



Longboat Key News

August 29, 2025

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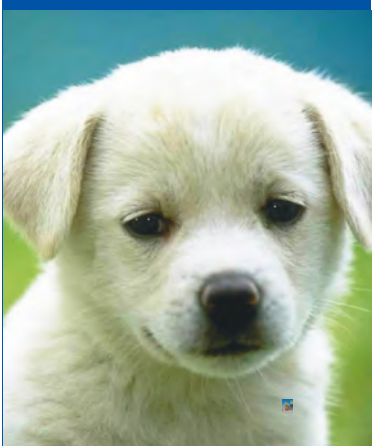
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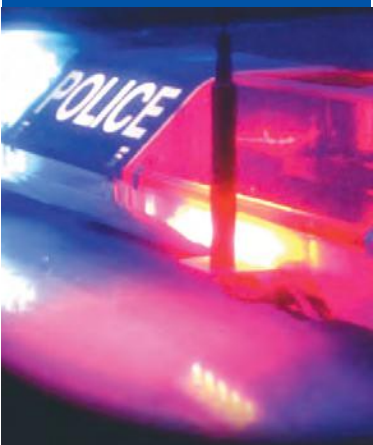
InsideLook
Both backhands is the goal ...page 13



Longboat sells for \$6.35 million ...page 11



Study shows dogs add years ...page 4



Bicyclist vs guard gate ...page 10

Gulf of Mexico road signs stripped from Longboat Key

The Florida Department of Transportation started removing Gulf of Mexico Drive signs in Longboat Key last week, signaling what could lead to a name change for the island's main roadway known as Gulf of Mexico Drive since 1957.

The Florida Department of Transportation took down six signs last week under a new state law that directs agencies to update maps, materials, and signage to reflect the renaming of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America.

The road's local name remains legally unchanged and mail delivery and emergency services continue to use it. The Town of Longboat Key Commission is scheduled to take up the issue at a workshop on Oct. 20, where a cost

See Roadway, page 2

Trio of seagrass centers open via Mote



Last week, Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium hosted a ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of three research facilities designed to advance the restoration, resilience and long-term sustainability of Florida's critically important seagrass ecosystems.

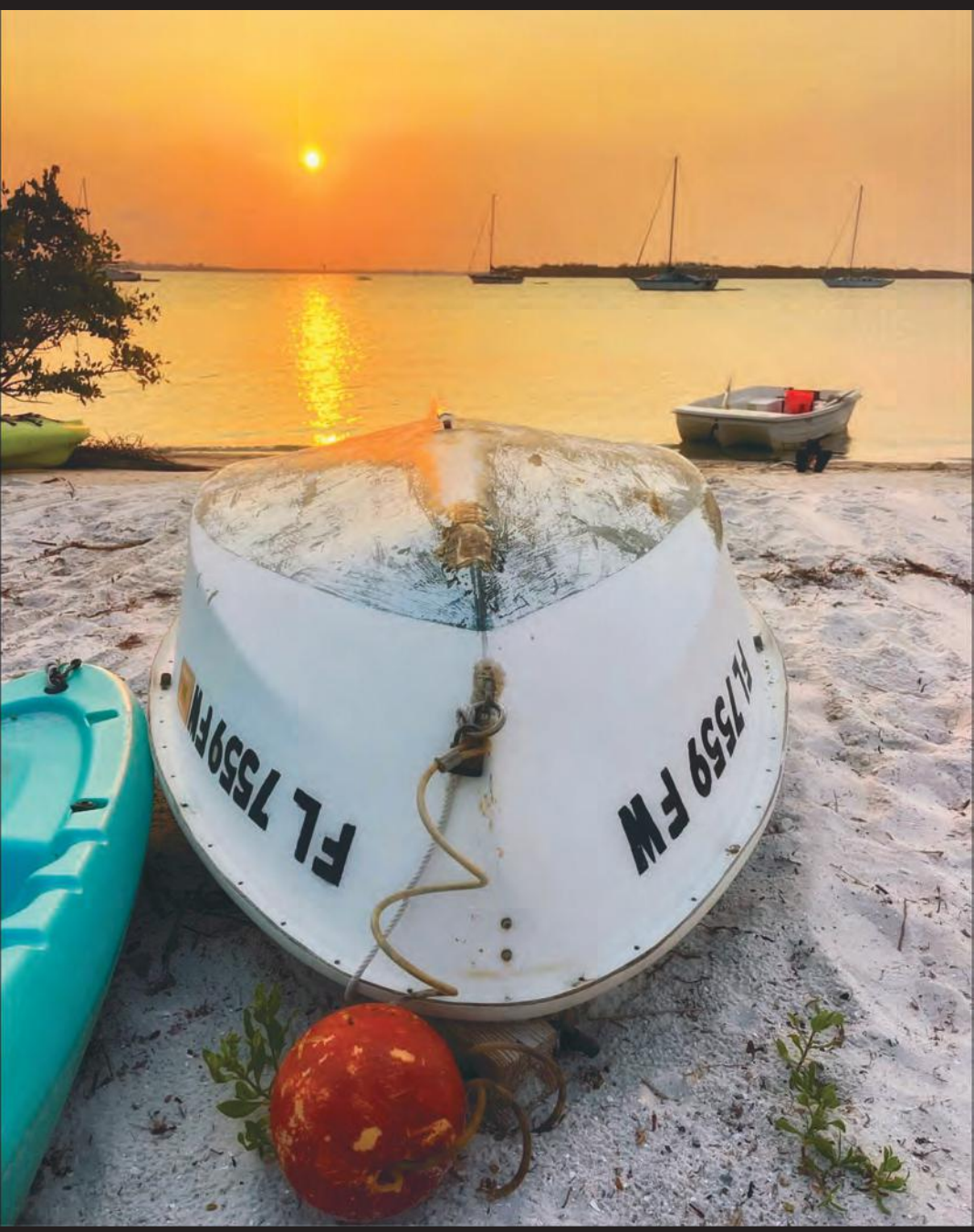
The new facilities are The Ron and Marla Wolf Seagrass Restoration Center for Ocean Sustainability Greenhouse Facility, Biogeochemical Carbon Sequestration Lab, and Publix Seagrass Genetics Research Hub.

The Seagrass Restoration Technology Development Initiative was established in 2023 through the Florida Legislature and Governor Ron DeSantis through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), SERRC will further Mote's efforts to develop, test, and implement effective, cost-efficient, and environmentally sustainable technologies to reverse the decline of Florida's seagrass habitats.

"These new facilities provide a transformational leap forward in Mote's mission to restore Florida's vital seagrass meadows, and is the result of our strategic collaboration with the State of Florida, federal agencies, and generous philanthrop-

See Seagrass, page 2

Beauty awakens



From the Village on Longboat. See more on Facebook: followmetolongboatkey

Kahane Stepping Down as Music Director of Sarasota Music Festival

After nine seasons as Music Director of the Sarasota Music Festival, conductor, pianist, and pedagogue Jeffrey Kahane will step back from the leadership role of the Festival, founded 61 years ago.

