4) Last but not least, try to position yourself on the court in a favorable spot so you are not in a defensive position. For example, if your opponent lobs you and you shuffle backwards to return the shot you are now 10-15 feet behind the baseline, and have given them a ton of time. If you stay at the baseline and take the ball on the rise, or move inside the baseline and take the ball out of the air you have accomplished two things: one your positioning is not defensive it is neutral

Serve Jackie your best question!



Long-time tennis pro and America's Top Coach Jackie Bohannon will answer any question on tennis. Please email question you have on strategy, technique, mental game, fitness, equipment, etc., to: news@lbknews.com

or even offensive, and secondly you took time away from your opponent.

I hope these tips help you next time you are playing! Try to find opportunities to steal time away from your opponent. Every advantage in tennis no matter how minimal can result in big rewards. Good Luck!

KeyCrossword



Keeping Count

ACROSS

- 1. Mule catcher?
- 5. Ten sawbucks
- 10. What the wicked might wish
- 14. Its inventor won a prize from Napoleon
- 15. A Burr in Hamilton's side?
- 16. City once known as Christiania
- 17. SCORE
- 20. Operations center
- 21. Word with long or rough
- 22. Señorita's article
- 23. Some NCOs
- 24. SCORE
- 29. Ali, e.g.
- 33. Deface
- 34. Gustatory goodness
- 35. Childish challenge
- 36. Sonar sighting
- 38. Hairy Himalayans
- 40. Advantage
- 41. This, to Tomás
- 42. Founding Guru of Sikhism
- 44. The "Living Image of Amun", for short
- 45. Fidel Castro's brother
- 46. SCORE
- 48. Traditional source of glutamates
- 50. Card-player's cry
- 51. Soft-pelted South American
- 54. Soft-pelted South Americans
- 59. SCORE
- 61. The Dixie Chicks, e.g.
- 62. Typeface features
- 63. Many a Clearasil customer
- 64. Elated
- 65. Approval
- 66. Creator of 3 down

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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51	52	53				54	55				56	57	58	
59						60								
61						62					63			
64						65					66			

Robert Stockton

DOWN

- 1. Snack
- 2. Nestlé product not recommended for human consumption
- 3. Flying Clouds, e.g.
- 4. Collection of texts
- 5. Gilligan or Robinson Crusoe, perhaps
- 6. Kind of cabbage
- 7. Like some arguments or exams
- 8. Garment
- 9. Promise of some drinks
- 10. Place for a pullover?
- 11. Place for a Tequila sunrise
- 12. Insult
- 13. Alley prowlers, often
- 18. Parlor preparations
- 19. Morse morsel?
- 23. Plectrum's target
- 24. Jurassic Park gene preserver
- 25. Model-maker's material
- 26. Verdi aria
- 27. Eliminate a lead
- 28. Away from
- 30. Late night show inspired by a magazine
- 31. Object
- 32. Encounters
- 37. Fashion spot
- 39. Sea famed (and named) for its "weeds"
- 43. Ending a WBA fight
- 46. Classic telegraph sounds
- 47. Free from human control
- 49. Euro forerunner
- 51. Plays one's part
- 52. Hand-me-downs from those who are older?
- 53. Title professor in a Nabokov novel
- 54. Like Saw VI, notably
- 55. Samovars, e.g.
- 56. Sky over France
- 57. User overused, then used the ER?
- 58. Reed and Reid, e.g. abbr.
- 60. Assam, e.g.

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WineTimes

Specialty Foods and Wines

We had a chance to visit Ana Martinez at her factory and taste several varieties of empanadas shortly after they came out of the oven.

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

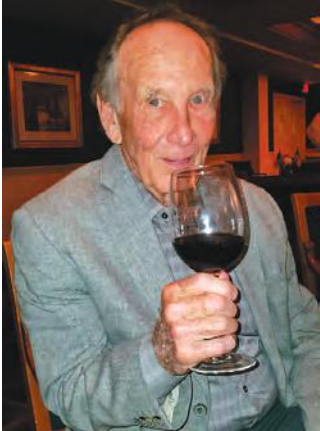
As we have argued recently, the web has opened up opportunities for talented chefs to present menus through their web sites and reach diners directly. On-line food vendors vary from meals prepared in shared kitchens and delivered on order to homes and offices to mobile dining locations that follow crowds, such as food trucks or pop-up kitchens.