Board Chair Tom Koski said, "We are immensely grateful to Jeffrey for guiding the Festival through the pandemic period and for bringing fresh thinking to the post-COVID landscape. His development of the faculty and varied programs provides a launch point for the next iteration of our wonderful summer festival."

Kahane added, "It has been one of the great privileges of my career to lead the Sarasota Music Festival. The Festival holds a unique and vital place in the musical landscape, and I'm proud of what we've created together—especially the extraordinary faculty and transformative experiences we've offered our fellows."

Kahane's Legacy

During his tenure, Kahane expanded the Festival's core by welcoming

internationally renowned chamber ensembles—including the Attacca, Calidore, Borromeo, and Pacifica String Quartets, as well as the Montrose Trio—to collaborate with fellows. He also broadened the Festival's scope to include world music, jazz, folk, and workshops on improvisation, yoga, and mindfulness.

Kahane also conducted the Sarasota Orchestra, the managing organization of the Festival, and served as an artistic advisor during its music director search that culminated in the appointment of Bramwell Tovey.

Currently Music Director of the San Antonio Philharmonic, Kahane maintains an active international career as soloist, chamber musician, conductor, and teacher at USC Thornton School of Music.

Sarasota Orchestra President & CEO Joseph McKenna confirmed, "We are thrilled that Jeffrey will return to perform as a guest soloist with the Sarasota Orchestra in the 26–27 season, and we are confident he will return to the Festival in the future as a teacher and performer."

Seagrass, from page 1

ic donors” said Dr. Michael P. Crosby, President & CEO of Mote Marine Laboratory.

Seagrasses serve as the foundation for vibrant marine ecosystems and resilient coastal communities, which provide nursery habitats for key fisheries, improve water quality, prevent erosion, and capture carbon. Yet, Florida’s seagrass meadows are vanishing at alarming rates due to dredging, runoff, reduced water clarity, and climate-related impacts in many areas.

Mote’s Seagrass Ecosystem Restoration Research Program serves as the operational arm of the Initiative. The program, led by Mote Postdoctoral Research Fellow Dr. Dominique Gallery, addresses seagrass loss through a multifaceted, science-based approach that includes genetics resiliency, enhanced propagation technologies, and biogeochemical impacts testing.

SERRC will allow Mote and all of its research and commercial applications partners to continue to spearhead the development of Florida’s 10-year Seagrass Restoration Plan, a requirement of the Initiative legislation, and shape the future of seagrass science. The buildings were designed to approach essential aspects of seagrass research and restoration in different ways:

- The Ron and Marla Wolf Seagrass Restoration Center for Ocean Sustainability Greenhouse Facility

Funded jointly by the Bernard and Norton Wolf Family Foundation, Florida DEP, and NOAA, the greenhouse provides a controlled environment for testing the effects of stressors such as salinity, temperature, turbidity, and grazing. These experiments help researchers identify and propagate genotypes most likely to survive in changing environments.

“Seagrass is an important component in creating nurseries for one of the world’s most important food sources and it is also a major carbon sink, helping offset the effects of climate change. It is a true ocean wonder,” said Ron Wolf, ICORR Properties International Founder and President. “The Ron and Marla Wolf Seagrass Center for Ocean Sustainability is excited to see all the progress made on researching resilient seagrass restoration and greatly appreciates Mote’s leadership on this issue which is so important to our coastal ecology and economy.”

The Ron and Marla Wolf Seagrass Center for Ocean Sustainability goes one step further, seeking to better understand the biogeochemical processes and associated carbon sequestration in the sediment and seagrass. By harnessing the huge carbon sequestration provided by seagrass, we hope to create a revenue stream from carbon offsets to benefit continued research and restoration

- The Biogeochemical Carbon Sequestration Lab

Also funded by the Wolf Family, this facility is the first of its kind at Mote focused on sea-

grass and marine sediment research and its role in carbon sequestration. Scientists at the lab aim to develop data-driven solutions that link seagrass restoration to carbon capture and long-term carbon credit strategies to benefit seagrass ecosystem restoration.

- The Publix Seagrass Genetics Research Hub

Support from Publix Super Markets made the development of this state-of-the-art genetics laboratory possible, where Mote’s Dr. Gallery will identify genetically resilient seagrass populations to use in restoration. As the first international seagrass genetics library, this hub enables scientists to map, catalog, propagate, and recommend seagrass genotypes that are more likely to thrive under increasing worldwide environmental stressors.

“At Publix, we are focused on doing good in the communities we serve,” said Maria Brous, Publix Director of Communications. “We are excited to see the positive impacts of the work Mote is conducting across Florida and beyond.”

The Mote Seagrass Ecosystem Restoration Research Compound ribbon cutting is a milestone in the statewide movement to restore and protect Florida’s imperiled seagrass ecosystems.

As part of Mote’s effort to transfer the seagrass science and technology being developed, Mote has also entered into a formal partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to establish a new research and restoration site within Bahia Honda State Park in the Florida Keys.

Roadway, from page 1

analysis and public can weigh in.

The sign removals follow legislation signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis in April. House Bill 575 requires state statutes to adopt the term “Gulf of America,” and House Bill 549 directs state agencies and schools to update maps, signs and educational materials. Both measures were written in response to an executive order signed by President Donald Trump on Jan. 20, 2025, instructing federal agencies to replace “Gulf of Mexico” with “Gulf of America.” Federal geographic naming databases were updated shortly thereafter.

Google, Apple and Microsoft updated their services so that U.S. users now see “Gulf of America,” users in Mexico see “Gulf of Mexico,” and international users see both names together. Mexico’s government objected and filed a lawsuit against Google.

If the Town of Longboat Key votes to rename Gulf of Mexico Drive, residents and businesses will need to update addresses and documents. For now, addresses and driver’s licenses are unaffected.



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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.

Please don’t change the GMD name

To: Longboat Key Town Commission
This may all be pre-mature. A new Executive order may be signed, renaming the body of water back to Gulf of Mexico – what happens then? It is a very expensive proposition – changing ALL of these names based on the current President/Governor.
Please don't change the Gulf of Mexico Drive (GMD) name. I love my GMD address, plus we shouldn't waste money on renaming everything when we've got important matters to address, ie. repairing beach erosion, combatting red tide, building infrastructure to avoid flooding, mitigating the effects of sea level rise, roadway congestion, etc.
Kim Parris
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico road signs are being removed by FDOT

To: Longboat Key Commission
We strongly object to this incredible waste of taxpayer dollars! Is there anything we can do to stop this travesty? Are the men in power so insecure and their egos so fragile that they have to stoop to something like this? Do we absolutely have no say in this matter??
Patricia DeChiara
Longboat Key

Meeting
To: Longboat Key Commissioner Penny Gold
Penny, I have the a few notes from the last EDC meeting. I can pass them to you at our next Commissioner meeting or faster if you need them.
Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico Dr Name Change

To: Longboat Key Commission
I'm writing to communicate my desire to keep the local name of State Road 789 as Gulf of Mexico Drive. There is a history and tradition associated with the current name that has been in place for generations. The next administration could just as easily change the name of the body of water back to the Gulf of Mexico and there is no practical reason for the township and its residents to incur the expense and complication of changing driver's licenses, vehicle registrations, post office mailing addresses, etc.
Please leave the name of Gulf of Mexico Drive as is for our local community.
Greg Parris
Longboat Key

I object changing the name of Gulf of Mexico Drive

To: Longboat Key Commission
Please consider retaining the original name of our island main road. The cost to the town and the residents will be exorbitant. This is another way for the federal administration to cost taxpayers money; and not save us money. The next President might unilaterally decide to change the name of the Gulf back to its original and traditional name. Names cannot be changed on a whim. Please consider this for the long term and for the inconvenience of your taxpayers. Thank you,
Audrey Bear
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico road signs are being removed by FDOT

To: Patricia DeChiara
The signs came down before we knew FDOT was doing this. Town is having a workshop on October 20. Please come.
BJ Bishop
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico road signs are being removed by FDOT

To: Longboat Key Commission

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We strongly object to this incredible waste of taxpayer dollars! Is there anything we can do to stop this travesty? Are the men in power so insecure and their egos so fragile that they have to stoop to something like this? Do we absolutely have no say in this matter??
Patricia DeChiara
Longboat Key

Gulf of Mexico road signs are being removed by FDOT

To: Town Commission
I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposal to change the name of Gulf of Mexico Dr. At a time when our community is still recovering from the devastating effects of last year's hurricanes, this suggestion is not only ill-timed but also deeply inconsiderate.
Local businesses and residents have already been burdened with significant recovery expenses. Adding the unnecessary cost and logistical challenges of a street name change (updating signage, records, marketing materials, stationery and countless legal documents) would only deepen the financial strain. Furthermore, with the impending increased costs of goods due to new tariffs this additional burden is unreasonable and unnecessary.
Our community's priority must remain focused on rebuilding, restoring stability, and hardening our infrastructure in anticipation of future storms. A street name change serves no such purpose and instead diverts resources and attention from where they are truly needed.
I urge you to consider this as you discuss this on October 20. The people of this community deserve relief and support, not the imposition of further avoidable expenses
Carol Hochman
Longboat Key

Preserving Gulf of Mexico Drive Name

To: Longboat Key Commission
I am writing to urge you to preserve the rightful name of our road. Two generations of my family have lived on Longboat Key since 1976. We have weathered so many storms together as a community, although nothing as politically motivated as what is before you. To alter for reasons so arbitrary and autocratic are unacceptable. The practical reasons have been laid out before you and will cause unnecessary disturbances and headaches for residents.
But the impact will be greater.
The Fl government can change the name on maps but it will always be referred to as the Gulf of Mexico for years to come. I hope the commission will have the strength to stand strong and preserve its rightful name.
Connie Howard Schwartz
Longboat Key

LBK Code Enforcement

To: Longboat Key Town Manager Howard Tipton
So, I read the email to Town of Longboat Key Commissioner Karon from Katherine Girle in the Longboat Key News 8/15/25 (re: code enforcement about short-term rentals in a residential neighborhood... short-term rentals not allowed).
I am very interested to learn about the current structure and persons currently working for Code Enforcement on Longboat Key.
From a personal and volunteer perspective, I feel that we do not have enough Code Enforcement Officers available to deal with lighting/furniture compliance during Turtle sea-
See Letters, page 5

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EditorLetters



Letters, from page 3

son, as well as the many other duties including (e.g.,) building issues, lawn overgrown height, and rental enforcement.

I don't want to interfere in Town organization matters, but I do know that the budget final planning meetings (public to attend at 5:01pm) are coming up soon.

So my ask is... Should the Town consider two full time (and consistent) Code Enforcement Officers with a third part-time person during Turtle Season (April 15 - October 31)? I feel confident that Longboat Key turtle patrol persons could provide some great experiences for the third Code Enforcement person to focus on lighting and furniture issues. Thanks for your enlightenment and help.

Terri Driver

Rotary of LBK Public Image Chair / President 2025-2026

Sign change

To: George Reenstra

I must tell you I had no idea that was going to happen. I continue to work the road project.

BJ Bishop

Commissioner

Town of Longboat Key

Sign change

To: Longboat Key Commissioner BJ Bishop

I assume the meeting on October 20 is a public meeting?

Around until Monday morning, if anyone wishes to speak to me.

George Reenstra

Longboat Key

Bay Isles/Seaplace Underpass

To: Jack Fuchs

You are correct, Bay Isles will be terminating their management of the tunnel beginning in January. The Town Commission learned of this at a recent meeting and have asked the Town Manager and Town Public Works Director to do more research about the involvement of FDOT (Florida Department of Transportation), or any other entity that might be involved. It is important that we also hear from citizens that might be impacted by any changes to the operation of the tunnel. Thank you for reaching out.

Penny Gold

Commissioner

Town of Longboat Key

Bay Isles underpass

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Penny Gold

What is the issue with the underpass? My spouse, Jill, and I use the underpass regularly when cycling. When I was at Seaplace this past weekend, the underpass was clear and usable. Losing it would result in a serious risk to pedestrians and cyclists whose alternative would be to play "Frogger" or to lobby the town for another crossing.

As I understand from calls to the Town of Longboat Key, Bay Isles has the easement for the underpass and maintains it. Does Bay Isles, which obtains beach access via the underpass, want to terminate the underpass or its easement?

Jack Fuchs

Longboat Key

Sarasota Bay Estuary Executive Director Applications Enclosed

To: Board Members

Good morning, Policy Board members. I have attached four folders. The first folder contains four applications for the ED candidates who were screened by the ED Screening Committee and will be interviewed at the September 12, 2025, Policy Board meeting.

The second folder contains two applications of those who meet basic requirements, but received little or no X's on the ranking sheets and were not selected to be interviewed.

The third folder contains the remaining applications of those who did not meet basic requirements.

The fourth link is a proposed guideline to help streamline the interview process, based on the 2020 interview process and with input from our legal counsel, Attorney Jan McLean.

The meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m., and we are hoping to get through the regular agenda by 11:30 a.m., have a catered working lunch to review the questions that everyone wants to ask, and then kick off interviews at 12 noon. We could schedule interviews every hour on the hour or provide a brief break between interviews. Also, I will be scheduling PB briefings next week and the following week.

Thank you!

Cheryl Dexter

Executive Assistant

Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

Applicants for ED Position

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin

Thanks Gary – we'll make sure that happens then.

Dave Tomasko

Executive Director

Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

See Letters, page 6



Town of Longboat Key

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

The Town of Longboat Key is accepting applications for appointment to the following board:

Consolidated Retirement System

Board of Trustees

All applications must be submitted to the Office of the Town Clerk by **12:00 p.m. on September 24, 2025**. All applicants must be registered voters of the Town of Longboat Key. Appointed individuals will be required to file a financial disclosure form annually.