A different distribution model seems to work better for local specialty foods. For instance, empanadas, tasty fillings sealed in pastry by folding a circular pie crust over the filling, crimping together the outer edges, and baking or frying the half-moon shape. Unlike apple turnovers and fruit pies, an empanada serves as a hand-held heated entrée in a light meal, or a self-contained sandwich to go. At farmer's markets, booths at fairs and outdoor events, and food courts in malls, customers stand in line to buy fresh baked empanadas to eat on the spot, take away to reheat or serve cold, or both.

Two entrepreneurial chefs have staked out farmer's markets in the Sarasota area. Empanada Girl has venues at the Sarasota Downtown Farmer's Market, the Phillippi Farmhouse Market to the South, and the suburban Lakewood Ranch Farmer's Market

To the east. Ana's Empanada Factory shares a Kitchen at Tamiami Caterer's in the Rosemary District just north of downtown Sarasota but sells her product at markets well south of Sarasota: Venice, Wellen Park, and Punta Gorda. Different distribution points open on different days. Loyal customers of specialty food vendors don't usually buy an item daily as they would coffee or croissants; more likely they will buy the specialty item weekly. These producers of empanadas bring them to customers on a regular schedule.

Fillings of empanadas vary as much as toppings of pizzas. We had a chance to visit Ana Martinez at her factory and taste several varieties of empanadas shortly after they came out of the oven. The pastry wrap has a rich, golden color and toasted butter texture and aroma. The vegetarian options included mixed vegetables and a (not vegan) spinach and feta cheese variation on Greek Spanakopita. The mushroom, onion, and cheese selection has deep, earthy tastes, and the spicy beef elevates the senses with savory flavors enhanced with the heat of red pepper flakes, cumin, and roasted paprika. Those of us who love empanadas will find many of the variations a delight. Those less familiar with empanadas will enjoy exploring a new vista



of tastes and aromas. We asked Ana about a wine that would pair well with empanadas. She quickly responded, "A Chilean Carignan". We expected that Ana, a Chilean native, would recommend a Chilean Red, but we didn't expect for her to name the old French variety Carignan. Where could we find that?

The answer presented itself a night or two later. While having a light supper at the Offshore Tapas and Wine Bar in the Sarasota Voco Hotel, the menu had not one but two red wines from Chile on the wine list. The 2021 Las Veletas Grenache, Carignan, and Mourvèdre Red Blend from the Maule Valley has scored a lofty 92 point rating by Alistair Cooper in the Catad'Or Latin America Wine Guide. The blend of the lighter Grenache red and the more rustic Carignan and intense Mourvèdre produces a specialty wine that favors simple, savory foods.

All of us have to appreciate the specialty food and wine producers. They bring us pleasures in dining by practicing their arts in the face of relentless efforts to limit food and drink to processed meat, spongy bread, and cola.

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

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

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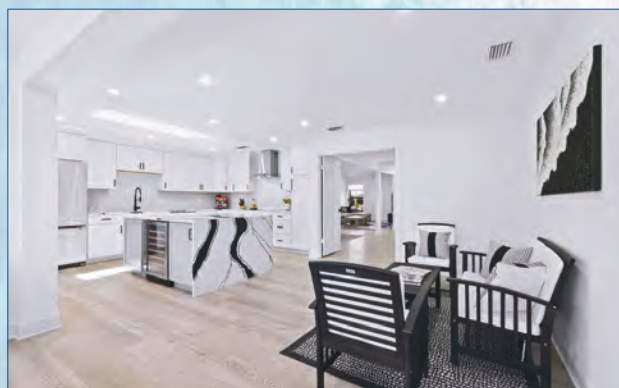
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