Please call the Town Clerk's office at 941-316-1999 for an application or if you have any questions. Applications are also available online at www.longboatkey.org. Completed applications may be submitted to:

Town of Longboat Key – Office of the Town Clerk

501 Bay Isles Road

Longboat Key, FL 34228

Stephanie Garcia, Deputy Town Clerk II


Published: 08-29-2025, 09-12-2025

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Letters, from page 5

Applicants for ED Position

To: Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Executive Director Dave Tomasko
Sounds good, I would like to have you in there for fact checking.
Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Applicants for ED Position

To: Longboat Key Commissioner Gary Coffin
That sounds like a good idea. When we reach out to them, we can let them know that they should remain “in the area” in case they are asked to come back for more questions. I think it might be awkward to have them in the same room/building, but we could ask them to remain in the vicinity, in case a need for follow up happens is something reasonable to expect from them.
Likewise, I can remain in the room if the Policy Board wishes me to be, so that I could answer any questions you may have. I do not think it appropriate for me to chime in on them, that’s your role as a Policy Board. But if, for example, someone answers a question in an entirely incorrect manner, then I think I could be helpful by being around for such.
For example, if anyone doesn’t know that we have to abide by Sunshine Law, that is something that you can ask, and they might not know. But if someone says we’re not, for example, then I would have to respond to an inaccurate answer. Similarly, if someone doesn’t know that there’s a link between humans and making red tides worse, that’s not “wrong” – but if they say there’s no link, then that would be incorrect.
Dave Tomasko
Executive Director
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

Applicants for ED Position

To: Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Executive Director Dave Tomasko
This sounds like a reasonable process, I might suggest that the final 4 or 6 applicants remain at the office for the duration of the interviews. If additional questions arise, and to observe their dedication, they will be available.
Gary Coffin
Commissioner
Town of Longboat Key

Applicants for ED Position

To: Longboat Key Commission, Sarasota City Commission
As you know, our next Policy Board meeting, to be held September 12th, will include not only an agenda with various items that need to be acted upon, but also will include the process for selecting the next Director of the SBEP. The process has been very transparent, and we’ve advertised the opening on social media, on job site postings, and put this out for our CAC and

TAC to disseminate as well. Literally thousands of people have seen social media posts where the job opening was highlighted.
All in all, we received 13 applications. Of those 13, 7 of them did not meet the basic requirements and were not considered further. That left 6 applicants who met the basic requirements. Those 6 were forwarded to our Screening Committee, which was comprised of members of our Management Board, plus one member of the Policy Board. We asked the screening committee to put an “X” by each of the qualified applications that they believed should advance to the next round, the actual interview process, to be conducted by the Policy Board. We set up this process so that the Policy Board would not have to wade through 10 (or more, potentially) different applicants, but would select from a smaller, more manageable number of applicants. The Screening Committee did not rank applicants, just noted those that they felt should proceed to the next stage of the process.
Why did we want to cull that number down a bit? Because the last time the position was advertised, each interview lasted about an hour, from 48’ to 68’ in length. That would be a very long day, on top of a regular two-hour meeting.
We received totals from six members of the Screening Committee, based on a deadline that passed at 5 pm today.
Of the six qualified applicants, one of them did not receive a single “X” suggesting a lack of comfort with that individual’s chances of being able to perform the required duties. Another individual received only one “X”. In contrast, there were four applicants who received multiple “X” marks, indicating the Screening Committee members felt that the applicant should proceed to the final stage of the review. Of those four, two received 6 “X” marks and two received 5 “X” marks.
There is a clear separation of four of the applicants from the other two. And since the interview process might take an hour per person, my recommendation is that the Policy Board restrict its interviews to the four applicants who received multiple marks from the Screening Committee.
If this path is chosen, then you’d have – hopefully – a two-hour (or less) meeting that starts at 9:30 on September 12th, 2025, when we go over normal business needs. Then, at approximately 11:30, we could cater a working lunch, allowing the Policy Board members to work out who would ask which of the suggested questions that we provided in an earlier email. Some of the proposed questions are required and straightforward housekeeping ones; others might take more time. If you start the interviews at noon, and keep to a schedule of one each hour, then you’d have all the interviews done by 4 pm, and that would leave an hour or so – until 5 pm – for discussions and votes.
My recommendation would be to follow the process from last time – pick an overall first place and then see if that person can attract enough votes to make the choice unanimous. Also, you should have a clear second-place applicant, should anything keep the first-place choice from being able to take the position.
If you have concerns or do not want to follow this process, please let me know – not via reply all. Otherwise, we’ll move forward, likely after this Friday’s Management Board meeting, with four applicants given notice of their upcoming interviews, and we will also forward their application packages to the Policy Board.
Dave Tomasko
Executive Director, Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

See Letters, page 8

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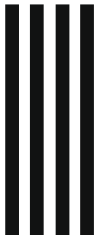
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EditorLetters



Letters, from page 6

Invitation to Participate in Leadership Manatee Local Government Day Lunch Panel

To: Longboat Key Mayor Ken Schneier

I am helping to plan Local Government Day for this year’s Leadership Manatee Class, and we will be holding a lunch panel with local leadership again this year.

We would like to welcome you to join us for the panel which will have some preplanned questions as well as audience questions. Government Day is Wednesday, October 22 and the lunch will be held at the Manatee Chamber’s Bradenton Office (222 10th St W) from 11:15 a.m. – 1 p.m. for lunch, an introduction to advocacy and the panel.

Please let me know if you are available to join us. Additionally, if there are any items you would like to address in the pre-planned questions, please let me know and we will do our best to accommodate you, time-permitting.

Debbie McDermott
Member Programs Director, Manatee Chamber of Commerce

St. Armand’s Meeting Update

To: Chris Goglia

Thanks for sharing this dialogue with us. Longboat Key will certainly plan to participate in discussions regarding the future of St. Armand’s, as we always have, and to play a constructive role in their outcome. Although your commercial district has unique issues to resolve, we share many of the concerns involving flood control, traffic and growth.

Ken Schneider
Mayor, Town of Longboat Key

St. Armand’s Meeting Update

To: Sarasota Deputy City Manager Pat Robinson

Thank you for including the St. Armands Residents Association on these emails. We (SARA) would very much like to be included in this long series of discussions about the future of St. Armands Circle, which happens to be located smack-dab in the middle of our residential neighborhood. Contrary to what some developers have put out there in the past, residents would very much like to see St. Armands Circle revitalized and successful.

However, I don’t feel that the discussion of an issue of this magnitude--the future of St. Armands Circle--should be done in haste (or in a closed-door meeting). Residents who are away will start returning in October, with most having returned after the holidays. When people are away, they are less engaged. To maximize resident participation, in-person community workshops should be scheduled in the January-through-April timeframe. However, several members of the SARA Board of Directors are in town year-round and available to participate at any location, at any time. Tell me how many landowner and merchant representatives will be at a meeting, and I’ll send a corresponding number of neighborhood representatives.

Suggested talking points:

Current problems: traffic, parking, infrastructure, and the need for revitalization.

How will these problems be impacted by loosening regulations to allow increased size, density, and intensity of use?

How else can these problems be addressed? Even if loosening regulations were the only way, will the public agree that the trade-offs are worth it?

As a reminder, the city already hosted TWO community workshops about bigger buildings on St. Armands Circle within the last four years (August 5, 2021, and January 11, 2022). Why were there two community workshops about the same topic within six months of each other? I think it was because the developers didn’t like the community feedback they got in the first one. And they didn’t fare any better in the second. The City Commission voted 5-0 to reject bigger buildings on St. Armands Circle on November 21, 2022. Apparently the developers are

trying again less than three years later.

For the future of St. Armands Circle, which we agree we want to see revitalized and successful, we look forward to participating in this conversation, and I encourage you to involve all stakeholders: St. Armands Key residents and Lido Key residents, St. Armands Circle businesses and commercial property owners, and the Town of Longboat Key... all of whom have a vested interest in the city getting this right.

Chris Goglia
President
St. Armands Residents Association

St. Armand’s Meeting Update

To: Chris Goglia

After receiving many inquiries from all of you and other interested parties we will be canceling the meeting that was previously scheduled by the Planning Department for September 8th.

Instead of that small group meeting we will be having a community conversation kickoff meeting that will be open to all interested parties to discuss ideas for short and long-term improvements to St. Armand’s to ensure it remains a viable and successful asset to our community. Additional smaller charettes will then be scheduled based on feedback from that first kickoff meeting, those will also be open to the public.

We would like to make haste in scheduling the initial meeting however it was brought up that many of the residents on the islands are at their other homes for the summer. Staff thought an online option might be appropriate however I know a lot of people like to be there in person. Thoughts? We can schedule additional meetings once the season starts back up obviously.

We will be working on dates and locations next week. I will ensure the schedule and location are disseminated to the business community and resident associations with ample time to get the word out to all that are interested.

Thanks again and we look forward to working with all of you to make improvements to our policies, processes, and response to make (and keep) St. Armands an amazing asset to Sarasota.

Pat Robinson
Deputy City Manager
City of Sarasota

Questions regarding “future of St. Armands” meeting

To: Rachel Burns

If there is another group, or groups, that would like to set up a meeting we are happy to accommodate in the future. This is going to be a long series of discussions between interested parties and City Staff as we try and address many of the current and future issues facing St. Armands.

Pat Robinson
Deputy City Manager
City of Sarasota

Questions regarding “future of St. Armands” meeting

To: Rachel Burns

Thanks for reaching out with your email, and I’ll explain the purpose of this meeting and many meetings that are planned to be held in the future.

After the hurricane damage last year and observing the devastating impact they had on the commercial area of St. Armands, the City recognized that maybe we should take a look at the commercial area and how it could be more resilient to severe flooding in the future, rebound from severe damage, and investigate how maybe our regulations inhibit restoring St. Armands.

The meeting on September 8 is with many of the largest property owners. Future meetings with businesses, the residential community (who performed a very interesting and informative survey recently) and tourism-focused entities will take place.

At each of these meetings, City staff will be looking for ideas and recommendations on how to improve St. Armands and make it more resilient to storms like we experienced. I think we all recognize that what occurred last year will probably not be a once in a lifetime experience.

The September 8 meeting is just for those who are invited. Like I said, staff will be looking to hold other meetings in the future. Once, again, thank you for reaching out.

Steve Cover
Director of Planning
City of Sarasota

Questions regarding “future of St. Armands” meeting

To: Sarasota City Commission

It has come to the attention of the St. Armands Circle Association Board of Directors that there is a meeting regarding “the future of St. Armands Circle” scheduled at City hall on September 8, 2025 with Planning Director, Steve Cover.

Could you please clarify if this meeting is open to any resident, landowner, merchant, or the public? Or just those who received a special invitation?

If it is a closed meeting, will it be recorded under Sunshine?

Is there a reason why representatives from the district were not invited?


Thank you for your clarification on this matter.

As a reminder, I am also one of the 61 St. Armands Commercial District landowners (parcels 2014050144 & 2014050147), and was not invited in that capacity either.

Rachel Burns
Executive Director
St. Armands Circle Association



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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.

Aug. 22 Parking

9:40 a.m.
Officer Martinson while on patrol in the 6000 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive observed a semi trailer parked across the street unloading landscaping trees and bushes with the rear tires parked across the bike lane and into southbound traffic. Traffic traveling south on Gulf of Mexico Drive was being forced to drive into the north-bound lane to go around the truck. Officer Martinson made contact with the driver and work crew and advised them that the truck needed to be moved off the road. Officer Martinson made contact with the driver and work crew and advised them that the truck needed to be moved off the road. The driver moved the truck. Case clear.



Officer Ericsson asked him if the jet skis belonged to his group and he said they did. Officer Ericsson educated him on the laws regarding watercraft and no wake/speed zones. He understood, apologized for any issues and said that he would make sure all riders were aware of the law. The calling party approached the officer as he was walking to his car and thanked him for contacting and educating the group. Case clear.

Highway

9:30 p.m.
Sgt. Montfort while on patrol, observed the roadway completely flooded due to the torrential rainfall in the area of the resort at 4600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive. Sgt. Montfort requested Officer Troyer to the scene to slow unsuspecting motorists of the traffic hazard. Officer Troyer arrived on scene and Sgt. Montfort returned to the Police Department to retrieve the pickup truck. Sgt. Montfort then proceeded to publish works and met Officer Mathis who was staging ‘road under water’ signs. Officers loaded the signs int he rear of the pickup truck and proceeded back to Gulf of Mexico Drive. Officer Mathis and Sgt. Montfort then placed the signs on the north and southbound sides of the roadway to warn motorists of the flooding hazard. Case clear.

Incident

5:48 p.m.
Officer Tillman responded to Jungle Queen Way on a reported criminal mischief case. Upon arrival, Officer Tillman noticed several white spray paint marks in the roadway that appeared to have been marking the property. The spray paint marks ended with an orange construction marker flag on both ends. The complainant stated that a woman in an unknown SUV was the person in question. The residence appeared to be uninhabitable due to past hurricane flood-ing. Cse clear.

Aug. 23 Vehicle

9:39 a.m.
Officer Martinson was dispatched to Bay Isles on a call of a suspicious vehicle. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson was met by the man at the security guard house. The guard said a contractor with a flooring company driving a black Ford Fusion pulled up to the gate house and wanted to enter the property. The guard said he told the man that it is HOA policy that no contractors are allowed onto the property on Saturdays. The guard said he opened up the gate expecting the driver would turn the vehicle around but instead it continued driving straight and then took a left onto Harbourside Drive. The guard stated the contractor was doing work at Bayou Circle and requested Officer Martinson drive to the address to tell the contractor they needed to leave the property. Officer Martinson drove to Bayou Circle but was unable to locate the vehicle or contractor. Officer Martinson then drove around through the area but still was unable to locate either. Officer Martinson advised the guard of the results as he exited past the gatehouse. Case clear.

Aug. 25 10:11 a.m.

Officer Pescuma was dispatched to the 5600 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive in reference to a suspicious person. Upon arriving on scene, Officer Pescuma met with the employee who stated that there was a man at the table outside of the establishment. Upon investigation, the man was waiting for the restaurant to open so that he can place a lunch order. The employee did not feel comfortable opening restaurant with the man sitting out front. The man left without incident. Case clear.

Aug. 26 Boat

5:26 p.m.
Officer Ericsson and Officer Van Dyke were dispatched to the 5200 block of Gulf of Mexico Drive on a reckless watercraft involving a jet ski speeding in a no wake zone. Upon arrival, Officer Ericsson observed two jet skis several hundred yards off the shore. Officer Ericsson observed a group of individuals in the water and one man immediately approached the officer.

Aug. 27 Vehicle

9:26 a.m.
Officer Martinson while on patrol was monitoring traffic at the intersection of Gulf of Mexico Drive and Bay Isles Parkway. Officer Martinson observed a black Nissan Murano traveling northbound on Gulf of Mexico Drive approach the traffic light at Bay Isles Parkway while having a solid red light. The vehicle then proceeded through the red light making a right hand turn onto Bay Isles Parkway without coming to a stop. Officer Martinson conducted a traffic stop in the parking lot of CVS. Upon making contact with the male driver who immediately stated he knew that Officer Martinson had pulled him over because he did not stop at the red light. The driver ran routine checks on the driver which came back clear of any wants or warrants and his driver's license had expired on Dec. 13, 2023. The driver was issued a criminal citation with a court date for a driver's license expired more than six months. The driver was instructed to call someone with a valid driver's license to drive the vehicle and to leave it parked int eh parking lot.

Property

12:15 p.m.
Officer Martinson was dispatched to Bay Isles Parkway on a call of a property damage report. Upon arrival, Officer Martinson was met by a security guard inside the gate house. The guard stated a woman accidentally rode her bike into the gate arm and knocked it off. The guard stated the woman then picked up the gate arm in attempts to fix it but in doing so she ripped out all the LED light wires causing even more damage. The guard stated the estimated damage to the security gate arm was approximately \$1,500. The guard stated the HOA needed a police report and case number for documentation. The guard was given a business card with a case number. Case clear.

Vehicle

4:25 p.m.
Officer Tillman responded to Lyons Lane for a suspicious vehicle. Earlier, Officer Tillman responded to a fire alarm at a nearby location. Officer Tillman observed a woman meeting a man at the location due to a fire truck blocking the roadway. The two proceeded walking toward the dead end. Officer Tillman called the complainant back and advised him of the situation. The complainant advised that he just saw on his camera that a red Mercedes was parked in his driveway. The complainant was satisfied with his observation and stated he would call back if needed. Case clear.

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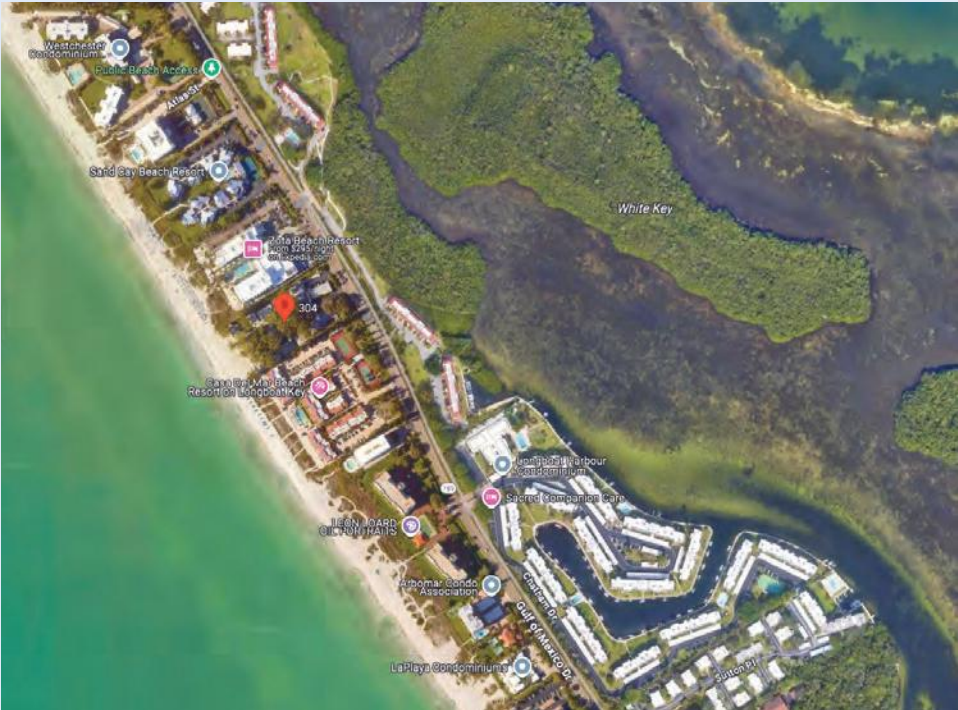
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1465 GULF OF MEXICO DR Unit#502	2,565	\$1,690,000	4	4	0	16	\$1,600,000
501 RECLINATA DR	2,784	\$1,495,000	3	3	1	160	\$1,465,000
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Late afternoon birding can be mellow

“Across the evening sky, all the birds are leaving But how can they know it’s time for them to go?”
— Sandy Denny, “Who Knows Where the Time Goes?”



Check out the bills on these black skimmers — can you see their eyes? CREDIT: Michael Givant



These two laughing gulls are coming into summer plumage. The wings, held slightly away from their bodies, indicate a mutual interest. CREDIT: Michael Givant

MICHAEL GIVANT
Guest Writer
Givant@lbknews.com

Lowering sun, hard shadows falling on white sand and gathering birds make late afternoon not only a very good time to bird on Whitney Beach but also a spiritual time.

One afternoon the setting sun is laying a golden carpet on the water’s edge. Three dozen sanderlings race after small, gently rolling waves, put their small bills into the sand with startling speed and then run to avoid an incoming wave. At a distance they resemble scurrying insects. Up close the sanderlings have two elegant identifying features: a thin dark brown line that runs across the top of their wings at the joint and dark brown showing at the tail.

Full-bodied royal terns — beach regulars — are recognizable by their large orange-yellow bills. Mixed in with them are the smaller, more slender cousins, the sandwich terns that have long, thin, black bills whose yellow tips give them a banana-like look. Through binoculars I look at a ring-billed gull, whose yellow bill has a black band near the tip, floating in shallow water surrounded by the fiery yellow of the setting sun.

Most of the remaining birds fly out to the sun. How do they know when it’s time to go? The sanderlings now fly into the path of the sun’s red ball then turn north, flying low over the water. Turning again, they fly the other way. Walking down the beach there are two-dozen other birds clumped up on the wet sand at the water’s edge. They apparently have a different curfew. In my mind’s ear I hear the words from the old Sandy Denny song sung by Judy Collins. I don’t take them literally. Instead I feel the music, and mellowness runs through me with a tinge of wonder at the birds’ timing.

Another afternoon later in winter, passing in front of the assembled multitude of gulls, terns and skimmers, I hear a high-pitched two-note plaintive call. None of the royal terns has its bill open. The sound comes again, and this time I see a laughing gull morphing into summer plumage with a black head and white splotches on its face. Some red is starting to show on its bill, which is open and offers a tantalizing view of its mouth, a dark red toward the front and a bright, rich red at the rear. It flies.

Two other laughers morphing into summer plumage are facing each other with wing joints held away from their bodies. This is a strong indication of mating interest. Later the pair is looking in the same direction. Oddly they both seem content. Perhaps this is love.

Two willets, non-descript, large sandpipers, are walking down the beach looking lean, lithe and oddly like little merry-go-round racehorses. Their bills look a little too long for their bodies, and the birds always seem to be carrying them like a medieval knight did his lance on horseback. The birds plunge those bills, slightly open like chop sticks, into the wet sand searching for aquatic invertebrates. I almost have never seen anything in them when they are withdrawn from the wet sand and wonder if they got anything. These birds fly suddenly, their dull brown becoming exciting as their wings show a bold white pattern in flight. They land further down the beach where they continue feeding.

Between 100 and 200 black skimmers are here. Built low to the ground like dachshunds, their black bodies, red legs and feet give them a striking look. It is, however, their red and black bills with an upper mandible that is shorter than the lower one that makes them unique. Those bills, which resemble Halloween candy corn, allow the bird to skim the water with their lower mandible and when they touch prey, snap it shut. One is laying face and bill down in the sand “playing dead” and resembles a still life painting. The bird, actually resting, staggers to its feet at my approach.

I sit on a mound looking around at the passage of daylight to twilight as sunlight dances on water, hard shadows fall on the sand and “fingers” of waves make inroads onto the sand. This landscape helps bring me here in the late afternoon. Should most of the birds fly off simultaneously, I hope I’ll hear the old music and feel mellowness tinged with wonder. That’ll be icing on the cake.



Three royal terns well into their summer plumage on Whitney Beach last winter.



A sandwich tern on Whitney Beach.



This willet’s left leg is injured. I saw the bird a few days later, and was a little better.



Check out the black skimmer’s bill with a longer lower mandible.

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BreakPoints

Both backhands should be your goal

I started off with a one handed backhand, but I'm curious do you generally advise learning a two-handed? What are the advantages and disadvantages?

JACKIE BOHANNON
Guest Columnist
tennis@lbknews.com

The one handed backhand is a beautiful classic shot, but in today's modern game with the advancement in power and spin, the one handed backhand is becoming more and more extinct as the primary backhand.

If you look at the current top men's players most have two handed backhands: Djokovic, Medvedev, Zverev, Rublev, Nadal, Berrettini, Ruud, Monfils, Isner, and Korda. On the women's side there are: Serena and Venus Williams, Barty, Pliskova, Osaka, Raducanu, Kerber, and Halep. The majority of today's players are going the two handed backhand route, but with the one handed slice for diversity and emergencies.



I generally advise and coach most of my players to have a two handed backhand with very few exceptions. There are also many players I have transitioned from a one handed to a two handed backhand because they were no longer improving, couldn't compete at the next level, or were starting to find their opponents picked on their backhand. Another reason people sometimes switch to a two handed is tendonitis. The one handed backhand can be harder on the arm and elbow as it is doing most to all of the work and never getting a break. The two handed backhand (for a right handed player) is left hand dominant so it helps spread the usage between arms.

The main advantages of the two handed backhand are power, consistency, and the ability to disguise the shot. In my opinion the only negative of the two handed backhand is that it requires more footwork. Extremely low or high shots can be more difficulty with a two handed backhand, but hitting

high backhands in general is one of the most difficult shots to conquer regardless.

The major benefits of the one handed backhand are diversity (slice and topspin) and reach. A one handed backhand can help you get out of trouble if you can't reach a ball and it can also help you block or chop the ball defensively if you are being overpowered. Many people find the one handed backhand more aesthetically pleasing than the two handed backhand. I find with perfect technique the one handed backhand looks more artistic while the two handed looks more athletic. There are many beautiful one handed backhands out there: Federer, Tsitsipas, Dmitrov, and of course you always have to mention Steffi Graf. Steffi can be used as a perfect example of how the game has evolved. She had one of the best one handed backhands of all time (slice) and in her later years really tried to add top spin.

My best advice for everyone is to have both backhands. You want to have diversity and lots of tricks up your sleeve. Both shots have advantages and your opponent and the shots they hit can often help you decipher what you need to hit back. If you were my client I would look at your current backhand

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and evaluate it. If it is fluid and you have the ability to slice and rip the ball then I wouldn't change it. But if you aren't as consistent as your forehand, you are getting overpowered, or you cannot put the ball away then you need to think about adding the two handed backhand to your game.

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

KeyCrossword

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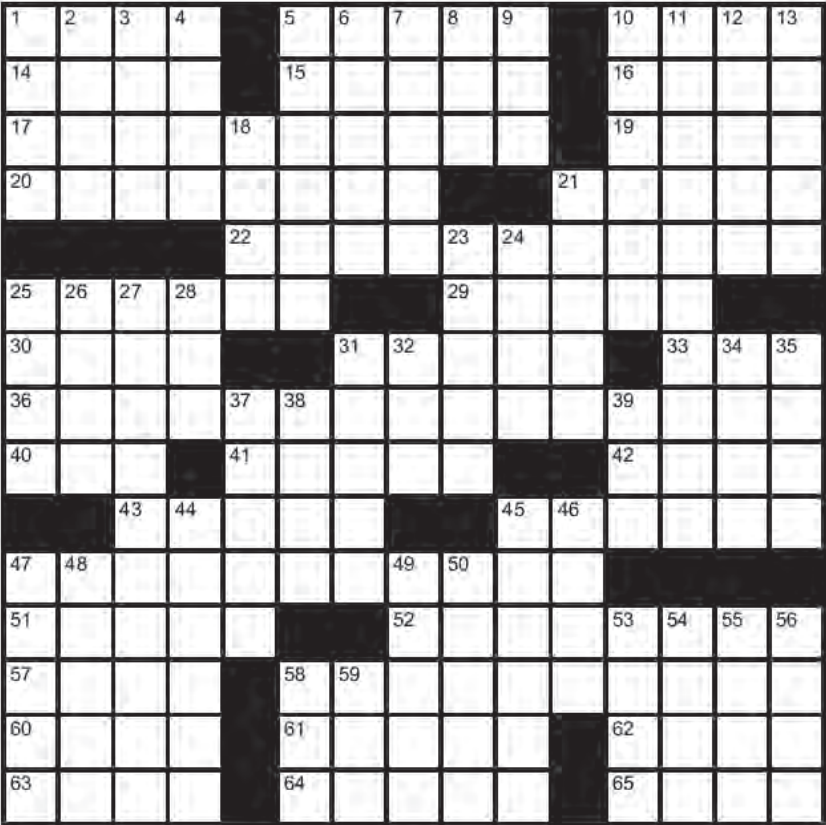
Across

- 1. Birthstone for October
- 5. Places for dogs or cars
- 10. In the sack
- 14. Muse of history
- 15. Sticks in the fridge
- 16. Place for a New York nosh
- 17. *Knew by heart
- 19. ____ the Impaler
- 20. Superman's pretzel?
- 21. Gerber grips
- 22. *Toto
- 25. Coarse, as a woman
- 29. Cash in Kerala
- 30. Apiece
- 31. Lop limbs
- 33. ____ de deux (balletic duet)
- 36. *Place for La Scala strings
- 40. Sp. lady
- 41. Places for short stacks, for short
- 42. Cusco's country
- 43. Hen-peck
- 45. Like jail windows
- 47. *Heavy metal for the kitchen
- 51. Raised
- 52. Purple and orange plaid, to many
- 57. ____ avis
- 58. *Standing one's ground
- 60. Renaissance & Baroque, e.g.
- 61. Dias en una semana
- 62. Not quite white
- 63. Eyelid irritation
- 64. Mighty sandwiches
- 65. Munro pseudonym

Down

- 1. "Power and the Glory" songwriter
- 2. Survey map
- 3. Helper
- 4. Pitchblende pocket?
- 5. Heifer herder
- 6. About the forearm
- 7. Duplicate in brief
- 8. South American squeezer
- 9. Rapid ride, ret.
- 10. Offer knowledge
- 11. Fajita component
- 12. Send
- 13. Performed, for Shakespeare?
- 18. Alero or Cutlass, in brief
- 21. Prefix with space or ventilate
- 23. Tie up a chicken
- 24. Helen of "Mad About You"
- 25. Plays the spread
- 26. Cowardly Lion portrayer
- 27. Craisins company
- 28. "Dr. ____" (Sci-Fi series)
- 31. It's a snap
- 32. Red pol.
- 34. "Fresh ____" (Chip Davis album)
- 35. Type of earring
- 37. Unswerving
- 38. Grill residue
- 39. Mo. after Mar.

- 44. "Relax, soldier!"
- 45. They can be heavenly
- 46. Memo abbrev.
- 47. Salts or smokes, perhaps
- 48. Separate
- 49. Jazz man
- 50. Words on a check
- 53. Ice and stone, e.g.
- 54. Pet protection org.
- 55. Ankara native
- 56. Pocketbook box
- 58. "Quiet please!"
- 59. Thing to do with shoes or flies



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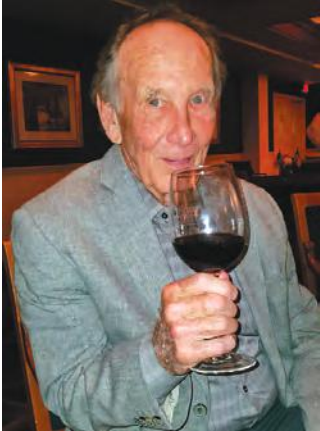
In an era of rapid changes in climate, some regions that depend on a specific feature appear to be losing it.

S.W. and Rich Hermansen
Guest Writers
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Grape vines have evolved to tolerate dramatic variations in climate and soil. Vines that struggle to find water and nutrients produce the best of the fine wines. These grapes put down deep roots and survive droughts and heat wave. At the Mollydooker (Australian for a left-handed boxer) vineyard in the McLaren Vale region south of Adelaide, the winemaker demonstrated how they make the vines struggle. Their irrigation system rations water to the vines to keep them just short of withering and succumbing in the winter and spring heat of one of the many arid regions down under. The resulting intense flavors of concentrated plum and blackberry, paired with an alcohol percent on the high side, appeal to many as cocktail wines, forcing European to counter with claims that these hot wines overpower foods that wines should complement.

In an era of rapid changes in climate, some regions that depend on a specific feature appear to be losing it. Robert Stephenson, Fine Wine Specialist with Unfiltered, Unfined Wines, a small importer and distributor in Southwest Florida, cites the example of the Carneros Region in the southern parts of the California’s Sonoma Valley and Napa Valley at the head of San Pablo Bay. The Carneros has relied on morning fog from the Bay to shield delicate Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes from the sun. Vineyards such as Shug and Domaine Carneros have specialized in the grapes that thrive in cooler climates. Their sparkling white and rosé wines, featuring Chardonnay and Pinot Noir, and a brooding red Pinot Noir still wine, sell for prices in the \$30 – \$35 range. Whether and how long they can withstand climate change remains to be seen. Chardonnay and Pinot Noir production is increasing north and west toward Mendocino and farther north to Oregon, Washington State, and the Okanogan Valley in Canada. In Eastern Oregon and Canada a hybrid of Pinot Noir, Baco Noir, tolerates freezing temperatures better than vines from Burgundy.

The strong traditions of wine and food in Europe are increasingly conflicting with the realities of not only climate change but also the many socioeconomic, lifestyle, and population shifts that undermine traditional preferences for food and wine. The French fret over the taste of the younger members of the population for beer. Beer bars in the US stock a variety of white wines for customers concerned about putting on a few extra pounds.



No doubt the grapes will find their own way. Within the family of famous European grapes, cross-breeding produces clones of, say, Pinot Noir, Syrah, or Cabernet Sauvignon, that meet the challenges of changes in climate or consumer preferences. Though frowned upon, or often downright prohibited by the keepers of traditions in wine-making, hybrids of wines from different families of grapes have risen to overcome challenges that threatened the viability of traditional wine-making. During the late 19th Century, French noble grapes crossed with American vines produced hybrids resistant to the devastating pandemic of the root disease phylloxera in Europe. Today, some of the French hybrids are making inroads into regions that have cold snaps that would kill off the Northern European Riesling and Silvaner Eiswein vines. The Vidal Blanc grape, for instance, survives brutal winters in upstate New York and Ontario in Canada, and produces a highly competitive ice wine. We recently tasted and quickly finished a lovely 2019 Vidal Blanc dessert wine from Crow Vineyard in Kent County Maryland. As one would hope for in a dessert wine, it tasted sweeter than the dessert.

To the casual observer, the wine industry seems bound to tradition and static. When challenges arise, it does evolve quickly to counter them. When the paleontologists Stephen Jay Gould and Niles Eldredge initiated the theory of “punctuated equilibrium” to explain long stretches of minimal evolution follow by short phases of rapid change, they were not thinking of evolution in wine. Even so, expect to see greater varieties of clones within families of grapes and hybrids across families when changes in conditions favor changes in traditions.

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 Orego Valley in New Zealand. Currently he splits time between residences in Chevy Chase, Maryland and St. Armand’s Circle in Florida.

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

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I’m Chris Pinto, and together with my wife, Tiana, we’ve been happily serving Long Island, New York, for the past 20 years. We recently moved to Sarasota with our four adorable puppies, and we’re beyond excited to bring our passion for service to your community!



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Larry Moskowitz has practiced law in Florida for more than 35+ years, beginning his career as an Assistant State Attorney/Prosecutor in Broward County, FL. He is an accomplished trial attorney with over 150 jury trials to verdict.

Mr. Moskowitz has handled thousands of Property Damage Claims against all the major insurance companies. He has helped hundreds of business owners recover millions of dollars for business interruption claims resulting from the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010, and claims arising from the catastrophic Hurricanes Wilma (2005), Super Storm Sandy (2012), Matthew (2016), Irma (2017), Michael (2018), Laura (2020), Sally (2020), Tropical Storm Eta (2020), Hurricane Ian (2022), and Hurricane Beryl (2024).

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